

Encountered by God

As we follow the Bible readings for this part of the church year, we begin Sundays at Bethlehem this February with a fishing story, Luke 5:1-11. In the story we meet three men who had been skunked after a night of fishing and yet had the faith to try again when a stranger told them how. Well, I have sympathy for the men in this story; I got skunked fishing the other day. So I thought I should talk to men of faith for advice.

First I saw my friend Mark and asked him, "Where are the fish biting on Clearwater?" "In the lake!"

With that bit of advice I went next to another friend, Jim. "I was skunked on Clearwater, what should I do?" "Making a hole in the ice first is a good start, pastor?"

Now thoroughly "enlightened" I went finally to Don, and asked what to do. He proceeded to tell me step by step, color of jig, size of bait, depth of water, and distance from the cliffs. So I have faith to try again. I am going to first auger a hole in that ice, drop a line "in the lake" and closely follow Don's advice.

It would be unfair of me to not admit that after the one-liners I also got great advice from Mark and Jim as well—I always do. I ask these men for advice because I know they are experienced, avid fishermen.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS



Mark Ditmanson

From them I can learn about the waters and the fish.

They have a passion for the outdoors and have logged in the lifetime of fishing and hunting to be trustworthy sources of good advice. But that is my story. It was different on Lake Galilee.

After Peter, James and John spent a disappointing night catching nothing in their nets, I am sure they were skeptical of the advice they got from this man of Nazareth who basically said, "Try again, this time in the

daylight, and in deep water."

They knew their trade; he knew his, which we know was carpentry and preaching. And yet Peter probably surprised his fishing partners when Peter ignored his own knowledge of fishing and said, "But at your word I will let down the nets."

We know that Peter knew a little about Jesus. He would have heard about the healings he had performed and he had seen Jesus heal his own mother-in-law. Just prior to this fishing advice, Peter had been listening to Jesus as he taught the people on the shore from Peter's boat.

To me this suggests that spending time with the Lord and listening to God's Word is the necessary first step to our encounter or our revelation of God's presence in our lives. When Peter saw the nets bursting with fish he could have started whooping for excitement, or breathed a sigh of relief that he could pay his bills, but he instead fell on his knees in worship and addressed Jesus as "Lord." Could it be that the Word worked with his experience and he encountered the divine presence?

I know this happens in our lives as well. When we spend time in God's Word listening and reflecting on all that God has to say, when we take the time to hear all the wisdom, the advice, the comfort, the

criticism, the warnings, the encouragement, the promises, the hope, and the love the Bible holds, then as we go about our daily lives, we are more likely to encounter God's presence.

This happens because the Word has opened our perception in such a way that we are more aware of God in our world and in our lives. One of my trusted Bible teachers used to say "The Word works but you have to work the Word"

What he meant by "working" the Word is taking the time to read it well. I know it is trustworthy advice; it has worked in my life.

That reminds me of the fishing advice I have gotten recently. I know my friends will tell me I sure won't catch any fish writing this article. Fishing takes work as well. It is time to pack the sled and get back on the ice. This time maybe I will "encounter" a keeper.

But I know when I open the Word, the Word works and there is no maybe to the guarantee of being encountered by God.

Each month a member of the Cook County Ministerium will offer *Spiritual Reflections*. For February, our contributor is Reverend Mark Ditmanson of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Grand Marais.

Look who's 50!



Happy Birthday on the 5th!
We love you! Lynn, Emily & Ahna

February 15
6:00-10:00 PM

North House Folk School

Potluck, music and dancing

Our community giving for Haitian relief.

Live Music By:

- Bump Blomberg
- Eric Frost
- Pincushion Warblers
- Cascade Mountain Syrup Lickers
- Timmy Haus
- ...and more!

All are welcome - Bring a dish to share and money for freewill offering.

Semi-formal - in other words, dig out that mother of the bride, bridesmaid, flower girl, Halloween costum, or prom dress; that tux you don't get to wear much in Cook County! Mukluks are also welcome....

COOK COUNTY STYLE!!!

HOPE FOR HAITI



Sponsored by the Spirit of the Wilderness Episcopal Church

Bethlehem to host women's retreat Feb. 20

Staff reports

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women will host an ecumenical retreat for all Christian women on the North Shore on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the North House Folk School in Grand Marais.

The keynote speaker and retreat leader is Dr. Sarah Henrich, professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. She grew up in Pennsylvania and attended Muhlenberg College and Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia before receiving her doctorate at Yale. Henrich then taught at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Henrich will help participants discover

and cultivate the virtue of boldness within themselves through an interactive presentation. Women of all denominations are invited to join, so that they may share their boldness with their respective congregations.

