

MARCH 2005

FERTILE REMINDER



COMING EVENTS

March 1	Senior Dinner City Council Meeting	Noon 7 PM
March 6	Fire Department Meeting	7 PM
March 15	Senior Dinner	Noon
March 19	Boys & Girls 4-H	
March 21	President's Day Library Board Meeting	7 PM
March 22	Re-cycle Day	

The Fertile City Council met at 6:30 PM January 19, 2005 at Fertile City Hall to work on the 2005-06 City Budget. Present were Mayor Joyce Russell, Council members Jeff Berg, Paul Youngers, Gail Shropshire. Absent Melanne Bang, Tad Miller. Budget requests were heard and considered. Meeting adjourned.

The Fertile City Council met 6:30PM, February 7, 2005, at Fertile City Hall. Present were Mayor Joyce Russell, Council members Jeff Berg, Paul Youngers, Gail Shropshire. Absent Melanne Bang, Tad Miller. Berg moved, Shropshire 2nd to approve the January minutes. Approval of Dawn Millard to the Fertile Library board was moved by Youngers, 2nd by Shropshire, passed. The budget for 2005-06 was reviewed. Youngers moved, Shropshire 2nd to approve the 2005-06 City Budget. Passed. A public hearing for the 05-06 budget will be held at the March 1 City Council Meeting. The FB&I reported on the plans for the 150th Celebration to be held in 2006. Dick Worsley asked how the past due utility bill will be handled on the Randy Hippen property. The City Attorney will be consulted. Mosquito spraying is tabled for the present time. The Fertile Day Celebration will be held August 13 & 14, 2005. Berg moved, Youngers 2nd to place a lien on the Koch property for unpaid utility bill. Passed. Youngers reported on the Winn-Worth Betco meeting he attended. A decision on the Casino will be made in May. Penny Miller, representing the Fertile Garden Club, requested permission to landscape the East Bank of the Park along 1st Street. Approved. A complaint about the restricted sidewalk space by the pop machines and dumpster was made to the city council. Properties that are in need of repair and clean-up will be notified by mail. Monthly reports were given. Youngers moved to adjourn, 2nd Shropshire. Meeting adjourned.


January Revenue

Property Tax	2,071.19
Water/Sewer/Garbage	11,265.86
Street Revenue	1,294.65
Street Const. 28E	1,188.96
Local Option Tax	1,131.30
TOTAL REVENUE	\$16,951.96

Please keep alleys and streets free of obstructions to facilitate snow removal.

A public budget hearing will be held at the March 1, 2005 Fertile City Council Meeting for the 2005-06 City Budget.

January Expenses	
Dave Low	301.49
Warren Bruns	1,143.32
Gloria Kirschbaum	385.77
Dennis Ganz	48.77
Sewer Acct	1,667.00
Water Acct	1,474.00
FICA	421.77
IPERS	214.18
LGI	11.48
WCTA	62.96
Waste Systems	1,662.00
Alliant	811.89
Thompson Garage	283.81
Aquila	647.34
Post Office	83.00
Jeff Berg	105.00
Herb Olson Sewer	155.00
Ermer Insurance	100.00
CL Farmers Coop	32.92
NCSS	410.42
Larsen Pllumbing	53.79
Fertile Fire Dept	1,250.00
Fertile Library	2,175.00
N Ia Clerks Assc. Dues	15.00
Ia Jetting	430.00
Ia One Call	16.20
Hare Electric	1,376.59
BMC	47.93
Ace Ops	99.00
Burtness Pllumbing	17.50
Brian Nettleton, FEMA	13,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$28,503.13



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Jack

Neil L. Kuns

March 4, 1994

Sometime during 1939 my father brought home a roly-poly, pudgy puppy. He was a rat terrier with big feet and sharp teeth. His coat was mostly white, but there were black accents on nose and tail, and Dale and I loved him. We called him "Jack" for no reason that I recall.

