

# ***Parish Newsletter*** **March 2021**



## **FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DEB STAVE**



We all missed Ash Wednesday in different ways in both of our congregations - Bethany and Mayville UCC. That yearly cross of Ashes put on our foreheads and hearing the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you will return," welcoming us to the cross walk of grace and renewal.

Many of you already heard me say I was pleasantly surprised the week before Lent started when I reminded the Bethany confirmands that we would not be having ashes because of the concern for safe distancing and touch due to covid precautions. Some of them declared "But I (we) really like that part!". Seeing that black cross on each other's forehead so easily identifying for and to each other that we belong to a faith family. That visible Black cross connecting us back to the cross made on our foreheads at baptism.

We did have that opportunity for ash-cross foreheads last year and then shortly thereafter closed up church gatherings for several months. A whole year we have lived with routines both in our worship lives and in most every other aspect of day to day living being cancelled, limited, or altered daily. And here we are now - March will wind up Lent with Holy Week being the last Sunday - March 28th.

I've heard several of you say you've been able to visit (especially with family) a bit more, have felt lighter and hopeful as vaccinations are available, and are actually making new travel plans with family and friends.

I had always heard Lent could be translated as Spring. I heard an alternative from a Theology Prof this year saying it could be translated as "Lengthening". The days lengthening from winter darkness to spring sunshine. Daylight Savings begins March 14th. Spring Ahead..a little step backward where the dawn light will come earlier and we'll lose a little of the lengthening evening last light that we have now. Foreheads and hands anticipating dirt and dust for spring's work in fields and gardens. Lengthening sunshine, lengthening Sonlight as the seeds of the gifts we possess at whatever age we are in life's journey work to build up the family connections all over God's greening creation.

We may not see the black cross inviting us to grace and renewal but may we see the indelible baptismal cross on each other's face whoever we cross paths with. It is the

way of the Jesus family routine seeing the atonement from the cross calling us to follow the one who Calls us to “AT-ONE-MENT” (John 17-21) Grow in Grace dear family.

God Bless,

Pastor Deb Stave

### **PASTOR DEB CONTACT INFORMATION**

*To contact Pastor Deb Stave – 701/550-9830, deb.stave@gmail.com .*

### **ANNUAL MEETINGS**

Both of our congregations have now held their annual meetings. If anyone was not able to attend and would like a hand delivered (honoring safe social distancing and masks) annual meeting report please contact Pastor Deb. She will love to come and drop it off in person if only at your doorstep and better yet for a visit. She’s learning where folks reside and enjoys matching faces to places.

From the Bethany Annual Meeting - Anyone interested in being a delegate for the EaND synod Assembly please contact Pastor Deb or one of the council members. It will be held in Fargo August 13-15th. Business of the Synod is concentrated during the days on Saturday and Sunday. Friday and Saturday nights have been social gatherings. The planning committee is beginning to work and Assembly will be at the Holiday Inn, Fargo this year. Please pray that it may be so and watch for updates.

God’s call - Blessed TO GIVE ALMS this Lent and Easter Seasons

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council is finalizing the call process for Pastor Deb. The next meeting is March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm at Bethany Lutheran.

### **INSTALLATION OF PASTOR DEB**

April 18<sup>th</sup> is being reserved by the EaND synod by Bishop Leiseth to come and install Pastor Deb. The Northern Plains Conference is looking for a representative to also participate. SAVE THE DATE and watch for details.

### **SUNDAY LESSONS FOR MARCH 2021**

- Mar. 7 - Third Sunday in Lent - Ex. 20:1-17, Ps. 19, 1 Cor. 1:18-25, Jn. 2:13-22
- Mar. 14 - Fourth Sunday in Lent - Numbers 21:4-9, Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22, Eph. 2:1-10, John 3:14-21
- Mar. 21 - 5th Sun. in Lent - Jer.31:31-34, Ps. 51:1-12, Heb. 5:5-10, John 12:20-33
- Mar. 28 - Passion/Palm Sunday - Isa. 50:4-9a, Ps. 31:9-16, Phil. 2:5-11, Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-47

## **LENT 2021**

### **SPILL THE TEA - What's the Story?**

Bethany Lutheran will be having 7-7:30 Lenten Services focused on "Why the Cross?"

### **STIRRING UP GOOD TROUBLE**

Mayville UCC will be focused on the Sunday texts using studies from Worship Ways

## **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation schedule for Classes -

Mar. 3rd - 3:45 to 4:30 pm.

Mar. 10th - 2pm to 3:30pm

Mar. 17th. - 3:45 to 4:30 pm

Mar. 24th - 3:45 to 4:30 pm

Mar. 31st - HOLY WEEK - NO CLASS

During Lent and Holy Week, Confirmation students are strongly suggested to attend mid week services and work on their worship notes.

We meet in the Hatton Community Center after school. Confirmation lasts for minimally 1.25 hrs. If school is cancelled there will be no confirmation that day. PLEASE alert Pastor Deb via text or email if there will be an absence. 701/550-9830, [deb.stave@gmail.com](mailto:deb.stave@gmail.com)

## **NEWSLETTER**

*Newsletter items can be sent to Tracy Foss at [Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com](mailto:Tracy.L.Foss@gmail.com). Newsletter deadline is the Tuesday before the last Sunday of the month. April newsletter deadline is 3-23-2021.*

# **Mayville Congregational-UCC News**

## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

This year's theme for One Great Hour of Sharing, March 14<sup>th</sup>, is "Let Love Flow".

