

The Messenger

September 2010

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From your Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ:

As we continue to work together for the glory of God the Federated Church continues to be blessed in so many, many ways. The summer is almost behind us and as we head into fall look at what is waiting for us. Sunday School is starting up again on September 12th and we have some exciting new materials to use this coming year. After the worship service on September 12th we will have a brief Kick-off Registration meeting in Fellowship Hall and we encourage all children and their caretakers to attend. We will register the children for Sunday School and we want to show you the new materials we will be using.

We have a beautiful and well-organized library in the lower level of our facility. It is located right under the church administrative offices. We have some great literature ranging from the very serious study materials to daily applications that inspire us and encourage us in our life journey. The hallway has been painted, there are chairs to use as you read, or if you would like to take some books home with you just check them out and return them when you have read them!

Melissa Schneider has created a website for the Federated Church and those who use the internet will love it! It is beautiful, easy to use, and as we continue to develop it the website will contain a lot of information about the Federated Church and our activities. To check out this wonderful new addition go to <http://www.federatedchurchofmitchell.com>.

Also, the day care program will begin in September. We have rented space in the basement to Pam Ward who will facilitate a day care program for pre-school children each week Monday through Friday. We are excited about this project because it helps to provide a much needed service to our community, it demonstrates to others how much the Federated Church cares about young families and their children, and it will provide services to some of the children already attending our church!

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Chuck

September Birthdays

Lowell James 9/1
Verne Lewellen 9/6
Dorothy Pedersen 9/6
Carol Jones 9/7
Ruth Lukens 9/10
John Haas 9/24
Nick Gompert 9/25
Erica Larsen 9/27
Donna Sessler 9/29
Ben Schneider 9-30

September Anniversaries

Arvid & Jackie Gompert 9/1/48
Adam & Jennifer Hill 9/29/07

Are You Serving? 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. Thank you.



Just a Little Humor

The crumbling old church desperately needed remodeling. The pastor on Sunday morning made an impassioned appeal obviously directed at the wealthiest man in town. At the end of the message the rich man stood up and announced, "Pastor, I will contribute \$1,000." Just then a chunk of plaster from the ceiling fell striking the rich man on his shoulder. "Pastor," said the rich man, "I will increase my donation to \$5,000." Everyone applauded, but as he sat back down yet another chunk of plaster fell on his shoulder. The rich man jumped back up and hollered, "Pastor, I will double my last pledge!" At that point the Deacon jumped up and looking to the heavens shouted "Hit him again, Lord! Hit him again just one more time!"

Bible Memory Verse "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.



The Christen Education Committee met August 11th to plan for Sunday School this coming year.

On Sunday, September 12th we will begin with a Kick-off Registration event in Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. The Kick-off Registration is for the parents and the children. At that time we will register the children for Sunday School, explain our new Sunday School materials, the children will make their name tags, and we will answer any question parents or children may have. We are really excited about re-starting our Sunday School program!

This year we will purchase a workbook for each child and a teacher's manual. The workbook will remain here at the church until the end of the year when it is completed at which time the children will take their workbooks home with them. The lesson series is well-developed for the children and "teacher friendly" for those presenting the lesson. We hope this new material will give the children an enriched Sunday School experience and also make it easier to recruit teachers. Please step up and volunteer to work with our Sunday School program for three Sundays this coming year. We have experienced teachers who will be happy to work with you. Try it. You will like it!

C. C. Circle

This is the month! Yes, on September 2nd at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall the C. C. Circle will resume its regular monthly meetings. All women of the Federated Church are members of the C. C. Circle and are invited to attend. The C. C. Circle Annual Calendar for 2010 - 2011 is now available in Fellowship Hall in case you have not yet picked up your copy. The program for September 2nd is titled "The Slave Underground and How Quilts Were Used as Markers." It will be presented by Shirley Johns – you will want to be sure to hear this one!

Special Joys:

On August 7th, Kristen Lebruska and Luke Pankonin were united in marriage at a beautiful out-of-doors wedding at Chadron State Park.

On Sunday, August 15th, Erica Larsen and Jeremiah brought their son, Dallas Henry Dockray, to be baptized. It was a special moment for Dallas, the family and our congregation.

Sunday, August 22nd was the Open House to our new Library! You will be amazed at the number of books we have available to all of us! See the pictures and story below of all that went in to making this possible.

