
SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

February 20, 2011

Cross Country

Obedience

Courage

Trust

Faith



Love

A musical that reminds us to race to the cross

By Pam Andrews

Performed by our Children's Choirs during our worship services on
February 26 at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 27 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Ministry Focus

Our Savior's Annual Meeting

On February 6, 2011, the members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church gathered in the social hall for our congregation's annual meeting. The annual meeting of a congregation is important for setting the mission and ministry goals for the upcoming year.

The following reports and actions were discussed during the annual meeting. These will serve as a guide for the church council as they lead our congregation in shaping our mission and ministry.

- The nominating committee presented the slate of officers for 2011. There were no further nominations from the floor. The slate of nominees was accepted as presented by unanimous vote. President Scott Blumhoefer recognized and thanked those who completed their terms through 2010. He also thanked former Treasurer Lynda Bauer for her service.
- Pat Lang, Chairman of the Board of Trustees led a PowerPoint presentation regarding the building fund's history and future. The new addition in 2004 cost \$1.9 million. The total amount contributed to the Building Fund since 2004 is \$1,387,403.00. The lending interest rate has risen and Jim Schmidt has been given permission from the Council to renegotiate the loan. Discussion followed regarding choices for loan repayment.
- 2011 Budget: Considerations for the budget by the Board of Trustees consisted of freezing salaries, making the 2011 budget match actual expenses for 2010, inserting an amount in the budget to fund the Capital Campaign Appeal, and service debt of Building Fund to the Capital Campaign budget. The 2011 budget is a 2% increase of the 2010 budget. Following questions and discussion, a motion was made to accept the 2011 budget. The motion was passed with a vote of 89 Yes and 6 No. Not included in the 2011 budget is the need for a new air conditioner for the sanctuary and some roofing repair. There will be a capital appeal for \$15,000 for the air conditioner.
- There was discussion of the sale of land previously deeded to OSLC by Otto and Frances Manderfield. The Council and Board of Trustees recommend selling this land. The vote on the motion to sell the land was made by written ballot. There were 84 Yes votes to sell the land and 6 No votes not to sell the land. Motion was carried. It is now up to the Board of Trustees to get a plan of action together, give the Council their recommendation, and have the Council approve it.

Our Savior's Lutheran church is an open community of believers

- **called by God in Christ Jesus to outreach, worship, and growth in faith**
- **committed to using God's gifts in living service to each other, our neighbors, and the world.**

Thank you for serving in a leadership role...

Our Savior's would like to thank those who have served on a board or church council the past year and whose terms are completed. We are grateful for your faithful service and participation in our ministry. Thank you for sharing your gifts with Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Please take a moment to thank the people listed below.

Scott Blumhoefer
Lynda Bauer
Marissa Tambornino
Robert Docherty
Karole Lieb
Aleda Warta
Shelly Blumhoefer
Jay Tambornino

Vickie Tambornino
Bill Koeckeritz
Ken Seim
Tracie Vranich
Pat Lang
Keith Christopherson
Tom Oelberg
Duane Ellanson

Phyllis Kosbab
Dave Swenson
Steve Vranich
Courtney Lang
Sarah Nelsen
Erin Rubie
Emily Zink

Where Are We?

With a positive annual meeting now behind us and new people in positions of leadership, we move on to a new phase in this season of transition. In visiting with your council president recently, we weighed a number of things on the table that need prioritizing. I wish to sketch out some of these in this article.

From your annual meeting, the land sale and property improvements were named and discussed. There likely will be a capital appeal for some roofing and air-conditioner that will be forthcoming. There also is the building debt and work is being done to explore refinancing and other ways to ease the payments.

Of course, there is also the self-study. At the time of this writing, I was busy with laying out a schedule for the cottage meetings. We have thirteen hosts for these with a potential to have 120 people engage in live conversation about OSLC – past, present and future. Also, at the time of this writing, I stand in need of a minimum of 4-5 more people to be nominated for the Transition Team which will service data from these conversations and transition them unto the yet-to-be-nominated call committee.

