

Parish Newsletter

February 2023



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

For whatever reason, part of a song has been floating through my mind for the last few weeks. Then a hum would start, until I realized no one near me needs to be distracted by it. Thankfully I had no dance moves, at least when anyone else saw me. The song - pretty random... WE ARE FAMILY by Sister Sledge all the way from 1979. Maybe it was because January found 2 of my sisters in Minnesota and Florida ERs. Waiting for news made the time go slow, some tense waiting for the phone to ring or further texts. So sisters on my mind probably triggered the repeating refrain and I'm glad I learned more about that upbeat song and the group. My sister Barb's birthday is at the end of this month as well as Linda's, one of my best friends - the 30th and the 31st. Linda also faced some tough medical things a few months ago. Both are tipping towards 8 decades. It surprises me that decades have slipped away since we all were together playing board games. But, back to the Song...it never was a favorite, but it's worth checking out if you don't know it. It's a catchy tune and I am stuck on the repeat - WE ARE FAMILY....I got all my sisters with me...

Before starting this, I read all the lyrics. I have the repeat firmly in my head, however this part I'm pretty sure never registered before...

"Living life is fun & we've just begun to gain our share of this world's delight. Our high hopes we had for the future and our goals in sight. No we, we don't get depressed 'cause here's what we call our Golden Rule - Have Faith in you & the things you do You won't go wrong, oh no, This is our family jewel..."

At the end of February we move into Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday on February 22. January had us jumping from the last days of the 12 days of Christmas then traversing through the first half of Epiphany and now we as the Family of God prepare ourselves for the reflective season of Lent with Sunday & Wednesday fellowship and worship. *WE ARE FAMILY... all of my brothers and me....*(That's later in the song)

Lent for me is an important time to reflect on the gift of getting through the dark and gray days together, sharing prayer, praise, worship, & fellowship along with food and conversation. Those true-life sisters of Sisters Sledge still sing after many decades. One, Joni, died in 2017. Not all stayed in the group & over the years they've had their dark and gray times, personally and professionally, reconciling before Joni's death thankfully. But they sang, sometimes together, sometimes as solo artists. I look forward to the suppers

and the short midweek worship, for fellowship, song and conversation. Each 24 hours brings more day light. May this Lent be a time to move from ashes to the Golden jewel of you. For WE ARE FAMILY

I plan to go wish my sister happy birthday, so thankful that her fall on the ice and time in the hospital was short. Linda lives states away so the phone will have to do. Whether biological or relational enjoy your brothers and sisters. May there be a song in each heart. What a winter it has been!

Keep Safe and may God Bless your days,

Pastor Deb Stave

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.

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. March newsletter deadline is 2-21-2023.

Parish News

SUNDAY* READINGS FOR READING AND WORSHIP - FEBRUARY 2023 **RCL READINGS ARE THE SAME FOR BOTH CONGREGATIONS**

- **February 5th** - 5th Sunday after Epiphany
 - Isa. 58:1-9a(9b-12); Ps. 112:1-9(10); 1 Cor. 2:1-12(13-16); Matt. 5:13-20
- **February 12th** - 6th Sunday after Epiphany
 - Deut. 30:15-20 or Sir. 15:15-20 ; Ps. 119:1-8; 1Cor. 3:1-9; Matt 5:21-17
- **February 19th** - Transfiguration (Wear White Or NEON 😊)
 - Ex. 24:12-18; Ps. 2 or (Ps. 99); 2 Pet. 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9
- **Wednesday, February 22nd** - Ash Wednesday
 - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa.58:1-12; Ps. 51:1-17; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt 6:1-6, 16-21
- **February 26th** - 1st Sunday in Lent
 - Gen.2:15-17, 3:1-7; Ps. 32; Rom. 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11

LENTEN SERVICES

The Lenten Weekday worships are Ash Wednesday Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Both churches will have their own meals and worship times. Pastor Deb will be at both churches for Ash Wednesday and there will not be a soup supper at Bethany that night. The worship committee for Mayville UCC will be formulating plans. Please watch for details.

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion instruction will be 1 meeting in February and 1 in . Please alert Pastor Deb if there is any 5th grade student interested besides those in our parish. We will make communion bread for Holy Week.

MAYPORT MINISTERIUM

At the Mayport Ministerium meeting plans for an Ecumenical Good Friday (April 7th) service were discussed. I have asked Luther Memorial to host an afternoon service and community is welcome. We also discussed God's work, Our Hands possibly as an early summer event and VBS for the Mayport area. Please watch for details in the coming months and lend your hearts and skills if you have the opportunity. Those who participated in the Feed My Starving Children event are appreciated and thanked.

COMMUNITY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grieving the loss of a loved one? Join our local grief support group! **Who:** Anyone, of any age who has had someone significant to them (family, children/infants, friends etc.) pass on. **When:** Every third Monday of the Month from 7-8 PM. **Where:** Hatton Community Center; Railroad Ave E. Hatton ND. Have questions or would like to connect with us: Renee Anderson: (701-430-1077) or Emily Anderson: (701-430-3633)

Mayville Congregational-UCC News

FEBRUARY READERS

February 5 – Dave Anderson

February 12 – Sarah Batesel

February 19 – Bob Brown

February 26 – Paul Batesel

ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 5th

Mayville UCC will be Feb. 5th at 10:30 with worship to follow.

Bethany News.

FEBRUARY READERS

February 5 - Crystal Holweger

February 12 - Loretta Larson

February 19 - Justin Foss

February 26 - Karen Naastad

FEBRUARY USHERS

- Open

ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 19th

Bethany's Annual meeting will be held February 19th following worship and lunch. The service times for that week will be switched (Mayville UCC 9AM Worship and Bethany 11 Worship). Reminder - Lunch will be potluck.

BETHANY CIRCLE

Bethany Circle will meet at 2:00pm February 8th at the church.

BETHANY COUNCIL

Bethany Council met January 18th. The microphone and the PA systems have been looked at and are working well. Painting of the church will be looked at in the spring. The whole West side now needs to be painted. The council went through the budget proposal for 2023. Discussion on whether or not we need to have a land line was had. This will be brought to the congregation at the annual meeting. Next council meeting will be on February 15th at 5:30 pm.

BETHANY WELCA

A reminder to Bethany women: If you were not asked to bring food for Mardelle Tollefson's funeral, you are asked to please give a \$10 donation for food that was purchased.

VOLUNTEER 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.

WELCA - IMPORTANT DATES

On April 29, 2023, the Cluster meeting will be held at Christi's Lakeview Restaurant. Dates have been set for the third annual "Tea Party" to be held June 14, 2023. Dates have been set for the retreat on August 2 and 3, 2023.

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.

USED T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS

Linda Stromstad knows of an outlet for used sweatshirts and t-shirts. They are used in making diapers and sent to orphanages overseas. They use all sizes in any condition. If you have any you would like to donate, please deliver them to Linda.

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.

WANT TO UPDATE HOW YOU RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER?

If you would like to update the way you receive the newsletter, or if you are a member of another church and you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please contact a church council member or Tracy Foss. Your options for receiving the newsletter are: e-mail, hard copy through the mail, or read it on the website.

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. March newsletter deadline is 2-21-2023.