



CrossWinds

Newsletter of Winds of the Prairie Ministry

Bethany: Bethany-Elim: Grace: Peace: St Paul

April 2014

Volume 10

Issue 4

First Word

Why People Don't Come to Church

A classmate in the Doctor of Ministry program shared with me that he spent 18 months in a call visiting members of the congregation who had been absent from worship for over a year. There were three reasons he found that people had for not being in worship. I will share these reasons with you but want you to look at them from both sides. If you are a person with this reason I encourage you to consider addressing this as you are still considered a member of your congregation. If you are an active member of your congregation these are some means for you to reach out and assist other members in reentering the active worship life of the congregation. We each do our part.

Medical reasons is something we all must face at some time in our life. Whether it is a matter of access, timing for medication to work or uncertainty as to what will happen we don't want to be surprised by our physical bodies which limits us. If you are dealing with such issues you are invited to contact the Winds office (866-944-9687 or 507-694-1238) so we can get you on the Home Communion list. If you are an active member volunteer to be one of the Home Communion visitors, help to record services, drop off bulletins at your neighbors who are homebound as you go home from church. The church can be brought to you.

Habit is something we all struggle with, for good or for bad. Sadly bad habits are much easier to develop including missing weekly worship. The time for worship each week is a time to gather receive the words of promise from our Lord and Savior that we are loved and cared for by someone. Some weeks we have blessings to give and share while other weeks we need to hear from others about God's activity in life. So if you have gotten out of the habit make it a priority to come to worship on Sunday (8:30 am at Bethany, Bethany-Elim and Grace & 10:30 at Peace and St Paul). Active members welcome members to worship and don't encourage them to sign the visitors log (imagine how you would feel if someone said that to you). If you haven't seen someone for a while call and ask why, encourage them to join you and even tell them you will be picking them up next week.

Help each other create good habits for it take at least 21 days of doing something to make it stick.

Relationships is one of the primary reasons for coming to church and for not coming to church. A church is one of the few places where people of all ages, vocations, and means gather around one purpose, the worship of God. The church is a hospital for sick souls, not a club for perfect people. We say and do things that may offend each other as we struggle with learning about life. If someone offended you and you quit coming to church because of that odds are 1) they don't know what they did to offend you and are not able to reconcile with you unless you have an honest conversation, 2) they are no longer in church themselves and have moved on. Either way the one who is staying away is the one suffering. A visit by the pastor is seen as a shame tactic and may get a person to church once, but if you the person who has the relationship with another person brings the pastor and introduces them to your friend you have instantly created a new relationship for it has your witness attached to it. When you get the new pictorial directory soon look and see who is missing by looking over the roster.

Other Reasons: Church is boring, so what are you bringing to make it spiritual and exciting? It takes too much time but usually less than a movie and if it goes over an hour I hope the next time a ball game goes into overtime you will protest that it is going beyond your planned allotment of time. Do you have any more to contribute? If so think really hard if they are a reason or an excuse.

As we have been modeling at our FAITH 5 midweek training, each day is an act of worship. Our experience on Sunday is a means for us to renew and model what the rest of the week should be like. If you are missing we are missing a part of the body of Christ and it doesn't feel whole. Make it a priority to be at the family reunion each week and share your story. Also, remember perfect people are rather boring but real people make life interesting.

Pastor Julie A. K. Anderson



Intern's Intonations

I listen to a program as often as I can called *On Being* with Krista Tippett. It's a radio show that comes across National Public Radio. I listen to it on podcast on my iTunes. In it, Tippett interviews religious leaders, theologians, philosophers, scientists and the like. They all come with varying degrees of religious identities and beliefs. It's almost always interesting and provides me with an "ah-ha" moment.

At one point I heard an interview with Walter Brueggemann, an Old Testament scholar on who some of my seminar friends claim I have a huge crush. I don't know if that's the case, but I do love to read his books and his prayers and I will admit that I have waxed on about the poetry of these musings. This interview I'm thinking of came to my ears right before Lent one year and W.B. said something like "There are times when we need to remember some things we have forgotten and when we need to forget some things we have remembered."

