

January 2018  
Volume 14 | Issue 1

# Cross Winds



The newsletter of  
Winds of the Prairie Ministries

**Matthew 25: 37-40** <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?' <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Recently we asked 4 questions during worship. The first two were Why questions: "Why should your congregation exist in your community?" and "Why do you worship at this particular church?" There was a wide variety of answers to the first question but many centered around "a place for my family to worship." The answers to the second question were very personal, "because it's close to home," "because my family has always worshipped here," "because it's my church."

All of the answers provoked other thoughts for me depending on which community your church is part of. In Lake Benton, there are many churches to choose from, in Arco, just one, and although our Lutheran identity is important a congregation should exist for two reasons.

1. A place to worship God and remember there is one who is greater than us.
2. A place to learn of God's love and mercy, and to prepare us to go out into the world and share God's love and mercy.

I've been doing a lot of reading lately about the future of the church and there is one thing they hold in common, that is, if a congregation only exists to provide for its members within the walls of the building then it will not last much longer in our current culture. Which brings me to the second questions we asked: "What does your congregation do for the community?" and "What do you do for your community?"

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus was talking about who would inherit the Kingdom of God – those who help the least of these. Jesus wanted his listeners to understand that the Kingdom of God wasn't about right belief or about completing a checklist of the "right" things to do to get into heaven. Jesus wants us to know that the Kingdom of God occurs right now, every time we reach out to the poor, the oppressed, the hungry, the imprisoned. We live in the Kingdom every time we reach out, and we remove ourselves from the Kingdom every time we don't reach out.

I invite you in this New Year to think about the following: "How can you and your congregation be more of a presence in your community?" "What are your community's needs and how can you join together to minister to those needs?"

## Preaching Schedule

	<b>Sunday, December 31, 2017 or Wednesday January 3</b> Theme: Preparing the way for the Messiah Text: John 1: 19-34 Altar Color White	<b>Sunday, January 7, or Wednesday January 10</b> Theme: Come and See the Messiah Text: John 1:35-51 Altar Color Green	<b>Sunday, January 14, or Wednesday January 17</b> Theme: The Messiah's Glory First Revealed Text: John 2: 1-11 Altar Color Green	<b>Sunday, January 21st or Wednesday, January 24th</b> Theme: The Messiah's Encounter at the Temple Text: John 2: 13-25 Altar Color Green	<b>Sunday, January 28th or Wednesday January 31</b> Theme: New Life in the Spirit Text: John 3: 1-21 Altar Color: Green
Bethany Arco	Wednesday Night 6:30pm	Wednesday Night 6:30pm	Wednesday Night 6:00pm**	Wednesday Night 6:30pm	Wednesday Night 6:30pm
Bethany-Elim	10:30am	1:00pm Farewell Service	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am
Grace	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am annual Meeting
Peace	10:30am	10:30am Annual Meeting	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am
St. Paul	8:30am	No Service	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am annual Meeting

# Bethany-Elim News

January quilting every Thursday morning **January 4, 11, 18, 25**

**January 11** 1:30pm Business meeting for WELCA

**January 16** 10am *Rebecca Circle*: Notice the Time change, we will be meeting in the mornings.

## Bethany News

No news this month

## Grace News

Grace will be hosting their annual sledding party at Hole in the Mountain on **Sunday, January 28**, 1-5pm. All are welcome, sledding, games with food and drinks at the heated chalet.



## Peace News

**Tuesday, Jan 2**, 2 pm – St. Matthew and St. Mark Circles meet at the home of Barb Petersen

**Monday, Jan. 8**, 4:30 pm – St. John Circle meets at the Church.

**Wednesday, Jan. 10**, 2 pm – PLCW

Phone calls will be made if there will be quilting.



**Out and about? Why not stop and visit our WOTP members in Care facilities, a smiling face is always appreciated.**

**Colonial Manor of Balaton**  
Ed Ewald-- Peace

**Divine Providence Health Center Ivanhoe**  
Esther Wayland—Bethany-Elim  
Marion Bennett—Grace  
Harriet Weeks—Bethany-Elim

**Good Samaritan Home Pipestone**  
Edna Haraldson—Peace  
Marion Rupp—Peace

**Hendricks Nursing Home**  
Valgean Lundberg—Bethany-Elim

**Sunrise Manor-Tyler**  
Bonnie Fuhrmann—Peace  
Cliff Kittelson—Peace  
Caroline Holck—Peace  
Gladys Meleen—Bethany  
Richard Halsne—Peace  
Larry Lustfield—Grace

