

# The Messenger

Newsletter of Fristad Lutheran Church  
501 State Road 35, PO Box 217  
Centuria, Wisconsin 54824  
(715) 646-2357  
[www.fristad.org](http://www.fristad.org) - [fristad@lakeland.ws](mailto:fristad@lakeland.ws)

December 2011

## Dear Fristad Members and Friends,

*"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because . . . of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints" (Colossians 1:3-4).*

During our recent stewardship program, "Excel in the Grace of Giving," we have focused on God's generosity to us and our need, as God's people, to show love and gratitude to him through our faithful giving. He is the Creator and Provider of all we are and have; he is the source of all love and mercy. Through the gift of his son, who suffered, died, and won the victory over sin, death, and the devil, He has provided for us the sure hope of eternity with him. Through his Holy Spirit, he calls us and gathers us into his Church and daily does his work of sanctification in us.

To those who returned a commitment form – Thank You! Your commitment will further God's work at our church. The generosity of so many people supports our ministries for children and youth, the elderly, the sick, the shut-ins, our staff, and our facilities, along with outreach and missions.

Our "Excel in the Grace of Giving" stewardship program focused on giving as one response to God's immeasurable love. Throughout the program, we were reminded that giving expresses our gratitude to God for who he is and what he has done for us through his son, Jesus.

We will keep you and the entire congregation informed on the work of our ministries throughout the year so you can see your contributions in action.

If you have not yet returned a form, it's not too late. Perhaps you're still praying about it; maybe you've forgotten it; maybe it's been lost. We are enclosing another form and ask that you complete it and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience. In



order to carry on the ministry that Christ has commissioned to us (Matthew 28:19-20), Fristad needs your support.

Thank you for sharing your blessings and being a partner in this journey of faith. May God's blessings be with you as you faithfully manage all that he has entrusted to you!

In Christian Love & Service  
Pastor Mel Rau

Please find the current Treasurer's report on page 7. Your help is needed to cover all our expenses and commitments for this year. With all of us working together, and giving all we can, we can do it.

~Thank You~

## Advent Event on Dec. 11

You won't want to miss our celebration of the Advent Season and upcoming Christmas Yuletide. Following worship service on December 11, we will celebrate with delicious Scandinavian dishes. If you have one or two family favorite recipes that have been passed on to you, now is the time to share it with Fristad friends. Being our early church history began with mostly Swedish immigrants, we decided to bring back some of their favorite foods. So pull out those recipes for sharing: rice pudding, fruit soup, lefse, sausage, cookies, rye bread, Swedish beans, rosettes, sand bakkels, fattigmand, etc. If your ancestry is other than Scandinavian, prepare one of your most favorite dishes. We also welcome your sharing Christmas decorations to make our dining hall look especially festive for the occasion.

## Good Gifts Program

In the past, women of Fristad have conducted a bag auction at Christmas. People would bid on a bag of useful surprises. They were given the choice of where their contribution would go – to the ELCA Good Gifts Program or a year-end contribution to Fristad. This year the women chose not do the bag auction but still people are asking if they can give to these projects yet this year. The answer is absolutely “yes.” Either way, a year-end gift of thankfulness would be appreciated. Some suggestions to the Good Gifts program for less than \$100 are:

\$10 Mosquito Net	\$30 Pig
\$25 Turkey	\$10 A Week of Meals
\$13 Roof Shingles	\$10 Oral Rehydration Therapy
\$10 Ten Baby Chicks	\$10 Fruit Tree Seedling
\$20 Ducks	\$12 Six Water Jugs
\$50 Goat	\$90 Food for an Orphan

This is only a partial listing. For more information go to [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts). Payment may be made online or to W/ELCA - Fristad Lutheran Church and we will see your donations are forwarded on to the Good Gifts Program. Already we have an individual who wishes to give two pigs in order to help a family to break the cycle of poverty.

If you wish a donation to go to Fristad's short-fall, please make checks payable to Fristad Lutheran Church, indicating it is for our short-fall.

## December Projects

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS GIFTS

#### MITTEN TREE

#### BABY CARE ITEMS

Shop now for the Mitten Tree items (mittens, scarves, socks, gloves, earmuffs and other warm outerwear). Operation Christmas gifts are requested for men, women and children of all ages. Gifts might include games, gift cards, household items, music, electronics, clothing, books, puzzles, etc. These two projects go to Operation Christmas locally in Polk County. Items will be brought to the Balsam Lake VFW in early December so shop early and put them under the Mitten Tree in the church.



Another important project coming up in December is Baby Care Assembly.

