



# CrossWinds

Newsletter of Winds of the Prairie Ministry

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

**February 2014**

*Volume 10 Issue 2*

## **First Word**

## **What's the Story?**

As we continue our ministry theme for this year through this season of Epiphany, "God's Work, Our Hands," we continue our focus on a few of the missions to which God is calling people in our parish and community. With that in mind I thought it would be good for you to hear the way that God has been active in shaping me into a godly servant (Obviously, God is not finished yet....)

### **What is your call story?**

From as long as I can remember I have had a connection to the church that has felt like the natural thing to do. Sunday mornings were worship services and Sunday School, dressing up in our finery. I was transfixed by the worship structure and the stories from the Bible while always watching people. Even when I went to college I made it a point of finding a worshipping community. I found my husband at the Lutheran Center and it has become a habit for us to always find a local church.

It was just something natural to look at careers in life from a Christian perspective of service. Being active in the church always felt right. When my husband went to seminary I enjoyed the environment and challenge of ministry. Having the opportunity as a layperson to be a lay worship leader and the innovation of distance learning for seminary education made it possible for me to pursue ordained ministry. The Holy Spirit was persistent to my resistance to see myself as a minister, finally overcoming it after many struggles and discussions.

### **What is your favorite part of ministry?**

I love people and worship, especially when I can tell the story of the good news. Hearing people's story of faith, God's grace active in their life is for me is the treasure of ministry. Telling and teaching the stories of the Bible in ways that people can identify with today while seeing the common thread in God's faithfulness helps me to continue to learn. Being asked to walk along side of people in their faith journey is a honor.

### **What is your least favorite part?**

I am disappointed when a congregation of the church is not a model of community. We are by design meant to live in love and support each other as a body of believers. This then becomes the model for a world which strives for individual authority and selfishness.

This doesn't mean we all agree but that we will be open to conversation. When I hear of people speak of people instead of to that person I am disappointed that true learning is not happening for anyone.

**Was being a pastor what you expected it to be?**

Since I had the experience of being a pastor's wife I had a pretty good idea of what being a pastor was like. Yet there are still things that surprise me about being a pastor for each person has their own idea of what a pastor does and reflects that onto me. Being a woman pastor is still a novelty and comes with its own set of challenges.

**If you could change one thing about your job what would it be and why?**

I would be ecstatic if members of the body of Christ would see themselves as ministers of the priesthood of all believers in their daily life. This would mean actively sharing ministry responsibilities and actions with the members of my congregation so that they too grow and see for themselves what the living word of God does in your life. I would love for meetings to be times of focus on God's mission for that congregation and how we are being called to live it out.

**How do you deal with/ avoid burnout?**

My plan is to make a priority my physical and emotional, well-being. This means getting good food, good rest and good exercise to keep my body in good shape. I find a need to be refilled through study and artistic endeavors. Spending time with friends and family is vital for helping me keep perspective on what is really important.

**What is your leadership style?**

My style of leadership is one of vision. I find I can keep the vision and focus to help in the process of journeying towards the goal. I see myself as one who encourages people to use the gifts they have been given and at times help people to identify those gifts. I find myself looking at the ideas and options which then lead to a decision to proceed ahead.

**Has that changed since you have become a pastor?**

I have always been drawn to positions of leadership (eldest child and all) and have the gift of brainstorming. My leadership style has changed in that I have become more aware of the gifts of others and how they can be used within a community for the good of all. I have learned how to teach people about their gifts and recognize their place in God's plan. Today I am more interested in developing leaders rather than being the leader.

I hope this gives you an insight into my call to the vocation of ministry. I look forward to hearing your call stories.

*Pastor Julie*



## Intern's Intonations

I write this from a conference I'm attending with Pastors Steve and Julie called Proclamation on the Prairie. Our fearless leader has been walking us through discussion on the rather risky business of proclaiming the Good News (our sins are forgiven) in a world that often does not want to hear it.

