

# The Visitor

February 2012

Volume 2

First Presbyterian Church - 302 Central Lane - Luverne, MN 56156  
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## Pastor's Column

Dear Friends:

In February, 2012 Martha and I have been here in Luverne for seven years. I bring this up because at the first service of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve this year I was aware of quite a few people that I had not noticed in worship before. In seven years, I have come to know many of those who are relatively inactive in their worship attendance but are members or relatives of members of our congregation. It brought to mind a story.

William Wrigley, the chewing gum magnate who amasses a great fortune, attributed his success to advertising. While traveling on the fast New York Central 20th Century Limited shortly before his death, a traveling companion asked him why he continued to spend millions of dollars on advertising.

"Your gum is known the world over," argued the friend. "Why don't you save the millions you are spending on advertising?"

Wrigley thought for a moment and then replied: "How fast is the train going?"

"About 90 miles an hour," replied the friend.

"Then why doesn't the rail road company remove the engine and let the train travel on its own momentum?" asked Wrigley.

When we find a good thing, we need to let other people know about it. That is why Jesus launched an advertising campaign. "You shall be my witnesses," he said.

Have we invited anyone to attend our services of worship lately, or are we expecting the train to move forward on its own momentum?

With best wishes,  
*Pastor Terry Morse*



## Sermons For February

- February 5: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany.  
"Decisions" based on John 1:15. Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Elders taking communion to the home bound.
- February 12: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany.  
"Marked by the Cross" based on Romans 6:2-4. 1:30 p.m..Service of Worship at Mary Jane Brown Home. 2:15 p.m. Service of Worship at Poplar Creek.
- February 19: Transfiguration of the Lord.  
"Fear: How to Deal with What Nobody Wants" based on Luke 13:31-35.
- February 22: Ash Wednesday.  
"Practicing Righteousness" based on Matthew 6:1-6 and 16-18. 7:30 p.m. United Service of Worship at the United Methodist Church.
- February 26: First Sunday in Lent.  
"The Kingdom of God Is at Hand" based on Mark 1:9-15.
- February 29: United Lenten Service at First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Donn speaking.

Synod School 2012



"So many people having so much fun while examining issues related to faith."

July 22-27, 2012

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Go to [www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html)  
or phone 1-800-328-1880, ext. 207.

Singing the Lord's Song  
in a Strange Land

## Newsletter Deadline

20<sup>th</sup> of each month

Please have articles written and in on time.



## New Leadership

We are most happy to have the new leadership team in place for 2012.

Clerk of Session: Sarah Kooiker

Treasurer: Becky Sehr

Financial Secretaries: Shirley Christianson and Gloria Rust with JoAnn Van Engelenhoven and Bob Bailey servicing as backups

Building Fund Treasurer: Gayle Stegemann

President of the Trustees: Verlyn Hoff

Secretary of the Trustees: Sarah Kooiker

Christian Education: Evan Verbrugge (chair), Brian Schoneman and Tracy Boelman

Evangelism & Nurture: Isabell Biever (chair), Delores Leenderts and Phil Voigt

Finance: Verlyn Hoff (chair), Becky Sehr, Ed Elbers, Al Stoakes, Gayle Stegemann, Bret Miller

Property & Maintenance: Verlyn Hoff (chair), Gerald Umbreit and Sig Underwood

Stewardship & Mission: Laura Kuehl (chair), Gerry Sandstede and Justin Van Maanen

Worship & Music: Colleen Cragoe (chair), Staci Zwaan

Personnel: Seth Stegenga

Nominating: Evan Verbrugge (chair), Harlan Solma

Deacon: Joni Gacke, Naidine Aanenson, Denise Olson and Ben Vander Kooi

Financial Review: Anne Stegenga, Al Kuehl

Investment: Todd Wessels, Becky Sehr, Barbara Berghorst, Harold Tilstra, Terrie Gulden, Gayle Stegemann

The leaders for the Hospitality Groups:

Group 1: Lowell & Jolene Wessels and Terrie & Linda Gulden

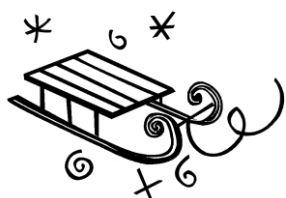
Group 2: Bud & Gloria Rust and Shirley Christianson

Group 3: Mike & Denise Dirks and Gerrit & JoAnn Van Engelenhoven

Group 4: Deb & Dan Iveland and Al & Ruth Stoakes

Group 5: Roy & Linda Moeller and Jim & Sandi Hensley

We look forward to their leadership and thank them for their willingness to serve.



## Souper Bowl of Caring

Our Confirmation youth will hold soup pots at the church doors on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 5, 2012. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2011 the Souper Bowl of Caring made an impact on the lives of millions of hungry families, as dollar-by-dollar, can-by-can, their collections totaled \$9.5 million for hunger-relief in America. Since Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with a simple act of caring from a Presbyterian Church youth group in South Carolina, more than \$81 million has been collected from participants in all 50 states. Just as it was on that Super Bowl weekend in 1990, 100% of the money collected today is given directly to hunger-relief charities in local communities. In our case, it will be the Luverne Food Shelf.

