

# ***Parish Newsletter***

## **February 2024**



### **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

**Alter and Altar**...one of the things that I almost instantly react to is when the word ALTAR is misspelled as ALTER. Yet when one thinks about it, what a better connection between the power and work of the Spirit and what the possibility of change(altering) filled with grace can bring from the altar. I've seen personal altars in movies, at friend's homes and naturally in most congregations' worship spaces.

ALTAR - "Raised structure or place used for sacrifice, worship, or prayer"

ALTER - "To alter is to change, as to alter the hem on trousers or a skirt or alter your outdoor plans if it rains or storms. Or He wanted to alter his truck to make it more elevated than normal" I loved the next part of the definition I found in my search engine "An altar is a place that serves as a center of worship. To keep them separate, remember that **alter is like alternate but altar has an "a" for pray**".

I'm struck this year by Ash Wednesday falling on Feb. 14th, Valentine's Day. I can't help but smile thinking about the reminder that God makes all things new in the power of the cross. Valentine's day - the day of hearts and love connected to our season of growing in reflection and spiritual searching in transparency with our Creator. So, on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, the cross written on our foreheads (or on our hands) is there to remind us that Christ goes before us leading the way to a new day, altering what missteps we might have walked and rejoicing in our following to a new way, an altered path to bring the most abundant life. I have a lot to pour through in preparing for our Lenten Journey together with the *Lent in a Box* material called "Altered by the Spirit". The serious work of altering anything can be daunting but connected to the altar of grace the load is lighter and the journey can be expectantly brighter when our way is dark.

"Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us: through Jesu Christ our Lord." LBW pg. 137 adapted from a prayer of Erik Milner White.

God Bless you all, Pastor Deb Stave

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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

- February 4th - 5th Sunday after Epiphany
  - Is. 40:21-31; Ps. 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
- February 11th - Transfiguration
  - 2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps. 50:1-6, 13-18; 2 Cor. 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
- February 18th - 1st Sunday in Lent
  - Gen. 9: 8:17; Ps. 25:1-10; 1 Pet. 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
- February 25th - 2nd Sunday in Lent
  - Gen. 17: 1:7, 15-16; Ps. 22:23-31; Rom. 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – 5:30pm UCC, 7:00pm Bethany – Worship with Imposition of Ashes

## BETHANY ANNUAL MEETING

February 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 (We'll switch service times so Bethany's potluck will be after the 11:00am service.)

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND LEARNING



The study of the book of Acts zoom meetings will be completed on Feb. 4th..Please visit the EaND website for more info. The Lenten worship services will dwell more in the book of with ACTS “Alerted by the Spirit”. This resource will have a different focus each week featuring a kaleidoscope of stories from the Book of Acts. Pastor Deb attended an equipping event on Jan. 22 to prepare for the possibilities of resources for both Wed

and Sun worship gatherings with the materials developed by Church Anew. She is excited to see what the Holy Spirit works up in our parish. There are 57 pages to download and choose from all that's offered.

## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

A LENTEN BIBLE STUDY from the UCC Northern Plains Conference: Prophets by Dr. Julia O'Brien TUESDAYS at 5:30PM CST Feb. 20, Mar. 5, and Mar. 26

Register at <https://npcucc.fillout.com/lenenbiblestudy>

## **LENTEN SERVICES**

UCC meets at 5:30pm for supper and worship. (UCC: all weeks) Bethany supper 5:30ish, worship 7:00pm. (Bethany: worship only on Ash Wednesday; Supper and worship Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>, and Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>)

### ***Altered by the Spirit***

- Wednesday Feb. 14th - Ash Wednesday - Altered in Witness - Acts 1:6-11
- Wednesday Feb. 21st - Altered Through God's Creativity - Acts. 2:1-13
- Wednesday Feb. 28th - Altered on the Edge of Belonging - Acts 8:26-40
- Wednesday Mar. 6th - Altered Alongside Our Enemies - Acts 9:1-22
- Wednesday Mar. 13th - Altered by Disruption - Acts. 10:1-16, 34-5,44-47
- Wednesday Mar. 20th - Altered through Stories We Don't Trust - Act. 12:6-17

## **NEWSLETTER**

Newsletter items can be sent to Tracy Foss at [Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com](mailto:Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com) Newsletter deadline is usually the Tuesday before the last Sunday of the month. March newsletter deadline is 2-20-2024.

# **Mayville Congregational-UCC News**

## **FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE READERS**

February 4 – Bob Brown

February 11 – April Hasting

February 18 –

February 5 –

## ***Bethany News***

## **FEBRUARY READERS**

February 4 - Karen Osland

February 11 - Sue Rice

February 18 - Mandi Aamold

February 25 - Steve Christiansen

## **FEBRUARY USHERS**

Open.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FEBRUARY 4TH**

Anybody having a report needed before the annual meeting please give them to Lorrie Aamold by February 4th.

## **BETHANY COUNCIL**

Bethany Council will meet at 5:30 Thursday, February 8 at the church.

## **BETHANY CIRCLE**

Circle will be at the church at 2:00 Wednesday, February 14.

## **ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 18 (notice the time)**

The Bethany Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, February 18. The day will begin with the church service at 11:00 AM, followed by a potluck lunch. The annual meeting will began following the potluck.

## **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 EaNDSWO 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](mailto: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](mailto:Charlottelee7@icloud.com) or Tracy Foss at [Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com](mailto:Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com) Newsletter deadline is usually the Tuesday before the last Sunday of the month. March newsletter deadline is 2-20-2024.