

GOOD NEWS

FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH

701 MAIN STREET
BOTTINEAU, ND

58318

(701) 228-2228

www.bottineauflc.org

February

2020

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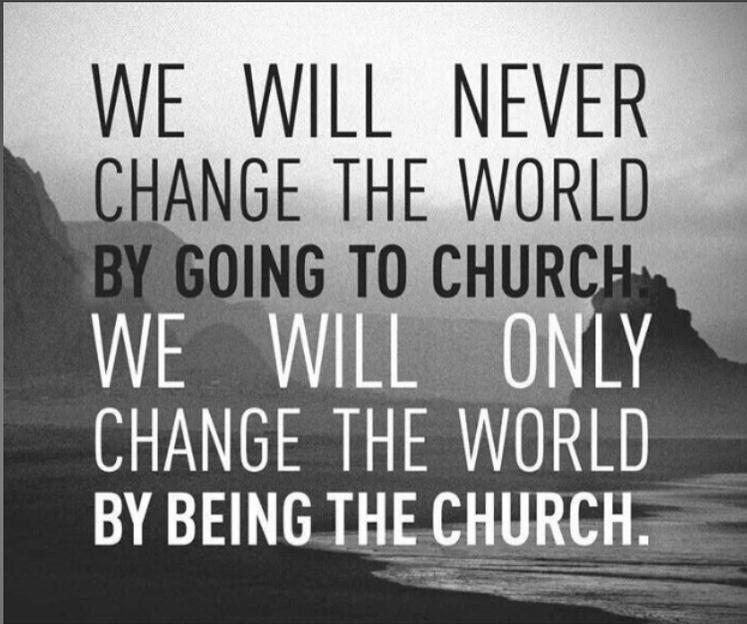
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WE WILL NEVER
CHANGE THE WORLD
BY GOING TO CHURCH.
WE WILL ONLY
CHANGE THE WORLD
BY BEING THE CHURCH.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Joyfully Growing as God's People for Lives of
Faith, Love, and Service.

**To make arrangements to
receive the newsletter,
change your address,
to submit information for
the newsletter or bulletin,
please contact the church
office at 228-2228 or email
at flc@utma.com.**

Message from our Past Council President

Greetings from your Past Council President,

Well, it has been an interesting past few months for sure. A lot of ups and downs, but we are moving forward. Healing has begun. It takes time to get back on our feet, but with lots of prayer and encouragement from one another, we will move on.

As I stated at our Annual meeting, our next steps will be to fill out questionnaires and surveys as to what we would like to see for a Pastor. We have not yet started that process, but soon that will happen. When it does, please take the time to fill these surveys and forms out and answer the questions. By doing this, it lets the Call Committee know what kind of a person we want and need to help us serve the people in our community and beyond. It might take a little bit of time, but please take the time. Be thinking about this over the next couple of months.

We all need to realize that God is at work in all that we do. Have faith that at the right time, someone will feel the need to take the call at First Lutheran Church in Bottineau, North Dakota. We all need the help and encouragement of each other. Please step forward and help when you are asked. Go out of your way if need be. Go out of your comfort zone. You might be amazed at what you can accomplish with some help and a lot of prayer. God does some amazing things!!

See you in Church!

God's peace to you all!

Linda Liebelt
Past FLC Council President





**Women of First Lutheran
Annual Meeting
January 12, 2020**



The meeting between services on January 12, 2020, was called to order by Chairperson Mary Lura, members present reading the purpose statement. Coral Hoff moved to accept the agenda as presented, and Donna Moldenhauer seconded the motion which then carried.

The treasurer's report was presented by Joan Mortensen. The year-end balance is \$11,416.82 which includes both checking and savings accounts. Copies of the projected budget for 2020 was distributed and additions and changes were explained. It was approved as distributed with an increase in the centerpiece budget to \$200.00. Lynn Boetcher moved to accept the proposed budget and Angie Bartholomay seconded it. Motion carried.

Old Business:

A brief report on the 2019 Spring Cluster meeting that was hosted by First Lutheran was given.

We were reminded that the Women of First Lutheran booklets are printed every other year. Members were asked to update any misinformation of phone numbers or addresses with the office.

