
Name?

Volume 1 Issue 3

A Publication of Countryside Cooperative Ministry

November 2002

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

ALL SAINTS DAY

Halloween is a very popular fall holiday, but few people have even heard of All Saints Day. How many people actually know, however, that Halloween has Christian roots?

“Hallow,” in Old English, means “holy” or “sacred.” Therefore, “Hallows’ Eve,” or “Halloween” simply means “the evening of holy persons” and refers to the evening before All Saints Day, which is November 1 on both Anglican and Catholic calendars.

In the early years when Rome persecuted Christians, so many

Christians died for their faith, that the Church set aside special days to honor them. For example, in 607 Emperor Phocas presented to the Pope the beautiful Roman Pantheon temple. The Pope quickly removed the statues of Jupiter and the pagan gods and consecrated the Pantheon to “all saints” who had died from Roman persecution in the first three hundred years after Christ. Their bones were brought from other graves and placed in the rededicated Pantheon church.

In the next century, All

Continued on page 2a

Countryside Cooperative Ministry Council

Byrum 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

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

REV. WAHLGREN JOINS COOPERATIVE MINISTRY STAFF

Rev. Donald Wahlgren recently joined the Countryside Cooperative Ministry staff as Visitation Pastor. The primary purpose of his position is to provide pastoral care for people unable to participate in corporate worship.

Pastor Wahlgren will also be involved in recruiting, training, encouraging, and supporting volunteers who will assist in providing care for those unable to participate in corporate worship. He will also serve as a

resource for pastoral care in Cooperative Ministry member congregations. In addition to pastoral care responsibilities, he will also be serving as a Sacramental Minister at Zion.

Rev. Wahlgren is currently serves as Visitation Pastor at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge.

Don is fond of saying, “The Lord always has something for you to do, find out what it is and do it.”

For this new morning with its
light,
Father, we thank you.
For rest and shelter of the night,
Father, we thank you.
For health and food, for love and
friends,
For everything your goodness
sends,
Father, in heaven, we thank you.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Continued from page 1a

Saints Day was changed by Pope Gregory III to November 1.

In the 10th century, Abbot Odela of the Cluny declared November 2nd as "All Souls" Day" to honor not just the martyrs (people who die for their faith), but all Christians who had died. People prayed for the dead, but many unchristian superstitions were also continued. Food was often offered to the dead – as it had been in pagan times. It was also believed that on these two days, souls in purgatory would take the form of witches, toads, or demons and haunt persons who had wronged them during their lifetime.

As happens so often in history, Christian and pagan celebrations

often become difficult to distinguish from each other. All Saints Day provides us with an important opportunity to reflect on the cloud of saints that surrounds us. This All Saints Day take some time to reflect on the following questions. Who are the important people you remember from Christian history? Can you think of any whose example has inspired you? Who are the saints who continue to surround you and uphold you in the faith? Why not use this All Saint's Day to think of and give thanks for as many Christians from the past that you know about, whether they are famous or not, whose lives have contributed something to yours.

FALL BAZAAR

Fulton Lutheran Church will be hosting a Fall Bazaar on November 9 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the church.

There will be a variety of baked goods, crafts, cards and other items available. Coffee/Lunch (Carry-outs available.)

Come and see what they have to offer. You can do some Christmas shopping and support our Cooperative Ministry at the same time.

Christmas Concert

Time to start warming up the vocal cords for the Gowrie Community Christmas Concert. Rehearsals will start on Sunday, November 3, 2:00 PM at Zion Lutheran Church. These rehearsals will run on the 10th, 17th, 24th, and Dec. 1st, with the concert being on Dec. 8 at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendar now and plan on singing some great holiday music.

Everyone is welcome to be part of the festivities.



SWEDISH SUPPER

Trinity Lutheran Church in Boxholm will be having their 25th Annual Swedish Supper on Dec. 4th, tickets are \$10.00. You are all cordially invited to join them for Lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, and all the trimmings.

Tickets are still available, although they probably won't be for long. You can obtain them by contacting Annette in the office at 846-6277 or Linda Swanson at 846-6288.

POLKA SERVICE

Zion invites the members of the Cooperative to join them for a fun, interesting worship experience. Zion will be hosting a Polka style worship service on November 17. The service will be led by Peter and Paul Wendinger. The Polka Service is a very popular service the Wendingers have been leading for years.