- Lightweight cotton t-shirts (sizes 12 mo. or 24 months are good)
- Short sleeved gowns or sleeper (without feet)
- Receiving blankets, medium weight, cotton or flannel
- Cloth diapers (or we will make them out of men's t-shirts)
- Jacket or a Sweater (size 12 mo. to 24 mo. is good)
- Baby caps
- Baby socks
- Hand towels, dark color preferred
- Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz) of gentle soap - in original wrapping
- Diaper pins

Make up a kit with friends or purchase one, two or more items from the list. Using your purchased layette items, wrap your purchases in some really innovative way. Layette packages will be judged during our Advent Event on December 11 at our festive meal following the service. First place will be awarded a prize. These layettes will be shipped to Lutheran World Relief, where the need is great all over the world.

## New Year's Brunch

Our Annual New Year's Brunch date has been set for January 8 following worship service. Fristad Youth will be “up and at ‘em” to serve you, together with Hospitality Committee members. Sign-up sheets for food donations will be posted closer to the event. Plan to “dine in” on January 8 and support our youth in their efforts.

# Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Our December meeting is set for Wednesday, December 14 at 12 noon with our annual festive potluck meal. It will be held at Ev Bystrom's home. Alan has promised to have their drive snow plowed (just in case).



We will not be holding a bag auction this year, but a good meal will be "a sure thing." Everyone is to bring a dish to share. There are three projects for December: Operation Christmas,

the Mitten Tree, Baby Care Kits. See page 2 for further information on this.

Following our meal, Mary Pollock, our church secretary will show us some of the calendars she has made through the years using her computer. The Bystrom's also have a tradition of doing a craft during Thanksgiving, usually some kind of Christmas decoration. Mary will share some things they have done together.

All women of Fristad are cordially invited to our Christmas meal on December 14, at noon at the Bystrom home. Bring your favorite dish to share.

## THANKS

Thanks to those who provided coffeecakes for our W/ELCA Sunday in November, displayed quilts in the sanctuary and helped with the worship service. Thank Offerings may still be given to our Treasurer, Ev Bystrom.

## BOOK CLUB CONTINUES

Our Book Club continues to meet monthly. In November we read the book, *Help*, which continues to be popular reading and the movie is still in theaters nationwide. In the month of December we plan to read three books written by Richard Paul Evans, all being very short. They are:

*The Gift*

*Time Peace*

*The Christmas Box*

We will meet Wednesday, December 28, 1:00 p.m. at the home of Fran McLeod in Balsam Lake. Please call her at 715-485-3105 if you wish to be part of the discussion on these Christmas books.

## JANUARY MEETING

Circles will combine the months of January through April. We will meet on Wednesday, January 11, 2:00 p.m. at church for Session 4 of our Bible Study in Mark. Joy Circle will serve refreshments, Hope Circle will lead the study. Presentation of 2012 W/ELCA budget will be reviewed and new yearbooks will be distributed.

## REMINDERS:

Plan to attend Fristad's New Year's Brunch on January 8 served by Fristad Youth and the Hospitality Committee assisting. Indicate your food donation on the sign-up sheet, soon to be posted. Quilting is January 18, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with sack lunch. Thanks to Terrie Lunsman who has helped as our sewing machine "tech." We appreciate her taking time from her busy schedule to help us.

### **Greetings from Amy Parduhn**

In a recent letter from Amy Parduhn, she writes:

"I'm still doing church and AA meetings weekly. They are my salvation here.

"Thanks for your prayers and updates. To all at Fristad, my love and thanks. You are such a blessing!

"Take care – stay inspired and smile as if your life depended on it."

May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. ~Psalm 115:15

Amy just completed a college history course, 212 (America since 1877). She had a job during the autumn weeks at an apple orchard; peeling, cutting, and coring apples in preparation for baking. The family had two lab dogs she was able to run and play with for awhile.

Due to a construction project, she was transferred back to Milwaukee, this being her 7<sup>th</sup> move. Her present address is:

Amy Parduhn #523435

MWCC

615 W. Keefe Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53212

Amy welcomes our cards, letters, prayers, and greetings.

## Church Kitchen Walls Painted

Take notice of our church kitchen, that the walls have a new coat of paint on them. A big thanks to members, Todd Pfeifer (Top Painting) for volunteering his services and to Lydia, his wife, who helped with clean-up. Todd did a careful and thorough job. The paint used is a waterbased epoxy semi-gloss. It now brings the walls up to sanitation code, as the epoxy paint is very washable and durable. An added bonus is that the expensive paint was given to us, compliments of Sherwin Williams Paints. Women of Fristad will pick up the billing on the shipping of the paint. Thanks to everyone who was involved, especially Katheryn Rivers who spear-headed the project. It improved our kitchen so much!

## Thanks

A sincere thank you for your prayers, cards, visits, and love in expressing get-well wishes to me following my knee surgery. A special thanks to the Sunday School children for the unique cards each one made for me. They are delightful – both the cards and the children. All your kindness has helped in my quick recovery.