Service group chairs were asked to check on kitchen supplies before ordering more, and also to state "Women of First Lutheran" (and the project) when making purchases and to contact members of their group reminding them to donate to our funeral fund.

We discussed the lunches for funerals and decided to stay with preparing sandwiches at the church (with purchased food), and to request donations of salads and bars from the work group members.

New Business:

With no volunteers for the executive committee (chair, treas., and sec.) the 2019 committee will continue for the New Year. We still have a need for 1 chairperson for the Jan/July, 2 chairpersons for the Apr/Oct. and June/Dec. work groups.

Thank you to Donna Moldenhauer - Apr/Oct workgroup; co-chair, Tammy Hahn - Community Missions (Meals on Wheels); Marlene Marquardt - co-chair hospital birthday committee with Donna Feland in September; Tammy Hahn - Gifts of Love Tree; Diane Pritchard - kitchen; and Jan Henderson - co-chair with Mary Lura on the Angel Tree Project.

Finger labyrinths will not have a chairperson. However those making the labyrinths are free to continue this service and turn them into the office.

The executive committee will work with Donna Nelson regarding sales of Cards and Napkins with a possibility of having a sale of current boxes of infrequently used cards/napkins. We will be setting up a box for sale of individual cards at the church and possibly also at Oak Manor.

The county fair dates are June 11-14, 2020. Joan Mortensen will contact the State Fire Marshall for a variance on the required fire suppressant system. As one of the chairpersons she will also check with Linda Liebelt on possible dates for the Food Safety classes from Public Health. (Feb. and/or Mar.?)

March 6, 2020, is the scheduled date for World Day of Prayer to be held at First Lutheran this year. Barb Persson has volunteered to chair this event and would like someone to help her plan this.

Discussion was held regarding the need for cleaning and reorganizing the storage areas in the church. Joan Mortensen will contact the church council and property committee.

The women would also like to bring back the donation of coffee for use and events. Tammy Hahn will place a note in the bulletin and newsletter asking all members of the church to donate.

Mary Lura thanked everyone for their work and cooperation in our many projects. Angie Bartholomay moved to adjourn and Marlene Marquardt seconded the motion which carried.



Respectfully submitted,
Diane Pritchard



First Lutheran Church Council Meeting December 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:26 by President Linda Liebelt.

Members Present: Brad Robertson, Joe Kjelshus, Deb Nelson, Reggie Myhr, Mary Lura, Brent Moum, Connie Blada, Jenna Nelson, Brian Knudson, Janell Monson, and Linda Liebelt.

Absent: Mike Aasen

Other: Pastor Carol Wendel, Lisa Herbel

Acceptance of Agenda: Brent M. moved to accept the agenda with the additions. Joe K. seconded it. Motion carried.

Secretary's report: Joe K. moved to accept the minutes with corrections as noted. Connie B. seconded it. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: The go-to person for the discretionary fund will be the council president. Lisa Herbel will distribute and document requests. The discretionary fund is different from the Boettcher Fund. The Boettcher fund requires that any requests over \$200.00 requires the committee to get together and decide if the request will be granted. Forms are filled out for amounts over \$200.00. The discretionary requires that an application be filled out; the amount & to whom are documented by Lisa H. No more than one request per individual, and council president/appointed person will accompany the individual to pay for the purchase or request. Brian K. submitted bill for elevator. Deb N. submitted the bill for Pastor's gift. Mary L. moved to accept the treasurer's report. Brian K. seconded it. Motion carried.

Devotions: Led by Pastor Carol Wendel. Paul's letter to Corinthians. "We are part of God's Body."

Committee/Team Reports:

Endowment:

Tim Olson notified all grant recipients and Lisa Herbel so she can contact Thrivent and award the dollars.

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Parish Ed/Youth:

We have volunteers for the month of January for Grade 7-8 Sunday School and one volunteer to complete the rest of the year. (This is a combination classroom, and the curriculum is done and very well written). A Youth Director committee will meet once we have the means for funding that Mike A. is checking into. Fire Up Sunday Food Service events will be Dec. 15 and January 19, 2020. Further dates to be set later. The next set of curriculum is being looked at and will be ordered. Confirmation will begin again in January. The Christmas Program is set for December 15, 2019 with one service at 9:00 a.m.

