



Elkhart Christian Church

November 2010

Pastoral Thoughts: A Sufi Tale of Jesus

Joan Chittister relates a tale told by the Sufi Muslims about Jesus the Son of Mary, or *Isa ibn Maryam* (yes, Jesus is part of the Muslim tradition, too!):

“One day Isa saw a group of people sitting miserably on a wall, moaning out loud and full of fear. ‘What is your affliction?’ he asked. ‘It is our fear of hell,’ the people complained.

“Then Isa came upon a second group. They were emaciated and wan and full of anxiety. ‘What is your affliction?’ Isa asked them. ‘Desire for Paradise has made us like this,’ the people cried.

“Finally, Isa came upon a third group. They were scarred and bruised, wounded and tired but their faces were radiant with joy. ‘What has made you like this?’ Isa asked. And the people answered, ‘We have seen the Spirit of Truth. We have seen Reality,’ they sighed. ‘And this has made us oblivious of lesser goals.’

And Isa said, ‘These are the ones who attain. On the Last Day, they will be in the Presence of God.’”

Thankfulness comes most powerfully when we when know the struggles of life, but can look beyond them to the One who makes life worthwhile. In this season of Thanksgiving, let us remember that it's not the bruises and scars that bring blessings, but it's the God who can never be stopped, who brings them. It's the God of justice and mercy.

Blessings,
Anne

Come and Worship

Chancel Choir: 8:00 am - September through May

Sunday School: 1st Sunday after Labor Day until last Sunday before Memorial Day

Gathering: 9:15 am-Sunday School Classes:9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Handchime Rehearsal: 4:00 pm - September through May

Men's Breakfast: 2nd Sunday of the month-Sept. through June: 7:30 am

Fellowship: Immediately after worship

Worship Attendance and Offering

	Att.	Offering	S.S. Offering
10/10	57	\$1,897.07	\$18.33
10/17	53	\$1,114.05	\$13.87
10/24	50	\$ 730.28	\$20.00
10/31	53	\$2,279.41	\$28.00

Christmas Offering: \$ 30.00

Week of Compassion: \$ 15.00

Pentecost: \$ 20.00

Mission Statement

Elkhart Christian Church is a family of faithful Christians actively caring for the needs of others; sharing our faith through worship, education, and outreach; and providing fellowship that represents Christ's love and presence in our community and our world. Our mission is to nurture and prepare everyone God entrusts to us to become mature and dedicated Disciples for the glory of God.

If you have information for the weekly church bulletin or monthly newsletter, or if you would like to have your birthday printed and it is not already on the list, please place it in the secretary's mailbox, email it to eccsecretary@iowatelecom.net or contact Mary Jo at the church office. (515) 367-5125.

Note: Elkhart Christian Church has a Website:

<http://elkhart-christianchurch.com>

Thank You from the Pastor

Dear Friends at Elkhart Christian Church,

Thank you for your gift during Pastoral Appreciation Month (October). It was very thoughtful, and I'm looking forward to checking out Valley West. ☺

This kind of thoughtfulness is not as common as you might think. I'd never heard of Pastoral Appreciation Month until I came to this region.

I value your kindness and support very much, and more than that, I value—and need—your prayers.

Blessings,
Anne

Notes of Appreciation from Disciples Network Gathering

Sandi and girls from ECC,

Hey ladies, just wanted to send you a big thank you for participating in the Disciples Network Gathering last weekend. We deemed it a success with a few tweaks needed. ☺

Hope it was successful for you.

Take care,
Bert Burns

Bert Burns is Regional Minister for Camp and Conference Center Ministries

Dear Anne and Elkhart CC,

Thanks so much for setting up a food booth at The Region's Disciples Network Gathering. I hope you made some extra money for projects at the church.

The potato soup was great.

It was a great day and your presence added to it.

Thanks again for sharing your talents with us.

In Christ,
Karen Fausch

Karen Fausch is Vice-Moderator of the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest

A special thank you from the ECC Board. We would like to recognize and thank Shannon Snyder, Don Swartout and the ECC CWF for all their contributions towards our new sidewalk. Shannon graciously donated his time and talents at no cost to the church. Shannon gave time tearing out the sidewalk, re-forming the project, then arranging for the cement pour and finishing the sidewalk with the help of Don and other friends. Shannon has seen the project through, with the new dirt and grass seed to get the church yard back to order. Along with Shannon, we'd like to recognize Don Swartout for his assistance on the sidewalk improvement.

