

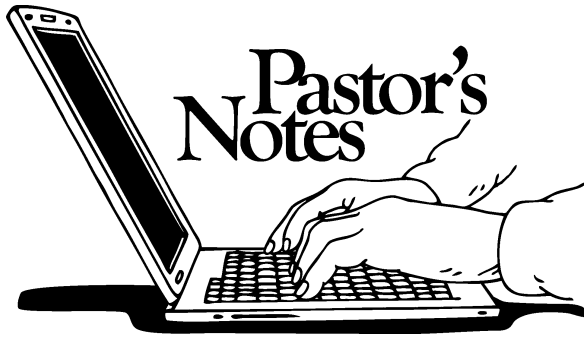


# July 2013

## Little Cedar & Marshall Churchmouse



Greetings Little Cedar and Marshall Lutheran Churches!



It is wonderful to be with all of you here serving in ministry together! I look forward to moving forward in some exciting directions. I am also excited to get to know all of you! I encourage you to stop by the church office to visit. I look forward to hearing the many stories of this community, the history of the church, and the passions and gifts of the people. Our family also extends a heartfelt thank you for the warm welcome to this lovely place!

I recently attended the Southeastern Minnesota Synod assembly with other members of Little Cedar and Marshall. My favorite part of the synod assembly is always the excitement surrounding the ministries taking place in churches, the synod, and the greater church. The joy and exhilaration of faith can be incredibly contagious and encouraging. It gives a renewed hope and peace!

When I consider our Christian faith, I think of a faith that is renewing. Our Christian faith brings joy, hope, love, and peace! I hope that as a church we can embody that faith in a way that is relevant to people's everyday life. A joy and hope that speaks to the struggles, pains, realities, and ongoings of everyday life of those around us!

During the summer months we hear a lot of Gospel readings about Jesus' early ministry as he travels the countryside performing miracles, preaching, and teaching. The excitement of Jesus' ministry seemed to be contagious for many at that time, albeit controversial at times as well. As Christians we can bring the Good News of the Gospel to those around us and can be a beacon of hope and peace in our communities and throughout the world. Perhaps we can bring a contagious faith into the world! As we visit with friends and family in the community, I challenge you to invite someone to church! Maybe someone who belongs to church, but hasn't attended in a long time, or perhaps someone who has never been to church!

I wish you all a joyful and safe time with family and friends during this summer's festivities! Wherever you go this summer, may God's Word be there with you and may you bring that Word to those around you!

Peace,

*Dr. Jeremy*



**Important Dates**

**July 4th**

Office Closed!

**July 10th**

Marshall Council

**July 17th**

Little Cedar Council

**July 17th~ July 21st**

Sonshine Festival

**July 29th~Aug 2nd**

Vacation Bible School

**Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed**

VBS is July 29th to August 2nd from 9am to 3pm.

We are in need of help in the following areas:

- Storytelling (Bible Bazaar)
- Crafts (Creation Zone)
- Games (Global Games)
- Science (Innovation Station)
- Lunch & Snacks (Eatery Expo)
- Music (Choral Corner)
- Group Helpers

This can be anyone from 7<sup>th</sup> grade on up! You just need to have a love for kids and time available!

Please register at <https://2013.cokesburyvbs.com/littlecedar> or contact Tara if you are interested in helping out!

We are also in need of people to provide lunch all 5 days. Please let Tara know if you are available.