Worship:

There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby for anyone wanting to do special music and/or singing throughout the year. Please sign-up and share your talents. We need people to sign-up to greet, read, usher and do coffee fellowship. God is calling. K-8 and adult choir will present their Christmas Program Dec. 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. There will be two services December 24, 2019 at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Pastor Jon Halvorson will lead the services. Glenda Heisler will lead advent services on Dec. 11th and the 2:00 Dec. 18th. Leah Benson will do the 7:00 on Dec. 18th. Adult Ed/Bible Study will start up on January 5, 2020. Glenn Berge will lead it. Pastor Carol Wendel will be our Vice-Pastor. The second Sunday of each month Pastor Carol Wendel will lead church services and we will have communion. Her office hours will be Wednesday's from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.. Pastor Carol Wendel can be reached at 701-228-2172 for **emergencies only**. If someone, doing Pulpit Supply, is not comfortable performing the children's sermon, Marcia Robertson would be willing to do that for them.

Vinje:

Nothing at this time

Property:

Jeremy Ketterling will be hired to do snow removal. Rick Moum and S & M Construction will be back up (at no cost). Elevator is fixed.

Mutual Ministry:

Nothing at this time.

Evangelism:

Goats for Haiti will end Dec 15. "Night of Song" will be held after Christmas, tentatively in February. We would love for you to share your musical talents; contact Glenda Heisler.

Vision Team:

Nothing at this time

Pastoral Care Team:

Mary L. will meet with them to appoint a chairperson. Phone calls and visitations will continue. They are seeking more people to help with home & shut-in visitations.

If you know of anyone needing a visitation, that is home bound, or a shut-in please contact the church office and give the secretary their name.

Diane Myhr will be contacted by Reggie M. to see what ministry has been provided at the home and hospital. Diane Myhr will continue to provide the service and communion to these places as she has for the last 3 years.

Pastor Carol informed us that communion kits can be blessed and left on the altar for whomever to disperse to shut-ins or at the hospital. What is left off of the communion table can be dispersed since it has been blessed.

Security Team:

Thorsrude's is putting together an estimate for locks on church doors.

Old Business:

Names were brought forward for nominees for next years' church council. Nominating committee will talk to the individuals.

Clarification on Tammy Hahn's wages. Tammy is a full-time exempt employee.

Christian Corley said that the Boy Scouts go between with the church will be Bob Abrahamson.

New Business:

Linda L. will check with Coral Hoff to see if she will continue to lead lectionary.

Tammy Hahn will take the CD to the radio station and read the current announcements.

Mary L. will talk to the women of First Lutheran to see if they would be willing to continue doing the Fair Trade Sales.

Persons getting married have been notified to find an Ordained Pastor to do the wedding ceremony.

Janell M. will get the login information for confirmation.

Brad R. explained what a TEEM program is and asked if council would be interested in utilizing this program. Deb N. moved to table this item until the next meeting to allow council more time to gather further information. Brent M. seconded it. Motion Carried.

Brent M. moved to approve Pastor Carol Wendel as our Vice Pastor for a six-month period with pulpit supply and Vice Pastor pay. Brian K. seconded it. Motion Carried.

Pastor Carol Time:

Informed council of an opportunity to use Mary Johnson to work with our council and the congregation with visioning. Groups of 12-15 people at a time will meet to talk. Council will meet with her Jan. 2, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., and group meetings will occur at a later time to be announced.

Next Meeting:

Scheduled for January 14, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Nelson,
FLC Council Secretary



Annual Meeting Results

The annual meeting was held on January 19th. We would like to thank everyone that was able to attend the annual meeting!

Our budget was approved and the following people were elected:

Council: Katy Drader, Laura Kersten, Bob Abrahamson and Nancy Stute

Worship: Cassie Peterson and Tammy Hahn

Property: Jim Fulsebakke, Karsten Bartsch and Clayton Parrill

Parish Ed: Shawna Allard, Faith Bartsch and Connie Blada

Evangelism: Stacy Aasen

Endowment Fund: Donna Nelson

2019 Synod Assembly (June 5th & 6th in Bismarck): Cassie Peterson and Nancy Stute

2019 Camp Delegates (April 19th at 3pm): Cassie Peterson and Brent Moum

Council members will be meeting to elect officers and choose committee representatives.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to serve and to those who completed their terms!