I thought that was a beautiful approach to Lent. What things that bring us closer to God have we let slip into the recesses of our minds and habits? What things do we hold on to tightly that only serve to separate us from God and neighbor and the gift of being present in this creation?

As we've moved into our own Lenten time of reflection and self-examination, this comment from W.B. has come to mind a few times. I really do believe that Lent is as much about what we invite into our lives as it is about letting go of some bad habits or making sacrifices of something we really love. I've combined those last two again this year in my Lenten discipline of giving up French fries. Also this year, I have to admit that I was a little worried over how much I'd miss the weekly discipline of having soup supper, Vespers and a Lenten drama series with my home congregation in Ishpeming. I've missed out on it for a couple of years now and that hasn't been easy. I was quite comfortable with the Lenten practices I had so firmly planted into my life. I held on to them so tightly and some days mourn their absence more than I mourn my weekly treat of French fries.

But what I have found in letting those expectations and patterns go is a lot of nourishment and time for community in the Faith5 approach we've taken to Lent this year – this effort to invite or rekindle this devotional practice into our families, households, social groups, community work. It's truly been a gift from God to walk through this practice with the people of St. Paul's in Minneota where I've been leading Wednesday Lenten evenings. I know it's different and it doesn't feel quite like any Lenten experiences I've had in the past, but it does feel wonderful and I am already reaping gifts from God that have come with inviting these lessons, and conversations and devotional practices into my life. My prayer is that this is so for all who are participating in this Lenten focus on Wednesday nights.

Yesterday, I was listening to *On Being* again. This time it was a rerun of an interview with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. I love to listen to the wisdom of this man. To be truthful, I also love to hear him laugh. He has the most infectious laugh and when you hear it, it's like you can feel the Holy Spirit moving through creation.

Before they started the interview proper in the program, he said a prayer that I thought was perfect for WOTP as we continue through the Lenten/Faith5 experience together. “Come Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of thy faithful people and kindle in them the fire of thy love. Send forth thy Spirit and they shall be made, and thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Amen.”

Amen, indeed.

Vicar Ann



APRIL PREACHING SCHEDULE

APRIL		Grace:8:30	Peace:10:30	Bethany- Elim - 8:30	Bethany- 8:30	St Paul 10:30
Sunday, April 06, 2014	Holy Com- munion	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Anderson	Gonyea	Gonyea
Wednesday, April 09, 2014	Blessing	Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Gonyea
Sunday, April 13, 2014	Palm Sunday	Gonyea	Gonyea	Rasmusson	Anderson	Anderson
Wednesday, April 16, 2014	SEDER			SEDER/ @ 6PM		
Thursday, April 17, 2014	Maundy Thursday	Grace @ 7 PM	BLENDED @ 3 PM			
Friday, April 18, 2014	Good Friday					1PM Stations 7 pm Good Friday
Saturday, April 19, 2014	Easter Vigil	Bethany @ 6:30				
Sunday, April 20, 2014	Easter(Holy Communion)	Anderson	Anderson	Gonyea	Rasmusson	Rasmusson
Sunday, April 27, 2014	Service of the Word	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Anderson	Gonyea	Gonyea

Readings for April Sundays

Date	Supporting Reading	Psalm	Gospel Reading	Theme
April 6	1 John 4:1-7	146	John 19:1-16a	Jesus Condemned
April 13	Revelations 14:6-7 1 John 5:4-10	24 & 22	John 12:12-17 John 19:16b-22	Sunday of the Passion
April 20	1 John 1:5-7	118:21-29	John 20:1-18	Easter Sunday
April 27	Revelation 3:5-6	145:13-21	John 20:19-31	Thomas' Confession

2014 Lenten Worship Schedule: March 5th to April 9th

WE have talked about the Faith 5 for awhile and now is the time to intentionally learn how this practice enhances our discipleship. When you look at the steps it really is patterned after our order of worship. So think of this as daily home worship as a household just like the early church.





GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS-Mind, Body Spirit

Our life is not one thing, but a blend of many parts. In particular we like to talk of mind, body and spirit. To do God's work we need to balance and strengthen these parts of our being. As part of our theme let us take an opportunity to each month address something we can do in each area to better able make us

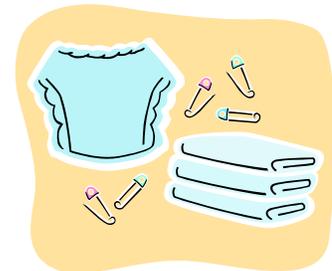
MIND: Now that Spring is here is there something you have been thinking about doing? Begin the process by gathering the supplies you need and planning out your next move.

BODY: The mind needs the body to facilitate its plans. Get active and moving as the weather gets nicer. Take a walk each day around your block going a little farther each day. Take out some of the warmer clothes and put away the cold weather ones.

SPIRIT: How has your FAITH 5 devotions been going? Continue to daily look for God's action in your life.

Lenten Baby Shower

Baskets will be at all congregations beginning in Lent until May 1 for you to put in your baby items. The baskets will be split between the four counties our congregational members reside in going to the Human Services agencies. Items such as clothing, diapers, toys and toiletries are welcome. It is probably best to avoid food and medicine items due to expiration dates.



VBS Dates for 2014

Minneota: May 26 to 30 from 9 am to 12 except May 26 in evening at Hope Lutheran Church.

Lake Benton & Ruthton: June 1 to 6 (Sunday or Monday start) from 5:00 pm to 8:00 at Grace Lutheran Church

Arco/Ivanhoe/Wilno: June 9 to 12 in the afternoon at Bethany-Elim.

Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information.





GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS T-SHIRTS

T-shirts in Adult and Ladies sizes are available for **\$10** from the WOTPM office. They are bright green with the WOPTM logo on the front and hands on the back bearing the faith practices of the home and the community of faith. Call the office to get yours and it can be delivered on Sunday to you at worship.

Public use computer at Bethany-Elim

In the Sunday School lounge across the hall from the fireside room, there is a Windows 7 computer with internet connection. It is available for use by community members when the church is open. There are family controls on the machine to eliminate those internet sites which are neither age not Christian appropriate.

Do you have family or friends who are on Facebook, or who want to connect with you through email? We have youth in our congregations who can show you how to set up your own email or Facebook account that you can access anywhere there is an internet machine. Do you need to write, or search for Bible study helps? You can find just about anything you need to know on Google Search.

For more information ask the church office or check with your favorite teenager!

Pastor Stephen's Recommendations this month:

Search the Bible on www.oremus.org : this site has different versions available to search and copy into your documents.

Study the Bible on www.enterthebible.org : This is a site sponsored by Luther Seminary to assist Christians in learning more about the Book that is at the center of our faith.

For your laugh of the day, visit www.pontius.com : Cartoons about the struggles of a flailing Christian.



Last Wednesday night service is April 9.

Holy Week: Wednesday, April 16–6pm Seder at Bethany-Elim in Ivanhoe. This simple meal will lead you through the remembrance of God's saving actions then and now. A light soup supper with a free will offering will be provided.

Maundy Thursday, April 17-3 pm Ruthton Community Center is a service for homebound and those who don't like to drive at night. Pick up your neighbors and bring them over.

7 pm -Grace Lutheran in Lake Benton will begin our observance of the Three Days with Maundy Thursday service which includes Footwashing and Holy Communion.

Good Friday, April 18– 1 pm Walk of the Cross around Minneota so bring your walking shoes, your Faith 5 cross as we walk around Minneota stopping at places to read parts of the Good Friday story.

7 pm- Good Friday Service at St Paul in Minneota with the telling of the Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus.

Easter Vigil, April 19– 6:30 pm Bethany in Arco is when we finish the Three Days observance with the beginning of the new Light and Life coming into the world. Remember the tomb was empty on Sunday so what did happen on that earlier Saturday night.

