

February 2020 Newsletter

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

Serving the community in partnership.

From the Pastor

February 2020

Over the last few days as I have been outside doing my chores, there has been the scent of spring in the air. I know I am getting way ahead of my self, but with the warmer temperatures, the melting snow, and detectible longer days, my mind is being tricked to think that this feels like spring. I am being fooled into believing that the worst of winter is over. Though we are not there yet, spring is not too far away!

Another sign of spring which will soon be upon us is the season of Lent. At the end of the month we will gather to receive an ashen cross on our foreheads as a reminder that “from dust you were created and to dust you shall return.”

We are reminded that God is at our beginning and will be at our end. But “end” is a relative term! In Christ’s death and resurrection there is not an end to life. Rather through death, life changes significantly! And so, Lent leads us to Easter Joy and the celebration of life eternal in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Each Lent we are called to prayerfully consider that sacrificial love, receive it, share it and demonstrate it to others. To help us with just such a Lenten journey we will gather on the Wednesdays in March and early April to worship and reflect on the wounds of Christ. More details about our worship services theme and schedule will be included in the March newsletter.

I hope all of you will take advantage of this special season – again, which is just around the corner, to gather for worship, learning, spiritual development, and fellowship around food and faith.

Our journey through Lent is much more meaningful when we do it together!

May God’s blessings be with you as we all wait for the real arrival of spring.

No MATTER
how long the winter,
SPRING
is sure to FOLLOW.



With Peace,

Pastor Mike Pretzer

Caring Hands for January

February, June, & October

Steve & Sandra Day

Derek & Shelby Jilek

Kim & Mike Jones

Mike & Alecia Pretzer

Lynette Harsted

Travis & Lisa Holding Eagle

Eric & Terry Halvorson

Joy Knote

Greg & Amy Beck

Karen Dowhaniuk

Craig Lange

Joren Nordahl

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)

Memorial Service for Roene Hulsing

Our congregation at Peace Lutheran in Dickinson and the community of Dickinson as a whole have experienced a great loss. On January 7th, 2020 Roene Hulsing died in the hospital in Bismarck after experiencing a sever stroke.

To celebrate her life, to mark her passing, to support one another in our grief and to entrust her to God's eternal care, a prayer service will be held at Peace Lutheran on Friday, April 17, 2020 at 7:00 pm. A memorial service will take place on Saturday, April 18th at Stevenson Funeral Home starting at 11:00 am.



A Reminder to Thrivent Members



Thrivent members who have Choice Dollars to share, need to designate them by March 31st. Please consider donating your Choice Dollars to Peace Lutheran Church or any other worthy organization. You can do so by going to www.thrivent.com.

Peace Lutheran Church is hosting a New Member Sunday and Pot Luck

Peace Lutheran Church will recognize new members on Sunday, February 23rd at the 10:00 am worship service. A pot luck meal will follow the service. If you would like to officially join the church and be recognized as a new member, please speak with Pastor Mike.



Ash Wednesday Service

The season of Lent is just around the corner. (See Pastor Mike's article.) The Season begins with the Ash Wednesday service on February 26th. This will be a joint worship service for St. John and Peace Lutheran hosted in Dickinson by Peace. The following week we will begin our rotation for soup suppers and worship services. St. John's in Richardton will host the first soup supper starting at 6:00 pm. The full Lenten schedule will be included in the March newsletter.



Faith Formation's Valentine Project

The service project for the faith formation group is half done. On Wednesday January 22nd the Wednesday Night Worship group made almost 100 Valentines.



The second half of the project will be to decorate valentine cookies on **Wednesday February 12th**. Worship will happen first at 6:30 pm. Cookie decorating will follow at 7:00 pm. **Each family is asked to bring one dozen cookies and frosting for decorating.** All members of the congregation are invited to attend this fun event. The cookies will be added to the valentines and will then be shared with the residents at St. Luke's Home.

