

“FREEMOUNT VISITOR”



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FEBRUARY 2016

ISSUE #1 FOR 2016

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday, February 10th service will be at Elim, Marquette at 7:00 PM

“Pilate’s Investigation: Who Is This Jesus?”

Sunday, February 14 at Freemount, 7:00 PM

Sunday, February 21 at Freemount, 7:00 PM

Sunday, February 28 at Freemount, 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 13 at Freemount, 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 20 at Freemount, 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday, March 24 at Freemount, 7:00 PM
Holy Communion/Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, March 25 at Freemount with Elim’s Pastor Strasen preaches at 7:00 PM

From Pastor Berggren

Pastor Gerald Berggren March, April, May newsletter 2016

"Common sense" used to be a common, well accepted idea. No longer. What used to be known as "common sense" should now be referred to as "invaluable" or "priceless sense." An example of no common sense: Some communities around the country are changing the rules regarding public restrooms. According to one report, a YMCA in Washington state allows people to use whatever locker room they self-identify with. A 13-year-old boy recently walked into the women's locker room and sat down to scroll through his phone. Let your imagination wander about the possibilities. Common sense tells us that rules like this will not change the reality that men and women are different and that they view each other differently. If the conditions are right, there will be reactions because of those differences. Consequently, much of the interaction between the two sexes need to be very subdued at times. What we are witnessing now is the complete abandonment of "common sense." Additionally, it shows a willful disregard for Judeo-Christian morals, the morals shared with us in the Bible.

Ted Cruz says that his father, who is a pastor, is traveling the country speaking about the Declaration of Independence. He says that the grievances against England found within it had been preached in the pulpits for decades before that, and it set the stage for a transformation, a sort of Great Awakening. He says that we need another Great Awakening. We certainly pray that God will use His Holy Spirit to go out and awaken us. But He gave us gifts to help contribute to that awakening.

One of these gifts is the free choice to vote. We should do our utmost to spend some time analyzing the Christians running for office and vote based upon our Judeo-Christian values, for our country is running away from those Constitutional precepts upon which it was founded.

When General George Washington asked Lutheran pastor, John Peter Muhlenberg, to round up some volunteers to fight in the American revolution, he agreed. Before marching off to join Washington's army, he delivered a sermon from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, and he concluded with these words: "The Bible tells us there is a time for all things and there is a time to preach and a time to pray, but the time for me to preach has passed away, and there is a time to fight, and that time has come now."

The time has come for Christians to become more assertive in determining who America's leaders should be. I have heard the exhortation, "Stand up and vote our values and principles." We need to resist tyranny and defend against those forces in our own country that seek to tear down our common-sense, Christian-based founding principles.

Pastor's activities:

- Attended Christmas Artist's Open House at Bison Beads in December
- Attended "movie day" at the Waage home
- Several meetings to prepare for Youth Sunday school
- Wrote "Pastor's Corner" for News-Record
- Conducted Communion service at Riverview Estates in February
- Attended funerals of relatives and Dr. Roger Thorstenberg
- Attended basketball games at the high school
- Currently planning for upcoming special services
- By-laws committee meeting
- Great Plains District (NALC) meeting at Riverside, MO
- Marquette Ministerial Alliance meetings with Pastor Strasen to plan Lent
- Annual meeting and preparation
- Attended Mayor's Prayer Breakfast (along with Brenda and Vins)
- Lent service preparation for Freemount and securing readers, lector, etc.
- Gideon's Pastor Appreciation Banquet
- Much hospital visitation and regular visitation

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

On December 6th, Tom Stapleton with Gideons International gave a talk about their amazing work to spread God's Word to the whole world. An offering was collected to support the Gideons.

December 13th marked our Christmas Candlelight service in the Old Stone Church. A soup supper was enjoyed by many Freemount friends and family. Pastor Harrison helped with the worship service and the music was provided by Ingrid Harrison and Betty Amos, and Duane Patrick and Darell Naegele. Offerings were given to Mt. Hope Sanctuary in McPherson.

On Christmas Day, Julotta was held in the Old Stone Church to celebrate Jesus' birth. Again, Pastor Harrison helped with this service and music was provided by Ingrid Harrison, Betty Amos and Darell Naegele. The offering was collected for Mt. Hope Sanctuary.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

January 17th, David and Rebekah Waage and family graciously hosted a 'movie day' and invited church members to come enjoy snacks and watch the movie, "Luther". Thank you Waages!



