



- WORSHIP
- TEACHING
- EXAMPLE

Volume V11
November 2006



Lovilia Circuit Writer

Our mission at the Lovilia United Methodist Church is to show the love of Jesus the Christ to our community through worship, teaching, example and tangible acts of love.

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When In Doubt, Look Up

Pastor Jill Leveck



So much that's happening in our world today is a test of our faith. Young girls being taught the way of peace who live in a community set apart are gunned down in their classroom. Countries whose governments have little regard for human life are acquiring nuclear capabilities and we are embroiled in a war that just drags on and on. Families in our own parish are hit again and again with the loss of loved one, lay offs and stress from every direction.

When the Psalmist looked around at a world in chaos, he cried out to God for help. Sometimes the answer didn't come as quickly as he wanted it and it wasn't what he thought it should be. But over and over again when he was down and looking at a world gone mad he would remember God's faithfulness to him and to his people.

God created us to be in relationship with Him and, if the gap has widened between us and our heavenly Father, we're the ones who have moved. We wait until our world is crumbling to turn to Him instead of communicating with Him day in and day out and building and strengthening the relationship.

Years after the psalmist's heartfelt pleas, the apostle Peter saw Jesus coming to him on the water and stepped out of the boat himself. He was fine until he looked around at the waves and felt the wind beating against him. His faith wavered. What he did then can guide us when we feel the gusts and water swirling about us: he cried out to Jesus and reached for His saving grasp. Sometimes it's the only thing we can do and, ultimately we discover, the best thing we can do. Take hold of the Lord and don't let go! He won't let go of us.

Reader's Corner



Fresh Bread and Other Gifts of Spiritual Nourishment by Joyce Rupp

Have you ever awakened to the smell of bread fresh out of the oven? The aroma is so compelling that you want to jump up, head straight for the kitchen, cut off a big slice, slather it with real butter and savor it. Joyce Rupp uses this image as the hook for her devotional *Fresh Bread And Other Gifts of Spiritual nourishment*. She suggests that fifteen minutes a day with the Lord will have quite an impact on our life. "It could be a morsel of strength and sustenance for hearts that hungered for God but did not believe that there was time, energy, or room in their daily schedule for feeding that hunger." (p.9)

The book is divided by using the twelve months of the year. on the first day of each month we are to read the short reflection/essay and then each succeeding day look at a specific Scripture and deal with the special question for the week through journaling or contemplation.

For example, in July, the focus is on Paul's idea that we are all letters from Jesus. Receiving communication from friends and family both far away and nearby is something to anticipate and enjoy. But, "Can you imagine yourself to be a letter form the Christ?" (p.92) If that is our calling (and it is for every Christian) then we had better do our best to get to know Jesus. During July we delve into some of the godly qualities that shine in and through our Lord. The question for week two has two parts: What is there about Jesus that especially draws you to love Him? And what qualities of Jesus do you most appreciate? (p.101)

Tools for devotion and reflection are in this short volume. What better way to say thank you to God than by getting and staying in touch with Him through prayer and contemplation?

Mission Minute

Operation Christmas Child



This month's focus is Operation Christmas Child, an annual project of Samaritan's purse. Last year more than 7.6 million suffering children experienced the power of a simple gift wrapped up in prayer. We fill the shoe boxes with gifts and yet the impact goes far beyond a new toy or some hair ribbons. The boxes provide an opening to share God's love with little ones who know nothing of Jesus.

In Liberia, shoe box gifts were a catalyst for reconciliation in a town torn apart by civil war. "Upon receiving the gifts and hearing the message, many children received Christ," said one of the Liberian partners. "Their parents then were saved, and a church has been planted in the town. Neighbors who once hated each other are now Christians who worship together."

In India the Bible study taught as a follow-up to the shoe box gifts was attended by a girl named Vanitha. She received Christ and then led her mother to faith and now their community has sixty new believers through their witness.

Claire and Julianne, two girls adopted from a Russian orphanage several years ago where they received a shoebox gift) know first hand how much those shoe boxes can mean. Now at home in Texas, they pack boxes to give to other children who might be sad and lonely.

There are so many stories of lives touched by receiving the gifts, but there are just as many stories about those who fill the shoe boxes. Wouldn't you like your family to be one of those stories? If you don't have a shoe box there are still a few at each of the three churches (along with brochures that give more details). They need to be brought back to the church by November 10th so that we can get them to the drop off point in Pella the week of the 13th-20th.

