

Cross Winds

The newsletter of Winds of the Prairie Ministries
April 2016 Volume 12, Issue 4



I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

(Philippians 3:10-16)

Great changes are afoot in our parish.

Easter is upon us, new life is sprouting again from the ground, the birds are returning and beginning to nest, the smell of freshly thawed fields mixes with the fresh rain to create springtime's hope.

But at the same time, we are uncertain about our future. Will grain prices return to a reasonable level? Will the nation have a chance for leaders that are sensible and capable? Will we see a stable economy that offers a chance for our young adults to find a place that will lead to security? These signs of change create fear and distrust among us.

Perhaps this is why so many have asked me, "Now that Pastor Anderson has left, and you are retiring in August, what are the churches of Winds of the Prairie going to do? I mean who is going to lead them?" We reflect the anxiety present in our business and civic life in our church life.

Perhaps the answer that I give is a bit "snarky," but here it is. I tell this to those outside our parish who haven't walked with us through the last year. "The people of Winds of the Prairie will gather together every week for worship, sharing the sacraments of communion and baptism, opening their Bibles and hearing God's Word, pray for those needing God's special care, holding one another close in times of joy and sorrow. What are they going to do? They're going to follow Jesus!"

God raises up leaders for the church. As long as there is a need for the Gospel, Christ's church will share it. As long as there is a need for God's law to direct and chasten individuals and communities, the Lord's church will speak it. Where hope is needed, hope will be found. Where comfort is needed, comfort will be given. Where faith is needed, faith will be nurtured. God's resurrection people are people of hope and service.

As a people of the resurrected Lord, we live in hope, not fear. We press onward to the goal that leads us through adversity to life, through the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

So – what are those people of Winds of the Prairie going to do? Don't ask me, ask God. Pray and expect the answer. The resurrected one invites us into the resurrection life. Let's join him!

Pastor Rasmusson

Vicar Update

As I write this, we approach Palm Sunday and the Celebration of Easter, but as you read this, the great celebration will have passed, and the folks around here will probably be looking to their fields and planning the big effort to get seed in the ground and make sure everything is ready for the growing season.

I too am looking forward to the growing season, and have planted my own small set of seedlings, which are already beginning to germinate in my windowsills in this unusual, perhaps disconcertingly warm middle of March. The lawn guys were out raking my leaves and cutting my lawn already today- perhaps jumping the gun there a bit, but with weather like this who can blame them?

And, though we're abstaining from saying it during lent, when you read this, the deed will be done: Jesus is risen, he is risen indeedly doodily (in the words of Ned Flanders). Hopefully the time of reflection, the Wednesday night worship and suppers, and the anticipation has borne fruit for your faith. I will miss the Lenten Wednesdays, which just started to get a little brighter with daylight savings time knocking off our circadian rhythms a bit to give us a later sunset. Thanks to everyone who helped make those evenings happen: musically and calorically.


I'm also excited to say that my Power in Weakness stories project is off to a good start, but is still needing more participants and their stories. What's awesome about this project is that it gives me an opportunity to make something more of stories that folks offer to me. So often we don't even realize that we're looking to expand our faith when we start to talk about our lives and struggles we've faced, yet when we truly listen, this is precisely what God is providing for each of us: the opportunity to transcend, by encountering Jesus within our struggle.

Some of the stories I'm hearing are not easy to listen to: they speak of broken relationships and disappointment, even failures of entire congregations to act with love towards the broken hearted. Sometimes these stories are still clouded with anger or bitterness. But these are all part of the life God gives us, not so that we are loaded down with hurts, but so that through witnessing one another's burdens, we see how God has already united us without our even knowing it.

And so I ask you again reader: what cross do you carry on your shoulder? Would you consider sharing that burden with a small group of other story sharers? Would you like to learn how Christ becomes present through the sacred power of listening? God wants to heal us, but God can't be a part of our lives without us. If we want to witness Christ's resurrection in our lives, we can't stay hidden from ourselves. Fear is incompatible with God's way, because he lives.