There are the summer months to consider which can easily ‘slow down’ any process of study or work in the interim period. Nonetheless, we move forward, working with whatever people volunteer of their time and ability to make any of this work.

During this interim phase of your church, your council and board leadership as well as staff, all need your prayers, support and encouragement. We also need to communicate well, plan and prioritize initiatives in stages over time. Some of your needs are long-term, others are short-term (more urgent). All in all, we are aiming everything to ensure and build a clearer foundation that will make your church inviting and appealing to your future senior pastor.

There is much to do, we need your help and your serious praying! You cannot turn a large ship in the water with just one or two oars! It takes all the oars in the water together, at the same time, and in unity and timing to turn a large ship like this in any direction. The ship will surely turn but it turns

slowly. This interim period is about everyone and no one in particular!

Thanks for your encouragement, support, and involvement in everything!

Pastor Bill Odermann



The following people were elected to serve Our Savior's at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 6, 2011:

Congregational President	Jim Thomas
Congregational Vice-Pres.	Pat Lang
Council Secretary	Debbie Christiensen
Treasurer	Jim Schmidt
Financial Secretary	Elaine Schmoll
Board of Deacons	Carol Forsberg
Board of Deacons	Carla Zimmermann
Board of Education	Denise Kamm
Board of Education	Sue Sullivan
Board of Fellowship	Dale & Lois Aufderheide
Board of Fellowship	Ron & Bernice Schmitz
Board of Fellowship	Ray & Kathy Runck
Board of Missions	Carolyn Drexler
Board of Missions	Doreen Peterson
Board of Stewardship	Larry Zimmermann
Board of Trustees	Scott Ellanson
Board of Trustees	Jim Senske
Board of Youth	Brian Emerson
Board of Youth	Kris Zetah
Board of Youth	Erin Rubie
Board of Youth	Wyatt Oelberg
Board of Youth	Clay Sletta
Board of Youth	Ashley Nicklay
WELCA President	Linda Postel
Youth Rep. To Council	Andy Hawkins
Nominating Committee	Brenda Ruch
Nominating Committee	Larry Hunstad
Nominating Committee	John Ingebritson
Nominating Committee	Duane Lambrecht
Nominating Committee	Diane Lambrecht


Go tell it ... EVERYWHERE!

Season of Lent

*Teach me your ways, O Lord that
I may walk in your paths.
Psalm 27:11*



Lent is a season of journey. We journey with Jesus to the cross, the grave and the empty tomb. Lent is a personal journey but also a journey of the community. It is a personal journey as we look inward and examine our relationship with Christ and to be renewed. Lent is also a season of community, because we gather to share supper and worship and as a community we are built up in prayer and worship.

Our theme for Lent this year is:

“FOLLOWING JESUS FAITHFULLY.”

This theme will be explored in worship on Wednesday evenings as well as Sunday mornings. Following Jesus involves choices that we make daily as well as becoming a way of life. Following Jesus is a lifetime process. We are never too old or too young to look at our lives and our practice and patterns of following Jesus. The faith practices we will be exploring to help us follow Jesus faithfully are:

- Prayer and Fasting (March 9th)
- Encouraging One Another (March 16th)
- Study (March 23rd)
- Worship (March 30th)
- Giving/Tithing-Part 1 (April 6th)
- Giving/Tithing-Part 2 (April 13th)

Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 9th and is 40 days. Wednesday evening the theme will be introduced and you will receive an insert for personal reflection and a devotion to use. Sunday morning the theme will be expanded on during the sermon.

***Come and join the journey of
Following Jesus Faithfully!!!***

Service times during Lent:

Ash Wednesday Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Mid-Week Services 7:00 p.m. preceded by suppers sponsored by the youth from 5:30-6:30.

Holden Evening Prayer will be used for worship.

Good Friday Noon and 7:00 p.m. worship services at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ
Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in
advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10*



Our Lenten tradition of Soup Suppers continues Wed., March 16. A Soup Supper will be held each Wednesday during Lent from 5:30-6:30 in the Social Hall. The youth group is sponsoring the meals this year. There will be a free will donation taken to help with the expense of bible camp and the summer canoe trip.