## Communion For Those Confined To Their Residence

On Sunday, February 5, 2012, Elders and Deacons will be taking the communion elements to those confined to their residence on Sunday afternoon. If you would like to be included, please give the church office a call. Presently, Verlyn Hoff and Shorty Leenderts, Al and Laura Kuehl, and Dan Iveland and Emily Robinson are planning on taking part in this ministry of caring in our congregation.



## Annual Meeting Luncheon January 29, 2012

The Senior High Fellowship will be serving the Annual Meeting Dinner following the worship service on Sunday, January 29.

On the menu: Baked Potato Bar  
Salads  
Corn and Beans  
Brownies and Ice Cream  
Beverages

A freewill offering will go to support the 2012 Summer Mission Trip. We hope you all plan to have dinner with us!



## Visitation Pastor's Notes

### Bought Any "Kodachrome" Lately?

One reason that churches need websites is because, "**Kodak is dead; and GOOGLE Lives!**"

*(That sentence may need some explanation.)*

1. Last week, **Eastman Kodak** filed for **Chapter 11 bankruptcy**. In 1884, George Eastman invented "photographic film" and cameras that used it to take photos. Before that, glass plates coated with a gel made from animal hides and silver chloride was the method used.
2. George Eastman became a wealthy man, who gave away over **\$100,000,000** to schools, hospitals, and causes around the world. (In today's dollars about **\$20,000,000,000**)
3. **Digital photography** (from x-rays to your last phone photo) have eliminated the market for film and developing photos.

**Kodak** is not actually dead, just very ill in 'bankruptcy hospital.' It has many patents and assets but its main products have no market anymore. When did you buy your last **Kodachrome film, slides or prints?** I doubt that it was this Christmas.

**GOOGLE lives** as the world's most used internet search engine.

1. There are over **7 Billion** people on Planet Earth.
2. Google gets **1.5 Billion** hits every day. Americans use Google. The whole world uses Google.
3. Google gets **80+% of all internet** search traffic.
4. **I use GOOGLE.** Google finds my **encyclopedia**. When I want to know about George Eastman, I use Google to find Wikipedia (the online encyclopedia). When is the last time an encyclopedia salesman came to your door? At our house, it was 44 years ago.
5. Google is my **Atlas**. Have you seen a Google Earth satellite map of Luverne, Minnesota recently? (Two summers ago the Google Map had a photo of my 1941 Packard parked in the parking lot of FPC in Luverne. Talk about too much info).
6. Google is my **email**: [fpcDanL@gmail.com](mailto:fpcDanL@gmail.com)

**WEBSITES:** Last year I suggested that websites can be a new front door for churches. Our website is located at: <http://fpcluverne.com/>.

In the last six months, I have placed the following stories with photos on our website:

- *Children's' Christmas Program*
- *Carolers Bring Christmas Sounds to Joe and Christie Wessels*

- *Daniel A. Voigt Ordained*
- *"Sidewalk Petunia"*
- *Buffalo Days - Community in Communion*
- *Church Celebrates 40th with Pastor Terry*
- *Pastor Terry ~ Celebrates 40 Years TIME CHANGE (May 29th) for SUMMER Worship*
- *Confirmation Class*
- *BUFFALO DAYS ~ WORSHIP & Communion*

Twenty-five earlier stories also appear on the site. (see "FIND PAST STORIES" in left column). I put "tag words" on each story. Search engines collect my 'tags.' GOOGLE finds our website by those tags and other words in the stories.

### **GOOGLE Exercises and FPC of Luverne:**

Here are some fun exercises to do on GOOGLE.

- 1) Type in "**First Presbyterian Church of Luverne**" and you will get our website. The **next three items** are stories posted there.
- 2) Now, on that same page in 1) above, **click on the 'Images' tab in upper left corner** (*black menu just above the colorful 'Google' logo*). It should bring up more than 12 photos posted on our church website.
- 3) Stay on that page and type in "**Luverne MN old images.**" Enter that and the "Fitzer Barn" of 1903 will be there.
- 4) Type in "**Old Barns and Barn Raisin**" and you will a story on **Betty Mann's** presentation on Rock County Barns.
- 5) Make your own Google search with "Pastor Terry's 40<sup>th</sup>" or "FPC Confirmation" or something else.

**What do you think?** Have you just entered First Presbyterian Church from a **NEW DOOR?** Or what?

*Dan Leininger*  
Visitation Pastor

## **Annual Meeting Sunday, January 29, 2012**

There will be a meal served by the youth of the congregation following the service of worship in the Fellowship Hall and we will then return to the sanctuary. Reports from all the committees and boards will be shared and we will have a time for general discussion and sharing.

Sarah Kooiker  
Clerk of Session

Terry W. Morse  
Moderator of Session



## Presbyterian Women News

- February 2: 9:00 a.m. Coordinating Team Meeting in the Friendship Room – finalize plans for Ecumenical Breakfast
- February 6: 9:00 a.m. Kitchen Cleaning
- February 8: 10:00 a.m. Bible Study at Poplar Creek  
#5 “Greatly Honored are Those Who Show Mercy!”
- February 15: Circles as scheduled  
9:15 a.m. Mary Circle – Shirley Ford  
1:30 p.m. Rebekah Circle – Mary Kraetsch & Doris Essman  
7:30 p.m. Esther Circle – Ruth Stoakes
- February 20: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Quilters Group
- February 22: 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday at United Methodist Church

The mild weather we have enjoyed this winter has been unusual and much appreciated. However, we can't escape the cold completely, it feels like winter has indeed arrived. Unlike last year all of our circles have met as scheduled. On February 6 we invite all women who are able to join us in cleaning the church kitchen. The floors have been professionally cleaned and polished and look wonderful. Let's get the rest of the kitchen and pantry looking shiny clean as well.

