

## Pastor's article for December 2018

As I sit at my desk writing this New Year's greeting, I suspect that you may have received this newsletter right in the midst of Christmas cards! So, a Very Merry Christmas to each of you and your family. May the beginning of a New Year help you focus with intention on how we might anticipate new opportunities ahead!

What is the difference between an opportunity and a challenge? I believe it is our state of mind. As this new year starts, we often focus and dwell upon what has changed or is not the same anymore. Those thoughts often fill us with sadness, grief or frustration. My New Year's focus for you is to not think about resolutions necessarily, but to ask ourselves how we might focus forward with an "intentional positive purpose."

To run or bike a marathon or go to be in the gym regularly is not my idea of fun, the thought of mundane exercise is a real downer for me. I like being active but desire to be accomplishing something not just going through the motions. Yes, it is a frame of mind I know. But now I have found the opportunity to travel the world and hike in the most unusual places, all due to technology. I can walk in the Swiss Alps with Mountain sheep one morning and walk beside ships in the Panama Canal the next day. When I go to bed at night, I focus upon where in the world I would like to explore in the morning. How about New Zealand, the desert southwest, or the Northern Rockies. Exercise becomes an opportunity to explore, versus challenge of spending time on the treadmill. An opportunity to learn about exotic places, some I would love to explore in person as well as those I never care to venture around.

May we see the year ahead as one of "an opportunity". When we choose to think ahead about the "opportunities", it changes our outlook from a negative to positive vantage point. It has been proven over and over again how one's attitude impacts our emotional, spiritual and physical health. In a recent

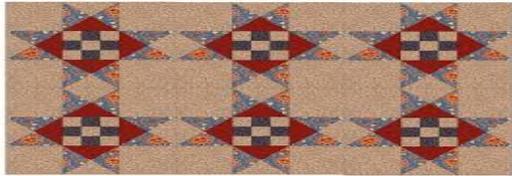
college story from Vermont, students signed a contract to live in certain dorms based upon their desire to use constructive vs destructive life behavior. The difference it made in their lives impacted their health and their grades in profound ways!

Oh, I know many are facing very hard or different circumstances, but I also know that one's attitude impacts our lives more than any other factor. May our prayer to God ask him to not fix our problem, but to change our attitude. May we ask God to place in our lives those who would help us find the opportunities in our day ahead. We all know those who seem to always be upbeat. We admire those who desire to see the opportunity in each day. Sometimes it takes a changing of our routine and those we regularly hang out with. Might we get out of bed each day with the words of Psalm 118:24 on our lips. "This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Behind every problem is an opportunity. A poster in my office reminds me, "Instead of saying, Lord, I don't know how I am going to do this," say, "Lord I can't wait to see how you do this." In that one statement we go from carrying a burden to seeing with interest God's opportunity!

God's promises for the new year are not that all will go better than the last. He doesn't promise us that we will not have problems. But he does promise us that we will never be alone. In Matthew 28:20 He says, "I will be with you always". May we pray that we will look at each challenge with faith, asking Christ to help us focus upon the opportunity ahead rather than the difficulty. Thank you for this opportunity to think about how faith makes the difference. Our lives are an opportunity to serve others and our God! Saying Happy New Year is meant to not be just words, but the blessing of a hopeful and faithful attitude.

Pastor Gerald Roise



**QUILTING WILL TAKE PLACE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup>  
WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

## SUNDAY MORNING CIRCLE

**WILL TAKE PLACE 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**@ 9:30 AM**

### Pastor Janet's Joke of the Month

- Q: At what time of day was Adam created?  
A: A little before Eve.
- Q: Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?  
A: No, just an apple.
- Q: What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?  
A: Ruthless
- Q: Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?  
A: Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once
- Q: Where is the first math problem mentioned in the bible?  
A: When God told Adam and Eve to go forth and multiply.
- Q: What do we have that Adam never had?  
A: Ancestors
- Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?  
A: It's Christmas, Eve!
- Q: How long did Cain hate his brother?  
A: As long as he was Abel.
- Q: Why did God create man before woman?  
A: Because He didn't want any advice on how to do it.

### JANUARY CAUSE OF THE MONTH

#### 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.

**Annual Reports are due in the office by  
5:00pm, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

### December Offering

12/02	\$5,806
12/05	\$2,323
12/09	\$5,654
12/12	\$2,595
12/16	\$4,759
Electronic	\$7,559

### December Ministerial Acts

**Funerals:** Ida Weber

Mark your calendars!