I know it sounds like an overstatement, but I do believe it's true, at least to some extent. To want to hear this news and to want to live in response to this news also means admitting that we are not in charge. We creatures made in the image of God don't like to behave like that a lot of the time. We like to keep things under control, trouble shoot problems when they come up, lead the way in getting things done or at least pitch in. I think it's a combination of our tendency to get ourselves in sinful messes and then work hard – using our big brains and whatever elbow grease we need – to compensate for what we have done, said, not done, not said, etc.

But I think that our Lutheran identity of being simultaneously saint and sinner means that while we may fail to embrace the Good News 100 percent of the time, we don't run away from it as fast as we possibly can 100 percent of the time either. There are many times when we are able to truly surrender ourselves to God's will and be vehicles for that Grace to work through us. I witness it on a daily basis. We may not do it perfectly all the time, but as we've seen time and time again in the Old Testament stories that have been accompanying us this fall, God works magnificently with our imperfections too.

It is all astoundingly Good News.

Jan. 7, 2014, Sioux Falls

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I cannot believe it, but I'm nearly at the midpoint of my internship already. I should restate that: We're nearly at the midpoint of my internship already. So I want to thank everyone in the WOTP congregations and the communities surrounding them. I don't think it's any secret that WOTP is a great internship site. It's not only because an intern here really does get a lot of on-the-ground experience, it's the people. I've been so thankful for the time everyone takes to give me feedback, listen to what I have to say, help me learn to lead worship, welcome me into homes, bible studies, meetings and conversations. During Epiphany we closed our services with a blessing that included encouragement to “be Christ to one another.” I find Christ to be abundantly present in the people and places of these windswept counties of SW Minnesota, and for that, I am truly thankful.

Vicar Ann



## 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:** How is your mind? Look around and see what it is that you use to feed your mind. What is it hungry for? Dedicate some time each day to feed your mind with some reading from a book (like the Bible) or a magazine. See how it begins to strengthen your mind.

**BODY:** With the wintery weather it is often difficult to get out for exercise and we have a tendency to hibernate. There are things we can do for our bodies to help them through the winter. Make it a point to get up every hour and walk around and stretch. Some simple stretching exercises keep muscles toned and strong. Strong muscles mean support for our skeletons. Adopt a policy of hourly movement or do some stretches at the commercial breaks. This is Heart month so think about how you take care of your heart.

**SPIRIT:** Our spirit is the connection between our mind and body for it gives action to our thoughts and purpose to our actions. What do you feel like you are being called to do? Start each day by repeating **“For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”** See where your spirit takes you.

## PASTOR'S ACTS

### Report for December 2013

#### **Baptism**

December 29- Emilee Ann Deutz – Grace by Pastor Julie Anderson

#### **Funerals/Burial/Committal**

December 6- Steven Arnold Palmer-St Paul by Pastor Stephen Rasmusson

#### **Ordination**

December 21-Bailey Landa Fossum at Tracy Lutheran Church was attended by Pastor Stephen Rasmusson, Pastor Julie A. K. Anderson & Vicar Ann Gonyea along with a contingent of Winds of the Prairie Ministry members.



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

Bethany—6 pm

Bethany-Elim—7:30 pm

Grace—7 pm

Peace—5:30 pm

St.Paul's—6 pm



**Holy Week:** Wednesday, April 16—6pm Seder at Bethany-Elim in Ivanhoe

Maundy Thursday, April 17—3 pm Ruthton Community Center &

7 pm Grace Lutheran in Lake Benton

Good Friday, April 18— 3 pm Walk of the Cross around Minneota &

7 pm Good Friday Service at St Paul in Minneota

Easter Vigil, April 19— 6:30 pm Bethany in Arco

Easter Sunrise Service, April 20— 6:30 am at Diamond Lake Chapel

Easter Services at each congregation at respective times.

### Weather and Cancellations

Our weather has been unpredictable this year and we want people to be safe. So just a couple reminders.

