

THE SCROLL

Prairie Lutheran Parish Newsletter

Feb 2018



As Bethlehem Lutheran Church, our mission through Jesus Christ is to serve the world, both across the globe and just outside our front door. We seek to be a place of good soil, where the seeds of faith can grow.



As Knife River Lutheran Church, our mission is to actively spread God's Word and shining light with unrelenting fortitude, through the work of our women, men, young people, and little children. We seek to be a bright spot on the prairie, to be an island of peace and light in a chaotic world.

As Faith Lutheran Church, our mission is to meet the needs of brothers and sisters in Christ through active listening, daily worship, and service to the family of God. We seek to be the family of God, where different people come together for the sake of Jesus Christ.



As American Lutheran Church, our mission is to worship Jesus and minister to the community of Stanley. Our purpose as people is to praise God and to live out love for our neighbors. We seek to have open doors and open hearts; to be a people and a place of peace, love, and welcome.



Prairie Lutheran Parish

Four Congregations gathered into One Parish

9:00 am Sunday Worship

Bethlehem
Lutheran
Ross

Knife River
Lutheran

Hwy 8 South of Stanley

(701) 628-2550

PrairieLutheranParish.org

10:30 am Sunday Worship

American
Lutheran
Stanley

Faith
Lutheran
Palermo



Pastor Carter Writes...

It seems every time you turn on the TV, or read the news, something awful has happened yet again. Just yesterday as I went to read what was going on that day and read of a school shooting in Kentucky. Two people are dead. Countless others are injured. It wasn't even the top headlines of the day. I was sad for the people killed and injured. I was sad that this type of thing happens so often that it isn't even top news headlines anymore.

I sat and read and started to think of Psalm 79 where the psalmist writes: "How long, O Lord, how long?" I wonder the same questions.

How long, O Lord, how long?

How long do we have to read news headlines filled with hate, abuse, and murder?

How long, O Lord, how long?

How long until this world can unite as one to share our resources so no person goes hungry?

How long, O Lord, how long?

How long until this world can live at peace where we live as the one body of you, O Lord. How long until we live in a world where we are no longer labeled as being Jew or Greek, slave or free, American or not American, black or white, gay or straight, Republican or Democrat, rich or poor?

How long, O Lord, how long? Where is peace, O Lord, where is peace?

How long will we live in a world where people define themselves by how much money they have or do not have.

How long will your people think they have the power to label

others as outcasts or unfit? Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.

“How long, O Lord, how long?” and then the psalmist writes: “Will you be angry forever?” and continues with:

“Do not remember against us the iniquities of
our ancestors;
let your compassion come speedily to meet us,
for we are brought very low.
Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and forgive our sins,
for your name's sake.”

My dear parish, how can we do better? How can we be sure that we leave our world a better place for the next generations? How long do we have to ask, “how long?” There is hope for our world even though some days it may seem like there is none. Let us discover that hope, feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, and get to work. Let us rest in God's love and call others to do the same, and let that love stir us to action. May you feel the presence of Christ this day even in the midst of things happening that make us wonder “how long?”

Because of Christ,
Pastor Carter





Prairie Lutheran Parish News

February

Parish Wednesday Night Bible Study

A group of us will be gathering for an exciting study called Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions about the book of Faith. We don't pretend to have all the answers, but we do want to share what the Bible means to us and how it may be able to speak to our lives. Some people in this group may have spent a great deal of time with the Bible. Most of us haven't read it as much as we might like. But together we hope to come to it anew, as if opening this book for the first time. We will gather on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. We will meet for about an hour in the American Lutheran Church's back lounge after worship. If you plan to join, please let me, Intern Pastor Sarah, know or email me at sarahsorenson51@gmail.com and I will order enough books for everyone! It should be a very relaxed first gathering. Feel free to give me a holler if you have any questions! I can't wait to see you there!

Wednesday Night Parish Worship!

Are your weekends jam packed and there are times when you are unable to make it to worship? Join us for a kid friendly and uplifting Parish Worship Service at American Lutheran Church on Wednesday Nights! Supper is served from 5:15-6:00 by our youth who are fundraising for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston this summer. Worship supper at 6:00 - 6:30 with songs, a short message and communion.

Confirmation News

Our parish rotates confirmation camp between the Bible Camps and this year the rotation is at the Upper Missouri Ministries at Epping. Please [mark your calendars for July 8-13](#). We will not be doing the Holden Evening Prayer Service during Lent again this year so there will not be a Confirmation Choir. However, [attendance by confirmation students at Lent Services is still expected](#).

Coming up this February....5th Grade Communion Classes! Keep an eye out for your informational letter coming to a post office near you! :)

PLPWS

Metigoshe Ministries in Motion will be leading our youth once a month through the end of our year. We are excited to have them out again this year. In January, the PreK-3rd grade students studied the creation story. In February, they will be learning about the First Sin. The fifth graders are learning about God's powers and how he is like a ninja. The sixth graders are learning about prayer in a modern age. Students in grades 3-6 are reminded to bring their bibles to PLPWS. Students are continuing to collect money for ELCA World Hunger.