**Weddings:**

Little Cedar:

Barry Johnson & Amanda Taylor

**Baptisms:**

Little Cedar:

Sydney Lynn Lange

Parents: Jared Lange & Katie Anderson

**Prayers:** Those known to have been hospitalized, ill or in need of prayers:

Lois Lewison ~ Arvis Gunderson ~ Len Mensink ~ Lavonne Bergstrom ~ Marcelle Voigt  
 Raeann Kane (granddaughter of Curt & Geneva Hamilton)  
 Julene Monteleone (granddaughter of June Wolf)

**If you have a prayer request, please let the church office know.**



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Office Hours Are: Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 2:00pm

**Sunday Worship:** Little Cedar 9:00am Marshall 10:30am

**Sunday School:** September - May Little Cedar 10:00am Marshall 9:30am

Senior Pastor	Jeremy Johnson	pastorjeremy@frontier.com
Office Administrator	Kathy Voigt	kathyvoigt@frontiernet.net
LC Education Director	Tara Mandt	taramandt@frontiernet.net
Youth Director	Tara Mandt	taramandt@frontiernet.net
Day Care Director	Lynn Johnson	lccdaycare@frontiernet.net

**For Pastoral emergencies please call: 507-574-1059**

Cause of the Month for April 2013

Marshall  
"Southland Foodshelf"  
Little Cedar  
"Adams Swimming Pool"



Quilters meet at Little Cedar on Monday, July 1st @ 1pm

Friends & Fellowship

NO meetings until September 2013

Have a great summer!

New Peace Garden Beautifies the Lawn at Little Cedar



What a wonderful new addition for all of us to have a Peace Garden at Little Cedar. Lucas Mandt has done this project as he prepares to earn his Eagle Scout Award. Earning the Eagle Scout Award is the highest advancement rank a Boy Scout can earn. There are many badges that need to be earned as well as ranks and offices to hold in order to earn this award. Lucas will be a Junior at Southland High School this year and is the son of Jim & Tara Mandt. He has been a scout since 2nd grade and feels he has learned many things that he would not have if it wasn't for scouts. There was a lot of thought that went in to deciding what and where to do his Eagle project. Lucas says, "The church is a very important part of my life as well as my families so that led me to wanting to do something here at Little Cedar in appreciation for what the church is in my life and because nothing has been done by a Boy Scout here before. After consulting with my mom, Pastor Marggi and Kathy, the thought of a peace garden would be a wonderful addition to the church. It could be a place for church and community members to sit and reflect while enjoying God's creation as well as church staff could use to take a break or have meetings on nice days." The Peace Garden is in memory of his Great-Grandma Helen Huseby as he knows how important Little Cedar was to her as well. The family knows she is smiling down on the beauty of this project.

We at Little Cedar would like to thank Lucas for choosing this project and thinking of our church. We would also like to thank the Huseby Family for making the donations to help make this project possible. Also, a thank you to his family, all the scouts who worked on the project, Garret Kiefer from Northern Landscaping who was his mentor and to Jim & Lynn Johnson for the wonderful statue and bench.

The project is not totally finished but it is ready for visitors so please feel free to come, sit down, relax and enjoy the beauty.

Personal Care Kits a Huge Success!!!



I was looking back at past issues of the Churchmouse and realize the number of Personal Care Kits that were assembled during Lent had never been posted.

The goal of our congregations at the beginning of Lent was to collect enough items to make 50 of these Kits.

Due to the unbelievable response, we received enough to make **69 Kits** to send to Lutheran World Relief.



**Thank you** to all who donated items and also to the Youth of the congregations who assembled these Kits!

**Service Group #4**

- Gladys & Don Morgan – Co Chairperson (437-3968)
- June Wolf – Co Chairperson (582-3200)
- Bev Vangsness (582-3194)
- Curt & Kay Lewison (582-3208)
- Maynard & Lois Lewison (582-3324)
- John & Tammy Loecher Family (582-3272)
- Tara Mandt Family (582-3627)
- Gerald & Carol Matheis (582-3469)
- Patricia & Ron Milks (582-3037)
- Larry & Ethel Nerison (582-3397)
- Dave & Millie Weness (582-3500)
- Nancy & Scott Decker (582-3602)
- David & Charlotte Anderson (582-3650)
- Kent & Linda Anderson Family (582-3100)
- Lyn Meany Family (433-0075)
- Heather Felten (440-9590)
- Mahlon Lonergan (325-4620)
- Mary Luke (437-6329)
- Lee & Lita Luke Family (271-0867)
- Scott & Tammy McMasters (437-8973)
- Chans & Holly Meyers (438-1376)
- Marcia Mullenbach (582-7758)
- Dan & Marie Wilson (437-2678)
- Laura Retterath (438-3394)
- Bryan & Terri Klaehn (582-3170)
- Rod Nordeng (437-4778)
- Kristina & Joe Matheis (208-390-5074)

