

The Messenger

August 2011

Federated Church

P. O. Box 305

Mitchell, NE 69357-0305

Telephone: 308-623-1933 Fax: 308-623-1934

Pastor's cell phone for emergencies: 308-631-3169



From your Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ:

Can you believe it is August already!?! Oregon Trail Days have come and gone and now we are getting ready for the Scotts Bluff County Fair! Even though school will be starting soon we continue our mad dash to get “just one more thing” in before Fall is upon us.

Ron and Anne Charles will be in Des Moines, Iowa from August 5th to the 8th attending the Fall meeting of Region 21 of the American Iris Society. This is mostly a business meeting but they also have a fund raiser of auctioning off specialty iris bulbs and Ron and Anne will be providing some of the bulbs to be sold in the auction. This means Ron will be gone on Sunday, August 7th, but have no fear because their son, Devin – the infamous “Good Morning” worship leader – will be with us that Sunday!

Also in August, Kathy will be gone from August 10th to the 24th. She will be in New York spending time with her sister, Phyllis. While she is there Kathy will help Phyllis with her art show displaying many of her oil paintings. This will be a major art event and a special plus factor will be family and relatives coming for the show; there will even be a cousin and her daughter coming from Wales for the show! We will miss Kathy but she will be having a special time with her sister and family.

There is so much to be thankful for and to celebrate within our church family. The Helser family will close out July by having 70⁺ relatives from all over the United States meet at Fort Robinson for a Family Reunion. The Annual Gompert Family Picnic will be held in August, and also in August we will be installing new audio-visual equipment in our church to improve the quality of sound and projected images including sound for the sanctuary, fellowship hall, the kitchen, the parlor, and upstairs in the Sunday School area! Memorial funds will be used for this important upgrade. Stay tuned – you will like it!

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Chuck

August Birthdays Anniversaries

August

Doug Gompert	8/4	Max & Bonnie Cawiezel	8/5/73
Loyd Durfee	8/4	Ralph & Glenda Hilyard	8/12/62
Kurt Gompert	8/7	Jay & Evelyn Birdsall	8/16/58
Klayten Thomas	8/7	Pastor Chuck & Kathy Richardson	8/19/62
Ardie Bowen	8/13	Verne & Erma Lewellen	8/20/50
Anne Charles	8/22	Butch & Sandy Hendren	8/20/77
Jack Fox	8/22	Mervyn & Marilyn Gompert	8/21/49
Harry Davis	8/28	Ron & Janice Stuckert	8/30/64
Caitlyn Charles	8/29	Jeff & Carol Jones	8/30/86

Where Would You Like to Serve?

Each month a calendar is posted in Fellowship Hall announcing who will be serving as an usher, greeter, Scripture reader and so forth. Please be sure to check the calendar each month for your name, and if your name is not listed please let Pastor Chuck know where you would like to serve. Thank you.



Just a Little Humor

A father was trying to fix their toilet that ran very slowly. He used the plunger over and over again but with no luck. Finally, to avoid the cost of hiring a plumber, the father decided he could figure out how to take the toilet apart. Piece-by-piece he carefully dismantled it and then reached down into the drain. His fingers quickly found something soft and rubbery. It was a purple dinosaur! He put the toy dinosaur on the bathroom counter, and then he reassembled the toilet. Flushing the toilet he expected to hear the wonderful sound of gushing water but instead the stool still ran very slowly. Disappointed and puzzled he grabbed the plunger again just as his 4 year old son appeared. "Whatcha doin', Dad?" Exercising much self-control he responded in a calm voice "The toilet is not working right and I'm trying to fix it. I found this purple dinosaur down in the drain." His son replied, "Didja get the green one too?"

Bible Memory Verse

"You turned my wailing into dancing; You removed my sack cloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give You thanks

forever.” Psalm 30:11-12



A very special “thank-you” to each of you who are volunteering to teach Sunday School. Please check-out the sign-up sheet on the easel in Fellowship Hall to find a date you can teach. To have a Sunday School that keeps children coming does not just happen – it takes work and dedication. Because of many of you we have a great Sunday School program the children love. Let’s keep up our good work!