Two volunteers (individuals or families) are needed to lead each week. The leaders bring the soup, set up, and clean up. The soup may be homemade or purchased (usually at New Ulm Wholesale). Donations of bars and sandwiches are also needed each week. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Social Hall if you can help in any of these areas. Please contact Kathy for more details.

5th Grade First Communion Class

First Communion classes for 5th grade students and parents will begin Wednesday, March 30. We will meet March 30, April



6, and April 13 from 5:45-6:45 in the Upper Room. We will then participate in a Seder Supper on Maundy Thursday, April 20, and worship together at the service that evening. Feel free to bring soup and sandwich from the soup supper to class. A free will donation is taken for the meal. A letter with further details will be sent in March. Please contact Kathy with any questions.

Miracle Stories of Jesus!

This is the theme of our next Family Sunday School on March 6. Parents (or other trusted adult) and students need to attend Sunday School together that day. We will meet in the worship area at 9:45 and then rotate to different areas of the church to learn four miracle stories from the New Testament. We will be finished at 10:45.

Tenth grade students will have a Milestone celebration on Sunday, March 13. Students and parents will meet in the Upper Room during the Sunday School hour and then will receive a gift at the 11:00 worship service.

Stewardship Corner–February 2011

FOLLOWING JESUS FAITHFULLY

A word from the Board of Stewardship.....Sharing Enough
Philippians 4;11b-13

“I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

What does “contentment” feel like? This is a difficult question in our current culture. When surveys have asked “How much is enough?” responses have consistently been “Twenty percent more than I have now.” If that is true, how do we break the endless circle that this leads us toward- it is always “twenty percent more.” We are told over and over every day- “You don’t have enough. What you have is fragile and could be gone at any moment. You have to get more!” These messages come from a world focused on scarcity.

In this setting how do we understand our relationship with God? God is creator-we are God’s creatures. How do we live in relationship with our creator? Martin Luther reminds us in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed “that God has created me and all that exists...God daily and abundantly provides...all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life...out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all!” It is in this relationship that we recognize that God has abundantly provided us with all that we need. Living in that abundance we give of the blessings we have received.

If we focus on scarcity, we never have enough. When we focus on God’s abundant blessings, there is more than we can ever imagine. Recognizing God’s abundant blessings we experience Paul’s message to the Philippians in our own lives. We can be content with what we have because we know that we are blessed and can “do all things through him who strengthens us.”

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2011: CHILE



How Many Loaves Have You?

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WDP) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March.

WHERE: Our Savior’s Lutheran-New Ulm Service Thursday, March 3 at 5:15 p.m., with a light soup supper following the service at 6:00.
Service Friday, March 4 at 10:00 a.m. Coffee served at 9:00 a.m.

On Friday March 4, 2011 the women of Chile invite us to join with them in an opening procession, carrying a "panera", the name that Chileans give to their everyday bread basket. Bread is central to their daily life and sharing bread is a universal sign of hospitality.

Enduring a devastating earthquake in February, 2010, and two other earthquakes since January, 2011, the women of Chile further encourage us to enter a process that draws us into the bible, into the context of Chile and into the real situations of our lives and communities. How many loaves have you? What are your gifts? What can you share? These are questions we are asked to ponder as we reflect on the meaning of the theme, *How Many Loaves Have You?*

9th Graders & Mentors Movie & Discussion



Ninth grade students and mentors are reminded that we will watch a movie together on Sunday, March 13, followed by discussion. The movie begins at 6:00 in the youth room.

Noisy Offering – January 29/30: The January 29/30 Noisy Offering given was \$656.19. These funds will go to Pro Kinship for Kids. Pro Kinship for Kids is a mentor program that provides services between interested adults and targeted youth for the goal of developing opportunities that will give purpose to young people's lives. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

Stephen Ministry



STEPHEN MINISTRY (Grief)
Stephen Ministers are trained to help people through many different kinds of losses and grief.