**July**

- Communion Clean-up 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>
- Coffee Hours NONE

Deliver Meals on Wheels  
15<sup>th</sup> thru 26<sup>th</sup>

Serve any funerals held

Your Chairperson or one of your Co-Chairpersons will contact you with information for your service group.



**Head Usher for July**

**Bob Hanson**

**Scripture Readers**

July 7th ~ Shirley Schroeder

July 14th ~ Please let the office know if you are available to read

July 21st ~ Gordon Briggs

July 28th ~ Millie Weness



Porcupines float in water

# Educational News

## It is time to register for Vacation Bible School!

When: July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 3pm.

Where: Little Cedar Lutheran Church

Who: Students who are 4-years-old as of June 1st through completed 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Cost: VBS is \$20.00 for one child, \$35.00 for two children, and \$45.00 for three or more children. Payment is due the first day of VBS. Scholarships are available for those in need of assistance.

Registration: <https://2013.cokesburyvbs.com/littlecedar> or by contacting Tara for a paper form.

Please register before July 5th so we have time to order shirts and supplies.

## Our theme this year is Everywhere Fun Fair ~ Where God's World Comes Together

**Everywhere Fun Fair** will take us on a celebration that looks and feels like the World's Fair. We will make friends with neighbors around the world and discover that God's love can be found everywhere, including our neighborhoods. We will learn all about special places from all over the world and discover that we are all neighbors and all children of God.

*Love the Lord your God...and love your neighbor as yourself.  
Luke 10:27*



We are asking for donations again this year to help keep the cost of VBS down for families as well as the church. There will be a list in the bulletin as well as in the Narthex at Little Cedar of items needed. Please consider donating.



## Sonshine 2013 Festival

Pastor Jeremy, Sandy, Kristina and Tara are excited to take a group of students to Sonshine 2013 in Willmar from July 17th through the 20th. We know a great time will be had by all.

Please keep them all in your prayers as they head out to focus on the Son and how He shines in our lives!

We are in need of borrowing a few items. We are looking for about 4 tents, some tarps, coolers and a screen tent. If you have any of these that could be borrowed, please contact Tara at church.

Please check the church bulletin for other items that could be donated to help us keep costs down for the families.



Summer  
Fun!!



## Marshall Church Council ~ Meeting Minutes ~ June 5, 2013

Marshall Church council met for its regular meeting June 5, 2013. Present: Pastor Jeremy Johnson, Dale Himebaugh, Darrell Gordon, Brenda Hanson, Gib Seimers, Gary Kulow, Andrew Sprau, Jerry Sprau, Rhonda Hatle, Carie Hanson, Luvern Hanson and Cathy Sprau.

Chairman Dale Himebaugh called the meeting to order.

Devotions were given by Pastor Jeremy with scripture reading and prayer. Pastor's report was given. Pastor Jeremy stated he was excited to be part of Marshall and Little Cedar. He shared information about "Sonshine" festival which is held July 17-20 in Willmar, Minnesota for youth. He will continue to share information if there is an interest in this. Vacation Bible School will be held July 29- August 2 at Little Cedar. Discussion on Adams Healthcare Center and a worship service there. Pastor will check with other area churches about this. Pastor Jeremy, Thelma Himebaugh, and Linda Ludwig will be attending the SE Synod Assembly June 7& 8. Pastor will be working on visitations for shut-ins as well as the other members of our church to get acquainted.