**TFA Cancellation:** If school is called off early due to weather there is no TFA. We will try to get announcements to others schools if they don't close, so listen to announcements at school. The school districts we deal with are: Pipestone, Elkton/Lake Benton, RTR (Russell, Tyler, Ruthton), Lincoln HI, Minneota)

**Sunday or Wednesday Worship:** We'll put it on the website, facebook and listen to the radio stations; KMHL, KLOH, KJOE, KISD, KKCK, KARE, or check the website for Marshall Radio (<http://www.marshallradio.net/weatherannouncements>). You can also check the KELO Closeline . Remember that the ministry of the church goes on in spite of the weather and the support of your offerings is important. Don't let weather stop you from your financial commitment to your congregation through your offerings.

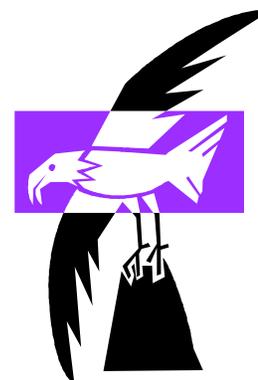
## Narrative Lectionary for February

The Narrative Lectionary is an awesome, exciting, integrated, organized, unique means of experiencing the Bible story in worship. We began at the beginning of the Bible as the story of God's creation and involvement with humanity was revealed in the stories of the ordinary people who believe in an extraordinary God. During the Fall, we remembered the Old Testament witness of God's Chosen People. We now use those stories to reflect upon the fulfillment of God's plan and purposes to find a way for the relationship with humanity to be repaired.

We are now in the season of Epiphany where we begin to experience Jesus' revelation of his mission. In the Gospel of John this is done through the signs, miracles, when Jesus turns things upside down by bringing a bit of heaven to earth. These signs are set in a time and place to remind us that we are finite people of an infinite God. Our time is *kronos* while God's time is *kairos*.

Also look for Jesus engaging people in dialogue for teaching purposes. He is the one to whom people come with questions which he then turns around to his own questions which help guide the person to find the truth. We will also spend a fair amount of time in Jerusalem at the time of festivals which mark for us the three year ministry.

Each week there will be a devotional study and readings on the back of the bulletin for you to read the stories in between the Sunday readings. With some daily reading you will see the unfolding of God's plan for humanity. Why not use the daily reading as a way to begin or end your day to let God's Word be an active part of your life.



### **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.

Date	Supporting Reading	Psalms	Gospel Reading	Theme
<b>February 2</b>	1 Kings 2:1-11	Psalms 111	John 4:1-42	Samaritan Woman at the Well
<b>February 9</b>	2 Kings 5:1-14 1 Corinthians 9:24-27	Psalms 30	John 4:46-54 John 5:1-18	Healing Service
<b>February 16</b>	Proverbs 9:1-6 Ephesians 5:15-20	Psalms 34:9-14	John 5:35-59	Bread of Life
<b>February 23</b>	Exodus 23:10-13 Jeremiah 6:1-10	Psalms 80:7-15	John 7:37-52	Promise of Spirit's Living Water
<b>March 2</b>	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Ephesians 5:8-14	Psalms 23	John 9:1-41	Jesus is the Light of the World

## **Benefit / Fundraiser for Les Blegen**

**on March 23rd at the Ivanhoe VFW**

9am-1pm there will be a Bake Sale, Silent Auction and Pancake Feed with a free will offering.

Les was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in December of 2013 and is currently undergoing treatments at Avera. The proceeds from this benefit/fundraiser will help offset the medical bills and for travel back & forth during the extensive ongoing treatments.

Please contact Brenda Koopman @ 507-530-4595 or Carol Renken @ 507-247-5644 with donations for the bake sale, silent auction or to make a cash donation.



### February 2014 Preaching Schedule

February	Grace:8:30	Peace:10:30	Bethany-Elim - 8:30	Bethany- 8:30	St Paul 10:30
Sunday, February 02, 2014	Holy Communion Gonyea	Gonyea	<i>BE ANNUAL MEETING- Rasmusson</i>	Anderson	Anderson
Sunday, February 09, 2014	Service of the Word Anderson (Confirmation)	Anderson (Confirmation)	Gonyea	Rasmusson	Rasmusson
Sunday, February 16, 2014	Holy Communion Anderson	G. Anderson	Rasmusson	Gonyea	Gonyea
Sunday, February 23, 2014	Service of the Word Rasmusson	Rasmusson	J. Greathouse	Gonyea	Gonyea



### GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS T-SHIRTS

T-shirts in Adult and Ladies sizes are available for \$15 from the WOTPM office. They are bright green with the WOTPM 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.