Churches of our synod once again hosted seminary students for the Rural Plunge during January. Prairie Lutheran Parish hosted Dara. Time was spent with people of the community, learning about rural ministry and the connection between life and faith. Rural plunge is a two week field experience for seminary students. Dara spent her first week in southern Minnesota and her second week with us.



Parish News

Stay informed with news, updates and events

Recent Marriages

12/31/17 Joshua Daniel Johnson & Stephanie Lynn Richter married at

Together-4-Prayer

There will be no Together-4-Prayer in February. Thank you.

Recent Baptisms

12/10/17 Nala Raley Fladeland
(member of American)

12/16/17 Maverick Albin Lidstrom
(member of Knife River)

12/17/17 Bentley Layne Sigloh
(member of Knife River)

12/29/17 Sadee Rae Uran
(member of Bethlehem)

Recent Funerals

12/2/17 Jean Florence Swenson
(member of American)

12/20/17 Earl Roger Jensen
(member of Faith)

12/22/17 Dolores Jean Hagen
(member of American)

1/15/18 Zina Juma
(funeral held at Bethlehem)

NOTICE

The Church Office will be closed on February 19th



Hey!
WELCOME
We're *very* GLAD
you're here!

Welcome Kayla Hill to the Parish!

We will have a 'Welcome Kayla' brunch in honor of Kayla Hill on **February 25** following ALC worship. We'll be serving muffins & egg bake & (of course) coffee. Everyone is invited to join us in welcoming her to our parish.

Parish Morning Bible Study 10:00 on February 7th –

All are welcome. We will study Matthew: 6:1-6, 16-21

Resolutions for Synod Assembly: Due March 31, 2018

Do you have a resolution to bring before the 2018 synod assembly? Here are documents with all the information you need to form your resolution and submit it by March 31, 2018. If you have any questions, contact Faith Simoneig at 701-226-5865 or faith@wndsynod.org.

2018 Congregational Officers

ALC

Kyle Hansen, Pres.
Jackie Nelson, V.P.
Kay Nordloef, Sec.
Marichel, Treas.

Bethlehem

Sara Evans, Pres.
Barb Roise, V.P.
Kim Sorenson, Sec.
Jamie Germundson, Treas.

Faith

Walt Dunham, Pres.
Len Jones, V.P.
Debbie Haugen, Sec.
Carol Johnson, Treas.

Knife River

Mark Longmuir, Pres.
Brooks Goodall, V.P.
Camie Anderson, Sec.
Lil Meiers, Treas.



Eden Cuypers, Youth Leader

Our first LYO night for the year kicked off with starting lessons, games, and scripture that will prepare the youth for the National Youth Gathering. The topic we are going to focus on first is building a sense of community with the group that will be attending. These conversations also help us connect as a whole group and not just those going to Houston. I'm looking forward to more conversations about our group, things we want to accomplish, and goals for us this year.

We have started building a "covenant" that describes promises that we will make for our trip. The items that the youth have started with focus on having fun, respecting each other and all others attending the gathering, and the behavior that we expect throughout their experiences.

The "144 Envelopes Project" that we started a month or two ago will continue to be available for those who feel that they could give a donation of any kind towards our trip. Envelopes can be found at all churches in the parish as well as with the youth that are attending.

We have planned out most of the spring semester for Wednesday meals, and I am looking forward to other opportunities the youth will have to help. We have a total of 22 youth and 8 adults going to Houston to serve, grow, and have fun! If you have a task that needs completing (shoveling snow, moving large items or boxes, etc.) please let Pastor Carter, Sarah, or myself know!

Reminders:

- Meals are served at 5:15 PM.
- LYO goes from 6:30-8:00 PM on Wednesdays.
- LYO is open to all 7th-12th graders.
- If you would like updates for upcoming LYO events, you can sign up on the Remind app.

Please let me know if you have any questions!



Contact information:
(701) 840-2871 (cell phone)
Eden.drevecky@gmail.com



The Wee Care students got back to work in January after a nice Christmas break. They've learned over half of the letters in the alphabet now! We try to find fun ways to practice the letters instead of just writing them out with paper and pencil. For example, while learning the letter M, we got M&M's and sorted them by color. We also used tooth picks and marshmallows to make M's. The kids are great at coming up with words that start with our letter of the week and love to "hunt" for those letters by circling them on the board. During center time, we've been working in small groups to reinforce what we've been learning in class. It's great to be able to interact with the students in smaller groups and gives them another chance to practice their skills. In January, we received a generous donation from one of our Wee Care families. They donated money to us through Thrivent and we were able to purchase many hands on learning games and activities for our class! What a blessing to our kids!

-Mrs. Lund & Mrs. Laparra



ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Help your congregation prepare for International Women's Day – March 8

Every year on March 8, people around the world commemorate International Women's Day, a day dedicated to celebrating women's achievements throughout history and across nations. On this day, members of the ELCA celebrate by supporting and lifting up the International Women Leaders Initiative. Download resources at <http://elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Global-Church-Sponsorship#IWL> to help your congregation plan a worship service or event and support this initiative.

Gospel Seeds - February 2018

A Monthly Update from the Western North Dakota Synod Office



Witnesses of the Gospel...