Secretary's report was given for the month of May. Financial secretary's report was given by Carie Hanson. Total offerings for May was \$3,887.47. Cause of the Month was \$189.47 ("Neighbor in Need" Fund). Total offerings thus far for 2013 is \$19,434.47. Treasurer's report was given by Luvern Hanson. Reviewed expenses. A motion by Gary Kulow to accept reports. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Sprau. Motion carried.

Cause of the Month for June is Red Cross. A motion by Gary Kulow to have Southland Food Shelf as the Cause of Month for July. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Sprau. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Gary Kulow shared that the carpet for the outside steps will be ordered.

Continue to check on options and vendors to replace the church's roof.

Dale Himebaugh shared that the energy audit by Freeborn-Mower Electric will be done on June 6, 2013.

Continue to discuss options for recording the worship service. Pastor Jeremy will check with shut-ins as to their interest and equipment available.

After much discussion concerning seal-coating the blacktop and parking lot, a motion by Gary Kulow to have Shay Nelson of Austin seal coat the blacktop to the corner and parking lot for approximately \$4,000. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Darrell Gordon.

Motion carried.

**New Business:** Installation of Pastor Jeremy Johnson will be held June 23, 2013 at both churches. After discussion, it was decided to have a potluck dinner at Marshall June 30, 2013 to honor him.

The council agreed to continue to have Forrest Himebaugh do the church lawn mowing. Jon Hanson has started the landscaping project (a boy scout project). Discussed the need for a work day at Marshall.

A motion by Gary Kulow to order 12 special crosses for our Confirmation students. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rhonda Hatle. Motion carried.

A motion by Gary Kulow to adjourn meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Sprau. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by; (pending additions or corrections to these minutes at the next meeting)

CATHY SPRAU<sup>MA</sup> Council Secretary



The Little Cedar Lutheran Church Council met on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 @7:30 pm. Members present: Karen Anderson, Gordy Briggs, Becky Hartwig, Pat Hinz, Bill Klingerman, Maynard Lewison, Joe Matheis, Mary Schmitz, Tracy Smith, Nancy Smith, and Pastor Natacha Kemp. Members absent: Lyn Meany, Tricia Milks, Rod Nordeng and Jaymie Poshusta. The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Hinz.

**DEVOTIONS/PRAYER:** Pastor Natacha Kemp

**APPROVAL of COUNCIL MINUTES:** Pat pointed out error in wording in the April council minutes: should read – “the remaining \$48 due on the Seder meal will not be shared by Marshall. That was paid by Little Cedar.” A motion was made by Gordy Briggs, seconded by Mary Schmitz to accept the secretary’s minutes, for April, with said correction. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE/RECOGNITION of VISITORS:** Pat Hinz read a thank you from Kathy Voigt for flowers received for Administrative Professional Day.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Pat directed council to review the treasurer’s report attached to the agenda. \$12,000 will be transferred to the general fund, to cover housing allowance. A motion was made by Becky Hartwig, seconded by Karen Anderson to approve the treasurer’s report as presented. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Building: Maynard, Joe and Tracy all reporting that Kikers will fix the leak in the fellowship hall roof and fix the gutters. If the roof cannot be fixed, Kikers will prepare an estimate for a new roof, in case this should be needed. Daycare wanted the bushes out in the playground area, so Maynard and Joe removed them and hauled in some dirt. Grass will be planted there. They will talk to Weis Landscaping about possible sod. The building committee will do this. Cracks in the parking lot need to be fixed and they will continue to work on the emergency lights until all are okay.

B. Cemetery: no report

C. Daycare: no report

D. Finance: no report

E. Life & Missions: Pastor Johnson’s installation will be on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, in both churches. A motion was made by Karen Anderson, seconded by Tracy Smith to ask Marshall about having a joint potluck picnic in the Adams Park, following the installations. Motion carried.