**Luverne Veteran's Home**  
Earl Klitzke—Grace  
Willie Oltmans—Grace

**Boulder Creek**  
Ken Swanson—Bethany-Elim

**Boulder Estates**  
Leone Pedersen—Bethany  
Ella Mae Jensen—Peace

### JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

#### Grace

##### Ushers for January

Tyson Weets,  
Roger Rudebusch,  
LaDon Prosch,  
Gerry Rochel

##### Alter Guild for January

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##### Deason for January

Annie Weets

#### Bethany Lutheran

##### Ushers

Randy & Jewel Noble

##### January 3

**Lector:** Marie Henriksen

##### January 10

**Lector:** Natalee Possail

**Assisting**

**Minister:** Dar Schreurs

##### January 17

**Lector:** Ron Madsen

##### January 24

**Lector:** Morgan Possail

**Assisting**

**Minister:** Allan Lundberg

##### January 31

**Lector:** Allan Lundberg

#### Bethany-Elim

##### January 7 - 1pm Service

**Ushers:** Robert & Bernie Olsen

**Acolyte:** Tucker Gile

**Lector:** Group

**EM:** Group

##### January 14

**Ushers:** Mike & Margo Willert

**Acolyte:** Madison Lawrence

**Lector:** Margo Willert

**EM:** Margo Willert

##### January 21

**Ushers:** Eric & Cerrisa Gile

**Acolyte:** Tucker Gile

**Lector:** Robert Olsen

##### January 28

**Ushers:** Elmer & Twila Koopman

**Acolyte:** Austin Topero

**Lector:** Karen Richmond

**EM:** Sherry Rost

# Dates to Remember...

**January 7**  
1-4pm Farewell of WOTP at Bethany-Elim

## ANNUAL MEETINGS

**January 14**  
Peace after 10:30am Service

**January 17**  
Bethany at 6:30pm

**January 28**  
St. Paul after 8:30am Service

**January 28**  
Grace after 8:30am Service

**February 4**  
Bethany-Elim after 10:30am Service

**February 14**  
Ash Wednesday

**Lenten Wednesday services will be at Bethany Arco combined for Bethany & Bethany-Elim (watch for times to be announced)**



<b>January 2018</b>	<b>Bethany Arco</b> **Wednesday Nights 6:30pm**	<b>Bethany-Elim Ivanhoe</b> **10:30am**	<b>Grace Lake Benton</b> **8:30am**	<b>Peace Ruthton</b> **10:30am**	<b>St. Paul Minneota</b> **8:30am**
Monday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>					
Tuesday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup>					
Wednesday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>					
Thursday, January 4 <sup>th</sup>					
Friday, January 5 <sup>th</sup>					
Saturday, January 6 <sup>th</sup>					
Sunday, January 7 <sup>th</sup>					
Monday, January 8 <sup>th</sup>					
Tuesday, January 9 <sup>th</sup>					
Wednesday, January 10 <sup>th</sup>					
Thursday, January 11 <sup>th</sup>					
Friday, January 12 <sup>th</sup>					
Saturday, January 13 <sup>th</sup>					
Sunday, January 14 <sup>th</sup>					
Monday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>					
Tuesday, January 16 <sup>th</sup>					
Wednesday, January 17 <sup>th</sup>					
Thursday, January 18 <sup>th</sup>					
Friday, January 19 <sup>th</sup>					
Saturday, January 20 <sup>th</sup>					
Sunday, January 21 <sup>st</sup>					
Monday, January 22 <sup>nd</sup>					
Tuesday, January 23 <sup>rd</sup>					
Wednesday, January 24 <sup>th</sup>					
Thursday, January 25 <sup>th</sup>					
Friday, January 26 <sup>th</sup>					
Saturday, January 27 <sup>th</sup>					
Sunday, January 28 <sup>th</sup>					
Monday, January 29 <sup>th</sup>					
Tuesday, January 30 <sup>th</sup>					
Wednesday, January 31 <sup>st</sup>					
Thursday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>					
Friday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup>					
Saturday, February 3 <sup>rd</sup>					
Sunday, February 4 <sup>th</sup>					
Monday, February 5 <sup>th</sup>					



**Winds of the Prairie Ministry**

102 South Highway 5  
P.O. Box 17  
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

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**JANUARY  
2018**

\*\*For emergencies or after hours please contact the pastor directly  
or leave a message at 507-694-1238  
and someone will call you as soon as possible\*\*

WOTP email [windsministry@gmail.com](mailto:windsministry@gmail.com)  
WOTP website: [windsoftheprairie.org](http://windsoftheprairie.org)

**Office Hours**  
Monday 8:30-3:00  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30-1:00  
Friday's Closed

Bethany Lutheran 507-487-5530  
Bethany-Elm Lutheran 507-694-1353  
Grace Lutheran 507-368-4243  
Peace Lutheran 507-658-3329  
St Paul's Lutheran 507-694-1238

WOTP Office } 507-694-1238  
Interim } 320-248-6210 (cell)  
Deacon Deb Robinson } [windsdeacdeb@gmail.com](mailto:windsdeacdeb@gmail.com)  
Interim } 320-290-5775 (cell)  
Pastor Eunice Woodberry } [winstaff2@gmail.com](mailto:winstaff2@gmail.com)

*Winds of the Prairie Ministry Contact Information*