

Cross Winds

The newsletter of Winds of the Prairie Ministries
March 2016 Volume 12, Issue 3



You may have heard that I have submitted my resignation as your Associate Pastor. It is true. After nearly 9 years with you it is time for me to go out and use what I have learned here with another body of believers at Faith Lutheran Church in Becker, Minnesota.

Looking back I am reminded of some of the many adventures in ministry we have had.

- Healing services were something that you (the royal, everybody form) weren't too sure when we first tried them. Now it is a form of worship that is requested on a regular basis for the power of the promise felt personally with the words of blessing.
- Remember the Christmas Eve that took 2 weeks to finish the first year we had an intern. We discovered it wasn't the timing, but the people and the worship that were important.
- One of my favorite memories is the first Council training we did with all the councils. The exercise about working styles really showed that your strength to do ministry comes from your diverse gifts and skills.
- Coordinating the scheduling of worships for Holidays and Sundays for 5 congregations while honoring local customs is an ongoing creative endeavor. Blending the familiar with little surprises to keep worship fresh and inspiring is great fun.
- You have been supportive, like a family, to your sister congregations, supporting their events and missions. You have also learned from each other how to use the strengths of your congregations and celebrate each other's gifts.
- Doctor of Ministry study has preserved your first ten years for posterity. Other congregations will learn from your experiences how to engage in this new form of an old ministry model. You have the scars to show you have weathered the storms of change and are strengthened by your experiences.

Looking forward to the future there are a few things I would suggest you continue to explore and act upon.

- Lay involvement in congregational ministry is vital for both the congregation and its members. Each of you has a unique ministry you are being called to and it needs to be utilized for the sake of the world and of you.
- Sharing the Good News of what a relationship with our Savior Jesus can mean for a person is another of our responsibilities. It is a response to the joy and grace we have experienced in our own lives that is too good not to share. It comes in the daily relationships with people that make up your life.
- Deepening faith through worship, Bible study and utilization of gifts is your Spiritual Healthcare. If you don't use it you lose it.
- WATERS of Baptism is your daily engagement with the promise of your Baptism. It is not a solo activity but a cooperative endeavor to make Jesus and his promise real to a doubting world. Using the blessings you have experienced to bless others is what you are here to do. You are invited to receive blessings gratefully and to share them abundantly with others. When you let go of the idea of scarcity with a mindset of abundance you are freed to enjoy your daily life with joy and love.

Thank you for the many hours of wonderful conversations and coffee with goodies. I hope you have learned as much from me as I have learned from you. I know there are times I have left you with more questions that you have had to ponder before finding answers. There are many times I have given you what seemed to be strange things which became reminders of our wonderful, faithful God.

After March 31, I will no longer be your pastor but will continue to pray for you and watch your progress. I will become the shepherd of another congregation and your sister in Christ. God's blessings on ALL of our works.

Rev. Julie A. K. Anderson DMin

Vicar Update

The Internship project is underway, and I need your stories! *Power in Weakness* is the name of the project, referring to Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12, verse 9. As you may know, Paul talks a lot about the trials and tribulations that he undergoes in his efforts to uplift the churches he's helped to plant and the complications that emerge when trying to live in community. He also talks about his personal struggles with his own faith- the "thorn in his flesh," a haunting image of physical and spiritual pain. But his message is clear- it's God's grace that gets us through life when we feel like we can't go forward. As Christ exposed his body and reputation to the deepest shame and disgust, Paul sees a direct correlation to how we are called to expose ourselves to derision and even humiliation if that's what it takes to demonstrate God's love for the world.

I'm convinced that all of us have stood face to face with insurmountable obstacles in our lives, which are either directly or indirectly also stories of our faith journeys. It is my intention to bring people together in order to listen to one another's stories of weakness and struggle, and to discover the grace that is often hidden within these stories as they become a part of our own identity and narrative.

