

## Annual Report to the Congregation from Pastor Gerald

As we close another year of ministry together, it is delightful reflecting upon how we are living out our faith as Bethany members. Whether it involves the social ministries of our community or the sharing of faith within our walls, we can be proud of how together we have made a difference. We are sharing the God moments we have with one another. We have seven Bible studies going on within our church family, more than any time in recent memories. We are thankful for all the lay members of our church who are doing wonderful work as Bible study leaders opening up God's word and helping it apply to our daily lives! We have an extremely active Ministry of Care team that is outreaching in many ways to the community be it bringing flowers to shut-ins to baking cookies for those in our county jail. All these actions are saying that we care and hear God's call to serve. The Lord's cupboard continues to be a hub of serving opportunities along with the Lord's garden. Our Wednesday family nights are growing and provide an important outreach to the adults as well as the kids. Yes, we are always changing how we look and what we do but together we have had a great year being the church.

We have a member of our family, Dave Myers, studying for the ministry. As a Team Student his studies are on-line, on campus and in our congregations. Dave has another year of intense studies as well as internship in our congregation. It is a blessing to have someone who is willing to dedicate his life to serving God in such a way, and we are grateful.

LuAnn and I have spent the last six months in half-time mode. What a blessing it has been to have more time to spend together while at the same time getting the chance to continue in the work we love very much. The Bethany family has been most helpful in receiving this arrangement with grace. Change is never easy but hopefully we can continue important

work together as this arrangement continues in 2020.

We always are called to be in prayer, asking God what he desires us to be up to. Sometimes stepping back and giving God space from our agenda opens up a deeper appreciation for those things God finds important. We have been trying to do that and would challenge every member to give God that space to mold and shape how we serve him in what we do and how we spend our time. God's work never ends but it does take on different looks and forms throughout our lives. What is he up to in your life in 2020? My hope is that you can be excited and filled with anticipation to what lies ahead.

Happy New Year!



The season of Lent begins February 26 with Ash Wednesday. We will again offer two opportunities to worship – at 12 noon and 6:45 PM. The Ash Wednesday service is a solemn service with the imposition of ashes, as we remind ourselves that we are sinful, mortal creatures, dependent on God's mercy. Soup and sandwich meals will begin Wednesday, March 4, at 11:30 AM and at 5:00 PM.



### **CWS Blanket Sunday February 9**

Blanket Sunday at Bethany will be February 9<sup>th</sup>. Church World Service, an organization similar to Lutheran World Relief, provides blankets – both here in the U.S. and overseas to shelter and give comfort to people who have been displaced or are affected by disaster. The BLCW will be sending \$500.00 for blankets. We will not be handing out special envelopes so donations to help with this may be given at the church office. Thank you!

**Pastor's 2019 Annual Report to**

## Bethany Lutheran Church

In September, I reached a significant milestone in my life, celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination into the ministry of the ELCA. I did not have a computer at that time, but made good use of my trusty Smith-Corona electric typewriter with its ink cartridges that snapped in and out. Facebook, Live-Streaming worship, Smart-Phones, and emails were non-existent when I started. But through the years, we have all adapted and figured out ways to embrace these new technologies and use them in ministry as well as in daily life. Now we can't imagine how we lived before all these new and modern technologies came on the scene.

A key for our congregation to continue to thrive in mission in these new circumstances is that we continue to be ready to change and adapt and embrace the new realities that we find ourselves in. Where regular attendance used to mean attending church at least 3 Sundays a month, now the official definition of regular is someone who attends once a month. With Youtube and podcasts and a myriad of Christian blogs, the church is no longer the only place one can turn for spiritual guidance, Bible study, and inspirational music. And so in a way, our competition is much greater than it ever used to be.

But there are still things that we can offer in our congregation that one can't find on social media – the warm embrace of a welcoming smile; the sympathetic listening ear that we might find when engaging one-on-one at a coffee hour; sitting together with the congregation and enjoying a moment of laughter at something that struck us as funny; appreciating the actual touch and taste of the bread and wine as we receive Holy Communion and hear the words that we are forgiven for each and every one of our sins.

Part of our challenge as a congregation is to keep in mind that we "old-timers" are called to be the welcoming presence for the younger folks growing up in our midst, and for the newcomers who might happen to check us out. I was struck by a phrase that I saw this week by John Alan Turner: "It's hard to convince people that a God they can't see loves them,

when a church they can see doesn't seem to like them." I think this can be a good opportunity for any church to reflect on what we might look like to those around us.