*Shirley Christianson, Moderator*



## Per Capita

To offset the expenses of the Presbytery, the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and the General Assembly, there is a Per Capita expense billed to each congregation. This year the amount billed each congregation is \$31.10 per member. The Session invites all members to voluntarily contribute an amount equal to that expense. There is an envelope in the offering envelope packet for this voluntary giving. If you would be willing to make such a voluntary contribution, you may place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office and just write “Per Capita” on the check. We appreciate the support of those who contribute to help offset this expense.



## Adult Class

Underway now is a discussion on the scripture passages set aside for each Sunday of the church year. All interested adults are invited to attend any of these sessions in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

The following persons will be observing a birthday/anniversary this month. Congratulations! If you have been omitted from the birthday or anniversary lists, please leave a note with the proper information with the church office. We know we are missing some dates in our records.

### Birthdays:

- February 3: Joni Gacke, JoLeah Mann
- February 4: Joselyn Koppen, Mary Tilstra
- February 5: Ryan Johnson, Andrew Miller, Jeff Sudenga
- February 6: Eleanor Ossenfort, Signe Underwood
- February 7: Marc Boelman, Reece Carlson, Scott Wessels
- February 8: Louis Loger, Scott Remme
- February 11: Roger Headrick, Cindy Niessink, Al Stoakes
- February 12: Colleen Cragoe
- February 13: Pat Weerheim
- February 14: Eldon Bush
- February 15: Luke Jarchow, Meghann Stanley
- February 17: Terrie Gulden, Frank Lindstrom
- February 19: Pat Rust, Sandra Smith
- February 20: Samuel Berghorst, Derek Mann, Brenda Wessels
- February 22: Ashley Bartholomaus, John Heronimus, Samantha Niessink, Frances Perkins
- February 24: Sarah Essman, Kevin Kraetsch, Joshua Kuehl, Dan Serie
- February 26: Jeff Sehr, Phil Voigt
- February 27: Jaxon Lais

### Anniversaries:

- February 13: David & Bev Wessels
- February 15: Lowell & Jolene Wessels
- February 18: Jason & Jocelyn Wessels
- February 24: Eldon & Wilda Bush



## February Prayer Focus

February is a month we are surrounded by images of love – thank you God for sending Jesus, the supreme example of perfect love. We pray for those in our congregation who are experiencing difficulties, may they sense your presence and know your peace. In Jesus name we ask this. Amen.

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20<sup>th</sup> of each month

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# This Month Calendar



## Sunday Morning Candlelighters

February 5: Ainslie Robinson & Josephine Golla  
 February 12: Alex Mann & Riley Karli  
 February 19: Ben Jarchow & Cameron Wessels  
 February 26: William Stegenga & McCall Stegenga

## Sunday Morning Greeters

February 5: Jeff & Missy Fick  
 February 12: Jerold & Pat Mann  
 February 19: Bob & Tracy Boelman  
 February 26: Paul & Diane Boyenga

## Sunday Morning Worship Leaders

February 5: Linda Gulden  
 February 12: Ben Vander Kooi  
 February 19: Terry Vajgrt  
 February 26: Gloria Rust

## Sunday Morning Nursery Attendants

February 5: Pat Mann & Christal Serie  
 February 12: Craig, Anne & Jordon Stegenga  
 February 19: Buck & Signe Underwood  
 February 26: Paul & Nancy Wurpts

## Sunday Morning Video Recorders

February 5: Bruce Boelman  
 February 12: Terrie Gulden  
 February 19: Laura Kuehl  
 February 26: Jane Wildung-Lanphere

## Sunday Morning Sound System

February 5: Harold Tilstra  
 February 12: Jane Wildung-Lanphere  
 February 19: Jerold Mann  
 February 26: Greg Antoine  
 February 29: Monte Zwaan (Lenten Service)

## Sunday Morning Hymn Leaders

February 5: Terrie Gulden  
 February 12: Praise Team  
 February 19: Bill Stegemann  
 February 26: Denice Dirks

## Sunday Morning Pianist

February 5: Ann Robinson  
 February 12: Praise Team  
 February 19: Denice Dirks  
 February 26: Louella Voigt

## Sunday Morning Organist

February 5: Diane Boyenga

February 12: Praise Team  
 February 19: Barb Antoine  
 February 26: Diane Boyenga  
 February 29: Barb Antoine (Lenten Service)

## February Usher Staff

Bob Boelman  
 Tracy Boelman  
 Jane Wildung-Lanphere  
 Margarite Luitjens

## Previous Month's Stats

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
January 1	77	\$ 3,517.46
January 8:	196	\$ 6,547.65
January 15:	142	\$ 12,747.56
January 22:	120	\$ 2,451.20
January 29:	—	\$ _____

## General Fund (2011 Year End):

Year to Date Income:	\$239,620.70
Year to Date Expenses:	\$249,203.76
Amount Pledged for 2011:	\$210,597.00
12/12 <sup>th</sup> of Pledges:	\$207,771.00

## Building Fund (2011 Year End):

To Date Income:	\$ 1,719,173.78
To Date Expenses:	\$ 1,438,264.87
Long Term Loans:	\$ - 0 -
Interest Paid to Date:	\$ 343,419.65
Amount Pledged:	\$ 1,361,401.43
Pledges Received Thru December	\$ 1,435,060.16
Amount Received This Month:	\$ 19,916.43

## Births



Congratulations! Born Friday, January 6, 2012 to James and Tashia Klosterbuer, a daughter, **Emersyn Lynn Klosterbuer**. She is the first baby of the year. Emersyn is the granddaughter of Dorothy Klosterbuer.



