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Shepherd of the Hills/Churches of Conference Nine Webpages

Rondee Troester
University of Northern Iowa

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Shepherd of the Hills/Churches of Conference Nine Webpages

Abstract

Shepherd of the Hills a center that serves the Churches of Conference Nine of the Northeastern Iowa Synod will be serving their congregations in another form. Webpages are being created for each of the twenty churches of Conference Nine. These churches will convey their mission statements, worship times, pastor's page, and any educational opportunities that are provided. The request was made for someone to develop these pages. The decision was made to start the process. The process began with a discussion with the coordinator from Shepherd of the Hills of which direction to go with the Webpages. Next came contacting the Pastors who were involved. After discussion with the Pastors the pages started to be designed and developed. Pastors were consulted at various stages to get their input and recommendations. The Lutheran, a magazine for the Lutheran churches of the United States was consulted for research into why Webpages are good for congregations of the Lutheran Churches.

Shepherd of the Hills/Churches of Conference Nine Webpages

A Graduate Project

Submitted to the

Division of Educational Technology

in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

by

Rondee Troester

August 2000

This Project by: Rondee Troester

Titled: Shepherd of the Hills/Conference Nine Webpages

has been approved as meeting the research requirement for the

Degree of Master of Arts

Sharon E. Smaldino

August 30, 2000
Date Approved

_____
Graduate Faculty Reader

Leigh E. Zeitz

August 30, 2000
Date Approved

_____
Graduate Faculty Reader

Rick C. Traw

Sept 1, 2000
Date Approved

_____
Head, Department of Curriculum and

Instruction

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INTRODUCTION

Approximately one year ago the monthly issue of the Garnavillo, St. Paul Lutheran newsletter arrived. Within this issue was a request from the Shepherd of the Hills, a center to serve area churches, for someone to coordinate and design the Conference Nine Webpages and the Shepherd of the Hills website. The Shepherd of the Hills coordinator, Joyce Schoulte, presented this opportunity to anyone who was interested (personal communication, September 20, 1999). She felt, along with the rest of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, that all the churches of the Synod should have Webpages. Designing and creating these Webpages would mean that more people from across the area and future residences of the area would have access to information from the twenty Churches of the Conference Nine.

This author visited with Schoulte about the design opportunity this past spring and was intrigued with the challenge. So, during the summer 2000, the author decided to assume the challenge. It has evolved into a challenge, but the resulting product is valuable to so many people, of all ages, around the county and beyond because it provides them with information about their individual churches and the Shepherd of the Hills center.

According to Prosch (1999), "More and more, churches find ways to minister using the Internet" (p.32). Churches using the Internet find that having their Webpages available on the World Wide Web reaches people of all ages with their messages. "Many churches use the Web to strengthen ties locally and across the globe, especially that techno-friendly younger generation some pastors find so elusive" (Porsch, 1999, p.32).

These websites are about making Christ known in all ways, ordinary and ingenious. Brigada (2000), a system that allows people to network with people of similar interest says, "The Internet is merely an extra tool to reach a growing sector of world society" (p.1). The Internet also gives people a way to access guides and information from various religious sites. According to Quentin Schultz, a professor at Calvin College, Grand Rapids Michigan, "The Internet is a worldwide network of computer networks accessible to tens of millions of people and growing rapidly" (Internet for Christians, 2000, on-line). Having church Webpages available to people will give those individuals a guide to make choices about their religious beliefs. "Through the magic of the Internet, the guides are available to people the planet over" (Porsch, 1999 p.32).

The project itself was to communicate with pastors of twenty churches from Conference Nine to get ideas of what they felt a Webpage or pages should include. The contacts were completed and the Webpages started to be developed. The first goal of this project was to create the Shepherd of the Hills Webpages. From this page would be a link to all twenty churches of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, Conference Nine. On this page there would be a list of the twenty Churches. The links are made from this page to each individual Church Webpage. For the present time the church Webpages will include pages for the following: mission statements, worship times, educational opportunities and a pastor page. The Shepherd of the Hills site includes their mission statement and a page for each of the programs that they offer. On all the pages, Shepherd of the Hills and the Churches sites, is a

link to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Website. There is an ELCA symbol that is used throughout the project for the link on the page.

