

**Newsletter article for January
by Pastor Gerald Roise**

What happens when you
roll your Lefsa too thin?

Does that sound like an insignificant and unimportant question for a church newsletter? It was asked of one of our younger members recently to make a point about their life. The response was that if you roll your lefsa too thin, it will fall apart. The older person's comment was intended to be a caring suggestion to the younger person. The younger member was trying to be involved in everything in the community to the point of spreading life too thin and breaking apart was a real possibility. It is not bad advice for all of us to pay attention to. We generally are not involved in wrongful deeds but are all guilty of spreading ourselves too thin, often not taking the time to care for those parts of life most important. As we start a new year, how thin is your life being rolled. Are you so busy with good activities that you push aside God for another day?

In a recent conversation with a couple grandparents in our congregation, they shared how a grandchild had expressed what he liked most about coming to Grandma and Grandpa's house was that he didn't have to run out the door to another event, but just spend time enjoying one another. Out of the words of a young child comes the Gospel's good news that life is not about all the things we can do, but how we appreciate the moments God has given us.

How thin is your life these days, is the new year a time to give thought to the emphasis you're placing on the importance of worshipping God? He does not need our worship but we need him. We are hungry for a place of peace and a sanctuary that can help us place the priorities of our lives in order. God desires to be that presence and provide a means for fulfilling that part of our life which seems empty or unfulfilled.

A young and busy family's life indeed can be exhausting! Forgetting to make God the priority isn't intentional, but a result of trying to catch one's breath. The devil introduces many other good things that take over the space that belongs to God. With the empty nesters, life is now filled with opportunities for doing much we couldn't before. But how often is God asked what he desires for us to be about? For the retired crowd, often health issues limit how we can live life. Life gets filled with fear, anxiety and worry. Have we considered how valuable the gift of our worshipping community is? That is often where gifts of caring conversations happen which help all involved. What a blessing when we stop long enough to value the moments with one another.

In this new year might your priority be to focus on what God is up to in your life. Is he begging you to slow down and give thought to what his plans are for you? Daily, each of us play the role of innkeeper, we decide if there is room for Jesus.

We are fooled if we believe God desires for our life to be spread thin, that is our consumer mentality. God desires for us to appreciate fully this day that he has given to us. "This is the day the Lord has given to us, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24.

Happy New Year! May God's plan for you this year be abounding in a loving peacefulness. It begins by coming to worship our Savior often. Blessed by those worship opportunities, we are then called to focus on someone else. It is amazing how our problems disappear when our focus is on caring for others! Life is usually spread thin when our main focus is on ourselves getting and doing more, rather than giving to others. May the peace that surpasses all understanding, bless and hold you in this New Year.

**Annual Reports are due in the office
by 5:00pm, January 10th, 2019**

Put on your calendar that the Annual Meeting is Sunday, Jan 26th at 9:30 am.

On the agenda will be, election of officers and approval of annual budget.



QUILTING WILL TAKE PLACE ON
JANUARY 8TH AND 15TH

SUNDAY MORNING
CIRCLE
WILL TAKE PLACE 2ND SUNDAY JANUARY 12TH
@ 9:30 AM

Mary Circle

January 21st at 9:30am

December Offering

12/01	\$6470
12/04	\$727
12/08	\$5740
12/11	\$3524
12/15	\$5652
12/18	\$1926
12/22	\$8336
12/24-25	\$3012
12/29	\$12178
Electronic	\$8457

December Ministerial Acts

Funerals: Terry Stevick, Janice Klimpel

Baptism: Lillian Davey, Castin Brentrup, Hayden Enget, Vayda Ullrich, Henley Foley

Weddings: Jonathan Daluge & Ariel Preskey

END OF YEAR FINANCES:

As 2019 is coming to a close, we are into our last few days of financial recording. It is appearing that we have reached our anticipated pledge amounts but are still behind on the special offerings and events. All of our bills are paid to date, but we still have borrowed money that we have not paid back in full for ending 2019. As we prepare our annual budget for 2020, please turn in your stewardship cards to help with this planning. We are anticipating the annual report to be available for your viewing on January 16th. Again, Bethany wants to thank you all for your support! Have a Happy New Year!

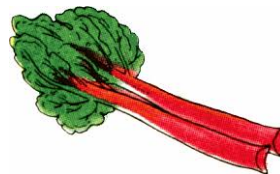
December Foundation

In Memory donation for Ida Weber, Zona Vick, Mabel Ennis, Carol Holje, Delores Selfors, Ken Clark was made by Larry & Sharyl Roth.

In Honor of Pastor Janet and Pastor Gerald by Larry & Sharyl Roth.

