



Wonds fnom Intern Paston Sarah

For most people, January 1 is the start of a new year. But for myself and many other educators and students around the world, the days that end August and lead into September are our "January 1." New beginnings, fresh starts, new dreams and goals, and the excitement that a whole new year holds! This planning and excitement doesn't stop at the door of the schools with the school staff and students, it leads into our parish! Do you feel the excitement in the air? "The Bridge" Wednesday Night Worship, Wednesday School, Confirmation, Rally Sunday, LYO, Bible Studies, Sunday worship and much more are being planned for the upcoming year. At our staff planning meeting, we began to "dream" out loud. Dreaming about what we want our year to look like. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, today I ask you, what are your dreams for our Parish? What do you already love about your church? Is there something you would change? And where can you use your gifts from God to make those dreams happen? Do you feel God calling you somewhere in the church? Maybe it's a tiny little voice that is saying, "You could do that." Or maybe it's that pesky pastor or neighbor that is calling out your gift, telling you how good you'd be at this or that. If so, what is stopping you from sharing that gift? Is it another voice telling you, "You don't know enough" or "You're not good enough." Stepping out of our comfort zone can be scary. Yet. allowing ourselves to ignore that negative voice and listening to the encouraging voice can help us grow as a Christian.

In John 6, Jesus has been repeating over and over that he is the bread of life and whoever eats this bread will live forever. There is complaining by some, disbelief by others, and foreshadowing of betrayal. People in this gospel are so uncomfortable that by verse 66 many of his disciples turned back and no longer went with him. It is then that Jesus asks the twelve disciples, "Do you too wish to go

away?" Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." Lord, to whom can we go? Where is God calling you today? You might be uncomfortable, maybe even have some doubts, or maybe you feel you are not perfect. But God is calling each and every one of us with all of our imperfections. He is calling us to listen to that voice that is lifting you up and encouraging you. He is calling us to ignore that voice of fear and doubt. Be a confirmation mentor, help with Wednesday or Sunday School, go to that Bible study, visit and pray with a person in the home or hospital, offer a kind word when you see someone struggling, be the voice that lifts up another's gift, go forth and serve!

I feel blessed to serve each and every one of you in this parish. I see Christ when I look into the faces of our congregations and I believe that each one of you has gifts and talents that you can share with one another. I am excited to see what this new year has in store for us. Happy New Year, Prairie Lutheran Parish!

-Pastor Sarah

Confirmation

We are excited to begin yet another year of confirmation in the Prairie Lutheran Parish!

We will be having informational meetings at American Lutheran on Wednesday, September 5 at the following times:

5:30 -6:00: 7th Grade

6:00 - 6:30: 8th and 9th Grade

6:30 - 7:00: 10th Grade

Regular confirmation classes will begin September 12th at 4:00pm

Knife River

JANITOR for the month of September is Camie Anderson. Thanks!

REMINDER – Knife River is hosting the annual Sunday School Rally on Sunday, September 9th.

WELCA will meet on Tuesday, September 11th, at the home of Marie Harstad at 1:00 p.m. (Note time change) It is planned that we will finish tying the fleece blankets for LWR after our meeting.

HARVEST is in full swing and we pray for safety for all of those involved and that the farmers have a bountiful harvest.

GOD'S BLESSINGS to the students and teachers as they begin a new school year!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

I cant believe summer is over! It flew by! This means Sunday School will be starting back up for the school year. We will start the year off by hosting Rally Sunday on Sept 9th at 10:30. Our first day of Sunday School will be Sept 16th after worship. I'll be getting a new curriculum to try this year. It should be fun! Any children are welcome to attend Sunday school with us. We will start the year by meeting every Sunday unless noted and will adjust the schedule depending on attendance.

I would also like to invite all children ages 4-6 grade to attend the Parish Wednesday Church school. We meet every Wednesday at 4pm at ALC. This is a great opportunity to have your children socialize with others in our parish and to learn more about the Bible and Gods love for us! Families are invited to then stay for supper and a contemporary worship service. I look forward to another great year and if there's any questions please feel free to contact me.

