

Annual Report from Pastor Gerald Roise January 2021

Greetings to all and blessings from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As we reflect back on 2020 it certainly has left a memory on all of us, both good and bad. We learned to do church services in new and innovative ways. How thankful we were to have many of the technologies needed to serve our members. We also grew in our understanding that the church is not the building but all of us being a community of faith in our neighborhoods. As I reflect, I immediately wish to express gratefulness for the faithful, compassionate and devoted efforts of members and staff. Your presence and support felt like after the 2011 flood, when we were not sure how to move forward but with the help of others and God's presence we made it. We realize that our faith in God's promises is the key each day forward. Nothing else can be assured except change itself.

In 2020, the transition continued in my ministry at Bethany being a half time position for which I'm very grateful. This arrangement will continue until June 30, 2021, at which time I will begin full retirement. At age 69, it is time for me to step back and let others step in and carry-on ministry duties. I guess it would be proper to say that I will stop being on the payroll and will shift my life's ministry call to being a volunteer and supporter of various ministries in our community. LuAnn and I plan to remain in this community and both enjoy working with the social ministry needs of the community. We do not intend to stop being God's hands in this community and know that our paths will cross often in this important work.

Reflecting back on fourteen years of ministry here at Bethany, it certainly has been a fulfilling and amazing journey. I have learned much from the many faithful and devoted servants of God within this congregation. We have been through all kinds of challenges and opportunities and it is my hope that we continue to see Christ in one another as we hear his call to what the New Year brings.

Understanding, "God's work and our hands" as the mission for which we are all called in our daily journey.

This new year will no doubt continue to bring challenges and joys. Our prayer is that we might have respect for one another always and see each other as children of God. May our words be kind and our thoughts understanding.

In studying God's Word, I have learned a deep appreciation for verses like Romans 8: 39, *"Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ Jesus, our Lord"*. The reality that whenever we draw a line in the sand, Jesus chooses to stand with those who were dealing with the difficulties. He call's it grace, forgiveness that we don't deserve. Thanks be to God; in that grace we are filled with hope!



The season of Lent begins February 17 with Ash Wednesday. We will have a short worship service at noon and again at 6:30 PM on the 17th. Plans are being worked out for a safe imposition of ashes at each service. Due to Covid, we will not offer the soup meals this year, but we do plan to offer a short service each week, at 12:30 and at 6:30 each Wednesday following Ash Wednesday. The mid-day service will take place in the Fellowship Room, and the evening service in the Sanctuary.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes can be picked up during office hours or Sunday during worship. If you contribute on-line, there will still be a box of envelopes for you. Thank you!

to Bethany Lutheran Church

I don't usually copy from my previous annual reports, but looking back to see what I wrote last year, I was struck by the irony of this statement: "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." Who knew, when I wrote that, what was in store for us with all the disruptions of Covid-19.

"Change" and "adapt" and "embrace" pretty much sum up what we have been about for the previous 10 months. Following the initial and complete shut-down of all activities, we gradually experimented and learned how to live with the threat of Covid. Our number one goal was to keep everyone as safe as we could. We were blessed in that we already had our live-stream worship capabilities in place.

In the meantime, we learned how to conduct church council meetings via Zoom, we had Bible studies outdoors in the park, we followed the CDC guidelines in setting up our worship space for safe social-distancing, as well as offering an outdoor parking lot service when the weather was good. Church School was re-imagined into a combination of home packets and a brief music time at church. Confirmation became available live-streamed as well as in person.

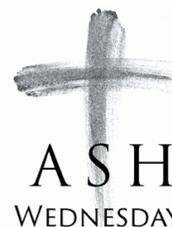
In the midst of all of this, of course, there was also a great sense of loss – the loss of fellowship and social time together, the impossibility of celebrating the lives of our loved ones with full attendance at funerals and shared meal afterwards, the loss of our Hostfest and Lutefisk dinner fellowship, and then, with record-high numbers in December, the impossibility of having an in-person Christmas Eve service. We are grateful for Intern Pastor Dave's technical know-how in video-editing to make the online Christmas Eve service possible.

