

UNITED AS ONE LUTHERAN PARISH

FEBRUARY 2020

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Pastor's Report

When you think of February, what comes to mind? For me, the first thing is the excitement of it being a string of birthdays in my family, between my nephew, my father, and I, it is a month of celebrations. For some, it's the superbowl. For others, February brings excitement of basketball tournaments. But probably the most universal connection with February is Valentines Day.

Love is in the air and on our minds. Can you feel it? Can you see it? Can you find it?

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (John 15:9-12)

"I'd make more mistakes next time," said 85-year-old Nadine Stair when asked what she would do if she had her life to live over again. "I'd relax. I would limber up. I would be sillier than I have been this trip. I would take fewer things seriously. I would take more chances. I would climb more mountains and swim more rivers. I would eat more ice cream and less beans. I would perhaps have more actual troubles, but I'd have fewer imaginary ones. You see, I'm one of those people who live sensibly and sanely hour after hour, day after day. Oh, I've had my moments, and if I had to do it over again, I'd have more of them. In fact, I'd try to have nothing else—just moments, one after another, instead of living so many years ahead of each day. I've been one of those persons who never goes anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle and a raincoat.

If I had to do it over again, I would travel lighter than I have. If I had my life to live over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would go to more dances. I would ride more merry-go-rounds. I would pick more daisies."

In his final prayer, Jesus prayed that his disciples would experience the full measure of his joy—now. He prayed for us to have his joy in the middle of traffic, paying bills, listening to screaming kids, and in a darkening world. He doesn't want us to wait for heaven to be full of joy.

It is easy to get caught up in schedules and work and deadlines – just as it is easy to forget to take time to dwell in the love of God that surrounds us. But what joy it brings when we live with the awareness of God's love for us – really being aware, not just a reminder every now and then. How would dwelling in the word and love of God prior to starting each day help us grow as faithful people of God?

So many times we focus on imaginary troubles. But Jesus reminds us that joy comes from knowing the Father through the Son. As you reflect on your life choose to live in fullness of joy by taking the time to pick more daisies ... and by living each moment fully aware of God's love for you.

I challenge you to name those things, experiences, and places that allow you to more fully experience God's overwhelming love for you – and then dwell there for a while, even if it's only for a moment. May you find people, places, and experiences that allow you to let go of the outside voices of this world and claim your identity as a beloved child of God – regardless of what you do or don't do this day. May you be surrounded by the love of God in all your moments this month.

Blessings to you all -
Pastor Kayla

Confirmation News

Confirmation classes continue to meet through February at the normal time. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, students will be required to attend the evening service in place of regular class. We will not resume regular classes until after Easter.

Confirmation Camp at Metigoshe is June 21-26th. Confirmation camp is a requirement of our confirmation curriculum, so all students are expected to attend. Parents are expected to register their own child with Metigoshe – which can be done either online or by paper registration found in the summer brochure. Please register your child as soon as possible, as room is limited, and it is a popular camp (Registering early also saves you money!). Scholarships are available through the church, WELCA, and directly from the camp. Be on the lookout for more information in the next month.

Sponsor a Confirmation Student! A week of confirmation camp costs the average camper \$425, which can be a large burden on our families. This year, we rejoice that we will have a large group of campers from Holy Cross, with some students wanting to return for a second year of camp! While our congregation offers scholarships for attendees of Metigoshe, our funds can only go so far. If you would like to sponsor a scholarship to help send our kids to this life-changing week of camp, please talk to Pastor Kayla.

Ash Wednesday Schedule:

4:30pm – Trinity

7:00pm – Holy Cross

Lenten Services:

This year our parish will be participating in a “round robin” style Lent service. This means that we will be joining with 3 other parishes in a common theme, rotating pastors each week. So while you will see Pastor Kayla and Milo during Lent, you will also have the opportunity to hear some new voices as we welcome pastors from around the area.

Each week, we will offer two locations for services, one at Holy Cross and one that will rotate between Elmdale and Trinity. A meal will be served from 6-7pm and the service will begin at 7pm. Please join us at whichever location is most convenient for you!

Camp Sunday at Holy Cross! Join us at Holy Cross on February 23rd as we welcome a representative from Metigoshe Ministries in Sunday worship. We will have the chance to hear what our ministry partner is up to, what is in store for this summer, and ask any questions we have. Come support our Bible camp and perhaps even bust a move!

My parents now live in Plymouth, the next suburb out. Carolyn Anderson, my wife, and I live in Golden Valley. My father's last call was to Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, where he served under Maynard Nelson, who had followed him to Powers Lake. My dad retired from there in 1994. Maynard retired a few years after that, but has since passed away.



