

November 2019 Newsletter

Western Edge Parish (Peace Lutheran, Dickinson & St. John's Lutheran, Richardton)

Serving the community in partnership.

From the Pastor

November, 2019

The month of November marks my one year anniversary coming to the Western Edge Parish and the congregations of Peace Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran. I can't believe it has already been a year since I arrived and started serving you as your pastor. I still feel like I don't know all there is to know about these two churches and the many people who worship in them. I guess that means I have to stick around a while longer until I get it figured out!

Now that I have been here a year, I feel even more confident that this was the right call for me and the right change that I needed in my ministry. Though no call is perfect and no pastor is perfect, I'm glad to be here and I hope you feel the same.

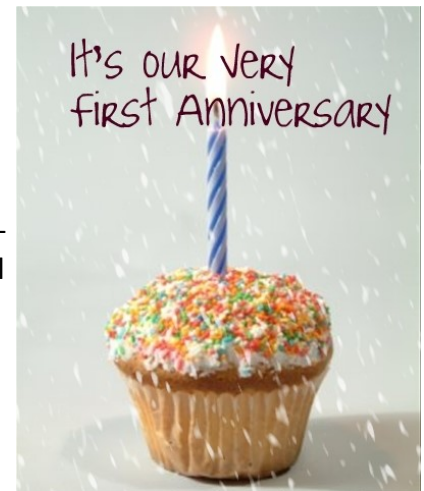
Some of the highlights for me this past year include (in no particular order): the special music pieces that many people have shared at Peace Lutheran during worship, the wonderful musicians who keep us singing at each worship service, getting to share our baby goats with you during Good Shepherd Sunday, at the Parish Picnic and with the Kool Gang and confirmation class, getting to spend time in Peace Lutheran's Community Garden and sharing the fruits of that labor, all of you who keep coming back each Sunday to worship and getting to know you, seeing the many visitors each Sunday who show up for worship at Peace Lutheran and in Richardton, watching such dedicated people love and serve God by helping out and serving at the church, getting to know the preschool teachers who work at Peace Lutheran, grilling pizzas for you during our summer outdoor worship services, working with our church secretary, Lanie Klug and watching her kids grow, growing pumpkins in the church garden, having a joint worship service and potluck with the Richardton Seventh Day Adventist Church, burning Peace Lutheran's mortgage in the parking lot on a cold evening in December, working with Pastor Lisa and Pastor Joe at St. John's in Dickinson and the rest of the pastors in the Badlands Conference, children's sermons.

Well, the list could go on, but those are some of the highlights that I have experienced while serving here as your pastor this past year. I hope you have a list of highlights too. I would be curious to know what some of them are. Feel free to share them with me or with one another in the month ahead.

So here's to our 1 year anniversary! And here's to many more anniversaries to come.

With Peace,

Pastor Mike Pretzer



ONE YEAR
AND
COUNTING

Peace Lutheran's focus for November: Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

Kool Gang and Confirmation students next service project is the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. This project fills shoe boxes with toys and other fun items and delivers them to children in need around the world. The congregation is invited to join the youth in collecting gift items for the shoe boxes. The pickle jars will also be passed around in November to collect change to help cover the shipping expense of the shoe boxes. (Each shoe box costs \$9.00 to ship.) On Wednesday November 20th the shoe boxes will be packed and delivered to a collection site in Dickinson.

The following is a list of appropriate items that you can donate for the shoeboxes.

A "WOW" Item such as a doll, stuffed, animal, soccer ball with a pump, shoes, musical instruments

Toys such as cars, jump ropes, yo-yos, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

Non-liquid Hygiene items such as toothbrushes, washcloths, bar soap, combs

School Supplies such as pens, pencils, crayons, notebooks, markers, sharpeners, coloring books, solar calculators

Accessories such as socks, hats, sunglasses, jewelry, watches, flash-lights with batteries, hair clips

Please Do Not Include candy, toothpaste, gum, war related items, seeds, food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items or glass containers, or aerosol cans.



Lefse Season is Upon Us!!!