But in spite of everything, I am truly grateful for the willing cooperation of the Bethany staff as we maneuvered through many decisions and

stepped-up sanitation protocol. A big thanks goes to Patti and Tim for their extra time and labor in keeping the church clean and sanitized in between every gathering as well as Patti's skilled work in acquiring the grants that helped us shore up our Covid safety, Jackie who is a voice of welcome hospitality to those phoning in or dropping by and who has reached out through many phone calls to help people stay connected, the worship leaders, particularly Kari and Nadine, who quickly regrouped in order to provide a safe worship experience, the Church Council, for their support in all the changes, and for you as congregation members who lived in to, and supported, our efforts to continue ministry, both through your financial gifts and your willing cooperation. While nothing about Covid has been fun or easy, you have continued to support our congregation and enable ministry to continue. We all look forward to the effectiveness of the vaccine and the hope that it brings that will allow us to resume closer to normal activities as we get further into 2021.

One other big change ahead for Bethany is Pastor Gerald's pending retirement, and the calling of a new associate pastor. We have been blessed in Pastor Gerald's 14 years of serving Bethany. Given that we humans don't normally embrace and welcome change, we certainly have been challenged and will continue to be challenged looking ahead. But what stays the same is the God we worship, who has promised to go with us and guide us in every step of our journey.

Blessings as we live into 2021, with the hope that it brings.
Pastor Janet



ASH
WEDNESDAY

February 17th

Pastor Janet's

Joke of the Month

Some one-liners to ponder:

- *I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.
- *Don't take life too seriously; no one gets out alive.
- *I'm not a complete idiot; some parts are missing.
- *Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it!
- *Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.
- *He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless dead.
- *A picture is worth a thousand words, but it uses up three thousand times the memory on your computer.
- *Ham and eggs. A day's work for a chicken, a lifetime commitment for a pig.
- *The trouble with life is there's no background music.
- *What disease did cured ham have?
- *Why do we say "slept like a baby" when babies wake up every hour and a half?
- *When French people swear, do they say, "Pardon my English"?
- *Why do we put our suits in a garment bag and our garments in a suitcase?
- *When two airplanes almost collide, why is it a "near miss"? Shouldn't it be a "near hit"?

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: Joanne Markle
Transfer Out: Leah Larson

Miriam Bible Study
February 11th @ 2:00pm
(Fellowship Room)

February LYO News

February Schedule

Wednesday-February 3, 2021- Prime Time

Wednesday-February 10, 2021-Valentine
Bingo

Wednesday-February 17-Movie Night

Wednesday-February 24-The LYO Bake Off

We cannot believe we are already into our February events. Ash Wednesday will soon be here, and we are still hanging in there. We still are meeting on Wednesday night at 7:30pm. Our youth still enjoys getting together, and we are always happy to see their smiling faces. Lots of laughs, and good times with this bunch. If you have youth that want to join in, let Donna Randash know, and we can get you the zoom code.

God is Good!
Bethany LYO

Ruth Circle

February 9th @ 2:00pm
(Fellowship Room)



Happy Valentine's Day!!

**SUNDAY MORNING
CIRCLE
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14TH**

@ 9:30 AM (ACVITIY ROOM)

Mary Circle

February 16th at 9:30am
(Fellowship Room)

January Offering

01/03	\$2531
01/10	\$5429
01/17	\$9037
01/24	\$1844
Online	\$750
Electronic Giving	\$9500

Bethany Foundation Jan 2021:

Minot Community Foundation

Re: Bruce & Diane Walker

Memory of Marvin & Carol Holje

By Carol Holje Living Trust

Memory of Arvid Reimann

By Thomas & Janice Hinzpeter

Memory of Byron Rollman

By Thomas & Janice Hinzpeter



Bethany Birthdays! February:

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

**Due to covid-19, we are NOT taking
any magazines!**

Parish Education

*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your **children** and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” ~ Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (ESV)*

The 2020 Church School Year started with the continuation of the success we have had in previous years. Our Faith Leaders: Lisa Zietz, Hannah Folley, Courtney & Colton Bourquin, Angie Fox, Kayla Williams, and Carol Lucier did an amazing job of teaching our youth. We thank you for your dedication to our parish education program. And then the pandemic struck in March, and everything came to a screeching halt. Activities and events like the Silent Auction, Vacation Bible School and Metigoshe Day Camp were cancelled. And yet, just like the church never stopped, our church school program never stopped but just looked different... *Thanks Be to God.*



Church school lessons were sent to parents and grandparents electronically throughout the summer and fall months. We also started a Puppet Ministry Video Series that was a success. Thank you, Nadine, and the teens from the church for supporting this ministry. In September, we were able to hold our annual “Back-to-School” gathering. There was great food and games for the kids to enjoy, of course with facemasks and social distancing. Special thanks to Jesse Casey, the BLCW, and all others who made the event a success. Also, we opened the church doors once a month so that the children could gather for choir and worship with their families. And finally, a special message from Ms. Kathy (Myers): “I miss seeing and feeding everyone on Wednesday evenings and I look forward to the time we can be together again.”