Pastor Allan Sortland celebrating his 92nd birthday. He was pastor of Holy Cross in the 50's. Shown with son, Paul, wife, Eunice, Pastor Allan, and Paul's wife, Carolyn. Golden Valley, MN.

Unapproved
United as One Lutheran Parish Council Minutes
January 12, 2020

*Present were Rob Jensen, Jarret Van Berkom, Kayo Grubb, Mary Ellen Carlson, Bryan Quigley, Richard Jorgenson, Lee Ann Opdahl, Terry Grubb, Jen Titus, Ladelle Lucy, Pastor Kayla, Richard and Val Bolen.

*Meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m.

*Pastor Kayla began the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

*Secretary's Report given. Jarret Van Berkom motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mary Ellen Carlson 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

*Treasurer's Report not available.

*Discussion was held concerning the pastor's schedule and the parish budget. The following decisions were made:

1. No changes to the proposed 2020 parish budget were made.
2. Bethel will pay an additional \$2000.00 to cover the pulpit supply for a lay pastor on the 4th Sunday of each month for their congregation.
3. The pastor's schedule will be the following:
1st and 2nd Sundays-Holy Cross and Bethel
3rd Sundays-Elmdale/Trinity
4th Sundays-Holy Cross with pulpit supply at Bethel
4. Pastor Kayla will have coffee hour the 2nd Sunday of each month with Bethel prior to their service.
5. There are 4-5th Sundays in 2020. We will have a combined service for the parish. Schedule to be determined.

*The next Parish council meeting will be March 8, 2020, at Elmdale at 2:00 p.m.

*The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

News from Bethel

Bethel Lutheran WELCA

On a cold and windy January 16, we met at a warm and cozy Opal Maruskie home. Those present were: Brenda Jorgenson, Linda Rystedt, Glennis Maruskie, & Elda Titus.

Our lesson was on "We are called" from the Gather magazine, which was led by President Brenda Jorgenson. It closed by us singing, "Here we are Lord."

The business meeting was called to order by President Brenda, secretary report was read from our Oct meeting. It was approved as read. Opal Maruskie gave the treasurers report with that being approved as read.

Old Business: There was a discussion regarding the new front doors of the church and how much should we contribute, motion made by Linda to reimburse the church \$1000.00, Glennis seconded that motion, motion carried. We reviewed our Christmas candlelight service that was well attended by approximately 65. Brenda mentioned we ran out of candles and should we purchase some. Also we ran out of bulletins and she will contact Ruth Ann regarding getting more for next year. Motion made by Elda, seconded by Linda to purchase 100 candles.

New Business: Terry Grubb has made punch for candlelight service for several years. Motion made by Opal, seconded by Glennis to give Terry \$25 for punch supplies. Discussion followed on paying in on the shipment of quilts this spring. It was decided to wait with decision as to amount till closer to time of quilts being sent. Ladelle is working on our new booklets for the WELCA. Linda stated there is a request to serve after funeral that will be held at Bethel Lutheran on May 16th of Marty Skredsvigs parents. Light lunch is requested.

There being no further business. Meeting Adjourned. A delicious lunch was served by Opal.

Elda Titus, Secretary

NEWS FROM ELMDALE

Feb. 1st--2:00 p.m. Birthday/Friendship Club at M&K. Celebrating Shirley Christensen and Wendy Larsen.

Feb. 14th--3:00 p.m. Elmdale's Women of the ELCA serving a Valentine Party at the Kenmare Hospital for the Residents and Guests. **Plan to come by 2:30 p.m. for set-up.**

Feb. 25th--Rachel/Friendship Circle--2:30 p.m. Hostess: Wilma Boughton at Elmdale Church.

We start our Jan. and Feb. study on "We are Called". Hearing God's voice for Jan. starting in the Old Testament focusing on the prophets. Feb. "Jesus invitation to all of us to take up the cross and follow Him". We are all learners of God's word, 1 John 3:18 says, Dear children, Let us stop just saying we Love each other, let us really show it by our actions. Pastor Kayla Hill is leading our study on Wed. mornings on the book of Acts, teaching us on how the Christian Church began by Faith in the Risen Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. My Confirmation verse was John 3:16.

For God , So LoVed the
World thAt He Gave
His onLy
BEgotten
SoN
ThaT whoever
Believes In Him
Shall Not Parish
But HavE Eternal Life

Thanks to everyone for God's message in our Churches Today. Donna Christensen

NEWS FROM HOLY CROSS

"Building relationships and thankfully serving with God's love and Christ's teaching."