F. Personnel: Gordy Briggs reported that the exit interview was done with Pastor Natacha. Gordy made a suggestion to look into giving Kathy sick days, to accrue up to a specified number. Currently she is using vacation days. Council tabled this until next month and directed the Personnel Committee to look at what Kathy currently gets for days off. Gordy will check into this matter.

G. Youth & Education: no report

H. Worship & Music: no report

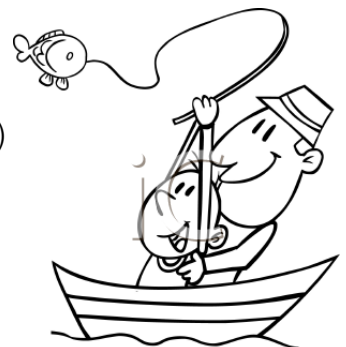
**PASTOR’S REPORT:** Pastor Natacha made some suggestions for going forward, some being a specific parking space for the Pastor, a mirror in the Pastor’s office and somewhere to hang Pastor’s things in office.

**OUTSTANDING BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Thank You to Pastor Liz Erickson - Pat suggested sending a thank you to Pastor Liz of St. John’s Church in Elkton, for covering some Pastoral needs of Little Cedar and Marshall. Pat will take care of this and have Marshall sign the note also.

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(Little Cedar Council Minutes cont'd)

B. Pastor Johnson's move – Joe Matheis reported that he and Tracy Smith will both be driving/pulling a trailer to Iowa to help Jeremy and his family move. They could use some more people to help with this. On Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, the trailers will unload at their new home in Adams and lunch will be served by Little Cedar, to the family and movers. Marshall will serve a lunch on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, to the family and volunteers. Pat will announce this information in church. Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> will be Jeremy's first day.

C. June Cause of the Month: Welcome Shower for the Johnson Family. Joe Matheis will talk to them about specific needs to get them started.

D. Devotions for June: Karen Anderson

E. Dates to remember: June 2013 Newsletter deadline is May 21, 2013.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Gordy Briggs, seconded by Mary Schmitz to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm with members praying the Lord's Prayer.

*Linda Gilles, Council Secretary*

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**\*\*\*\*2013 Report of the SE MN Synod Assembly\*\*\*\***

## **Always being made new**

### *2013 Southeastern Minnesota*

#### *Synod Assembly*

On June 7-8, 2013, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod gathered in assembly at the Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, Minn. Assembly participants gathered for worship, Bible study, reports from ministries of the synod, and the business of the synod. The assembly is the highest legislative body of the synod.

#### **Election of a Bishop ~**

Much of the 2013 Synod Assembly agenda was consumed with the important business of the election of a synod bishop. The Rev. Steven Delzer, Faribault, Minn., was elected to a six-year term as bishop. Delzer was elected on the fifth ballot with 310 votes. Rev. Vernon Christopherson received 171 votes. Rev Sarah Nietz and Rev. Glenn Monson were also on the fourth ballot with 73 and 68 votes, respectively. Delzer received to 232 votes.

"I have deep trust that the Spirit will be with us as we walk through the doors that God opens for us," said Delzer upon the announcement of his election. Rev. Delzer will be installed on September 7. Details will be announced.

#### **Bible Study ~**

Rev. Mark Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), let the assembly in two Bible studies focused on 2 Corinthians 5:14–21. Hanson's first Bible study asked participants to think about what they would Tweet from the text. "What phrase would stand out as such good news that you just can't keep it to yourself?" he asked. Hanson then invited people to imagine the future of the church and asked how it might overcome the three roadblocks he identified as hindering "inspired imagination of the ELCA's future:"

- A focus on the past
- Low expectations of the Holy Spirit
- Fear

In his second Bible study, Rev. Hanson characterized Christians as ambassadors for their faith. The best ambassadors, he explained, are those who are most attentive to their context, who listen and build relationships. "Be a first-class listener and a world-class noticer," Hanson urged.