We once again had a very successful Vacation Bible School this year. We especially want to thank Kevin Helser, Char Madsen, and Marci Docekal who volunteered their time and expertise to help make this such a memorable event for the children.

As we did last year, we will not be having Sunday School classes during the month of August. Sunday School will begin again September 11th.

The next meeting of the Christian Education Committee will be Wednesday, August 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

C. C. Circle

The next C. C. Circle meeting will be September 1st. The officers for the coming year are Ermadean Haas, president; Bonnie Cawiezel, vice-president, Maxine Walker, secretary, and Glenda Hilyard, Treasurer. See you in September!

Library



Are you looking for a good book to read? Check out the beautiful new library in the lower level beneath the Church Office. We have a great assortment of books, audio tapes, and video tapes that can be checked out. There is a wonderful selection of Bibles in several different versions and an impressive assortment of Bible Commentaries to deepen and enrich our understanding of the scripture.

It is easy to check out a book – just sign your name and the title of the book you are borrowing, and check your name off when you return it. How easy is that?! So come on in and “check us out!”

Book Review of a Book in Our Library

The Bargain Bride by Kelly Eileen Hake

The Bargain Bride is about two women, an aunt and a niece on their way to Oregon to start a new life.

This story takes place in the 1800’s where it begins with a dangerous and rough trip

traveling the Oregon Trail. The Women are unable to keep up with the men in the group and were eventually abandoned in a town called Buttonwood, Nebraska.

Here they met a nice older gentleman by the name of Josiah, a wealthy store owner and widower. He befriends the two women and offers them a deal in exchange for a great bargain. The niece, Clara, is to come up with a wife for his son who is traveling to Buttonwood to help run his father's store while he goes back east. In exchange for a successful match, she is promised permanent lodging for her and her aunt.

Upon Saul's arrival, he is immediately thrust into meeting every single lady in Buttonwood. Clara comes up with plan after plan to pair him up with a potential bride.

A young girl named Midge, is also on her way to Buttonwood. She is a young orphan, who Saul befriended in Baltimore after her older sister died tragically. Saul was determined to make a wonderful life for this young lady and had plans to head back to Baltimore with Midge as soon as his father returned.

After many matchmaking attempts on Clara's part to match Saul up with the perfect bride, he wasn't at all interested. Realizing that if she fails, her attempts at giving her and her aunt a good life was in great danger. In the process, Saul realizes there is someone he is very interested in, only problem being, she isn't one of the ladies on the list. It is Clara herself.

After trial and error, heartache and anger, and many prayers, Clara finally realizes that she is indeed the Bargain Bride.

Thank you, Janie Blaha, for writing this interesting book review!

Special Joys

Max & Bonnie Cawiwzel are new grandparents! Tyler & Casey Debus were blessed July 17th with an infant baby girl. Her name is Lillian Mae, and both Casey and her new daughter are doing fine. Congratulations Tyler & Casey, Max & Bonnie, and to Lillian's great grandmother, Helen Spencer!

On July 8th Matthew & Lindsey Gompert welcomed their new baby girl into their lives! Her name is Madeline Clair Gompert. Madeline has a two-year-old brother, Mason. Congratulations to Matt & Lindsey, and to the proud grandparents Mile & Shirley Gompert, and to the great grandparents Mervyn & Marilyn Gompert!

On June 23rd Lex and Jenny Larsen were the proud parents of their new infant daughter, Whitney Lynn. Whitney has a two-year-old sister named Natalie Rose and she is ready to teach her new baby sister all about life! Congratulations to Lex & Jenny, and to Whitney's happy grandmother, Patti Larsen!

Congratulations to Ron Charles and Toni Buettner for their wonderful performance as guest artists for the *Gospel Jubilee* held at the Five Rocks Amphitheater as a part of the Oregon Trail Days celebration! We are proud of you!

On Sunday, July 17th following our worship service we took Anna Schneider into the membership of our Church! Please be sure to welcome Anna into our church family the next time you see her. Anna is delighted to be our newest member!