To further explain the terms used in this introduction the following will be explained:

Conference Nine consists of twenty Lutheran Churches. Nineteen of these Churches are in the Clayton County area of Iowa and the other one is from the Allamakee County of Iowa (see Appendix A).

Shepherd of the Hills is the center supported by these conference churches to provide families of the various congregations with programs Shepherd of the Hills offers. Shepherd of the Hills provides these programs to the congregations (see Appendix B). Part of the Mission statement from Shepherd of the Hills states, "As a Conference of the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we intend to cooperate and pool resources of the Lutheran congregations of Conference Nine, the Shepherd of the Hills conference, to be more effective in areas of worship, education, evangelism, social ministry, stewardship, youth, etc. By sharing our gifts with one another and by calling upon available resources, such as Synod staff, Regional staff, College and Seminary staff and others, the congregations within the conference for cooperative ministry will be free to seek assistance in whatever areas they feel are necessary and appropriate" (Shepherd of the Hills, 2000, p.1). So together with the twenty Conference Nine Churches and Shepherd of the Hills congregations are provided with the assistance where needed.

Northeastern Iowa Synod is part of the Region 5 area of the

ELCA churches of the United states. Region 5 covers a three state area. Wisconsin, Iowa, and upper Michigan. Northeastern Iowa Synod covers about 185 churches.

ELCA, supports its members and congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, structure provides leadership through a church-wide office and sixty-four geographical (and one non-geopraphical) synods located in nine regions. Each synod is headed by two commissions and four offices.

METHODOLOGY

The information that was used to refine this project and research various components of project design and implementation came from various sources. Information from The Lutheran, a monthly publication, from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America website, and from the Pastors that were involved in the project was valuable.

The Lutheran, gave advice and insight into what is the best way to send the ministry of the Churches to people worldwide. There is a cyber-section most months with reviews and suggestions for designing Websites.

The ELCA Website (1999) gave suggestions to website designing of church websites, what works and does not work for website designs. It also gave information about the ELCA organization and the various programs and services it offers to congregations.

The Pastors provided great insight to what was important for this project to meet the needs of their congregations. With their knowledge of what people expect from the ministry they were able to provide good direction of where to go with the project. Schoulte had good insight of what would make for a successful Web

project that would help the Shepherd of the Hills serve the various congregations (personal communication, July, 2000). She had very valuable information that made for a good start to the project.

The Project

To begin the project an interview was scheduled with Joyce Schoulte, the Shepherd of the Hills coordinator. At this interview Schoulte's expectations from the Web project were discussed, who is the intended audience, what are the webpage design needs of the Shepherd of the Hills and the twenty churches from Conference Nine. After discussing with Schoulte these issues and acquiring the Shepherd of the Hills information for their Webpages, it was then established that each of the twenty Churches needed to be contacted for further information of the individual churches.

Each of the pastors from the various churches were contacted. Communication was initiated through E-mail, phone calls, and face to face meetings. At these initial meetings the various pastors provided information about what they expected from the Web project. The general consensus was to begin small with concentrating on four areas at the present time. The areas decided upon were: pastor's page, worship times, mission statements, and educational opportunities. According to Prosch (1999) the Lutheran Web stewards suggested the following, "Start small, do it well, and to begin with, don't worry about cutting edge technology." (p.32) This statement seem to be the goal of the pastors and became a focal point for this author.

After the decisions had been made related to the details and the information received from the Shepherd of the Hills, the

layout of the pages began. This project started with the Shepherd of the Hill pages and proceeded to each church as the information became available. Adobe Page Mill was used for the design of the Webpages. With the help of the Sony (MVC-FD83) Mavica Digital Camera, the Adobe Photoshop LE and Appleworks a usable picture of each church to use for each Webpages was created. Using the Adobe Photoshop program. Each picture was adjusted using the vignette feature. This made the picture fade off into the background which gave it a soft feeling. This picture then pasted into the draw program of Appleworks. There the picture size was reduced to thirty percent to create a smaller picture to put into the Webpage.