Midway through Jack's puppyhood we also acquired two kittens, Fluffy and Muffy. The cats and dogs got along like most cats and dogs. They stayed out of each other's way. Jack had a ball with which he played, and we would sometimes intentionally place it on the floor too close to the kittens. Jack would skitter down on his belly and inch his way toward the ball. All was well until he got too close to the cats for *their* comfort. They would then hiss and hold out their claws to push the puppy away. He would whine, whimper and complain, until in sympathy we would give him his ball.

This scene played out on the linoleum covered kitchen floor. Periodically Mom would wax that floor, and this created traction problems for Jack. He loved to chase his ball when we would hurl or roll it away from him. The set-up was perfect for fun when we would toss the ball around the corner from the living room into the kitchen. Jack would charge off at full speed, hit the waxed floor, loose traction as he turned the corner, and frantically run in place trying to stay on his feet while they slipped on the linoleum. He never failed to amuse us when he performed this routine.

Jack was a short-haired house dog. He stayed inside, especially during the cold weather. When we were in school and Mom was driving school bus he always watched for our return lying atop the back of the sofa in front of the west living room window. Dale and I could see his nose through the gap in the curtains as he waited for us, and when we entered the house his enthusiastic tail wagging wiggled his entire body. We were as glad to see him as he was for us to be home.

I shouldn't suggest that Jack couldn't get along out of doors. He could and did. He loved to run around town with me when I was out rambling. He had a way of jumping up, perhaps to get a view higher than his usual fourteen inch off the ground perspective. One late winter Sunday afternoon we were just west of down town, near the mill. There were still patches of snow on the ground, but the ice was thawing and the snow was melting. The river was high, and the foam below the dam had risen higher than the banks and higher than the dam. This happened every year as the animal or other chemicals in the water were whipped into a sudsy distinctively smelling mass by the churning action of going over the dam. We were always warned not to get too close to the edge during that time because there could be no rescue if one fell into the froth. We understood that, but Jack didn't. He was running and jumping, and seeing the high pile of foam probably thought it was snow. Before I could do or say a thing he bounded off, jumped onto the foam and disappeared. My heart sank with him. I never saw him again, although I ran down stream to the end of the foam in hope that by some fluke or miracle he might make it through. Jack was the first living thing I had loved and lost. Unfortunately, he was not the last. Letting go is a hard lesson to learn, however or whenever it comes to us in life.

WITH SYMPATHY

LESTER E. BURTNES

1909 - 2005

Lester E. Burtness, age 95, of Fertile died January 21, 2005 at Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City.



Funeral services were held January 25th at Fertile Lutheran Church with the Rev. Clarence Baalson officiating. Burial was at Brush Point Cemetery in rural Fertile.

Lester E. Burtness was born on the ancestral family farm in Fertile Township, Worth County, Iowa on December 14, 1909, the son of Gerhard and Isabell (Holmen) Burtness. He received his education in rural school and Northwood. After graduating from high school in Hanlontown, he moved to the Fertile area to work. He worked for a farmer south of Fertile for a time and worked on the gas pipeline for several years.

On November 7, 1931, he married Doris Zobel.

In 1937, Lester went to work for the Fertile Lumber Co. In 1968 he began working for Winnebago Industries and semi-retired seven years later in 1975. For three more years he worked part-time in the Winnebago drafting department until retiring.

Lester was always active in the community of Fertile. In 1950 he became a member of the town council and later served four years as mayor of Fertile. He was a member of the volunteer fire department for many years. In 1952, the Lions Club was started and Lester was a charter member. The numerous projects and city-betterment activities this club was involved with made Lester very proud. He was an active member of Fertile Lutheran Church and loved spending time with his family.

Lester is survived by his children: Janice (Spence) Abrams of Clear Lake; JoAnn Bailey of Clear Lake; Lance (Diane) Burtness of Fertile; Larry (Janet) Burtness of Clear Lake; 15 grandchildren, 31-great-grandchildren and 9 great-great-grandchildren; a sister, IvaNell May of Auburn, CA.