HOLY CROSS/BETHEL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 9:30 a.m. Worship @ HOLY CROSS w/ Holy Communion-Pastor Kayla
11:30 a.m. Worship @ BETHEL with Holy Communion -Pastor Kayla

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 9:30 a.m. Worship @ HOLY CROSS – Milo Mell
11:30 a.m. Worship @ BETHEL – Milo Mell

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 9:30 a.m. Worship @ HOLY CROSS – Milo Mell
11:30 a.m. Worship @ BETHEL – Milo Mell

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 9:30 a.m. Worship @ HOLY CROSS – Pastor Kayla
11:30 a.m. Worship @ BETHEL

WED., FEBRUARY 26 7:00 p.m. ASH WEDNESDAY @ HOLY CROSS – Pastor Kayla

Fellowship and Sunday School follow the worship service @ Holy Cross.

Fellowship before worship @ Bethel.

FEBRUARY CARE GROUP:

FEBRUARY 2	GREETERS – Ruth Ann Larshus	READER: Ruth Ann Larshus
FEBRUARY 9	GREETERS – Tyler & Leslie Grubb Family	READER: Shelbi Grubb
FEBRUARY 16	GREETERS – Lynn & Brian Rosencrans	READER: Donna Griesbach
FEBRUARY 23	GREETERS – Kayo & Shelbi Grubb	READER: Shelbi Grubb
FEBRUARY 26	GREETERS - Lynn & Brian Rosencrans	READER: Shelbi Grubb

FEBRUARY USHER: Lowell Jorgenson MARCH USHER: Tyler Grubb

LUTHER LEAGUE SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 2 – Carter, Camryn, Chiara Rystedt

Sunday, February 9 – Jessah Rystedt

Sunday, February 16 – Abby, Alexa, Ashlyn Sundley, Maddison & Haddlee McCarthy

Sunday, February 23 - Tayah Westernness

January WELCA Minutes

Holy Cross WELCA: January 15, 2020 11 members in attendance, Hope served

President Diane I. opened the meeting with devotions from Psalm 73: 23-24.

The Purpose Statement was read.

Secretary's report from November WELCA meeting was read. The minutes stand approved as read.

Treasurer's report by Leslie Grubb. St. Joseph's Health Community Foundation was able to match many of the donations that were made to various organizations so the money amount was doubled. The balance at this time is \$2,727. 54.

Lynn R. made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Laurene N. seconded.

Council report was given by Lindsey J. Lenten services start on Wednesday, February 26. WELCA volunteered to make the meal for Wednesday, March 18 if that works in the schedule.

Correspondence: Several thank yous were read from the various organizations that were supported with donations.

OB: 20 Christmas plates were distributed. It was very organized and the whole process went very well. Thank you!

*The Christmas decorations looked great! Thank you to all that helped with the decorating and taking down of the decorations.

NB: *Installation of Officers: President – Amanda Blomquist, Vice President – Lindsey Jensen, Secretary – Jane Tande, Treasurer – Leslie Grubb, Action/Growth Chairman – Jane Tande, Mission Justice & Community – Eloise Rystedt. Thank you for agreeing to these leadership positions.

*A very special thank you to Diane Isakson for her steadfast leadership as president of WELCA for the past 4 years.

*Valentines will be sent to college students, service men and women, shut-ins, and nursing home residents. Amanda will get the cards and Leslie will get cash to put in the college students and service people's cards.

*A motion was made by Diane I. to send a \$75 bouquet to Josie Huseby in celebration of her 100th birthday on February 8. Eloise R. volunteered to get the bouquet.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Ruth Ann Larshus Acting Secretary

HOLY CROSS/BETHEL

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

February 4 Brenda Carlson, Clynton Lindberg,
Roberta Helseth, Ellen Carlson

February 5 Lucas Parslow

February 7 Josie Huseby
John Michael Peterson
Alice Mae Moody

February 8 Owen Grubb

February 10 Leona Sundley

February 15 Harley Eckert

February 16 Richard Bolen
Dale Sundley

February 17 – Lynn & Suzanne Clark

February 18 Sidney Titus

February 21 Steve Breeding
Keeghan Maruskie

February 23 Cara Juma
Robin Smith

February 25 Lyndon Hoiby
Kevin Lucy

February 27 Lindsey Jensen
Shona McEvers
Brian Rosencrans

NEWS FROM TRINITY

From: Nuwayina Briska [<mailto:nuwayinasek@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 03, 2020 2:21 PM

To: Bryan and Jean Quigley <bjquig@rtc.coop>

Subject: School Support

Dear Jean,

Greetings to you this New year 2020 in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My family and I had a nice Christmas celebration with family members who came from far and near, We had a wonderful time together.