ANNUAL

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Freemount Annual meeting was held on January 31st. The regular business was held with NALC constitution amendment approval. The bylaws were accepted by the congregation and the budget surplus recommendation was approved.

Elected for a three year term to Church Council were:

Richard Odell

Leon Peterson

Kent Rawson

Elected for a three year term to the Nominating Committee:

Shirley Robinson

Elected for a three year term to the Auditing Committee:

Logan Spohn

Elected for a three year term to the Cemetery Committee:

Alan James

After Advent and Christmas, we then observed the Epiphany season. Epiphany is 12 days after Christmas and it is when we commemorate the wise Men finding Jesus, the Christ Child, presenting Him with their gifts and bowing down in awe and reverence to worship Him. This day is known as the time when Jesus was revealed to the world, and is the Savior of all the world. Advent wreath was turned into an Epiphany wreath—with red, yellow, black and white candles, signifying that Jesus was born for all people.

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Lent began with Ash Wednesday joint service with Elim at Elim with Pastor Berggren preaching on February 10th. Lent services will continue on each Sunday evening at 7:00 PM at Freemount., using “Pilate’s Investigation: Who Is This Jesus?”. This year during the services, we are having dramatic readings centered around those who were in Jesus’ life in his last days on earth. It involves Pilate and the conversations he has with Caiaphas, Herod, Antipas, Percula his wife, Judas, and Peter. Through each of these conversations, we see how human sinfulness can cause spiritual blindness. Come join us as we journey to the cross, reflect on our sinfulness, and prepare for Jesus’ death and resurrection.



Council/Officer Installation was held on Sunday, February 28th.

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

World Day of Prayer service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Lindsborg on Friday, March 4th at 2:00 PM

The Friendly Freemount 4-H Appreciation Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 6th at 5:00 PM in the church basement.

Lutheran Church Women will be meet on March 16th at 7:00 PM. Hostess will Shirley Robinson and Nancy Rawson will lead the Bible Study.

Lenten services will continue on Sunday evenings, except for March 6th, at Freemount at 7:00 PM with Palm Sunday on March 20th and Maundy Thursday service to be held at Freemount on March 24th. We will celebrate Holy Communion and the stripping of the Altar. Maundy comes from the word, “mandate”, which is a commandment by Jesus for us to love one another as He loves us. The Holy Communion symbolized the Last Supper that Jesus had with His disciples, and the complete sacrificial love He has for us.



The Good Friday service will be joint with Elim at Freemount on March 25th with Pastor Strasen preaching. Good Friday is the day when we solemnly reflect on Jesus’ death on the cross, and the powerful manifestations of this sacrificial act: He bore our sins and He died in our place. The offering collected at Ash Wednesday and Good Friday will be given to the Marquette Ministerial Alliance.

Easter Holy Communion will be held on March 27th with LCW providing a program before worship at 9:30 AM and Odell's providing Easter brunch.

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

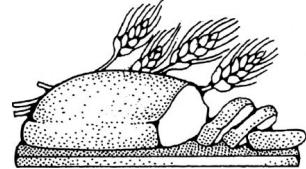
Our monthly potluck will be held on April 17th after worship.

LCW will host the annual Mother, Daughter, Friend Salad Supper on April 20th. The committee for this year's event is: Phyllis Odell, Brenda Berggren, Mary Anne Almquist and Nancy Rawson. Darlene Patrick will provide the wonderful decorations.

Good Shepherd Sunday, April 24, is when we commemorate Jesus as our Good Shepherd, who tends to us, His sheep. We often stray, lose our direction, and become entangled in confusion or predicaments, but Jesus lovingly searches for us and brings us back to His flock. This Sunday also reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb, who bled and died to take away our sins. Typically, the 23rd Psalm is read on Good Shepherd Sunday.

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

"Blessing of the Fields" Sunday, May 1: On this day we bless the seeds, soil, water, sunshine, rains and all that God provides for us to plant, grow and harvest crops. We also seek God's protection and guidance throughout the year as we till the land and produce food for the world.



Smoky Valley High School Baccalaureate will on Wednesday, May 4th at Bethany Lutheran Church and their Graduation ceremony will be Saturday, May 7th at Presser Hall, Bethany College.