Lester was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Dorothy and Gladys, one brother Gerald and his wife, Doris in January 2000.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.

FERTILE DOWNTOWN CAFE

TUESDAY - Taco Nite

5 - 8 p.m.

Thursday - All You Can Eat

Soup Nite 5 - 8 p.m.

RIBS - FISH - CHICKEN

Will Start Again March 31st.

OPEN - Mon - Saturday

5:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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LUVERNE 'BILL' OUVERSON

1921 - 2005

Luverne "Bill" Oувerson, 83, of 1438 Second St. S. E., Mason City, passed away January 18, 2005 at the Iowa Odd Fellows and Orphans Home in Mason City.



Funeral service was held January 22, 2005 at Fullerton Funeral Home in Mason City.

Luverne Oувerson was born April 1, 1921 at Fertile, the son of Nels O. and Hazel (Overturf) Oувerson. Bill grew up in Fertile and at the age of 16 moved to one of his father's farms south of Clear Lake, where he farmed and graduated from Clear Lake High School in 1940.

Bill was united in marriage to Virginia H. Davis March 7, 1943, at the Presbyterian Church in Mason City. To that union were born two children, Winifred H. (Oувerson) Mycka and Neil L. Oувerson. Virginia passed away in 1977.

In 1978, Bill was united in marriage to Ruth Wentworth of Nora Springs. Ruth passed away in 1994.

Bill worked for 32 years at Armour in the power house, retiring in 1975, and later worked for the Mason City School.

Bill enjoyed camping and fishing, usually taking long trips in his camper and motor home.

Bill was fortunate to be able to remain in his house until about two weeks before his death, when due to failing health, he became a resident of the Odd Fellows Nursing Home.

Bill is survived by one daughter, Winifred H. Mycka and her husband, Rich of Highland, Ind; a son, Neil and his wife, Betty, of rural Hanlontown; 3 granddaughters, 1 grandson, and three great-grandchildren.

Survivors include a sister, Donna Heivilin of Arlington, VA; a brother, Mark Oувerson of Florida; and his special little friend and companion, his dog, Charlie.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.

THANK YOU!

Words are truly inadequate to express our thanks for all the kindness shown to our family during the last several months and to Jean for the last several years. We hesitate to name you because there are so many, and some that we are unaware of. However, we would be remiss if we didn't mention how grateful we are to Denny & Sharon, Clarence, Loras, Gail, Marcia, Jane, Ed and Chuck and the McColloch's just to mention a few. We know that it would have been impossible for Jean to remain in her home as long as she did without the help of the caring community of Fertile. Also, we thank you all for your expressions of sympathy and to Curt, Denny, Bonnie, JD, Brian, Gary and the Christian Workers for your help with Jean's Memorial Celebration. We know that she would have been very pleased to have her final wishes fulfilled so beautifully.

The Family of Jean VanDenBosch

Thanks for remembering Lester's families during our loss with goodies, cards, calls & prayers. It was greatly appreciated.

Families of Lester Burtness

WITH SYMPATHY

MILDRED I. SLATTUM

1910 - 2005

Funeral services for Mildred I. Slattum, age 94, of Albert Lea were held January 26, 2005 at the Bayview/Freeborn Funeral Home Chapel in Albert Lea, MN.



Mildred (Field) Slattum was born on February 23, 1910, to Ida (Finsaas) and Martin O. Field in rural Fertile. She was baptized at Beaver Creek Lutheran Church. She graduated from Fertile High School and then attended Cedar Falls Teaching College. She was a school teacher for several years.

On May 16, 1930, Mildred married Irvin Slattum in Osage. They farmed in the Joice area for many years. Irvin and Mildred enjoyed many winters in Tucson, AZ, returning home in the spring to raise strawberries. They were members of Winnebago Lutheran Church.

