



Lovilia Circuit Writer



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Pastor Jill Leveck

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Events in my life in the last few months have been painful. Most of you know that my father is now a resident in the Alzheimer's unit of the Trinity Lutheran Home in Des Moines. I have journeyed with some of you through similar experiences and been with you in seasons of grief and pain and you know it's hard, very hard. It's easy to get bogged down in anger and doubt. It's natural and, I think, necessary, to face those feelings: but we can't stay there or we'll spend the rest of our life battling the storm. God will take us through the storm to the rainbow on the other side. And, we'll come out stronger and with a better understanding of what others go through. Scripture suggests that we are comforted not for ourselves alone but so that we can be a comfort to others.



Last night, many in our parish had the opportunity to see and hear Frankie and Phyllis Valens. During the concert he shared a little about his years as a pop singer. Experiencing bad treatment and deception by his own agent and much of the music world, he had every right to be angry and bitter. But he didn't allow those feelings to dominate his life. He came through the pain with a faith that shines forth in both his words and actions. What a powerful witness he had! He and his wife now spend their time and share their talents bringing joy and the saving news of Jesus Christ to folks of all ages. The peace and strength he has found is passed on and on and on.

God will bring us through whatever crisis/sorrow/challenge we face and then he will use us to help others who are going through similar trials. After all, are we not called to be Christ's hands, feet and heart in the world?

PASTOR'S COLUMN

The prophet Elijah reaches a point in his life when he is tired and pretty much overwhelmed by the pressures and stress of his circumstances. Going off by himself to escape the wicked Jezebel, he is drained both mentally and emotionally. All he can do, for a while at least, is sleep and eat, then sleep and eat. God cares for him and Elijah gathers both energy and a renewed assurance that he is not and never will be alone in his struggles.

When he is rested and refreshed, he travels to a mountain where he hears the still small voice of God sympathizing with him, encouraging him, and then giving him a task to complete. He is to take on and train an apprentice and anoint a new king. Elijah is strengthened so that he can serve.



Reader's Corner

Just about now, parents and sitters are hearing the words 'there's nothing to do' at least twenty-two times each day. A good book is a simple and inexpensive response to such comments. Focus on the Family Publishing has put out a series of Odyssey adventure books for young people ages 8-12. I checked out one of them (Book 6) entitled The King's Quest by Paul McCusker.

In it, a young boy finds that what he learns in another place and another time will help him deal with the challenges he faces in real life. Mad at the world because he and his family will be moving soon, Mark goes to visit professor Whit and takes a ride in his Imagination Station. Sword fights, a dangerous quest, and a lizardlike dragon make up just part of Mark's adventure with the brave Sir Owwen.

In the Hall of the Forgotten, for example, he must confront and conquer his own fears and discover what it means to be obedient even when you can't see the way things will turn out.

Most of the books in the series are about one hundred pages in length and provide a Christian adventure that can be enjoyed alone, stretched out under a tree or curled up next to mom and dad on the couch. That sounds like a pretty good way to spend a summer's day.

LUMC News

Birthdays & Anniversaries

JULY

- 3 – Calvin Chamberlain
- 4 – Kevin Maughan
- 5 – Linda Weldon
- 11 – Angie Conner
- 12 – Caleb Maughan
- 14 – Pam Chamberlain, Kate Hastings
- 17 – Ron Bellon
- 20 – Scott Hugen
- 23 – Phyllis Dunkin, Tony Johnson
- 25 – Francis Waters
- 27 – Kile Overmyer

AUGUST

- 10 – Judi Johnson
- 11 – Amber Powers, Christie Newman
- 12 – Mildred Klingensmith, Pat Frye
- 14 – Clifford Klingensmith
- 15 – Merrill Baker
- 17 – Joshua Chance
- 18 – Warren Jones, Phillip & Shiela Lundstrom (A)
- 23 – Colby Overmyer
- 24 – Lois Walter
- 26 – Margaret Clark
- 28 – Theresa Conner
- 31 – Mark Hastings

UMW Notes

Twenty persons attended our annual Father/Son banquet and enjoyed a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings topped off with homemade pies. Jeremiah Selby told the story of his mission trip to Venezuela with words and slides. He and his wife were there for six months. It was exciting to see how God's word was accepted.

In July, there will be no afternoon meeting as we plan to travel to Des Moines' Bidwell/Riverside Mission for a workday on July 6. We will leave at 8 am and work until noon. Then we have lunch on our way home. Please make plans now & tell Goldie so we can have sufficient transportation. Please have your labels turned in before time so we can take them with us. In addition, bring any used clothing for the thrift shop. Evening meeting will be as usual at 7pm July 6. Ladies have been invited to Guest day at Albia Trinity Church on July 12 at 12noon.

Finances

Our offerings for June totaled \$1,568 and our expenses according to our budget total \$2,076.51.