How does our belief that God loves us and claims us as his beloved Child play out in the way we see and interact with others, not just inside our church building, but in all our interactions as we are out and about in daily life. How do we make God's love more present in our encounters with one another? There aren't quick and easy answers to these challenges, but we trust that God walks with us as we attempt to negotiate the changes in our world. Who knows what changes will occur over the next 30 years looking forward, but God promises to be with us always.

Thanks for this part of the journey that we have walked together! And we look forward to what 2020 will bring!

In Christ,  
Pastor Janet

## *Pastor Janet's Joke of the Month*

- \* I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.
- \* I don't mean to brag but I just finished my 14-day supply of diet food in 3 hours and 20 minutes.
- \* Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.
- \* Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero outside, they canceled recess? Me neither.

Top Ten Uses for Holiday Fruitcakes – (Now that you still haven't eaten yours):

- 10 Use as a pin cushion
- 9 Use instead of sandbags in event of flood
- 8 Send to US Air Force to drop on the enemy
- 7 Use as railroad ties
- 6 Use as speed bumps
- 5 Collect 10 and use as bowling pins
- 4 Use instead of cement shoes
- 3 Save for next summer's garage sale
- 2 Use slices in next skeet-shooting competition
- 1 Use slices to balance that wobbly table



**QUILTING WILL TAKE PLACE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup>  
WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
(FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 19<sup>TH</sup>) AT 9:00 AM**



**CHURCH SCHOOL CARNIVAL**

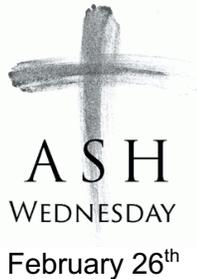
**April 19**

The Church School Carnival is an annual tradition to help kids of all ages go to Bible Camp, and teens to travel with LYO on mission trips and to National Gatherings. There will be a silent auction with something for everyone. The silent auction begins on Wed April 15<sup>th</sup>. LYO will be serving lunch (sloppy joes, potato chips, nachos, pickles, and lemonade), and a variety of games for the kids. Please watch for a sign-up to bring items for the bake sale and cake walk. The LYO is also asking for donations of buns. Thank you for your continued support of the LYO and Education Program!

\*\*\*\*\*

**January Offering**

01/05	\$4958
01/08	\$400
01/12	\$5120
01/15	\$1307
01/19	\$3338
01/22	\$805
01/26	\$
Electronic Giving	\$8457



**Miriam Bible Study**  
**February 13<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00pm**

**FEBRUARY CAUSE OF THE MONTH  
The Northern Plains Children's Advocacy  
Center**

The Mission of the Northern Plains Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is to protect children by providing on-site agency collaboration utilizing a multi-disciplinary team approach in prevention, investigation, assessment and referral for prosecution and treatment of child abuse. The NPCAC serves multiple counties in the northwest and north-central regions of North Dakota, including two Native American Reservations. The Northern Plains CAC provides a compassionate and effective way to bring services to children victimized by abuse. This public-private collaboration significantly reduces the trauma associated with reporting child abuse and holds offenders accountable. Other details of the program can be found on the link to their website:

<http://www.undnpcac.org/home.html>

**January Ministerial Acts**

**Funerals:** Charles Bovee, Archie Kress

**LYO in February**

2/2	<b>9:30am</b>	Coffee Hour
2/5	<b>7:15pm</b>	LYO: Dancing with Jake
2/9	<b>8:30am</b>	LYO Led Service-Wear one of your Bethany or LYO Shirts
2/9	<b>9:30am</b>	Coffee Hour
2/12	<b>7:15am</b>	Valentine Bingo Happy Birthday Jessie!
2/16	<b>9:30am</b>	Coffee Hour
2/23	<b>9:30am</b>	Coffee Hour
2/26	<b>9:30am</b>	Ash Wednesday-Skit Practice

## January 2020 Memorials:

In Memory of **Terry Stevick**

**Undesignated** from Christy Floriani, Amy Lesmeister, Alan & Cheryl Ekblad, Judy Teets, Don & Eldora Eliason, George & Linda Walker, Carol Skorick, Gary & Judy Johnson, Jack & Colette Nybakken, Don & Joyce Anderson, Mary Jordahl.