## *MARRIAGE RETREAT*

Friday, February 14 at  
6 PM to Saturday, February 15 at 5 PM  
Shetek Lutheran Ministries



A romantic way spend Valentine's Day with the one you love, whether it has been 1 month or 55 years plus. Join your pastors and other couples from other Winds of the Prairie Ministry congregations for a day of celebrating and strengthening marriage.

We begin at 6 PM with appetizers at the Shetek Valentines' dinner in the dining hall at Shetek Lutheran ministries. This will be followed by the Sweetheart supper and then gathering at the Lakota retreat center. We will finish the evening with some fun games and activities before you retreat to your room at the retreat center.

After breakfast we will gather to learn about the information gathered on the couple's assessment which you will take in advance of the retreat. The day will consist of group time and couple time to learn and discuss more about deepening your relationship as a couple. We will complete our day around 5 PM so that you can go home, perhaps stopping off for dinner on your way, to begin applying your new knowledge.

Cost for the retreat is \$101 which includes sweetheart dinner, breakfast and lunch along with your accommodations in the retreat center. Contact the Winds of the Prairie office at 507-694-1238 or 966-944-9687, ([WOTPM@frontier.com](mailto:WOTPM@frontier.com)) to register by February 3 at noon. A \$35 deposit will hold your place.

Also included is a couple's assessment that you take online and information will be sent to you once we receive your registration and deposit. This assessment is from PREPARE and ENRICH, a national marriage preparation and enrichment organization.

## Secretary's Corner



**A kind reminder to help keep things simple , please send all news to WOTPM@frontier.com and WofTPM@gmail.com Thank you!**

We hope you are all staying warm and not coming down with a case of cabin fever. We still have a few more months of winter and hopefully Mother Nature's "Vortex" will come to an end very soon. Some of the annual meetings have already taken place but Mother Nature did not allow us to hold Grace's meeting therefore it will be held on the 16th of February. We have a lot of things going on at each of the churches so please check them out. These events would help break up the Winter Blues and bring on new friendships and rekindle old ones.

Please remember to send your newsletter & weekly announcements to the office on time. If they are not here by the deadline we will not be able print them. Please don't hesitate to call the office to make sure that we receive your announcements as well – email is great but not perfect.. Our emails are wotpm@frontier.com & WofTPM@gmail.com. This is necessary to get our mailings out in a timely manner so that everyone is able to make plans.

We also do have the 866-944-9687 number for those outside the Ivanhoe calling area to reach the office and will be directed to the On-Call Pastor after hours and on weekends.

We have a fantastic way to help our WXY youth out with a fundraiser which will also put fresh, delectable fruit in your hands each and every month throughout the year. Maybe you LOVE all fruit or maybe you like certain ones. You can pick and choose when you order and when you don't. Please check out the article in the newsletter and call if you have questions.

Check us out on Facebook. We have a WXY facebook page called Winds eXtreme Youth and are working on getting a group page for each of the churches. Bethany already has one and if you would like to stop by and check it out next time your on facebook - add us as a friend.

**Each month we will do a drawing for all of those who have requested that the newsletter be sent via email vs. snail mail. Last month's family was MIKE & TONIA CZECH. Please show up to church to claim your gift. THANK YOU!**

Submit your email request to WOTPM@frontier.com or WofTPM@gmail.com



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

## Keep In Your Prayers

### **Bethany, Arco**

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

### **Bethany-Elim, Ivanhoe**

Donna Kurth, 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**

Rick Midden, 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**

Leon Mortland, 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 Dougherty, 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 families of**

Dan Larsen son of Carole Larsen & brother to Kara Christensen.

Larry Johnson husband to Janis & brother Faye Rochel.