Continued on page 9



**(Synod Report cont'd)****Worship ~**

Worship was a celebration of Lutheran liturgy, music, and theology. A procession of crosses and streamers on Saturday morning highlighted the celebration. Bishop Harold Usgaard shared the message “It’s all about God” in his Friday morning sermon. “[Jesus] responds to us not because we deserve it but because we need it. Do you hear? It is all about God,” he preached. Saturday’s sermon was delivered by Presiding Bishop Hanson. It was a “participation required” sermon when Hanson told everyone to get out their phones or a piece of paper to tell someone about the good news of the Gospel. “The news is too good to keep to yourself,” he proclaimed.

**Other Business ~**

Other business of the synod included reports from leaders and ministries including Bishop Usgaard, Luther Seminary, Portico Benefits Services, and more. The assembly also discussed and passed five resolutions and a proposed 2014 budget. Resolution actions included:

- Bestow the honorary title of “Bishop Emeritus” upon Rev. Harold Usgaard
  - Encourage congregations to complete an environmental audit and study care for creation
  - Approve the “Minimum Compensation and Benefits Guidelines” document
  - Request the synod council to establish a task force to focus on encouraging support of Lutheran Campus Ministry and ask congregations to celebrate a “Campus Ministry Sunday”
  - Challenge congregations to continue providing healthcare benefits at or above the level they now provide them as health care changes in the coming months
- Presiding Bishop Hanson brought a report from the churchwide ministry of the ELCA. He challenged the assembly to not spend the coming years sowing seeds of discontentment, but the ELCA witness over the next years should be “you are welcome at the Lord’s table.” The culture deserves to hear a strong Lutheran witness to the Lutheran Confession. “We are people called to be witnesses to the Cross.” We, as a living community of faith, are called to where there is suffering in the world. In Bishop Usgaard’s report to the assembly, he gave thanks to the synod staff and to his wife, Lynette. He celebrated exciting ministries of the synod that engage youth and young adults.

**Other Highlights ~**

The churchwide expression of the ELCA and the Southeastern Minnesota Synod have worked to increase participation of youth and young adults in the church. This year Karen Gieseke, Synod Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Coordinator, hosted a hospitality suite for youth and young adult voters. She challenged those who joined her for lunch on Friday to understand and use their gifts for the ministry of the church. On Saturday, Presiding Bishop Hanson joined them for conversation. As the 2013 Synod Assembly was the last assembly for Bishop Usgaard and his synod staff, Friday night’s banquet honored the synod staff. Friends and colleagues of the staff shared stories of the ministry of the nine staff members. The synod council will host a celebration dinner at the Doubletree Hotel, Rochester, Minn., on August 22 to honor Bishop Usgaard. Details will be released as available.

## About Our Synod

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 125,000 baptized people in 176 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

## More Information

Visit [semnsynod.org/assembly](http://semnsynod.org/assembly) for more from the assembly including:

- More detailed news
- Full text of Bishop Usgaard’s report and sermon
- Full text of the resolutions
- Videos of sermons, Bible studies, and Bishop Hanson’s report (coming soon!)

Visit [www.facebook.com/semnsynod](http://www.facebook.com/semnsynod) for photos.

*The Bridge* is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

1001 14th St. NW, Suite 300

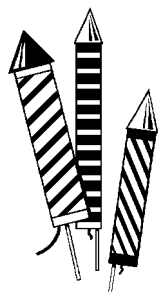
Rochester, MN 55901-2551 ~ (507) 280-9457

Little Cedar and Marshall Lutheran Churches

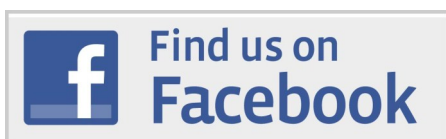
308 NW Lewison St.

PO Box 304

Adams MN, 55909



**JULY**  
**2013**



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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.