Members who completed their terms:

Debra Nelson Nancy Olson Becky Moen Shawna Allard Marvel Thompson

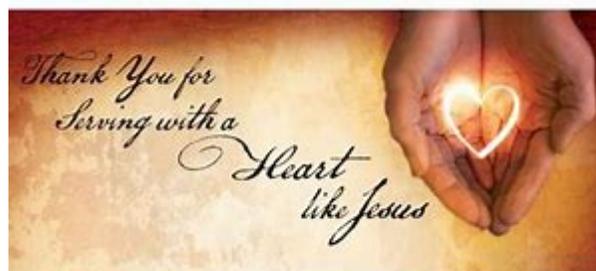
Brad Robertson

Linda Liebelt

Reggie Myhr

Marcia Robertson

Carol Nelson



Amanda Fett

Shaleen Helmer

Andrea Medlang

Cassie Peterson

Steve Gorder

Connie Blada

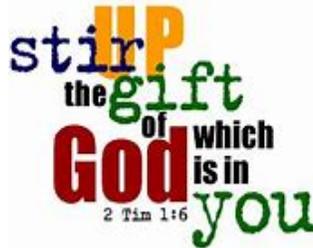
Jim Borkowski

IT'S OUR CHURCH!

Here's How You Can Help...

The following committees need members:

- Worship
- Parish Ed
- Stewardship
- Vinje Memorial



Meeting
Reminders

Committee Meetings Tuesday, Feb. 11th

- 5:00 p.m. Evangelism**
- 5:15 p.m. Parish Ed**
- 6:00 p.m. Worship**
- 6:00 p.m. Property**
- 7:00 p.m. Council**



The Visitation Team is looking for more members! If you would like more information or would like to join, please contact the church office.



A special thank you to newsletter & bulletin folders & to those who take bulletins to the hospital & nursing home every week! You are always here come rain/shine! I can't thank you enough for all of your help!

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Ushers: Don Wolfe, Terry Espe & Dave Geiszler

Reader: Marlene Marquardt

Greeter: Mary Lura

Service Group Chairpersons

Tracy Aufforth

Angie Bartholomay

Altar Guild

Angie Bartholomay

Julie Thompson



If you would like to serve for any areas, please call the church office at 228-2228.

Bulletin Folders: Marlene Marquardt, Verdine Jelleberg & Bob Lagerquist; Bulletins to Hospital: Connie Gorder; Bulletins to Good Sam: Marie Vargo; Newsletter/Annual Report Folders: Marlene Marquardt, Phyllis Getzlaff, Jim Kofoid, Rueben Mayer, Joel & Karen Nelson & Lloyd Nelson



Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00a.m. Worship

After Worship

Coffee Fellowship

Sunday School

Fire-Up Youth

Adult Bible Study

Choir Practice

FLC CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Office: Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Vice-Pastor: Wednesday

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGE

Effective February 2nd, we will be going to **one** **worship service at 9:00 a.m.** Fellowship to follow. Sunday School/Fire-Up Youth will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Glenn Berge in the conference room on the following Sundays at 10:00am: Feb. 2nd, 16th & 23rd!

OFFICE CLOSED

February 17

MEMORIALS

Lucille Gust

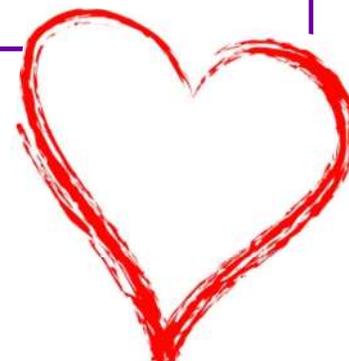
CLOTHING CENTER CLOSURE

The clothing center will be temporarily closed from January 26th - February 17th due to both of our volunteers being unavailable. Donations will continue to be accepted during this time.

ATTENTION PARENTS WITH 5TH GRADERS!

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

The First Communion Retreat will be held at Metigoshe Ministries from March 6th-March 7th. First Communion will be held at our Maunday Thursday service on April 9th. Please watch your mail - information will be mailed out in the next 2 weeks.



FAIR STAND FOOD SAFETY CLASS

Greetings First Lutheran members:

Can you forget the cold outside for a moment and picture yourself working and laughing as you prepare for and work at the Bottineau County Fair Church stand???