Remember, we are still collecting Campbell Soup proofs of purchase for the Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji. However, instead of the front of the label, they now want us to save the "Labels for Education" bar code.



## Youth Club News

**February's B.I.G. Idea** is "We believe that stories in Genesis help us understand God's plan for God's people." **February's Bible Verse** is "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it."

*Psalm 24:1* **January's B.I.G. Theme** is "The Beginning of the Story." **February's B.I.G. Sound** is "Everything In It."

The **Youth Club Choir will sing on Sunday, February 12.** Tuition for each 7 week trimester is \$16 per child. That comes to \$48 per year per child with a maximum tuition of \$96 per family. If you haven't had a chance to take care of your child's tuition, you can bring it on Wednesday when you pick them up or you can drop it off at the church office. If tuition is a hardship for you, please talk to Pat or Barb about taking advantage of a full-ride Youth Club scholarship. All requests are kept confidential. Members of our congregation have been generously donating scholarships for those who need help so that all our children are able to attend. Thanks to those of you who have taken care of it already.

We will be having a representative from the Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji visiting on a Wednesday in February. Watch for notes and announcements regarding the date of this visit. Parents will be asked to arrive at 5:15 p.m. to have a chance to listen to the camp representative, pick up information, and ask questions. Our church pays 1/2 the cost of the camp for all campers. Full scholarships are also available to anyone who finds that the cost of camp would be a financial burden.

*Barb Antoine & Pat Weerheim*  
Youth Club Coordinators



## Sunday School News

As we all settle into our winter routines, we're hoping part of your regular routine will include time for your child to attend Sunday School each week! It's wonderful that our church provides

Sunday morning Sunday School and Youth Club on Wednesday afternoons. Our children are doubly blessed to have the opportunity to attend two structured Christian based activities each week, all the more chance that the Christian values and ideals will become a real part of their daily lives. Just a reminder that the Youth Club Choir will be singing during the church service on most second Sundays of the month, and the Cherub Choir, (three's, preschoolers and kindergartners) will be singing on some of those Sundays. As it looks now, the Cherub Choir will be singing on February 12th when the Youth Club sings.

*Ruth Stoakes and Jane Beers*  
Sunday School Coordinators



## Senior High Fellowship Activities

The Senior High Fellowship activity for February will be on February 26. We will be going to the Pizza Ranch right after church followed by bowling at Luverne Lanes.

This event is being hosted by Craig and Anne Stegenga family.  
Tracy Boelman  
Senior High Activities Coordinator



## Middle School Fellowship

### Middle School Lock-In Glow In The Dark Theme

The Middle School Fellowship group will start their lock-in on Friday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. and continue through Saturday, February 18 at 7:00 a.m.

All Middle School Students – invite a friend to come and have some fun. There will be games, treasure hunts, and much, much more! You must bring a non perishable food item to get entry into the lock-in.

Also, bring your own snacks, drinks, flash lights, pillow, and blankets. All cell phones will be picked up when registering for the lock-in and returned in the morning. Pizza will be provided at midnight and homemade rolls for morning breakfast. Please call either Renee or Kim to give an idea of the number of students attending so we have enough food. (Renee Sawtelle phone at 507 384 1414 or Kim Schoneman phone at 227-8375.) Any questions call us.

*Renee Sawtelle & Kim Schoneman*  
Middle School Fellowship Coordinators



## From the Deacons

The Deacons would like to thank you for your generous contributions to the food shelf throughout the year and we hope that your generosity will continue. You can place any nonperishable items in the grocery carts located at the back of the church. The following items are urgently needed: laundry soap, Jello, pudding, dish soap, toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, diapers, condiments, boxed mac and cheese, cake mix, frosting, biscuit mixes, ramen noodles, soup, coffee, teas, and drink mixes. Thank you for your generous contributions!

## “Meet Our Members”

The **Evangelism Committee** has decided to feature a couple of people randomly picked from our church family every month. This month we will feature **Bud and Gloria Rust** and **Chuck and Barb Tweet**.



Bud and Gloria Rust live northeast of Luverne at 1657 200th Ave. Their telephone number is 283-4975, and email is [bgrust@myclearwave.net](mailto:bgrust@myclearwave.net). Gloria's cell phone is 507-227-7393.

Bud has been a farmer most of his adult life, farming north of Magnolia. He is retired now and enjoys helping son Kraig, who is now on the farm. He also frequents the Kenneth Coffee Shop each morning, playing his favorite card game Quiddler. He is also known for all the puzzles he has accumulated through the years. If you stop by, you will know soon just how smart you are! His favorite pastime is fishing. He has been to Canada too many times to count, and also visits the local lakes. He has supplied many of his lady friends with their favorite----bullheads. Yum!

Gloria retired from the teaching profession this past June and is thoroughly enjoying her freedom from a schedule. Occasionally she enjoys the Kenneth group, catching up on the latest and also likes Quiddler. Her hobbies include reading, baking, sewing, but most of all spending time with the family.

