

December 2019 Newsletter

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

From the Pastor

December 2019

It's that wonderful time of year again, Advent! Advent invites us to wait, to hope, and to be still, three very difficult things to do in the busyness of December and the build up to Christmas.

What are we waiting for? The coming of Christ. What are we hoping for? To each of us it is different, yet for each of us it is very much the same. Why be still? So that we can feel and see and hear and sense and touch and taste the presence of God.

For Christians, Advent is a time to pause and prepare, to rejoice and watch, as we look forward to the coming of the Christ child. God's promise fulfilled is the center of our hope at this time of year. The God of love gives birth to our hope.

Pastor Steve Garnaas Holmes writes in his daily devotions. **"Our hope doesn't come from wishful thinking, or from the world or its condition. It comes from God. Hope rises from the love that is at the heart of all things. It comes from trust that the love that created the world can transform the world. Of course there is evil in the world, and failure in our own lives, but we don't live under its spell. We choose to live by the light of God's promise, not the world's threats and disappointments. Exercise the muscles of hope, not despair, for despair holds the door open for evil, while hope holds the door open for God."**

Hope holds the door open for God! Advent is the time of year that we can hold the door open for God to enter into our lives. Through hope and stillness and waiting, we open the door and open our hearts for God to enter in.

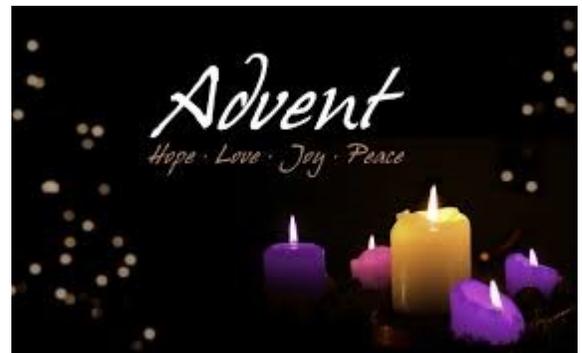
Yet, even if the busyness and the distractions of the season seem to slam the door in God's face, even if you feel surrounded by despair, even if you can't find two seconds to be still, God will come anyway. God will come with the same promise, with the same gift, with the same love and with the same hope for something better.

Advent prepares us for the coming of God. Advent prepares us to receive the gift of love, the gift of grace, the gift of forgiveness, the gift of light which no darkness can overcome. And thankfully, God comes whether we are holding the door open or not.

Have a hopeful Advent and a Merry Christmas!

With Peace,

Pastor Mike Pretzer



Join the fun at Peace Lutheran's Christmas Dinner and Snoop Party!

The Wednesday Night Worship and Faith Formation group is planning a Christmas Dinner potluck meal at Peace Lutheran on Wednesday, December 18th starting at 6:30 pm. Following the meal we will play a game called *Snoop!*. This is an easy game to play for all ages. Please read the directions below as each person need to bring a "gift" as part of the game. The whole congregation is invited for the meal and the game. Join us as we eat and play together as well as celebrate the joy of the season.

Snoop Party Instructions

EACH person brings to the party a "gift" in a brown paper bag. This gift can be anything from an old show to a nice hand towel or bag of candy. It can be ANYTHING. The point is to bring something inexpensive or funny. Bring something you have lying around the house. But don't show it to anyone. Your gift is supposed to be a secret. Everyone else will find out what it is as we play the game.

To play the game, each table has a deck of cards with kings, sevens, and aces removed. There are 4 players at each table. Each player has one of the suits in front of them with the numbers facing up. Each player takes turns shaking two dice and flipping over the card with the corresponding number. The first person at any table to flip over all their cards yells "SNOOP!" Then the game stops at all the other tables. The person who yelled snoop and the person at the other tables who has the lowest score gets to look into all the bags at that table and picks out the one they like the best. Then that person rotates to the next table and the game begins again.

Each person has a tally card and they put on it the total number of points from the cards that are still faced up. At the end of the night when the game comes to an end, the person with the lowest score can look at all the gifts and choose which ever one they want.

Remember, its one gift per person, NOT per couple.

Another Fall, another 2,000 rounds of Lefse!

Though the actual numbers aren't all quite in yet, Peace Lutheran's annual lefse fundraiser in November had a wonderful turnout and a successful outcome. THANK YOU to everyone involved in making this amazing project happen! And, thank you to everyone who bought and ate lefse! We are already looking forward to making it again next year.



Farewell and God's Speed to Grace Action Chapel.

