

**From Pastor Riddering:**

From Pastor Wayne: I pray that all is well with you, your families and your ministries.

I am writing to provide you with an update on an important part of our new vision for ministry here in Costa Rica and what God is already doing to make it happen.

If you recall, we are pursuing a community center that we are calling "Centro de Vida" (Life Center in English). We have been able to negotiate a deal with the owner of the complex where our church is located, and he has agreed to rent us an equivalent space next door to our church for only \$300 per month. We feel that this is a confirmation from the Lord that we are on the right track. First, because these spaces have rented for considerably more than that in the past, and second, because it is an open space right next door to the church.

In other words, the church and the Life Center share a common wall and the owner even agreed to allow us to put a connecting door in the wall if we elect to do so. As a result, we have paid the first month's rent and we have a clean-up day scheduled for our church body on this coming Saturday to clean and prep the space for paint. We will be painting soon, Lord willing. We believe that we will be able to cover the rent and utilities on the space through our local church body.

We are also purchasing a movie projector with church funds to do the regular movie nights for the community in the center. However, that is the limit of church resources that are available to the center at this time outside of our regular operating expenses for the church itself.

As a result, some of you have suggested that we develop a list of individuals and churches where we can share our vision and specific needs and provide cost estimates. We are currently working on a more comprehensive list with several of our members who have connections in the US and Canada, as well as the personal list that Julie and I have of prayer and financial supporters of our mission.

In that spirit, we submit the following for your consideration. We have done some research and put together cost estimates for the various aspects of the community center project. For example, we have plans to put in a game room that will include two foosball tables, a ping pong table, and two video game units with games and TV's. This would require seating for the video game area as well. We have commercial pricing on the foosball and ping pong and regular store pricing on the other items and the costs come to \$3,500 for the game room. Ironically, the cost

estimate is about the same for the computer lab. To install a wall desk bank with seating and 6-8 laptops (the lab must be mobile), it will cost approximately \$3,200. This would be a great beginning for the game room and provide all that we would need for quite some time in the computer lab.

Finally, we expect that the AC will cost around \$600 installed and the paint, registration desk and other minor set-up items will cost an additional \$400. Game room \$3,500; Computer Lab \$3,000; Air Conditioning \$ 600; Paint, Registration Desk, & misc. set up costs \$ 400; TOTAL \$7,500.

The bottom line is that we have the building, but now we need to fill it. So, we are asking for your prayerful consideration of how you might help us financially to see this ministry vision realized. This community center will be a place of refuge and recreation for the kids that are in our streets. Also, we will be providing a number of services through the center that will connect kids, youth and adults with our church body and allow us to develop relationships with individuals and families that might not otherwise enter the doors of our church.

We believe that the relationships that are developed through the ministry of this center will open new doors for evangelism, discipleship and community transformation. This is a great vision for our area and our church is buzzing with excitement over what we believe God is going to do through this ministry and our church.

If you have any questions or comments, we welcome your feedback. You can call a US number in North Carolina that will ring at our home in CR - (910) 338-3553. We can provide more specific information if you should require it as well. Other than that, please think and pray about your personal involvement in this ministry or including this project in your church's missions program.

As a Pastor myself, I am convinced that this project is one that a church can get excited about and rally around and, yes, even come and participate in. We look forward to partnering with you in this ministry as the Lord leads. God bless you and your ministries for the glory of God!

Sincerely, Payton McKeithan Iglesia de la Costa Uvita de Osa, Costa Rica US Phone (910) 338-3553 CR Phone (506) 2787-0562

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**MINUTES from CHURCH COUNCIL**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Wallestad reviewed the pastoral call process.

A letter received from Pastor Kevin Froelich dated 3 November 2011 was reviewed. Pastor Froelich advised us that due to a medical issue he needed to move to a lower altitude. However, he stated, "I will gladly remain as your vacancy pastor until I receive a call elsewhere or until you install a new pastor whichever comes first."

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** We are on track with our budget.

**ELDER'S REPORT:** There will be a Christmas eve service at 5:30 pm on 24 December and there will be a New Year's eve service at 7:00 pm on 31 December.

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT:** The Voters at the October Voters' Assembly meeting authorized the trustees to spend up to \$9,000.00 for landscaping around Lange Memorial Fellowship Hall. A contract for landscaping has been signed. Most of the work will need to be deferred until spring.

**EVANGELISM REPORT:** There will be a Sunday school program in the church basement at 9:00 am on Sunday December 11th .

**SAFETY BOARD REPORT:** A meeting was held this afternoon. The Safety Board commends the Trustee Board for their diligent work in addressing safety issues. There will be an annual safety inspection and review done by the board in January 2012.

**FACILITIES MANAGER REPORT:** The event calendar for the fellowship hall is up to date. Reminder; events should not be placed on the calendar until approved by the Facility Manager.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. 2012 Nominations; We have candidates for all officers and board members. Pam and Jeff Holmberg have volunteered to take over the newsletter in January 2012. We still have a need for Sunday School teachers and a music director.

2. Music Director: Gwyn Miller, Pam Holmberg and Penny Button will fill in through January 2012. Russ Ware is committed to a church in Colorado Springs through the end of January 2012. Russ's status after January is unknown. There have been three nonmember names submitted as possible music directors. None of these persons have been contacted as yet. The council voted to recommend to the Stewardship Board to increase the line item for music to what it was in 2011.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. "Grass-Roots" Participation, a flyer from District on "Grassroots' participation by congregations was reviewed. No action taken. It was the councils feeling that with the pastoral call process we have enough on our plate at the present time.