They have four sons. Dwight lives with wife Jill in Mitchell. Grandchildren there are Tony, Jennifer, Michael, Haley, and Katie. He is in the insurance business and she works in the school system. Kraig and Pat live on the farm. Their children are Marie, Nathan, and Justin. Kraig is a full time farmer and Pat works at the Vet's home in Luverne. Jon and wife Linda live in Rock Rapids. Their children are Andy, Theresa, and Alex. Jon works as a hospital lab technician and Linda does daycare. Jeff and Page live in Omaha, with children Brittany, Daniel, and Kolton. Jeff is a chemical engineer for Cargill and Page is Director of Sales for Premier Suites. Many of the grandchildren are married, so Bud & Gloria also have nine great-grandchildren, with two more arriving in the New Year.

Bud grew up southeast of Magnolia, and graduated from Magnolia High School. He joined the Presbyterian Church in Ellsworth, later transferring to Luverne. He has two sisters, Colleen and Jeanne, and two brothers, Don and Keith. One sister, Pat, passed away in 1997.

Gloria grew up in Kenneth, and also graduated from Magnolia High School, and got her degree at Mankato State University.

She joined the Presbyterian Church in 1973 when they were married. She grew up in the Christian Reformed Church in Edgerton. She has one brother Del, who lives in Kenneth with wife Cora. Gloria spends time with her mother, Jennie Nieuwboer, who is 89 years young, and they are all looking forward to celebrating her 90th in July.

Bud and Gloria have both been Elders and Deacons. Bud was also a Trustee (way back when!). Gloria helped with Youth Club, Bible School, Sunday School, and is the PW treasurer. She enjoys many years of being a circle member too. They are the leaders of the Anchor Group, and also serve as Hospitality leaders.



Chuck and Barb Tweet live at 1124 North Elm Street, Luverne, MN. Their telephone number is 283-8166. Chuck and Barb have been members of First Presbyterian Church and lived in Luverne all of their married life.

Chuck grew up on a farm near Lismore, MN. Barb grew up on a farm near Adrian, MN. They both went to school in Adrian.

Chuck is a barber and has Chuck's Barber Shop in Luverne. Barb retired from teaching at Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary last year.

They have three sons. Todd is the oldest son and is married to Maggi. They have two children, Abby and Ben and live in Burlington, WI. Tim is their second son and is engaged to Miki. They are planning an April wedding! They live in Eagan, MN. Justin is the youngest son and is married to Melinda. They live in Tampa, FL.

Chuck enjoys boating, skiing, fishing, golfing and having some kind of project to work on. Barb enjoys reading, walking, golfing, gardening and shopping with grand-daughter Abby.

They spend a lot of time at their lake home at Lake Sarah. They enjoy traveling to new places. Most of all, they love spending time with family and friends.



### Grocery Voucher Program

Church members can buy grocery vouchers from the Senior Highs and use them as cash at Glen's grocery store. You can buy vouchers in \$5, \$10, or \$20 amounts. When you go to the store give these to the cashier in place of cash. 5% of the money you spend will come back to the church. This will be used by the Senior High Fellowship for their Mission Trip. The Senior Highs will have the vouchers available before and after worship on Sunday mornings.



## Session Highlights

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met on January 11 at 8:00 p.m. with Rev. Dr. Terry Morse presiding. Sarah Kooiker gave the devotion and opened the meeting with prayer.

**Order of the Day:** Finance and Building Fund Committee members were present. All loans from the Building Project have been paid in full as of December 30, 2011. These loans were first prepared in February 2000. We borrowed a total of \$827,645. The Synod Loan was paid off November 2, 2010 – one year early. The General Assembly Loan was paid off May 13, 2010 – six years early. The PILP Loan was paid off December 31, 2011 – ten years early. All dollars were borrowed from Presbyterian funds. The interest paid of \$343,419.65 all went back to Presbyterian projects. In celebration the Session and guests sang “The Doxology”.

Elders present were: Paul Boyenga, Lynn Lopau, Rob Stegenga, Isabell Biever, Verlyn Hoff, Laura Kuehl, Evan Verbrugge, Dan Iveland, Stephanie Pierce, Erin Sandstede, Harlan Solma, Carol Cook, Leonard Leenderts, Seth Stegenga, Wendy Stegenga and Emily Robinson were present. Norma Remme, Deb Vander Kooi, Brett Miller, Colleen Cragoe and Carrie Frey were excused. MSC to approve the minutes from the Stated Session meeting of December 11, 2011.

**Clerk’s Report:** Communion was served to 349 in December and January.

**Moderator’s Report:** The Lord’s Supper was served at worship services, MJB Home, Poplar Creek, and homes. Baptism of Riley Paul Karli born November 29, 2002 and Ryan Samuel Karil born July 13, 2005; sons of Stacey Leigh and Tom Karli and grandparents are Samuel and Barb Berghorst. Pastoral visitations included: 19 calls; 1 hospital visit; 11 meetings; and 7 classes. Special events included: Ministerial Meeting; Winterfest; Congregational Meeting; Office Christmas Party; Joint Session/Deacon Meeting; Service at Episcopal Church; two Christmas Eve Services; and Coverage for Pastor Donn Rakow at United Methodist Church.

