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# Name?

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Volume 1 Issue 2

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October 2002

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Calvary, Barnum; Faith, Harcourt; Fulton, Roelyn; Trinity, Boxholm; UCC/Congregational, Moorland; Zion, Gowrie

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## COUNTRYSIDE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY STRATEGIC PLANING

**W**hen we had our first meetings to discuss the possibility of forming a cooperative ministry, the first question we explored was “What is our mission as God’s people?”

Representatives from the cooperative congregations offered a variety of responses that expressed some common themes. What follows is a distillation of those responses.

“Our mission is to enable others to experience the love of God that is revealed to us in Jesus. This happens in communities of faith who gather

to celebrate each other’s joys and support each other as we experience life’s difficulties.

One of the most important gifts we have to offer our communities is a sense of hope.”

That mission assumes many different forms. The Countryside Cooperative Ministry has become one of those forms.

With the loss of Pastor Snyder, we are called to again consider where God is leading us. It is time for us to again ask ourselves “How can we most effectively accomplish our mission in light of the changes we are

continued on page 2

## Countryside Cooperative Ministry Council

Byron Chalstrom, UCC/Cong.  
Loretta Daisy, Fulton  
Larry Fatka, Trinity  
Marc Greenfield, Faith  
Steve Julius, Calvary  
Larry Krakau, Trinity  
Steve Lane, Zion  
Shannon Miller, Zion  
Ned Palmer, Zion  
John Samuelson, Faith  
Richard Silvey, UCC/Cong.  
Everett Underwood, Fulton  
Ron Walrod, Calvary

## Countryside Cooperative Ministry Executive Committee

Byron Chalstrom, President  
Shannon Miller, Vice-president  
Steve Lane, Treasurer  
Loretta Daisy, Secretary  
Rev. Jim Davis, Administrative  
Pastor

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## NAME FOR NEWSLETTER

We are in need of a name for this newsletter. Do you have any ideas?

This will be a monthly newsletter of Countryside Cooperative Ministry. It will contain information about Cooperative happenings that may be of interest to you. We encourage members of the Cooperative to feel free to join other congregations for worship, educational events, social events and other events hosted by Cooperative congregations.

If you have items you would like considered for placement in the Cooperative Newsletter, please have them to the Cooperative office by the 15th of each month.

If you have suggestions for the format of this newsletter, contact the Cooperative office.

Suggestions for a name may be submitted to the Cooperative office. Who knows, there may even be lunch in it for the person who submits the name that is chosen.

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### Quotables

“There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, the mind, and the purse.”

– Martin Luther

“We make a living through what we get; we make a life through what we give.”

– Winston Churchill

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continued from page 1

experiencing in rural America?"

We are currently serving six congregations with two program staff. This is challenging – to say the least. If we had optimal staffing, we would have four program staff for the six congregations. It appears as though we will have the financial resources for either one additional position or, possibly, two part-time positions. Because of the cost and lack of availability, we will probably be hiring lay people for these positions instead of seeking another pastor.

The big question is “What will that position or those positions be?” Possibilities we are exploring are: Sr. High Youth Ministry, Ministry with Older Adults, Ministry with Elementary and Junior High

Children, or Ministry with people from 30-60 years of age. We need your help in discerning which of these areas or areas not listed should be priority for our ministry. We would like to select one or two areas and do intentional programming in response to needs in our congregations and communities.

Councils and congregations of the Cooperative will be invited to discern where the greatest needs for ministry are and how we can best respond to those needs. If you have suggestions, please contact one of your council members, your Cooperative representative or Pastor Jim.

Please give prayerful consideration to how can we most effectively accomplish our mission in light of the changes we are experiencing in rural America.

## POPCORN/VIDEO

Delafield Evangelical Lutheran Church was no different from many other rural churches. Founded by immigrant farmers who were seeking to raise crops, families and community, they placed their most loved building in their most beloved spot, a church in the middle of a cornfield. That steeple grew like the surrounding crops and similarly nourished those families. For the next 125 years, Delafield Lutheran Church was a source of continuity to generations of farm families.

That continuity was broken in 1998 when the small congregation faced the harsh realities of a changing rural life and decided to disband the congregation and give away their beloved church building.

What changed?

The documentary takes the viewer through that change. It connects the closing of a church to a bushel of corn and parallels the economics of farming with the decline of rural populations and loss of community.

Delafield is an excellent documentary that gives voice to the struggle many of our rural communities face. Please join us for the video and discussion. A list of times and location is provided below. Popcorn and drinks will be served!

Trinity	October 16, 7:00 p.m.
Zion	October 23, 7:00 p.m.
Fulton	October 27, 7:00 p.m.

## GRIEF CLASS OFFERED

Loss of someone close to you can be a devastating event, and the process of grief can take a long time to negotiate. There are however, ways to approach grieving that are healthier than others.