Pentecost is Sunday, May 15: It is celebrated 50 days after Easter, and is the time when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and other followers of Jesus as told in Acts 2:1-31, where the Holy Spirit came to rest upon the heads of the people. We also call this the birth of the Church.

LCW will have their annual election of officers on May 18th at 7:00 PM. Hostess for the evening will be Verna James and Marilyn Spohn will lead the Bible Study.

Trinity Sunday, May 22: This occurs on the first Sunday after Pentecost. On Trinity Sunday, we celebrate the three persons of God—the Triune God, that is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Three-in-one and One-in-three. Typically, the Athanasian Creed is used, which goes into great detail to explain our belief in the Triune God.

The Freemount annual Memorial Day dinner will be held on Monday, May 30th beginning at 11:00 AM. Committee: Marilyn Spohn, Darlene Patrick and Nancy Rawson. Be sure to watch the bulletin and the next newsletter for details on this event.



Please bring food items for the McPherson County Food Bank during the months of May and June. You may put them in the green box that will be in the entrance to the church. Thanks for your generosity!

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

Looking ahead to June: Our worship service will change to 9:00 AM on June 5th. Again, watch the bulletin and next newsletter for more specifics.

On Sunday, June 12: Freemount's 147th Birthday! Watch for details!

CHURCH NEWS



design by SIMPLE SALLY

We are thankful for all those in our congregation who offer music during worship. We are blessed to have Darell Naegle, who faithfully plays the organ and piano. We have had others share with us during worship: Ingrid Harrison, Duane Patrick, and Betty Amos, as well as two young men—J.T. and Zach Gross have blessed us several times by singing during worship, and by J.T. offering special music on his violin.

The acolyte duties continue to be shared by Owen Odell and Vins Berggren.

Ushers and Communion Assistants continue to be coordinated by Ron and Phyllis Odell. Thank you to those who volunteer to serve our congregation in this way!

Confirmation class was held each Sunday morning at 8:15 AM. Our confirmation student, Owen Odell, has now completed his study of the Old and New Testament, and The Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, The Sacraments, The Apostles' Creed, in addition to some memory work. He is working on his Faith Statement, which is scheduled to be reviewed by the council at their February meeting. Following affirmation by the council, we plan to have Owen's confirmation on Palm Sunday, March 20. There will be a reception for Owen at 9:30 AM, followed by his Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) during the 10:30 AM worship service.

Adult Sunday school meets every Sunday at 9:30 AM. So far this year, we have seen a video of Charlotte Church in Holy Land, which was very fitting for the Christmas season; a video presentation by Dr. R.C. Sproul called, "The Lunacy of Luther"; and a video series by Dr. R.C. Sproul called, "The Holiness of God". We welcome everyone to this class, for a time of fellowship, discussion and ... coffee!

Youth Sunday school class is currently joining the adult class and are enjoying the video presentations and discussions.

FOUNDATION NEWS

January meeting was rescheduled for February 23 due to ice and snowstorm. Second quarter meeting is April 19 at 4:00 PM in McPherson.

MEMBER NEWS

Long time member of Freemount, Robert Thackery, died on Monday, November 9, 2015, at Salina Presbyterian Manor. He is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Anita; three daughters, Melinda, Laurie and Jennifer.



Graduates:

Owen Odell, son of Richard Odell and Jill Odell—LMS 8th grade

Vins Berggren, son of Pastor Gerald and Brenda Berggren—Smoky Valley High School (He is still deciding where he will go to college in the fall)

Keaghan Patrick, son of Kevin and Zoey Patrick—Ell-Saline High School (He is undecided as to his college plans)

Nels Berggren, son of Pastor Gerald and Brenda Berggren—Kansas State University, Milling Science (He will be shift manager at Iowa Corn Processors, Glidden)

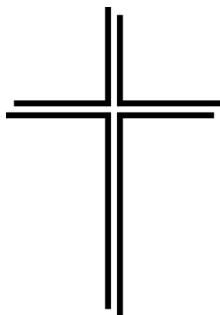
PROPERTY NEWS

The council voted to install two safety devices on the church boiler system that were recommended by the company who does our maintenance. These items are usually required by insurance companies but have never been put on our boiler.

One of the chairs in the altar area will be having the cushion springs repaired.