Fristad friends are special to me!  
–Fran McLeod

## A Christmas Message from Bishop Pederson

Most of us will be in worship on Christmas Eve. We'll listen to Luke 2, the nativity account beloved by most, and we will envision a manger scene with animals and angels and three gift-bearing kings. Our tradition creates a glow around this scene - star light illuminating the baby Jesus surrounded by the adoration of various players in a holy drama.

Our tradition has made it somewhat crowded around the manger. Our tradition tends to favor a cattle feeder in a wooden shed, not the possibility of a cave commonly used as animal pens. Never mind that the angels left after announcing the birth; never mind that no animals are mentioned in the story; never mind that gift-bearing men are not identified as three or kings or that they wouldn't make an appearance until much, much later. Yet, we crowd all of these details and characters into a sentimental image we hold about the birth of Jesus.

Confession: I am not that sentimental. I am perfectly content to remove the animals and angels and three kings, and all the other unattested, pietistic additions to the scene of the manger, *so that there can be room for you and me!*

You see, it's very comforting to crowd this Christmas scene with all kinds of pretty images that make us feel good. But the danger is that we fill that scene so full that we don't really have to get ourselves into the picture. I want *you* to get in there!

The traditional image might be cherished and lovely, but the sentimental image is not necessarily what we need, even though it may be what we like. The *child* is what we need, and it may be that many of us who celebrate the birth of Jesus *need* to unclutter our picture of the manger a bit, so that the Christ who came to save us can actually get close to us; *close enough to allow the newborn Jesus to unsettle our lives.*

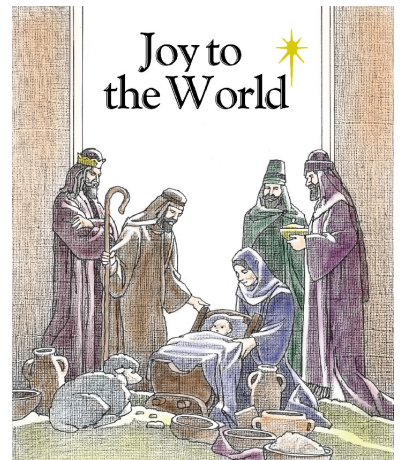
For Jesus has a habit of embracing the lost, the least, and the last, and calls us to do the same.

For Jesus completely claims us as his own, and invites faith and commitment completely in him.

For Jesus reveals God's grace in his self-giving, and bids us to share this same unmerited love with all, even the most undesirable or difficult to love.

There is no guarantee that this child is going to bring you the warm fuzzies many of us look for when we hear the Christmas story, light the candles, and sing of a silent night. But this child *will* bring you a sense of God's nearness, a promise of love that will never end, and meaning for your life that sustains through thick and thin. Note that the story itself doesn't do that. The child does. A story crowded with pietistic, sentimental notions will not do this. The Christ who calls you unto himself does.

Merry *Uncrowded* Christmas!



–Bishop Duane C. Pederson



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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501 State Road 35, PO Box 217  
Centuria, WI 54824  
(715) 646-2357

# December 2011

[fristad@lakeland.ws](mailto:fristad@lakeland.ws) - [www.fristad.org](http://www.fristad.org)

Office Hours: Tues & Fri 8:30am-Noon

Wed 8:30am-3:30pm

<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">January 2012</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							January 2012							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								1	2	3
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4 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent Food Shelf Sunday <b>9:30am</b> Worship followed by fellowship <b>10:40am</b> Sunday School Christmas Program Practice  <b>4:00pm</b> Nine Lessons & Carols Concert	5	6 <b>6:30pm</b> NA Meeting	7 <b>6:30pm</b> Confirmation Sunday School Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal	8 Conference Pastors at Bone Lake Lutheran	9	10 <b>9:30am</b> Nine Lessons & Carols Rehearsal																																																							
11 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent <b>9:30am</b> Worship with Sunday School Christmas Program  <b>Advent Event</b> - Potluck Meal and Activities	12	13 <b>6:30pm</b> NA Meeting	14 <b>Noon</b> Women's Annual Christmas Gathering with potluck at Evelyn Bystrom's  <b>6:30pm</b> Confirmation <b>7:30pm</b> Council	15	16	17																																																							
18 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent Food Shelf Sunday <b>9:30am</b> Worship followed by fellowship  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	19	20 <b>6:30pm</b> NA Meeting	21	22	23	24 <b>4pm</b> Christmas Eve Service [No 9pm Service]  																																																							
25 Christmas Day <b>9:30am</b> Worship followed by fellowship <b>No Sunday School</b>  	26	27 <b>6:30pm</b> NA Meeting	28 <b>1pm</b> Book Club at Fran McLeod's	29	30	31																																																							