That's right, we are beginning the planning.

Fair dates are **June 11th through the 14th, 2020.**

We are looking for anyone interested in joining our committee-*just line up outside Tammy's office door and she will let us know names or contact me.*

We are going to get Food Safety classes completed during the cold months:

* You can access the class online at www.fdh.org under Environmental Health Division-Food Safety DVD for Food Service Employees OR you may view the DVDs at the church by contacting the church office for a time to view. You must view these prior to testing as codes are needed for the test.

- Complete the classes taking notes as you go-you can use your notes during testing
- Be sure you take the codes down with each section of the class-you will need these codes to take your test-there are 8 codes in all

** Linda will be testing after the church service the following dates:

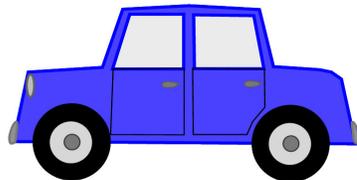
- February 9th & March 8th

If you are uncertain if you need an update you can either contact me or Tammy in the office.

Joan Mortensen 871-2026 or gmort@utma.com



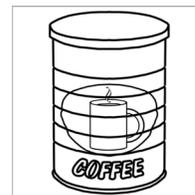
It is that time of year again! FLC is volunteering for Meals on Wheels from Monday, January 13th - Friday, February 21st. We need two drivers for each day to deliver noon meals throughout Bottineau. If you are able to volunteer, please sign-up in the narthex or call the church office.



COFFEE NEEDED!

We are in need of your help! We are asking for donations of ground coffee for the kitchen. The church uses/recommends Folgers regular roast or decaf. Donations can be brought down to the kitchen. Thank you!

Women of First Lutheran





Brunch and a Movie

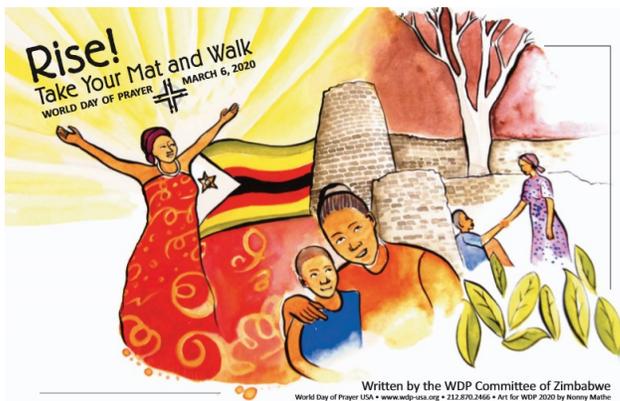


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9th

All congregation members are invited to brunch after Sunday service on February 9th. The youth will be serving breakfast sandwiches and fruit with a free-will offering. Then off to the Bottineau movie theater for the film *Mr. Rogers* at 11:00a.m. Tickets provided (please sign in at the door). Any food items at the theater need to be purchased by individuals.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE



Written by the WDP Committee of Zimbabwe
World Day of Prayer USA • www.wdp-usa.org • 212.870.2466 • Art for WDP 2020 by Nanny Mathe

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Friday, March 6th

2:00 p.m.

Watch for more information!

NIGHT OF SONG



Wednesday

February 19th

6:30 p.m.

FLC Sanctuary



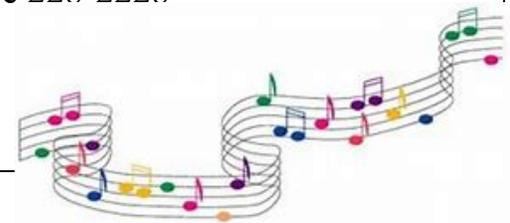
Ice Cream Social to Follow

Musicians, together with soloists and vocal groups, will present a *Night of Songs*. We invite and welcome gospel groups from the surrounding area to participate in the program. If you would like to perform, please contact one of the following:

Glenda Heisler 228-3519

Mary Lura 228-6281

Church Office 228-2228



Wednesday Lenten Services

2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

~February 26th – Ash Wednesday-sanctuary

~March 4th - courtyard

~March 11th - courtyard

~March 18th - courtyard

~March 25th - courtyard

~April 1st - courtyard

Evening Lenten services will have supper at 6:00 p.m.
served by our confirmation families.
Free-will offering.