Its coming up fast and we could use all the help we can get.

Thursday Nov. 20 set up 5pm – 8pm

Youth encouraged to come!!

Friday 9am to 8pm

Sat 9am to 6pm

Sun 8am to 9:30pm

Cleanup after church.

Here is a list of the supplies needed by November 20th.

25 packages of the Blue Bonnet or Imperial margarine sticks– not the light kind! (4/pack)

1 10# bag of sugar

4 containers of salt

7 gallons of 2% milk (HAS TO BE 2%)

15 10# bags of flour (No Bread Flour)

60 boxes of Idaho Spuds potato flakes



Anyone willing to donate time and the equipment needed to make lefse is greatly appreciated!

Caring Hands for November

March, July, & November

Marge & Duane Gulbrandson

Amanda & Allen Hecker

Jeff & Peggy Anderson

Ryan & Rena Zimmerman

Melody & Jerry Buresch

Jeff Merchant

Angela & Jason Ott

Brianna Hahne

Cassie Blotske

Candy Haagenson

Bob Thompson

Butch Wax

During your month, sign up (or email or call the church) to help with the following worship/fellowship needs. You can sign up in pairs to help each other out with worship and fellowship duties, if desired. Sign up sheets are located at the church along with a signup sheet for mowing.

-Worship hosts

-Greet people and hand them a bulletin

-Make sure the candles are lit

-Collect offering

-Fellowship hosts

-Make a pot of coffee/heat the water kettle for tea

-Provide some kind of snacks (bars, fruit, toast, meat/cheese, cookies, etc)



Looking for Volunteers!

Peace Lutheran is currently a home station for Lutheran Social Services and they are looking for volunteers to sign up for their RSVP Program. If you are interested in being a volunteer with Lutheran Social Services please contact Garnet Tisor with the Dickinson office at 701-271-1648 or talk to Pastor Mike for more details.



Lutheran Social Services
of North Dakota

Some of the activities that their volunteers help with include:

Aging in place- which helps seniors stay independent in their homes as long as possible.

Food Delivery— delivering food to homebound clients in need of nutritional support and to briefly engage with them to decrease loneliness and social isolation.

Transportation— help with picking up clients and taking them to their appointments, faith based events, social activities, and other errands.

Companionship— serving older adults and those with disabilities who are lonely or homebound. Some activities may include, engaging in arts and crafts, card games, puzzles, reading, visiting, and accompanying to appointments and errands.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING,

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Jacob Huber (relative of Kofflers)
Betty Getz
Eden Karpyak & family
Deidra Shannon (Terry H. cousin)
Megan Grabow (Shelby & Derek Sister-in-Law)
Kristina, Katy & the Neuharth Family
Julie Anderson (Friend of Holdahls)
Angela Ernst (Breast Cancer)
Lynnette Harstad
Navah DenHerder
Families of:
Issy O'Brien
Grace Bittner
Dale Swensrud
Ervin & Florence Heidecker

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

Kristin Johnson
Shawn Hauck
James Hauter (Lynn Johnson's Father)
Wellde Heinle- Recurrence of cancer
Arlyne Magstad
Shirley Kitzan
Dee Homelvig -Chemotherapy
Emmalou Lavine (Armin's Sister)
Jacques Oestreich- Serving in Afghanistan
Trisha Macks and Son, Callen
Sharon Messer
Cindee Buettner

Faith Formation Activities for November

Please take note of the November schedule for Wednesday Night Worship and Faith Formation.

November 6

6:30 pm – Worship

7:00 pm – Faith Formation

Theme: The Sadducees' Question – Luke
20:27-38

November 13

6:30 pm – Worship

7:00 pm – Faith Formation

Theme: God's Love Is Forever – Luke
21:5-19

Wednesday, November 20 – Service Project – Assemble Gift Boxes for Christmas. Set up for Lefse Making

6:30 pm – Help assemble shoeboxes and then set up for lefse.