As I write this (mid-January) a group of people from Western North Dakota leave for the Central African Republic. We hope to share word from these witnesses of the Gospel in coming months. Rev. Janis Sloka, Executive Director of Camp of the Cross has a long standing relationship with Campamento Luterano Eduardo

Roig near Dorado, Puerto Rico. He along with seven others who have a connection to Camp of the Cross made the trek to help with hurricane recovery work. We thank God for their efforts and look forward to learning more from them.

Meanwhile, Rev. Taryn Montgomery, Bread of Life, Minot is spending a little over a week visiting our companion church – the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic. Through her visit she will get a chance see the ministries partner with in CAR. We look forward to learning more from her upon her return.

Plan to Attend...

Unhealthy conflict in a congregation undermines the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ, that is a fact. One of the ways to avoid unhealthy conflict is to be clear about your congregation's purpose, according to Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke. Steinke has spent his career working with congregation's in conflict, writing about creating healthy congregations and teaching around these areas. We are glad to welcome Dr. Steinke to Western North Dakota for an afternoon workshop at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bismarck on Sunday, February 11th from 2:00pm until 5:00pm. The cost is \$10 per person. This is an incredible opportunity to learn from an excellent teacher – we hope to see you there.

Synod Council to Meet...

Your synod council meets February 9th and 10th at Christ Lutheran in Minot. If there are issues you want discussed please let me know. Also, a reminder – the deadline for submitting resolutions for this year's synod assembly is March 31st. Contact Faith Simonieg if you have questions about the process of bringing forward resolutions.

Staffing Reorganization...

Some changes are in the works for the structure of synod staff. A decision has been made to outsource much of the bookkeeping work for the synod. This move is being made to reduce staffing costs within the synod but will result in loss of long time employee Monroe Madson. Monroe has faithfully served as the synod's Financial Administrator – always doing his best to oversee the gifts shared with the synod from individuals and congregations. He will continue to work in the office through mid-February. I am thankful for his servant's heart. This means that duties will shift within the office and that we will be bringing on a new part-time position. As with any change there will be a learning curve and we ask that you be patient with us as we engage this new staffing pattern. At the same time staff is looking closely at the synod's budget to make sure that we are best positioned to continue to provide for face to face contact with congregations. While Mission Support has been consistent it has not kept pace with inflation and rising costs.

What Am I Reading...

From time to time I am asked what I am reading. Here is what I am spending time with now: -Original Blessing: Putting Sin in its Rightful Place by Danielle Shroyer. In this Fortress Press book, Shroyer argues that the concept of original sin was an add on to the Christian faith several hundreds years after the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Instead she argues that scripture instead speaks of original blessing, being beloved one of God. - The Agile Church: Spirit Lead Innovation in an Uncertain Age by Dwight Zscheile. Written by a Luther Seminary Professor, this book does an excellent job of describing the sociological changes impacting the church today.

Blessings all!

Rev. Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

2018 Parish Calendar

Annual meetings of the congregations:

January 21, 2018 (3rd Sunday) – All four churches with potluck

First Communion Classes, Sundays at 1:00 (5th graders)

1st communion classes– 1:00 Feb 11 & 18, March 6 & 11

First Communion Sunday – March 25 (Palm Sunday)

5th Sunday Joint Worship & Other Combined Services:

April 29 – Youth Sunday & potluck dinner

July 29 – GIFTS Sunday & potluck dinner

September 9 – Rally Sunday

September 30 potluck dinner

December 30 potluck dinner

Lenten Schedule: 5:30 supper and 6:30 service

Date:

Who serves:

February 14..... (Ash Wednesday).....LYO

February 21..... Bethlehem

February 28.....Faith

March 7.....Knife River

March 14.....American

March 21.....Rural Churches

March 29 ... (Maundy Thursday)...Parish Board Coordinates

March 30 – Good Friday.....No Meal

Easter Schedule: April 1

7:00 AM Sunrise Service at ALC

Easter service at usual worship times at each congregation

Bible Classes, Thursdays after school (3rd graders)

October 25, November 1, 8, 15

Bible Sunday (3rd graders) - November 18th

Confirmation Sunday

April 15, at home congregations

Confirmation Camp Rotation

2018 Upper Missouri Ministries (Epping) – July 8-13

2017 Camp of the Cross

2016 Metigoshe Ministries

Christmas Eve services: Monday, December 24th

5:00 PM American & 5:00 PM Faith

Western North Dakota Synod Assembly

May 31 – Pre-Assembly workshop & Mission Gala

June 1-2 (Bismarck) Synod Assembly



Prairie Lutheran Parish

American-Bethlehem-Faith-Knife River
We are one together in mission

Mountrail County Food Pantry is a Prairie Lutheran Parish supported ministry.