That Was Yesterday

A New Column by Pastor Jill Leveck



When I was doing research on a paper for one of my classes, I was given a wealth of information about people and events in the past of the two churches that make up our Lovilia United Methodist Church. It was so interesting; we have such a rich heritage and strong foundation here in Lovilia. We need to celebrate it!

For example, I read a 1908 obituary for a C.M. Forest who gave the land for the Methodist Church, helped to raise funds for the building, and gave up a whole summer of his time and expertise to work on construction. He only got to attend one service in the completed sanctuary before he died of a heart attack. His was the first funeral held in the new church building. Mr. Forest is just one of the great "cloud of witnesses" that make this church what it is today. In November we honor all those who have gone before us. This is a good time to begin a column that celebrates our yesterdays.

If you have old letters or newspaper articles, etc. that have accounts of summer picnics, winter skating parties, work days or remembrances of men and women who helped to form the character and commitment of our United Methodist church, get them to pastor Jill so that we can laugh and cry together, be inspired and learn from our yesterdays as we look toward tomorrow.

In January a column entitled "This Is Today" will be added to complement our look into the past. It will celebrate our present and the men, women and children upon whose shoulders future generations will lean.

Beyond the Local Church

Ingathering

On November 4, United Methodists from all over Iowa will journey to one of the ingathering sites to celebrate mission across the globe and close to home. All three of our churches have been preparing for this day in one way or another. Whether it was taking up a collection on Blanket Sunday or filling layette, sewing, health and/or school kits, we have been intentional about being in mission. The December newsletter will detail in what ways and how much we are taking part in mission. To be a part of the Ingathering celebration, head for Mount Pleasant or Winterset on the 4th for a morning of worship and praise.

United Methodist Student Day Offering

On Sunday, November 26th at all three churches, we will take a special collection for scholarships for United Methodist students. From our parish, Kelsey Hedrick, Jennifer Leveck and Pastor Jill have all received scholarships from money collected for this fund.

Trinity Treats and Treasures

Kevin's Albia Church will hold its annual Treats and Treasures day on Saturday, November 11th. Crafts, baked goods, rummage sale items and Christmas goodies will be available. Lunch will be served and there will be a soup supper in the evening. If you want to get some early Christmas shopping done, this would be a good time to do it.

Race to Reach Out Seminar

"If systems produce what they are designed to produce, then the United Methodist Church is designed to produce inactive members. In fact, we are great at it." To deal with these words uttered by Rev. Douglas T. Anderson, the Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development is offering a one-day seminar called "The Race To Reach Out" on Friday, November 10th at the West Des Moines United Methodist Church from 9:00-4:00. Kevin and I plan to go. It costs \$30 for the first person from the parish or \$50 for an unlimited number to go. If you are interested, contact pastor Jill as soon as possible so the registrations can go in before the seminar fills up. All three churches could benefit from this learning opportunity.

LUMC News



Birthdays & Anniversaries

November

- 2 Maggie Conner
- 5 Mark & Kate Hastings (A)
- 7 Goldie Kraber
- 10 Phillip Lundstrom
Tod & Wendee See (A)
- 11 Patricia Findley
- 14 McKenna Ross
- 20 Nathan Chamberlain
- 28 Ginny Barnes
- 29 Emily Hastings
- 30 Karen Lundstrom

Thank You

From Pastor Jill

I was really surprised to receive the gift card to Barnes and Noble at church on the 22nd to commemorate pastor's appreciation month. Kevin and I will have a ball using it. Both of us could spend hours in that book store. Thank you again!!!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Pat Frye, Warren Jones, John Waters, Ed Weldon, Donnie Tucker, Ralph Bryant, Thelma Smith, Dale Allison, Lois Walter And from the other communities in our parish - Jack McConnell Pam Briggs, Marcella Clark, Beverly Mick, Margaret Conner, Todd Spaur, Lola Baltzley, Lucille Boyer, Margaret Ann Dunkin.

UMW Notes

By UMW President Goldie Kraber

The month of October has been very full. Over 50 persons attended our guest day. We heard a program by Ruth Dykstra about bluebirds. She gave everyone blueprints to build a bird house and encourage us to do so as bluebirds are declining in population.

Our soup supper was well attended. Everyone helped get things ready in the afternoon and many helped serve and clean up. Our fellowship together was dedicated to God. Donations were over \$1,100. Our soups and pies were excellent but unfortunately, our beef burgers were flawed by too much gristle and bone chips. We do apologize for this. The cost of the meat was refunded. We will strive harder in the future to have high quality in our service.

