

February 2019 Newsletter

*Western Edge Parish (Peace Lutheran, Dickinson & St. John's Lutheran, Richardton)
Serving the community in partnership.*

From the Pastor

February 2019

I was just thinking how nice it is to have the church's annual meetings behind us. There is a lot of preparation involved in completing reports and putting our annual meeting report booklet together. After attending both annual meetings, I have to say, you are all pretty agreeable! It was great to have both meetings run so smoothly! Thank you to all who have served the church in any capacity this past year. The church certainly needs your presence, time and talents to run smoothly and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ! That need still exists in 2019! Please keep coming, please keep serving, please keep sharing the talents that God has blessed you with so that you can be a blessing to others!

This coming month both churches will celebrate Lutheran Social Services (LSS) 100th birthday on February 24th. Peace Lutheran will have a pot luck meal and take a free will offering to support LSS's ministry and mission. St. John's will recognize the day by receiving a free will offering as well.

In their 2018 annual report, LSS reflects on "Helping people find their way." It says, "From the flood story told in Genesis, to the baptism of Jesus, the dove is the physical sign that God is near. It is a reminder that God's Spirit is ever present, even in times of trouble, in times of uncertainty and in times of new beginning. The dove is universally understood to show both the hand and presence of God in the world. Before there were compasses or GPS, stories tell that sailors looked to doves for directions. For almost a century, LSS of North Dakota has been serving as a dove during the fork-in-the-road moments of so many North Dakotans. Our mission is to be a guide – the herald of faith and hope – to help people navigate the storms of their lives."

Please support their ministry (which is really OUR ministry) on Sunday Feb. 24th with a generous donation.



**Lutheran
Social
Services
of North Dakota**

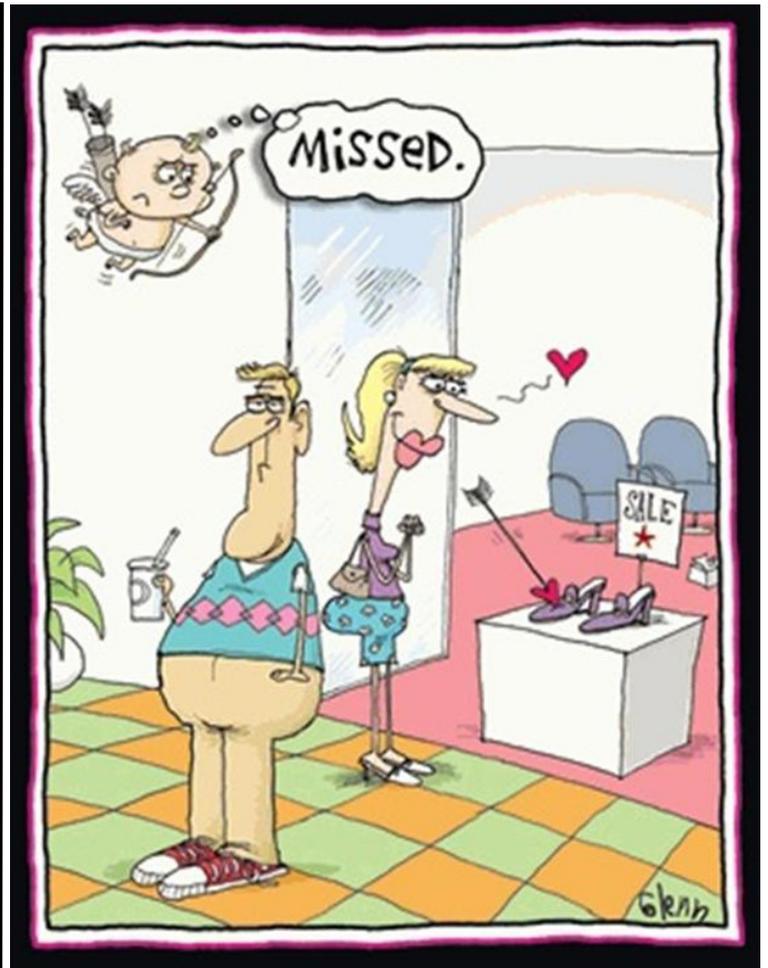
With Peace,

Pastor Mike Pretzer

New Member Sunday at Peace Lutheran Church

Peace Lutheran will be holding a new member Sunday on February 24th, 2019. If you would like to become an official member of Peace Lutheran Church, it's quite easy. Just talk to Pastor Mike and express your desire to join. If you are a member of another church, they will be contacted to transfer your records to Peace Lutheran. New members will be recognized publicly during the 10:00 am worship service at Peace on Sunday February 24th. Following worship that day there will be a pot luck meal to celebrate Lutheran Social Services' 100th Birthday. It will also be a great opportunity to visit and get to know our new members better.