Thank you from Pastor Chuck and Kathy for the many cards and best wishes we received as we celebrated our 48th wedding anniversary August 19th! You are so special to us!

Special Concerns:

The Memorial Service for Gary Libsack was held here at the Federated Church on Friday, August 27th. Gary was a dear friend to so many of us and a faithful member of our church. Please keep Gary and JoAnn in your prayers.

Donna Helser is improving at the Golden Living Center. She loves having visitors (room #501) and she is grateful for your prayers.

At this moment (Friday, Aug. 27th) Theresa Dasher is in ICU at Regional Medical Center recovering from a heart attack. While visitations right at this time must be limited please be sure to keep Theresa in your prayers for her healing and recovery.

Also, we want to keep John Haas and his family in our prayers as they grieve the death of his sister, Rosie Wacker. Her funeral service was held Friday, August 27th in Alliance, NE.

Ministry Opportunity:

We have a member of our church (perhaps several persons?) who needs a ride to church on Sunday mornings. She loves being a part of our worship services and she looks forward to being fed spiritually each week. To help her continue to have the Federated Church as a part of her life we are looking for church members who would be willing to stop by and give her a ride to and from church. This is not a full time job unless you want it to be. We would like to build a list of persons who would be willing to provide transportation on an "as needed" basis. Please prayerfully consider this calling and if you are willing to serve in this way please speak with Pastor Churk. Thank you.

Church Council Minutes:

The Church Council has decided not to meet during the summer months unless there is a need to have a special meeting.

Pastor's Report for the Month of August, 2010:

Activities:

- I continue making home visits, hospital visits (10), nursing home visits (16), and telephone calls/personal contacts (9).
- Sunday School:
 1. I met with the Christian Education Committee August 11th.
 2. We will resume Sunday School on September 12th using new materials that will be great both for the children and for those teaching

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- I met with the Building & Grounds committee on August 5th
- Wedding: On August 7th Kristen Lebruska and Luke Pankonin at Chadron State Park.
- Baptism: Dallas Henry Dockray, son of Erica Larsen and Jeremiah Dockray, on Sunday, August 15th.
- Memorial Service: Gary Libsack, August 27th
- Vesper Services:
 - Northfield Villa – August 8th
 - Mitchell Care Center – August 29th
- Mitchell/Morrill Ministerial Assoc.: We will resume monthly meetings in September.
- C.C.C.C.: We will resume monthly meetings in September.

A Picture is worth a Thousand Words!





Vern Pedersen, Bob Kraft, and Dean Cochran removed the old carpeting in our restrooms and replaced it with new vinyl inlay. It was a tough job but they got it done! It looks great, it is cleaner, and it was the last hurdle to having our church facility certified to have a day-care program down stairs. Thanks, Vern, Bob, & Dean!



The new Church Library has been a labor of love! Ron and Anne Charles have worked tirelessly clearing out the room and making sure we had the needed electrical outlets. They ordered the book shelves and the reading table and chairs, and then they spent countless hours unpacking and assembling the shelving! Once that was completed, Miriam Wetzig (sister to Anne Charles) and her daughter, Janie Blaha, invested many hours organizing and sorting through the books and putting them on the shelves. Rich Brown repaired the walls and Ron & Anne Charles painted the inside of the Library. Above are Ron Charles and Ermadean Haas painting the hallway. Dean Cochran also worked on painting the hallway but escaped the photographer! Also, thanks to Ralph & Glenda Hilyard for donating the two wing-back chairs and end table just outside the Library. Finally, thanks to all the people who over the years and especially recently have donated books to be included in the Library. We now have a beautiful, organized, and abundant library for anyone in our congregation to use. Signing books out to take home and read is done on the “honor system” – just sign your name and the name of the book you in a notebook on the table. When you are finished reading the book you can return it by putting it in a container just outside the Church Office. How easy is that?! If you

would like to come in and spend some time reading in the library or in the chairs just outside the Library please be sure to do so. It is our Library to use!

Last Call

Did you know you have a really cool pastor? Well, you do – thanks to John & Ermadean Haas and Floyd Gowin. John & Ermadean donated a wonderful window air conditioner for the pastor's office, and Floyd Gowin came in to install it! Now, even in the heat of summer, there is no excuse for me not to get my office work done! Thank you!