# Financial Report

## October

Checkbook Balance, October 1, 2011	\$(2,417.95)
October Deposits	\$11,013.17
October Checks written	\$12,168.35
Checkbook Balance, October 31, 2011	(\$3,523.13)
Oct. Offerings Received for Budget Needs:	\$10,909.17

## **Our Gifts Blessing Others**

### October

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin/ELCA	\$620.00
Missionary Sponsorship	109.00
World Hunger	104.00

### World Hunger

NW Synod of Wisconsin Goal: \$7 per confirmed member

Fristad confirmed membership as of 1-1-11: 250

Fristad's Goal for 2011: \$1,750.00

Received as of October 31, 2011: \$1,196.00

Gifts received in the ELCA World Hunger envelopes found in your envelope packets to towards this program.

## SUMMARY OF FINANCES TO FINISH 2011

Checkbook Balance October 31, 2011	(\$3,523.13)
Unpaid bills, invoices, etc. as of Oct. 31, 2011	\$4,836.70
Estimated November/December Expenses	\$20,499.84*
Total needed to pay all of the above and have a Positive checkbook balance on Dec. 31, 2011	\$28,859.67
Received as of November 28, 2011	\$9,289.66

\*The November/December Expenses figure is an estimated figure and subject to change as actual amounts become known. If you have any questions please ask. Thanks.

—Al Arndt, Treasurer

# Fristad Building Fund

**BALANCE 12/31/10** \$1,386.81

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>YR TO DATE</b>
Pledges/Cash gifts	\$2,335.00	\$8,011.00
Memorials	\$95.00	\$315.00
Portion of Rectory Sale		\$11,500.00
Cook Books	\$40.00	\$85.00
Estate Designations	\$2,404.17	\$2,404.17
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$22,315.17</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE</b>		<b>\$23,701.98</b>

## **DISBURSEMENTS**

Mission Investment Fund \$1,989.71 \$19,897.10

**BALANCE 10/31/2011** **\$3,804.88**

Mission Invest. Loan Balance: \$231,638.61

—Marilyn Schmalz, Building Fund Treasurer

## A Christmas tapestry

“Christmas reminds us we are not alone. We are not unrelated atoms, bouncing and ricocheting amid aliens, but are a part of something, which holds and sustains us. As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same. Christmas shows us the ties that bind us together, threads of love and caring, woven in the simplest and strongest way within the family.”

—Donald E. Westlake

## What's on your list?

A little smile, a word of cheer,  
A bit of love from someone near,  
A little gift from one held dear,  
Best wishes for the coming year...  
These make a Merry Christmas!

—John Greenleaf Whittier



“There is no ideal Christmas; only the one Christmas you decide to make as a reflection of your values, desires, affections, traditions.”

—Bill McKibben

## Worship Attendance

Nov 6	68
Nov 13	74
Nov 20	46
Nov 23	69
Nov 27	66



FRISTAD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
501 STATE ROAD 35  
PO BOX 217  
CENTURIA, WISCONSIN 54824-0217  
(715) 646-2357  
[www.fristad.org](http://www.fristad.org)



Address  
service  
requested

**Worship with Holy Communion every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.  
Refreshments & Fellowship following the service  
Sunday School at 10:40 a.m.**

Remember to bring in non-perishable food items on the first & third Sundays of the month for the local food shelves.

**Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, December 4, 4:00pm

**Christmas Decorating**

Saturday, December 10, 9:00am

**Sunday School Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 11, during the  
9:30am Worship

**Advent Event**

Sunday, December 11 after worship  
with potluck and activities. See page 2  
for details.

**Women's Christmas Gathering**

Wednesday, December 14, Noon at  
Evelyn Bystrom's. See page 3 for details.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Saturday, December 24, 4:00pm  
Please note there will not be a 9:00pm  
service.

**Christmas Day Service**

Sunday, December 25, 9:30am

**Newsletter Deadline**

Sunday, December 18

# My Commitment for the Lord

**Lord, grant me faith to “Excel in the Grace of Giving.”**

- I (we) promise to worship regularly.
- I (we) commit to diligent study in God’s Word.  
 Regular group Bible study.  Personal and/or family devotions.
- I (we) will commit to praying for the mission and ministry of my (our) church.
- I (we) will faithfully and cheerfully give the following amount:  
My (our) firstfruit offering percentage \_\_\_\_\_%.  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week, totaling \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually.
- I (we) will also give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week/month/year to the Building Fund.
- I (we) can’t make a financial commitment at this time, but will support and pray for the work of the Lord.

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

*Please return the top portion to the church office or drop in the offering plate.*

---

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*Please detach and keep for your records.*