

Parish Newsletter

March 2026



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” ~Matthew 28:20b

A person leading a conference on stress management walked around a room with a glass half-filled with water raised up. Everyone knew what question she was going to ask, but that wasn't the one she asked. Instead, she asked how much the glass weighed. Everyone guessed several ounces. She responded that it depends on how long you carry it. If you carry the glass a few minutes it's probably light, but the longer you carry it the heavier it becomes. How do you lighten that burden? By taking a break. By letting someone else carry it for a while. Or maybe, giving someone else the glass to carry for you. *“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

We began the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 18. In March we will continue the walk with Jesus to the cross on Sundays and on Wednesdays during our Lent services. Only through remembering all that he went through for us can we truly appreciate all that he did for us. The cross only becomes a glorious thing when we remember that the cross is also a gruesome, torturous, execution device. Christ willingly went to the cross for you. Christ willingly suffered for you. Only in knowing that, can we completely rejoice in the new life that came in Christ's Resurrection.

May you be with Christ as Christ is with you in this season of Lent. May you carry some of Jesus'; stress as he carries yours. And finally, may you be with Christ in his Resurrection as he will certainly be with you in yours!

God bless you,
Pastor Bonnie

Parish News

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR BONNIE

On Sunday, March 22 we'll celebrate the installation of Pastor Bonnie as pastor of the Mayville-Rural Hatton Parish at Bethany Lutheran Church at 10:00am. Bishop Tessa Moon-Leiseth (ELCA) and Rev Ron Hildahl (UCC) will join us for worship and then for a potluck afterwards. Come celebrate!

MARCH READINGS

| Date | First Reading | Psalm | Second Reading | Gospel |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| March 1 | Gen 12:1-4a | Ps 121 | Rom 4:1-5-17, 13 | John 3:1-17 |
| March 8 | Exod 17:1-7 | Ps 95 | Rom 5:1-11 | John 4:5-42 |
| March 15 | 1 Sam 16:1-13 | Ps 23 | Eph 5:8-14 | John 9:1-41 |
| March 22 | Ezek 37:1-14 | Ps 130 | Rom 8:6-11 | John 11:1-45 |
| March 29 | Isa 50:4-9a | Ps 31:9-16 | Phil 2:5-11 | Matt 21:1-11; Luke 22:1-6 |

PALM SUNDAY PATH

The UCC Northern Plains Conference and the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA invite you to participate in the Palm Sunday Path on March 29. The walk will leave Hjemkomst Center in Moorehead at 3:00pm and progress to Fargo City Hall (around ½ mile). Worship will be held at Fargo City Hall upon the completion of the procession. Bring your palms from our Palm Sunday service.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Mayville-Rural Hatton Parish If you have anything you would like to have added to our Facebook page please send it to Pastor Bonnie or Laurie Papenfuss. Pictures are wonderful. Notifications of events, meetings, and gatherings are great.

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. April newsletter deadline is 3-24-2026.

Mayville Congregational-UCC News

ANNUAL MEETING

The congregation will meet for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 1 at 10:45am. Worship will follow the meeting. Communion will move to the following Sunday.

PALM SUNDAY

Service will be at 11:00am on March 29.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Service will be at 5:00pm on April 2.

EASTER

Service will be at 11:00am at Mayville Congregational United Church of Christ Church, followed by a sanctuary egg hunt (mostly for children – but we're all children of God!!).

Bethany News

MARCH READERS

March 1 – Brian Rice

March 8 – Wayne Reinhart

March 15 – Judy Stensland

March 22 – Joel Foss

March 29 – Laura Foss

ANNUAL REPORT

Please contact Loretta Larson (701-430-1367) if you would like an Annual Report and/or copy of the new constitution and executive summary mailed to you.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who came to the Annual Meeting on February 15. We accomplished a lot, shared in great food, and affirmed our mission to God and God's people. We especially thank the council's leadership – Loretta, Lorrie, Justin, Joel, Richard, Wayne; the constitution committee's diligence – Tracy, Charlotte, Karen; Mark and Lorrie for designing the cover and assembling the Annual Report; and the whole congregation for lending your hand in so many ways.

BETHANY CIRCLE

Circle will meet at 2:00pm on Wednesday, March 11 at the church.

BETHANY COUNCIL

The Bethany Council will meet **Tuesday, March 17 at 4:30**. (Note the change of day and time.)

MAYVILLE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Spring Mayville Conference Gathering will take place at Bruflat Lutheran Church in Portland at 3:00pm on Sunday, March 22. This meeting is in preparation for the election of a bishop for our synod at the Synod Assembly, including voting on the names that were raised by the congregations in our conference. All Conference Voting members are encouraged to attend: rostered ministers; members of each congregational council or their designees; congregational chairpersons of WELCA and other designated men's and youth groups; anyone elected to serve on any board of the Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA.

PALM SUNDAY

Service will be at 9:00am on March 29.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Service will be at 7:00pm on April 2.

EASTER

Service will be at 9:00am at Bethany Lutheran Church, followed by a sanctuary egg hunt (mostly for children – but we're all children of God!!).

WELCA SPRING ROUNDUP

The 2026 WELCA Spring Roundup will take place Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. The location is the Bagg Bonanza Historical Farm, 8025 169th Ave SE Mooreton ND. Pre-registration is required by March 28th and lunch is \$20. Walk-ins are welcome, but lunch is not guaranteed. The title of the roundup is WALKING IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS. Register at 701-230-8745 or Jeannemrswob@gmail.com

2026 WELCA TRIENNIAL GATHERING

The Triennial Gathering will take place in Des Moines, Iowa July 16-19, 2026. Registration before January 5th will be \$475 and after January 5th will be \$525. Find more information about the gathering at <https://womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, AND KNIT SHEETS NEEDED

If you have any t-shirts, sweatshirts, or knit sheets that you are getting rid of please give them to Linda Stromstad. They will be given to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Crookston. They use them to make diapers which are given to 3rd world countries.

PRISON MINISTRY

The James River Regional Correctional Facility is still collecting yarn. They have also added a new project which is a knitted/crocheted heart pillow. So, in addition to the yarn, they are asking for donations of polyester fiber-fill to help them with this project. You can bring the yarn and fiber-fill to church and leave it in the basement.

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.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Mayville-Rural Hatton Parish If you have anything you would like to have added to our Facebook page please send it to Pastor Bonnie. Pictures are wonderful. Notifications of events, meetings, and gatherings are great. We are looking for someone who would like to help publish Bethany's news on Facebook.

WEB PAGE

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

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. April newsletter deadline is 3-24-2026.