New members are also invited to a "New Member Night" on Thursday, February 21 for a brief orientation to the church and for some fun and games. The evening will begin at 7:00 pm.



Happy Valentines Month!

Q: What did Pilgrims give each other on Valentine's Day?

A: Mayflowers

Q: What did the light bulb say to the other light bulb on Valentine's Day?

A: I love you a watt.

Q: Where do hamburgers take their sweethearts on Valentine's Day to dance?

A: To the meatball.



LENT

Lent is just around the corner! We begin with an Ash Wednesday joint worship service for Peace and St. John's Lutheran Churches on March 6th at Peace Lutheran in Dickinson. A soup supper will be served at 6:00 pm. The worship service with the imposition of ashes will begin at 7:00 pm. Please join us for this service and the rest of the midweek services during Lent. The Lenten topic and themes will be in next month's newsletter.

Lutheran Social Services Turns 100!

Every congregation in the Western North Dakota Synod is a part owner of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota. Our Social Ministry organization is turning 100 years old in February. Here is an invitation from LSS: *On February 24, 2019, we'd like to invite congregations to continue their long support and partnership with us by simultaneously hosting a celebration potluck meal in each church after services. This mass breaking of bread (or lefse!) seems like the ideal way to celebrate a century of partnership in bringing healing, help and hope to our neighbors.*

You can be proud that over the past 100 years your social ministry has helped with adoptions, cared for senior citizens, provided in-patient mental healthcare for youth, done in-home coaching for young parents, resettled refugees and much more.

Peace Lutheran will hold its potluck meal in honor of LSS and their 100th Birthday on Sunday, February 24th in conjunction with our New Member Sunday. A free will offering will be received to support LSS.



PRAYERS FOR HEALING,

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Jacob Huber (relative of Kofflers)

Betty Getz

Eden Karpyak & family

Deidra Shannon (Terry H. cousin)

COMMUNITY PRAYERS:

All those serving in the military & their families. Our partner congregation, St. John's Lutheran in Richardton, Lutheran Social Services, Badlands Ministries, the Ministries in the Central African Republic.

ST. JOHN'S IN RICHARDTON

Harrison Job Magstadt & his parents Haley & Nathan Magstadt. Harrison born at 24 weeks 1lb 8oz (relative of Armin-Lorraine Treiber)

Darlene Zentner (Ralph's sister)

Kristin Johnson

Shawn Hauck (Treiber's nephew)

James Hauter (Lynn Johnson's Father)

Wellde Heinle (Tom Kitzan's cousin) Recurrence of cancer

Arlyne Magstad

Shirley Kitzan

Norbert Amann

Events In February

Feb. 19– Council Meeting @ 7pm

Feb. 24– Lutheran Social Services turns 100! Potluck and free-will donations that day.

Feb. 26– Amen Food Pantry 2-4pm

Gospel Seeds - February 2019

A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff

Sabbath...

I have been reading Wayne Muller's *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives*. I commend the book to you - to nourish your soul, to ask yourself deep questions about how you are living. Muller, a Christian, draws on a variety of faith traditions to raise questions about how we spend our lives. His writing challenges cultural assumptions about the use of time and money. At the same time, he offers practical experiments to find Sabbath in your life.

This not a sit down and read from cover to cover kind of book. Instead it is best read slowly, over time, pondering his words and your own life. It may be a fine book to read with others, those who you would like to pray with.

GIFTS...

For over 30 years the Western North Dakota Synod has been blessed by a lay ministry program called GIFTS (Growing In Faith To Serve). This program is first a way for people to deepen their walk with Christ. For some that means building a richer spiritual life, for others it is about growing to be a better Sunday School teacher, youth leader or council member and for some it has led to lay preaching.