Dear friends:

Ten years ago, a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck near Port-au-Prince, Haiti. This earthquake was the most powerful to strike Haiti in more than 200 years. About 300,000 people were killed in the destruction, and about 3 million people were affected altogether. Donors like you gave more than \$13 million for Haiti earthquake relief. Read more at: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Haiti_Earthquake_10_Years_Later.pdf.

On this day, we remember and mourn the loss of Ben Splichal Larson, a 25-year old Wartburg Theological Seminary student who was studying and serving in Haiti that January. Ben was inside the St. Joseph's Home for Boys when the top two floors of the building collapsed on him; his wife, Renee; and his cousin Jonathan. Renee and Jonathan were able to escape, but Ben was trapped in the rubble, where he died. Ben was a talented musician and seminarian who constantly demonstrated Christ's love. A new prayer petition and litany (<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/1374/>) are available on this anniversary of his death. In Ben's memory, the **Ben Splichal Larson Memorial Seminary Scholarship Endowment Fund** was established through the ELCA Fund for Leaders. The fund has raised about \$25,000 and has been matched with two students. You can make a gift in his memory at: <https://community.elca.org/fundforleaders?erid=444f3c8b-c301-420e-bf0f-390ec029c9a9&trid=444f3c8b-c301-420e-bf0f-390ec029c9a9>.

In moments such as this, we grieve, but we also take heart as we follow God's call to respond. Your giving to Lutheran Disaster Response makes a tremendous difference in the wake of unpredictable disasters, enabling a quick response and effective long-term recovery. Thank you for your generosity! Today, I ask you to consider making a gift to the Lutheran Disaster Response Endowment Fund (<https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse?erid=444f3c8b-c301-420e-bf0f-390ec029c9a9&trid=444f3c8b-c301-420e-bf0f-390ec029c9a9>) that will allow our church to respond to disasters quickly - whenever and wherever they strike.

With gratitude,

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World
Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Funding

Ben Splichal Larson was married to Renee who is originally from Garrison. She and Ben's cousin, Jonathan Larson, were ordained and eventually served as pastors in Mandan and Bismarck. A few years ago they were married. Renee also wrote a book entitled --*A Witness*, about this tragedy.

Submitted by LeaRae Espe

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please pick up your offering envelopes for 2020 in the narthex. Please contact the church office (228-2228) if you are in need of weekly/monthly envelopes.



QUICK, EASY, AND SAFE OFFERING OPTION

Are you aware of electronic giving or online giving? If you are interested in secure, safe ways to give to the church please contact our treasurer, Lisa Herbel, at 228-5191 or the church office at 228-2228. OR you can be routed directly to the mobile version of our online-giving page by scanning this image. Or log-on to our website, bottineauflc.org and click on the DONATE button.

MISSION CHURCH COLLECTION

The Evangelism Committee is implementing a new mission to help people in need. Drop your spare change (or more!) into the little mission church located in the narthex. In the next 2-3 months, we will be collecting donations for Puerto Rico who recently experienced a 6.4 magnitude earthquake.