Easter Sunrise Service, April 20– 6:30 am at Diamond Lake Chapel for those who want to find the empty tomb.

Easter Services at each congregation at respective times.

Lenten Worship Gathering Times

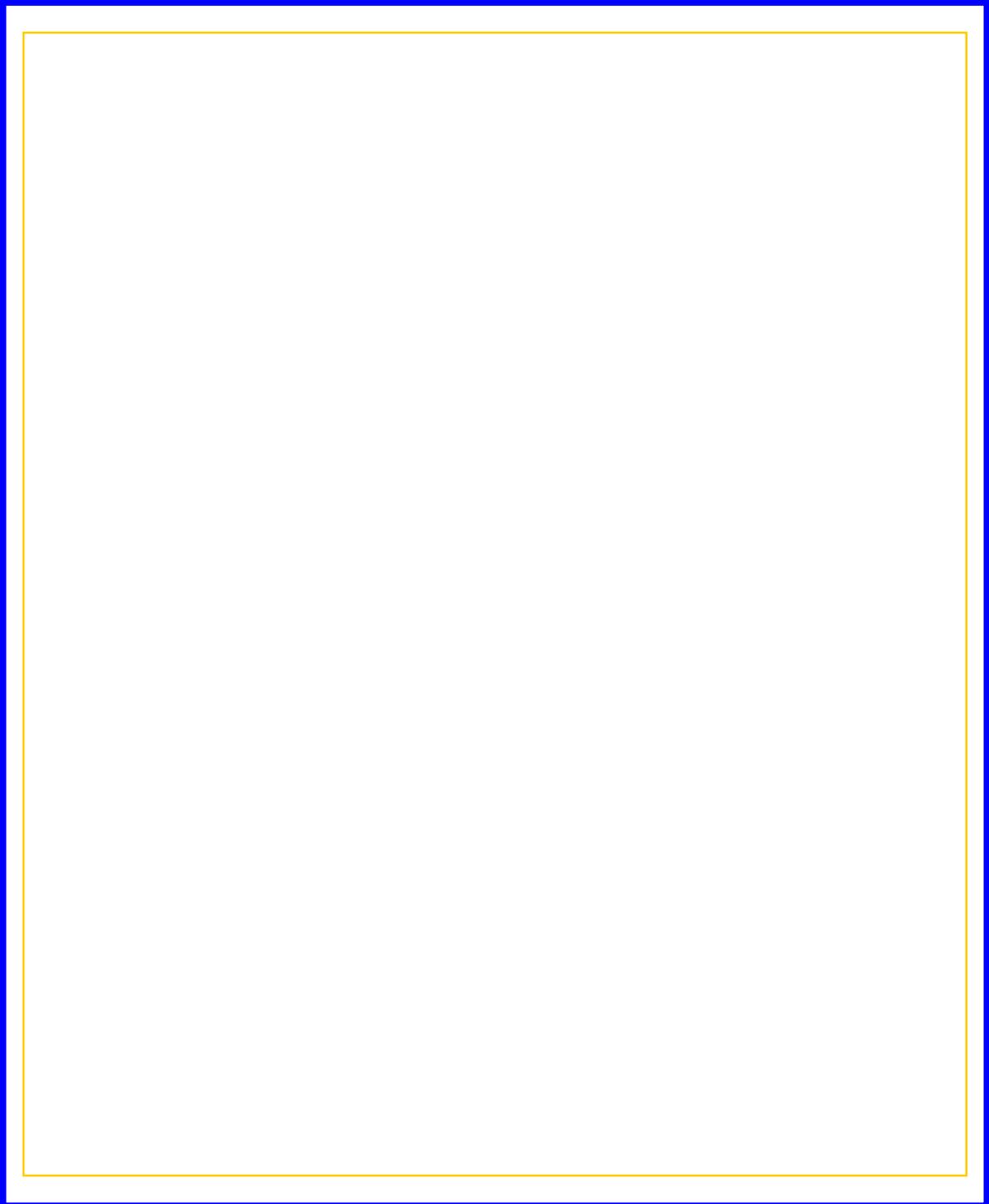
Bethany—6 pm-supper to follow

Bethany-Elim—7:30 pm –supper at 6:30pm

Grace—7 pm—supper at 6 pm

Peace—5:30 pm

St.Paul's—6 pm we start with supper followed by FAITH 5 time.