The Mountrail Community Food Pantry provided 4950 pounds of food in December, which does not include the turkeys that were picked up at Cashwise by clients using their voucher. Of the 155 people, 73 were children and 22 were seniors. We were closed the last two Mondays in December, for Christmas and New Year's, so we served less families. We do post these holiday dates well in advance, though, so folks can plan to come in when we are open, trying to make certain that everyone that needs food, gets food. ☺ We were so thankful to receive gaming funds from the Veterans Gaming Funds, from the Lucky Mound ALCW, Aux Sable, Secure Energy, many memorials from folks in honor of friends and loved ones, and several extremely generous donations from local folks. ☺☺

We had a lot of fun with the high school kids that came to help us unload a food truck. They were strong and ENERGETIC!!! It never fails to raise a person's spirits being around kids. ☺

We were especially thankful for their help, because many of our regular volunteers were attending a funeral that day. I do post pictures on our Facebook page, if you would like to check that out. If you would like to see our unloading procedure, perhaps you would like to conduct a scientific experiment and come help us unload one day. (insert mischief-filled giggle here) We post the time and date on our Facebook page, so if you follow us, you would get the notification. All jocularly aside, I must take a moment to say it again.....we are so thankful to live in a community that is filled with caring, compassionate people who watch out for one another....God bless you all. ☺

Mary

Mountrail County Food Pantry
PO Box 39, Stanley, ND 58784



[https://www.facebook.com/
Mountrail-Community-Food-Pantry-
1158506520929303/](https://www.facebook.com/Mountrail-Community-Food-Pantry-1158506520929303/)



ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

2018-19 YAGM applications – one month left to apply!

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program invites young adults ages 21-29 into a year of service, faith formation and relationship building in 11 country programs around the world. Young adults serve in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence and solidarity. As they offer themselves in service, young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. Check out ELCA.org/yagm for more information and apply now! Applications are due Feb. 15 for service beginning August 2018.

LifeKeys: Discover Who You Are

Gifted to Serve GIFTS Event

When: Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 8:45 AM to 4:30 PM CST

Spend time discovering and celebrating the gifts God has planted in each of us. Participants will explore their own unique gifts and dream about ways to share them more intentionally in the relationships, ministry and service that fill our lives each day.

LifeKeys: Discover Who You Are is a spiritually- based, multifaceted approach to exploring who God created you to be and how God is calling you to share your gifts in the world. Through interactive activities that engage a variety of learning styles, small group conversation and personal reflection, this process will assist you in understanding yourself and how you might use your gifts more effectively in new ways.

This event is at First Lutheran Church in Minot on Saturday, February 3, from 8:45AM - 4:30PM.

Sweet Deal for Central African Republic

Mini M&M's will once again be available in Minot and Bismarck for congregations participating in the Sweet Deal for C.A.R. project over Lent to support ministry with our global companion synod partner, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic. Congregations interested in picking up M&M's can do so by e-mailing info@wndsynod.org to be sure we have enough inventory on hand. M&Ms can be picked up at Bread of Life Lutheran Church in Minot (1415 17th Ave SW) or at the Synod Office in Bismarck (1614 Capitol Way).



144 ENVELOPES PROJECT

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Amongst Prairie Luthern Parish churches, there are 144 envelopes, each one numbered from \$1-144. If you would like to contribute to the cost of our National Youth Gathering trip to Houston next June, feel free to take an envelope of an amount that you are comfortable with. Please fill in your name on the back of the envelope.

After you have filled the envelope with the designated amount, return it to the office at American Lutheran or Pastor Carter, Pastor Sarah, or Eden.

Thank you for all of your support and help for our youth and their experience at the National Youth Gathering!

Lent 2018

Begins Wednesday, February 14. Ends Saturday, March 31.



PRAY



FAST



GIVE

THE THREE PILLARS OF LENT

Sunday Worship
Schedule:
Bethlehem: 9:00
Knife River: 9:00



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
		<u>Wednesday 7th Parish Schedule</u> 3:00-4:00 7th grade confirmation 4:00: 8th & 9th grade confirmation 4:00—5:15 Parish School Fellowship 5:15 Parish Supper (see supper schedule for details) 6:00 Midweek worship 6:30 LYO	
4 Sunday Worship! ALC potluck fellowship 11:30: ALC Council	5 10:00 ALC quilting	6 10 Pastor's Text Study 10:00 Bethlehem Bible Study at Centennial Crt 2:00 Faith Aft Study	7 See Wednesday Parish schedule 10:00 Parish Bible study at
11 Sunday Worship! 1:00—1 st Communion classes for 5 th graders at	12 10:00 ALC quilting	13 10 Pastor's Text Study 10 Bethlehem Bible Study 2:00 KR WELCA	14 See Wednesday Parish Schedule Noon: Scroll
18 Sunday Worship! 1:00—1 st Communion classes for 5 th graders at ALC 5:00 KR Family Night	19 10:00 ALC quilting Note: Church Office closed	20 10 Pastor's Text Study 10 Bethlehem Bible Study	21 See Wednesday Parish Schedule
25 Sunday Worship! ALC Green Serving Group meets after worship	26 10:00 ALC quilting	27 10 Pastor's Text Study 10 Bethlehem Bible Study	28 See Wednesday Schedule for details
		<u>Parish Supper Schedule</u> Feb 14 th LYO serves supper Feb 21 st Bethlehem serves supper Feb 28 th Faith serves supper	<u>Wednesday 1st Parish Schedule</u> 3:00-4:00 7th grade confirmation 4:00: 8th & 9th grade confirmation 4:00—5:15 Parish School Fellowship 5:30 Parish Supper 6:30 Midweek worship 7:00 LYO

MARCH 2018



Wednesday Parish

Schedule:

See full Wednesday
schedule below

	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:00 Parish Men's Bible Study at Centennial Court	2 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	3
Wednesday Parish ABOVE morning at ALC	8 8:00 Parish Men's Bible Study at Centennial Court	9 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> Bethlehem hair fix at Bethel home	10
Monday Schedule below 1 Deadline	15 8:00 Parish Men's Bible Study at Centennial Court	16 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i>	17
Wednesday Schedule below	22 8:00 Parish Men's Bible Study at Centennial Crt MCMC Heathy Hearts at ALC fellowship hall Scroll Assembly by Faith	23 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> ALC hair fix at Bethel home	24
Wednesday Parish below			
<div> <u>12, 21 & 28 Parish Schedule</u> grade confirmation grade confirmation prairie Lutheran Parish Wed. School upper (see supper schedule) k Lent Service </div> <div> <u>Regular Weekly Activities</u> 4:00-5:00 Cub Scouts on Mondays at ALC 6:00-8:00 Boy Scouts on Mondays at ALC 8:00 P.M. A.A. on Mondays & Fridays at ALC 10:00 A.M. AIAnon on Saturdays at ALC </div>			



SOCIAL MINISTRY GLIMPSE

Aging Life Care Management

Aging Life Care™ professionals help find solutions in times of uncertainty; provide guidance and support to ensure quality care and well-being for loved ones; thus reducing worry, stress and time off for family caregivers. Tailored to the senior's need, services: assess and monitor; plan and problem solve; educate and advocate; support both care receiver and caregiver. As assisted living, and nursing home care costs continue to rise, Aging Life Care can coordinate necessary supports in the home, often at a much lower cost.

In the past year, 47 families connected with care managers to navigate health-care options in a flexible, person-centered manner.

Child Care Aware Start-Up Consulting

Child Care Aware has five consultants available to help people who want to be child care providers through the start-up process. Start-up services are offered from the time someone is considering opening a program, through the licensing process, until they have completed their first year as a licensed program and then applied re-licensure. CCA Start-Up Consulting has helped programs with technical assistance covering such topics as reducing health and safety risks, how to set up a great child care space, planning for children and the basics of owning your own business.

In the past year, 175 programs have received technical assistance in 64 communities.

LSSND Internships

Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota (LSSND) has always been a great place to be an intern but, the newly enhanced LSSND Internship Program adds some important features to the experiences that young professionals will get during the time they spend at LSSND: the chance to network with other students involved in the internship experience, access to a dedicated mentor, monthly intern chats, a work/life balanced schedule, and an intern-oriented evaluation.

LSSND is currently helping students from Concordia College, Minnesota State University Moorhead, North Dakota State University, and University of North Dakota complete internships in the following LSSND programs: Refugee Resettlement, Senior Independence, Unaccompanied Refugee Minors, and Luther Hall.

For more information about LSSND Internships, please contact: Donna Schneider at dschneider@lssnd.org.

Monthly Stewardship Thoughts and Resources for You!

A Visit with Vincent - Generosity Changes Everything

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Matthew 5:14.

Vincent and his wife worked hard on their farm, saving carefully for retirement. They loved their church and in addition to their congregation, they shared with numerous charities throughout their lifetimes. Thankful for the many ways God blessed them, they shared abundantly and lived a life of contentment. By sharing what God had entrusted to them to help others, they created a legacy of generosity. Toward the end of his life, Vincent asked his pastor, "Pastor, are other people sharing the way my wife and I have? Can you use my example of giving to open their hearts to give? So that they too may know the joy of generosity?"

Thankfulness, happiness and contentment interact, but gratitude holds the key. Develop gratitude, then happiness and contentment follow. It doesn't work the other way around. With prayer, devotion and simple exercises, the Holy Spirit will lead you to deeper spiritual maturity and more happiness. Here are some ideas for you and your family.

- Pray daily. Ask God to give you a greater sense of thankfulness. And then thank God for all the day's blessings.
- Chart thankfulness. On a big wall calendar mark one thing for which you're thankful to God. Invite other family members to do the same. When you get in the habit of looking for them, you will find blessings everywhere.
- Keep a "blessing list." Write down the things you are grateful for. Then as you say your nighttime and morning devotions, pray over the list: "God, I'm thankful for this, and I'm thankful for that." Revise the list as needed.
- Send out thank-you notes. Buy a box of inexpensive thank you notes and send one every week. Go deep, thanking not only the folks who have given you a present or done a favor for you, but also those whose love, support, friendship, laughter, energy or presence are important to you.
- Make a "thank offering." Express gratitude in a tangible way by contributing to your congregation or favorite church cause. Make the donation "just because," or in honor or memory of a loved one, or on the occasion of a special event or blessing in your life.

Adopt one or more of these exercises as a spiritual discipline and, with God's help, you will develop the attitude of gratitude that will bring more satisfaction, greater happiness, spiritual depth and emotional maturity to your life.

ALC Annual Meeting Update

ALC had our annual meeting on January 21. The decision was made to replace the air conditioning with only one vote in dissent. The decision was made to replace the lights in the sanctuary with better lighting. The decision to move forward with landscaping the north side of the building was made. Officers this year will be Kyle Hansen, President; Jackie Nelson, V.P. and Kay Nordloef, Secretary. We welcome five new members to the council: Cammi Hysjulien, Jacob Carpenter, Karen Colbenson, Summer Meyer and Amy Walter.