## **TRAILL COUNTY SERVICE AVENUES**

Inspired by the suggested proposal at the UCC meeting of Betsy Ewen and the follow up research by Renee Anderson, Mayville UCC will be looking into having a special speaker to present on the different service avenues for those in need in Traill County. Watch for news.

## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

Pastor Julie Tillberg, who has chaired “God’s Work, Our Hands” has sent an email hoping to coordinate outdoor Gathering worship and outside safe services to folks in the Mayville Portland Community. She will be contacting the planning committee for a possible early June event.

## ***Bethany News***

### **MARCH READERS**

- Mar. 7 - Tracy Foss
- Mar. 14 - Joel Foss
- Mar. 21 - Wayne Reinhart
- Mar. 28 - Kayla Smith

### **MARCH USHERS**

- Peter and Karen Naastad

### **BETHANY COUNCIL**

The Bethany Council met on January 17, 2021. The confirmation class will meet until 4:30 during Lenten season. The class will be involved with the service on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are looking at having the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students being confirmed in the fall. The budget was finalized for presentation during the annual meeting. The telephone line is fixed and we will be getting a 6 month credit from the company.

### **BETHANY ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting was held after service on February 21, 2021. Pastor Deb opened the meeting with prayer and gave her report. The Secretary’s report was read and approved. The Treasurer’s report was read and approved. OLD BUSINESS: The constitution committee has been in limbo because of Covid. They will be finishing it up this year. The main body is finished but more by-laws need to be added. It will need to be presented and then voted on at next year’s annual meeting. They are also compiling a list of duties for various positions/jobs of the church. NEW BUSINESS: Next year’s budget was presented and approved. The sign out front with the Pastor’s name will be updated. The nominating committee presented the nominations for the various church positions. A unanimous ballot was casted and approved. New speaker wire will be replaced for the downstairs

speaker. The West side of the church will be painted this summer by a church member. We are in need of delegates for the ELCA convention this Spring. If interested, contact Pastor Deb. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

### **EASTER IS COMING! – FLOWER ORDERS**

If anyone would like to have flowers in church in memory or in honor of someone, please order from Lorrie by 3-15.

Easter Lilies \$12; Hyacinths \$12; Tulips \$12; Mums \$15

### **ELIZABETH CIRCLE**

The Elizabeth Circle has permanently changed their meeting time from 7:00 to 2:30. The next meeting will be March 10 at 2:30.

### **THANK YOU**

The Dorcas Circle has decided to dissolve because of low membership. We would like to thank Mardelle Tollefson and Carol Niemeier for the many years of faithfully serving in our WELCA and Circles in so many ways! We are very grateful for all you have done and for the many events we shared in fellowship. We are extending an invitation to join Elizabeth Circle whenever you like.

### **BETHANY QUILTING**

In February quilts were distributed to 6 different organizations in Grand Forks and Fargo. Hopefully they kept several people warm during the lengthy spell of frigid temperatures.

In March we will be busy again completing more quilts for Lutheran World Relief and for more local distribution.

March Quilting Dates: Mar. 12 & 13; Mar. 26 & 27

Please join us any time after 9:00 and remember to bring a sack lunch.

### **QUILTING REQUEST**

The quilters are asking for donations of new or gently used pillowcases. They will be used to "package" the quilts before they are given away.

### **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

First Communion Class will be on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am to Noon

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Bethany Sunday School will resume for shortened sessions immediately following church services on Sundays every other week going forward. March Sunday School dates are March 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **JR. CYO**

Jr. CYO members (Blaine & Mason Smith, Will and Lila Ness, & Alicia Foss) are taking part in a service project providing Comfort Packs for foster kids. A basket is located in the church entry if you would like to donate items that can be put in the back packs. Below is information taken from the flyer.

*Jr CYO and St. John's Mission Committee are teaming up to fill back packs for children entering the Traill County foster care system. We are asking for your help by donating **new** item(s) listed below or making a monetary donation. (Checks can be made out to St. John's Church.) For questions please contact: Donalee Strand or Dawn Heskin*

*Personal Care Items (Travel Size) – shampoo & conditioner; soap or body wash; lotion; toothbrush & toothpaste; deodorant; diaper cream*

*Clothing (Sizes Newborn-Adult) – soft pajama; underwear; socks; baby bib*

*Other – stuffed animal (12" or smaller); book; coloring book with crayons; journal*

## **WEB PAGE**

Check out our new web page: [BethanyRuralHatton.com](http://BethanyRuralHatton.com) If you have anything you would like to put on the website contact Mark.

## **SUNDAY OFFERING**

During this time of the pandemic, if you will not be attending worship service in person, you can send your offering directly to Richard Moen at 15159 14<sup>th</sup> St NE, Mayville, ND 58257.

## **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 the Tuesday before the last Sunday of the month. April newsletter deadline is 3-23-2021.