
COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 10

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July 2003

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

MISSIONARIES VISIT COOPERATIVE CONGREGATIONS

Fulton and Zion were recently visited by missionaries they have been helping support. Laurie Meyer, who has been serving as an account in Tanzania and Leroy and Paula Bradway, who have been serving as librarians in the Slovak Republic.

Laurie was at Zion on Sunday, June 22. She presented a slide show and talked about her experiences in Tanzania during worship. Following worship, Laurie was available for questions and she had on display a number of crafts and other

items from Tanzania.

Leroy and Paula Bradway were at Fulton on Monday, June 23. They joined members for a potluck lunch and then presented a program about their work in the Slovak Republic.

Missionary support is just one of the ways we support the wider work of the church. Thank you to Zion and Fulton for their support of Laurie Meyer and Leroy and Paula Bradway. It is important part of our response to God's blessings.

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FREEDOM FOR WHAT?

In a few short days, we will celebrate the 4th of July and the blessing of freedom we enjoy as citizens of this great nation. There are few things more important than our freedom.

We are blessed with freedom. Consequently, the question that faces each of us is how we will use that freedom.

Many understand our freedom as license to do whatever we want to within the bounds of the law. Although that is true, that is a very immature understanding of freedom.

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul writes: "...you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another."

Paul reminds us that God does not intend for us to use our freedom to indulge our own desire but to serve one another.

Martin Luther, in his *Treatise on Christian Freedom*, wrote "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none; a

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Countryside Cooperative Ministry Council

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"I don't think much of the missionary." said the cannibal.

"That's OK," said his mother, "eat your vegetables instead."

Freedom is the oxygen of the soul.

— Moshe Dayan

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If your congregation doesn't currently support a specific missionary or missionaries, please consider becoming involved in this important and exciting ministry.

Contact the Cooperative office if you would like more information about missionary support.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we are not really living. Growth demands a temporary surrender of security.

— Gail Sheehy

A list of locations, dates and times for Vacation Bible School are listed below. Children of the Cooperative are invited to attend any of the Bible Schools. If you would like more information, contact the Cooperative office

Zion – July 28-31 @ 9:00 a.m.

Fulton – June 9-13 @ 8:30 a.m.

Trinity – June 9-13 @ 9:00 a.m.



COOPERATIVE BIKE RIDE

Attention bikers! Join us for a Cooperative Bike Ride on Sunday, July 13. We will be riding on the



Raccoon River Trail. The plan is to start at Panora and ride about 50-60 miles. At the end of the ride we will be going out for pizza. You may ride as much of the trail as you like. A sag wagon will be available to pick you up when you are ready. If you are planning on joining us, contact the Cooperative office by July 9 so we can plan for transportation for everyone. A trailer will be available for bikes.

Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Luther, also, argued that we should use our freedom to serve others, and to bring glory to God.

What do you think? How do we as individuals and a nation view our freedom? Do we see our freedom as a wonderful blessing that allows us to more effectively serve others? Or, do we see our freedom as the opportunity to indulge insatiable appetites for things that do not ultimately satisfy?

As we celebrate the 4th of July and the amazing blessing of our freedom, may we remember what God intends for our freedom and use our freedom to serve others.



COOPERATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

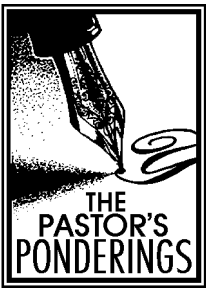
You are invited to join the congregations of Countryside Cooperative Ministry for Cooperative worship on Sunday, July 27. Two services will be provided for your convenience.

There is a time to let things happen and a time to *make* things happen.

There will be a service in the South Lodge at Dolliver Park. Worship will be at 11:00 a.m. A potluck dinner will follow worship. Calvary Presbyterian Church will be providing homemade ice cream. It is really delicious. The park is a beautiful setting in which to offer God our thanks and praise. Please bring lawn chairs and quilts or blankets for seating. Also, please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

There will also be a service at Zion for those who do not want to join us at the park. Worship will be at 9:00 a.m. The sanctuary is air-conditioned. This will be a casual service

If you have questions about either service, contact the Cooperative office.



HAVE YOU EVER MET JESUS?

Two weeks ago, Fulton had Vacation Bible School. It was a wonderful event that was totally organized by members of the congregation – whose average age was in the seventies. It is inspiring to see God’s people using their gifts to reach out to others to share the love of God with them. Thank you Dorothy, Bert, Betty, Helen, Karen, Marge and Grace.

I stopped by one morning to see how things were going, having no idea that I was about to meet Jesus. I met Jesus that morning

in the form of a 93-year-old lady whose name is Helen Harklau. Helen was teaching one of the Vacation Bible School classes. It touched my heart to see someone of Helen’s age offering her time, energy and love to do the work to which Jesus has called us. In a society in which retirement provides many with the excuse to no longer serve the organizations that are the very fabric of our life together, in a society in which the attitude of many is: “I have done my part, let someone else take a turn,” it is refreshing to see someone who takes her service to the Lord so seriously. When I saw Helen seated at a table, with a smile of contentment on her face and

“I teach because I want the children to love Jesus the way I love Jesus.”

children eagerly waiting to learn about Jesus, I realized I was looking at Jesus.

I asked Helen why she continues to teach after a long career teaching school and a lifetime of teaching in the church.

Helen simply said, “I teach because I want the children to love Jesus the way I love Jesus.”

I don’t know if Helen knows how much of a blessing she is. She was and continues to be Jesus for me. I am certain she is also Jesus for many others.

It shouldn’t be surprising that God is able to use a 93-year-old woman to help others meet Jesus. God used Abraham and Sarah, who were 90 and 80 years old, to begin a journey that would

eventually lead to Jesus and to us. God used Zechariah

and Elizabeth, a couple long past their child rearing years, to raise a son who would proclaim the coming of the Messiah.

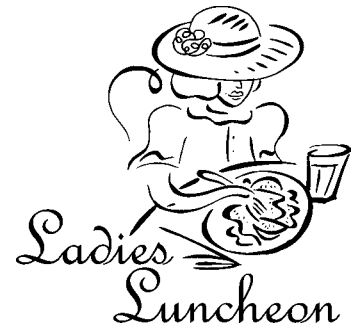
In God’s kingdom, our part is never done. God can use each of us, in spite of our age, to help others meet Jesus.

Thank you Helen and all the rest of you who help me meet Jesus. I pray that, as we follow where God is leading, many others may meet Jesus through us.

Pastor Jim

A closed mind is a dying mind.

– Edna Ferber



The Fulton Lutheran Women would like you to join them for a noon luncheon July 9th at Marvin Gardens in Fort Dodge. Cindy Youngquist, our new Stephen Ministries Leader, will be our speaker. We need to have a count of the number coming so please contact Loretta Daisy (712-464-3606) or Dorothy Barta (515-549-3524) by July 2nd.



Homemade Ice Cream!!! Please join Trinity Lutheran, Boxholm, for a fun-filled evening Saturday, July 16th (5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.). They will be serving beef burgers, cake, bars, drinks, and of course HOMEMADE Ice Cream. The Old Timers Band from Ogden will perform throughout the evening. A freewill offering will be collected.

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
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Gowrie, IA 50543

Cooperative Phone Numbers:

Cooperative Office		352-3645
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	Home	354-5224
Rev. Wahlgren	Office	352-3645
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Stephen Ministry Office		352-3612

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