LCW

- Thanks to the women who provided gingersnaps for Hyllningsfest!
- Thanks to the women also who provided cookies for the Bethany Home Christmas Party!
- December—Christmas basket was delivered to our shut-in, Gary Forsberg
- New Giving Venture #1: Blessing Bottle/Thanks Box. All women are asked to find a coin bank or empty water bottle and drop in some coins every time they are thankful for something. We will do this all year, then bring our filled banks to the Thankoffering Service in November. This helps us focus on how blessed we are, and it will ultimately bless others, when we send these offerings out to the world!
- New Giving Venture #2: Jingle Offering! We will dig out those metal loaf pans, and for one Sunday each quarter, we will pass these pans around (in addition to our regular offering plates). Everyone is invited to fill these pans with their loose, “jingly and noisy” change. The LCW will then vote on places to send these gifts.
- Upcoming meetings, at church: March 16, 7:00 PM, Hostess—Shirley Robinson, Lesson #7 Bible Study leader, Nancy Rawson
 April 20, 6:30 PM, Mother/Daughter/Friend Salad Supper. Our speaker will be Belen Olson. Her special presentation will be “Love Thy Neighbor”. All women are invited and encouraged to come, and bring lots of guests and a salad or two to share!
 May 18, 7:00 PM, Hostess—Verna James, Lesson #8 Bible Study leader, Marilyn Spohn. Officer election.



The Cross

By Max Lucado

Can you turn any direction without seeing one? Perched atop a chapel. Carved into a graveyard headstone. Engraved in a ring or suspended on a chain. The cross is the universal symbol of Christianity. An odd choice, don't you think? Strange that a tool of torture would come to embody a movement of hope. The symbols of other faiths are more upbeat: the six-pointed star of David, the crescent moon of Islam, a lotus blossom for Buddhism. Yet a cross for Christianity? An instrument of execution?

Would you wear a tiny electric chair around your neck? Suspend a gold-plated hangman's noose on the wall? Would you print a picture of a firing squad on a business card? Yet we do so with the cross. Many even make the sign of the cross as they pray. Would we make the sign of, say, a guillotine? Instead of the triangular touch on the forehead and shoulders, how about a karate chop on the palm? Doesn't quite have the same feel, does it?

Why is the cross the symbol of our faith? To find the answer look no farther than the cross itself. Its design couldn't be simpler. One beam horizontal—the other vertical. One reaches out—like God's love. The other reaches up—as does God's holiness. One represents the width of his love; the other reflects the height of his holiness. The cross is the intersection. The cross is where God forgave his children without lowering his standards.

How could he do this? In a sentence: God put our sin on his Son and punished it there.

“God put on him the wrong who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God” (2 Cor. 5:21 MSG).

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Freemount, Kansas

It is often said that a traveler always has something to tell. This at least concerns the trips one can make in Smoky Valley, Kansas, where the soil plowed by the pioneers is still farmed and harvested today. The prairie winds and the summer heat drive home the point that a Swede from Värmland is far from the province's blue foothills and glittering lakes, and that the inborn concept of what a valley is doesn't apply here. Smoky Valley and Kansas are dramatic in a different way. One can travel far without seeing anything but the horizon. The eye has to adjust to vast expanses of earth and sky, and the vault of heaven over Kansas is an overwhelming size!

The field of vision is unlimited, or as a pioneer in one of Robert E. Segerhammar's Lindsborg novels expresses it, "You don't have to look up to see the sky."

Admittedly we found that odd the first time we went to Freemount, and our friend, Amos Dahlsten, indicated the site of his childhood home with the words "on the hill over there." Was that a hill, a rise of the land? But since then we have learned that the broad dale from east to west that makes up Smoky Valley is in truth a valley, even though the land depression in the middle is nearly unnoticeable, aside from the river bed. Now even we speak of having been in the Valley...

The First Church Still Stands
Seven miles southwest of Lindsborg lies the town of Marquette, after one passes

Freemount, where the first church is still standing on its original site beside the present church. In the cemetery rest the great, great grandparents of today's inhabitants, and witness to the cold winds of war having reached this part of the world are the final resting places of 36 veterans. Two were from the Civil War, seventeen from WWI, fifteen from WWII, and two were from Vietnam.