In Memory of Janice Hatchard by Jane Trihub.

Cause of the Month donation made by Donna Schmalz.



Rhubarb Fest 2020

Plans are well under way for the 2020 Bethany Rhubarb Fest! We hope you'll be able to join us on Wednesday, January 29th, for the **potluck** meal which begins serving at 5:30, and the festivities to follow. For those who wish to enter the bake-off, we'll have frozen rhubarb available after church to take home with you on January 15th, 19th, 22nd, and 26th. There is musical entertainment and other excitement planned. Come for a night of fun and fellowship, as well as supporting a worthy local cause in our community with the free will offering given.

The Village Education Project

The Village Education Project in the Central African Republic trains village members as elementary school teachers. Use the global mission envelope in your offering box to support our Cause of the Month.

Dec 2019 Memorials:

*In Memory of **Terry Stevick***

Undesignated from Vickie Phippins, Melford & Mary Hanson, Thomas & Carol Luukkonen.
CHIF from Betty Lindsey.

*In Memory of **Pastor Odland***

Music from Bill & Bev Jensen.

*In Memory of **Dallas Johnson***

Music from Bryan & Nadine Holmly, Steve & Kari Files.

Wed Night Supper from Pat Julson.

Undesignated from Ardis Johnson, Shannon & Elaine Polsfut, Nancy Morken, Clara Hauck, Erna Pederson, Ed & Paulette Nush, Pat Walz, Boyd & Phyllis Hanson, Claire Larson, Kathryn Swanson.

Faith & Care from Roger & Roberta Larson.

*In Memory of **Carmen Lynn Hauge Bowden***

Choir from Gloria Hauge.

Bethany Foundation Memorials:

In Memory of **Pastor Marvin Odland:**

Mike & Rosann Wold.

In Memory of **Cheri Knorr:**

Bruce & Barbara Nybakken.



The LYO would like to thank everyone who helped make our Advent “Caramel Roll Sunday” a success. As we continue to fundraise for our youth to attend summer camp, WND Synod Youth Gathering, and the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in 2021 your support is so very greatly appreciated!

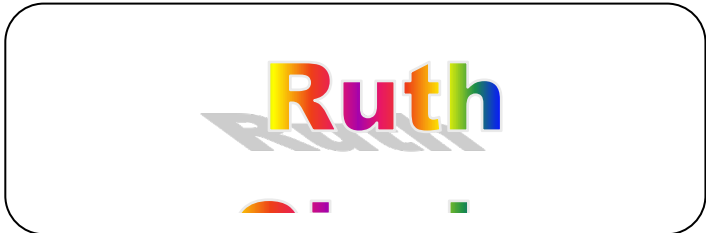
LYO January Calendar!

Jan. 5	9:30	Coffee Hour
Jan. 8	7:15	This Little Light of Mine
Jan. 12	9:30	Coffee Hour
Jan. 15	7:15	Charades
Jan. 19	9:30	Coffee Hour
Jan. 22	7:15	Pinterest Project with Shelley
Jan. 26	9:30	Coffee Hour
Jan. 29	5:15 7:15	Rhubarb Festival God's Work, Our Hands: Supporting the MSU Food Pantry



Thank you to everyone for making the 2019 Lutfisk Dinner another successful time! The Bake Sale profit was \$1,221.50. The Lutfisk Dinner profit was \$5,065.40. The council has decided these profits will be distributed to the LYO, Wed Night Supper, and General Fund. Thank you all again for your support of this event!

Miriam Bible Study
Jan 9, 2019





Bethany Birthdays!

January:

- 1st – Sara Foreid, Betty Frantsvog,
Leah Larson, Nancy Morken
- 3rd – Allen Hirzel, Brett Morris,
Ryan Rasmusson
- 4th – Gloria Castleman, Tate Schindler
- 5th – Branon Dyke
- 6th – Joshua Knutson, Debra Lee, Pat Walz
- 7th – Declan Bourquin, Steve Files,
Malesa Ofsthun, Sharyl Roth,
Jane Trihub, Lacey Walker
- 9th – Dawn Everson, Gail Hall, Phyllis Hanson
- 10th – Michael Anderson, Nancy Lucy
- 11th – Roxann Meinert
- 12th – Melvin Boger, Wyatt Casey,
Norine Coffin
- 13th – Berit Meinert, Kenneth Ofsthun,
Greg Simonson, Sue Taft
- 14th – Jaeley Bambenek, Emily Dennis
- 15th – Jorn Brose, Lana Thompson
- 16th – Audrey Eidsness
- 17th – Brent Armstrong, Lincoln Rasmusson,
Larry Walter
- 18th – Lance Gehring, Charlotte Kremer
- 19th – Brenda Cook, Arianna Gangl,
Wenona Nielsen, Holly Shaw,
Caleb Walker
- 20th – Isaac Flanagan, Brady Grosz
- 21st – Margaret Schmidt
- 22nd – Wyatt Grindy, Arlene Michalenko,
Taylor Peterson, Ron Thunshelle,
Jay Wold
- 24th – Monda Berg, Janice Mattern,
Patty Overvold, Alroy Schoenberg
- 25th – Trevor Bearman, MaKenzie Chilson,
Karen Fawbush, Jayden Okeson,
Joatta Siebert, Christopher Stroschein
- 26th – EmmaLee Christiansen, Jessica Schafer
- 28th – Ryan Hokenson, Jeremy Meinert,
Averie Zietz
- 29th – Jason Bambenek
- 30th – Justin Gantzer
- 31st – Owen Evanoff, Darlene Harstad,
Dennis Wright