Frankie Valens Concert

What a wonderful time we had on the 25th. Frankie and Phyllis Valens shared their gift of music and their faith with us and I would say that most everyone came away better for it.

Thank you to our women for making the sandwiches and setting up the supper. Thank you to Fred, Bill, Calvin and Nathan for helping the Valens' set up and pack up.

:::Thank You:::

Thank you, Fred Kraber, for repainting the front door and cleaning up the awning area. We all appreciate it!

Youth Group

I have talked to several folks from Westridge and they told me how much they enjoyed the prom our youth group held there. Good job youth and thanks to Bill & Connie Barnes and Norma Barnes for helping and to Nathan Chamberlain for doing all of the advanced planning. Marlene Edwards, the activity coordinator, sent the youth group a thank you card in the mail afterwards expressing her gratitude.

Congratulations to Cheyenne See for being our top seller in our recent fundraiser!

Parish News

Vacation Bible School (July 24-28)

Come and join us for a week at Son Treasure Island. Your ticket to our parish Bible School in Bussey is good for mornings from 9:00-11:30AM the week of July 24-28. If you are Kindergarten through 6th grade, enjoy the treasures of Bible stories, crafts, games, treats and activities. Our float in the 4th of July parade will be a good preview of the fun in store.

We are still in need of more teachers and helpers. If you would like to take part, contact pastor Jill or Kim Williams very soon.

Fourth of July Activities

7:00-9:00AM Breakfast at the Bussey Church - put on by the youth of Bussey to raise money for camp.

Sometime around 10:00AM will be the Bussey parade. Our parish will have a float in the parade.



Denny Hugen,
Thelma Smith,
Warren Jones,

Donnie Tucker, John Waters, Scott Hugen, Janet Conner, Dale Allison, Lois Walter, Rylee & Olivia Haas, Donna Keegel, Larry DeGeest, Kristen Simmons, Deann Barnhill, Zibby Kendall, Margaret Conner, Margaret Ann Dunkin, Lois Mahon, Lola Baltzley, Fern Vance, Lucille Boyer, pastor Jill's parents, the family and friends of Bertha Redding.

Beyond the Local Church

Outreach Learning Opportunity

The Iowa Conference will offer four opportunities to attend a seminar that will facilitate the outreach ministry in our parish. The fee is \$50 per person or for a number of persons from the same church. Opportunities will be September 29th (Iowa City), Sept. 30th (Cedar Falls), November 10th (West Des Moines), Nov. 11th (Storm Lake). We will need to register three weeks before the seminar. Contact pastor Jill if you are interested in attending.

10th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, August 26th from 4:00-7:00PM at Central United Methodist Church in Oskaloosa, the conference will celebrate the 10th anniversary of MUMMS, the Mobile United Methodist Missionaries. Bishop Palmer will preach, Phil Carver will entertain and everyone will fellowship together over dinner.

Spiritual Formation Academy

The theme for the five-day Spiritual Formation Academy on October 8-13th will be "The Laughter of Hope Meets the Tears of the World." It will be held at the Shalom Retreat Center in Dubuque. For further information contact pastor Jill.

Seminar for Small Churches

Extending the Church Family: Ministry in a Small Church, a seminar led by Doug Anderson of the Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership will be held August 28 and 29 at the First United Methodist Church in Nevada. Anyone who would like to attend this learning opportunity should contact Pastor Jill.

Annual Conference Report

Our report from Annual Conference will appear in the September newsletter. I have not received a wrap up as I usually do and I missed the last part of the work in Ames due to two funerals. I think some of the results were so surprising to headquarters that they are still trying to regroup.

Mission Minute

Many Things

I have heard many good reports about the Mission Day at Annual Conference. It was a chance to be in mission either by hands on work in different areas or by learning more about issues and what we can do.

PET Project - the wood is here, has been treated, and will be ready soon to cut for the PET Mobiles.

Kevin and I support a missionary family living in Papua, New Guinea. Colin Lord teaches band and music to the children of the Wycliffe Bible Translators and Dianne gives piano lessons and cares for their seven children. They were back in the states recently to raise funding for another year of service. I do not think it's right that they have to raise their own support; that's one real benefit of our United Methodist missionaries. They are funded by our mission giving and can concentrate on their mission work.

The Iowa-Nigeria Partnership - news from the Junior Secondary School we built -teacher Arufu Danbaki tutored student Jarumi Akila for a national quiz organized by the National Agency for Food and drug Administration and Control in Nigeria. This annual quiz is for secondary students in Nigeria to sensitize youths against the danger of taking drugs. Jarumi won first place in the national ratings so that he and his teacher traveled to Abuja to receive a plaque, \$50 and a package of science equipment for their school...all expenses paid! Iowa's support of educational mission of the Nigerian UMC is making a difference!