When we truly listen to one another, and not just listening for something that will reinforce our expectations, we are listening for the Holy Spirit and performing the compassionate activity of grace. When we deeply listen, we seek to understand our neighbor's experience and put ourselves in a place of mutuality. We recall our own experiences that echo the experiences of our neighbor, in order to relate or give guidance, or sympathize. We don't just try to fix one another by telling each other what to do. When we are able to both listen and share deeply, God shows up, whether we are ready for it or not. Sometimes we are scared to share because we fear judgement and have already condemned ourselves without realizing it. But if we listen, and remember how Jesus demonstrated his own weakness as a sign of divine strength, then God's Spirit will bring healing that no medicine could accomplish. If you have a story, whether it is overtly spiritual or simply an important story from your own life, or even a story that was simply passed down to you, or if you just want to get involved in my project to be a listener and a participant, please let me know. Email me here: rpusch001@luthersem.edu, or call my cell 2627073038. Or just tell me after church! I look forward to listening, sharing, and healing, with all of you, as we begin the second half of my internship and seek God's presence in our personal and communal lives.

On Saying Good Bye to Your Pastor:

Farewell, 'Til We Meet Again, Later, Go with God;

Saying Goodbye is a spiritual practice. And like many spiritual practices it does not pretend to be easy. Even though life is full of good byes it does not mean that it is easier with practice. Even when we are surrounded by the powerful Easter promises of resurrection and new life, parting always feels like a moment eternally trapped in Holy Saturday, when Hope lies in the tomb, and resurrection is not yet. It is a time of confusion for some, anger for others, hope for others and intense grief for others still. It doesn't help that we Minnesotans are noted for the "long goodbye".

When a Pastor leaves, the process of saying goodbye is even more difficult. The years of spiritual direction, the bedside visits, the moments of celebration and sorrow, of hurt and rejoicing that have shaped each of our experiences together betray the best and worst of human nature. Your pastor has had the privilege of presenting the person of Jesus in word and deed. And your pastor has shown you the deep brokenness of humans who dare to stand in the presence of God.

1. **REJOICE:** Recall the many times that you have been touched by a new insight into the Grace and love of God that has been shown in the teaching and life of your pastor. Don't be afraid to say thank you in person or in a note to your leaving pastor. These moments will carry the spirit of your pastor into deeper service in Christ's name. Our church is a worldwide church, and your former pastor will bring a part of you into the new call. Rejoice that others will be blessed with the unique gift of grace proclaimed through her or his preaching and ministry.
2. **RECONCILE:** Hopefully your pastor has taught you how to repent, and to accept apologies. Reconciliation is at the center of all human relationships before Christ. We forgive as we have been forgiven. If there is any sorrow for brokenness in the relationship now is the time to set it right through forgiveness and repentance.
3. **RESPECT:** Your pastor has had the privilege of serving for a period of time as the person who holds the official office of pastor for you and your friends and family. It is helpful to respect the person of your pastor by respecting the office that he or she has held. When your pastor takes leave, the office stays. This means that though you will continue to pray for and love the person who is leaving, you do not call on your former pastor to visit you when you are ill, have a crisis, need a funeral or a wedding performed or the like. The new pastor, the person God will call to fill the "Office of the Pastor," will bring the word of grace into those situations for you.
4. **REMEMBER:** God is Good – All the Time. As you reflect in future months and years on the work of God in your faith community when your leaving pastor was among you, do so with an eye to the future. God will have new ventures ahead, new visions of service and deepening of faith, new opportunities that will come with your new

pastoral leadership. Look for the hand of God at work in your faith community's past, so that you can more easily see the Spirit in your future.

And finally, don't forget the words at the center of the Lutheran Reformation Tradition – Soli Deo Gloria – To God Only is the Praise. Praise God from whom all blessings flow – now and forever.

Pastor Stephen

FAREWELL FOR PASTOR JULIE A.K. ANDERSON, Doctor of Ministry

A farewell dinner will be held at Grace Lutheran Church of Lake Benton on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. for Pastor Julie Anderson. An offering of cards and letters will be given. A service of Farewell and Godspeed will follow the dinner in the sanctuary. Watch for more information in the bulletins.