## FAMILY CHURCH SCHOOL

is Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Bethany Financial Update

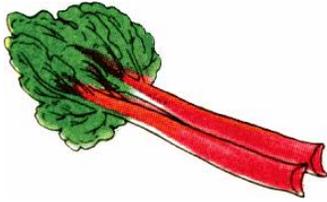
Thank you to those who have helped out with extra giving as we seek to catch up on our annual budget projection. December offering received through 12-20-18 is \$26,899. Our monthly anticipated receipts would be \$20,430. We still need to catch up another \$10,000 in order to repay funds borrowed from the memorial fund in May. Your continued support will help us to meet this December goal.

### Servant Ministries in January

We will be reading, GIFT OF DEATH...A Message of Comfort and Hope. By Monica Hannan, television journalist from Bismarck, ND. A book on a difficult subject most of us try to avoid...death and dying. A very real and deeply personal experience. Speaks of faith, scripture, tradition, reason, and hope. Helps us further understand how we can truly enjoy life without trepidation over what's beyond. Our intention is to invite Monica Hannan to join us during one of our sessions. Books are available in the office for \$16.00 each. We hope you can join us to discuss this deeply moving book.

## Envelopes

**PLEDGE CARDS** and offering envelopes for 2019 are available from an usher, narthex, or in the church office. If you give on line, you will still have a box of envelopes to pick up. Thank you!



## Rhubarb Fest 2019

Plans are well under way for the 2019 Bethany Rhubarb Fest! We hope you'll be able to join us on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### Dec 2018 Memorials:

#### *In Memory of Marlys Kippen*

Undesignated from Greg & Sue Johnson.

#### *In Memory of Patricia Lehner*

Undesignated from H.L. & Shirley Meschke, Ione Harshberger, Katheryn Swanson, Clayton & Louise Heinz.

#### *In Memory of Ida Weber*

Undesignated from John & Lorraine Quie, Robert & Ardella Helstedt, Petter & Laurel Thunshelle.  
Choir from Eunice Rostvedt, Boyd & Phyllis Hanson, Bryan & Nadine Holmly.

Put on your calendar that the **Annual Meeting** is **Sunday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.**

On the agenda will be, voting on whether or not to change the by-laws to allow a confirmed youth to hold a council position as a voting member, election of officers and approval of annual budget.



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. 6	9:30	Coffee Hour
Jan. 9	7:15	Card Night
Jan. 13	9:30	Coffee Hour
Jan. 16	7:15	Bible Journaling & Devotions
Jan. 20	9:30	Coffee Hour
Jan. 23	7:15	Great Bethany Bake-Off Series 2
Jan. 27	9:30	Coffee Hour
Jan. 30	5:15 7:15	Rhubarb Festival Village Inn

## Winter Retreats

### At Metigoshe

**Men's Snowmobiling** – January 25-27

**Marriage Retreat** – February 15-17

**Jr./Sr. High Ski & Faith** – February 17-18

**Winter Hobby Retreat** – February 18-20

**1st Communion Retreat** – March 8-9

**Women's Wellness Retreat** – March 15-17

**Spring Quilting Retreat** – March 28-30

## Mission Trip to Paraguay update:

With excitement and anticipation, we have a full team headed to Paraguay in March of 2019. This year's team will consist of ten individuals from Bethany and we are joined by nine friends from other communities. We will be once again be building a home under the guidance of Habitat for Humanity. Thrivent Financial also assists the team with \$500 each for those who have done business with them.

Our hope is to once again connect well with the homeowner and the community in which we spend time. Because of the length of our flights we will be stopping in Orlando, Florida overnight before our adventure begins with stops in Panama and Brazil. Because many choose not to personally join us, we invite you to participate by assisting the team with financial help if you can. If that is something you would like to do, please work through Pastor Gerald. The cost per person is approximately \$2,000.

We look forward to helping this third world country one home at a time and know that we often gain more than we give through this experience.



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner! Your help was greatly appreciated!

Stewardship Cards!

**Remember to fill out and return your pledge card! They are located at the back of the church or you can pick one up at the office!**  
**Thank you!!**



## Bethany Birthday's! January:

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