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)

Navah DenHerder

Ervin & Florence Heidecker

Family of Brad Ness (Cancer, cousin of Kim Jones)

Family and Friends of Roene Hulsing

Eric Sellers (Cancer)

Adam Karpyak and Family

Tammy McReynolds (Terry Halversons Sister)

Rev. Linda Wimmer (Loss of Father)

Rev. Muriel Lippert (Hospitalized)

COMMUNITY PRAYERS:

All those serving in the military & their families. Our partner congregation, St. John's Lutheran in Rich-

ardton, 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 Magstadt

Shirley Kitzan

Dee Homelvig -Chemotherapy

Emmalou Lavine (Armin's Sister)

Trisha Macks and Son, Callen

Sharon Messer

Family of Bill Dohrmann

Connie Treiber(Cancer)

Family of Roene Hulsing

Clayton Nehl (grandson to Kim and Kelly Dressler)

Faith Formation Activities for February

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

February 5

6:30 pm- Worship

7:00 pm- Faith Formation

Theme: Salt and Light– Matthew 5:13-20

February 12

6:30 pm- Worship

7:00 pm- Faith Formation

Theme: Decorate Cookies

February 19

6:30 pm- Worship

7:00 pm- Faith Formation

Theme: Love your enemiesMatthew 5:38-48

February 26 – **Ash Wednesday**

Joint Service at Peace- 7:00 pm

Other Events In February

Feb. 18– Council Meeting 7PM

Feb. 23– New Member Sunday and Pot Luck

Feb. 27– AMEN Food Pantry



Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

Gospel Seeds – February 2020

A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff

Lasts and First...

I am experiencing lots of “lasts” these days. As I write this newsletter I am at the last “First Call Theological Retreat” which I helped organize. I am in the midst of the last of the six “Thank-You and Farewell” events around the synod. I am spending many hours in the office looking through files, getting rid of unnecessary paperwork and setting aside pieces the next Bishop will need. As a staff we are living deeply in the land of transition.

It is a strange place to be in some ways. The last 11 ½ years have flown by and at the same time old files remind me of meetings and events that seem so long ago. Time moves on, God is present through the power of the Holy Spirit and ministry happens.

I am thankful for all of the faithful leaders who have served over these years, both lay and rostered. Congregational members who have been willing to ask difficult questions, dive deep into conversation and then roll up their sleeves for the sake of the proclamation of the Gospel.

I am thankful for the generosity of people across this synod. One document was the listing of seminary scholarships from the year that I was a senior at Wartburg Theological Seminary. In 1998 the synod was able to provide students with \$12,000 worth of scholarships. Because of your generosity we now have over \$70,000 dollars for scholarships and debt buy-down. When I started as Bishop we had about \$500,000 in the Ministry Endowment Fund. As I leave office we have added two more funds, the Mission Fund and the Accompaniment Fund. Combined the three funds have over \$3 Million dollars in assets. Last fall the endowment fund was able to capture just under \$100,000 in gains – that is money which will support ministry across this synod. It is all because of your generosity – thanks!

As I leave this office, I want to thank you for the privilege of serving as your Bishop. It has been an honor to be the voice of this synod in the Conference of Bishops, to work locally and across the larger church on issues of congregational renewal. I have been honored to serve as one of your representatives to your social ministry organization, Lutheran Social Services. We can be proud of the incredible ministry LSS does in the name of Jesus- helping infants through teens, to young families and senior citizens. LSS has 19 different programs which touch the lives of tens of thousands of people across this state.

The witness of another...

Last fall I attended the installation of the new Bishop of Northwest Minnesota. As part of the service, retiring Bishop Larry Wohlrabe processed into worship with the rest of the Bishops who were present. In the midst of the installation service he took the synod cross off from around his neck and placed it upon newly installed Bishop Bill Tesch. Then Larry stepped off the platform. He did not return to sit with the Bishops who were present, instead he walked over and sat with the pastors of the synod who were present for the installation. I loved the imagery in that act.

The polity of our church is that a pastor is raised up by a synod assembly to serve as its Bishop, for a time. It is not a life time appointment. When the term comes to an end a bishop returns to being a pastor of the synod.

February 18th will be my last day in the office, I will take three days of vacation before beginning my new call at Trinity Lutheran in Bismarck. I am thankful for my days of serving as Bishop, but I am truly looking forward to returning to the role of parish pastor.