March 2016 	Bethany Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Bethany-Elm Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	Grace Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am	Peace Lutheran Sunday Worship 10:30am	St. Paul Lutheran Sunday Worship 8:30am
Tuesday, March 1					
Wednesday, March 2	9:00am Bible Study at Divine Providence 10:00am Worship at Divine Providence 1:30pm GLCW 6:00pm TFA in Minneota Lenten Services 5pm Peace 6pm Bethany 7 pm Grace 7:30pm Bethany-Elm				
Thursday, March 3					
Friday, March 4	7am Bible Study at Bethany 1:30 World Day of Prayer at Grace 2:00pm World Day of Prayer at Bethany				
Saturday, March 5	1:00 to 3pm New Member Welcome at Bethany (Reserve your place by calling Winds Office 507-694-1238)				
Monday, March 7	9:00am Bible Study at Grace				
Tuesday, March 8	7pm Mutual Ministries Meeting				
Wednesday, March 9	9:00am Bible Study at Divine Providence 6:00pm TFA in Minneota Lenten Services 5pm Peace 6pm Bethany 7 pm Grace 7:30pm Bethany-Elm				
Thursday, March 10	10am Sunrise Devotions and Communion@ Sunrise Manor in Tyler 1:30pm Bethany & Bethany-Elm WELCA at Bethany				
Friday, March 11	7:00am Bible Study at Bethany				

Saturday, March 12	10am Meeting your Muslim Neighbor @ Grace 5:30 Church service at Bethany-Elim
Sunday, March 13	11-1 BETHANY-ELIM BEEF DINNER
Monday , March 14	9:00am Bible Study at Grace
Tuesday, March 15	7:30 Bethany Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 16	9:00am Bible Study at Divine Providence 10:00am Worship at Divine Providence 1:30pm GLCW 6:00pm TFA in Minneota Lenten Services 5pm Peace 6pm Bethany 7 pm Grace 7:30pm Bethany-Elim
Thursday, March 17	2:30 Minneota Manor Chapel Service 6:30p Grace Council Meeting ST Patrick's Day
Friday, March 18	7:00am Bible Study at Bethany
Saturday, March 19	8-4 Pre Marriage Workshop @ Shetek
Sunday, March 20	5-7 Farewell to Pastor Julie at Grace
Monday, March 21	9:00am Bible Study at Grace 5pm Internship Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 22	
Wednesday, March 23	9am Bible Studay @ DPHC 6pm Sedar Meal Ruthton Community Center
Thursday, March 24	7pm Maundy Thursday Service @ Grace
Friday, March 25	7:00am Bible Study at Bethany 3pm Blended Service @ Bethany 7pm Good Friday Service @ St. Pauls
Saturday, March 26	1pm Cross Walk Ivanhoe
Sunday, March 27	EASTER SUNDAY
Monday, March 28	
Tuesday, March 29	
Wednesday, March 30	9am Bible Study @ DPHC
Thursday, March 31	

Remember to Allocate your Thrivent Choice Dollars - Giving back has always been important to Thrivent and our members. The Thrivent Choice® program provides eligible participants the opportunity to recommend where to distribute some of Thrivent's charitable outreach funds. We encourage eligible benefit members to direct your Choice Dollars by March 31, 2016 to make a difference in your church. The 2015 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2016, so we encourage eligible members to direct their Choice Dollars to a designated organization before the deadline. Thrivent provides a variety of tools and resources at www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice to help you make your selection!

Two easy options for directing Choice Dollars: 1) Online: www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or 2) Phone: 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt. If you need assistance, please contact your congregational advocate, your Thrivent Representative or call the Member Connection Center. For faster service, have your member ID or contract number available.

Bethany Arco News

Worship Assistants

Alter Guild – Jewel Noble

Ushers- Mike & Lynette Hauswedell-Sundays

Ardis & Marie Henriksen- Lenten Services

Assisting Ministers

6- Marie Henriksen

20- Jewel Noble

24- Katilynn Jorgensen

27- Ardis Henriksen

Lectors

2- Matt Rhode

6- Dar Schreurs

9- Ron Madsen

13- Morgan Possail

16- Allan Lundberg

20- Ardis Henriksen

24- Beth Daniels

27- Dar Schreurs

Bethany-Elim News

Worship Assistants

Alter Guild – Mary Pedersen & Arlinda Bednarek

March 6th Ushers- The Clarke's

Acolyte – Megan Krog

Lector- Chris Clarke

Eucharistic Minister- Merle Rost

March 12th- Saturday night 5:30

Ushers- Dustin & Kristina Richmond Family

Acolyte- Ryder Olsen

Lector- Kristina Richmond

March 20th – Palm Sunday

Ushers- Kevin Swanson Family

Acolyte- Jayden Krier

Lector- Donna Kurth

Eucharistic Minister- Val Whipple

March 27th- Easter Sunday

Ushers- Mike & Margo Willert

Acolyte- Anna Krier

Lector – Margo Willert

Eucharistic Minister- Anna Epple

DATES to REMEMBER:

Friday, March 4th-2:00pm World Day of Prayer at Bethany, Arco

2016 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Bethany Lutheran hosts the area World Day of Prayer on March 4th. Invited to celebrate and pray with us are the members of Bethany-Elim, St. Peter and Paul and St John Cantius from the Ivanhoe and surrounding area. The service will begin at 2:00 p.m. to be followed by lunch and fellowship.