Secretary's Corner

Each month we will do a drawing for all of those who have requested that the newsletter be sent via email vs. snail mail. The March family was . Please show up to church to claim your gift. THANK YOU!

Submit your email request to WOTPM@frontier.com to receive the newsletter via email.

Winds of The Prairie's Website
www.windsoftheprairie.org



Keep In Your Prayers

Bethany, Arco

Les Blegen, Aaron Delp, Buck Barber, Dorothy Bunjer, Norma Renken, Harvey & Blanche Jorgensen, Dagmar Blegen, Travis Noble, Connie Clausen(mother of Brenda Possail), Elsie Barber.

Bethany-Elim, Ivanhoe

Denis Lundberg, Anna Zafft, Davey Lundberg, Ray & Ruth Johnson, Jeff Neyens, Rhoda Larson, Bruce Kelm (brother of Gretchen Suhr); Gabriel Johnson (Grandson of Norma Jean Johnson); Mike Kropp (son-in-law of Ken Swanson); Jackson & Mary Grace Nelson (children of Ryan and Kate); Nancy Resmen (sister-in-law of Bernadine Olsen), Ralph & Lynn Holland.

Grace, Lake Benton

Allan Johnson, Jeanette Nelsen, Norma Nielsen (Wanda Nordmeyer's sister), Marian Bennett, Cheryl Kjergaard, Mary Haugen, Naomi Enke, Norma Burdick, Annette Fehrman, Nancy Johnson, Paula Jacobson (Daughter of Wayne & Annette Fehrman), Earl Klitzke.

Peace, Ruthton

Herb Vinson, LeRoy Hartson(Rosmary's son), Bonita Fuhrmann, Carolyn Holck, Rosmary Hartson, Edwin Ewald, Ellen Hansen, Edna & Vern Haraldsen, and Cliff Kittelson.

St.Paul's Minneota

Clara DeRoode. Those away from home.

Those with silent health issues& undergoing treatments away from home.

Tyler Nursing Home

Cliff Kittleson, Carolyn Holck & Bonnie Fuhrmann(Peace), Annette Ferhman(Grace).

Hendricks Nursing Home

Ila Rasmussen(Bethany), Norma Burdick (Grace), Ruth Josephson (B-E)

Divine Providence Nursing Home

Mabel Dressen, Elsie Barber & Dagmar Blegen (Bethany)

Military

Pray for the leaders of this great nation & all nations of the world that seek peace. Pray for those who have family & friends who serve in the military or reserve forces. Especially: Jesse Zafft, Lucas Doughtery, Christian Vizecky, Danielle Thomsen, Michael Colman, Ross, Ryan, Angela & David Nelson, Allan Peterson, Derrick Linneman, Todd Board, Kyle Shiek, Alyson Bylone, Jim Pedersen, Justin Schmidt, Adam DeRoode, Pam Gregor, Paul Gregor Jr., Corey Gregor, Christopher Gregor & Paul Gregor.

Pray for the family of Irene Rost.



WXY Youth 2014 Fundraiser

We have had a fantastic response to this! THANK YOU

*Previous fruit has been Cherries, Peaches, Apples, Starkrimson Pears & Bartlett Pears, Navel Oranges, Cara Cara Oranges, Grapefruit, Honeybells, Honey Tangerines, Pecans, Walnuts, Almonds, Chocolate covered Pecans, & lastly Strawberries.