February 2020 Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>Monthly Prayer Calendar</p> <p>Submitted by: <i>Glenda Heisler</i></p>			<p>1 The little town of Bethlehem was blessed with your presence; may the little town of Bottineau be blessed with your presence, also. Micah 5:2 & Matthew 32:1-5</p>	
<p>2 May we, like Mary, Lord, be willing to face shame, rejection and possible death to fulfill your Will. Isaiah 7:13,14 & Luke 1:35</p>	<p>3 John prepared the way for Jesus. Help me Lord be prepared to lead others to you. Malachi 3:1 & Matthew 7:10</p>	<p>4 Thank you, Lord, for grafting the gentiles into the vine. Isaiah 9:1,2 & Matthew 4:12-17</p>	<p>5 Perform a miracle in our church, Lord Jesus. Isaiah 35:4-6 & Mark 10:51-52</p>	<p>6 Open up to me the parables Lord Jesus; may I learn at your feet. Psalm 78:1-2 & Matthew 13:3, 13-15</p>	<p>7 May humility and meekness be part of my character, also, Lord Jesus. Isaiah 42:2-3 & Matthew 11:28-30</p>	<p>8 The Lord of Glory rides in on a donkey; show us the way Lord Jesus to true humility. Zechariah 9:9 & Matthew 21:6-9</p>
<p>9 Lord, I put my trust in Thee. I look to you for help, hope and salvation. Psalm 17:7</p>	<p>10 Lord Jesus, keep us from despair and deliver us from destruction. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9</p>	<p>11 Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory and the majesty. 1 Chronicles 29:11</p>	<p>12 Lord Jesus, help us not be ashamed of the gospel and reject You. Psalm 69:8 & John 1:11</p>	<p>13 Lord Jesus, You are the Son of God. You have the words of eternal life. Psalm 2:7 & Matthew 3:16-17</p>	<p>14 Lord Jesus, You alone can heal my broken heart. Isaiah 61:1-2 & Luke 4:18-19</p>	<p>15 Lord Jesus, prophesy into my life, be my pastor, reign in my heart. Psalm 110:4 & Hebrews 5:5-6</p>
<p>16 Lord Jesus, rule and reign in my life. Zechariah 9:9 & Matthew 27:37</p>	<p>17 Praise Him, Praise Him, all you little children; God is Love. Psalm 8:2 & Matthew 21:16</p>	<p>18 The beauty of betrayal is found in your death and resurrection, Lord Jesus. Psalm 41:9 & Luke 22:47-48</p>	<p>19 Lord, help me ease off the "fear of man" and as David "be yet more vile". 2 Samuel 6-22, Amos 9:11 & Acts 15:16</p>	<p>20 Lord God Almighty, anoint us with such a spirit of thanksgiving and praise, so that your presence will dwell with and in us. Psalm 16:11,100:4</p>	<p>21 So many years I've traveled with you Lord; so many years to go; give me the strength and faith; by faith, through faith, in faith. Hebrews 11</p>	<p>22 When persecution comes my way, by whatever form, Jesus walks with me. Psalm 35:19 & John 15:24-25</p>
<p>23 Pierce my hands and feet with the Word of God, sanctify my walk and my works by your truth. Zechariah 12:10 & John 20:27-28</p>	<p>24 Lord, let me hold my peace, fight my battles, let victory be mine. Psalm 149:4-9</p>	<p>25 Come Holy Spirit I need thee, come sweet spirit I pray, come in thy strength and thy power, come in thy own gentle way. Acts 7:55</p>	<p>26 Help me Lord to bear my troubles patiently; in my trials let my heart be continually raised to you. Psalm 145:18, 34:4</p>	<p>27 Lord there is plenty of good to do; so help me find it and do it, with all my might. Psalm 37:3 & Eccl. 9:10</p>	<p>28 God of Love dwell in my soul, take full control, chase all doubt and fear away, let me grow in love today. I John 4:7</p>	<p>29 Let your healing virtue flow out to your church today Lord, touching our bodies, souls and minds. Malachi 4:2 & Luke 8:46</p>



Gospel Seeds - February 2020 A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff

Lasts and First...

I am experiencing lots of “lasts” these days. As I write this newsletter I am at the last “First Call Theological Retreat” which I helped organize. I am in the midst of the last of the six “Thank-You and Farewell” events around the synod. I am spending many hours in the office looking through files, getting rid of unnecessary paperwork and setting aside pieces the next Bishop will need. As a staff we are living deeply in the land of transition.

It is a strange place to be in some ways. The last 11 ½ years have flown by and at the same time old files remind me of meetings and events that seem so long ago. Time moves on, God is present through the power of the Holy Spirit and ministry happens.

I am thankful for all of the faithful leaders who have served over these years, both lay and rostered. Congregational members who have been willing to ask difficult questions, dive deep into conversation and then roll up their sleeves for the sake of the proclamation of the Gospel.

I am thankful for the generosity of people across this synod. One document was the listing of seminary scholarships from the year that I was a senior at Wartburg Theological Seminary. In 1998 the synod was able to provide students with \$12,000 worth of scholarships. Because of your generosity we now have over \$70,000 dollars for scholarships and debt buy-down. When I started as Bishop we had about \$500,000 in the Ministry Endowment Fund. As I leave office we have added two more funds, the Mission Fund and the Accompaniment Fund. Combined the three funds have over \$3 Million dollars in assets. Last fall the endowment fund was able to capture just under \$100,000 in gains – that is money which will support ministry across this synod. It is all because of your generosity – thanks!