Vicar Ryan,

Rpusch001@luthersem.edu

April 2016 	Bethany Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Bethany-Elim Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	Grace Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Peace Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	St. Paul Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am
Friday, April 1	7am Bethany Bible Study				
Saturday, April 2	7pm Senior TFA Student/Parent Meeting at Bethany				
Sunday, April 3					
Monday, April 4					
Tuesday, April 5					
Wednesday, April 6	9am DPHC Bible Study 10amChapel 1:30 GLCW 5pm TFA Hope 6pm TFA Bethany				
Thursday, April 7	7pmWorship Planning Meeting				
Friday, April 8	7am Bethany Bible Study				
Saturday, April 9	9 am Area Parish Gathering SMSU				
Sunday, April 10	2pm Faith Statement Review				
Monday, April 11	5pm Bethany-Elim Church Council Meeting				
Tuesday, April 12	7pm Winds of the Prairie Board Meeting at St. Paul's				

Wednesday, April 13	9am Bible Study at DPHC 5pm TFA Hope 6pm TFA Bethany
Thursday, April 14	10am Sunrise Devotions & Communion at Tyler 1:30pm Bethany WELCA
Friday, April 15	7am Bethany Bible Study
Saturday, April 16	9:30am Baby Shower Dana & Shane Rieder at Bethany-Elim (baby Boy) 10am Bridal Shower Lisa Sorenson at Bethany
Sunday, April 17	
Monday, April 18	
Tuesday, April 19	7:30pm Bethany Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 20	9am DPHC Bible Study 10am Chapel
Thursday, April 21	2:30pm Minneota Manor Worship 6:30pm Grace Council Meeting
Friday, April 22	7am Bethany Bible Study
Saturday, April 23	8am Prairie Conference WELCA gathering Ruthton Community Center (see article further in newsletter for details)
Sunday, April 24	
Monday, April 25	
Tuesday, April 26	
Wednesday, April 27	9am Bible Study at DPHC 5pm TFA Hope 6pm TFA Bethany
Thursday, April 28	2pm Chapel at Hendricks Nursing Home
Friday, April 29	7am Bible Study at Bethany
Saturday, April 30 Sunday, May 1 Monday, May 2 Tuesday, May 3 Wednesday, May 4 Thursday, May 5 Friday, May 6	Confirmation at Bethany-Elim-- Kimberly Bloch, Cody Gifford, Molly Krog 9am Bible Study at DPHC 10am Chapel 1:30 GLCW 7am Bethany Bible Study

Bethany Arco News

Worship Assistants

Alter Guild – Jewel Noble

Ushers- Ron & Lynette Madsen & Katilynn Jorgensen

Assisting Ministers

3 Dar Schreurs

17 Allan Lundberg

Lectors

3 Glen Sorenson

10 Gayle Rasmussen

17 Ilene Soreson

24 Katilynn Jorgensen

Bethany-Elim News

Worship Assistants

Alter Guild – Julie Nelson & Kira Gifford

April 3rd Ushers- Val Whipple & Hank Bruns

Acolyte – Madison Lawrence

Lector- Val Whipple

Eucharistic Minister- Sherry Rost

April 10th

Ushers-Robert & Bernie Olsen

Acolyte- Ryder Olsen

Lector- Anna Epple

April 17th –

Ushers- Mike & Margo Willert

Lector- Margo Willert

Eucharistic Minister- Mary Pedersen

April 24th

Ushers- The Gifford's

Acolyte- Brady Gifford

Lector – Cody Gifford

May 1st-- Confirmation

Lector Karen Richmond

Ushers Elmer & Twila Koopman

Acolyte Anna Krier

EM Julie Nelson

DATES to REMEMBER:

- **March 30th** -6pm Wednesday Church School Begins
- **April 9th** Area Parish Gathering, Lutheran Campus Center SMSU, Marshall
 - **April 14th** 1:30pm WELCA at Bethany-Elim
 - **April 16th** Bridal Shower for Lisa Sorensen (see announcement)
 - **April 19th** 7pm Bethany Church Council
- **April 23rd** 8:30am WELCA Prairie Conference Spring Gathering Ruthton Community Center (see announcement)
 - **April 28th** 9am Women's Bible Study at Luella Madsen's home
- **April 30th** 1pm Family ONLY Burial for Theodore McGee, son of Jeremy & Janet (Daniels) McGee
2pm Coffee and Visiting time with Janet and Jeremy at Church

April 16th 10am Come & go Bridal Shower for Lisa Sorenson (daughter of Glen & Ilene). Shower will be held at Bethany Arco with a short program at 10:30am Lisa & Troy have their gift registry at Sears and Walmart. Please join us for Lisa's special day.