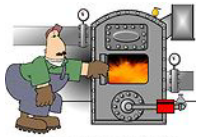
Special Concerns

Galen Burkey has recently been diagnosed with cancer. He is recovering very well from his recent heart surgery and now to have this hit him is a double whammy! Galen still has a fair amount of pain and is receiving radiation treatments at RWMC. Please keep Galen and his wife, Jane, in your prayers.

Lloyd Strong continues to receive care in the “Med Center” at the Residency. Lloyd and Elsie really miss coming to church on Sunday. Please visit them and keep Lloyd and Elsie in your prayers.

Glenda Hilyard is now home from having knee surgery. The rehabilitation phase is a painful but necessary treatment to realize the full benefits of the surgery. Please keep Glenda in your prayers for continued strength and endurance through this difficult time. Really, Glenda, it will be worth it in the end!

New Boiler Update



The old boiler has been removed and the workers are about to uncrate the new boiler and bring it in piece-by-piece to assemble it and connect it. Right now when it is near the 100° F mark it is hard to get excited about a boiler. But, trust me, when the weather gets chilly outside we will be happy to have a new boiler in place ready to deliver heat to our wonderful facility! Taking the money we have raised to date and adding to that amount the pledge from the Bay State Foundation to provide up to \$10,000 for the boiler we can consider our boiler paid for! A very special heart-felt thanks goes to each of you who have contributed to the boiler fund making this possible!

Health Tips for the Month of August

1. Eat a cup of mixed fresh berries -- blackberries, blueberries, or strawberries -- every day. They'll help you load up on antioxidants and they are an excellent source of fiber.
2. Have plants and/or flowers to care for and grow. Not only do they provide beauty in our lives but caring for them can be a stress release for us. A small flower garden outside or even a few potted plants inside will work.
3. For some people it is simply a habit and for others it is a chore. Whichever it is for you daily flossing of our teeth is very important to our oral hygiene and our overall health as well. You do not always have to stand in front of the mirror in the bathroom to floss; you can floss while sitting on your patio or when you are watching television. If you floss daily you will be in the top 15% of the people in this nation!
4. Be sure to have a pair of sunglasses on when you are outside. Have sunglasses that block at least 99% of ultraviolet A and B rays. Not only will you be more

comfortable while looking like a movie star, but you could possibly be preventing cataracts!

Church Council

Church Council is not meeting during June, July, and August unless a special meeting is called.

Pastor's Report for the Month of July, 2011

Pastoral calling during July included 8 nursing home visits, 2 hospital visits at Regional West Medical Center, 2 telephone calls to parishioners either in the hospital or recovering from medical procedures, 2 office visits, and 1 home visits.

I met with the Audio/Visual Task Force and we had a conference telephone call with Bob Westbrook who is the A/V expert that is engineering the audio/visual upgrade in our church facility.

Kathy and I will provide Vesper Services to the Mitchell Care Center residents on July 31st.

A Final Thought to Tuck Away

(Read this each day in August and see if it makes a difference!)

“Today, when I awoke, I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life, ever. There were times when I wondered if I would make it to today; but I did! And because I did, I’m going to celebrate!

Today, I’m going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I have had so far: the accomplishments, the many blessings, and, yes, even the hardships because they have served to make me stronger. I will go through this day with my head held high and a happy heart. I will marvel at God’s seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds.

Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice. Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people. I’ll make someone smile. I’ll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don’t even know.

Today, I’ll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down. I’ll tell a child how special he is, and I’ll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for them and how much they mean to me.

Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don’t have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me. I’ll remember that to worry is just a waste of time because my faith in God and His Divine Plan ensures everything will be just fine.

And tonight, before I go to bed, I’ll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens. I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures. As the day ends and I lay my head down on my pillow, I will thank the Almighty for the best day of my life.

And I will sleep the sleep of a contented child, excited with expectation because I know

tomorrow is going to be the best day of my life, ever!”

Quoted from the Fish Wrapper.