This is my pledge to the synod and whoever is the next Bishop: I will be a quiet positive presence. I will be deeply committed to my work in the congregation. I will work in cooperation with the other pastors in the community and in my conference.

Until the next Bishop is elected, I will be a supporter and advocate for Interim Bishop Dave Zellmer and the synod staff. God has richly blessed us with these servants and for that I am thankful.

Last Words...

The best last word I can say is “Thank You.” Your prayers and partnership have been a blessing. I am honored to have served you.

God Bless All!

Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod

Council Meeting Minutes - Peace Lutheran Church –January 14, 2020 7:00 PM

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

1) Bev called the meeting to order.

2) Pastor Mike shared devotion and prayer, “Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son”

3) December Minutes reviewed. MSC Eric/Marilyn.

4) Agenda reviewed, additions made.

5) Pastor’s Reports – Pastor Mike to participate in the First Call Theological Event, leaving January 19 and will return January 22. Lanie had her baby. She has already returned to work. Pastor officiated at a funeral in Medora early January. Dusty and Stephanie Rau and family transferred their membership into Peace. We will plan to have a New Membership Sunday on February 23, with a potluck and cake. We will also welcome Della Christianson and Karen Dowhaniuk, and others if interested. Peace annual meeting on Sunday, January 19 followed by potluck. Pastor needs to leave early from January 26 church service to go to St John’s Richardson for their 11 am service/annual meeting. Eric Halvorson to close service at Peace that day.

6) Stewardship

Financial report – no report. RJH & Associates will continue for now with salaries and taxes.

7) Worship

Partnership- next joint service is scheduled March 29, 10 am at Peace. Pastor to visit with St John to reevaluate whether to continue the joint services. It was suggested to continue with joint Lenten services and summer picnic.

B. Worship helpers-

Music – Pastor Mike, Sandy and Kim to come up with a plan.

Council Sign up – signup sheet to council members

Altar Guild – things are going well.

Caring Hands List – There has been more participation. Discuss at Annual Meeting.

8) Faith Formation - Wednesday Night services started again. Hilary Moberg will be leading Kool Gang for 7 times through May. Valentine Service Project January 22 to make valentines, and February 12 to decorate cookies.

9) Community Partnerships

Community Garden- no report

Amen Food Pantry – Susie Kapelovitz is contacting Carolyn Blake and Phyllis Nordeng directly with dates. Carolyn to notify office of the dates.

Our preschools – Pastor to schedule a meeting with Kids Academy on February 5 at 11:30. Pastor Mike, Bev, and Eric to meet with teachers. Pastor will check with Jamie to see if she would like to meet also.

Grace Action Chapel – did get keys.

10) Building and Property

Parking Lot – no report

Snow Removal – Dusty Rau volunteered to shovel sidewalks Sunday mornings.

Mowing estimate – Della Christianson would like to do weed maintenance/spraying weeds-Canadian thistles.

Exterior Painting – no report

Batteries for emergency system not available from Total Safety. We need to check with Interstate or Batteries Plus in Bismarck. Total Safety said the battery we need is no longer made.

Carpet cleaning – will be done some Friday. Eric to get estimates.

11) Communication - Newsletter – We will continue monthly newsletters, with the exception in summer.

12) Next Meeting Date – February 18, 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

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 AA- 8-11:30 am Live
2 Peace Worship-10AM SJR- 8AM	3	4	5 WNW- 6:30pm	6 AA- 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	7	8 AA- 8-11:30 am Live
9 Peace Worship-10AM SJR- 8AM	10	11	12 WNW Service Project Cookie Decorating - 6:30pm	13 AA- 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	14	15 AA-8-11:30am Live
16 Peace Worship-10AM SJR- 8AM	17	18 Council Meeting 7pm	19 WNW- 6:30pm	20 AA- 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	21	22 AA 8-11:30am Live
23 Peace Worship 10am New Member Sunday & Pot Luck SJR 8AM	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday Joint Service @ Peace - 7pm	27 AMEN Food Pantry 2-4 AA- 5:30-8:30PM New Freedom	28	29 AA 8-11:30am Live

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