

**LUTHERAN BRETHREN CHURCH
of NAMPA**

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December 29, 2013

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Praise the Lord! Oh gives thanks to the Lord,
 for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting." Psalm 106:1

CHORUSES

HYMN 176..... "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

SCRIPTURE READING Jared Ostyn

PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC Erika Shirk

HYMN 169..... "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

HYMN 194..... "As with Gladness Men of Old"

SERMON James 1:26-27 Greg Kollmann

HYMN 256..... "I'll Fly Away"

BENEDICTION

HYMN 39..... "Doxology"

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

TUESDAY	7:30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Celebration
THURSDAY	7:30 p.m.	Women's Ministries
SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	9:30 a.m.	2 nd Year Confirmation Class
	10:45 a.m.	Morning Worship Service
	3:30 p.m.	LBYF

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION – Join us for our annual New Year's Eve celebration on Tuesday, December 31. Games will start as early as 6:30 p.m. with the event officially starting at 7:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet for the nacho bar is posted in the church entry. Bring any games you would like to play.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES will meet on Thursday, January 2, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. The women will remove the Christmas decorations and have election of officers. Our devotion leader is Chantel West and hostess is Terri Knudsen. All women are invited.

**FAMILY BIBLE CAMP AT WARM LAKE
June 18-22, 2014**

JESUS, NAME OF WONDROUS LOVE

*Jesus, name of wondrous love, Name all other names above!
 Unto which must ev'ry knee Bow in deep humility.*

*Jesus, name of priceless worth To the fallen sons of earth,
 For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save."*

*Jesus, only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n,
 Where-by man, to sin enslaved, Bursts his fetter, and is saved.*

*Jesus, name of wondrous love, Human name of God above:
 Pleading only this we flee, Helpless, O our God, to Thee.*

William W. How

DELICIOUS WORDS!

"These words are very delicious! When are you coming back? We want to hear more!" The man's plea has been reverberating in my mind like a metronome that tirelessly beats on. I and five LB Church representatives were sitting on a mat, under a tree in the middle of a small Chadian village with this man and about 15 other men from his community. The visit was subsequent to the installation of a well which had been largely funded by donations from a CLBA congregation. It was a hot day (as are most in Chad) and as we passed around a hollowed out gourd of cool, clean water from the new well, our temporal thirst was quenched. And as the chief set down the gourd after drinking, he made the comment, "There is nothing on earth as delicious as good water."



So began our conversation with the elders of this community. As we visited, we were blessed with the opportunity to share with them words of Jesus, while sitting next to a well, who offers himself as a source of water that is abundant and overflowing and eternally quenching our spiritual thirst (see John 4:13,14). The men listened intently, occasionally affirming their attentiveness by a click of their tongues or voiced affirmatives. And then the time came to leave the village. As we were shaking hands and saying good bye, the chief again thanked us for the new well in their community, expressing his appreciation for the water, but following up with the statement containing that reverberating, metronomic message, "The water from this well is delicious. Thank you for that. But these words that you have shared with us are very delicious. When are you coming back? We want to hear more!"

What do you think? Should these men and the villages they represent hear more about the words of Jesus? Should we respond to their plea and return to them and sit on their mats as ambassadors of our Lord? It is not coincidence that Jesus, just after His claim to the Samaritan woman at the well, that He was the source of eternal life giving water, urged His disciples to lift up their eyes and look at the fields for they were ripe for the harvest (see John 4:35). I do not think it coincidence that our Lord, when He saw the crowds of people, like sheep without a shepherd, urged His followers to notice the plentiful harvest, to acknowledge the lack of laborers and to pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into these fields (see Matthew 9:37,38).

LBIM is focusing our vision on three people groups in Chad, namely the Bagirmi, the Bilala and the Fulbe. These are Muslim peoples who, similar to the prophet Jeremiah's audience, have forsaken God, the "spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water" (see Jeremiah 2:13). And so they are spiritually thirsty. They are working hard to quench their thirst, but it is like drawing water out of a broken cistern.

Please join us in praying for teams of missionaries to go to these people groups with the words of Jesus. *Dan Venberg*

Dan, former missionary to Chad, is currently serving LBIM as a mission mobilizer and recruiter. He is working to mobilize congregations of the CLB to intentionally pray for and passionately engage the spiritually ripe harvest fields of Chad. He is looking for those who will answer the "call" of our Lord to go.

Daily Prayer Notes

Lutheran Brethren International Mission

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January 2014

*Matthew Rogness, Director
Gaylan & Joy Mathiesen, Editors*

1st WORLD 1 John 1:1-2:2

Let us pray that in this coming new year the Gospel of our Lord might continue to advance locally and in distant lands as all of us, His missionary people, share the good news of salvation in Christ Jesus.