After a sampling of Webpages were created another visit to the weekly "Text" study with the pastors was made. At this meeting a few more Pastors not met previously were visited and more information was obtained. Input from the pastors helped determine what they liked or disliked about the current state of the project. They indicated they liked the design and the fact that the pages were easily viewed with all components appearing on the screen with little scrolling. Concerned about the similar layout for each Church was expressed, but the pastors felt that was a positive aspect about the project. The pastors felt the similarity within the pages was a positive aspect because visitors to the sites would feel comfortable reading and looking at the various Conference Nine Churches pages.

While the consultation was occurring, various sources were contacted about uploading the Webpages to their server. This

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While the consultation was occurring, various sources were contacted about uploading the Webpages to their server. This

author contacted several Internet Service Providers to inquire about the alternative for housing the web pages for the churches. This author checked into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America organization and they too provide sites for their respective congregations. Finding a webpage server requires further investigation to ensure the best resources.

Webpages for the Shepherd of the Hills and a link to the twenty churches of Conference Nine can be seen in Appendix C. Three of the churches webpages have been included as samples. At the present time all information from the Pastors was unavailable. Reasons included Pastors were on vacation, limited access to E-Mail for them, and they were not very timely getting information back. Information from them is still being received.

On all pages of this project is a link to the ELCA site so people can easily access the site to gather further information about the organization. Also on all pages of the church websites the logo for Shepherd of the Hills. This is linked back to the Shepherd of the Hills pages.

The E-mail addresses of the the Pastors who have access to the Web are provided. This allows uses to E-mail the Pastors for further information about the church and its activities.

The viewers will notice that all Church pages have a similar layout. The design of webpages should be simple with a consistent feature throughout the pages. This gave the sites a sense of belonging to the Conference Nine Synod.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The current status of this project is at the initiation phase. There will be changes as the project progresses. Churches

will change because of the changing of pastors and changing of the organization of the church. Because of the ease to change what is included on the webpage the webmaster will be able to upgrade the site with ease. Schoulte has agreed to be the webmaster after the initial design of the project is completed (personal communication, July 2000). The author has agreed to help the webmaster when needed.

Continuing to look into the future of this project other items to be included on the Church pages need to be considered. The pastors have suggested putting their monthly calendars on the web. They feel this would be very beneficial to the people in their congregations and others who are interested in the activities of the churches. Other components that could be included on the pages could be a bible study that adults and children take part while being on-line. According to Groetsch, (1996), "Christian educators encourage congregations to use new techniques and technologies to show children how attention-grabbing the good news really is" (p.12). Including other programs that the churches offer would be very good for the church websites. One of those programs that are offered through these churches is marriage. Giving interested couples information of what is expected as they prepare for marriage would certainly be a good addition to the pages.

For the Shepherd of the Hills site this may become an area where items can be listed that are for trade or give away to churches which they serve. Sometimes churches have items that are no longer a use to them so they need to find an outlet to get rid of those unwanted items. The Shepherd of the Hills site could

be an area that is central where all users can get to with ease.

As this project continues to be developed and the additional information that is required to complete the assignment is obtained constant contact with Shepherd of the Hills as well as the Pastors is essential. Shepherd of the Hills can provide assistance in reaching hard-to-reach pastors and what is needed to improve the websites. The pastor's weekly "Text" study has been very beneficial to the continued work on the project. "Text" study time will be a valuable resource as the pages are improved throughout the next month.

A very important lesson learned in doing this project is not to expect materials to come to this author in timely fashion. Perhaps summer is a bad time to expect individuals to get information to a designer. With vacations and other various family activities, information just did not come as quickly as expected. Another consideration to consider is that some individuals do not feel comfortable with E-mail and will not use it for communication. Just because the pastors had E-mail access did not mean their information was easily acquired. At the writing of this document information is still missing from some Pastors. It is possible some pastors do not want this technology to come into their parishes. Some may feel threatened by it and perhaps will drag their feet to get the items that will complete their pages.

