

Parish Newsletter

April 2024



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Most Certainly!!! March came in like a lamb and went out like a LION. Will April showers bring May flowers? Sure, or may June with winter and spring bouncing back and forth. I think all of us Staves were glad to move back to our homeland of the midwest from our five year sojourn in New Mexico to get back to the midwestern turn of seasons. The colors of fall, the building snow-families (never just one snowman for us even for the few days snow stuck around for a day or two in our back yard in Alamogordo), then spring time and summer fun. In much of Alamogordo in the two neighborhoods we lived in, the lawns were either covered with rock or were desert sand and prickly patchy grass with cactus



here and there. Desert growth and such variety of cacti were beautiful and pomegranate and fig trees in the neighborhood were a delight. But flowers and green lawns and fields are what we were used to and missed. This April and the rest of spring and the seasons beyond I will keep praying and thinking of you all. I retire my Pastor hat literally and thank you for this time you called me as your Pastor and know when the time comes you will welcome another.

On March 21st, the parish council gathered with Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth and Conference Minister Deborah Blood and myself for Godspeed and Farewell service and exit process. Here's a bit of the service... *L: Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another....It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with our Pastor who is leaving. PASTOR DEB: I thank...for the love, kindness and support shown me these last 4 years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave I carry with me all that I have learned here..*

ALL: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Each day as we, my family and all of you, have our God-given breath, it is a day to give thanks for the turning of the seasons and the amazing variety of creation. Plants, animals, humans big and small. The times when storms blow and bad weather threatens as well as the spring time spark of new green growth and buzzing pollinators of summer. You are and will be the living word in “church” time and beyond. You will welcome a new pastor in time but in the meantime you will carry the torch and be the gathered body. Thank you for the seasons.

I found myself singing an oldie - a Joni Mitchell classic which she wrote when her friend, Neil Young, was lamenting leaving his teen years to turn the ripe old age of twenty. She wrote *The Circle Game* for him, it is about the passage of time...

*“The seasons they go ‘round and ‘round and the painted pony goes up and down
We’re captive on the carousel of time
We can’t return, we can only look
Behind, from where we came
And go round & ‘round & ‘round, in the circle game” - Joni Mitchell.*

Thanks again for the ride.

Blessed Easter season to All and each season after, Pastor Deb

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SUNDAY READINGS FOR WORSHIP – APRIL 2024

April 7th - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Ps. 133; 1 Jn. 1:1-2.2; John 20:19-31

April 14th - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19; Ps. 4; 1 Jn. 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

April 21st - 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts. 41:5-12; Ps.23;1 Jn 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

April 28th - 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Ps. 22:25-31; 1 Jn. 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR DEB



I (and Luther and kids) are so very grateful with the gifts and send off gatherings you gave us. It is very humbling and cherished! For both gatherings at the Woxlands and Bethany, the food was amazing and the fellowship time was golden. I only had this picture which was at my daughter's so again thank you Mayville Rural Hatton Parish for a great send-off.

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. May newsletter deadline is 4-23-2024.

Mayville Congregational-UCC News

Bethany News

APRIL READERS

April 7 - Wayne Reinhart

April 14 - Linsey Naastad

April 21 - Betty Reinhart

April 28 - Alicia Foss

APRIL USHERS

Linda Stromstad

BETHANY CIRCLE

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

BETHANY COUNCIL

Bethany Council will hold a meeting at 5:30 April 3rd @ the church.

SUNDAY APRIL 21

There will be a congregational meeting following the church services on Sunday, April 21st.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

All Women of the ELCA are invited to attend a Spring Roundup to be held at Riverbend Farm, Valley City, ND on Saturday, April 20th from 10:00 - 3:00 PM. The event is free and includes noon lunch, speakers, vendors, and entertainment by Triplicity Trio and more. Please come and enjoy this inspirational event! If you are interested in going and haven't registered yet, talk to Eileen Holt.

PASTOR DEB

We said "farewell" to Pastor Deb on Sunday March 24. The church service was held at 11:00 AM followed by a delicious potluck lunch. Words of farewell and gifts of gratitude were given from the congregation by Karen Naastad, Lorrie Aamold, and Judy Stensland. Thank you to everyone from UCC and Bethany who attended and shared in the potluck meal. We were very lucky to have so many in attendance on a blustery day. As we bid farewell to you, Pastor Deb, we wish you an enjoyable retirement filled with all you have been dreaming of doing in this leisurely time of your life.

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. May newsletter deadline is 4-23-2024.