Irvin and Mildred moved to Albert Lea in 1976. They continued making their wonderful life for many to enjoy. They were members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Mildred was a gifted writer and enjoyed sharing her keen sense of humor in this and many other ways. Mildred spent the last twelve years at Knutson Place Apartments.

Grateful for sharing in her life are her three daughters and three sons-in-law: Marilyn and Dale Otto of Center, TX, Yvonne and Adrian Hestness of Albert Lea, and Marlys and Stan Nederhoff of Mason City; six grandchildren; and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Mildred was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She found great enjoyment in her family.

She is also survived by two sisters, Bernice Tweed of Decorah and Gladys Amelien of Joice; one sister-in-law, Eileen Field of Belmont; a special relative, Alice Bjerke; and many nieces and nephews.

She was welcomed into Heaven by her husband, Irvin, who preceded her in death in 1983. Also preceding her were her parents; three sisters, Evenly Kingland, Antionette Brodigan and Palma Johnson; a brother, Marlin Field; a granddaughter, Diane Hestness; and many other friends and relatives.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.

MARION V. SUBY

1926 - 2005

A Celebration of Life Service for Marion V. Suby, 78, of Marble Rock was held February 8, 2005 at the United Methodist Church, Marble Rock with Pastor Kenneth Kent officiating. Interment of cremains will occur at a later date.

Marion Virginia Benton was born August 14, 1926 in Port Huron, MI, a daughter of Walter Elmer and Mabel Leona Benton, and died February 5, 2004 at the Hospice Unit of Floyd County Memorial Hospital in Charles City.

As a small child, her family moved to Iowa, settling in Northwood and later in Manly, where she received her education in public schools. Following her schooling she worked as a waitress in Manly.

She was united in marriage to Arden Suby on May 2, 1947, in Jacksonville, MN. Following their marriage they lived in Fertile and later in Manly and Forest City, and was employed by Fleetguard Mfg in Lake Mills. In 1970 she moved to Hanlontown where she was employed by the grocery store until her retirement in 1979. She did child-care for several years before moving to Marble Rock in July 2003.

Marion will be sadly missed by her children: Carol (Fred) Wreghitt of Marble Rock, Jan Jones of Ashville, N.C., Craig (Connie) Suby of Freeport, IL, Doug (special friend Kristie Lambert) Suby of Garner; seven grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; three sisters: Marie Larson of Estherville, Ginger (Leroy) Helmer, of Manly and Darlene DeMaris of Lincoln, NE.

Marion was preceded in death by her husband on July 16, 1984; her parents; and four nephews.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.

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CONTACT PERSON: MICHELLE SKADBURG

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RELEASE DATE: February 1 - April 15

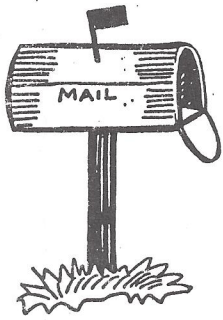
Starting February, the Head Start program administered by North Iowa Community Action Organization will be taking applications for fall preschool classes. Children ages 3-5 whose families meet federal income guidelines or have a disability/special need are eligible for this free program. Meals and health screenings are included. Transportation may be available. Call the number listed for your county or call 1-800-873-1899 for an appointment.

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Dear Fertile Reminder Gals,
 Thanks for all the great work you do
 in putting out an awesome paper of
 Fertile news. I enjoy receiving it.
 Goldie Felland

Dear Gals,

Keep up the great work. The reminder is
 enjoyed by so many.

Elsie (Suby) Chisholm

Dear Reminder Gals,

As a kid I remember folding the Fertile
 Reminder in the Luther's home.

I know a lot of work and dedication goes
 into the paper.

Thanks to all.

Susan (Purcell) Miller

Dear Ladies,

Thanks to you ladies for your time and work
 to make the Reminder so interesting to read.


Leon & Shirley Suby

Dear Ladies,

Thank you for your wonderful job of doing
 the Reminder every month. I am sending my \$6
 for another year.