The Freemount area of McPherson

County was earliest known as Smoky Hill, but was later named after General John C. Fremont who explored the area in the 1840's for a number of suitable sites for forts. Since he was regarded as a "political man," not an especially god-fearing one, the name was changed upon joining the Augustana Synod to the more biblical Free Mount. Freemount got its permanent (Swedish) settlers in 1868-69, when more than 200 people following Småland emigrant Anders Wilhelm Dahlsten (a member of the Galesburg Colonization Company, an agricultural corporation founded in Galesburg, Illinois) arrived at a settlement area of some 14,800 acres in southern Saline County and northwestern McPherson County.

Dahlsten, however, lived with his family in Salemsborg, which meant a 40 mile trip on horseback to Freemount, and for a time he served all three parishes with roots in the Galesburg company – Freemount (1869-73), Salemsborg (1869-88), and the newly founded daughter congregation in Assaria (1875-81).

Treasures

In the old church in Freemount, among the piously preserved treasures, there is a well-known picture of Olof Olsson, who also served the Freemount congregation from 1874-76, traveling from Lindsborg by horse and buggy. In that period membership grew from 321 to 412. But another Swede from Värmland was also active there, namely Olof Olsson's successor, Pastor Johan Seleen, ordained in the Augustana Synod in 1872 and in service from 1876-97 when he returned to Sweden.

The first church in Freemount, measuring 24 x 42 feet with a dirt floor, is the oldest preserved building of its kind in McPherson County. The first service was held on the third Sunday in May of 1870. The structure was made of brown sandstone, and the mortar was limestone fired at nearby Indian Creek.

The stonemasons were the only laborers who could be paid when the church was built. The church, taken into use before the roof was all done, has housed numerous activities besides the formally sacred rites. From the very start in Freemount, as in other Swedish-American pioneer congregations, Sunday school was held, but regular school was conducted in the church until 1875, when a schoolhouse was built.

The women's societies, youth organizations and an orchestra also found room in the church, and even political meetings were held. When a new church with a tall steeple was built in 1881, the old church was used as the fellowship hall. But when the new church was dev-



Anette Hedlund with the chancel rug at her studio

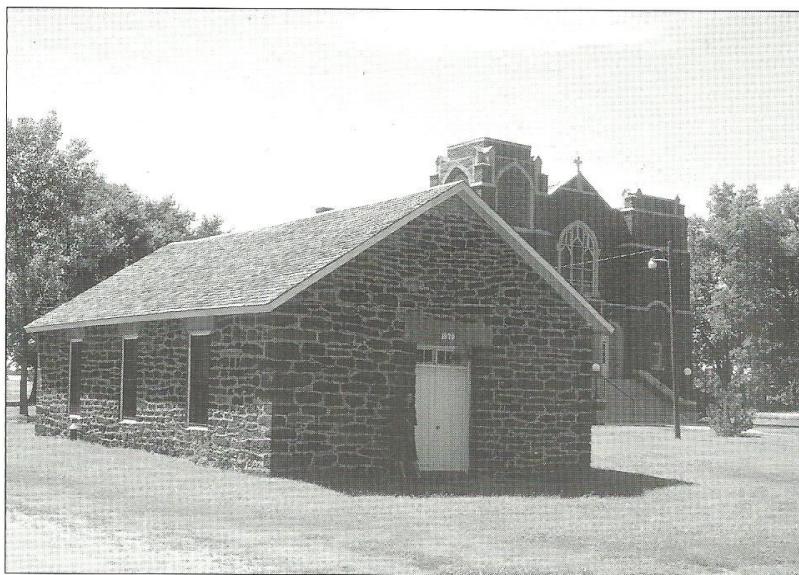
In Freemount in 1869, with A.W.Dahlsten as its pastor, the first Lutheran congregation was founded in Smoky Valley, chiefly by Swedes from Småland, but also from Dalarna, Östergötland and Skåne. In contrast to the group journeying all the way from Sweden, accompanying Dahlsten's classmate from Fjellsted School in Stockholm, Lindsborg's founder Olof Olsson, this group already had homesteading experience.

astated by lightning in 1926, the oldest edifice once again was used for worship services during the time it took to build the congregation's third building, the present day, red brick, American Gothic style church that was dedicated in 1927. In its basement wall, in remembrance of the past, an undamaged portion was mortared in, a one ton stone carrying the biblical inscription in Swedish that once was above the door of the church built in 1881.

After being used for a time for Bible school, Sunday school, and various meetings, the old church retired to be a storage facility for lawn mowers and garden tools until 1981 when restoration began. Sunday worship services are once again held there a few times a year, and now and then a bridal couple chooses to be married in Smoky Valley's one remaining pioneer church.