2nd TAIWAN 1 John 2:3-27

Mike and Delores Kittelson ask prayer as they talk with people about plans they have for the new year and how they might encourage people to also think about eternity in their plans. Happy birthday to **Mike** today.

3rd CHAD 1 John 2:28-3:10

Nathanael and Carrie Szobody write, "Please pray that our family settles in well in the village of Mafling for a year of learning Bagirmi, that we have good health, good relationships with the locals and that God opens many opportunities for the Word."

4th JAPAN 1 John 3:11-4:6

Masayuki Sasaki (pastor of Kashiwa Chapel) was admitted to a hospital in Tokyo on Nov. 26th with severe angina pain and is facing three separate surgeries for heart lesions. Pray for God's healing. Pray for his church and his family.

5th EAST ASIA 1 John 4:7-5:3

Joel Christenson will serve as a mission mentor for a small group of

national leaders attending an intensive cross-cultural missions course Jan. 3-11. Pray for unity among the leaders.

6th ECUADOR 1 John 5:4-21

Jim and Suzy Olsen report that the high school and young adult group has been growing and they are praying for leaders to step in. Jim and Suzy want to restart a junior high and elementary age ministry this year at their church.

7th N. AMERICA 2 and 3 John

Pray for **Paul and Teresa Szobody** as they seek God's specific direction for the next steps in a training ministry for Chadians who sense a call to join our missionaries in reaching the unreached. Happy 18th birthday to **Philip** today.

8th TAIWAN Isaiah 40

Pray for **Ethan and Sandy Christofferson** as they meet weekly for Bible study with seekers **Mr. and Mrs. Wei**. The Weis are concerned about what will happen if they stop worshiping their gods and ancestors. Pray that God would grant faith and peace.

9th FRANCE Isaiah 41

Pray for increasing understanding for **Danny and Mandy Bronson** as they continue their French language study. Pray for

good health for them and their boys. Praise God for friends they have made at school and in the neighborhood.

10th JAPAN *Isaiah 42:1-43:13*

Pray for **Dean** and **Linda Bengtson** as they settle into the winter season in Ishinomaki. May God open doors for good conversations with their neighbors. May His light shine brightly through the spiritual darkness.

11th CHAD *Isaiah 43:14-44:23*

Jonathan Raun asks prayer for the Light-on-Light School, now with more than 500 young students. Pray for **Zam-Zam** who has added responsibilities. Pray also for continued opportunities to share the Gospel with parents of the students.

12th TAIWAN *Isaiah 44:24-45:25*

Pray for **Ethan Christofferson** as he records a series of evangelistic sermons tomorrow to be aired on a Hakka television program later this spring. Pray that the Gospel will be heard clearly by many viewers.

13th N. AMERICA *Isaiah 46,47*

Pray for **Paul** and **Teresa Szobody** as they continue studying Arabic while on home assignment this year. Praise God for the many opportunities to be with family. Happy birthday to **Paul** today.

14th N. AMERICA *Isaiah 48*

Pray for **Marcos Holzner's** work of translating the Bible into the Naba language. Pray for a possible trip to Chad to do "checking" of translation texts.

15th EAST ASIA *Isaiah 49:1-50:3*

The Gift Center for parents of special needs children has moved to a new location. Pray that staff and the parents will transition well. Two staff members have resigned. Pray that God will provide replacement staff with hearts for Him and for the parents.

16th JAPAN *Isaiah 50:4-51:16*

Pray for our Pastoral Care Team, **John** and **Kathryn Wile**, while they are with **Dean** and **Linda Bengtson** in Ishinomaki. Pray that it will be a time of mutual encouragement in Christ.

17th TAIWAN *Isaiah 51:17-52:12*

Pray for seeker **Mr. Rong** who has been listening to Bible stories for several months. Pray that he will grow in his knowledge of the Gospel and be transformed by it into a disciple of Jesus Christ.

18th CHAD *Isaiah 52:13-53:12*

Pray for **Steve** and **Stella Banks** as they administrate the Lutheran Welcome Center. Pray for God to use them to minister rest and refreshment to all of the guests who pass through the Center.

19th N. AMERICA *Isaiah 54*

Roger and **Sue Olson** (Japanese Ministries, Rock of Ages LBC, Seattle) praise God that their daughter **Hannah's** husband, **Kenichi Fujikawa**, and son, **Luke**, were baptized in November. Also, **Kanna Otsuki** was baptized in December. May their faith grow as they all return to Japan!

20th JAPAN *Isaiah 55*

Pray for healing for **Tadao Yamazaki**, interim pastor of Tsuruoka Church, who was

hospitalized with congestive heart failure Nov. 30th. Pray also for his family and for the congregation.

21st TAIWAN *Isaiah 56,57*

Andrew Larsen asks prayer for their Hakka small group that meets on Tuesdays. Pray for God's blessing as they study the Psalms.