2. Insurance policy renewal. President Wallestad met with our insurance agent to review our church insurance policies this afternoon. All policies have been renewed as of 1 November 2011. The invoice for these policies was presented to our treasurer for payment.

3. Voters' Assembly meeting December 18th , will be limited to approval of the 2012 budget and election of the 2012 slate of officers and board members. Voters' Assembly meeting 22 January 2012, pastoral candidates will be presented to the Voters for a vote on who to call as Pastor of Hope Lutheran.

4. An ad hoc committee to develop a compensation package for a new pastor was formed by President Wallestad. Dave Custer, Don Kaufman and Larry Luikart volunteered to serve on this committee. The committee will formulate a compensation package to be presented to the Voters at the January 2012 Voters' meeting

Jon Wallestad, President

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**EVANGELISM BOARD:**

We will have a program for the Sunday School kids in the Church basement on December 11 at 9.am. The program is follow the star.

Passed out some Christian tracks, placed the Advent tracks in the church mail box.

A time of Reflection: Can you be an Angel and over look prejudices?

Prayer: You judge because you have right to remind me Lord, not to judge because I'm worthy. Gospel Matthew 1: 6- 18-24

With God everything is possible , Go with God in prayer.

Merry Christmas to all , and a blessed New year.

Evangelism Board

Linda Kaufman, Carmela Searight

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**PRISCILLA CLUB:**

Next Meeting: December 8  
Where: Lange Memorial Hall  
Hostess: Lori Schepmann  
Business: Goody bags for shut-ins  
Bring 3 dozen cookies for shut-in bags and for exchange.

Do you feel tired and up to your knees?

The Priscilla Club is here to please!

We would love to lend a hand with these:

Gift wrapping, errands, shopping, baking,

Cleaning, babysitting, decorating trees—

We'll come in twos and threes.

Call the church office, 783-9773,

And leave a message with ease.

The offer expires December 31, 2011—

We'll make this season a breeze!



**The following was written by Ben Stein**

**My confession:**

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees, Christmas trees... I don't feel threatened.. I don't feel discriminated against.. That's what they are, Christmas trees.

It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, 'Merry Christmas' to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu . If people want a crèche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering

where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

In light of recent events... terrorists attack, school shootings, etc.. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about.. And we said okay..

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with 'WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.'

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

Are you laughing yet?

Funny how when you forward this message, you will not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it.

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.



**Happy Birthday**

- 04 Kellie Aldrich
- 05 Wendy Rusk
- 05 Trent Nelson
- 07 Chad Lewenkamp
- 08 Tyler Perkins
- 10 Melissa Smerchek
- 10 Harald Frank
- 10 Jeff Holmberg
- 14 Amanda Ware
- 17 Zach Marron
- 19 Marni Sayhouse
- 19 John Comerford
- 21 Mick Kastendieck
- 21 Katie Schepmann
- 22 Milla Leu Vickerman
- 23 Cari Comerford
- 23 Larry Siemiet
- 23 Perna Stafford
- 24 Editha Unrein
- 24 Brittany Gust
- 25 Carol Wallestad
- 28 Charlene Bradford
- 29 Abe Riddering
- 30 Grace Bosse

**Happy Anniversary!**

- 12/17/1986 Tom & Pat Schulze
- 12/19 George & Betty Elkins
- 12/22/1989 John & Jeanene Comerford
- 12/28/1965 Les & Barbara Knight
- 12/31/1995 Lenny & Barb Hawks
- 12/31/2009 Ken & Denise Custer

**Lector Schedule:**

- 04 Jon Wallestad
- 11 Gwynethe Miller
- 18 Larry Luikart
- 24 Cathy Wacker (Christmas Eve)
- 25 Doug Tyler
- 31 Lisa Frank (New Year's Eve)

**Ushers:**

- 04 Dan & Lori Fox
- 11 Dale & Gertie Falske
- 18 Chuck & Phyllis Kastendieck
- 24 Chuck & Sue Poehlein (Christmas Eve)
- 25 Bob & Carol Mallett
- 31 Chuck & Sue Poehlein (New Years' Eve)

**Acolytes:**

- 04 Katie & Wyatt
- 11 Marshall & Ian
- 18 Katie & Grace
- 24 Hunter & Marshall (Christmas Eve)
- 25 Sara & Emma



**Announcements:**

The church calendar is in the kitchen downstairs. If you have an event scheduled, please put it on the calendar to avoid conflicting with other activities. Thank you!!!

The Church Newsletter is posted on the Hope Lutheran Church web site. If you don't have internet and would like to receive the newsletter by mail, please call your elder.

Pam & Jeff Holmberg will take over as editors of the monthly newsletter beginning January 2012. Please route all newsletter items to [pamholmberg@hotmail.com](mailto:pamholmberg@hotmail.com)

The members of St. John Lutheran Church at Cañon City, Colorado cordially invite you to celebrate the installation of Pastor Daniel Kletke as pastor. The installation service will be at 3:00 PM on Sunday, December 18, 2011. President Golter will be the speaker. A reception following the installation service will be held at the **Abbey Event Center** located at 2951 E US Highway 50 from 4:30 until 6:00 PM. Please RSVP your attendance to Steve Felton, 719-315-2852, [stjoyfelton@yahoo.com](mailto:stjoyfelton@yahoo.com) or Gordon Gross, 719-315-2870, [grossgordy@hotmail.com](mailto:grossgordy@hotmail.com) by 5:00 PM on Sunday, December 11, 2011.

**Holy Humor**

*A father was approached by his small son, who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" "I do know," the son replied. "Okay," the father said. "What does it mean?" "That's easy, Dad," the son replied. "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"*