Patty Zobel





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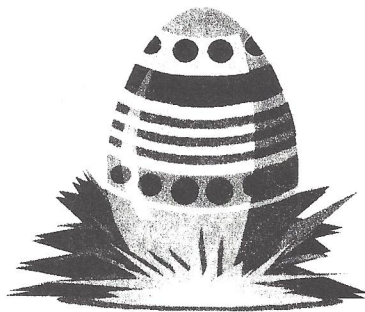
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Fri. 9- Noon & 2 - 5 P.M. Sat 9 - Noon



NEW BOOKS

Always - Jude Deveraux

Dead on the Dance Floor - Heather Graham

Death is Forever - Elizabeth Lowell

Song of the Road - Dorothy Garlock

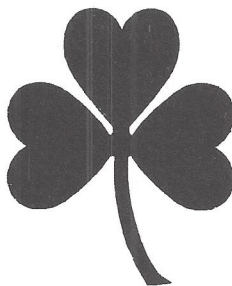
Hope's Highway - Dorothy Garlock

Survivor in Death - J.D. Robb

Wait Until Midnight - Amanda Quick

Walk by Faith - Rosanne Bittner

Without a Trace - Colleen Coble



NEW DVD'S

Hero - Jet Li

White Chicks - Shawn & Marlon Wayans

Garfield The Movie - Breckin Meyer

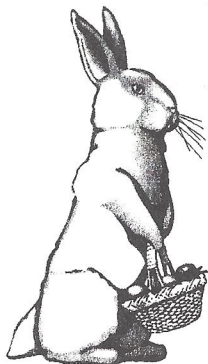
Elf - Will Ferrell

Scooby - Doo 2 - Freddie Prinze Jr.

The Prisoner of Azkaban - Daniel Radcliffe

Dodge Ball - Ben Stiller

Princess Diaries II - Julie Andrews



MEET THE EASTER BUNNY!

Fertile Library

Saturday March 26 @ 10 A.M.

Make your very own Jingle Bell Chick!

Get a Treat Filled Easter Bunny Bag!

Don't forget to turn in your recipes
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additional copies at the Post Office,
Downtown Cafe, Pronto or Library.

Thank you!!!



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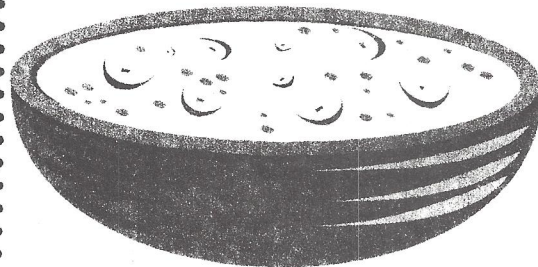
FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S ANNUAL SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON

Saturday March 12, 2005
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Chili, Chicken Noodle
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Roast Beef Sandwiches,
Dessert & Drink

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Ham What Am

@Neil L. Kuns

March 30, 1995

When I was a child there were only four kinds of meat over a quarter of an inch thick with which I was familiar. One was chicken, another was freshly caught river fish, and the others were roast pork or beef. Pork chops were usually thin and fried. Beef steak was thin and either fried or smothered as in Swiss steak. Ham was always thin and was pan fried unless it was cut up and included in scalloped potatoes. It usually offered extra "texture" from the bone dust created when the center round bone was sawed. The only exception to this was when it was sliced even thinner and was called "lunch meat" and placed in sandwiches. Lunch meat came without the bone dust. We never complained because we never knew any other variety was available.

One day when I was about thirteen I went to a friend's home to play. He came out of the house munching on a thick chunk of baked ham, and I asked him what he was eating. He said, "Ham, of course. Haven't you ever seen ham before?"

I told him the only ham I had ever eaten was fried and thin, not thick like he was enjoying. He decided I needed to be educated and returned to the kitchen to get me a piece of the baked ham he was eating. It was wonderful -- moist, smoky and tasty, and had no bone dust on it at all. I had never eaten *ham* like this before. I have since.