- Nikki

Faith Lutheran

Operation Christmas Child—this will be coming up soon. There is a box at the church to leave items to donate to the boxes. Let's try to outdo the number we completed last year, which was 14.

Ladies Aide will be in September 13th at 2:00pm at the church. Faith circle will serve the meal.

Congratulations to Kayla Hill on her ordination this past July and to Sarah Sorenson on her installation. God bless them both as they go on to share God's Word.

Sunday School: Rally Sunday will be September 9 at Knife River. We will meet at Faith September 16 and 23 at 9:30am.

Serving Us This Month

Table decorations will be provided from Sept.—Dec. by Faith Circle.

Evening Bible Study will meet at 2:00pm on September 12th at Edna's house. Barb will be the hostess and provide the group study.

Afternoon Bible Study will meet September 4th at 2:00pm at the church. Darlene is the hostess and will provide the group study.

Altar and Greeter—Geraine

Work—Geraine and Velma

Coffee— 2: Joyce, 9:SS Rally at Knife River, 16: Debbie, 23:Kathryne, 30: Joint Service at ALC and Hill Baby Shower.

Readers—2:Debbie, 9: Sunday School Rally at Knife River, 16:Eli, 23:Emma, 30: Joint Service at ALC

Insect of the Month: "Short-horned Grass Hopper"

Bethlehem

USHERS

- 2 Wayne and Diana Evans
- 9 Rally Sunday
- 16—Roger and Addy Evans
- 23—Matt and Sara Evans Family
- 30—Combined Worship

Thank you to the Roughrider 4H group, their parents, and many of the Ross Bethlehem members for the work that you have done to make our raised flower beds a success. Most of the vegetables are finished and have been removed. Many of the flowers continue to bloom. Be sure to stop and enjoy the variety of flowers and the butterflies 2 and bees. Studies show it is beneficial for our mental, physical, and spiritual health to be in touch with God's creations.

Thank you to Lesley and Addy for preparing bouquets on a weekly basis. These have been on display on the alter at Jesus's feet and on the dining room tables.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

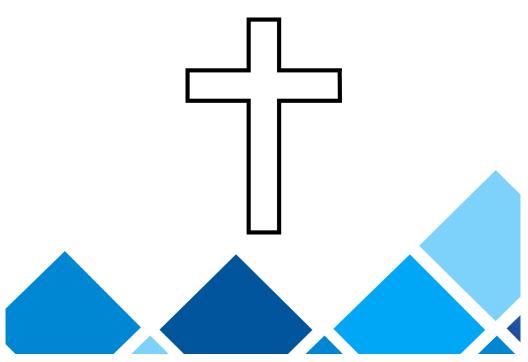
Join our Parish for Rally Sunday on September 9th at Knife River. The first day of Sunday School at Bethlehem will be September 16.

-Breann and Pam

WELCA News

- Please continue to bring in the "Bath Soap Bars" so we can Fill the Bath Tub for LWR Fall pick up.
- We continue with the collection for "Trinity Cancer Care" needs...A list of possible items is on the collection box.
- The Bethel Home Auxiliary is planning a Fall Festival Event to raise money for the needs of the residents! This will be a fun filled family event! We are asking for help from the WELCA gals and we are inviting everyone to attend this event! Our church is one of 8 churches who own the MCBH, so this is a great opportunity to support the residents of your local Bethel Home! This event will be held on from 2:00-4:00 at the Bethel Home in Stanley on September 16th. Please mark it on your calendar and plan to come!
- The "Western Prairie" WELCA Fall Meeting will be held in Powers Lake on October 6th.
- Ross WELCA will meet on September 23rd after worship. Please be thinking about what you want our future to look like, both functionally and mission wise. Please consider being a leader of the pack. We will hear from Addy how we did on our Bakeless Bake Sale at the meeting also.