Part of GIFTS is to establish a local group who meets at least monthly to study scripture and other topics as they choose. Three times a year a seminary professor visits Western North Dakota for a GIFTS gathering.

I would love to tell you more about GIFTS. If you would like, give me a call or Sherie Heine who serves as the GIFTS Coordinator.

If you are currently a GIFTS participant this is a reminder – please pay your annual fee of \$75 now. Your annual fee makes this program possible.

Synod Assembly: June 6,7,8 at the Grand Hotel, Minot

Resolution Deadline...

The deadline for submitting a resolution for consideration at this year's synod assembly is March 31. Please visit the Synod Website for information on submission requirements. If you have questions, please be in contact with Faith Simonieg who leads the Assembly Reference and Counsel Committee.

Synod Council To Meet...

The Western North Dakota Synod Council meets February 15 & 16 at Bethany, Lutheran in Minot. We will be discussing what is happening in congregations around the synod, our synod mission priorities and how those ministries are engaging their communities, wrapping up fiscal year 2018 (remember the synod's fiscal year ends January 31, 2019), reviewing the 2019 budget, setting a budget for 2020 that the assembly will engage and a variety of other issues.

If there is anything you feel should come before council let me know.

An Opportunity to Learn...and Maybe be Challenged...

There are racial divides in our country and in our own communities. Often it is not talked about, maybe because we are not sure how. A group of faith leaders in Bismarck is planning an event to help engage conversations. The Faith Alliance for Racial Justice is sponsoring the event at Trinity Lutheran, February 22-23. The title of the gathering is ***Bridging Cultures, Cultivating Healing: 525 years after the Doctrine of Discovery***. ELCA Global Musicians will be part of the gathering. There will be speakers, opportunities for hands on learning, conversation and good food. The cost will be about \$30 per person (details are still being worked out). If you would like to register contact Rev. Sylvia Bull, Faith Lutheran in Bismarck – sylvia.bisfaith@gmail.com

A few items...

-Pastor Roger Deiterle, Belfield, Daglum and Medora Lutheran has announced he will retire March 3, 2019 – blessings.

-I will be away February 26 through March 4 for the First Call Assignment Process (I pray we are blessed with at least one candidate) and the Conference of Bishop's.

-Synod staff enjoy being present in congregations – invite us to preach or lead conversation. Call us for conversation.

Blessings All!

Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod

Peace Lutheran Church Council

January 15, 2019 @ 7 pm

Present: Bev Holdahl, Kim Jones, Tammy Sadowsky, Marilyn Huschka, Eric Halverson, Shane Schmidt, Pastor Pretzer

Absent: Travis Kupper, Jeff Anderson

1. Bev Holdahl called the meeting to order
2. Devotion: Pastor Mike Pretzer led devotion — Prayer on a busy day— Highs and lows of the day
3. MSC Pastor Pretzer/ Marilyn to accept the minutes from December.
4. MSC Eric/Tammy to Approve Agenda

Our Offerings

5. Leadership Reports

a. Pastor Mike's report — Pastor Pretzer thanked the council and members for a beautiful installation day. Plumber scheduled to fix the sink in the women's restroom. Pastor worked with Brian Kopp to do computer work. He will be meeting with a representative of a directory company.

b. President's report — The annual meeting is on Sunday. Bev listed reports that have been submitted.

a. Annual Meeting agenda — We discussed the logistics with Pastor Pretzer. Caring Hands is in the bylaws. Bev said that she will ask for volunteers for that and to look at repairs for the building and parking lot. We also need to have an altar guild.

b. Possible new council members — Terms ending are Bev Holdahl, Naomi Thorson, and Shane Schmidt. Bev is willing to continue. Jessica Bertelsen has agreed to serve.

6. Stewardship

a. Financial Report — Heather submitted a report that we looked at. Special offering totals for 2018 were \$37,572.37. The general account balance at the end of the year was \$34,416.29.

i. Budget for 2019 — MSC Eric/ Tammy to approve submitting the budget as printed to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting.