Some forty years after that incident a friend was returning to Tennessee for the Christmas holidays, and I asked him to bring me a country cured ham when he returned. He came back with a huge hind leg of a hog which had been rubbed with salt and brown sugar, and hung in a smoke house for weeks. The ham was redolent of all these aromas and was sewn into a white muslin bag. A label on the bag gave instructions as to how to prepare this delicacy. The first instruction was to take the ham from the bag and to soak it over night in a five-gallon lard can. Such a container might have been available in southern Indiana, Kentucky or Tennessee where the country ham is standard fare, but I didn't know where to find such a can in southern California. We soaked the ham over night in a different container, and even then it was more salty when cooked than we would have preferred. Other than that the meat was marvelous, and reminiscent of my first taste of "real" ham.

There is an old story about a country family which regularly served some of their own cured ham for extended family dinners. It was the tradition for the adults to feast first and for the children to eat whatever might be left on the table after their parents, aunts and uncles and grandparents had all eaten. One of the youngsters related how he loved country ham, but occasionally all that remained of the ham after the adults had devoured the meal was the gravy. He said it was just like the biblical definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1 -- It was "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." I'm happy that my appreciation of "ham what am" is based on taste, not just faith.

Copyright, Neil L. Kuns, 1995


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COOK'S KORNER

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Send your recipes to: Fertile Reminder, Box 62, Ferle, IA 50434.
Thank you to those who have sent recipes.

FRUIT PIZZA

From Kit

- 1 package (20 oz) refrigerated sugar cookie dough.
- 1 package (8 oz) cream cheese softened
- 1/4 cup confectioners' sugar.
- 1 carton (8 oz) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 2 to 3 kiwifruit, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 to 2 firm bananas, sliced
- 1 can (11 oz) mandarin oranges, drained
- 1/2 cup red grape halves
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons water
- 2 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch.
- Pinch of salt.

Pat cookie dough into an ungreased 14 inch pizza pan. Bake at 375° 10-12 minutes or until browned; cool. In a mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Fold in whipped topping. Spread over crust. Arrange the fruit on top. In a saucepan bring sugar, orange juice, water, lemon juice, cornstarch & salt to a boil, stirring constantly for 2 minutes or until thickened. Cool; Brush over fruit. Chill. Store in refrigerator. Yield 10-20 servings.

Kit says she took this to a pot luck and there were no duplicates! It is very pretty when all done.

=====

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CHIEF	GREATEST	TOPNOTCH
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CHOSEN	MASTER	UNSUR- PASSED
DOMINANT	NOBLE	UPPERCRUST
ELITE	PARAGON	UTMOST
EMINENT	PEERLESS	VICTOR
EXCELLENT	PERFECT	WINNER
EXPERT	PUREST	

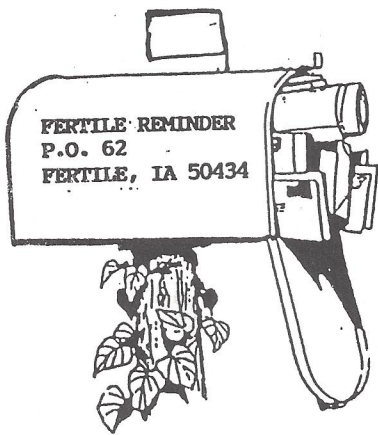
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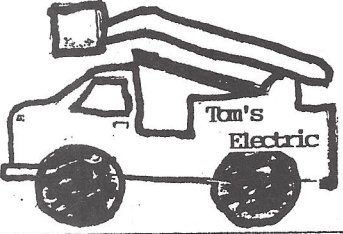
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FERTILE LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
602 W. Washington St., PO Box 215
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Phone Number: 641-797-2767
Worship: 9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:35 A.M.
Interim Pastor: Clarence Baalson

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9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES.
10:00 - FELLOWSHIP TIME.
10:15 - WORSHIP SERVICE.

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