Women around the world observe this as a day of prayer. Each year a different country plans and writes the service. In 2016 women of Cuba invite us to pray and sing under the theme "Receive Children, Receive Me." The offerings taken during that service are used by the WDP organization to educate and alleviate social justice issues of women and families in the host country. Join us for a shared time of prayer.

Thursday, March 10th 1:30pm WELCA Bethany-Elim at Bethany

The women of Bethany-Elim will join us at Bethany for our March meeting. Our program will be "Favorite Characters in the Bible". Each of us is asked to decide who is our favorite character in the Bible as well as your favorite story including that person. Then we want you to tell us why this is your favorite and what makes

it your favorite. This should be a fun and interesting way of looking more deeply at God's story and of our friends.

Sunday, March 13th-11:00 to 1:00

Beef Dinner

Bethany-Elim Lutheran Church, Ivanhoe

Adults...\$12.00

Take-out meals available in Ivanhoe.

Call 694-1353 to place your order!

Tuesday, March 15th 7:30pm- Bethany Church Council

Thursday, March 31st 9:00am-Women's Bible Study at Luella Madsen's

Saturday, April 23- 8:30am

Prairie Conference WELCA Spring Gathering hosted by Peace in Ruthton to be held in the handicapped accessible Community Center in Ruthton

Bethany-Elim Sunday School Update

Bethany-Elim Sunday School students in 7th - 10th grade were busy in the kitchen on January 24. They prepared 11 tator tot hotdishes during Sunday School. Students encouraged congregational members to place their name in a drawing to be the lucky winners of a hotdish. At the end of the worship service, eleven lucky names were drawn and winners took home their own tator tot hotdish for lunch. The cooks in the kitchen have been spreading good cheer all year with "mini-missions" at Bethany-Elim with drawings for banana bread and chocolate chip cookies too!

On January 31 the 2nd – 6th grade students invited their moms for a special event entitled, "Moms and Muffins", to honor moms for all they do on a daily basis for their family. We gathered in the fireside room and kids decorated a picture frame, with much creativity, to hold a picture that was taken of each mom and child that attended. The moms participated in a devotional that focused on the many roles moms play and how we need God in our lives to help us keep a balance...and our sanity. Muffins were enjoyed along with coffee and juice served from beautiful antique tea cups (thanks to Anna!). Thanks to all the mom and child duos that attended, we hope you feel honored and blessed to play the roles that you do, you are needed, you are appreciated, and you are loved by God.

On February 14, Sunday School children invaded the kitchen and rolled out cookie dough, baked and decorated Valentine's Day cookies for our congregation! It was great to see a bustling kitchen full of kids, frosting, and sprinkles!

Looking ahead...mark your calendars for our Prayer Pal Revealing Event on April 24. We thank you for praying for your prayer pal and we can hardly wait to reveal who has been praying for who!



Grace News

Worship Assistants

Ushers for March: Michael Haugen, Derek Haugen, Gary Heffele, Jim Herschberger

Acolytes for March: (Wed) March 2 Becca Berkenpas, March 6 Colby Frahm, (Wed) March 9 Jaxon Harstad, March 13 Conner Simonsen, (Wed) March 16 Tyson Weets, (Palm Sunday) March 20 Breelee Berkenpas, (Easter Sunday) March 27 Ellie Frahm

Altar Guild for March: Romelle Pritchett

Deacon for March: Annie Weets

Grace 2016 VBS BREAKFAST & FUND RAISER

Everyone is invited to the Grace VBS Breakfast & Raffle Fund Raiser to be held on **Palm Sunday, March 20**. It is sponsored by the Sunday school families with supporting funds from Thrivent. A free will donation will be taken for the breakfast. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, juice, milk, and coffee will be served. The raffle tickets are being sold at church and by the Sunday school families with the drawing held during the breakfast at 10:15 a.m. The cost is 1 ticket for \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5.