Coming up BLUEBERRIES, Almonds, Walnuts & Chocolate Covered Pecans &

*What do you need to do to take part in helping our youth? Go to **www.thefruitclub.net** & place your order. (Please leave the BEST way to get in touch with you) so that you can receive a reminder call or email when the truck is scheduled to arrive. If you do not have access to the internet please call the office at 866-944-9687 or text 605-809-5190 to place your order. Pre-orders are a must for this truck—please check your weekly announcements for the deadline & delivery date.

**There are “Order Forms” at each of the churches and we ask that you bring that to the truck when you come to pick up your order (you pay at the truck). The amount donated to WXY depends on your participation.

April fruit will be

Check out FB & the WOTP website for delivery dates.



The Hurricane

The Newsletter of WXY

April 2014

SUMMER TRIPS:



Boundary Waters Trip- Date Between July 6-12

Canoe the Boundry Waters. Test your Mettle. Catch some fish & eat 'em. Youth must be 13 years of age or older to attend. In preparation for the trip the group will be meeting on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 3:30pm, starting in March, for training and orientation. This is a Venture Crew 316 sponsored trip. We outfit through Voyager North Outfitters of Ely. Our spiritual guides & paddle instructors will be Pastor Ras-musson & Vicar Gonyea.

Cost for the trip is around \$300 with a non-refundable deposit of \$75 made out to WOTP Ministry ASAP



Extreme Makeover: the Shetek Work Week : June 29 to July 2

We'll be going out and staying at Shetek Lutheran Camp to do some work and service out at the camp. Youth age 12 and up are welcome to register and there maybe opportunity for adults to join us for a day to assist with projects. Be part of maintaining and building our camp ministry.

Cost of trip is about \$150 for room and board for three days and you register with a non-refundable deposit of \$25 made out to Winds of the Prairie Ministry by April28 to reserve your space. From Sunday, June 29—Wednesday, July 2 (Leave around 3:30pm on Sunday and come home after lunch on Wednesday)

Fundraisers for Summer Trips



Spaghetti Dinner at the Winds congregations during Lenten services which begin April12. You will get a part of the proceeds for helping with the make, set up, serve and clean up these dinners.

April 2 @ Bethany April 9 @ St Paul

Shetek Lutheran Ministries: Camp Registration is now open!!!

Go to www.shetek.org to register and see what camps are available. Check with your church council to see what they have for scholarships. **Registration** means register by **April 7**

Venture Crew: Those Ages 14 to 21

April 13th at 3:30pm meeting at Grace to prepare for Summer trips.

TFA—Wed during Lent -Students will meet with their families at their home congregations to learn the FAITH 5 process.

Come and be part of history

2014 MAP (Multiple Area Parish) Summit

Saturday April 12, 2014 (Rescheduled due to weather)

St Matthew Lutheran Church of Wabasso



Leadership and Members gather to learn and share their experience of cooperating in a ministry where congregations share multiple persons as pastoral staff. Older parishes share their knowledge and the newer parishes share their excitement.

Come to learn from Dr. Scott Fredrickson about framing and affirming our ministry. Talk to your Council members or pastors about attending. All are welcome.

\$10 per individual or \$25 for 3 or more members from the same Parish and you can register on SWMN synod website. This event is designed for those in MAP cooperative ministry, so let us learn from one another about what God is up to here in Southwestern Minnesota.

The Winds of the Prairie Ministry is registered and we need a count of those who will be attending to the Winds office by April 7.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ushers for April

Ron & Lynette Madsen &
Katilynn Jorgensen

Lenten Services

Ardis & Marie Henriksen

Altar Guild

Ardis Henriksen

Assisting Minister

2 None
6 Katilynn Jorgensen
9 None
13 None
18 None
20 Ardis Henriksen
27 None

Lector

2 Dar Schreurs
6 Glen Sorensen
9 Gayle Rasmussen
13 Ilene Sorensen
18 Katilynn Jorgensen
20 Marie Henriksen
27 Ron Madsen

