

Pastor Sailer's Page

Faith Lutheran Church
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POTPOURI (definition: 1. A combination of various incongruous elements. 2. A miscellaneous anthology or collection.)

My definition: a little of this, and a little of that – each a blessing from our God!

God's blessings surround us on all sides! In a prayer of personal thanksgiving sometime, try thinking of and thanking God for blessings to the north of you, to the south of you, to the east and to the west. They can be blessings close by and far away. For example, to the east of my house, I think of Faith Lutheran Church and Concordia University, St. Paul. To the south, I think of some good friends and of two of our sons. So on and so forth. A *potpourri* of blessings. Here are more:

A SUPER SUNDAY Last Sunday was an incredible day! It is always a blessing to hear God's Word together and to worship Him. The blessings kept on flowing later in the day. In the afternoon, Pastor Kory and I attended the ordination of Chera Nemera. Chera is the leader of the Ethiopian group that meets at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. (They are Oromo speaking people; the Faith group speaks Amharic.) Chera recently completed the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology program (EIIT), a largely distance-learning program of study, the completion of which qualifies the candidate for ordination in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Chera is a *bi-vocational* pastor. This means that he works at another job (at Raven Industry) to support himself and his family, but that he also serves as the pastor of the Oromo people at Lord of Life. ... In the evening, Sarah and I joined about 220 others at the Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls "Celebration Supper," held in Faith's CLC. We enjoyed a great meal, heard a "wow" report from principal Derek Bult, and testimonials from a student, a teacher, and others. Well over \$100,000 was raised to support the school.

A MESSAGE TO PROSPECTIVE MINNEBOJI CAMPERS AND TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS (and their parents!): The blessing of Advent is coming, and it's time for you to help with the first Wednesday, pre-

service evening meal. This will be Wednesday, Dec. 3, 5:30-6:15 p.m. (The Advent service follows at 6:30 p.m.) We need your help setting up, bringing some food items, serving and cleaning up after the meal. I will help you up by making the chili, and Darlene Friesen has agreed to be the chicken soup chef. Would those with last names A-L please bring veggies, apple slices, or grapes, and those with last names M-Z please bring a dessert item (bars, cookies, e.g.)? And would some of you parents please let me know if you can help with the set-up and kitchen patrol (5 p.m. until 6:15 p.m.), and another group of parents let me know if you can help with the clean-up duty? Thanks!

By the way, Camp Minneboji will be held June 14-20, 2015, at Camp Okoboji in northwest Iowa. Minneboji is the South Dakota District's camp for kids, 4th- 9th grade. The meal on December 3 is a fundraiser to assist campers from Faith in paying their camp registration fee.

FAMILY STORIES...We all have them! We should share them! To help us in this, Rick Lingberg will join us during the Christian Education time on Sunday, November 30, 9:15 a.m. Rick has been interviewing people and telling their stories for over 35 years. Come hear Rick tell his stories and show you how to capture yours. One thing that we'll discuss during this presentation is how to include your or your loved one's "faith story" in the conversation. With the Christmas celebration and family gatherings soon to come, this presentation will provide some insights on getting the family to share important stories of their past...and their hopes for the future! This presentation will take the place of the Bible studies and Sunday School classes on November 30.

GOOD NEWS CLASS, Session III, was postponed from this Saturday (Nov. 15) until next Saturday, November 22, 9 a.m. to noon. I'm sorry if this caught anyone off guard. But there was a really good reason to postpone. Ask Sarah or me about this blessing. We'll be more than happy to tell you! Anyway, please consider attending this final session of the Good News Class. It will cover the Lord's Supper and Last Things (death, Judgment Day, heaven, hell, etc.).