Thank you for attending our breakfast and purchasing the raffle tickets. Congratulations to all the lucky winners – especially all the VBS children receiving your support! We hope to again cover our material costs for VBS 2016 to be held June 5-9.

DATES to REMEMBER:

Thursday, March 17: 6:30 pm Grace Council Meeting – at church

Sunday, March 20: Children carry palms in church

VBS Fund Raising Breakfast/Raffle after 8:30 a.m. church

Sunday, March 27: Easter Sunday – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Peace News

We begin our Lenten Suppers after our Lenten services. Circles and youth are in charge of the meal:

St John - March 2nd

Sunday School - March 9th

Winds Youth - March 16th

St. Paul's News

Lenten Worship In conjunction with Hope Lutheran 7pm

LENTEN SPAGHETTI SUPPERS

As a fund-raiser for youth activities, the WXY youth will again be hosting spaghetti suppers at the Lenten services:

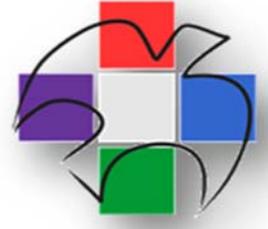
March 9th - Bethany (serve at 6:30)

March 16th - Peace (serve at 6:00)

Lenten Baby Shower

Baskets will be available at each congregation Place your gifts in the basket and our TFA students will collect them after Easter and deliver to the 4 County Human Service Agencies. Best to avoid food, pharmaceuticals and Baby Powder. Diapers, clothes, toiletries, layettes and shoes are some of the things they could use. These gifts help our young families with their new members. Thanks for your support and have fun shopping.

PEACE FROM THE YOUTH



Prayer Lists:

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

Bethany: Please pray for The Family of Theodore Nate McGee (Tom & Beth Daniels grandson), Carol Marion (Beth Daniels Sister) Ricky Conn (brother in law to Brenda Possail) Jonathan Henriksen (nephew to Marie and Ardis) Ila Rasmussen, Mable Dressen, Les Blegen, Eloise Hauschild, Norma Renken, Connie Clausen (mother of Brenda Possail).

Bethany-Elim: Pray for The Family of Ruth Josephson, 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); Gabriel Johnson (Grandson of Norma Jean Johnson); Mike Kropp (son-in-law of Ken Swanson); Mary Grace Nelson (daughter of Ryan and Kate); Nancy Resmen (sister-in-law of Bernadine Olsen), 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 Brian & Bobbie Lensing and twins Sawyer & Samuel, Bonita Fuhrmann, Carolyn Holck, Rosmary Hartson, Edwin Ewald, Edna Haraldsen, Cliff Kittelson, Lois Studemann, Byron Stelton, 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), Jodi Reese (daughter of Joyce Nielsen & sister to Kim Hefti), 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

Procedures for Winter Weather Related Cancellations

In the event of bad weather, cancellations of services and events will be posted on :

Radio: KMHL (1040 AM), KKCK (99.7 FM), KARL (105.1 FM), KARZ (107.5 FM), KLOH (1050 AM), KISD (98.7 FM), KJOE (106.1 FM). These are the Marshall Radio and Christensen Broadcasting who are the providers in our area. Online: Websites at marshallradio.net, [www.keloland.com\(Closetline\)](http://www.keloland.com(Closetline)) for weather related announcements. If you get the newsletter online check for a note from Pastor Steve. To sign up for online newsletter go to www.windsoftheprairie.org and click on newsletter to subscribe to newsletter. Television: KELO, KSFY, KDLT or if in doubt contact council president. Telephone and Text: Be certain that the office and leadership of your congregation has the correct home and cell numbers to contact you with. Check with your council to see if they have a calling arrangement in place.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