## WXY Youth 2014 Fundraiser

Starting February, we have a wonderful opportunity to help our youth with a very simple fundraiser and to put fresh, scrumptious fruit in your bellies & on your tables. The Fruit Club has graciously offered to donate 20% of the fruit sales each month throughout the year to the WXY Youth group.

\*What is this all about, you may be asking yourself! The Fruit Club has teamed up with small, family orchards and groves to bring the best fresh produce to us each and every month of the year. It is based out of Sioux Falls, SD and the truck has been coming to Lake Benton each month since August, so this is really close to home.

\*What do you need to do to take part in helping our youth? Go to [www.thefruitclub.net](http://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 to place your order.

\*\*Clip out the “coupon” below and bring that to the truck when you come to pick up your order (you pay at the truck). There is an extra coupon for you to share with a friend. Duplicates can be made so please share. If some of you can not come to the truck or want to share an order with someone—please let one of our WXY members know. The amount donated to WXY depends on your participation.

FRESH GEORGIA PECANS 1 lb. Bag for \$12

FLORIDA HONEY TANGERINES 10 lb Box for \$17

**Check out FB & the WOTP website for delivery dates.**

WXY Youth 2014 Fundraiser % Brandee Miller

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address to receive Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & or E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FOR OFFICE USE ONLY \_\_\_\_\_

Product ordered \_\_\_\_\_

WXY Youth 2014 Fundraiser % Brandee Miller

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address to receive Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & or E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FOR OFFICE USE ONLY \_\_\_\_\_ 12

Product ordered \_\_\_\_\_



# The Hurricane

The Newsletter of WXY

February 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 February, 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 Rasmusson & Vicar Gonyea.

Cost for the trip is around \$300 with a non-refundable deposit of \$75 made out to WOTP Ministry by Feb. 24 to reserve your space. Absolute Deadline for registration is Feb 28th.



### **Eagle Butte Habitat for Humanity Trip: Date (June 22-28)**

Go to Eagle Butte, SD to work with Habitat for Humanity to restore and renovate homes for residents in need. Must be 14 years and older.

In preparation for the trip the group will do some service days around the parish to assist people in home repair.

Cost of trip is about \$200 with a non-refundable deposit of \$25 made out to Winds of the Prairie Ministry by February 24 to reserve your space.



### **Fundraisers for Summer Trips**

Spaghetti Dinner at the Winds congregations during Lenten services which begin March 12. You will get a part of the proceeds for helping the make, set up, serve and clean up these dinners.

For updates and for future events please check your weekly church bulletins or call the office.

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

Go to [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org) to register and see what camps are available. Check with your church council to see what they have for scholarships. Early Bird Registration means register by April 1 and save.

### **Venture Crew: Those Ages 14 to 21**

February 9th at 3:30pm meeting at Grace to prepare for Summer trips.

**TFA**—Wednesdays at Bethany at 6:30 pm to 7:45. Apostles' Creed is our topic.

### **Save the Date**

March 21-22nd at Shetek for TFA—this is mandatory—please stay tuned for details.

## **FEBRUARY EVENTS**



**February 1st** is our date for our WXY Youth groups to go ice skating at Joe Laval's. Meet at Bethany-Elim at 1 pm for lunch and meeting followed by skating until 5:30. Will get back to Bethany-Elim about 6 for pick up.



**February 8 is the Sledding Party** at Hole in the Mountain Park of Lake Benton from 2 to 5:30 with worship after supper. Bring Family and Friends along for fun inside and out at the chalet at Hole in the Mountain Park.

## **Senior High youth gathering**

March 28-29, 2014 in Mankato, MN

**ACCEPT ALL, EXCEPT NONE**

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:7 (NIV)

Gathering registration opens February 14 and closes on February 28. Call the office by February 23 and drop off your \$85 made out to "Winds of the Prairie Ministry". Each council will determine what they will reimburse participants who attend.

Late registration will begin March 1 and continues through March 7, 2014.

Registrations will be taken in the order received and space is limited.