Don also spent time removing 3 bushes and provided the rock to replenish the rock along the new sidewalk. The project not only looks great, but this new sidewalk is much safer as there is no longer broken or uneven cement for anyone to trip and stumble on.

Special thanks to the Elkhart Christian Church, Christian Women's Fellowship. This group generously paid for the entire cement cost and has agreed to cover a portion of other miscellaneous costs involved in replacing the sidewalk. Way to go, Ladies!!!!

Transitions

Many thanks have come to our Funeral Lunch Committee and all its participants and supporters. This past month, ECC hosted two funeral lunches for friends of the church.

Nancy B. Hiatt

April 11, 1914 – October 21, 2010

Operational Guidelines Review

The church board will begin reviewing the operational guidelines for the church's committees beginning at the November board meeting. If you are on a committee, or want to find out more about a committee, you are invited to attend the board meeting to take part in the discussion about that committee's guidelines. The review schedule is as follows:

-  November – CWF
-  December – CMF
-  January – Christian Ed
-  February – Youth
-  March – Membership/Evangelism
-  April – Outreach
-  May Stewardship/Finance
-  June – Worship

News from the Education Committee

Sunday school is in full swing and teachers as well as children are getting back in the groove. I'd like to recognize our teaching volunteers. Shanda Owen and Tara Owen, Pre-school & Kindergarten, Lennie Wilharm and Connie Carney, 1st – 6th grade. Mike Luke and Paul Reinke, 7th – 12th grades. Thank you for sharing your time and talents. We have an average of 15-18 total students. Also thank you to Pastor Anne, Robin Luke and Brenda Dobson for again leading opening and music time.

Recap of September. We started off with a fun day of outdoor games and pumpkin decorating for the younger children. Congratulations, to Brody Batson and Tucker Anderson for winning the swamp hopper game, where you had to work as a team by standing on 3 ft. long 2X4 which had

string for handles, and you had to work very cooperatively to walk with the boards from the start to finish line. Thank you to Lennie Wilharm, and Tim Butler for all your participation and help this day.

Our high school youth refreshed their Bible knowledge with a challenging Bible game with Mike Luke, Craig Ellyson and Paul Reinke; there may have been some candy motivation involved.

Recap of October. The children were challenged by World Outreach Chair, Laura Butler to help boost our food pantry donations, by bringing a donation every Sunday, rather than just once a month on food pantry Sunday. Laura has made their involvement even more fun and challenging by having them fill an actual pair of pants as a play on the word (PANTry). The children are quite excited to fill the pants and I believe it's already a great success. We'll continue this effort through January 2011. We'll let you know how many pairs of pants they fill. Also, during October our younger youth helped to celebrate World Communion Sunday by sharing two songs during the church service. They sang "Jesus Loves the Little Children," and they picked a song they really loved from Vacation Bible School, titled "Shout to the North." We all love to see the children share their talents.

Hope you all enjoyed a safe and successful harvest.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Carney, Co-Education Chair

CYF

Youth Group (grades 6th-12th) will meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of November and December. Meetings will be from 6:30-8:00 pm and a snack will be provided. Please come and bring a friend. Any adults that would like to help furnish snacks please contact Coral Sorenson.

ECC Hosts Food Booth at Disciples Network Gathering

October 9

Our church set up a booth at the Christian Conference Center in Newton during the bi-annual Disciples Network Gathering (formerly known as the Regional Assembly).

Fundraising booths were set up by different churches for attendees to purchase food and other items. We served cinnamon rolls, cupcakes, brownies, and Halloween-themed treats—all homemade. We also had potato soup for lunch, and we sold some crafts sent by church members. All proceeds went to the General Fund for ECC.

It was a great day of fellowship, and the weather was warm and sunny. Four church members helped at the booth, and many more donated items. Everyone had a great time.

Sandi Gaulke
Coral Sorenson
Connie Carney
Vera Cory

"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'"

MATTHEW 16:24

The Year of the Cross

I arrived in El Salvador nearly a year ago, not knowing what to expect. Just after I arrived, the Salvadoran Lutheran Church, for whom I work, chose their ministry theme for the coming year. They chose, "Take your cross and follow me!" (Matthew 16:24) I had come to El Salvador expecting to learn how God works in a new culture, but I learned about the cross and what it means in El Salvador.



NICHOLAS
GREEN

Many recall the floods caused by Hurricane Ida last November, and how they caused so much destruction throughout the country. A rush of aid came right after news of the flooding broke, but as its memory faded, things slowed down. Meanwhile the subsequent long dry summer left many Salvadorans searching for ways to sustain their families. The Salvadorans were carrying the "cross" of the floods and which heat had ruined all the crops intended to feed families for the year. But ecumenical organizations took up the cross and supplied food to several communities, following up with each one. Givers to Week of Compassion and One Great Hour of Sharing took up the cross and helped greatly. But the struggle still continues. The long-awaited rains came this year not as a blessing, but as another round of floods.