March 2016		Grace 8:30am	Peace 10:30am	Bethany 8:30am	St Paul 8:30am	Bethany- Elim 10:30	Altar Color
Wed, March 2 nd	Lenten Worship	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Anderson	Pusch	
Sun, March 6 th	Service of the Word/4 th Lent	Pusch	Pusch	Anderson	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Purple
The	Widow's	Gift	Reading	Mark 12:28-44	Psalm 89:1-4		
Wed, March 9 th	Lenten Worship	Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Rasmusson	
Sun, March 13 th	Holy Communion/5 th Lent	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Anderson	Saturday @5:30 Anderson	Purple
Wed, March 16 th	Lenten Worship	Pusch	Pusch	Anderson	Rasmusson	Anderson	
Sun, March 20 th	Palm Sunday	Anderson	Anderson	Rasmusson	Pusch	Pusch	Purple
Wed, March 23 rd	Sedar Meal		Community Center 6pm Ruthon				
Thurs, March 24 th	Maundy Thursday/Holy Communion	7pm Service					Purple Scarlet
Fri, March 26 th	Good Friday			3pm Blended Service	7pm Service		
Sat, March 26 th						1pm Cross Walk	
Sun, March 27 th	EASTER/ Holy Communion	Rasmusson	Rasmusson	Anderson	Pusch	Pusch	White
The	Woman Flee	The Tomb	Readings	Mark 16:	1-8, Psalm	118:21-27	

2016 Holy Week Schedule of Events

Wednesday March 23- Seder Meal at Ruthton Community Center

Come to the Potluck Meal that reenacts the Last Supper of Jesus and His Disciples. It is a meal of ceremony and remembrance with 4 cups of wine(grape juice) that take us through the story of Israel. Sign-up sheets will be at the churches in early March so you can let us know how many are coming and we'll set a place for you. Bring your favorite food to share and if possible avoid pork and shellfish(non-kosher foods). All the rest will be supplied.

Thursday March 24 @ 7pm- Maundy Thursday at Grace/Lake Benton

The Three Days of the Passion begin with our observation of Jesus' Last Supper, Betrayal and Arrest. It begins a service of remembering the last three days of Jesus' life ending on Saturday. At this service we complete the confession begun on Ash Wednesday and feast in preparation for the final phase of Jesus' mission. Join the Holy Week observances.

Friday March 25- Good Friday

3 pm Blended Service at Bethany is especially designed for those who don't want to be out after dark or have trouble getting around. It is a service that combines the Holy Week observances into one service with Holy Communion and Revering the Cross. Bring your friends and family who have mobility issues. Would love to use the bus with its lift for wheelchairs, so call the office (694-1238) by Wednesday at 1pm to reserve your spot and learn when the bus will be in your area.

7 pm Good Friday at St Paul is the continuation of the Holy Week Observances. In this service we follow Jesus to the Cross and witness his death and burial. The focus is on Jesus' offering of his sinless self for the sake of a sinful world.

Saturday March 26 @ 1 to 3 pm Cross Walk @ Bethany-Elim/Ivanhoe is an opportunity to walk the stations of the cross. Gather at Bethany-Elim at 1 pm for a group walk of the stations around Ivanhoe. The stations will remain up until 7pm with a map, instructions and the devotional materials available at Bethany-Elim if you wish to do your own walk.

Sunday March 27 Sunrise Service @ 6:30 am Diamond Lake Chapel is your chance to be the first to greet the new day on Easter morning. The half hour service has you experiencing what the women did on that first Easter morning. Then attend your congregations Easter morning service at its regular time with a new perspective.

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.

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

(Luk 11:1-4)

Lenten Worships

THE GIFT OF PRAYER

A 40 day focus on the prayer taught by our Lord to his disciples:

Prayers:

Precious Father, we praise you for the opportunities we have to come before you in prayer. Help us, dear Lord, to recognize the dramatic impact a daily prayer life with you can have on our lives. Amen.

We invite all to the practice of daily prayer. You are encouraged to deepen your connection to God's Spirit by claiming persons to carry in your heart throughout your day, even as you carry a portion of God's word that you have read every morning. If you do not know a name on this prayer list, you are invited to especially pray for that person, holding their name before God in your heart. It will cause you to deepen your relationship not only to God, but also to that person within Christ's Body, the church. May your prayers bind us closer to God and to God's people.

TFA during Lent

TFA Students will attend the midweek Lenten services. They will be writing journals about their understanding of the Lord's prayer. All members are invited to participate and join in reflection. Parents and mentors are especially invited to work alongside the students. Join this study and reflection on the gift of the Lord's prayer which gives us hope and insight into the blessings of each day.

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

WOTP email windsministry@gmail.com

WOTP website: windsoftheprairie.org

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