Looking into future development of webpages for various individuals it is necessary to be better prepared for obstacles that may occur. It is important to remember that all people do not feel comfortable with the technology. It will be important to prepare them for what is expected. The value of the technology in

increasing the information they wish to convey to their audience through the Internet needs to be demonstrated.

In conclusion this has been a great project. A benefit has been increased in designing skills of Webpages. Becoming acquainted with various individuals who have great insight into the success of such projects as this one has been beneficial to this author.

References

ELCA Department for Communication, (1999, November). Your own home page and the ELCA. [on-line]. Available: http://www.elca.org/co/congwebs.html

Brigada, (2000, July). Writing evangelistic church webpages. [on-line]. Available: http://www.brigada.org/today/articles/web-evangelisma.html

Gospel Communications Network, (2000, August). Internet for Christians. [on-line]. Available: http://www.gospelcom.net/ifc/backcover.html

Groetsch, K. (1996, October). Tuned in and turned on. The Lutheran, p.12.

Prosch, R. and Gina. (1999, September). World wide witness. The Lutheran, p. 32

Shepherd of the Hills, (2000, January). About shepherd of the hills, p. 1

Appendix A

The Clayton County churches are: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peace, Clayton, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Volga, St. Sebald Lutheran Church, Strawberry Point, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Guttenberg, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Monona, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Postville, Bethany Lutheran Church, Elkader, Emanuel Lutheran, Strawberry Point, First Lutheran, McGregor, Zion Lutheran Church, Elkader, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Elkport, Hope Lutheran Church, Littleport, Norway Lutheran Church, St. Olaf, Marion Lutheran Church, St. Olaf, St. John Lutheran Church, Farmersburg, St. John Lutheran Church, Luana, St. John Lutheran Church, Guttenberg, and St. Peter Lutheran Church, Garnavillo. The Allamakee Church is, Zion Lutheran Church, Castalia.

Appendix B

A food pantry: Congregations can apply for assistance to receive food items.

Clothes closet: Parishes can purchase various clothes items for $.50 an item, or can receive free clothing if they qualify.

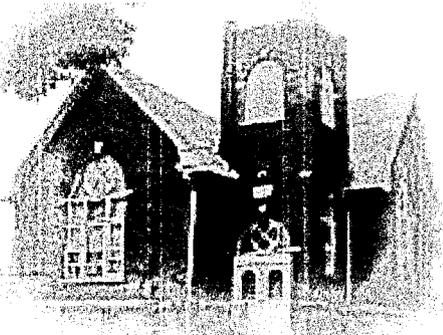Counseling: This service is available upon request or referral.

Print resources: Individuals can check out materials to use for home study or use in Sunday School or Vacation Bible School.

Holiday Store: Individuals from the congregations can purchase Christmas gifts at a low cost by referral from pastors and other officials.

Appendix C

(sample of webpages)

Shepherd of the Hills

Mission

Clothing Center

Crisis Fund

Back to School

Holiday Shop

Counseling

Churches

Hours:

Monday-Friday

9:00-12:00 &1:00-4:00

Mission Statement:

God, through and in Christ, has called us to be God's people, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming and sanctifying work in our lives,

To Participate in God's mission, the Conference shall:

1. Proclaim God's saving grace through the faith, and preserve and transmit the Gospel faithfully to present and future generations,

2. Commit ourselves to worship, study, and service, in order to be renewed in faith and spirituality,

3. Encourage members in their daily lives to reach out to all people within the community and beyond with the good news of God's love through Christ,

4. As a Conference of the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we intend to cooperate and pool resources of the Lutheran congregations of Conference Nine, the Shepherd of the Hills conference, to be more effective in areas of worship, education, evangelism, social ministry, stewardship, youth, etc. By sharing our gifts with one another and by calling upon available resources, such as Synod staff, Regional staff, College and Seminary staff and others, the congregations within the conference for cooperative ministry will be free to seek assistance in whatever areas they feel are necessary and appropriate.

Shepherd of the Hills

P.O. Box 36

St. Olaf, IA
52072

(319) 783-2409

Goes on
bottom of
previous
page.