The Lutheran Church took up the cross with many agricultural projects in El Salvador which provided much needed food. I realized they hadn't waited until the crisis occurred to start growing. They had already begun these projects long before the floods came. In this way I saw Christians in El Salvador take up their cross. I have seen a church that takes care of the whole person; sowing seeds of hope from tragedy.

Let us pray that we may all aspire to better the lives of those around us by taking up our cross and following Christ.

Nicholas Green serves in El Salvador as a long-term volunteer with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of El Salvador. He supports the National Youth with the Family and Gender Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of El Salvador.



You make the difference . . .

The prayers and help you provide through your local congregations make possible the work and witness of GLOBAL MINISTRIES, which is supported by Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ.

WWW.GLOBALMINISTRIES.ORG

Sounds of the Season: Our annual program of Christmas Music (offered by you)

For a number of years now, ECC has invited our congregants, friends, and neighbors to create a program of Christmas music for all ages.

We already know that our choir and our Joyful Noise Chime Choir will be participating, as well as our Sunday school kids.

But we invite any and all keyboardists, singers, and instrumentalists in the community to bring your offerings of music, too.

We've begun a tradition of inviting our friends from Faith Christian Fellowship in Elkhart, just as they invited us to participate last year in their program. We look forward to seeing them with us this year.

Sounds of the Season will be held Wednesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. here in the church sanctuary. All musicians are welcome to sign up to participate—including your friends and relatives! **The deadline for signup will be December 8**, so that we can get the bulletin printed up. **Please talk to Connie Carney if you want to be part of the program.**

Week of Compassion Update – Pakistan Flood Aftermath: The Needs are Still Great (this report comes from Church World Service)

BALAKOT, PAKISTAN – You needn't go far to discover how long-standing problems and immediate and long-term challenges are converging in northern Pakistan.

Not many weeks ago, the prospect of approaching winter was already on people's minds in the mountainous northwest region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, formerly known as the North-West Frontier Province. This is an area that faced the challenges and difficulties of winter after the calamitous 2005 earthquake. Now it must do the same after the recent disastrous floods.

One struggling institution is Balakot's hospital, which has long received support from Church World Service.

With about three-quarters of the hospital's equipment now lost and the hospital building effectively uninhabitable because of heavy flood damage, medical personnel were scrambling. Medical technician Basharat Ahmed said the hospital's maternal unit had been set up at a temporary locale, while personnel look for another location.

The need to rebuild is crucial, Ahmed and others emphasized, because the hospital was the primary health facility for a surrounding region of some 300,000 persons. "The entire valley depended on this hospital," said hospital director Zia Ulhaq. "We need a hospital immediately."

This is a story being repeated thousands of times over as Pakistan continues to find its bearings three months after the start of the devastating floods — and at a time when the emergency is fading from international view and concern.

"If you don't intervene, it will be devastating," said CWS Pakistan/Afghanistan Associate Director Dennis Joseph, noting specifically the importance of providing tents as part of the CWS response. "A lot of people will die."

While Dr. Ulhaq, Joseph and other Pakistan humanitarian workers continue their work to assist those affected and uprooted by the floods, there are real worries that considerably more remains to be done as winter approaches in Pakistan.

On Friday (Oct. 29), United Nations officials in Pakistan warned that additional humanitarian resources are needed as the country, with winter approaching, faces a serious threat of having insufficient food, clothing and temporary shelter for flood survivors.

Unless new international assistance is forthcoming, Martin Mogwanja, the UN's humanitarian coordinator in Pakistan, warned that emergency food supplies will run out in December, the UN News Service reported.

Meanwhile, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said **seven million Pakistanis still do not have adequate or sufficient blankets, clothing or shelter as winter approaches**. OCHA also reported that the UN's \$2 billion appeal for assistance for Pakistani flood survivors, **the largest-ever appeal for a natural disaster in UN history, has only been funded at 39 percent**, the news service reported.

CWS Pakistan/Afghanistan Director Marvin Parvez has warned since the floods began that sustained international focus on the disaster would be difficult given the realities of Pakistan's current geopolitical position. Compounding that concern is the current international crisis-driven media, which tend to drop news coverage of a disaster when the immediate crisis is over.