- Diana



American Lutheran

Green Group

Purple Group

September 2018

Green Group

October 2018

Purple Group

November 2018

Red Group

December 2018

White Group

January 2019

Gold Group

February 2019

Green Group

March 2019

Purple Group

Power Point

Asst.

Katie 1st

Kelly/Dawn 2nd Gary/Kay 3rd

Jeff/Karen 4th

Sound System

Jake Hellman 1st Don Longmuir 2nd Gary Nordloef 3rd Jeff Colbenson 4th Jake Hellman 5th Gordon & Sharon Aas * Bryan & Karen Davies Robin Enget Gary & Sue Evenson Jacob Hellman Brian & Traci Hysiulien 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 Stacey Ramberg Ken & Donna Ranum Bill & LaRae Rudolph Amy Strasser Robert Western Bernard & Joanne Wirtz

Corey & Melissa Bristol Zachery Bristol Jeremy & Sarah Carkuff Mercy Carkuff Travis Charnetzski Brad & Kim Ellis Mark Frickson Kelly & Dawn Evenson Kevin & Melissa Evenson Marilyn Evenson* Kali Gandrud Roger & Renae Giellstad Ryan & Beth Gjellstad Doug & Susan Halden Ron & Linda Hamers Traci & Jaci Jarmin Keith & Taina Karow Darin Larson Doug & Jen Larson Nellie Larson Holly Mills Dorothy Moen Dale & Gwen Mortensen Doreen Moser Ron & Laura Paetz Andrew Raasakka Heather Raasakka Mike & Gail Raasakka Gaige Reep Jerry & Nancy Rudolph

Denise Sundean

WELCA NEWS

- Thank you to everyone who has donated blue jeans to our quilting group!
- September WELCA meeting will be the 10th after quilting.
- The three quilts that were send on to Metigoshe Ministries raised \$1,200. Great job, ladies!
- The fall cluster meeting will be held October 6th in Powers Lake. Please join us, it is a great day!

COUNCIL:

Next council meeting is September 16th at 11:30am.

Any items that are being removed from the church in anticipation for the upcoming remodel are being kept in the Fellowship hall. If you are interested in claiming any of these items and taking them home with you, items will only be available until September 7th.

NEW CUSTODIAN: Our new custodian is Les Alvstad. If you need access to the church after hours please call him at 701-240-8892. His number is listed in the bulletin each week as well.



The first day of school at Wee Care this year will be Tuesday, September 4th. We are excited to see the new faces in the classroom. The preschoolers are always full of life and ready to play, learn, and meet new friends. Looking forward to a great year ahead!

Mrs. Lund & Mrs. Laparra

Contona

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Sunday Worship Schedule			
9a Bethlehem 9a Knife River 10:30a American 10:30a Faith			
2 Sunday Worship!	3 10a ALC Quilting	4 10a Ross Bible Study	5
11:30a ALC Potluck Meal		10a Pastor's Text Study	5:30 - 7p (Informatio
9 Sunday Worship!	10 10a ALC Quilting	11	12 4-5
Rally Sunday @ 10:30 at Knife River		10a Pastor's Text Study 10a Ross Bible Study	School and 5:15p Fan 6p The Br
R	Lostered Leaders Conferen	nce in Medora	6:45p LY0
16 Sunday Worship!	17 10a ALC Quilting	18	19 Scro
11:30a ALC Council Mtg		10a Pastor's Text Study 10a Ross Bible Study 4 - 5:15p V School and 5:15p Fam 6p The Bri 6:45p LYC	
23 Sunday Worship!	24 10a ALC Quilting	25	26
1:30a ALC Purple Serving roup Meets		10a Pastor's Text Study 10a Ross Bible Study	4 - 5:15p V School and 5:15p Fam 6p The Brid 6:45p LYC

3 10:30a Joint Worship at ALC with Potluck to follow 1:00 - 3:00p Hill Baby Shower Open House