Shepherd of the Hills

Mission
Clothing Center
Crisis Fund
Back to School
Holiday Shop
Counseling
Churches

THE CLOTHING CENTER has been in operation since 1985. An average of 30 families are served per month with free clothing and household items.

Clothing is available free of charge with a referral and to others for a small charge.

Shepherd of the Hills

P.O. Box 36

St. Olaf, IA 52072

(319) 783-2409

Shepherd of the Hills

THE CRISIS FUND was established in 1987. Contributions have been received from congregations, individuals, WELCA groups, area businesses and grants. Over 70 families with referrals are helped with housing, utility or fuel bills each year.

Shepherd of the Hills

P.O. Box 36

St. Olaf, IA 52072

(319) 783-2409

Shepherd of the Hills

BACK TO SCHOOL FOR KIDS provides new school supplies to children from families unable to purchase them. Supplies are donated by area churches and organizations. Referrals are needed to receive supplies.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH · IN AMERICA ·

Shepherd of the Hills

P.O. Box 36

St. Olaf, IA 52072

(319) 783-2409

Shepherd the Hills

Shepherd of the Hills

THE HOLIDAY SHOP serves about 125 families each year. Thanks to donations of new toys, clothing and household items each family referred "shops" for their Christmas gifts. The donations are displayed like a retail store and a parent chooses gifts for their family; each parent has a volunteer to help them find their presents.

Shepherd of the Hills

P.O. Box 36

St. Olaf, IA
52072

(319) 783-2409

Shepherd of the Hills

COUNSELING services are provided by Lutheran Social Services 2-3 times per month. Their services are available on a sliding fee scale. Call (319) 582-0044.

Shepherd of the Hills

P.O. Box 36

St. Olaf, IA 52072

(319) 783-2409

Churches

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peace 401 Main St. Clayton, IA 52049	St. Paul Lutheran Church Box 108 Volga, IA 52077-0108	St. Sebald Lutheran Church 12998 338th St. Strawberry Point, IA 52076	St. Paul Lutheran Church 306 W. Van Buren St. Garnavillo, IA 52049
St. Paul Lutheran Church 212 S. First Street Guttenberg, IA 52052	St. Paul Lutheran Church 401 S. Egbert Monona, IA 52159	St. Paul Lutheran Church 116 E. Military Rd. Postville, IA 52162	Bethany Lutheran Church 307 3rd NE Elkader, IA 52043
Emanuel Lutheran 305 Elkader Strawberry Point, IA 52076	First Lutheran 31743 175th St. McGregor, IA 52157	Zion Lutheran Church 24221 Hwy. 128 Elkader, IA 52043	Immanuel Lutheran Church PO Box 4 Elkport, IA 52044
Hope Lutheran Church PO Box 41 Littleport, IA 52055-0041	Zion Lutheran Church PO Box 68 Castalia, IA 52133-0068	Norway Lutheran Church PO Box 56 St. Olaf, IA 52072	Marion Lutheran Church PO Box 56 St. Olaf, IA 52072
St.John Lutheran Church 208 E. Washington Farmersburg, IA 52047	St. John Lutheran Church 307 Church St. Luana , IA 52156	St. John Lutheran Church 203 Pearl St. Box 819 Guttenberg, IA 52052	St. Peter Lutheran Church 301 N. Adams Garnavillo, IA 52049