Also, Happy Birthday to anyone whose name is not on the list. If your name is not on the list then we don't have it, so please call the office with it. Thank you!

Pastor Janet's Joke of the Month

A doctor, an engineer, and a politician were arguing about which of their three professions came first.

"Of course, it was medicine," said the doctor. "It is written in the Bible. In Genesis, Chapter 2 it says that God first created man and then made him sleep – anesthesia. Then he took a rib from his side – surgery – and made woman."

The engineer argued, "But that is in the second chapter of Genesis. In the first chapter it says that God created the heavens and the earth, the sun, moon and stars, trees and animals and brought order from chaos. That is engineering."

The politician was stumped. He thought for a few minutes and then came up with the winning argument: "Who do you think created the chaos?"

The BLCW has donated \$4250.00 to organizations in the Minot area that were a part of the Twice Blessed program!



Bus Passes for Minot Students

In the past we have participated with other Minot churches to help with bus passes for students who do not have transportation to school. The response was so great that we had the program covered for more than a year. Now they need to replenish this fund, and so we will be "Passing the Bus" during church in January. School counselors verify which students need the passes and notify the Bus Pass Ministry. They are grateful for any help you can give.

Our Giving Tree Day raised \$593.

This will be distributed to local areas of need, namely the Northern Plains Children's Advocacy, Men's Refuge, Domestic Violence, and the YWCA. These four areas are also listed on the Twice Blessed Website by the St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation, so our donation will be matched by them! Thank you for helping support our local community.



GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD PIGGY BANK:

Bethany raised \$1,122.53 for God's Global Barnyard by passing the piggy bank on Wednesday's and Sunday's. Along with our mission cause of the month donations so far \$605 additional has been raised! What a blessing for this cause of the month!

Pictorial Directory for 2020

Coming in 2020 – a brand new venture for our next pictorial directory. Rather than a paid company (with their hard-sell and expensive portrait packages), we will be creating our own online directory for Bethany members. We have been in conversation with Christ Lutheran Church who went to this format and they are very pleased with the results.

Look for opportunities to have your picture taken on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings. We will have a professional-looking studio set up and be able to quickly take pictures.

These will be posted online in a private webpage, accessible to Bethany members only. For those who don't have access to a computer, we will print hard-copies to take home, with a fee to cover printing costs. Photography will be offered at various times throughout the year so it will be easy to add new members in, or to re-take your picture. You may also submit your own family picture, as long as it is not a copyrighted portrait.

Dollars and Cents of the Church

Prior to becoming a member of the church council a few years ago, I never understood the financial side of the church. I just assumed that finances flowed from a top-down approach; i.e. businesses or government agencies. Which means I believed most of the church's money flowed down from the "Bigger Church", through the different synods, and then down to the local churches. Boy, was I dead wrong and I learned a valuable lesson: every penny tithed counts in a significant way.

Did you know the church's average cost for parish education is around \$3,500.00 per year? This money is used to purchase supplies and curriculums for our church school program, confirmation and adult education, and Vacation Bible School. Additionally, this dollar amount does not include the salaries of the education coordinator and the pastors. If we were to include those salaries plus the "cost" of our volunteers (\$24.69 per hour), the expenses would exceed \$20,000.00.

Since this article is about dollars and cents, I wanted to share with you the heartiest of thanks for your generous giving towards the Military Biblestick (MP-3) Project and the ELCA's Good Gifts Project. Your contributions placed 72 audio-bibles in the hands of service men and women, deployed in some of the most dangerous areas of the world. Additionally, you helped provide more than 30 piglets to families living in third-world countries.

David declares: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it..." (Ps 24:1, NRSV). With this in mind, may we continue to be wonderful stewards of the gifts God has provided.

God's Blessings,
Pastor-Intern Dave