Here are some thoughts we want to share with you about grief and loss. Grief is a normal response to loss. Whenever we experience a loss- be it a loved one, a marriage, a dream, a job, a home, health, we feel sadness. Often the most painful loss is the death of a person you love, whether from a long illness or from an accident or an act of violence. Depending on the loss the sadness can seem overwhelming especially if faced alone. Grief is not something to be “gotten over” but rather something to be woven into the fabric of life—a process which takes time and support. Greif affects people on many levels, physically, emotionally, spiritually and even physically.

Normal Grief Reactions

When experiencing grief, it is common to:
Feel like you are "going crazy"
Have difficulty concentrating
Feel sad or depressed
Be irritable or angry (at the deceased, oneself, others, higher powers)
Feel frustrated or misunderstood
Experience anxiety, nervousness, or fearfulness
Feel like you want to "escape"
Experience guilt or remorse
Be ambivalent
Feel numb
Lack energy and motivation

If you know of someone experiencing grief here are a few ways to help them.

By accepting that you cannot make a person feel better
By tolerating silences
By listening in a non-judgmental way
By accepting where a person is at emotionally. If someone is angry don't try to tell them to cheer up.
By encouraging them to talk about their loved one
Be practical in your offer of support by minding children, cooking, cleaning, doing errands

Avoid the use of clichés such as “Just think of all the good times,” “You can always have another child.”

Let someone cry in your presence
Don't try to fill in conversations with a lot of outside news.

Remember that grief may take many years to work through.

Acknowledge birthday, death dates, and anniversaries

Just know your Stephen Ministers are here to help bring healing to people who are living with grief.

We bring healing by:

H-we are here for you

E- Show empathy to another

A-accept where the other person is at

L-listen to what someone is saying and you don't need to have all the answers.

If you are wondering if you could benefit from a Stephen Minister or if you know of someone else who could benefit from the ministry of a Stephen Minister please contact Pastor Joyce.

Walk to Jerusalem:

Walk to Jerusalem is a 12-week exercise program to promote physical and spiritual well-being. The goal is for participants to accumulate enough miles of exercise to walk from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, New Ulm to Jerusalem starting the first week of Lent and going through Easter season.

Anyone/Everyone can participate – no age limit. Participants can either count the miles they walk or run, or 20 minutes of aerobic activity.



We will be starting the first week of Lent. Informational meeting will be held between worship services in February.

Brought to you by Our Savior's Board of Fellowship

Developed by St. John's Providence Health System Parish Nurses.

**BOARD OF MISSIONS:
MARCH IS MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE**



**2010 Fact Sheet: Hunger
Affects Everyone**

"It saddens me to think that there are children in America who are hungry every day of their lives. No one can live — and grow — without such a fundamental necessity as food. If we Americans reach out to our own communities, we could end this crisis."
~ Country singer Tim McGraw

In 2009, there were about 3 million food shelf visits statewide and 61 million pounds of food were distributed to Minnesota families by food shelves.

From 2008 to 2009, there was a 24 percent increase in food shelf visits in Minnesota — the largest recorded increase in 28 years.

Child visits to food shelves in Minnesota increased from 191,756 in the first quarter of 2008 to 236,652 in the same period in 2009.

In 2009, almost 14 percent of Minnesota households did not have enough money to buy food.

In the Twin Cities metro area in 2009, more than 18 percent of households with children struggled to purchase food.

Hunger touches people of every age: 56 percent of food shelf visitors are families with children and 20 percent are seniors.

More than 50% of adult food shelf visitors are employed and 65% make less than \$1,000 a month, not enough income to cover their basic needs.

Of those who use Minnesota's food shelves, 47% of adults and 14% of children skip meals because there is not enough food at home.

From 2000 to 2009, food shelf usage almost tripled — from more than 1 million visits to almost 3 million visits annually.

One in Six people go hungry in the world every day. That is 925 million people.

We will be collecting food and cash donations for the local food shelf throughout March. Watch the bulletin and the web-site for more information.

Pastor's Pondering: Lent

Lent is a season of the church year I find renewing; a time of being reminded of God's great love for us.

One of my favorite Bible stories can be found in Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 7:43 and Luke 8:40-56. It is the healing of the woman and the raising of Jairus' daughter.