**Old Business:** Letter sent to Presbytery with our payment schedule for per capita payments. Dr. Morse examined the candidates for Ordination of Deacon and Elder and provided training prior to their ordination.

**New Business:** MSC to elect the following people for church office 2012: Clerk – Sarah Kooiker; Treasurer – Becky Sehr; Financial Secretaries – Shirley Christianson, Gloria Rust (JoAnn VanEngelenhoven and Bob Bailey as substitutes); Building Fund Treasurer – Gayle Stegemann; President of

Trustees – Verlyn Hoff; Secretary of Trustees – Sarah Kooiker; Personnel Committee – Seth Stegenga; Nominating Committee – Evan Verbrugge, Harlan Solma; Presbytery – Betty Mann. For the Meeting on February 12, 2012 Carol Cook and Emily Robinson are elected Commissioners. Elders will take communion to homes on Sunday, February 5. Presbytery will be meeting in Spicer on Saturday, February 4. MSC to approve study leave for Dr. Morse. He plans to attend the Sprunt Lectures in Richmond VA in May 7-9. He also plans to add a few vacation days at that time. MSC to merge the Stewardship and Mission Committee with Evangelism and Social Concerns Committee. Members will choose a name for the new committee at their next meeting.

**Worship & Music Committee:** The next communion service is Sunday, February 5, 2012.

**Finance Committee:** Reviewed monthly financial reports and current status of building loans. MSC to create a Building and Maintenance Fund with money on reserve for future building issues and repairs. This fund can be used for those wishing to continue to contribute towards building projects.

**Stewardship & Mission Committee:** The Christmas Joy Offering totaled \$1,472.56. Lenten Devotionals are being ordered.

**Property & Maintenance Committee:** On motion from committee approved payment for a new copier at a cost of \$5,900. Funds to come from Session Discretionary Funds and the Copier Fund. Floors in the Fellowship Hall have been expertly refinished at a cost of \$1,228. Funds coming from the Maintenance Fund.

The next regular Session meeting will be Wednesday, February 8 at 8:00 p.m. Devotions will be given by Stephanie Pierce. Meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sarah Kooiker*, Clerk of Session



## Baptism

We were happy to baptize into the household of God, **Samantha Lee Van Maanen** on Sunday, January 22, 2011. Samantha is the daughter of Amanda and Justin Van Maanen. She has a big brother Jackson. Samantha is the granddaughter of Sam and Barbara Berghorst. We welcome Samantha into our fellowship.



**Presbyterian Camp  
On Okoboji**  
([www.presbycamp.org](http://www.presbycamp.org))

\*\* A representative from the Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji will be visiting on a Wednesday in February during Youth Club. Watch for notes and announcements regarding the date of this visit. Parents will be asked to arrive at 5:15 p.m. to have a chance to listen to the camp representative, pick up information, and ask questions. Our church pays 1/2 the cost of the camp for all campers. Full scholarships are also available to anyone who finds that the cost of camp would be a financial burden. Brochures are available from the church office or from Barb Antoine. You can also check for information on the camp website listed above.

**Youth Retreats:**

We have several opportunities for Junior and Senior High youth to enjoy the camp during the school year. It allows them to fellowship with friends they met at camp in previous years and gives them a chance to get away from daily life and focus on strengthening their faith.

February 10, 2012: Confirmation Retreat – Come for the confirmation retreat and meet others who are also going through the process of confirmation. Experience worship and fellowship in the sacred space of camp! Watch for more details.

February 17-19, 2012: Senior High Retreat – Planning is in progress for an awesome winter get-a-way for youth. Watch for more details.

March 2-4, 2012: Middle School Mayhem – Mark your calendar now for this weekend of middle school fun and faith. Watch for more details.

**Adult Retreats:**

It seems like it is all too easy to become overwhelmed with work, children, running errands, and everything else that we all have on our plates that we forget to take time for ourselves. We offer opportunities for adults to retreat from their daily lives and come enjoy God's peaceful creation. Check out these opportunities for adults:

February 3-5, 2012: Ice Fishing – Fish in the very popular Miller's Bay, right off our lakefront.

March 11-15: Quilting Retreat – Come work on quilt projects and share ideas and tips.

**Summer Camps:**

The theme of the 2012 summer camps is "Secrets of the Kingdom, the Parables of Jesus." Jesus used stories, called

parables, to teach his disciples – and US – about what it means to live in his kingdom. In Secrets of the Kingdom, campers look to the Master Storyteller, Jesus himself, to discover six different parables and their meanings for our lives today! We will discover these secrets:

- We are God's soil!
- We can ask boldly!
- God is Generous!
- God Treasures Us!
- Jesus is in the "least of these"!
- God Plants Us in the World!

**New Camps (offered this summer are):**

High Challenge Week – formerly known as Adventures in Rappelling.

A.R.K. Adventures – a mission camp for senior high students

Family Camp – Bring the whole family!

Night Owls 1 – over the 4th of July weekend

Half MAD – music, art, and drama (will present a musical)

**\*\*No matter which camp you choose to attend, you will meet new friends, learn about your faith, and have tons of fun! Register today!**



**Loan Repayment  
Task Force  
Building Fund Update**

**PAID IN FULL!!!!**

A quick summary of the remodeling project:

Synod of Lakes & Prairies – ten year loan in the amount of \$125,000 due January, 2011 ---- loan was paid in full in October of 2010.

