

Parish Newsletter

January 2024



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

HAPPY NEW YEAR! And to one and all a good day! I really love emojis but I don't know how to insert a picture one here - :). A picture is worth a thousand words and all that...I'm staring out my office window at the neighbor's two trees as I ponder the age of both of them. One is an evergreen, it must be 40 ft tall. The deciduous tree close by is a little shorter but not by much, I just went out and stared at them because I couldn't see the top of the deciduous one. I am not a horticulture expert. But I thank God for the gifts that both of these give. Shade, color, potential firewood or furniture, food for some of God's critters. (I love the song "All God's critters got a Place in the choir - check out this link - - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1KGhfvLpc>)

Those two trees stand tall and I know someday may not be there. Yet, they give their gifts now. And we get to do the same. Epiphany moves us through the story of our God. The Advent candles are gone but the Christ candle remains. The living words of God... **Hope** with a word of encouragement, **Love** with a listening ear. **Joy** with a smile or shared joke. **Peace** with sharing our sorrows and joys and the work of the day and most of all **Forgiveness and Grace**.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024! I forget a lot of the scripture that I could readily retrieve some years or decades ago. I've been pondering on the sheet that came with the Thrivent Action Team box I got some time ago. I looked it up in several different translations. Some don't have the *should* in there.... The Message reads like this - "*Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it...*" So for 2024 let's forget the shoulda-s, coulda-s, and woulda-s. No guilt, no worries... *Ponder Anew What the Almighty Will Do* :) Whether we're taller or shorter, younger or more experienced, have a memory like an elephant or not ..I thank God for the gifts you all have and have shared so readily. I look forward to the months ahead as we journey through winter into spring. It certainly takes a village so I ponder all the more the themes of our two denominations - "All Are Welcome" and "God is Still Speaking".

In the light of the season, in the light of Christ's call for each one, God Bless you all, Pastor Deb Stave

**Each of you should
use whatever gift
you have received
to serve others, as
faithful stewards of
God's grace in its
various forms.
1 Peter 4:10**

P.S. If you would like a pastoral visit whether in the hospital or at home please let me know. My cell phone is currently 701/550-9830, please leave a voicemail or text if you don't get an answer.

Parish News

SUNDAY READINGS FOR WORSHIP – JANUARY 2024

- January 7th - **The Baptism of Christ**
 - Gen. 1:1-5; Ps. 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
- January 14th - **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**
 - 1 Sam. 3:1-10(11-20); Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
- January 21st - **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**
 - Jonah 3: 1:5, 10; Ps. 62:5-12; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
- January 28th - **4th Sunday after Epiphany**
 - Deut. 18:15-20; Ps. 111; 1 Cor. 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council met on Dec. 13th at Lora Cunningham's home. Business discussed included:

- Percentages of contributions for both churches in the parish were discussed. Currently Bethany contributes 60%, UCC contributes 40%. Council voted to keep percentages the same based on giving units in each church.
- 2023 budget is anticipated to be 98% spent at year end.
- Annual meetings for both churches were discussed. UCC will be January 28th. Bethany will be February 18th- UCC will have the early service this day so Bethany can have a meal.
- Lenten services were discussed.
 - Both churches will have services on Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14th, and on Maundy Thursday March 28th.
 - Bethany will have services on Feb. 21, March 6 & March 20
 - UCC will have services on Feb. 28 & March 13
 - Both churches will have their regular services on Easter Sunday March 31
- Pastor Deb announced she will retire in the new year. Her anticipated last day will be Easter Sunday. Some discussion was had about the chaplaincy at LMH. For now, the parish would plan to keep it as part of our call. More discussion will take place at the next meeting (Jan. 17th) and we will find documents outlining details of the current agreement in case we need to sub-contract until we call a new pastor.
- Storm procedures were discussed briefly. Currently church presidents have been making the decisions about closures along with Pastor Deb. This seems to be working.

FEED OUR STARVING CHILDREN

Some of you have helped with the local FEED OUR STARVING CHILDREN event. Here's an opportunity as we await it to come back to the area. Go to <https://fargopack.org/> to learn more. Their next event is January 5th – 15th at the Fargodome.

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter items can be sent to Tracy Foss at Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com Newsletter deadline is usually the Tuesday before the last Sunday of the month. February newsletter deadline is 1-23-2024.

Mayville Congregational-UCC News

JANUARY SCRIPTURE READERS

January 7 - Kraig Lerol

January 14 - Luther Stave

January 21 - Bob Miess

January 28 - Tami Woxland

ANNUAL MEETING

UCC Annual Meeting will be January 28th.