The Wendingers have been making music for 38 years and were honored in 1985 as the No. 1 Olde Tyme Band in the Upper Midwest.

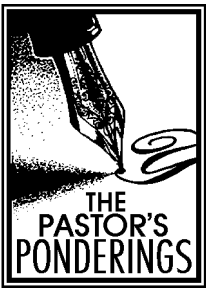
They will also be performing at the Bohemian Hall that Sunday evening.

Why not invite a friend or family member to share this unique worship experience with you?

O Lord that lends me life,
Lend me a heart replete
With thankfulness
—Shakespeare
King Henry VI

THANK YOU

We cannot say enough for the grand way in which the people of the Countryside Cooperative Ministries expressed their Christian love for us. It was seen in so many ways, by the gifts, prayers, cards, the send-off get together, help in packing and loading, spoken words, and all. But we do say thanks, though we know that we cannot find the words to truly express it. In the love of Christ, Marlin and Gretchen



“We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

The first words, chronologically speaking, of the New Testament are words of thanksgiving. Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians, believed to be the first of Paul’s letters and the earliest document of the New Testament, begins with Paul thanking God for the members of the church at Thessalonica.

Paul’s thanksgiving for the faith, love, and hope of the church at Thessalonica must have certainly been affirming for a young congregation that struggled to remain faithful during a time of doubt and persecution.

Paul’s words to the Thessalonians remind me of the 13th chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians in which he speaks of the greater gifts with which God blesses us. You remember his words, don’t you? “And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)

It is important to remember that the Thessalonians were not perfect Christians. They struggled with sexual issues, how

one lived a Christian life while waiting for the coming of the Lord, and hope in the face of persecution and death. Yet, in spite of their struggles, they trusted in God, grew in their love for others, and clung to the hope they had been given in our Lord Jesus Christ.

In a few weeks, we will celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for our blessings, which include ancestors who had the courage to come to the shores of this land and establish a nation that continues to offer us freedoms and opportunities unheard of in many nations of our world. It is a time to allow

All Saints Day affords us the opportunity to remember the cloud of saints by whom we are surrounded: both those living and those who have gone before us.

our gratitude to motivate us to continue the work of those who have gone before us in providing these freedoms and opportunities not only for future generations in this land, but also for people throughout the world.

November is also the month in which the church celebrates All Saints Day. All Saints Day affords us the opportunity to remember the cloud of saints by whom we are surrounded: both those living and those who have gone before us. All Saints Day is an opportunity for us to join Paul in giving thanks for the faith, love, and hope of the people who built our churches and, more importantly, passed on the faith with which these churches were built.

As I continue to hear the stories of the immigrants who faithfully gathered in these areas

to form communities of faith, I give thanks to God for their faith, love, and hope. As I continue to get to know you as congregations and individuals, I give thanks to God for the faith, love, and hope I see active in your lives. And, as we face the struggles that lie ahead, I pray that, like the Thessalonians, we may continue to have faith in God, grow in love for others, and remain steadfast in the hope we have been given in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jim

RUN THROUGH THE BIBLE



Run through the Bible will be offered at Zion, Gowrie on November 3 and 10 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. The first session will be Old Testament.

The second session will be New Testament.

Run through the Bible is intended to give each of the participants a basic overview of the bible and just a little taste of what can be found between its covers. We will highlight one verse from each of the books of the Bible and give a brief description of what is found in that book.

This is especially designed to expose children to the Bible, but is also a good overview for adults.

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.

Countryside Cooperative Ministry
Box 63
Gowrie, IA 50543

Cooperative Phone Numbers:

Cooperative Office		352-3645
Rev. Jim Davis	Office	352-3932
	Home	352-5261
Rod Meyer	Office	846-6227
	Home	354-5224

Cooperative Email Addresses:

Cooperative Office: ziongowr@wccta.net
Rev. Jim Davis: elca506@wccta.net
Rod Meyer: 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.

Thanksgiving Services

Faith, Roelyn	7:00 p.m.	Nov 28
Trinity, Boxholm	7:30 p.m.	Nov 28
Zion, Gowrie	7:00 p.m.	Nov 28