BETHANY-ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

April

Ushers

6 Dave & Marlene Lawrence
13 Roger Nelson & Marlin Toft
20 Robert & Bernie Olsen
27 Dale & Karen Richmond

Lector

6 Donna Kurth
13 Loretta Lundberg
20 Chris Rasmussen
27 Karen Richmond

Assisting Minister

6 Sherry Rost
13 Wendy Rost
20 Val Whipple
27 Margo Willert

Acolyte

6 Kim Bloch
13 Shanelle Buffington
20 Jason Epple
27 Cody Gifford

Rebekah Circle is held every month on the 3rd Tuesday at 1:30pm

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2-1:30pm GLCW in the Fellowship Room

Program "The Easter Egg Story" Hostesses Deloris Johansen & Bernice Krog

Every Wednesday there will be 8:30am Bible Study at Grace

USHERS

Jeff Johnson
Jerid Johnson
Glenn Krog
John Lichtsinn

Altar Guild:

Anne Lichtsinn

Deacon:

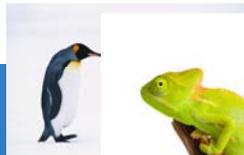
Karen Lichtsinn

Acolyte:

2 Blaine Hefti
6 Adam Czech
9 Caul Harstad
13 Adrianna Johnson & Jaylen Miller
20 Jayla Prosch & Becca Berkenpas
27 Jaxon Harstad

Everyone is invited to the Grace Lutheran VBS Breakfast & Raffle Fund Raiser to be held on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014. It will be held after church which runs from 8:30-9:30 a.m. The Sunday school families will serve pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, juice, milk, and coffee in the basement and the fellowship room. A free will donation will be taken. Raffle tickets will be sold before and after church for the next 3 weeks. You can purchase them from the Sunday school children also. Tickets cost 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. The drawings will be held during the breakfast at 10:15 a.m. Thank you for attending our breakfast and purchasing the raffle tickets. We hope to again cover our material costs for our VBS scheduled from Sunday, June 1-Thursday, June 5. This year's theme is "Weird Animals" WHERE JESUS' LOVE IS ONE-OF-A-KIND!

Upcoming dates: April 13 - children carry palms in church
VBS Fundraiser Breakfast/Raffle after church
April 20 - Easter Sunday - no Sunday school



Gracious Words

Lenten Suppers and Worship Services - The theme of our WOTP Lenten worship services is the "Faith 5" program. Join us each week as we receive a new "piece" of the Lenten Cross, to build on the 5 steps in the Faith 5 program. Lenten Suppers at Grace church will begin at 6 PM with dinner, followed by worship services at 7 PM in the fellowship hall. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex to help bring food and serve for the Lenten Suppers on April 2 and April 9. Please join us each Wednesday for dinner and worship during the Lenten season.

Build our Float for the Saddle Horse Parade - The council will be developing ideas for a float in the upcoming Saddle Horse Holiday parade on Sunday June 15. Anyone interested in helping with the project, please contact any council member.

Upcoming Garage Sale - As a reminder, later this summer (during the July/Aug timeframe) Grace will once again hold a churchwide garage sale. So as you do spring cleaning, save items to contribute to the garage sale. All members of the WOTP are invited to participate. More information to come.

April Deacon: Karen Lichtsinn

April Altar Guild: Anne Lichtsinn

Peace Lutheran Church

April 28 at 9am Quilting

St Paul Lutheran Church

St.Paul's will be having FAITH 5 on Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm during Lent .

PASTOR'S ACTS

Report for February
2014

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Pastor Julie Anderson	507-215-2388 (Cell)
Vicar Ann Gonyea	507-530-1825 (Cell)
WOTP Toll-Free	1-866-944-9687
WOTP Office:	507-694-1238
Bethany Lutheran	507-487-5530
Bethany-Elim Lutheran	507-694-1353
Grace Lutheran	507-368-4243
Peace Lutheran	507-658-3329
St. Paul's Lutheran	507-694-1238

WOTP's email: wotpm@frontier.com

Secretary Office Hours

(Bethany-Elim & Grace Offices)

WOTP Office Hours: Monday to Wednesday - B-E from 9:30am to 2:00pm
Thursday at Grace from 9:30am-2:00pm