

January 2020 Newsletter

Western Edge Parish (Peace Lutheran, Dickinson & St. John's Lutheran, Richardton)

Serving the community in partnership.

From the Pastor

January 2020

Every year in my January article for the newsletter I say thank you on behalf of my wife and family for your thoughtfulness and generosity over the holiday season. We have enjoyed the Christmas cards, pictures and letters. We have devoured the sweet treats and gifts of food. And we have appreciated the other gifts and kindness shown to us and shared with us.

Thank you for sharing your love this past holiday season. We are delighted by your kindness.

Amazingly, as quickly as the holidays come, they go. Here we are on the other side of Christmas: time to put away the decorations and lights, time to fall back into a routine, **and** time for church annual meetings!

Yes, that's right folks, January means it's time for that church annual meeting. I know that many of you like to dodge that meeting like a bullet, but the church council would like to encourage more participation and input from the congregation. We hope that members of all ages can attend and participate. We hope to spend less time looking back at 2019 and more time looking into the future for our church, our congregation, and our faith.

We can't know the future, but we can know where we want to go as a people of faith and as a church. Let's talk about our future and our direction. Rest assured, the Holy Spirit is with us wherever we go, shaping us and guiding us to do God's will. So come to the church's annual meeting and see God at work among us!

The church's annual meeting can be a time to thank God for the years past and praise God for the years ahead! May the year 2020 be a year where faith grows deeper and love for your neighbor reaches new heights!

With peace,

Pastor Mike Pretzer



Caring Hands for January

January, May, & September

Bette Madler

Phyllis Nordeng

Tim & Bev Hodahl

Carolyn Blake

Sylvia Kalliokoski

Gregg & Jessica Bertelsen

Becky O'Neal

Sheila Schilling

Deanna Davenport

Don & Erika Schumacher

Don Fersger

Dean & Lola Hushka

Shantel Petroff

During your month, sign up (or email or call the church) to help with the following worship/fellowship needs. You can sign up in pairs to help each other out with worship and fellowship duties, if desired. Sign up sheets are located at the church along with a signup sheet for mowing.

-Worship hosts

-Greet people and hand them a bulletin

-Make sure the candles are lit

-Collect offering

-Fellowship hosts

-Make a pot of coffee/heat the water kettle for tea

-Provide some kind of snacks (bars, fruit, toast, meat/cheese, cookies, etc)



JUST OUTSIDE THE BOX



'Too high son,' said St Peter.
'Next floor down is the goose with the golden egg.'

PRAYERS FOR HEALING,

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Jacob Huber (relative of Kofflers)

Deidra Shannon (Terry H. cousin)

Megan Grabow (Shelby & Derek Sister-in-Law)

Julie Anderson (Friend of Holdahls)

Angela Ernst (Breast Cancer)

Tammy McReynolds (Terry Halverson's Sister)

Navah DenHerder

Ervin & Florence Heidecker

Brad Ness (Cancer, cousin of Kim Jones)

Fagerberg Family

COMMUNITY PRAYERS:

All those serving in the military & their families. Our partner congregation, St. John's Lutheran in Richardton, Lutheran Social Services, Badlands Ministries, the Ministries in the Central African Republic.

ST. JOHN'S IN RICHARDTON

Harrison Job Magstadt & his parents Haley & Nathan
Magstadt

Kristin Johnson

Shawn Hauck

James Hauter (Lynn Johnson's Father)

Wellde Heinle- Recurrence of cancer

Arlyne Magstad

Shirley Kitzan

Dee Homelvig -Chemotherapy

Emmalou Lavine (Armin's Sister)

Trisha Macks and Son, Callen

Sharon Messer

Bill Dohrmann

Faith Formation Activities for January

Please take note of the January schedule for Wednesday Night Worship and Faith Formation.

January 1- **New Years Day**

No Worship

No Faith Formation

January 8

6:30 pm- Worship

7:00 pm- Faith Formation

Theme: Jesus' Baptism- Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

6:30 pm- Worship

7:00- Faith Formation

Theme: The Lamb of God – John 1:29-42

January 22

6:30 pm-- Valentine Project: Each family please bring something to add.