General Assembly – 15 year loan in the amount of \$350,000 due January 2016 ---- loan was paid in full in December of 2009.

Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program (PILP) – 20 year loan in the amount of \$352,645 due in 2021 ---- loan was paid in full in December of 2011.

A separate fund will be established to address the ongoing maintenance of the church building.

A celebration is being planned – stay tuned for details.

Thanks be to God for blessing this congregation with the ability and willingness to financially support this amazing project!

*Gayle Stegemann*  
Building Fund Treasurer

# Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your love and support after the death of our uncle, Jim Deopere and our ten-month old great nephew, Rylan Miller. The prayers and cards were deeply appreciated. It is a blessing to be a member of such a loving and caring congregation.

Love,  
Greg & Barb Antoine & family

Southwestern Youth Services of Magnolia would like to give a SPECIAL THANK YOU to everyone that participated in the Angel Tree. It really helped make the youth's Christmas special. Your thoughtfulness, generosity and caring is greatly appreciated by everyone. Without people like you, this time of year would not be as special. Thank you for everything!

Students & Staff  
Southwestern Youth Services

We want to express our sincere thanks to everyone for sharing your memories, cards and gifts celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. May God bless each of you.

Joe & Christie Wessels

Thank you to the church ladies for the nice quilt given to Eldon. We would also like to thank everyone for the many cards and letters. Thanks also to Pastor Dan for his many visits.

Eldon & Wilda Bush

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our family, neighbors and friends for the gifts and all the beautiful cards which we received for our 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. It was very much appreciated.

Louie & Janelle Loger

Thank you everybody for the prayers, visits and food. It is greatly appreciated. Also, thank you Terry and Dan for your visits. God bless everyone.

Geneva Schelhaas

We extended our appreciation to the following church officers on Sunday, January 15 who have contributed much to our congregation: Session – Paul Boyenga, Lynn Lopau, Norma Remme, Rob Stegenga, and Deb Vander Kooi; Deacons – Niki Buss; Standing Session Committees – Lynn Lopau from Property & Maintenance; Paul Boyenga & Harold Tilstra from Evangelism & Nurture; Norma Remme from Christian Education; Deb Vander Kooi, Martha Morse & Bill Stegemann from Worship & Music; Rob Stegenga, Melissa Fick & Chuck Tweet from Stewardship & Mission; and Todd Wessels from Personnel.

Dear Friends,

The camp has received your donation from your Sunday School offering in the amount of \$101.40. We are very grateful for your generous support. Your donation will be used towards the purchase of a new water trampoline for our summer camp ministry. Our camping ministry is blessed because you understand the critical importance of supporting the present programming, insuring the future, and building for the next generation. I hope you can imagine many happy faces of the current and future generations who will reap the benefit down the years. God is indeed good and God has blessed us with this beautiful, sacred space. Thank you for giving to this ministry.

Beth Ehlers, Executive Director  
Presbyterian Camp on Okoboji



## Music Department

The next Music Staff will be held on Thursday, February 16 at 4:15 p.m.

### Cantata

The Chancel Choir will be presenting the cantata "Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone" on Easter Sunday, April 8. If you aren't in choir, but would like to sing with us for the cantata, please begin coming to rehearsals each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (6:30 p.m. during Lent).

### Sunday Morning Music

February 5: #332, #291, #2129 (STF)

February 12: Praise Songs

February 19: #371, #74, #403

February 26: #80, #84, #333

February 29: #81, #144, #384

Doxology: #2074 in STF "Shout to the Lord"

Sending Song: "As You Go On Your Way"

### Choir Schedule

February 5: Chancel Choir

February 12: Youth Club Choir

February 19: Chancel Choir

February 26: Special Music

February 29: Chancel Choir (Lenten Service)



## Hospitalized and Recovering

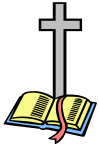
Joe & Christie Wessels – Luverne Hospital

Leona Heikes – Luverne Hospital

Robert Miller – recovering

Jolene Wessels – recovering

Geneva Schelhaas – recovering



## United Lenten Services Special Days In The Season of Lent and Holy Week – 2012

- February 22 – Ash Wednesday – 7:30 p.m.  
United Service of Worship at the United Methodist Church. Pastor Terry speaking on “Practicing Righteousness” based on Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.
- February 29 – Lenten Service – 7:30 p.m.  
United Service of Worship at the First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Donn speaking.
- March 7 – Lenten Service – 7:30 p.m.  
United Service of Worship at the United Methodist Church. Pastor Terry speaking.
- March 14 – Lenten Service – 7:30 p.m.  
United Service of Worship at the First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Donn speaking.
- March 21 – Lenten Service – 7:30 p.m.  
United Service of Worship at the United Methodist Church. Pastor Terry speaking.
- March 28 – Lenten Service – 7:30 p.m.  
United Service of Worship at the First Presbyterian Church. Pastor Donn speaking. Communion Training for Fifth Graders by Pastor Terry at the First Presbyterian Church.
- April 1 – Passion/Palm Sunday – 10:15 a.m.
- April 5 – Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion – 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church
- April 6 – Good Friday Service – 7:30 p.m.
- April 8 – Easter – Celebration Of The Resurrection Of The Lord – 10:15 a.m.

