



St. John's Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The new pastors would like to get to know the community better. And that means you. With a three-week rotation in place, Jennifer, Nancy and Daryl are able to connect with the members of the six churches in worship on a very regular basis – and the schedule seems to be going well so far. “A little of me goes a long way,” Daryl said when he was asked about the schedule. “I would love to be a member of one of these churches and have the variety that the pastors bring.” Perspective is very important. All three share messages in a different way and maybe focus on different things, but all place Jesus smack dab in the middle. So ... Churches and congregations are different from one another, also. There is no cookie cutter formula that works for a church staff to use in all places. Because we all see things a little differently and have different histories. Jesus is smack dab in the middle here, too! Jennifer and Daryl will be hosting a series of congregation-specific events that are intended to assist them in connecting with church members and seeing where the Holy Spirit is leading. There will certainly be food involved. And they will be casual – but important. And we won't spend much time talking about the past or the history of the congregation. That information might explain why things are the way are now, but they can get in the way of living the change and growth that God is cultivating. The plan is for the Pastors Thul to host one event per congregation in October, November and January – and more if needed. Some of these might be at a Pizza Place in Willmar, or a member's house or even at the Little Farm north of Kerk. If you would be willing to host one of these, please call Pastor Jennifer or Pastor Daryl. Stay tuned: We will announce your church's dates soon. We will generally cap attendance at 10, so first-come, first-served. That's funny: If we do not get 10 reservations, be prepared for Daryl to give you a call. This is actually a very worthwhile thing for us to be doing.

(Pastor Daryl's Article continues on page 2 and 3– updates on what is happening in the ACT Parish)



Men's Bible Study

Starting October 1 at 7 a.m. and continuing monthly after that, Pastor Daryl will host a Men's Bible Study at Sherrie's in Kerkhoven. He promises not to put anyone on the spot. The hope is to grow our faith as we connect with one another and maybe even listen a little bit to the Holy Spirit. We are ALL hard of hearing when it comes to God.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Ensure you and your Family are ready for Halloween by participating in Trunk or Treat at Mamrelund Lutheran on October 30 from 4-5:30 p.m. We are also looking for individuals who might like to decorate their car trunk or truck bed and hand out candy. All of the vehicles will be lined up and the kids can match from one to the next in a safe and friendly atmosphere. See Pastor Jennie for details.

WEDNESDAY OPEN INVITATION

You might have already heard that Confirmation is a bit different that what most of the students have experienced in the past. Pastors Jennifer would like to encourage you to head on out to the Little Farm any and every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. You might like it more than you thought you would!

The Little Farm We are making progress on the Animal House. Calling it a henhouse doesn't do it justice. There will be additional animals therein! Coming back to rural Minnesota has been a blessing for us, even as it has turned a large portion of our lives upside down. The story of Abram, who at 75 years of age obeyed God and moved on from his fat and sassy life in Haran with Sarai to follow a truly unknown future, is crazy. We love community and understand that the Holy Spirit works through people. There are certainly a lot of cowboys and individualists out here, the bottom line is that there are no Lone Rangers in Jesus' Christ's fold. We're in this together. And thank you.

NATIVITY SETS

This Newsletter is heading out before you will be able to see any of our own Nativity Sets This picture – and our sets will look a lot like these do – are a way of sharing Jesus throughout the circular radius of Sunburg/Pennock/Buffalo Lake/Murdock to DeGraff and then everywhere! Our students are making them and will be selling them. You will get the details on when, where and how you may purchase one or many. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Joel and Connie Lee, Carlson Dairy, Dean Rood, Arnette Walentine, Sheila Stredde, Nancy Stredde, Isaac & Demi Rumsey (God bless you, Walker!), Clint Sixta, Michal Clobes and Curtney Carlson for providing the wood needed to make these works of art. We won't charge a lot for them: The point is to make some money for the young men and women to help defray the costs involved with mission trips and to share the Hope that comes in Jesus' birth and work amongst us and for us!



DIRECTIONS ABOUT THE DIRECTORY

We are making great progress in having our members' information uploaded into the digital directory and hope to have most of it completed in the next couple of weeks. It turns out this was a little bit more work than original thought, but each congregation now has at least one contact point on the directory. With 54 Families inputted, the Pastors printed copies of the directory and shared them on Sept. 18 at all six congregation so members could see what was coming. If you haven't already gotten one, you will receive an email inviting you to log in to "digital church directories" and create a password. This gives you access to the directory on-line. Once you do that, you can also download the app and have the Act Parish address, number, and picture book at your fingertips! Feel free to call Pastor Daryl if you have any questions or concerns about this.

(Note: St. John's Member's information is all uploaded, just need pictures. So emails should be going out soon asking for pictures and directions on how you can access the information.)

Journals

We recently purchased a passel of journals (I'm not sure that's the right word, but we did buy plenty). These journals were handed out to our confirmation students to be used for taking notes and for writing down their experiences at worship at least one Sunday morning per month. We provide different questions each month. After worship, the students turn in their journals to whomever is leading worship that day – and then Jennifer, Nancy or Daryl will respond. The kids get them back on Wednesday. We have a couple to hand out to any adults interested in being your pastors' pen pal. Just ask. Pastor Daryl or Pastor Jennie

St. John's Autumn Bazaar October 1st

10:00-1:00



Usher for October:
Ben Pattison
Reader for October:
Paula Stredde



Tiffanie and Kurt Krieger
on the 24th



Bonnie Schueler
on the 18th