Two words which summarize Lent for me are renew and restore. Renew means to take up again or to begin again, or to replenish. Doesn't that sound great? God wants us to spend time with him so that which is depleted out of us, energy, peace, hope, or anything else can be given back. The demands of life pull life from us. Lent is that time to take up once again with God. Restore is to bring back to original state. Think of restoring furniture or a painting. When a person restores something they bring it back to how it originally was.

Lent is that time for us to be brought back into relationship with God and to be given life again. We cannot renew ourselves or restore ourselves, only God can do that. In the lesson of the healing of the woman and the raising of Jairus' daughter, both were renewed and restored. The woman who was healed was restored to health and to her place in the community. Jarius' daughter was given her life back. I invite you to join me on the journey of Lent, the journey from death to life.

Questions to ponder during the season of Lent and after you read the passages above are: What brings you life? "Where do I need to experience that healing touch of Christ? What in my life do I need to put to death? What hopes and dreams and experiences do I need to bring back to life? "What do I need to let go of that is not giving me life, but leading to death?" I encourage your read the gospel and this message.

May you be renewed and restored.

Pastor Joyce

DVD's of the Sunday School Christmas program are available for \$3. They are available in the church office or Kathy's office. Checks should be payable to Our Savior's Board of Education.

Annual Basket Auction will be held March 13 & March 20

The youth group will be sponsoring their annual basket auction on March 13 and 20.

They are in need of donations.

To give you some ideas, here are some baskets donated in the past: movie night at home,

Twins fan, pamper yourself, kids rainy day, travel games, gardening, tools, cooking, book lovers, baby shower, Barbie fun, games, napkins for a year, picnic fun, football fun, basket of bunnies. Use your creativity and have some fun. If you don't have an actual basket to put the donations in, one will be provided. The plastic bag to cover it is also provided. Donations may be brought to Kathy's office by March 9.



Souper Bowl of Caring update

The youth group collected \$694 to buy mosquito nets through the ELCA Malaria Campaign. That's 69 nets and 69 families protected from malaria! In addition to the financial contributions, the food shelf barrel was overflowing after worship on Super Bowl Sunday. Thanks to Tom and Linda Postel for delivering the food to the food shelf. The youth are over half way to their goal of raising \$5000 for the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Scholarship Information:

Luther Memorial Home has scholarships available for students interested in a career in the health field. See your school guidance counselor for information.

The Malm Scholarship is available to all graduating seniors for post-secondary education. Seniors will receive information and an application in late April or early May. If you will be attending and ELCA college, your school may match the Malm Scholarship. Ask your financial aid representative for information. Kathy also has information from some of the ELCA colleges on the matching church scholarships. Please contact her with any questions.

Women's Triennial Gathering in Spokane, Washington – July 14-17

In Kind gifts are collected from our women in our local churches to bring to the gathering to distribute to agencies in Spokane that are in need.

Items needed are:

Health Kits, School Kits, Quilt Kits, Gift Cards (Target, Wal-Mart, Kmart) Pre-paid phone cards, socks.

See information on bulletin board for items needed in each kit or call Marly at 354-2996.

Sunday School teachers and leaders are needed!

A Rotation leader is needed in **Science and Nature** for Session 4 (March 13-April 10) and Session 5 (April 17-May 22).

Rotation leaders are needed for **Arts and Crafts and Games** for Session 5 (March 13-April 10).

Ladies of Our Savior's:

It's the middle of February already, which must mean spring is just around the corner.

On the 19th of January, Sharmen Christopherson and I went to St. James to help plan the Spring Gathering. It will be at Lake Hanska Church on April 9th. Keep the date open – sounds like a fun morning. We will have more about it later.

World Day of Prayer: We are trying something new this year. There will be two opportunities to join us. The country we will learn about is Chile. It will be at Our Savior's Thursday evening at 5:15, March 3, with a light soup supper following the service, and again on Friday, March 4 with coffee at 9:00 a.m. and service at 10:00 a.m. We hope this will give more people a chance to join us. This is not just for women – all are welcome.

Bold Women Sunday: The women of Our Savior's are taking on the responsibilities of helping with duties of the services. We will have displays for you to take a look at in the social hall.