A **HUGE THANK YOU** to those who worked, served, donated or ate at Bethany-Elim's Annual Beef Dinner. We had an outstanding crowd and couldn't be more pleased. The Beef Dinner Committee

THANKS also to everyone who helped in any way to make our quilt project a success. All donations, the help of many workers and the buyers very much appreciated. Timewise it takes about 30 hours to construct a quilt. Most of it done by willing workers at home. By the way the fellowship was great at the "tie" parties.

Bethany-Elim WELCA

Bethany-Elim Sunday School Update

Mark your calendars for our Prayer Pal Revealing Event on April 24. We will gather at 10am to reveal who has been praying for who! We will enjoy juice & muffins and show our thanks to our Prayer Pals. Sunday School children will be singing during worship and collecting a noisy offering for our missionary, Heidi Epple.

Vacation Bible School will be held at St. John Cantius in Wilno this summer. Shetek Lutheran Ministries are scheduled to lead VBS June 13 – 16, 2016, from 2-6pm. VBS is for anyone entering Kindergarten through 6th grade, you do not need to be a member of WOTP. Deadline for registration is May 1. Please contact Nancy Krog for registration cost & details at knkrog@frontier.com or 507-487-5722.

Grace News

Worship Assistants

Ushers for April: Jeff Johnson, Glenn Krog, Darren Nelsen, Claire Pritchett

Acolytes for April: (3) Gary Sutherland, (10) Autumn Tooley, (17) Brock Hefti, (24) Austin Johnson

Altar Guild for April: Anne Lichtsinn

Deacon for April: Jerid Johnson

DATES to REMEMBER:

May 8, 2016 - During 8:30 a.m. church service: Teacher/helper recognition and children participate. Children honor Mothers after church.

Peace News

Tuesday, April 5

9:30 a.m. – St. Matthew Circle meets at the home of Jean Lundholm

2:00 p.m. – St. Mark Circle meets at the home of Joyce Anderson

Monday, April 11

5:00 p.m. – St. John Circle meets at the church.

Saturday, April 23

8:30 a.m. – Prairie Conference WELCA Spring Gathering – Ruthton Community Center

Monday, April 25

9:00 a.m. – Quilting Day – We can always use more help.

St. Paul News – no news this month

Saturday, April 23- 8:30am

Prairie Conference WELCA Spring Gathering hosted by Peace in Ruthton Speaker ...Portia Martinson "Attitude with Humor" registration begins at 8:30 \$10.00 registration fee, gathering includes noon lunch. It will be held in the handicapped accessible Community Center in Ruthton (301 Smith Ave/west side of county road 7/south of railroad tracks) In kind offerings to Shetek Bible Camp Suggestions: craft supplies including markers, scissors, pens, pencils, construction paper, dry erase markers, black permanent markers etc.

Forever Jen
Relay for Life Fundraiser
3rd Annual Picnic in the Park
Friday, May 6, 2016 11am- 1pm
At Bethany-Elim Church
Serving: BBQ's, Potato Salad, Beans, Chips, Dessert & A Beverage
Free Will Donation



Prayer Lists:

All: Those with silent Health Issues. All civilian volunteers and military Personal defending this nation.

Bethany: Please pray Carol Marin (Beth Daniels Sister) Ricky Conn (brother in law to Brenda Possail), Ila Rasmussen, Mable Dressen, Les Blegen, Eloise Hauschild, Norma Renken, Connie Clausen (mother of Brenda Possail).

Bethany-Elim: Pray for Kendra Leibfried (Niece of Michelle Bloch), Clara Amundson, Sara, Kinsley Asmus, Michael Hunter, Bob Clausen, Esther Wayland, Anna Zafft (granddaughter of Harvey & Muriel Koopman), Ray Johnson, Bruce Kelm (brother of Gretchen Suhr); Mike Kropp (son-in-law of Ken Swanson); Mary Grace Nelson (daughter of Ryan and Kate); Nancy Resmen (sister-in-law of Bernadine Olsen) and Ralph Holland.