I am writing to give you an update on what is going to happen with regards to the Girl Child Education Funds from your congregation. May the Lord continue to bless you all

I went to the site (Communities) from the 26- 30 of December 2019 to discuss and arrange for the payment of the Girls' school fees in their various schools.

This year, our new state Governor as subsidies public school fees and most of our girls are beneficiaries of government support which led to an increase in the number of our beneficiaries.

We used to have about 28 girls sponsored by your effort however, with the government subsidy we have up to 49 girls to be supported. The funds have been handed to a volunteer who pays into the school treasury by Monday the 6th of January 2020.

I am drafting an activity plan for every quarter of the year and I plan to share with your congregation as soon as we have agreed to do that with the girls.

This is a brief explanation of what is going to happen soon and I will keep you posted on what is happening so you could share with the Kenmare Trinity Lutheran Church.

Blessings to you and Brayan

Nuwayina Briska

LCCN Health Services

P O Box 21 Hospital Road Numan .Adamawa State. Nigeria. West Africa

ELMDALE / TRINITY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2	9:30 a.m. Worship @ TRINITY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9	9:30 a.m. Worship @ ELMDALE – Food Pantry Sunday
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16	9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion @ TRINITY Church councils' installation Church Council Meetings after fellowship
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23	9:30 a.m. Worship @ ELMDALE 9:00 a.m. Sunday School each Sunday; Fellowship continuing after the worship services.

WOMEN of the ELCA EVENTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4	1:00 p.m. TRINITY Mary Circle
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14	2:45 p.m. ELMDALE WELCA @ hospital
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25	2:30 p.m. ELMDALE Rachel-Friendship Circle; Wilma, hostess

TRINITY MEAL DELIVERY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10
11:30 a.m. @ Senior Citizen Center

TRINITY & ELMDALE COUNCIL MEETINGS

SUNDAY. FEBRUARY 16 – AFTER FELLOWSHIP

BIBLE STUDY

10:30 a.m. WEDNESDAYS @ Wheels & Meals Conference room.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1



PARISH SERVICE PROJECT @ BOWBELLS LOW INCOME APARTMENTS

We will be painting and doing minor repairs. Bring ladders; painting supplies; basic tools.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

5:00 p.m. @ TRINITY

BIRTHDAYS

February 6: Kenny Christensen
February 7: Damien Brekhus
February 10: Jean Quigley
February 11: Wendy Larsen
February 18: Nicole Neubauer
February 19: Shirley Christensen
February 28: Pastor Kayla Hill

ANNIVERSARIES

February 17: Dale & Lois Larsen

PRAYER CONCERNS

For Pastors Kayla and Carter Hill and Adelaide. The churches in our parish. All students in school. College students: Tanner King; Halley Bartlett. Jeff Marmon; Lilly Ethen; Annamae Laumb; Marlyn Froseth; Ron Boughton; Larry & Arlene Jessen;

Myrna Nelson; Phyllis Hanson; Paul and Tish Neve; Darlene Stone; Renae Wiger; Joann Jensen; Terri Mahler; Harriet Jorgenson; Diane Carlson Lesmann; Jim Larson; Lloyd and Mariea Holter; Lois and Dale Larsen; Marion Nelson; Wes Hennix; Deanna Olson; Kjerstine Hauge; John Schmidt; Erica and Bernie Federmeier; Ron and Tami McNeiley; Jackie Pedersen; Lyla Johnson; Tammy Knutson; Alice Pausig; Brad Ness. Those who are grieving; farmers; service people and their families; shut-ins; PEACE; our sister synod in the C.A.R. and our relationship in Nigeria; Bishop Narum and synod staff; Bishop Eaton and ELCA staff.

Giving Hearts Day

February 13.

Donations may be payable by check with the February 13 date on it or given by credit card online and will be matched.

Participating non-profits include: Lutheran Social Services; Metigoshe Ministries; Camp of the Cross. Other non-profits are listed on-line.



Happy Valentine's Day



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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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It is our plan to publish this newsletter monthly. Anyone wishing to submit an article for the newsletter, put in an address of a service person, or submit an announcement, should get it to the Holy Cross church office or e-mail it to holycross@nccray.com by the 20th of the month. The newsletter will be mailed out by the 1st of the following month.