

LOCAL BRIEFS

Nisswa Lions seek donations for senior citizens

NISSWA — The Nisswa Lions Club is collecting items for a nonfood supply drive that will help senior citizens with everyday items they need.

These are items that cost quite a bit of money for seniors, and oftentimes the food shelf doesn't have these items on hand.

The Lions ask area communities, other Lions clubs and civic organizations, churches, businesses, etc., to donate items that will be given to the Lakes Area Food Shelf in Pequot Lakes.

Drop off items at the Nisswa Chamber of Commerce, Baia Della Italian Kitchen in Baxter, Goody's Gourmet Treats in the Northern Pacific Center in Brainerd, American National Bank in Nisswa, or The Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes in Nisswa.

Public invited to Faith in Action raffle drawing event

HACKENSACK — The public is invited to attend the 16th annual Faith in Action raffle drawing open house from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Faith in Action office, 116 First St. S., Hackensack.

There will be snacks and an opportunity

to learn more about Faith in Action. The drawing for the Polaris Ranger 570 will happen at 5 p.m. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

Those still wishing to buy tickets should check for posters at area businesses and see if they have any tickets left.

The Ranger, along with a Karavan trailer and one-year family membership to Woodtick Wheelers ATV Club, are the grand prize for this year's drawing.

"The raffle is Faith in Action's largest fundraiser," Executive Director Theresa Eclov said in a news release. "These funds go a long way to supporting volunteers with liability insurance, mileage reimbursement, training and recognition. Volunteers are the heart and hands of Faith in Action."

Second prize is \$1,000 in cash and third prize is a \$500 gift card donated by Hackensack Lumber and Do It Best Hardware. Fifteen additional donated prizes will be awarded.

All proceeds raised by the raffle go to support the programs of Faith in Action for Cass County.

More information on the raffle or about volunteering or receiving services from Faith in Action for Cass County is available at 218-675-5435 or www.faithinactioncass.com.

CARD GAMES

500 scores

1 p.m. Tuesdays
Pine River American Legion

Tuesday, Nov. 1

► Ken Schrapp 3710, Leonard Blasing 3240, Mike Olson 3170, Delores Flattegraff 3170. Jack Anderson won the door prize.

Bridge scores

1 p.m. Thursdays
Ideal Town Hall

Thursday, Nov. 3

► Duplicate: Chris Brown and Diana Brown 30.00, Joyce Roemer and Clarice Renschler 27.00, Ginny Hersey and Carolyn Thompson 26.00, Bruce

Peck and Rose Ann Stans 25.00, Mickey Smith and Clare Fulton 23.50.

Noon Fridays
Crosslake Community Center

Friday, Nov. 4
► Pat Herrick 5969, Carolyn Thompson 3960, Bill Herrick 3160.

SENIOR MEALS

PINE RIVER — The Senior Nutrition Program offers a nutritionally balanced meal for all people and is open again for in-person dining. Masks are no longer mandatory.

Meals are served at 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday at the Heartland Apartments, 445 Snell Ave., in Pine River.

The suggested voluntary donation is \$5 per meal for those over 60 and \$8.50 for those under 60.

To make a reservation, call 218-587-2921.

Menus are subject to change. Meals are served with low-fat milk.

Nov. 14-18

► **Monday:** Salisbury steak with gravy, baked potato with sour cream, glazed carrots, bread slice with margarine, dessert.

► **Tuesday:** Beef chili with beans, romaine salad with dressing, fruit, cornbread muffin, cookie.

► **Wednesday:** Macaroni and cheese, California Normandy vegetables, stewed tomatoes, dessert.

► **Thursday:** Turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, stuffing, dessert.

► **Friday:** Creamy Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, dinner roll with margarine, fresh fruit.

Faith over fear

I think I can safely say that no one will miss the nonstop political ads now that the election is over.

The heavy-handed use of fear as a motivator to vote for one candidate versus another was hard to take.

It is not a new phenomenon, of course. Ruling classes for thousands of years have understood the power of intentionally provoking fear as a means of social control.

John Adams, one of America's founding fathers, wrote: "Fear is the foundation of most governments."

Fear is a very basic way of controlling people's behaviors and thoughts.

Fear has the power to control us, and that is why we must take care to protect our minds and hearts. When you are gripped by fear, your rational and cognitive capacities shut down, which makes you more easily manipulated by people who promise safety from the threat.

Eighteenth century philosopher Edmund Burke said: "No passion so effectively robs the mind of all its powers of acting and reasoning as fear."

As Christians, what does it say about our faith if we allow ourselves to be so controlled by the fears suggested by man, versus the promises of God?

Fear of the Lord is mentioned in the Bible, especially within the Old Testament, but perhaps not as we use the word "fear" so often today.

To fear the Lord was to have a true respect for Him, which leads to a desire to do His will. Fear, as a means of control, is often used by men in power to cover up their own insecurities and fears.

God, of course, does not suffer from the weaknesses of man. He has no need to use manipulation to prove His power.

Sadly, many church leaders choose to preach from a pulpit of fear rather than God's true message of love. The fear of the Lord is not cringing fear, or respect without love. Fear of the

Lord is an ongoing heart attitude that should cause changes in behavior that will lead to a closer relationship with Him.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt is famous for telling the country in 1933, that the only thing that we had to fear was fear itself. He was encouraging people to move past their fears to stimulate the economy, to move forward and not get stuck.

Times have certainly changed when leaders choose to tell us to be afraid again and again. As the election season dragged on, how effective was the message of fear if many of us simply changed the channel or turned off our TVs?

To follow this train of thought then, why would we choose a liturgy of fear to bring people to Christ? Faith based on fear alone is not true faith. Fear seeks to immobilize us, while faith inspires action.

The election season was filled with so much fear within our conversations in our communities, our state and our nation that it threatens to paralyze us. In a world of uncertainty, may we remember the steadfast truth that comes from God. His is a truth that strengthens and sustains us.

Most of us are not in a position to change the world on our own, but we can try to rid ourselves of unnecessary fears that lead to hate and division in the world. We must take responsibility for our actions and the beliefs that motivate our actions.

This is one of the most important things we can and should do. As Christians, it is time to ask ourselves if our lives and our actions toward one another are an accurate reflection of what we profess to believe.

We have been offered a gift by God to love as he has shown us to love so we will share in eternal life. Our faith must be bigger than our fears, and our lives must reflect that.

It is by this example that more people will be drawn to the church and then led to a real relationship with God. This is how the world will be changed, not by our fears but by our faith.

Jen Matthees is pastor at Grace United Methodist Church in Pequot Lakes and supply pastor at Pine River United Methodist Church.

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