Not Only Kansas

That a church building no longer used for worship services could be used for quite other purposes can seem remarkable, but we don't need to reach the Kansas prairie to encounter similar practices. In Dal, Sweden, for instance, there are reports of the Gesäter Madonna being used to chop spruce branches used at funerals. The hardwood sculpture which has stood in Gesäter Church since the early 1200's and which today can be regarded as Dalsland's oldest and loveliest Madonna, was used for a time as a chopping block, hence the damage to her knees. In another instance the thirteenth century baptismal font in Rölanda stood under the pulpit as a wastebasket, and



The site of both the pioneer church and the present day, new church

during Karl XII's last war operation, the church in Ed was used as a warehouse.

More than one hundred years ago, when the church in Freemount was newly built, the Native Americans at times stood and looked in through the windows still without glass to observe the worship services the newcomers celebrated. That and much more Amos Dahlsten told us when in his company we left Lindsborg to go see other places. He has many memories tied to Freemount, where he and his family lived, farming the earth and planting trees, and where he once married Ada, upon whose information folder about Freemount much of this article is based. As he said, when we stood on the church

steps before returning to Lindsborg, "You know, I have so much to be grateful for."

Amos Dahlsten's great uncle was Pastor A.W. Dahlsten. It isn't unusual that people who live in or come from Smoky Valley have connections to historically significant names. On one occasion in Sunnemo when I met a visitor whose great uncle was Ernst Pihlblad, Bethany College's third president, I had a ready-made comment on that tendency that even she had such an ancestor. Still, I didn't have the last word when she replied, "Well, of course! And if we don't, we can always invent one!"

But Amos Dahlsten and his wife, Ada, don't need to do that.

Today, Freemount is served by retired Pastor Jim Harrison, who with his Swedish-speaking wife Ingrid, visited Värmland and Sunnemo Church in 2001. Ingrid graced the visit with flute solos, thereby giving the summer's meetings a musical finish (see *Bryggan/The Bridge* 4/2001), and it was under Jim's leadership that in December 2002 the present church observed its 75th anniversary in Freemount.

Swedish Terms

For the anniversary celebration the older textiles were brought out, but there was the question of what they were called in original Swedish. *Altarduk*, *altarbrun* and *antependium* were three of the words, but what is the Swedish word for the cloth that in the olden days was placed on the



The interior of the new church (photo: Jim Harrison)

► altar railing for communion services? The answer, *kommunionkläde*, or communion cloth, came from Stig Löwenspets, Vicar in Fryksände, Torsby.

The ties with Swedish origins remain alive here, as elsewhere in the USA, and in 2003 the pastor and congregation decided the pioneer church should have a new chancel rug, preferably from Sweden, with lovely colors based on Swedish weaving



Anette Hedlund

traditions and with symbolic ties to the sanctuary in Freemount with its history. Contacts were made, and the weaver Anette Hedlund in Rådom, outside Torsby, accepted the offer to weave the creation.

After having received prior acclaim for her sacred textiles at home in Sweden, she was, for the first time, to create something for Swedish America that would reflect the skill that pioneer women from Swedish provinces brought with them to Kansas.

Symbolic Colors

Against that background Anette designed a chancel rug to be woven with a special *röлakan* technique, using stripes of blue with mauve tones, red, green, yellow, white and black, each color with its symbolism, and with elements of Swedish birches, bordered by the stone walls of the Småland countryside.

It was a decoration appropriate for the future yet true to its origins, not only in the old, original sandstone building, but also in the new brick church of American Gothic style. As the outer walls were mortared, the chancel rug's *röлakan* technique (a peasant style weaving of Gobelin tapestry) pattern was based on rectangles.

Swedes and their descendants, ever since the emigration years, have in many ways adorned American sacred edifices. In that context Anette Hedlund's chancel rug in Freemount is included in the latest expression of an inherited need for sacred embellishment.

Text and photo:
Alf Brorson

NALC Contribution Statement 2/9/15 \$500



Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for your gift of \$500. Mosaic is grateful to be the recipient of your congregation's stewardship efforts.

Through our nearly 100 years of service, relationships with churches have been vital to our ministry's success. In addition to charitable gifts, we also appreciate your prayers for the success of our ministry and of the more than 3,800 individuals we serve in communities across the United States.