### Please Turn Off The Lights

We'd like to ask for everyone's cooperation in being good stewards of our electricity. Please turn off the light when you are the last to leave a room or hallway in our building in order to conserve energy and cut down on our electric bill. There have been lights left on in different areas of the church quite often when no one is around.



### Rides to Church

The Deacons would like to remind everyone that if you need a ride to church from the Heartland Express, we will take care of the bill. All you need to do is call them and then tell them you are from the Presbyterian Church. Rides can be cancelled Sunday mornings before 7:30 a.m. by leaving a message on Heartland answering machine.



### Prayers of Sympathy and Comfort

Our Christian love and sincere sympathy goes to the family and friends of the following:

- Our sympathy is extended to Gerrit and JoAnn Van Engelenhoven in the death of their granddaughter Jennifer's husband, Frank Granillo, Jr. Frank was killed in a work related accident in Tempe, AZ.
- Our sympathy is extended to John and Barb Schiebout and Charlie and Lena Madison in the death of Lena and John's mother, Bertha Schiebout. Funeral service for Bertha was Tuesday, January 3 at First Christian Reformed Church in Edgerton, MN.
- Our sympathy is extended to Jeremy and Jessica Miller and their daughter, Ava in the death of their ten-month old son, Rylan. The funeral for Rylan was Sunday, January 8 in North Branch, MN. Jessica is the niece of Greg and Barb Antoine.
- Our sympathy is extended to Greg and Barb Antoine in the death of Barb's uncle, Jim Deopere.
- Our sympathy is extended to Brad and Jane Beers in the death of Jane's father.
- Our sympathy is extended to Sharon Bouwman and family in the death of Ed Bouwman. The funeral for Ed was Saturday, January 28 in our sanctuary.



### From Our Historical Records

**1937:** The Rev. Thureau (retired) served as interim pastor. Persons named to the Pastor Nominating Committee: Ray Koehn, A. M. DeLapp, Mrs. E. A. Brown and Dwight Cummings.

**1938:** Rev. Calvin Knock was called and installed on April 1. New “Presbyterian Hymnals” were purchased and dedicated at a special service.

**1939:** First mention recorded of World Wide Communion Service in October.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>First Presbyterian Church</b> <b>302 Central Lane</b> <b>Luverne, MN 56156</b> <b>Phone: 507 283-4787</b>			<b>1</b> 3:15 Youth Club 6:00 Confirmation Class No Bells 7:00 Choir 7:15 Property 8:00 Evangelism 8:00 Stewardship 8:00 Christian Education 8:00 Worship	<b>2</b> 9:00 PW Coordinating Team Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Presbytery at Spicer
<b>5 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)</b> 9:00 Sunday School Classes 10:15 Service of Worship Communion Deacon Relief Offering Souper Bowl of Caring Elders Home Communion	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Kitchen Cleaning 5:00-6:00 Weight Watchers	<b>7</b> 3:00 pm Service of Worship on Knology	<b>8</b> 10:00 PW Bible Study at Poplar Creek 3:15 Youth Club 6:00 Confirmation Class No Bells 7:00 Choir 7:30 Finance Committee 8:00 Session	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 3:00 pm Food Shelf Meeting	<b>11</b>
<b>12 (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)</b> 9:00 Sunday School Classes 10:15 Service of Worship Youth Club/Cherub Choirs Sing 1:30 Service of Worship at Mary Jane Brown Home 2:15 Service of Worship at Poplar Creek	<b>13</b> 5:00-6:00 Weight Watchers	<b>14</b> 1:30 Communion at MJB Home 2:15 Communion at Poplar Creek 3:00 pm Service of Worship on Knology	<b>15</b> 9:15 Mary Circle 1:30 Rebekah Circle 3:15 Youth Club 6:00 Confirmation Class No Bells 7:00 Choir 7:30 Esther Circle	<b>16</b> 3:30 Staff Meeting 4:15 Music Staff Meeting	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Middle School Lock-In Starts	<b>18</b> 7:00 am Middle School Lock-In Ends
<b>19 (Transfiguration of the Lord)</b> 9:00 Sunday School Classes 10:15 Service of Worship Minute for Mission	<b>20</b> 9:00 am – 12:00 noon Quilting Group 5:00-6:00 Weight Watchers	<b>21</b> 3:00 pm Service of Worship on Knology	<b>22</b> 3:15 Youth Club 6:00 Confirmation Class No Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30 United Lenten Service at United Methodist Church 8:30 Deacons	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent)</b> 9:00 Sunday School Classes 10:15 Service of Worship 11:30 Sr. Highs at Pizza Ranch & Bowling	<b>27</b> 5:00-6:00 Weight Watchers	<b>28</b> 3:00 pm Service of Worship on Knology	<b>29</b> 3:15 Youth Club 6:00 Confirmation Class No Bells 6:30 Choir 7:30 United Lenten Service at First Presbyterian Church	<h1>February</h1>		

First Presbyterian Church  
302 Central Lane  
Luverne, MN 56156

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Barb's E-Mail: [gantoine@iw.net](mailto:gantoine@iw.net)  
Pat's E-Mail: [jpmann3@hotmail.com](mailto:jpmann3@hotmail.com)

Listing of Staff Personnel

Rev. Dr. Terry Morse, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Daniel Leininger, Visitation Pastor  
Rev. Burton Blair, Pastor Emeritus  
Becky Sehr, Administrative Assistant  
Barb Antoine, Choir Director  
Pat Mann, Visitor Editor