**Ministry of Care** from Mary Carlson, Boyd & Phyllis Hanson, Greg & Sue Johnson.

**Choir** from Bryan & Nadine Holmly.

In Memory of **Evie Chambers,**

**Palma & Lawrence Schoenwald**

**Undesignated** from Kari Schoenwald.

A Music donation from Becky Hill.

Elaine Hetland Estate donation.

In Memory of **Janice Klimpel**

**Lord's Cupboard** from Donna Schmalz.

**Ministry of Care** from Scott or Colleen Hodenfield, Pat Julson, Mary Carlson, Roger & Roberta Larson.

**Altar** from Kathryn Swanson, Mary Jordahl.

**General Fund** from Prohealth Home Care.

**Undesignated** from Vickie Phippins, Ed & Paulette Nush, Steve & Cyndee Buettler, Bill & Becky Marion, Clarice Hance, John & Pam Flora, Marian Askim, Janice Barlow, Brian & Laura Berg, Debra Currie, Jim & Cathy DeGree, Sharon Grondahl, Barbara Hankla, Boyd & Phyllis Hanson, Sylvia Iverson, DoWayne & Agnes Ketterling, Judith Klovstad, Phyllis Landseidel, Bonnie Larson, Claire Larson, Clarence & Nichole Lundeen, Avis Mathis, Henry & Sharon Milkey, Nancy Morken, Scott & Cheryl Olson, Duane Olson, Erna Pederson, DeAnn Peterson, Gary & Clara Sue Price, Elden & Darlene Sanders, Ron & Pat Schimke, Melvin & Margaret Schmidt, John & Betty Solwey, William & Vicki Stevens, Tim Stonerook, Michelle Sundheim, Lorraine Thomas, Laurel Weigelt, Steven & Deborah Zaun, Puklich Chevrolet.

**Music** from Bill & Bev Jensen, Mary Ann Lafontaine.

In Memory of **Archie Kress**

**Undesignated** from Donald & Constance Hiller, Duane Olson, Lorraine Thomas, Margaret Hellebust, Erna Pederson, Donna Schmalz.

**Ministry of Care** from Scott & Colleen Hodenfield, Wally & Cookie Berning, Ralph & Karen Kuhnhenh, Gary & Sheryl Leslie, Bruce & Diane Walker, Todd & Karen Nelson, Boyd & Phyllis Hanson, Sharon Grondahl, Genhard & Ardis Holen, Larry & Gloria Sorenson, Claire Larson, Greg & Sue Johnson, Ed & Paulette Nush, Charles & Sue Taft, Lolly Rostad, Bill & Bev Jensen.

**Wed night** from Pat Julson.



February 1-29, 2020 "HAVE A HEART"  
FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT LOCAL AREA  
PANTRIES AND SOUP KITCHENS.

Suggested Items Rice, Pasta, Cereal (hot/cold), Soup, Canned Vegetables/Fruit & Meats, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Beans, Flour, Sugar, Coffee, Baby Food, Diapers, Shampoo & Conditioner, Feminine Products, Deodorant, Lotion, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Dish Soap, Laundry Soap and Cleaning Products.

(Convenience foods (heat & eat) such as hamburger helper, pop top cans, crackers, tuna/chicken salad pouches, granola bars etc. are a big help for those with no means to prepare a meal). Please bring your items to the church. Thank you!



Happy Valentine's Day!!



## Bethany Birthdays! February:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Mirra Malachowski, Maddox Westmeyer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kayla Brentrup, Marian Guss,  
Karen Knatterud
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sharon Guderjahn, Marissa Michalenko
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Martha Alvin, Emma Berg
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Jim Jensen, Christopher Thompson
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Melvin Schmidt
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Cleo Berven
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Tricia Bearman, Susan Burchill
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Alan Walter
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Pat Schimke, Myron Seney,  
Diane Walker
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Ashley Otto
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Boyd Hanson, Orlyn Lovelien,  
Kolette Ostlund, Jessie Thompson
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Kelsey Ringsaker, Shelby Schlag
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Cyndee Beutler
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Sara Colbenson
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Dustin Breitreutz, Patty Rademacher,  
Megan Schonberger
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Richard Holtz, Phyllis Metz
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Troy Hughes, Jared Jensen,  
Daryl Nicolaisen, Nora Pederson,  
Deanna Syverson, Kayla Williams
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Lorie Bertsch, Megan Enget,  
Bennett Harvey
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Breana Morlang, Steven Peterson
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Aaron Davey, Shirley Dietz,  
Kirstina Engstrand, Ardis Holen,  
Laurel Thunshelle
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Tim Hoaglund, Ardis Johnson,  
Ashley Marsh, Darrell Stalheim
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Joshua Evanoff, Stacy Sorenson,  
Brendon Watson
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Monica Bachmeier, Tyler Berg,  
Elaine Kress
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Kari Files, Kari Henderson
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Dylan Heinze, Carrie Otto
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Brian Michalenko, Kameryn Stober
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Sarah Alvin, Jamie Chilson, Alfred Frey,  
Emily Metz

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!