November 27 – **Thanksgiving Break**

No Worship

No Faith Formation

Other Events In November

Nov 21– Making Lefse 5-8

Nov 22– Making Lefse 9-8

Nov 23– Making/Selling Lefse 9-5

Nov 26- AMEN Food Pantry 2-4pm



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Gospel Seeds – November 2019

A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff

Transition...

Transition planning within the synod has taken a new twist. My term as Bishop will end on February 18, 2020 as I have accepted a call to serve as Senior Pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Bismarck. This is a bittersweet time – I have enjoyed much of the work over the past 11 years. That work is ending about 6 months earlier than anticipated. I will miss working with leaders and congregations on Renewal Work, Mission, Vision and Value Planning, as well as coaching rostered leaders in the work they are doing. I will miss the work of encouraging others to consider a call to rostered ministry, to dreaming about outreach to those who do not know Jesus or who do have faith but haven't found a place in a congregation.

At the same time, I am looking forward to living into deep relationships in one congregation. I look forward to once again standing at the baptismal font as God welcomes another child into the family, presiding at the same communion rail on a regular basis, being involved in faith forming conversations and Bible Studies.

This work has been a blessing, mainly because of you all. I will continue to pray that God would bless this entire synod – we are safely in God's hands.

Who will lead the Synod in the interim???

The gift of being part of the church is that we do not walk alone. In the midst of my discernment process, conversations were happening with our churchwide partners about what would happen if I were to leave the call to serve as Bishop before the end of my term. While the Western North Dakota Synod has not dealt with this kind of a transition before, other synods have and they were assisted in the process by churchwide staff.

You have an excellent Synod Vice President, Bruce Carlson, who also leads the Transition Team. Bruce has already been in conversation with churchwide staff concerning the process of naming an Interim Bishop.

Normally it is a former Bishop who has retired from another synod who the synod council appoints in consultation with the Presiding Bishop.

Pray for this process and know that your Synod Council will let you know as soon as they have information to share.

What about the Staff...

One of the greatest assets of this synod is its staff – we have been blessed by their commitment, wisdom, presence and compassion. For now, the staff will continue to serve as they have over recent years. The Executive Staff (Beth, Sherie and Faith) have calls/positions which are co-terminus with the term of the Bishop, the term runs through the end of August 2020. Each of them is already in discernment about what is next for them. It is also true that the next Bishop has the option of inviting any or all of them to remain on staff.

Our office staff (Laurie, Carrie and Matthew) continue as synod staff. As with any employee they always have the option to decide whether or not to continue their employment.

Please keep all the staff in prayer – this transition time is stressful. There is anxiety in any time of change. May peace be found in God's leading and guiding.

Other News...

Hettinger Lutheran has called Rev. Selva Periannan to serve as their pastor. Rev. Selva interned at Good Shepherd in Bismarck. He will begin his call in November.

Rev. Mike Burns has arrived in Tioga. Rev. Burns has been called to First and Trinity, Tioga. He comes to us from the Houston, Texas area.

A First Call Clergy Couple was assigned to the Western North Dakota Synod in the fall assignment process. They have received paperwork to two separate parishes, and it is expected they will begin the interview process soon.

The Synod Endowment Committee met in mid-October. They captured over \$99,000 in gains on their investments. Those funds will be used to provide scholarships, debt-buy down for rostered leaders and mission grants for creative Christ centered ministries. The Committee has also approved a debt buy down program for rostered leaders within the synod and an application process. We are so thankful for all of the faithful people who have gifted the Endowment Fund over the years. Your financial gifts make these grants available.

God Bless All!

Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod



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

Council Meeting Minutes - Peace Lutheran Church –October 22 2019 7:00 PM

Present: Bev Holdahl, Travis Kupper, Pastor Mike Pretzer, Tammy Sadowsky, and Kim Jones. Absent: Jeff Anderson, Jessica Bertelson, Heather Fagerberg, Eric Halvorson, Marilyn Huschka, Derek Jilek. No Quorum.