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Regular Weekly Activities: 8p A.A. on Mondays & Fridays at ALC 10a AlAnon on Saturdays at ALC

ber 2018

Thu	Fri	Sat
		1
6 8a Men's Bible Study	7 Pastor's Sabbath 8a Bethlehem fixes hair at Bethel	8
13 8a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Together 4 Prayers	14 Pastor's Sabbath	15
20 8a Men's Bible Study	21 Pastor's Sabbath 8a ALC fixes hair at Bethel	22
27 8a Men's Bible Study 1p ALC Green Group Assembles Scroll	28 Pastor's Sabbath	29
	6 8a Men's Bible Study 13 8a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Together 4 Prayers 20 8a Men's Bible Study 27 8a Men's Bible Study 1p ALC Green Group	6 8a Men's Bible Study 13 8a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Together 4 Prayers 20 21 Pastor's Sabbath 8a ALC fixes hair at Bethel 27 8a Men's Bible Study 19 ALC Green Group

Youth News

Welcome back to school means welcome back to LYO! Our new calendar year for Prairie Lutheran Parish includes some changes to Wednesdays and LYO. Below, you will find dates for several events coming up for all our youth and their families. You will also see what we'll be up to!

Sunday, September 9th -- Rally Sunday

Wednesday, September 12th - LYO Kick-off!

• All 7th-12th graders are invited to join us after worship on Wednesday for our LYO kick-off! We'll play kickball, enjoy snacks and other games, as well as hearing about our new plans for this awesome group this year! Join us and bring a friend or several! With our Wednesday schedule full of activities, LYO will start at about 6:45.

Sunday, October 14th - National Youth Gathering presentation and supper

• Everyone is invited to join us on Sunday for a meal and presentation about our experience in Houston in June at the National Youth Gathering. Our 30 participants will be sharing about what we did there, what we heard, and how we could use it to spread God's Word and love to those in our community and everywhere else.

October 18th-20th -- LYO Convention

Please feel free to join us for the meal, worship, and LYO to make a night out of it! The meal begins at 5:15, worship at 6:00, and LYO at 6:30/6:45.

If you have any questions or concerns about LYO or Wednesday schedules, please let Eden know! We look forward to having a fresh start to the year!

Parish News

RALLY SUNDAY

Rally Sunday is September 9th @1030am. A meal will be provided after the service which is NOT potluck. There will be games, bouncy houses, and entertainment after the meal. All the Parish kids are welcome to meet us at 10am at Knife River to practice a couple songs that we will sing during the service.

PARISH WORSHIP SERVICE

Each month that there is a fifth Sunday, we come together for worship and parish fellowship. September 30th is GIFTS Sunday and so our lay leaders will take the lead in worship. There will be special music, a skit, and maybe even some dancing. We hope you are able to attend worship at 10:30 and stay for the potluck fellowship after worship.

PARISH BABY SHOWER FOR BABY HILL

We are all anxiously waiting for 'baby girl' Hill's arrival. We will be having an open house baby shower for Pastor Carter and Kayla on September 30th, 1:00pm—3:00pm following the potluck meal after our joint worship service. If you would like to bring a gift, Baby Hill is registered at Amazon and Target. Everyone is welcome!

PRAYER LIST

Please contact the <u>church office</u> if you have names of individuals you would like added to the weekly prayer list.

Wednesday Nights

It is time for us to begin another year of Wednesday night parish activities held at American Lutheran Church! All activities will take place every Wednesday beginning September 12th.

Wednesday Schedule:

4:00 - 5:15pm Wednesday School for ages 4 years old to 6th grade

4:00 - 5:15pm Confirmation for 8th and 9th Grade

5:15 - 6:00pm Supper and Fellowship

6:00 - The Bridge Worship Service

Bible study and LYO following worship

The meal and Bridge worship service will take place in the fellowship hall of American Lutheran Church. Come and join us! All are welcome here as we bridge together the church and the ever changing world.