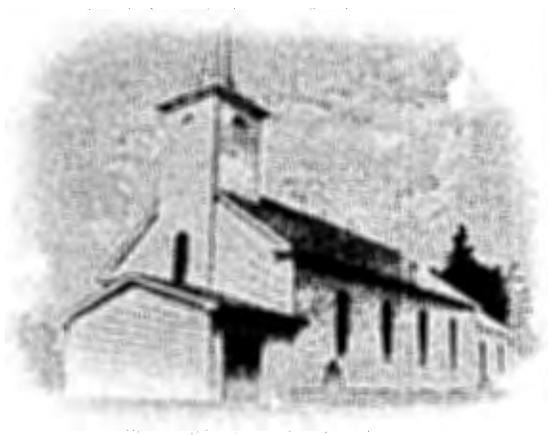**Shepherd of the Hills**

P.O. Box 36

St. Olaf, IA 52072

(319) 783-2409

St. Paul Lutheran Church   Zion Lutheran Church

306 W. Van Buren St.	24221 Hwy. 128
Garnavillo, IA 52049	Elkader, IA 52043

ELCA Churches in the Northeastern Iowa Synod

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church of Garnavillo and Zion Lutheran Church of Clayton Center have a shared ministry that began in August of 1999. A need for an internship site close to Prairie du Chein created the opportunity for the two congregations to come together as a ministry in central Clayton County. As the internship year drew to a close, the two congregations began to explore the future. It was apparent to both that God had called them to a new ministry. Asking the question, "What does God want of us?" they are looking for ways to reach out to the area with the Good News of Jesus. St. Paul and Zion realize that ministry in a rural setting can no longer be "business as usual". St. Paul and Zion have formed a geographic parish and are looking to the future of ministry in the Garnavillo - Clayton Center area.

Pastor Gary Hatcher

Worship	Pastor's Page	Education

E-Mail Pastor Gary Hatcher

St. Paul's

Worship Times

Summer Schedule (June, July, August)

Sunday Worship 9:30 A.M.

Winter Schedule (September-May)

Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.

Zion Lutheran

Worship Times

Sunday Worship 8:00 A.M.

with Holy Communion on the First and Third Sundays

| Worship | Pastor's Page | Education |

E-Mail Pastor Gary Hatcher

Return to St. Paul/Zion Home Page

Reflections from Pastor Gary Hatcher

God's grace and love be yours as you seek to worship and serve our Lord. As pastor of St. Paul and Zion Lutheran Churches in Clayton County, Iowa it is my responsibility and privilege to bring the Gospel to those who thirst for it. Rural ministry presents an ever changing face to those who are called to lead congregations. It is my prayer that together with the membership of both congregations we can reach out to those around us who may not know Jesus or who may have drifted from the faith. I believe the God's message of love and grace through Jesus is the world's hope in a time of tremendous change. Come and join us as we greet the future in Christ.

Pastor Gary Hatcher

| Worship | Pastor's Page | Education |

E-Mail Pastor Gary Hatcher

Return to St. Paul/Zion Home Page

Education Opportunities at St. Paul

Sunday School (September through May)

Sunday 9:15 A.M.

Worship	Pastor's Page	Education

E-Mail <u>Pastor Gary Hatcher</u>

Return to <u>St. Paul/Zion Home Page</u>

St. Peter Lutheran Church

301 N. Adams Street
Garnavillo, IA 52049

An ELCA Church in Northeastern Iowa Synod

St. Peter's Mission Statement

St. Peter Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America. Our rural heritage reinforces our value of
belonging....
As God's forgiven children, we have joined together because of our common
belief in the Triune God who is revealed in God's word and sacraments.

A gathering place is provided for all to worship, praise and give glory
to God. Our congregation is committed to being warm, friendly and open
among ourselves and with others, sharing joys, burdens and daily needs. We
provide opportunities for Christian education and fellowship for all....to
learn about God's will in their lives and grow in their relationship with
God.
Trusting in God, we have been called to be witnesses to Christ, keeping
Jesus as the focus of God's source of salvation. Accepting his command to
teach and testify that Jesus is the Son of God, we become more "Christ-like"
in our daily lives and our relationships with others. Only then can we
share the love of God with others and help spread the Gospel of Christ
throughout the world.

Pastor Barbara Wills

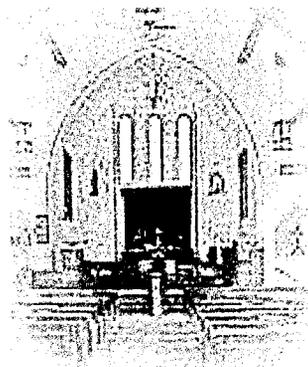| Worship | Pastor's Page | Education |

E-Mail: Pastor Barbara Wills

St. Peter's Worship Times

Summer Schedule (June-August)

Sunday Worship 9:30 A.M.