Grace Action Chapel has found a new home for their congregation. They will be moving out of Peace Lutheran at the end of December. We wish them well and thank them for their partner-

Caring Hands for December

April, August, & December

Naomi Thorson

Roene Hulsing

Pat & David Rinn

Tammy Sadowsky

Judy & Richard Koffler

Joyce Crawford

Marilyn Huschka

Travis & Crissie Kupper

Jami & Brock Swensrud

Adam & Susie Karpyak

Shawn & Chelsea Skogen

Gaye Soehren

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)



Operation Christmas Child was a huge success!

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts and money and thank you to the great group who packed up the Operation Christmas Child boxes. Peace Lutheran filled and shipped 53 boxes!! We also received enough cash donations to pay for the shipping for every box!! Last year over 1,000 boxes were collected in Dickinson! Just imagine the smiles and excitement on all of the kids' faces when they open their shoe boxes this Christmas. Thank you for making those smiles happen!



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 December

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

December 4th

6:30pm- Worship

7:00pm- Faith Formation

Theme: Gods Peaceful World

December 11th

6:30pm- Worship

7:00pm- Faith Formation

Theme: The Nativity- Luke 2:1-20

December 18- **Christmas Dinner and Snoop Party**

6:30-Meal and Game

December 25- **Christmas Day**

No Worship

No Faith Formation

Other Events In December

Dec 17- Council Meeting 7pm

Dec 19- AMEN Food Pantry 2-4pm

Dec 19- Council Meeting

Dec 24- Christmas Eve Service at St Johns in Richardton @ 3 pm and at Peace Lutheran in Dickinson @ 6pm



Mark Your Calendar

»» UPCOMING EVENTS

Gospel Seeds – December 2019

A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff

Thank You...

One thing I notice across this synod is the generosity of the people here. You share your time, talents and money for the sake of ministry that makes a difference in people's lives. Thank-you for your sharing what God has first given you!

Schools are being built, young women are getting scholarships for college, devastation due to civil unrest is being repaired in the Central African Republic because you have supported "Sweet Deal for C.A.R." Thanks for your generosity. It is one way we help support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in C.A.R.

College students at Minot State have a place to grow in their faith because of your support. Some of you have welcomed these students into your congregations to hear of their faith and outreach. Others have taken soup to the every Tuesday gathering on Campus (350 people a week are being fed and nurtured through this ministry), still others share of financial resources to help keep this ministry operating. To all of you, I say thank you. Your financial support also allows the Western North Dakota Synod to share financial resources to support campus ministry at NDSU and UND. Now can we dream our way into ministry in Williston, Dickinson, Bismarck and Bottineau? Let's see where the Spirit leads.

Thank you to those of you who have financially supported the synod Endowment Funds. There are now over \$3 Million in assets. This past October we were able to capture almost \$100,000 in gains which will be used for seminary scholarships, seminary debt buy-down, mission outreach and staffing support to make these ministries happen. Thanks for your faithful generosity which helps make proclamation of the Good News of Jesus possible.

As we near the end of the year – know that the financial gifts you share are used wisely. There is still the possibility of making a gift to any of our three endowment funds with the possibility of qualifying for tax incentives. If you need more information, contact me or Faith Simonieg. We would love to help you continue to support Christ-centered ministries which are important to you.

Thanks again for your generosity!

Thank You Events...

In January there will be a series of six Thank You events across the synod. It will be chance for me to thank you all for the past 11 ½ years of ministry as your Bishop. We will gather in Bismarck, Dickinson, Williston, Lignite, Minot and Rugby. Details are still being worked out on locations and times – so watch your email, the synod Facebook page, or our website for details.

Together, we will share some food, a chance to engage Scripture, talk about what we have learned together and most of all I will get a chance to say thanks for the wonderful ways you have blessed God's world here in Western North Dakota. I hope to see you at one of the events.

Tidbits...

-Lutheran Social Services CEO Jessica Thomasson has accepted a position with the Human Services Department of the State of North Dakota. We thank Jessica for her leadership and wish her well.

-Synod Staff have had a great time this fall working with 7 congregations in setting Mission, Vision and Values. If you are interested in such work with your congregation, contact the office.

-Bread of Life in Minot has a new pastor – thanks be to God! The new pastor has not shared the news with his current congregation, so we will wait to share his name with you all.

-Shepherd's Table, previously known as Good Shepherd Lutheran in Williston has received word they have received a ministry grant from our Churchwide partners. Exciting ministry opportunities are beginning to happen thanks to lots of partners and God's faithfulness.

Just a reminder – the Synod Office will be closed from December 24th through January 2nd. Staff will stop in to pick up mail and make deposits as congregations share mission support. Bishop Mark will be available for any questions that arise – call 701-629-9992.