To learn more about what we are doing, please visit www.mosaicinfo.org. You can also find resources in the "About Us" section that can support your church's ministry to children.

Thank you again for your support. I pray your congregation receives blessings one-hundred fold.

Sincerely, Linda Timmons

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

As 2015 comes to a close, we thank God for the work he has done through Samaritan's Purse worldwide. From serving flood victims in South Carolina to ministering to the earthquake survivors in Nepal, our ministry has been fervently answering Jesus' call to "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37)

We are grateful for your generosity which allows us to carry out this important work in Jesus' Name. Not only are we helping those in need, we're spreading the Gospel to those who may have never had the opportunity to hear it before. As God's Word says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16 NKJV)

Thank you for your prayers and support. May God bless you.

Sincerely, Franklin Graham

Dear Caring Friends:

On behalf of everyone at Wounded Warrior Project, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your support in 2015. Your generosity is crucial to the successful recovery of the injured service members we assist in countless ways. I am extremely grateful for your kindness.

A breakdown of your charitable giving throughout 2015 is provided:

6/16/15 \$707.50

Thank you for all you do for our wounded heroes. Without your continued support, our work to help meet the needs of our nation's injured servicemen and women simply would not be possible! Please consider making a gift today to support our programs and services in the year ahead.

With my sincerest gratitude, Steven Nardizzi



BIRTHDAYS



The Christmas Basket Committee extends a warm THANK YOU to all of you for your abundant donations of non-perishable foods and money this Christmas season. Many local families benefited from your generosity. Mary Patrick

Dear Pastor Berggren:

First of all, please pardon the delay in responding to thank you and provide the receipt for the contribution we received following Brother Tom Stapleton's report December 6. He appreciated your response as does our Camp for your regular and exceptional support.

It truly is exceptional as we look back to January 2015, when you overwhelmed us with your special gift of \$1000. We told you it was extraordinary at that time, and we were reassured of your continuing support. You have demonstrated that again in response to this last report.

We appreciate having Brad Shogren as our Gideon representative of your church.

May God continue to bless you as you serve the Freemount Lutheran Church and this community. The receipt for \$500 is enclosed.

Sincerely, Alan Hansen—Secretary

From Pastor Berggren's family: Thanks to all of you who blessed us with your kindness of gifts and prayers during the past Christmas season. We are grateful to be partners with you in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Dear Friends:

I am writing to thank you for your generous contribution to the Salina Rescue Mission during 2015. Your support is greatly appreciated. Below is a listing of all gift donated from January 1 through December 31: 7/15/15 \$1,000

Again, thank you and God Bless you

Stephen J. Kmetz

Freemount
Lutheran
Church,

12/25/15

Thank You for allowing us
to get married in the
beautiful church and
for the framed picture of
the church!

Audrey & Matt

Just a note

to remind you

how much

you're appreciated.

Thanks again!
The scholarship helped greatly with
Maya my nursing program.

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your generous contribution of \$784. to the McPherson County Food Bank. Your contribution will assist the Food Bank in keeping food on the table for many McPherson County children and families. The McPherson County Food Bank provides basic food goods to its patrons. We depend on the compassion and consideration of those able to give, that others who are less fortunate or who have come upon hard times might have the basic necessities.

Gratefully, Marlene Unruh

9:30 AM for Sunday School

ALL ages

Worship at 10:30 AM

Communion held the third Sunday of each month



**Like us on
Facebook**

All members are encouraged to wear their green Freemount t-shirts to worship on the first Sunday of each month to pass the word about how awesome Freemount Church is! Let's put our evangelism efforts into overdrive! Everyone can help be God's ambassador for Freemount and for his

Reminder: Our website is freemountlutheranchurch.org. Please check it out and remind your friends!

SALINA RESCUE MISSION NEEDS LIST:

- Large bath towels
- Shaving cream
- Men's shoes & Boots
- Sandwich meat
- Jelly

**March Ushers: Luke and Shirley Robinson
March Communion Assistant: Beth Hedberg**

**April Ushers: Karmon and Mary Ann Almquist
April Communion Assistant: Marilyn Spohn**

**May Ushers: Dean and Charlotte Anderson
May Communion Assistant: Duane Patrick**



If you no longer want this newsletter, please let us know by email: clayhillfarm2000@yahoo.com or postal mail: 2511 8th Ave, Lindsborg. THANKS!