22nd N. AMERICA *Isaiah 58*

Christian Embassy bids farewell to their director and teammates of 14 years, **John** and **Joanne Austin**. Pray that God will guide the team as they continue ministering to the UN diplomat community.

23rd N. AMERICA *Isaiah 59*

Pray for **Dan Venberg** who is visiting churches on behalf of LBIM and recruiting new missionaries. Pray that God would raise up new missionaries for ministry in Chad.

24th TAIWAN *Isaiah 60*

Pray for **Mr. Ye**, a friend of **Andrew** and **Kris Larsen**. He is alone and willing to study the Bible with Andrew. Pray that his heart will be receptive. Happy birthday today to **Andrew**.

25th CHAD *Isaiah 61:1-63:6*

Pray that the government of Chad will continue to allow religious freedom. Pray that Christians and the Church in Chad would proclaim to their neighbors in word and deed, a God of love, forgiveness and peace.

26th EAST ASIA *Isaiah 63:7-64:12*

Joel and **Liz Christenson** ask prayer for their annual conference Jan. 25-30. National and global Christian leaders will be attending for a first ever consultation on

doing cross-cultural mission together. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom throughout these days.

27th JAPAN *Isaiah 65*

Pray for God's Spirit to encourage the pastors and elders of the Japan LB Synod as they meet Jan. 28-29. Several are dealing with serious health conditions. Pray for God's leading as they plan the March synodical annual meeting.

28th N. AMERICA *Isaiah 66*

An update from Japanese Ministries, Seattle, says that 17 college students regularly attend the Rock Talks, eight attend Bilingual Bible Studies and five come to Sunday Worship. May God continue to draw them to Himself.

29th CHAD *Matthew 1*

Pray for **Nathanael** and **Carrie Szobody** as they make friends in the village of Mafling. Also pray for the Lord to bring opportunities for them to meet with and encourage secret Christians.

30th TAIWAN *Matthew 2*

Pray for **John** and **Caristy Olson** and their children and their ministry in the English Department at Victory Church. Pray for good friends for their children in school and at church.

31st AFRICA *Matthew 3*

Pray for the Central African Republic which has been sliding toward anarchy since March when rebel Muslim fighters overthrew the government of the Christian president, Francois Bozize. The UN authorized deployment of troops amid fears that escalated fighting between Muslim and Christian militia could lead to genocide.

1 Canadian Region

Please pray that our Canadian students at LBS: Clint (Heather) Knutson, Nick Joyal, Bob (Melonie) Schultz, Ryan (Bethany) Dittman and Matt Sonnenberg will be well prepared to serve wherever God calls them.

2 Living Word, Phoenix, AZ

Pray that we will receive a clear direction from God as we consider whether we can or should try a restart of our preschool ministry which failed to open in 2012-2013 year for lack of enrollment.

3 Cornerstone, Ferndale, WA

Please pray for Pastor Bill and Sally Helland as they began their ministry at Cornerstone on January 1st.

4 Grace Community, Wesley Chapel, FL

Pray for our church family as we canvass homes and prepare to move services to Wesley Chapel Elementary School beginning Jan. 12th. Pray that we will reach new individuals and families with the good news of Jesus Christ.

5 Immanuel, Pasadena, CA

We are praising the Lord for very encouraging progress in our restart effort. Today the congregation discusses how our members can support this planting of a new church. Please support us with your prayers.

6 Eastern Region

For over a year, our churches in Paramus, NJ and Cranston, RI have been searching for their next pastor. Both churches are being served by part-time interim pastors (Ole Lillestolen and Thor Foss). Pray for God to provide full-time ministers for these congregations.

7 Borderless

Pray for this mission outreach consisting of teams from both the Pacific Region North and the Central Region as they prepare for their trip to Mexico. Pray that God will prepare the hearts of those people they will meet and be introduced to Jesus Christ.

8 Grace Community, Wesley Chapel, FL

Our church family is seeking to raise \$250,000 toward the purchase of a 20 acre property and a future church facility. Pray for God to meet our needs according to His riches. Pray for wisdom for the building committee.

9 Seminary

Pray for Dr. Jeff Seaver as he begins today teaching the course "Leadership in Ministry" at LBS.

10 Pilgrim, Mentor, OH

Our *Upward Basketball and Cheerleading* season begins today. Over 300 area kids are signed up to participate! Pray for much outreach to take place.

11 Eastern Region

Pray for the ER youth leaders as they participate in a day of training to be held in Briarcliff, NY. Pray for the students who are in their care that they will come to know Jesus in a deep and personal way.

12 CLB

President Joel Egge will be visiting many churches and sharing the vision of our denomination through the *Lifting Our Eyes* campaign. Pray for Pres. Egge as he shares a glimpse of the possibilities the Lord has set before us in our CLB churches.