As I leave this office, I want to thank you for the privilege of serving as your Bishop. It has been an honor to be the voice of this synod in the Conference of Bishops, to work locally and across the larger church on issues of congregational renewal. I have been honored to serve as one of your representatives to your social ministry organization, Lutheran Social Services. We can be proud of the incredible ministry LSS does in the name of Jesus- helping infants through teens, to young families and senior citizens. LSS has 19 different programs which touch the lives of tens of thousands of people across this state.

The witness of another...

Last fall I attended the installation of the new Bishop of Northwest Minnesota. As part of the service, retiring Bishop Larry Wohlrahe processed into worship with the rest of the Bishops who were present. In the midst of the installation service he took the synod cross off from around his neck and placed it upon newly installed Bishop Bill Tesch. Then Larry stepped off the platform. He did not return to sit with the Bishops who were present, instead he walked over and sat with the pastors of the synod who were present for the installation. I loved the imagery in that act.

The polity of our church is that a pastor is raised up by a synod assembly to serve as its Bishop, for a time. It is not a life time appointment. When the term comes to an end a bishop returns to being a pastor of the synod.

February 18th will be my last day in the office, I will take three days of vacation before beginning my new call at Trinity Lutheran in Bismarck. I am thankful for my days of serving as Bishop, but I am truly looking forward to returning to the role of parish pastor.

This is my pledge to the synod and whoever is the next Bishop: I will be a quiet positive presence. I will be deeply committed to my work in the congregation. I will work in cooperation with the other pastors in the community and in my conference.

Until the next Bishop is elected, I will be a supporter and advocate for Interim Bishop Dave Zellmer and the synod staff. God has richly blessed us with these servants and for that I am thankful.

Last Words...

The best last word I can say is “Thank You.” Your prayers and partnership have been a blessing. I am honored to have served you.

God Bless All!

Mark Narum
Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod



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



February 2020

Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00am Worship 10:00 Sunday School/Fire-up 10:00 Adult Bible Study	3 1:00pm - Quilting 6:00pm-Cub Scouts/Webelos 7:00pm-Boy Scouts	4 9:00 am-Yoga 4:30 pm-Wt Watchers	5 12pm-Homeless Coalition	6 10:00 am-Coffee	7 9:00 am-Yoga	8 Baby Boy Shower-Darin & Madison Beck (All Welcome)
9 9:00 Communion 10:00 Sunday School 10:00 Youth Breakfast 11:00 Movie <i>Mr. Rogers-Bottineau</i> Movie Theater	10 9:30am Deborah Circle 1:00pm - Quilting 6:00pm-Cub Scouts/Webelos 7:00pm-Boy Scouts	11 9:00 am-Yoga COMMITTEE & COUNCIL MTGS 4:30 pm-Wt Watchers	12 12pm-Homeless Coalition 6pm-Confirmation	13 10:00 am-Coffee	14 9:00 am-Yoga NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 	15
16 9:00am Worship <i>Coburn Statz Baptism</i> 10:00 Sunday School/Fire-Up 10:00 Adult Bible Study	17 Office Closed 7:00pm-Boy Scouts	18 9:00 am-Yoga 9:30am - Hannah Circle 4:30 pm-Wt Watchers	19 12pm-Homeless Coalition 2pm-Rebecca Circle 6pm-Confirmation 6:30pm Night of Song & ice cream social	20 10:00 am-Coffee 2pm-Visitation Team	21 9:00 am-Yoga	22
23 9:00 Communion 10:00 Sunday School/Fire-Up 10:00 Adult Bible Study	24 1:00pm - Quilting 6:00pm-Cub Scouts/Webelos 7:00pm-Boy Scouts	25 9:00 am-Yoga 4:30 pm-Wt Watchers	26 12pm-Senior Companions 12pm-Homeless Coalition 2pm-Ash Wed. service 6pm-supper 7pm-Ash Wed.	27 10:00 am-Coffee	28 9:00 am-Yoga	29 



February 2020

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Nancy Stute

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:00 a.m.

**WORSHIP BROADCASTS: Sundays 8:30 a.m. on 101.9FM and
10:10 a.m. on local cable Ch. 19 & 52**

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