May God continue to bless each of you this coming year ~ Pastor-Intern Dave

Jan 2021 Memorials:

In Memory of **Val Swenson Undesignated** from Val Swenson Estate, Darold Dyke, Larry & Gloria Sorenson, Boyd & Phyllis Hanson, Stephen & Susan Davenport, Susan Peterson.

In Memory of **Janice Klimpel Undesignated** from Tom & Ladonna Stonerook.

In Memory of **Jim Legg Undesignated** from Eleanor Berg, Marlys Sundbakken, Jeff & Sandee Michalenko, Claire Larson, David & Susan Abel.

In Memory of **Robert & Inez Serr Undesignated** from Jenell Serr.

In Memory of **Lorraine Grondahl Equally distributed to MOC, Music, and Education @ request from family** from Leonard & Marlene Larsen, Mavis Larson, Claire Larson, Ed & Mary Duchsherer, Shane & Leanne Grondahl, Don & Marlys Richard, Mark & Denise Genre, Rodney & Debra Swallers, Jeff & Barbara Mayer, Duane Olson, Greg Simonson, Steven Erickson, Shanon & Elaine Polsfut, Richard & Linda Erickson, Ralph & Karen Kuhnhenh.
Music from Bryan & Nadine Holmly.
Ministry of Care from Greg & Sue Johnson.

In Memory of **Ramona Schroeffer CHIF** from Marvin & DelRae Meier.

In Memory of **Adeline Mueller Undesignated** Boyd & Phyllis Hanson.
Music from Bryan & Nadine Holmly.
Sunday School from Bruce & Diane Walker.

Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM)

“Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows, and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”
~ John 4:35-38 (ESV)

I do not believe anyone would argue with me that the year 2020 brought some new realities! The pandemic, epic wildfires, and other natural disasters, plus the political and nationwide upheaval has made this year like no other that I have experienced in my 50 years of life on this planet. And yet, amid global, national, and local despair, death and uncertainty, confusion and conflict, grief and exhaustion, I find myself abundantly grateful. Grateful that we serve this amazing God who remains in control of everything. Grateful that the preaching of the Gospel never ceased. Oh, worship and preaching of course looked different but the Church never stopped being the Church. And grateful the Spirit continued to move, even in the “virtual world” of online worship, confirmation, and bible studies. The year of 2020 forced us into uncharted emotional waters, learning how to do old jobs all over again and in new ways, and trying to connect to folks in virtual ways. With all of this going on in the world, I was able to complete...*thank the Lord*...my remaining seminary studies (10 courses), and at the same time taking on the official role of “Pastor-Intern.”

Speaking of internship, I would like to thank Pastor Janet in her role as my supervisor during these past 10 months. I truly appreciate your wisdom and guidance during this time. I would also like to thank Pastor Gerald as my mentor. Thank you for our “deep-diving” and challenging conversations. The congregational internship team was also a blessing to me as we all walked the intern journey together.

Special thanks to Allen Hirzel, Mary Carlson, Judy Mathson, Rick Watson, Jay Jenkins, Donna Randash, Mary Nerem (Deering), and Melodee Bryant (Deering). And to the Bethany and Deering church bodies, thank you for your continued grace and patience with me as I continue to grow in the role of pastor. As 2021 begins, my focus is on the completion of my internship in February, Synod approval, and the discernment of call. My wife Kathy, son Leif and I have been truly blessed and we are truly grateful for all the ministries the Lord provides and we look forward to what the future holds.

Finally, I would like to challenge each of us to consider the question “Who is My Neighbor?” This year, take the time to look deeply into ourselves, to broaden our horizons, to grow our circles of influence, and to open ourselves to others in new and compelling ways. To be the church community that helps members meet people from other walks of life than their own, and that connects people from different walks of life with the gospel. God’s grace and peace to all ~ Pastor-Intern Dave



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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-0248857>