13 Resurrection, Camrose, AB

Some time this month we will be hearing back from some builders in regard to the estimated cost of our building program. Please pray for our congregation as we seek the Lord's will together.

14 Yellowstone, Billings, MT

Pray for Bill and Sharon Poore from Arvada, CO. Bill has just finished classes at Denver Seminary and will begin serving at Yellowstone sometime this month.

15 Word of Life, LeSueur, MN

We thank and praise God for his leading in the hiring of a third staff person for our day care and for the new children already under contract to start at the same time.

16 Birch Hills Community, Birch Hills, SK

Pray for our church as we don't have a permanent pastor at this time. But praise the Lord that next spring Clint and Heather Knutson have accepted a call to serve here after Clint finishes his second year at LBS. He will take the third year of studies online from LBS.

17 Tuscarora Inn, Mount Bethel, PA

Pray for the junior high students attending a retreat this weekend. Pray for Jason Lang as he shares the gospel with them and for the students to be greatly impacted.

18 Bethel, Ottawa, IL

Today we will host our annual Power-Breakfast for men in our community. Over 130 are expected to gather from nearly every church in town and neighboring cities. Pray that the Lord will speak to men's hearts through the worship and speaker, Mike Hurn.

19 Bethel, Platte, SD

We will be hosting our first annual Wild Game Feed today. Pray for a great turnout and for travel safety for RP Gary Witkop who will be our guest speaker.

20 Grace, Bottineau, ND

Please pray for a team of twelve men (seven from Grace) who have travelled to Kakamega, Kenya to build a school and orphanage. Pray that above all, Christ will be glorified.

21 Seminary

Pray for Dr. Robert Bennett and Dr. Tom Sappington as they present on the subject of "Demon Possession and Spiritual Warfare" in the New Testament at the LBS J-term.

22 Pastoral Candidate Program

Pray for those pastors who have completed seminary and are serving a church and will be meeting with the Regional Pastors as they take final steps towards ordination. This is a time of mentoring and training.

23 Faith, Blue Earth, MN

Praise and thanksgiving for the opportunity to lead a Bible study twice a week at the Faribault County Jail. Pray that those who attend will know Christ's love and forgiveness even in light of difficult circumstances that they find themselves in. Pray for wisdom and understanding for those leading the studies.

24 Pacific Region

Blizzard 2014 is a winter retreat for 2nd-6th graders. Prayers that God will bless these children as they study His word, spend time with friends and enjoy the snow in the Cascade Mountains.

25 Bethel, Fergus Falls, MN

Tomorrow Bethel's leadership will bring forward the vision for a multi-site ministry for the congregation's consideration at their annual business meeting. Pray for this vision to be effectively communicated and received.

26 Living Word, Dickinson, ND

Pray for Living Word Fellowship as they meet today for their Annual Ministry Planning. It is a time to praise God for the past year and to trust God as we set our sights on His plans in 2014.

27 Seminary

We ask for prayer for our students and faculty as they begin the 2nd semester of classes today.

28 Pilgrim, Mentor, OH

We have a mission team that left us on Sunday for a week of ministry in Honduras. Please pray for safety in their travels and for the gospel to become real to the many people who will be introduced to Jesus on this trip.

29 Hope, Everett, WA

Many churches have their annual meetings in January. Hope is having ours today. Pray for us (and other churches) as we plan and set ministry and financial goals for the new calendar year.

30 Eastern Region

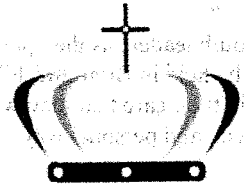
Pastor Will Cole is a younger man seeking to move from another Lutheran denomination into the CLB through the process of colloquy. His heart is to plant a church outside of Rochester, NY. Pray for him as he follows God's leading to plant a church in this community.

31 Canadian Region

Please pray for pastors Brian Tysdal, Brian Smith and Jay Dyrland as they continue down the colloquy path.

Coming Up:

Please consider joining us for the 2014 Biennial Convention to be held in Fergus Falls, MN. The dates are July 30th through August 1st.



LIFTING OUR EYES

BEHOLD, THE KING IS COMING! JOHN 12

CLB Biennial Convention

As the Church of the Lutheran Brethren prepares to gather for the 2014 Biennial Convention, please pray for the worship service speakers and seminar leaders as they begin to prepare. Please pray for the synodical staff as they finalize the details of the convention over the coming months. CLB Presidential Candidates will be announced in the coming weeks and the election will be held at the convention. We ask you to also pray for these candidates and seek God's calling in the future of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.

Church of the Lutheran Brethren

Prayer Link

January 2014

North American Mission
Church of the Lutheran Brethren