Our November meeting is November 3rd; afternoon at 1:30 with Frieda as the program leader and Norma in charge of refreshments. Evening circle will meet at 7 PM. Pat will be the hostess and an offering for World Thank Day will be received to go to missions.

In our "instant society", 5 minutes can seem like an eternity. But God says "whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." (Ecc. 9:10A) Sometimes it takes 5 minutes more to do it right. How about you? Been slacking up lately a little? Have you slipped to amateur status when you really want to be a professional? Maybe you need to invest just 5 more minutes. (Colossians 3:23)

Sunday School Teacher Recognition and Laity Sunday

This past month we had, as part of Laity Sunday, a time to honor our three Sunday School teachers. Norma Barnes, Goldie Kraber and Linda Weldon. All three received certificates and gifts of appreciation for all that they do to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our church. A reporter from the Ottumwa Courier came and took pictures of the three and articles appeared in both the Albia and Ottumwa papers. From all of us, thank you Linda, Goldie and Norma for sharing your gift of teaching with us!

Thank you Bill for leading our Laity Sunday worship and Nathan for providing the computer images. It was great to see the words to the hymns and the whole order of service on a screen right before our eyes. I know a lot of time and effort went into preparing them.

Kids Club

We are off and running with our new, improved kids club. We are meeting on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:30PM at the church. Christy Newman is preparing a meal for the kids each week (we will not meet the day before Thanksgiving) and there are stories, games, crafts and fun to make the time go quickly. Our theme is Close Encounters with Creation. If you are first through fifth grade, come and join us as we take a look at this world and our God who created and sustains it.

Environmental Discoveries

For those of you who were unable to come to our environmental presentation conducted by Nathan Chamberlain, you missed an evening of fun and learning. All of us found out some new ways to save energy. I have talked with several who have made changes in their homes since the presentation and others who plan to in the near future. Thank you Nathan for sharing some of what you learned at the University of Iowa camp you attended last summer.

Parish News

Parish Bible Study

6 PM in Lovilia

After a hiatus of several months, our parish Bible Study on the book of Revelation is back on track. I will put in the bulletin each Sunday the chapters in Revelation we will cover each week. Below is a tentative schedule which will be confirmed or changed at the meetings.

Sunday, Nov. 5, 12 & 26 - 6:00PM

Dec. 3 - 6:00PM

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 5th

On Sunday, November 5th at all three churches we will remember and honor those in our fellowship and our community who have died during the past year. Family members receive special invitations informing them of the day. So, come and be a part of this very special service.

Parish Youth Group

By the time you read this article, our Halloween Party will be history. As part of the fun, Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes were filled with items brought by the youth. Concern for missions was one of the areas on which our youth have chosen to focus this year.

November Meetings - We will meet on Sunday November 12th from 2:00-4:00. Tentative plans are to go roller skating in Oskaloosa. Consent slips and further details will be given at the Halloween Party. Our second meeting in November will be Sunday, November 26th.

Thanksgiving Service

Nov. 19th - 6:00 PM

We'll gather together on Sunday, November 19th at 6:00PM at the Bussey Church to lift our voices in thanksgiving. Some of the old songs of thanks will be sung along with special music and a focus on ways we can carry the spirit of thanksgiving into each and every day of the year. When you come, bring some canned goods that will be given to needy families in the area.

Charge Conference

Charge Conference for this year will be held on Nov. 5 at 2:00PM at the Community Building in Hamilton. This will be a county-wide event. In the past, our parish has had a bigger turn out than even the Albia church. Let's keep our record intact. Come and celebrate this past year as we look forward to 2007. Bring some cookies to share.

United Methodist Men

The saws have been humming away and wood has been cut for about 40 pet mobiles. I suspect it won't be long before the men will make a trip down to Missouri to deliver the components so that they can be made into the mobile transports for folks around the world without legs or use of legs. Thanks to everyone who is taking part in this project.



LOVILIA, IA 50150
P.O. BOX 255
1602 SOUTH E AVENUE
LOVILIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEW DESIGN!

**Just wait until you open your
newsletter!**

It has gone under major redesigning
and should be much easier to read.

We hope you like this new change
and would love to have your
comments in our guestbook on our
website at <http://lumc.webs.com>

(And the website was redesigned as
well. Check it out!)

TREATS & TREASURES

At Family Life Center in Albia
Saturday, November 11th
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- Thanksgiving Service (pg. 5)