Food Pantry

The Mountrail Community Food Pantry provided 8175.5 pounds of food to 74 families, for a total of 266 people being served in July. Of those, 24 were seniors and 114 were children. We had several memorials from folks that wanted to honor friends/loved ones by giving to the food pantry. We received a donation of food from the Stanley Library! We have received food donations from Cashwise each month, and Pinnacle has started donating some foods, as well! August 6th, one of our volunteers had an inspired idea to make up a few backpacks with school supplies inside for clients we serve that might not have the means to provide those supplies for their children as they head back to school. We were given a donation from AuxSable, and they agreed that we could use those funds for school supplies, if there was a need. So our volunteer went shopping. purchased backpacks and supplies, and assembled them. When I asked her for the receipt, what do you think she said? "WHAT RECEIPT??" And so it goes...another heartwarming, goose bump producing moment, that causes a person to stop in their tracks, and be very, very still...as we contemplate the good hearted, compassionate people that are all around us....and the more we look, the more we see. And speaking of good hearted people. Renee Grinolds had a wonderful suggestion. She suggested that we ask the Mountrail County grade schools if the teachers have wish lists of school supplies. Many of those teachers purchase the supplies for the children that can't afford them, out of their own pockets. AuxSable is excited about this project. We will do the research and the communications, and present AuxSable with the list and then they will see what they can do with that list. If anyone would like to specifically donate to the 'teacher's wish list project', please designate that on your donation.

- Mary

September Birthdays

- 1 Rhonda Erie, Scarlett Raasakka, Ronald Seibel
- 2 Collin Andrew Petras, Jubal Jarmin, Jeff Meiers, Megan Ryals
- 3 Whitney Nordloef, Sandy Baade, Bishop Mark Narum, Scott Ostdahl
- 4 Gary Weisenberger, Edna Ostdahl
- 5 Nancy Konen, Kara Nichols, Wayne Enger
- 6 Arlo Borud, Danny Lindberg, Dorothy Moen, Chelsea Harstad, Holdenn Hamers
- 7 Lindsay Hauge, Katelynn Bruhn
- 8 Michele Kinnoin
- 9 Denise Hanson, Bennett Sandeen
- 10 Abby Lynn Westlake, McCoy Essler, Bernard Walker
- 11 Carrie Giese, Cadyn Trulson, Jerome Erie, Robin Borud
- 12 Abraham Roehrich, Jacob Bruhn
- 13 Kathy Rolfe, Marion Dorau, Sienna McLaughlin
- 14 Grace Lystad, Marshall Hermanson, Maura Mills, Kuf Nordloef
- 15 Gordon Aas, Elmer Nelson, Jackie Rudolph, Steven Wing, Kiplee Nordloef
- 16 Keaton Jack Westlake, Daniel Johnson
- 17 Carissa Decker
- 18 Thelma Solberg, Katy Anne Roise
- 19 Jennifer Ellis, Jake Smith, Meredith Craft
- 20 Debbie Johnson, Lacey Johnson, Heather Raasakka, Ace
- Marmon, Joe Bruhn, Carlyle Halvorson
- 21 Marlene Grabow, Debbie Pappa
- 22 Brenna Mell, Lindsey Ellvanger, Gabrielle Rolfe
- 23 Cristi Trulson, Brian Hysjulien, Darlene Cvancara
- 24 Carly Rose Rismon, Courtney Sigloh, Nicole Bruhn
- 25 Gordon Patten, Brad Farhart, Taina Karow, Hunter Warta
- 26 Khloe Juma
- 27 Dallas Grabow, Jody Lidstrom, Kimberly Dupay, Danica Hermanson
- 28 Deloris Oja, Kim Lowe
- 29 Mary Kilen, Michael Steen
- 30 Marilyn Evenson, Lynn Grabow, Myron Johnson

