

# INFO CENTRAL

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

Nov. 24, 2009

## SENIOR PASTOR INFO

This week we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day with a great time of eating a meal together with family and friends. For many people the focus of the day will be on the food. But, of course, we all know that the Lord and His goodness ought to be the focus of the Day of Thanksgiving. I was reading about the Peace Offering in the book of Leviticus this morning. The Peace Offering was the third of five offerings prescribed for the Old Testament Saint of God; the Burnt Offering (Lev. 1:1-17); the Grain Offering (Lev. 2:1-16); the Peace Offering (Lev. 3:1-17); the Sin Offering (Lev. 4:1-5:13) and the Trespass Offering (Lev. 5:14-6:7). The Peace Offering was a voluntary offering signifying that the Worshipper was presenting this offering as an expression of his own desire to enjoy close and happy (peaceful) fellowship with his Holy God. The Peace Offering was the only one of the offerings in which the Old Testament worshipper actually ate part of the offering (Lev. 7:15). And the Peace Offering was an offering shared with the Priest who officiated at the offering and his family as well. The Peace Offering was most frequently offered as an occasion of THANKSGIVING for blessings already bestowed (Ps. 56:12-13; 107:22; 116,16-17; Jeremiah 33:11). And, the Peace Offering was the only offering that was eaten entirely on the day of the sacrifice (Lev. 7:15 - no leftovers were allowed). While I have no historical record to verify this, I suspect that this was the background against which the Pilgrims established that first Thanksgiving Day meal. All I am saying here is that in the Old Testament sacrificial system, Yahweh provided a special way and means by which anyone could spend a whole day celebrating the goodness and grace of God by voluntarily bringing an offering to the Lord and then enjoying a huge meal together with his family and friends and the priest and his family. It was a day to acknowledge and to celebrate the wonderful goodness of God. But, central to the whole process was the goodness of Yahweh. The prescriptions of the Law required that the Old Testament Worshipper didn't let the meal and other things become the central point of the day. But instead, Yahweh and His Grace and Good Gifts remained the central focus of the day. May I encourage you to do the same. Plan for it. Perhaps (I know this will sound very strange) even read a bit of the book of Leviticus before your meal to remind everyone of the goodness of God. But certainly, there are plenty of Psalms that could be read aloud; even responsively by everyone present, in order to keep our great and awesome God and His goodness at the very forefront of our celebration on this Thanksgiving Day. May the Lord bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you and your family this week. I do look forward to worshipping, fellowshiping and studying God's Word together with you this Sunday.

Maranatha,

Pastor Terry Kern <><

*"Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever."*

*Psalms 106:1*

## CELEBRATE THE LIFE (CTL) AUDITIONS

We will be having auditions for the CTL drama on November 29 and December 6 at 4:00 p.m. If you are interested in any of the many roles and you have not tried out before, please come to one of these two dates and try out for that part. If you are interested in the same role you had before, please let us know. For a list of the parts available, please go to the CTL stand near the Worship Center entrance and pick up the list. Also, for all you singers out there, start warming up those vocal chords and come to the auditions to try out for solos, duets, or small group.

## FEFC'S GOT TALENT

All FEFCer's are invited to attend and/or participate! Sign-up for a spot in the talent show - don't be shy!!! Share your talent (only 10-12 spots) sign up at the Information Center. Content needs to be approved by Barb or Pastor Kevin. So join the Christmas party on December 2, 2009, at 6:30 pm here at FEFC. Bring a favorite Christmas goody to share. If you have any questions contact Barb at [barb@firstefree.com](mailto:barb@firstefree.com) or call 223-3330.

## CREATION SEMINAR "IN THE BEGINNING"

Recent fossil discoveries and the scientific and religious implications. Geologic evidence of ancient life suddenly appearing has been the focus of philosophical debates for many years. How does this evidence fit in with a literal interpretation of scripture? Joseph A. Martinetti, MS, will be giving the presentation. Join us for this free seminar Saturday, December 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

## SNOW CAMP SOUP COOK-OFF

Bring your favorite soup and see who wins "best soup" in the taste contest or just come and support your youth. The soup cook-off will be December 6 at noon in the Community Room. The funds will be used to help lower the cost for students who attend the January 15 - 17, 2010, Snow Camp at Cooperstown Bible Camp. Contact Nell McPhillips for details.

*"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever."*

*Psalms 107:1*

## THANK YOU'S

Thank you to all of you who gave so generously to the 5th-6th grade bake sale. With the money that was donated, we were able to fill 20 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Please be praying for the children that will be receiving shoeboxes. *Scott, Cindy, Chuck, Linnet and all the 5th and 6th grade kids.*

A BIG thank you to the families that cooked, cut-up and got the turkeys to church early. A BIG thank you also to those that pitched in and helped before the service, those that left the service early to get the food out and helped during the meal, and those that stayed and helped clean-up. The meal wouldn't come together if there wasn't a lot of helping hands. Thank so much for your help. *Sharon Curtiss*