January 29

6:30 pm- Worship

7:00 pm- Faith Formation

Theme: The Beatitudes- Matthew 5:1-12

Other Events In January

Jan 14– Council Meeting @ 7pm

Jan 19– Peace Annual Meeting



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Gospel Seeds – January 2020

A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff

Generosity Abounds...

We have just come through the Christmas Season and are living in Epiphany – giving thanks for Jesus the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Sitting in a dimly lit office, a couple of lamps pushing back the darkness into the corners of the room, my spirit is content and grateful. Why? I could focus on the bitter cold, the snow that needs to be moved, the ache in my shoulder or a-thousand-and-one concerns weighing on my mind, but instead I chose to focus on gratitude.

I am grateful for the generosity I see all around. I have witnessed people filling baskets in the narthex of their churches for the sake of those who do not have enough. I have witnessed people extending a hand and words of welcome to those who are pushed aside by some. I have witnessed those who are incarcerated being shown acts of great love and compassion. All of this leaves me grateful for the generosity I have witnessed among members of this synod.

Jesus has given us so much – life and life abundant – with gratitude we can share that life with others. We share life when we love without strings, speak of our hope in Jesus and live lives which point to Christ. Thanks for all the ways that you live the faith.

Thinking Ahead...

It may seem like a long way off, but before you know it the days will be longer, the angle of the Sun will allow it to warm the earth and snow will melt. Frozen landscape will blossom with crops and wildflowers. Close your eyes – open them again and it will be June and time for Synod Assembly.

This year's Assembly is June 5-6 (with a PreAssembly workshop and Mission Gala on Thursday June 4) at the Ramkota in Bismarck. We will gather around the theme "Called by name..." focusing on Isaiah 43:1. One piece of business will be the election of our next Bishop.

As your congregation heads toward its annual meeting I encourage you to elect voting members to Assembly – let your voice be heard in the midst of this important process. Every congregation of the synod is allowed at least two voting members. Extra voting members are allowed based on the size of your congregation. If you have questions, please call the synod office; we will help you determine your number of voting members.

Welcome...

I would like to personally welcome Interim Bishop David Zellmer. As I transition to congregational ministry, Interim Bishop Zellmer will help lead the synod forward until the next Bishop is elected and begins the call. I consider Dave a good friend. He is wise, compassionate, creative and passionate about the Gospel. Dave grew up in Minot and was confirmed at Christ Lutheran. As a pastor, he served in both rural and large town congregations. Please welcome him when he arrives – he will serve well in the months to come.

Farewell Events:

This month synod leadership will be hosting "Farewell and Thank-You" events around the synod. This is my chance to say thanks to you all for our years of work together. Come out for food, fellowship, a word of thanks from me, a chance to engage Scripture and time to think about what we have learned together through the last 11 and ½ years.

Here is the schedule:

January 11 - 6:00PM	First Lutheran, Williston
January 12 - 2:00PM	Christ Lutheran, Lignite
January 12 - TBA	Bread of Life, Minot
January 19 - TBA	First Lutheran, Rugby
January 25 - 3:00PM	St. John, Dickinson
January 26 - 5:00PM	Lutheran Church of the Cross, Bismarck

Constitutional Changes...

During the 2019 Churchwide Assembly changes were made to the Synod Constitutions. Some of the approved changes are required to be adopted by the synod, so that has happened and are currently reflected in the Synod Constitution. Other changes were optional. In October, your Synod Council, on the advice of our Synod Attorney, approved a number of optional changes. These proposed changes will come before our Synod Assembly in June. The text of the changes will be available on the Synod Website.

God Bless All!

Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod

Council Meeting Minutes - Peace Lutheran Church –December 19, 2019 7:00 PM

Present: Jeff Anderson, Eric Halvorson, Bev Holdahl, Marilyn Huschka, Derek Jilek, Travis Kupper, Pastor Mike Pretzer, Tammy Sadowsky, and Kim Jones. Absent: Heather Fagerberg, Jessica Bertelsen.