- 1) Bev called the meeting to order.
- 2) Pastor Mike shared devotion and prayer.
- 3) September Minutes reviewed. 4) Agenda reviewed, additions made.
- 5) Pastor's Reports – Pastor has been working with the Belfield/Medora churches. 10/27/19 he will be leading worship at both churches. Diane Melby will be Gift Person for both St John and Peace on this Sunday. 11/4/19 Pastor is taking some vacation. Craig McLaughlin will fill in at both churches, no communion this date. Pastor has also been leading worship at St Luke's Home. Season of Listening scheduled at Peace 1 pm 10/26. Sheila to open door, Bev bringing treats. Healthy Congregation Workshop 11/1-2 at St John, Dickinson.

6) Stewardship

Financial report reviewed. Bev to check with Heather regarding St John's payment for the April/June time frame.

Lefse fundraiser planned for 11/20-24. Lanie to check for sign-up sheet for supplies. Set up planned for Wednesday 11/20 as a service project. Pastor and Lanie to send PSA for 103.7 radio. Also suggested that it be advertised on Facebook. Plan is to make lefse Thursday 5-8; Friday 9-8; Saturday 9-6, and Sunday morning. Lefse to be sold at the church Saturday 9-5.

- 7) Worship – Pastor commented that there are new faces at every service. We need to be outgoing and make people feel welcome, introduce ourselves, etc. It will make a good impression on newcomers.

Parish Board Meeting set for Tuesday 11/5/19 at 7 PM at Richardton. Pastor Mike, Bev, and Eric to go plus possibly Jeff and Heather.

Worship helpers-

Music – Roene, Sandy and Kim playing for services.

Council Sign up – sheet passed around, posted on bulletin board

Altar Guild – Carolyn has been helping Kim with Communion set-up.

Caring Hands List – Better participation month of October. Thank you for those that helped! Lanie to put up list for November.

8) Faith Formation

Wednesday Night – 10/23/19 Pizza at 6:30 (thanks to Thrivent!) and garden clean up service project.

10/30/19 – Pumpkin carving and potluck. Classes and services will resume first Wednesday in November. An upcoming service project set for 11/20/19 will be Samaritan Purse Christmas Shoe Boxes. More information coming. Pickle jar to be passed around in November to raise dollars for this.

Confirmation Retreat 10/25-26 at Badlands Bible Camp. Four kids signed up. Will leave at 4 pm Friday and return around 1 pm Saturday.

9) Community Partnerships

Community Garden-Jessica has quote from 1 company and is getting another for sign. Garden clean up 10/23.

Amen Food Pantry – check with Lanie for dates in November

Our preschools – no report

AA – we need to notify group regarding lefse days so they can plan another location for meetings

Sister Marie will be using the church for spiritual direction meetings on Fridays, one set for 11/1 evening.

10) Building and Property

Parking Lot – Eric working to find more product to fill in more holes.

B. Painting church – building is in need of paint, will look at options in the spring.

C. Angel Landscaping – Della has ideas, will be a spring project

D. Thermostats – Pastor to adjust and regulate as he sees the need

Shampoo Carpets – plan to have this done after lefse. Bev to check with Heather on previous cleaner name. Will try to do this on a Friday.

11) Communication

A. Newsletter – November issue going out end of October

B. Constant Contact –Derek added as Facebook administrator. There have been new church posts.

- 12) Next Meeting Date – November 19, 2019, at 7 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Jones

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

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Peace Worship-10AM SJR- 8AM GAC- 12:30-4:30PM	4	5 St John Council Meeting @ 7	6 WNNW- 6:30pm	7 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	12	13 WNNW- 6:30pm	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- 12:30-4:30PM	18	19 Council Meeting 7PM	20 Service Project- 6:30pm Pack Christmas boxes and prepare for Lefse	21 Making Lefse 5-8pm	22 Selling Lefse 9-8	23 Selling Lefse9-5
24 Peace Worship-10AM SJR- 8AM GAC- 12:30-4:30PM	25	26 AMEN Food Pantry 2-4	27 WNNW- 6:30pm	28 AA- 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom Thanksgiving	29	30 AA- 8-11:30am Live GAC- 7-9pm

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