If you register participants after the February 23 deadline, you will be charged a \$10 non-refundable late fee per person.

No registrations can be taken on or after March 8.

Cost: \$85 per person (includes hotel room, programming, a Gathering t-shirt, Friday dinner and Saturday lunch)

Please bring your own breakfast. **The \$85 per person payment is due with your registration.**

If you have cancellations before March 8 you will receive a \$25 refund for those registrations.

**Registrations MUST be into the WOTP by February 23 so we have time to send them to the registration office. If your registration is late you must pay for the late fee prior to attending.**

**NO EXCEPTIONS!**



## 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.



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### **BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Ushers for February**  
Wayne Possail family

**Assisting Minister**  
2 Allan Lundberg  
16 Glen Sorensen

**Lector**  
2 Ardis Henriksen  
9 Beth Daniels  
16 Dar Schreurs  
23 Glen Sorensen

**Altar Guild**  
Jewel Noble

February 13—1:30pm WELCA—Kitchen Cleaning  
February 19— Women's Bible Study

### **WE WISH WE HAD BEEN THERE!**

On Sunday evening, January 19th, several gathered at Bethany for an exciting look at Vicar Ann's Trip to Turkey. Thru the excellent photos and her personal description of the experience and her emotions we felt like we had been there. It brought alive the 7 cities of John's Revelation including Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum and Laodicea. These cities all centers of earlier pagan faiths, making them important archeological sites. A quick look at Istanbul was a great way to end the trip.

Thanks, Vicar Ann for a fun, education evening. Your photos and dialogue were very interesting.

## BETHANY-ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

### **Ushers for February**

2 Bernie Aronson & Hank Bruns  
9 Chris & Amy Clarke family  
16 Loren & Anne Eppler family  
23 Gene Faulds & Roger Nelson

### **Lector**

2 Amy Clarke  
9 Chris Clarke  
16 Emily Clarke  
23 Anna Eppler

### **Assisting Minister**

2 Emily Clarke  
9 Angie Jerzak  
16 Marlene Lawrence  
23 Loretta Lundberg

### **Acolyte**

2 Kathy Richmond  
9 Kim Bloch  
16 Shanelle Buffington  
26 Jason Eppler

Quilting will be held each Thursday in February from 1-4pm  
Rebekah Circle is held every month on the 3rd Tuesday at 1:30pm

### **Sunday School News by Nancy Krog**

All Dads of our first through sixth graders are invited to a special event entitled Dads and Donuts. Please join us during the Sunday School hour on February 16 for donuts, devotion, a secret project and fun with your kids. We will be sharing the importance of Dads in our families—we know you are useful way beyond wrestling matches, tickle monster, ice fishing and playing catch. We will review our “Blueprints for Life”. What a blessing to know that THE perfect Architect, Builder, and lifelong Maintainer of our faith has chosen you to live in His creation. Come and enjoy time with your child and did I mention the donuts?!

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

### **Ushers for February**

Milo Downs  
Don Evers  
Martin Ritter  
Wayne Fehrman

### **Altar Guild**

Judy Thomssen

### **Deacon/Lector**

Jerid Johnson

### **Acolyte**

2 Steven Czech & Caul Harstad  
9 John Sutherland  
16 Blaine Hefti & Jaxon Harstad  
23 Adam Czech & Tristen Simonsen

## Annual Meeting is February 16th during worship.

### Gracious Words

#### Stewards of God's Love submitted by Karen Lichtsinn

During November and December, I shared some thoughts on stewardship. This month I would like to say thank you for making stewardship a part of your Christian life. The people of Grace looked into their hearts and practiced stewardship, helping our congregation offset the shortfall in the general fund and end the calendar year in the black. The church council, the pastors and the entire church community appreciate your stewardship throughout the entire year. Thank you!

During the annual meetings, each congregation celebrates the activities and events of the prior year and looks to the future by approving an annual budget for their congregation. Often concerns arise about how will we continue to meet these goals and expectations. Despite decreasing rural population, the aging population, the uncertain economy and the fluctuating markets, we are so blessed; more than we realize. If we put others before ourselves and have faith in God's love for us, I truly believe the church and the community will continue to thrive.