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING  
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX  
WELCA.ORG

Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect, we are one body in Christ called to love God and love each other.

We are invited to attend this life-changing gathering with other bold women of faith in July of 2020 in sunny Phoenix. (July 16-19 2020)

All people attending the gathering must register online or use the printed registration form found on the website:

[www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org)

Registration is \$375.00. Talk with your friends and family and plan now to attend this event. The BLCW is willing to help with registration cost if needed.

Once you have registered, please contact Lucille Loftesnes, our WND Triennial Liaison (cell: 701-240-2655; email [Lucille.loftesnes@gmail.com](mailto:Lucille.loftesnes@gmail.com)).

The Gathering will take place in the heart of downtown Phoenix at the Convention Center. Optional special curated tours are being planned for those who would like to explore Phoenix and the surrounding areas.

The 2020 Run, Walk and Roll to benefit our health initiative, Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls, will be held at the nearby Cesar Chavez Park. Participants will enjoy an early morning run, walk or roll through this lovely park. The park is a brief bus ride away from our downtown gathering location, and buses will be provided.

Not interested in running or walking but still committed to raising funds for our health initiative? We're offering something new. Join us for other activities on the lawn, like tai chi or yoga.

Any questions please contact Judy Anderson (420-0957).

## Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM)

*“...I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. – 2 Timothy 4:1b-2 (NRSV)*

Dear Friends,

It is my joy and privilege to serve as your intern-pastor, to be a part of the outstanding staff members who have answered God's call to serve you, and to work with the talented officers and many faithful members who day in and day out exhibit the kingdom of God through the ministries of Bethany & Deering Lutheran Churches. I have been blessed with your uplifting spirits and votes of confidence as you grow me into this role of pastor. Kathy and I are so thankful for the opportunity to be a part of your lives.

This past year has been a fruitful year in terms of my experience. I have lead bible studies, worship services and funerals, as well as played a role in a marriage and baptism. Additionally, I have completed nine seminary courses which were very challenging and stimulating as I learned not only from the professors, but from classmates as well. Looking at the coming year, it is going to be a busy yet rewarding year. I will be starting official internship in the Spring with Pastor Janet as my internship supervisor. And how the seminary schedule is working out, I should complete my remaining class requirements in the Fall of 2020.

As I look back at 2019, all I can say is thank you Lord! Kathy and I have been truly blessed and we are truly grateful for the opportunities God provided us. Additionally, we want to thank this congregation for your guidance, support and prayers as this calling continues in the coming years.

May the God of all grace, bless and keep you, now and forever...Amen!

Pastor-Intern Dave

## Piecing Faith Together with Mom

April 17-19, 2020/ \$120.00 per adult-child pair  
\$10.00 discount if registered on or before April 10<sup>th</sup>

This retreat is designed so you can take time to be with your child, grow deeper in faith together, and spend time with other moms. Not only will we be “piecing faith together,” we’ll also piece together some garden stepping stone mosaics! You’ll get to bring one home with you and leave one to make your mark on the Metigrowshe Garden. This retreat is limited to mom and one child – you can make it a tradition and plan to return next year with another child! We will make sure a theme room is ready for you and will plan all of the activities and meals – the only thing you need to do is show up and start making special memories!

**Retreat will begin at 7pm Friday and end at 11am Sunday.**

## Hammering Out Faith with Dad

May 1-3, 2020/ \$120.00 per adult-child pair  
\$10.00 discount if registered on or before April 24<sup>th</sup>

Each child will return home with a Faith Chest® that s/he builds with dad. Dads and kids will also receive a book of faith-walk ideas. This retreat is limited to dad and one child—you can bring your other children another year. This will be a special time to build a relationship with each child individually. This retreat is an important opportunity to grow in faith together with your kids—what better way could there be to spend a weekend? You will have overnight adventure in one of our unique theme rooms, and there will be laughter over delicious home-cooked meals.

**Retreat will begin at 7 pm Friday and end at 11 am Sunday.**