St. Paul: Please keep Jeff Kompelin & Clara DeRoode in your prayers. Pray for the safety of Adam DeRoode, Corey Gregor, Scott Johnson as they serve our nation.

Peace: Prayers for Bruce Baartman Family, for Clifford Rupp Family, Brian & Bobbie Lensing and twins Sawyer & Samuel, Bonita Fuhrmann, Carolyn Holck, Rosmary Hartson, Edwin Ewald, Edna Haraldsen, Cliff Kittelson, Lois Studemann, Philip Lingen(Armed Forces)

Grace: Stan Fopma(close friend of Willert family), Gary Williams, Garnet Petersen, Kevin Venekamp (son of Berniece Johannsen), Carl Burk, Marg Selken (sister to Dorothy Henningsen), Allan Johnson, Marian Bennett, Naomi Enke, Annette Fehrman and Earl & Joan Klitzke,

A note regarding the prayer list ~ We want to keep this updated and will add individuals once a member of the family of the individual or the individual themselves make a call to the pastoral staff or office to inform us. Remember to keep us updated on the condition of the person PLEASE and THANKS This is to avoid any miscommunication

Planting your spring Garden For the garden of your daily living

Plant three Rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

No Garden is complete without Turnips

1. Turnip for Meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help one Another

Plant four rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant four rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be Kind
3. Lettuce be Patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

To conclude Our Garden we must have Thyme

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends.

Water freely with Patience and Cultivate with Love. There is much fruit in your garden because you Reap what you sow.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

April 2016		Grace 8:30am	Peace 10:30am	Bethany 8:30am	St Paul 8:30am	Bethany-Elim 10:30	Altar Color
Sun, April 3	Holy Communion 2 nd Easter	Pusch	Pusch	Rasmusson	Supply	Rasmusson	White
You	Shall be my	Witness	Reading	Acts 1:1-14	Mark 6: 7-13		
Sun, April 10	Service of the Word 3 rd Easter	Supply	Pusch	Pusch	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	White
Peter	Heals in	Jerusalem	Acts3: 1-10	Mark 6:	53-56		
Sunday, April 17	Holy Communion 4 th Easter	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Supply	Pusch	Pusch	White
Church	At Thessalonica	Acts 17:1-9	Thess.1: 1-10	Mark 13: 9-11			
Sunday, April 24	Service of the Word 5 th Easter	Pusch	Pusch	Rasmusson	Supply	Rasmusson	White
Church	At Corinth	Acts 18:1-4	Cor 1:10-18	Mark 34-35			

Area Parish Transitions Gathering

April 9 at SMSU Religious Center/Marshall, MN **9 to 4:30**

Winds of the Prairie Ministry, Healing Waters, Prairie Star Ministries and several other cooperative ministries will gather to learn from each other identity, context, and purpose as it relates to our new form of ministry. At the gathering we will learn by sharing our experiences and best practices in the areas of Worship, Mission, Christian Education, Pastoral & Lay Leadership, Stewardship, and Pastoral Care.

We'll begin with Worship and then use a series of Plenary and Breakout sessions to address the dynamics of our unique ministries. An Action Team grant from Thrivent for Christians is funding the gathering including the lunch. All we ask is for a donation to be given to the SMSU Campus Ministry for the support of their mission.

This gathering is for all in leadership, past, present and future, people who want their congregations and ministry to thrive today and into the future. Lunch will be provided.

Please register as individuals with the link on the www.windsoftheprairie.org website by April 4. Looking forward to seeing you April 9 in Marshall.

REMINDER:

TFA resumes on Wednesday nights at Bethany, Arco 6pm

Winds of the Prairie Ministry Contact Information

Phone Numbers

Pastor Stephen Rasmusson 507-829-9164 (cell) rasmus@frontiernet.net

Pastor Julie Anderson 507-215-2388 (cell) pastorjuliea@frontiernet.net

Vicar Ryan Pusch 262-707-3038 (cell) internwotp@gmail.com

WOTP Office 507-694-1238

Office Hours

Monday 8:30-3:30

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30-1:30

Friday's Closed

Bethany Lutheran 507-487-5530, Bethan-Elim Lutheran 507-694-1353

Grace Lutheran 507-368-4243, Peace Lutheran 507-658-3329

St Paul's Lutheran 507-872-6605

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