Remember July 14-17 – Triennial Gathering, Spokane, Washington. You still have time to sign up. If you have any questions I will try to help.

Yours in the Lord,
Linda Postel

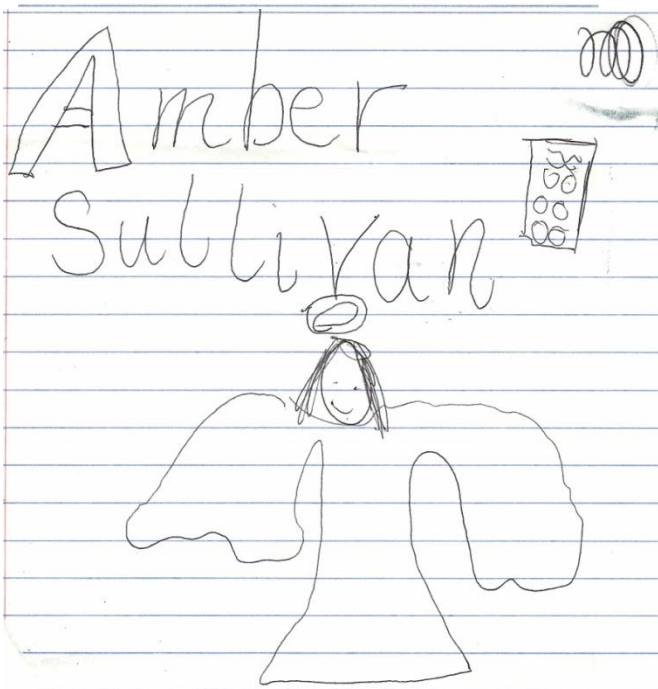
Thank you

Dear Our Savior's,

I just wanted to express my gratitude for the wonderful prayer shawl that I received from your church, via my sister, Cheryl Beussman. It is a beautiful pink shawl and I either have it around my shoulders to comfort me, or at the end of my bed to keep my feet warm. It was a most beautiful and generous gift. Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,
Jamie Dalle

Thank you for My
Beginners Bible. I
really ~~enjoy~~ enjoy
reading it.



New Ulm Hockey Association Benefit Sauerkraut and Landjaeger Dinner

Turner Hall (1st South & State)

March 20, 2011

10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Adult \$7.00

Children 10 & under \$3.00

Tickets available at door

Take-out orders available

March of Dimes March for Babies™

Come to the Kick-off event at the Holiday Inn from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on March 17th to learn more about March for Babies and how to pre-register! RSVP to 507-388-6342, or for further information.

Join us on April 30th at the Brown County Fairgrounds for the annual New Ulm March for Babies! Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. Official walk start is 9:30 a.m. Get your family, friends, and co-workers together and pre-register your team at www.marchforbabies.org

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota Adoption:

Join us to learn about the exciting opportunities and recent changes in adoption. Discover the tools and support for families who would like a flexible, proactive adoption process, and learn how LSS can partner with you to grow your family. LSS can help families adopt children locally, and from countries around the world. Call Lynne Haggart at (612) 879-5230 or **1-888-205-3769 to register** for the **6:30 – 8:00 p.m. meeting at the LSS' Mankato office located in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, on Tuesday, March 8, 710 South 2nd Street, in Mankato.** For more information, or to register online, visit www.minnesotaadoption.org.

Marriage Enrichment Retreat - Footnotes

Counseling Services would like to invite you to attend a special Marriage Enrichment Retreat at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Ulm on March 4th and 5th. Assess your marital strengths, learn about healthy communication, find successful ways to resolve conflict, and understand your intimacy and trust. The retreat will be lead by licensed professional Amanda Gerdts, a Nationally Certified Counselor and Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist. The cost is \$155 per couple, and includes all materials as well as catered meals. Register early by Feb 21st and pay only \$132. For more information on the retreat or other counseling needs, visit www.footnotescounseling.com, or call 507-351-8799. Register on-line or pick up a form in your church office.

The next issue of *Sidelites* will be in mailboxes March 20. Please have items for the newsletter to JoEllen by 3 p.m., March 15. Thank you!