The next council meeting will be February 4 following worship. February 4th is also our First Sunday monthly potluck dinner. Join us for food and fellowship!

Welcome Kayla Hill to the Parish!

We will have a 'Welcome Kayla' brunch in honor of Kayla Hill on **February 25** following ALC worship. We'll be serving muffins & egg bake & (of course) coffee. Everyone is invited to join us in welcoming her to our parish.

MCMC Healthy Hearts at ALC—February 22

We have a new projector!

The power point on the overhead screen is much brighter! We also have had lots of difficulty with our microphones and we now have 2 new wireless microphones and a new hand held microphone. Thank you Gary Nordloef for all the time you have spent rectifying these issues.





Serve.

ALC Serving Groups - Also see the church bulletin board

Gold Group

Serves in February

February 2018	Ron & Shelly Aadnes
Gold Serving Group	Shane Aadnes
March 2018	Dave & Paula Brown
Green Serving Group	Jacob & Ashley Carpenter
April 2018	Brandon & Beth Dean
Purple Serving Group	Jared Enget
May 2018	Scott & Jordan Evans
Red Serving Group	Rocky & Adriana Fladeland
June 2018	Larry & Nancy Hagen
White Serving Group	Nancy Hemstad
July 2018	Gerry & Chancey Henin
Blue Serving Group	Jason & Christy Iverson*
August 2018	Duane & Janice Lindberg
Gold Serving Group	Evan & Erin Meiers
	Eric & Shannon Mell
	Norman & Julie Mell
	Jackie Nelson
	Earl Rogstad
Power Point	Layne & Tyra Rolfe
Projectionists	Elaine Sandry
Katie/Sarah 1st	Pam & Kelly Shunke
Kelly/Dawn 2nd	Aaron & Ashley Skarsgard
Gary/Kaye 3rd	Troy & Jenny Smith
Jeff/Karen 4th	BreeAnn Sorenson*
	Clay & Sarah Sorenson
Sound System	Steve & Cathy Springan
Jake Hellman 1st	Bill & June Stevens
Don Longmuir 2nd	
Gary Nordloef 3rd	
Jeff Colbenson 4th	
Jake Hellman 5th	

Acolytes:

February 2018: Kerrington
 March 2018: Ethan
 April 2018: Kerrington

Green Group

Serves in March

Gordon & Sharon Aas *
Bryan & Karen Davies
Robin Enget
Gary & Sue Evenson
Elsie Ganskop
Jacob Hellman
Brian & Traci Hysjulien
Chad & Cammie Hysjulien
Hod & Ruth Hysjulien
Marjorie Jaha
Gary & Judy Johnson
Lynette Johnson
Kevin & Michelle Kinnoin
Meyer & Diane Kinnoin
Chase Lindberg
Dan & Karen Lindberg
Larry & Grace Lystad
Gladys Meyer
John & Devra Mogren
Greg & Stacey Mortensen
Bev Neset *
Jerry & Jennifer Neset
Lance & Teri Ostdahl
Evonne Piepkorn
Stacy Ramberg
Ken & Donna Ranum
Bill & LaRae Rudolph
Amy Strasser
Robert Western
Bernard & Joanne Wirtz

* = Chair/Vice Chair of Group

Serving Groups - Serving forms are placed in the folder beside the bulletin board. Tasks are on the back side of the serving form.

Please remember when it is your serving group's rotation month, to take home the soiled dish towels from the kitchen to wash them. Also communion prep volunteers should take any soiled communion cloths home and wash them. All tasks are listed on the back of the serving form.

If you have questions please visit with your Serving Group chairperson. Thank you for serving our congregation in this way.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

We are good soil.



<u>Coffee / Greeters</u>		<u>Ushers</u>		<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Readings</u>
2/4/2018	Jason & Andie Roise	Scott & Nancy Meiers	Feb 11th	Brooke	
2/11/2018	Sunday School			Katy	
2/18/2018	Mike & Kim Sorenson			Jonathan	
2/25/2018	Dustin & Barb Roise				

<u>Music</u>	<u>Communion Usher</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Bell Ringers</u>
Owen	Briggs	Jessy Jake	Molly Jack	Alexis Alycie	Annie Kaley Henry	Levi Jozey Sadee

WELCA News

Our mission is to mobilize women to boldly act upon their faith in Jesus Christ. Bold Women's Day – observed annually on the 4th Sunday of February- celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. It is important to realize that women are bold in different ways. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers; others are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, all about being a disciple of Christ. Let's get our bold on! Bold Women's Day is Sunday February 25th. Website info may be found at welca.org/bwd. (From Leadership News from Women of the ELCA interchange)

Ross WELCA will meet on January 28th after worship. We need to discuss and make a plan for 2018 and plan our Lent suppers. We will be serving on February 21st and again on March 21st with Knife River and Faith. Come with fresh ideas and a willing heart to carry out our mission.

"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty Savior: He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in His love, He will sing joyfully because of you." Zephaniah 3:17.