As a congregation, we could look at challenges in a negative manner; but the church also looks at challenges as opportunities to share God's love with the community and the world around us. The church is a crucial part of the community, and the members are the church. Stewardship is a way for members to share our gifts with the church and the community; not only financial gifts, but gifts of service and caring for others. Thank you for being a partner in Christ.

To close, I want to restate just a few key points about stewardship from my earlier articles. I encourage each of you to give consideration to your stewardship during 2014, and recommit to share God's blessings and to help the church accomplish "God's Work, Our Hands".

Practicing Stewardship - The practice of stewardship invites us to look in 3 different directions: **DOWN, IN and OUT**; like making the sign of the cross:

- **DOWN** - We begin by looking at how God has come **down** to us.
- **IN** - We then look **in** to discover all that God has entrusted to our care.
- **OUT** - We look **out** to understand the needs of our neighbors.

Stewardship is more than money. Stewardship is about LOVE! It is one of the primary ways that we live out Jesus' commandment to love God and our neighbor with our whole beings.

Go now as stewards of God's abundance; remembering the many ways that God has come **down** to you: looking **in** to celebrate all that God has entrusted to your care: and focusing **out** to do justice for the sake of the neighbor both near and far. Go in peace; share God's love through stewardship year-round! Thanks be to God!

**Deacon/Lector for February: Jerid Johnson**

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**Next Council meeting date:** February 22, Saturday trip to the Equipping Congregations event in Willmar - all council members should plan to attend.

## Peace Lutheran Church

February 24 at 9am Quilting  
NO PLCW

## St Paul Lutheran Church

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



WOTP purchased a new copier and we have the previous copier up for silent bids.

If any of the churches or members from WOTP are interested in putting in a bid for this copier please send it to the WOTP office in Ivanhoe at P.O. Box 17 Ivanhoe, MN 56142 % Copier.

We ask that bids be at a \$400 minimum and this machine will also come with the remaining toner. Maintenance has just been done on the machine with new rollers put in place.

Please submit all bids by Wednesday, February 20th.

Thank You!

**February 2014**

# CANews FROM CAMP

## Mark Your Calendar

*\*Annual Meeting - February 9<sup>th</sup> 2p.m. 2014*  
*\*Valentine Banquet - February 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 5:30*  
*\*Sugar Bush - March 16<sup>th</sup> 2014 10:30-2:00*  
*\*Confirmation Retreat - March 21 & 22 2014*  
*\*Confirmation Retreat - April 11 & 12 2014*  
*\*Pelican Banquet - April 27<sup>th</sup> 2014*  
*\*Road Scholar - May 4<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> 2014*  
*\*Pre Marriage Retreat - May 10<sup>th</sup> 2014*  
*\*Summer camp starts - June 8<sup>th</sup> 2014*  
*\*28<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Auction - June 27&28<sup>th</sup> 2014*  
Any questions call (507) 763-3567 or  
Check out our website at [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org)

**Shetek Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting will be held Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 2p.m. Please join us at the dining hall. Coffee and cookies will be served after the meeting. We hope you can join us! Thank you for all that you do for your camp!**

*Help send Kids to camp... Become a Pelican/Timber member today  
Call for a Brochure 507-763-3567 or visit our website [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org)*

## Day Camp 2014

*Registration is now open... Check out our brochure on line. [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org) or call Shetek Lutheran Ministries at 507-763-3567 to talk about this ministry opportunity.  
Start planning your camp Sundays  
Contact Dana at [dana@shetek.org](mailto:dana@shetek.org) or call 507-763-3567*

*Shetek Lutheran Ministries  
Where Christ Renews and Empowers*



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**Winds of the Prairie Ministry Contact Information**

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Pastor Julie Anderson	507-215-2388 (Cell)
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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](mailto:wotpm@frontier.com)

**Secretary Office Hours**

(Bethany-Elim Office)

WOTP Office Hours: Monday to Thursday

9:30 am to 2:00 pm