Winter Schedule (September-May)

Sunday Worship 10:15 A.M.

Worship	Pastor's Page	Education

St. Peter's Home Page

Reflections from Pastor Barbara Wills

(Jesus) sat dow opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow can and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. Mark 12:41-43

Have you every wondered what happened to the poor widow after she put all her income into the temple treasury? We may envision her going back to her poor hut--or perhaps sitting homeless at the gate of a wealthy person--and starving to death. However, I don't believe that's what happened to her, or Jesus would not have used her generosity as an example to others. It was never his will for any to suffer want. I believe that a way was found for her to have her needs met.

God's way of working in the world are always a mystery, but those who trust God's promises find them to be true. It takes a leap of faith, but is well worth the leap! Remember that the Christian faith is a paradox: Things are turned "upside down", the world's wisdom is foolishness, and the more one give the more one receives. We don't give of our worldly goods in order to receive, of course, but that's what results.

Jesus also told his followers that we are to be salt and light, pointing to Christ. We are to be "in" the world, but not conform to the ways of the world. One of the ways that we show God's love and mercy in the world is through our generous "first fruits" giving to the work of the Lord!

Pastor Barbara

E-Mail: Pastor Barbara Wills

| Worship | Pastor's Page | Education |

St. Peter's Home Page

Education Opportunities at St. Peter

September-May

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.

Worship	Pastor's Page	Education

St. Peter's Home Page

Zion Lutheran Church

P.O. BOX 68
CASTALIA, IA 52133
(319) 567-8188

An ELCA Church in Northeastern Iowa Synod

Zion's Vision Statement

We, the members of Zion Lutheran Church are a privileged community of people who, by the grace of God in Jesus the Messiah, may call ourselves sons & daughters of God the Creator, and brothers and sisters of Jesus the Messiah. We live and use a planet that God made and owns. Similarly, we use our bodies, skills and resources that God the Creator made and owns.

With awe, we seek to walk through life the way our Lord walked - using creation as God would have us use it, and using life totally to serve our God by serving the needs of humankind and all creation about us!

In the light of the above mission vision, we, the members of Zion Lutheran Church covenant with God and each other to never judge the success of our efforts in terms of the size of any buildings we possess or erect, or by the numbers we attract into them, or the numbers of programs we offer within their walls. We pledge that we shall always remember that God alone determines the success of our efforts in terms of the changes that God sees in our lives and by the changes god empowers us to effect in the lives of others, both within and beyond our community of faith. TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY!

| Worship | Pastor's Page | Education |

E-Mail Pastor Dave L. Lenth

Worship Times for Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. (September-May)

Summer Schedule = Sunday at 9:00 A.M . (No Sunday School)

Worship	Pastor's Page	Education

E-Mail Pastor Dave L. Lenth

Words from Zion Lutheran Church

All persons who are in the area visiting, or seeking church membership are most welcome to join us for worship and any educational opportunities. We are a small rural, friendly ELCA congregation that reaches out to the surrounding community and beyond our state & national borders! We currently help sponsor a missionary in Nigeria, are active in the Winneshiek Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and participate in many ecumenical gatherings in our immediate vicinity. We practice an open communion table, welcoming & inviting all to share the body & blood of our Lord & Savior with all who believe in the divine power and mystery present there.

Worship	Pastor's Page	Education

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Education at Zion Lutheran Church

ACTIVE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WELCA - 4 active circle groups at the present time

YOUTH GROUP (Sept.-May) - about 15-20 youth grades 7-12 who meet in Zion's Tunnel and gather around God's Word and current teen issues/topics, and go out doing various service projects in the local communities, plus 1 fun group activity per month

CURRENT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM - 7th and 8th

grade youth, mentors, journaling, meet on Sunday mornings for class. They do a variety of service projects during their faith journeys. Confirmation Sunday=Pentecost Sunday each year.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) The last few years has met during the 2nd or 3rd week of June in the evenings (Sunday- Thursday from 6:30-8:30 PM)

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