Thank you to everyone for getting your annual reports in on time and also a big thank you to everyone who served on the 2017 church council. It's been a good year and you've been great to work with! God's blessings to all as we move onto the business of 2018.

Congratulations to Jubal and Deann Jarmin, grandparents, and Howard and Janice Rehak, great-grandparents, on the birth of baby girl Liza Jill born to Adam and McKenzie Jarmin on December 11th.

Congratulations to Sadie Uran and her family on the baptism of Sadie on December 28th, 2017.

Sympathies to the Juma family upon the death of Zinnie Juma January 10th.



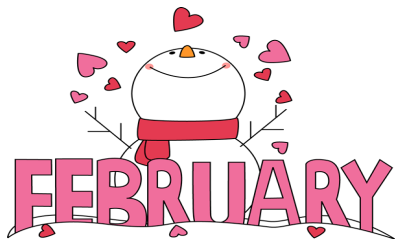
The Sunday school kids have continued learning how to be great "Faith Builders" during their Sunday school lessons. We are all really enjoying this curriculum. The lessons allow us to use God's word to

help us make good choices in our every day life. The kids worked on a special project of share God's love with special people in our church family. With Lent season fast approaching, Barb is working on organizing our annual Lenten church sleepover! This is a time the kids really look forward to. It's always a fun time had by all!

-Breann and Pam



Lent



Happy St. Valentine's Day!

Everyone—sit and enjoy a cup of tea reading this short news for the month. I'll make up for it next month.

Start of Lent heading toward Easter is Feb. 14—ash Wednesday, as Easter is April 1st (No fooling!)

A heads up—our **WELCA ladies meeting** will be on Sunday March 4 with potluck dinner and the meeting to follow. Hope you all can make it!

Evening Bible Study is undecided and will be contacted by the president (Barb) on when, where and time.

Afternoon Bible Study will meet on Feb 6 at 2:00 at Debbie's home along with a Bible group study. (Hopefully, the weather will cooperate this time!)

Altar & Greeters are Debbie and Jennifer

Work: Vicki J. Ch, Iva & Della

Coffee: 4 – Phyllis, 11 – undecided, 18 – Marion, 25-Darlene B.

Quote of the Month

"We are God's offering to the world"

Readers: 4 – Eli, 11 – Monica, 18 – Debbie, 25—Darlene B.

Have a great month

-Debbie



Our class is rollin' along good and also good attendance. With stories, crafts and activities, we are learning about Jesus' life and being our Savior. Our next Sunday School in Feb are these dates: 4, 11 & 18 at 9:30.

"Happy Valentines day to my students"!

-Kathryne



THE
FORTY
DAYS
of LENT



RETURN
to the
LORD
YOUR
GOD



FEBRUARY



JANITOR for February. There is currently no one signed up, but if you are interested in doing February let Jana know.

WELCA will meet on Tuesday, February 13th, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Dorothy Goodall.

FAMILY NIGHT will be on Sunday, February 18th, at 5:00 p.m. Program has not been decided, but watch upcoming church bulletins for details.

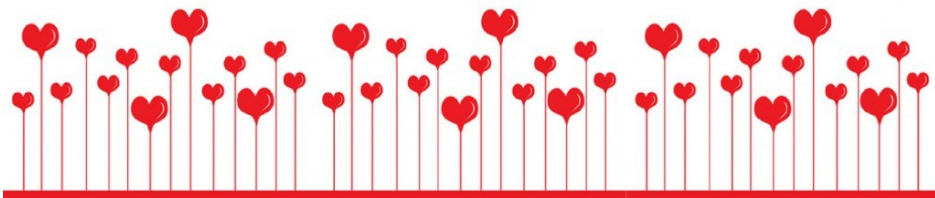
THANK YOU TO – outgoing council members, to those who served on various committees this past year, served coffee after worship, served for Family Night, to our pastors, Carter and Sarah, for all they do in our congregation and parish, to the readers for worship, the organists/clavinova players, ushers, candle-lighters and to anyone of who have helped in any way and to all of you who have joined in the fellowship and worship of our congregation.

Everyone is important and **THANKS TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU.**

SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO Warren Craft for the snow removal this winter in the church yard and for keeping the weeds in control in the cemetery during the summer as well as getting rid of the flies and insects in the church this fall. It is much appreciated!

News is short this month, but next month we will have had our Annual Meeting so will report on the results of that.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO EVERYONE!