Bethany News

JANUARY READERS

January 7 – Joel Foss

January 14 – Karen Osland

January 21 – Judy Stensland

January 28 – Brian Rice

JANUARY USHERS

Ray and Lorrie Aamold, and Richard Moen

CHRISTMAS TREE

The tree will be taken down after church on Sunday, January 7th. The help of anyone who is available will be appreciated.

BETHANY CIRCLE/WELCA

Bethany Circle will meet Wednesday January 10, 2:00 pm at the church.

LWR KITS

We are still in need of the following items for LWR kits:

Jackets for girls - size 6-24 months (with hoods if possible)

Sleepers for boys - 6-24 months

Receiving blankets

Cloth diapers

Diaper pins/large safety pins

Spools of neutral colored, general purpose thread (250-300 yards each)

BETHANY COUNCIL

The council will meet at the church at 5:30 pm on January 17.

EXPLORING ACTS

Starting in Jan, the EaND Synod invites us to study the book of Acts. Please visit the EaND Synod website for more information. <https://www.eandsynod.org/events/exploring-acts>

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you to the kids for providing the congregation with another meaningful, and entertaining Christmas Program. The program which included speaking, musical instruments, and singing was inspirational and enjoyed by all! Thank you to Linsey Naastad, Crystal Holweger, Laura Foss, Karen Naastad, and Cindy Allen for a job well done. (I apologize if I forgot anyone.)

CVIC DONATIONS – THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for donating items for the Community Violence Intervention Center. The items were needed and will be very appreciated. Loretta

SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you to the ladies of Bethany for all the beautiful quilts recently donated to my Head Start Program in Grand Forks where I work. There were 26 in all and we distributed them to many grateful recipients. Three went to a set of siblings placed into foster care, 4 to a family who moved from shelter care to an apartment, and I gave several to the parents who attended a December parent class on "self-care." (Pictured with their permission) I told



them to imagine wrapping the love from all of my church family around them when they use them! They were so delighted! The rest went to families who were in need. So many of you have also donated household items and clothing to our donation table this fall, and each item has been appreciated and snatched up quickly. Thank you for sharing with others, filling unmet needs, and spreading joy! Laura Foss

THANK YOU FROM HATTON HELPING HANDS FOOD PANTRY

[Copied from a letter received.]

Dear Char Lee, Betty Reinhart, Bethany WELCA & Bethany Church Members:

Thank you for the \$250, Thrivent Action Team Project that was written by Charlotte Lee. It was used to purchase 250 items for the Hatton Helping Hand Food Pantry. Along with the items that were collected at the church, it totaled 644 pounds. This was then matched by a Thrivent Grant for \$500.00 to the Hatton Helping Hand Food Pantry. Thank you for the outstanding project and support from Bethany!

The mission of the Hatton Helping Hand Food Pantry is to provide food for individuals and families in need in Hatton and the surrounding area. The pantry is open the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 4-6 pm. Distribution days are managed by community volunteers and accommodation is made in case of emergency.

These donations helped stock our pantry shelves before the holiday season! Your continuing support is greatly appreciated by everyone involved during this time of increased usage and high food costs. Thanks again!

Sincerely, Fay Duncan; Treasurer; Hatton Helping Hand Food Pantry

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED AT LUTHER MEMORIAL HOME

The Luther Memorial Home no longer has an auxiliary. There will be times they need volunteers to assist with activities. If you are interested in doing this, contact Karen Osland or Sue Rice for more information.

JANITOR/USHER SIGNUP

Please check the Janitor/Usher signup on the bulletin board in the entry way.

COFFEE AFTER CHURCH

If you have a certain Sunday sometime this year you would like to bring something to have with coffee after Church - please put your name on the list on the bulletin board in the entry.

YARN DONATIONS

If anyone has yarn, any type, that you want to get rid of, bring it to church, we will send it to the EaNSWO convention in September, and from there it goes to prisons of ND, where they knit things to give or send away.

WEB PAGE

BethanyRuralHatton.com If you have anything you would like to put on the website contact Mark.

BULLETIN

Bulletin announcements can be sent to Lorrie Aamold Loaamold@hotmail.com or by leaving a message at 543-3806. Deadline for the bulletin is Thursdays.

BETHANY NEWS

News items can be sent to Charlotte Lee at Charlottelee7@icloud.com or Tracy Foss at Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com Newsletter deadline is usually the Tuesday before the last Sunday of the month. February newsletter deadline is 1-23-2024.