Rod will offer a two-hour session on grief at several different sites. The class will cover how to help yourself through the grieving process, and how to help someone else through his/her grief. It covers basic, helpful information (What do I say? How long is too long to grieve?) and will offer other resources for you to take with you and share.

The schedule for the class will be as follows:

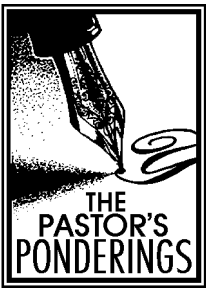
Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at FAITH from 7-9 p.m.

Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at FULTON from 7-9 p.m.

Please feel free to attend at whatever location works best in your schedule. There is one 20 minute break scheduled in each session.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped Pastor and Gretchen move. Your help was deeply appreciated.



On the eve of All Saints' Day, October 31, 1517, Martin Luther (1483-1546), professor of biblical studies at the newly founded University of Wittenberg in Germany, posted 95 Theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg. These 95 Theses were a challenge to the church to debate the practice of granting indulgences for the forgiveness of sins. Although the 95 Theses were heavily academic and moderate in tone, news of them spread like wildfire throughout Europe. Universities and religious institutions were quickly abuzz with excitement. Everyone marveled that one obscure monk from an unknown university had stirred the whole of Europe.

Three primary principles guided the work of Luther and the reformers who would soon follow: the primacy of scripture for faith and life, salvation by grace alone, and the priesthood of all believers. Melancthon, Bucer, Zwingli, Calvin and a host of others would bear the torch that Luther had ignited in Wittenberg throughout Europe. They would refine Luther's work and provide new forms for the principles at the heart of the protestant reformation.

The reformation inaugurated a period of change unlike anything the church had ever or has yet to see. The Bible was translated into languages that made it accessible to virtually all of Europe. Forms of worship changed making it easier for lay people to participate. The walls

separating clergy and laity were torn down making it possible for lay people to participate fully in the ministry of the church. These changes would become the foundation for the protestant church in Europe and America. Eventually they would give rise to different forms of Protestants: Lutherans, Presbyterians, United Church of Christ and Congregationalists, just to name a few. Those first principles continue to provide the foundation for our faith and life.

We are currently struggling to discover what it means to do ministry in a changing rural context. It is a period of great change for us; however, it is nothing compared to some of the changes the church has endured. The forms ministry assumes are quickly changing. The focus of that ministry, however: the Word of God, salvation by grace, and the priesthood of all believers serves as bedrock upon which new forms of ministry can be built.

Do you imagine Luther, Zwingli or Calvin could imagine where those changes were taking them? I do not believe they could – in their wildest dreams – conceive where those first cries of reformation would lead God's people. However, I believe they would still recognize and celebrate the bedrock upon which those movements have been built.

It is difficult to tell where the changes we are experiencing will take us. I cannot even begin to imagine what form our ministry will assume. However, I am confident that the bedrock upon which these congregations are built will remain true.

As we prepare to celebrate Reformation Sunday and thank God for the changes that were initiated by those first reformers, let us pray that God will lead us as we seek new ways to embody these treasured principles.

Pastor Jim

## COMMUNION WORKSHOP

A communion workshop will be offered for anyone desiring to learn more about communion. This workshop will be a good refresher course for adults and children who already commune. It is also an opportunity for children who do not yet commune to learn more about communion and take an important step toward receiving communion. The focus of the workshop will be on the holy community that is created as we gather around the gifts of bread and wine.

The workshop will be offered at Zion on Sunday, October 13 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. A light lunch will be served.

If you have questions about the workshop, please contact Pastor Jim.

If you plan to attend the workshop, it would be appreciated if you would sign up before October 6 so we can plan for lunch. You may sign up by calling the Cooperative office at 352-3645.

## NEED A VISIT?

If you or anyone you know of could use a pastoral visit, please contact the Cooperative office at 352-3645 so a visit can be scheduled.

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Gowrie, IA 50543

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**Cooperative Phone Numbers:**

Cooperative Office		352-3645
Rev. Jim Davis	Office	352-3645
	Home	352-3932
Rod Meyer	Office	846-6227
	Home	354-5224

**Cooperative Email Addresses:**

Cooperative Office: [ziongowr@wccta.net](mailto:ziongowr@wccta.net)  
Rev. Jim Davis: [elca506@wccta.net](mailto:elca506@wccta.net)  
Rod Meyer: [rodmeyer@mail.lvcta.com](mailto:rodmeyer@mail.lvcta.com)

**Cooperative Worship Times**

Calvary, Barnum	10:30 a.m.
Faith, Harcourt	10:30 a.m.
Fulton, Roelyn	9:15 a.m.
Trinity, Boxholm	9:00 a.m.
UCC/Cong., Moorland	8:00 a.m.
Zion, Gowrie	10:30 a.m.
1st and 3rd Saturdays	5:00 p.m.