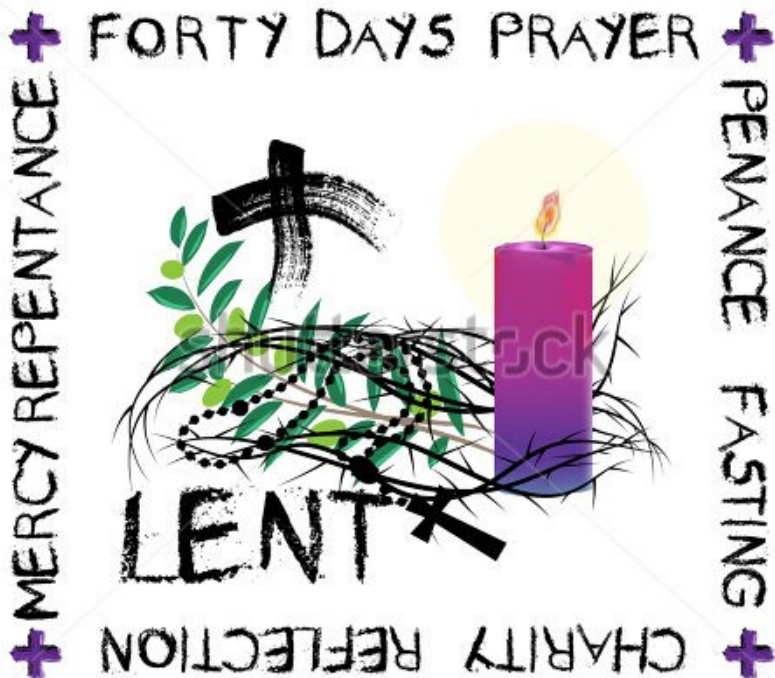
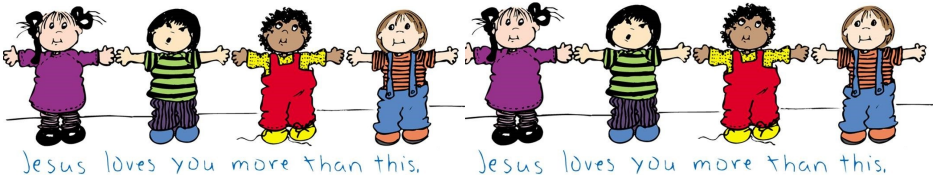




We have been continuing our lessons about Moses and will be focusing on the Ten Commandments the next couple weeks.

This month will be a shorter month for Sunday school. We will only meet Feb 4th and 11th. Family league will be Feb 18th at 5pm.

-Nikki



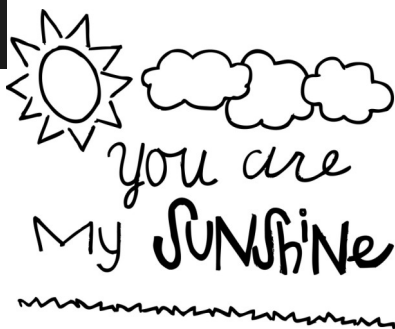
Our Parish members celebrating birthdays this month!

- 1 – Bentley Sigloh, Blaine Hamers, Gail Raasakka
- 2 - Mari Jarmin, Brad Anderson, Kevin Halvorson, Kale Enget, Lori Hanson, Scott Evans
- 3 - Scott Johnson, Teague Nelson, Scott Rudolph
- 4 - Darcy Buerkle, Jason Zuchara, Jessica Lerohl, Brian Hamers
- 6 - Adam Jarmin, Clarence Kvamme
- 7 - Kevin Fretheim, Brock Borud
- 8 - Nicole Longmuir, Shea Aas, Dan Harwood, Zeke Wienbar
- 9 - Holly (Olson) Albright, Jodi (Anderson) Zimmerman, Betty Harstad, Miranda Colbenson, Bill Sem, Walt Dunham
- 10 - Dan Meiers
- 11 - Rita Locken
- 12 – Lyla Roehrich, Kenny Bykonen, John Mogren
- 13 - Sandy Dennis, Aidan Olson
- 14 - Brady Rodenhizer, Dennis Nielsen, Courtney Smith, Taylor Smith, Scott Nelson, Lowell Vedaa, David Lee Garaas
- 15 - Lynne (Hynek) Mraz, Gavin Scott Vigness, Tammi Colbenson, Pat Jensen, Bev Neset, Eric Abrahamson, Emery Meiers
- 16 - Jake Germundson
- 17 - Audrey Dazell, Jennifer Nelson, Chase Enget, Stan Wright, Amelia Koester
- 18 - Ryan Nelson, Easton Manson, Cooper Wayne Sem
- 19 - Christi Guthmiller, Renee Grinolds, Noma Rian, Caliann Nordloef, Iva Fox, Kianna Bruhn
- 20 - Adam Johnson, Mackenzie Johnson, Keenan Henning, Lindsey Henning, Gary Mork, Jr.,
- 21 - Brad Borud
- 22 - Renae Gjellstad, Jim Trana, Brent Rodenhizer, Tina Lynnes, Asher Nichols
- 23 - Brent Borud, Annie Barnhart
- 24 - Mazi Koester, Barry Summers, Caylie Dunham
- 25 - Kari Grinolds, Ardyce Alvstad
- 26 - Alyssa Anne Nielsen
- 27- Marly Juma, Mark Morgan, Macy Nesheim
- 28 - Susan Vachal, Stevie Halvorson, Kayla Hill, Axel Sandeen, Pastor Kayla Hill
- 29 - Virginia Noble, Kaitlynn Lindberg



February Anniversaries

6 - Donna and Eric Simpson
11 - David and Tammi Colbenson
14- Randal & Diane Ostdahl
15 - Mike & Clarissa Parmeter
28 - Tom & Betty Simmers



Prairie Lutheran Parish – Servants of Christ, Sharing His love with others

Visit us on the web at <http://PrairieLutheranParish.org/>
and on our Facebook page!

Contact Us

Please let us know of any ministry needs or questions.

Prairie Lutheran Parish

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