Consider helping us save some postage costs: This newsletter can be sent to your email address. Please send a note to our email: clayhillfarm2000@yahoo.com or our postal mail: 2511 8th Ave, Lindsborg. THANKS!

Contact Bernice Peterson with information for the newsletter at 227-2761 or email her at clayhillfarm2000@yahoo.com.

PRAYERS



*IN
Everything
GIVE
Thanks*



Freemount's Mission Statement:

Let us serve and sacrifice for the glory of God.

Freemount's Vision Statement:

Let us serve and sacrifice for the glory of God by...

Preaching the Word of the Lord

Inspiring a love of Christ in all

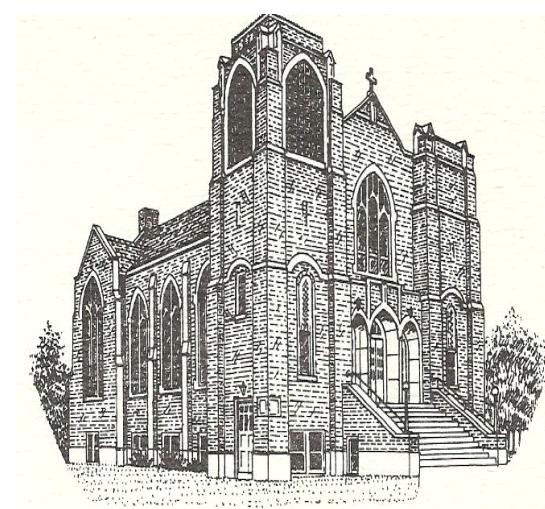
Teaching others about our Lutheran faith

Honoring His name in what we say and do

Studying the Bible and its scriptures

Being active in the community

Actively pursuing our goals



Shut-ins: Gary

Health issues: Val, Rick Fink, Debbie Simmons, Victoria Anderson, Sarah, Lynda Anderson, Sandi Thorson, Bruce Amos, Dean Geiman, Mark and Jocelyn Chavez

Those who mourn: the family of Robert Thackery

Travel: Emma Anderson as she studies in Sweden; Anders Jalkeus to the USA

Sarah Gross and the Waage family

Military: Chris, Tyson and Rachel, Heath, Brian, David, Patrick, Kendrick Kendrick, as he seeks new employment

Our nation and its citizens; all families; the Holy Spirit's guidance in the 2016 elections; colleges and universities; those in the healthcare professions

Peace for Jerusalem; Strength & perseverance for Israel

Persecuted Christians, both here and abroad

Those who inflict the suffering, that their hearts would be turned to Jesus Christ

Elyria Christian School

Area agencies offering help: Ashby House, Rebecca Morrison House, St. Francis Mental Health, Mt. Hope Sanctuary, Salina Rescue Mission, TACOL, Marquette Ministerial Alliance, Prairie View, Nursing Homes, Hospitals and Clinics, and all their staff.

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 6:30 - Men's Fellowship
3 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Communion w/ Potluck following	18	19 4 - Foundation meeting at McPherson	20 6:30 - Mother, Daughter, Friend Salad Supper	21	22	23
24 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship GOOD SHEPHERD	25	26	27 7:30 - Church council meeting	28	29	30

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship BLESSING OF FIELDS	2	3	4	5	6	7 6:30 - Men's Fellowship
8 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship	16	17	18 7 - LCW Host - Verna Bible Study - Marilyn	19	20	21
22 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship TRINITY SUNDAY	23	24	25 7:30 - Church council meeting	26	27	28
29 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship	30 11 - MEMORIAL DAY DINNER	31				

FREEMOUNT LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2511 8TH Ave
 Lindsborg KS 67456



March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 2 - World Day of Prayer at Methodist, Lindsborg	5 6:30 - Men's Fellowship
6 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 5 - 4-H dinner	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 7 - Lenten at Freemount	14	15	16 7 - LCW Host - Shirley Bible Study - Nancy	17	18	19
20 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Palm Sunday & Confirmation 7 - Lenten at Freemount	21	22	23 7:30 - Church council meeting	24 7 - Maundy Thursday at Freemount	25 7 - Good Friday at Elim	26
27 9:30 - Easter Brunch 10:30 - Easter	28	29	30	31		