Happy Anniversary

- 1 Jim and Susie Trana
- 2 Ryan and Beth Wilhelmi
- 3 Jack & Jenna Bruhn
- 4 Lonnie & Pam Fladeland
- 5 Jeff & Lynette Meiers
- 5 Bernard & Kim Walker
- 8 Colin & Susan Vachal
- 9 Jerry and Jennifer Neset
- 15 Duane and Janice Lindberg
- 15 Novelyn & Craig Weinbar
- 15 Norman and Julie Mell
- 17 Dennis and Brenda Nielsen

- 23 John & Devra Mogren
- 24 Jason & Misty Zuchara
- 26 Dan & Katie Harwood
- 27 Brian and Traci Hysjulien
- 27 Drew & Kylie Drosdal
- 29 Jason & Danielle Dupay

PRAIRIE LUTHERAN PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

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Kayla Hill, Parish Publications kayla.price.hill@gmail.com

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Synod News

It's All About a Relationships... The seasons are beginning to shift — soon congregations will move into fall program activities. Church newsletters, bulletins and worship announcements are filled with upcoming activities and opportunities for people to share their talents. I read and hear about calls for Church School teachers, Confirmation Mentors, Bible Study participants and leaders — the list goes on and on — there is no question, we are shifting into a new season of the church year.

So, the question arises, why do we put all of this effort into these activities? Really, what is our end goal for church school or confirmation or for that matter adult Bible Study? What is our expected outcome?

I have been reading a book which has me pondering seemingly simple questions like that and it has helped me realize something – the end goal is a relationship with Jesus, God's only begotten Son. While there is nothing wrong with learning information about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit – head knowledge does not automatically translate into heart knowledge (in other words into a relationship).

I am more and more convinced that a life giving relationship with Jesus the Risen Christ is what will lead us to wanting more head knowledge. It is the relationship which will draw us into sharing the hope we have found in God's grace with those around us.

So What's the Book... The book I mentioned above is "Crossing the Bar: Home by Another Way" by James G. Johnson. Deacon Jody Lorenz put me on to this book. It is written by a former ELCA pastor, who now owns and operates a bar.

Each chapter is a theological reflection on life and faith as he engages people who might never set foot in a church. Johnson has some important insights that "church people" can learn from, especially in this changing world.

Take a read – my sense is this could be an excellent Adult Study for any congregation.

Western North Dakota Synod Council – September 14 & 15. If you have items that should be raised let me know.

GIFTS – growing a deeper relationship with Jesus

One of the resources of this synod for growing a Christ centered relationship is GIFTS (Growing In Faith To Serve). Now almost 3 decades old this gathering of people who wants a deeper relationship with Jesus through prayer, scripture study and conversation always has room for more participants.

GIFTS really has components. Probably the best known is the synod-wide component where three or four times a year, seminary professors come here and teach. These are wonderful sessions. The other part of GIFTS is the local gathering – where participants gather with a Mentor Pastor. These local gatherings can engage topics of interest to those gathered. They might include diving deep into a book of the Bible, study around prayer, training on home visitation, digging into Luther's Large Catechism – really the possibilities are endless.

Would you like to learn more – Sherie Heine is available to answer questions and help knew local groups get up and running.

"Walking With You" - 2018 Annual Appeal

You probably remember that the word "Synod" is a Greek work which can be translated, "walking together". That is what we do, as 170 congregations with 57,000 members we walk together in our work of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

As a synod staff our job is to "Walk With You" through life's journey. We walk together through call process, congregational mission discernment, candidacy, faith formation activities and much more. To help make this journey together possible a synod annual financial appeal has been established.

The 2018 Annual Appeal will allow us to meet *all* needs of synod ministry, to be quick in meeting immediate opportunities as well as funding new ministries as needed. The cost of the appropriate human resources and staff time required to accompany congregations and individuals on their journey of faith is significantly on the increase.

Soon many of you will be getting a letter inviting you to participate in this appeal, we hope you will respond. If you do not receive a letter it is because we do not have your address but if you would like to give a financial gift we would be honored. You can mail it to: Synod Appeal, 1614 Capitol Way, Bismarck ND 58502

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