7. Worship

a. Partnership Relationship St John's

i. Joint Service – Hymn Sing — We had a fun time.

ii. Pastor Mike's Installation Service — discussed above — Pictures to follow in Constant Contact.

iii. Annual Meeting Peace- Jan 20th worship at 10 at Peace. St John- Jan 27th — Pastor Pretzer will be at Peace from 10 to 10:30 and someone else will finish the worship. Eric volunteered to do that.

b. Worship Helpers

i. Music – Kim said Sylvia and Roene are figuring out a schedule.

ii. Council Sign up - List of duties

8. Faith Formation

a. Kool Gang — The rotation of parents seems to be working. They have enough supplies. Movie, lesson, and craft.

b. Confirmation – Pastor Mike reported that Confirmation has gone well. They are studying the life of Jesus. The format will change for Lent. The 8th graders have not studied the Small Catechism. The kids want to do a lock-in. In the past it has been on a Saturday. We discussed having a retreat at Badlands. Confirmation is typically in early May.

9. Community Partnerships

a. St John's – Richardton — no report

b. Community Garden — no report

c. AMEN Food Pantry—no report

d. Our Preschools — January 30 at 4 p.m. Kid Academy meeting — Bev, Jeff, Eric, and Pastor Mike.

e. AA groups — no report

f. WND Synod — no report

g. Badlands Ministries — no report

h. Lutheran Social Services — They are celebrating a 100th birthday on February 24. We will have a potluck and a free-will offering.

i. Grace Action Chapel — no report

j. Girl Scouts — no report

Pastor Pretzer celebrated Christmas with St. John's Episcopal. He has been asked to return occasionally to provide Communion.

10. Building & Property

a. Reorganize furnace space — more to be done

b. Snow Removal – Ron Tormaschy

c. Organ removal — The organ has not been removed. Tammy offered to put it on Consolidated.

d. Flashing repair — not done

e. Remove tree — not done

f. Sprinkler repair — not done

g. Caulking doors & windows

h. Concrete by back door repair or replace

i. Recycling container – one by kitchen & one in the office for paper & cardboard only — Pastor has taken it to the recycling center.

j. Shelving in the office — Tim did that.

k. Attic reorganization

l. Kitchen Faucet replacement — Jeff replaced them. Beautiful.

11. Worship

A. Sunday Worship 10 am — Communion will be on Sunday, January 20 and on the first and third Sunday. We discussed instructions to make things more comfortable. Choir was fun on Sunday. Sylvia would like to continue having choir contributions.

B. Wednesday Worship 6:30 pm

12. Communication

A. Newsletter

B. Constant Contact — Pastor Mike is writing these. He will include what has happened and what is going to happen.

14. Next meeting Date: February 19 at 7 pm @ Peace

15. The Lord's Prayer

16. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Naomi Thorson

January 2019

SJR– St. John’s in Richardton KA– Kid Academy Preschool (Monday–Thursday)
 R2B– Room to Bloom Preschool (Tuesday/Thursday) AA– Alcoholics Anonymous
 BE– Beginning Experience GAC– Grace Action Chapel

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Peace Worship-10AM SJR– 8AM GAC– 12:30-4:30PM	4 Girl Scouts 4-5:30PM GAC– 9-10PM	5	6 WNNW @ 6:30pm Faith Formation @ 7pm	7 Amen Food Pantry 2pm AA– 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	8	9 AA– 8-11:30 am Live GAC– 7-9 pm
10 Peace Worship-10AM SJR– 8AM GAC– 12:30-4:30PM	11 Girl Scouts 4-5:30PM GAC– 9-10PM	12	13 WNNW @ 6:30pm Faith Formation @ 7pm	14 AA– 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	15	16 AA– 8-11:30am Live GAC– 7-9pm
17 Peace Worship-10AM SJR– 8AM GAC– 2:30-4:30PM	18 Girl Scouts 4-5:30PM GAC– 9-10PM	19 Council Meeting @ 7PM	20 WNNW @ 6:30pm Faith Formation @ 7pm	21 AA– 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	22	23 AA– 8-11:30 am Live GAC– 7-9 pm
24 Peace Worship-10AM, Pot luck to follow SJR– 8AM GAC– 12:30-4:30PM	25	26 Amen Food Pantry 2-4PM	27 WNNW@ 6:30pm Faith Formation @ 7pm	28 AA– 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom		

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