- 1) Bev called the meeting to order. 2) Pastor Mike shared devotion and prayer, Christ is born.
 - 3) November Minutes reviewed. MSC Travis/Derek. 4) Agenda reviewed, additions made. MSC Eric/Travis
 - 5) Pastor's Reports – Pastor presided at funeral for Kash Kremer at Stevenson Funeral on 12/6. The Bishop invited Pastor Mike to participate in the First Call Theological Event January 20-22. Lanie has been working ahead, as her baby is coming soon. She will be returning to work as soon as she is ready.
 - 6) Stewardship
 - Financial report reviewed. MSC Travis/Marilyn on current financials. 2020 Budget was reviewed. Discussion held on VBS cost and the few kids that attended. It was suggested that Peace consolidate with St John, Dickinson and that possibly Peace could pay for church members to attend VBS at St John.
 - MSC Travis/Eric approved the 2020 budget with the following recommendations: pre-school income amount be clarified with Heather; decrease budget amount for VBS and bump-up Campership amount; budget 3% cost of living increase for Lanie and Sheila; decreased Budget amount for Office Administrative Staff to \$5000.
 - Lefse sales raised \$2500. Matching funds for the fundraiser have been received. We need to get more people involved with this, as we could have sold more lefse.
 - MSC Jeff/Tammy to gift an additional \$500.00 Benevolence to Synod by end of year.
 - Peace' Annual Meeting is January 19.
 - 7) Worship
 - Partnership- Joint Service 12/29/19 at Richardton at 10 am. Service will include picking favorite hymns. Christmas Eve service at Richardton at 3 pm; Peace service scheduled for 6 pm.
 - B. Worship helpers-
 - Music – Roene & Sandy have been coordinating pianists.
 - Council Sign up – signup sheet on bulletin board
 - Altar Guild – Carolyn & Kim setting up Communion. Pastor Mike, Bev & Tim, and Kim set up Advent wreath and banners. Group that decorated church on 12/4 did a very nice job.
 - Caring Hands List – keep promoting. There has been more participation.
 - 8) Faith Formation - 2019 Wednesday Night services wrapped up with 24 people attending the Christmas Snoop party on 12/18. Faith Formation and services will start again January 8. Schedule complete for January 8 – May 6. January 22 & February 12 will be a Valentine Service Project. February 26 is Ash Wednesday, with no Faith Formation through Lent. Easter is April 12. Faith Formation will resume April 15 with it ending May 6. Confirmation scheduled for Mother's Day, May 10.
 - 9) Community Partnerships
 - Community Garden- will get the garden sign by spring. Pastor submitted grant request with Rough Rider Electric, asking for \$500-\$550 to be used for sign and picnic table for garden space.
 - Amen Food Pantry – dates not available yet
 - Our preschools – Pastor to schedule a meeting date with preschools.
 - Grace Action Chapel last service 12/29. Need to get keys. Pastor purchased Peace Lily and there is a card for congregation to sign to wish them well.
 - 10) Building and Property
 - Parking Lot – no report
 - Snow Removal – Ron Tormaschy will remove snow from parking lot only. Pastor Mike, Jeff, Tim & Bev have shoveled sidewalks. Still looking for help with this. Preschool gifted church a snow shovel plow.
 - Mowing estimate – Received another estimate for mowing from D&L Lawn for \$290 per time.
 - Painting – church needs to be painted next year, last time it was sprayed. Fascia and soffits also need to be painted before these need to be replaced.
 - Light bulbs needed in one classroom. Tim to check on this. Also need to check lights in sanctuary. Batteries for emergency system have been ordered from Total Safety.
 - 11) Communication - Newsletter – January issue going out soon.
 - 12) Next Meeting Date – January 14, 2020, at 7 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting adjourned.
- Respectfully submitted, Kim Jones

SJR—St. John's in Richardton KA—Kid Academy Preschool (Monday-Thursday)
 R2B—Room to Bloom Preschool (Tuesday/Thursday) AA-Alcoholics Anonymous

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 WNNW—6:30pm	2 AA—5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	3	4 AA—8-11:30 am Live
5 Peace Worship-10AM SJR—8AM	6	7	8 WNNW—6:30pm	9 AA—5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	10	11 AA—8-11:30 am Live
12 Peace Worship-10AM SJR—8AM	13	14 Council Meeting 7pm	15 WNNW—6:30pm	16 AA—5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	17	18 AA-8-11:30am Live
19 Peace Worship-10AM Annual Meeting SJR—8AM	20	21	22 Valentine Project 6:30pm	23 AA—5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	24	25 AA 8-11:30am Live
26 Peace Worship 10am SJR 8AM	27	28	29 WNNW—6:30pm	30	31	

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