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 –November 19 2019 7:00 PM

Present: Jeff Anderson, Jessica Bertelson, Bev Holdahl, Marilyn Huschka, Derek Jilek, Travis Kupper, Pastor Mike Pretzer, Tammy Sadowsky, and Kim Jones. Absent: Heather Fagerberg, Eric Halvorson

- 1) Bev called the meeting to order. 2) Pastor Mike shared devotion and prayer.
- 3) October Minutes reviewed. MSC Jessica/Marilyn. 4) Agenda reviewed, additions made. MSC Travis/Jeff
- 5) Pastor's Reports – Pastor talked about Operation Christmas Child gift box service project for Wednesday 11/20 and lefse set up. There is a baptism planned for 12/22/19 at Peace. Pastor's vice pastor duties have been quiet at Belfield/Medora.
- 6) Stewardship
 - Financial report reviewed. MSC Travis/Jessica. Bev checked with Heather regarding St John's payment and is correct/up to date. 2020 Budget was reviewed, to be discussed/adjusted at December meeting.
 - Lefse fundraiser planned for 11/20-24. Most supplies are at the church. An anonymous donor will match sales. Lefse will be priced 4/\$5 and 8/\$10, will be selling on Saturday 11/23 and at JP Frameshop Monday if any supply left.
- 7) Worship –A. Parish Board Meeting held Tuesday 11/5/19 at Richardton. Pastor Mike, Bev, Eric and Kim attended from Peace. Church calendar for majority of 2020 decided, and Parish budget approved.
 - Worship helpers-
 - Music – Roene, Sandy and Kim playing for services. Peace worship committee needs to meet.
 - Council Sign up – sheet passed around, posted on bulletin board
 - Altar Guild – Carolyn has been helping Kim. Advent wreath needs to be set up by 12/1/19, Kim to coordinate. Church decorating by the adults will be scheduled for Wednesday 12/4 after services.
 - Caring Hands List – suggested that multiple months sign-up sheets be posted on bulletin.
- 8) Faith Formation
 - Wednesday Night – 11/20 Operation Christmas Box service project for group, boxes to be delivered to Lighthouse church 11/21. No church Wednesday 11/27; two services planned for 12/4 and 11 with Potluck and Snoop party on 12/18.
- 9) Community Partnerships
 - Community Garden-Jessica presented two sign mock-ups and prices for sign. MSC/Jeff/Tammy to accept bid from Signarama for \$210 + tax. This to be paid from Community Garden fund. Derek to help coordinate set up. Also discussed church sign out front, need clarification on what bids cover.
 - Amen Food Pantry – Lanie contacting Carolyn and Phyllis with dates.
 - Our preschools – need to set up a meeting per their request.
 - Grace Action Chapel has found a new location, will not be using church by end of December.
- 10) Building and Property
 - Parking Lot – Derek and Jeff to obtain another load of crushed asphalt and hoping to fill holes before lefse days
 - Snow Removal – Ron Tormaschy will remove snow from parking lot only. Pastor to try to find help to shovel sidewalks.
 - Mowing estimate – Della submitted estimate from Crew Cut Lawn Service for option for times we do not have a volunteer to help. Council suggested getting more estimates, and telling congregation cost and that help would be greatly appreciated.
 - Painting – church needs to be painted next year
- 11) Communication
 - Newsletter – December issue going out end of November
 - Constant Contact –Lefse sale date to be advertised on Dickinson Classified and Facebook. Also on 103.7 Radio.
- 12) Next Meeting Date – December 17, 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

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Peace Worship— 10am SJR— 8AM GAC-12:30-4:30 PM	2	3	4 WNNW— 6:30pm	5 AA— 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	6	7 AA— 8-11:30 am Live GAC— 7-9 pm
8 Peace Worship-10AM SJR— 8AM GAC— 12:30-4:30PM	9	10	11 WNNW— 6:30pm	12 AA— 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	13	14 AA— 8-11:30 am Live GAC— 7-9 pm
15 Peace Worship-10AM SJR— 8AM GAC— 12:30-4:30PM	16	17 Council Meeting 7pm	18 WNNW— Christmas Dinner and Snoop Party - 6:30pm	19 AMEN Food Pantry 2-4 Council Meeting 7PM AA— 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	20	21 AA-8-11:30am Live GAC- 7-9pm
22 Peace Worship-10AM SJR— 8AM GAC— 12:30-4:30PM	23	24 St. Johns Christmas Service 3pm Peace Christmas Service 6pm Christmas Eve	25 No WNNW Christmas Day	26 AA— 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	27	28 AA 8-11:30am Live GAC— 7-9pm
29 Joint Worship St Johns- 10am GAC— 12:30-4:30PM	30					

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