Parvez said the approaching months are among the most critical for responding to the floods, given the overlapping problems of the approaching winter and the gaps in the overall international response.

"The international community has to act fast and act now generously or it will be too late for millions of Pakistanis," Parvez said on Nov. 1.

Even without these problems, the response in Pakistan has always had substantial challenges.

During a recent food distribution near Dubair -- something of a cross-roads community in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa -- Imran Munir, a CWS senior project officer, reiterated the numerous problems workers faced. These included problems of access due to destroyed bridges and roads; the geographic isolation of affected villages; the understandable demands of tired and frustrated communities that are, in some cases, receiving humanitarian assistance for the first time ever.

"That has made it worse -- the region is an example of neglect as far as overall development," Munir said.

Agencies such as CWS are doing their best in distributing food and other assistance, he said, but there are obvious limits to what humanitarian

groups can do given the considerable overall needs. "We do have limitations," Munir said.

Munir paused to point out rubble where once stood Dubair's market, which only weeks before had hosted some 200 merchants and their stalls. Munir marveled sadly at the destruction he saw before him. "It's all gone."

CWS staffer Chris Herlinger was recently on assignment in Pakistan.

CWS response

As of October 22, CWS's response in Pakistan had included the distribution of 16,540 food packages, amounting to 1,938 tons of food; some 7,840 non-food items, including 500 tents to families in Thatta, and temporary shelter supplies and household items to families in Khairpur and Sukkur. The response has also included providing health services through mobile health units and basic health units in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alone, the mobile health teams have provided more than 36,000 consultations.

How to help

Contributions to support the emergency needs in Pakistan may be made online at

https://secure2.convio.net/cws/site/Donation2?df_id=2462&2462.donation=from1&JServSessionIdr004=knlcnsafg1.app244b or by phone (800.297.1516), or may be sent to your denomination or to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515, Attention: Pakistan floods.

November Birthdays

02 Russell Sandquist
06 Mark Jamison
Mark Long
07 Mark Birchmier
09 Bonnie Freel
10 Leslie King
13 Cole Thompson
14 Laura Butler
15 Tim Butler
16 Charlotte Dawson
19 Barb Meeker
20 Sydney Anderson
21 Jayne Higginbottom
Chad Martin
23 Robert Ault
25 Richard Miller
27 Bob Voshell
Shawn Romick
Leslie Cory
28 Theb Vogt
29 Dorothy Mathis
Braedynn Batson

December Birthdays

02 Jerry Sorenson
Peggy Cross
03 Phyllis Cohee
04 Pam Oldham
06 Irlene Capehart
07 Megan Albaugh
Michael Kaltenheuser
08 Charles Campbell
Paul Sorenson
Mary Jo Ward
10 John Owen
Joyce Russell
Jarod Rodriguez
Jacob Rodriguez
11 Krista Long
Kelsey Olesen
12 Deb Olesen
13 Virginia McLean
Pam Fitzgerald
Barb Kalsem
Nick Owen
16 John Hall

December Birthdays Cont.

18 Linda Bussanmas
20 Wayne Zimmer
Barb Lourens
21 Tom Brazelton
22 Samuel Hill
23 Tom Ward
Kevin Gaulke
25 Bill Spratt
26 Russ Franzen
27 Dennis Parmenter
Myrna Anderson Brayton
28 Karla Albaugh
29 Tom Spratt
Mary Campbell
30 Randall Albaugh

January Birthdays

01 Tyler Albaugh
Claude Chapman
Diane Stiles
03 Della Hudson
Julie Caswell
Jennifer Edler
06 Dodie Higginbottom
08 Doug Oldham
09 Perry Anderson
10 Shari McLean Merten
Vera Cory
11 Kaylee Owen
12 Viola Struthers
13 Sue Ann Foster
14 Dave Durrell
15 Jayma Sandquist
16 Carrie Hudson Gassman
17 Randy Oxford
21 Cathy Handley
22 Sue Mathis
Fred Higginbottom
23 Lori Blair
25 Layne Mathis
Amber Carney
Sandi Gaulke
26 Jared Carney
27 Mary Smith
29 Leland Cunningham
31 Sabrina Taylor

**Elkhart Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
124 S. Washington
P.O. Box 97
Elkhart, IA 50073
(515) 367-5125**



"Sharing Our Faith and God's Love"

Church Staff:
Ministers: The Congregation
Pastor: Rev. Anne E. Gregory
Board Chair: Tim Butler
Church Secretary: Mary Jo Ward
Pianists:
Brenda Dobson
Robin Luke
Organist:
Sharon Payne

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