Other presenters will be Pastor Kris Garey from Trinity Lutheran in Hovland; Janet Ditmanson, wife of Rev. Mark Ditmanson, who will show a slide presentation of their sabbatical trip in Europe following the route of St. Paul in his epistles; and Kim Carlsted-Gillis will lead songs.

Lunch will be catered by the Crooked Spoon Restaurant. The retreat cost is \$15 per person and reservations must be made by Feb. 13. Call Cathi Williams at 387-1162 or Gwen Lenz at 387-9860 for more infor-



Dr. Sarah Henrich

A CELEBRATION!!!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
AT THE COLVILL TOWN HALL

Please join the Thompson family, as they celebrate the Life and Memories of Arvis's beloved mother, Doris Zwieg.



IN NANA'S HONOR, we will be hosting a smorgasbord of foods starting around 5:00 p.m. with a short memorial of stories and such.

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE into the night with Rod 'n Real!

Come and "TOAST" One of the "COOLEST" Grandmas EVER!!

New Arrivals

April LaJesse and David Novitsky announce the birth of a son, **Tyler David LaJesse-Novitsky** at 1:48 p.m. Oct. 3, 2009 at the Cook County North Shore Hospital in Grand Marais. Tyler weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Tyler's grandparents are (Oma) Inge Teschke, and Rosie and Rick Novitsky. He joins big sisters Shaelynn, Lilly and Miss Eva.

Waves of Hope Healing Rooms

Lisa Bloomquist and Ministry Team

They will lay hands on the sick and they will recover
Mark 16:18

Open Mondays 6:00 - 7:30 for personal prayer

1818 West Hwy 61, Cabin #2 - Grand Marais
218-387-9099 · wavesofhope@gmail.com
WavesOfHope.com

Church Services Schedule

BETHEHEM LUTHERAN (ELCA)
1st Ave. W. & 5th St., Grand Marais • 387-2227
Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
Wednesday Service: 6:30 p.m.
Rev. Mark Ditmanson, Youth Director Jamie Ryan

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1 Cedar Grove Lane, Grand Marais • 387-2090
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
6:30 p.m. Service every Sunday
Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Family Bible Institute
Pastor Dale C. McIntire

SPIRIT OF THE WILDERNESS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Maple Hill Church on Co. Rd. 54
(218) 387-2590 or (218) 663-7702
Services - 10:30 a.m. Sundays
The Rev. Dr. Mary Ellen Ashcroft, Mentor
www.spiritofthewilderness.org

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
2nd Ave. E. & 5th St. Grand Marais
387-1565 or 387-1470
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service—Nursery Available
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Prayer & Bible Study
Pastor Dave Harvey

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (a Just Peace Church)
300 W. 2nd St., Grand Marais • 387-2113
10:30 a.m. Worship
Holy Eucharist 1st Sunday of each month
U.C.C. Sunday gathering 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Pastor Peter Monkres

HOLY ROSARY - CATHOLIC CHURCH
Grand Portage • 387-1409
MASS SCHEDULE: Sunday Noon
Father Seamus Walsh

LIFE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
a mission of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Cook County Community Center
For info: (218) 663-7700
9 a.m. Sunday Worship
All guests are welcome
Pastor Dennis Schutte

LUTSEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN (ELCA)
Hwy. 61, Lutsen • 663-7494 · lutchurch@boreal.org
9 a.m. Sunday Worship
Sharing the story of God's love for all people
Tom Murray, Lay Minister of Word and Sacrament

MOUNT ROSE COMMUNITY CHURCH
New Life Church Ministry
Grand Portage • 475-2311
Sunday: 10 a.m. Service Time
Teaching Elders with Youth Pastor Jacob McCormick

ST. JOHN'S - CATHOLIC CHURCH
10 E. 5th St., Grand Marais • 387-1409
MASS SCHEDULE:
Weekday Mass: 8:15 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4-4:30 p.m. or by appointment
Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m.
Father Seamus Walsh

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
Grand Marais • 387-1193
Meets at the 1st Congregational Church in Grand Marais
Saturday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN (E. CA)
4757 E. Hwy. 61, Hovland, 55606 • 475-2439
trinity@borea.org www.TrinityLutheranOfHovland.org
Worship with us Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship at 9:30 a.m.
Pastor Kristin Garey
Everyone is welcome to join us!



ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
Highway 61, Tofte - 663-7925
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School
Traditional Worship 1st & 4th Sundays
Contemporary Worship 2nd & 3rd Sundays
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Pastor Deborah Lunde

Jaynes Dept. Store and Ben Franklin Store
Phone (218) 387-2233
205 Wisconsin St.
Grand Marais, MN 55604

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