December 2022



Volume 19, Issue 12

Parish Visitor

Belfield Lutheran Church Daglum Lutheran Church Medora Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

Advent Hope / Christmas Love

We have so much to celebrate!

Certainly there continue to be struggles in our lives, and we have hope in the coming of a Savior to bring joy and peace to our world. I asked the question at our last Belfield council meeting, "What are the things we can celebrate from this past year?" We have celebrated weddings and confirmations (read their faith statements in this newsletter!), we have completed significant building projects, and we continue to grow in our faith through Bible studies and retreats. Our parish has connected in community through the Medora car show BBQ, pavilion meals and the Daglum and Belfield fall dinners. Yes! These are amazing events to celebrate!!

In this season of Advent, we wait with hope in anticipation of our Savior's birth. What excitement that the best thing we have to celebrate this year, and always, is Jesus!

""Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us.""

Matthew 1:23 NRSV

In this midst of this Advent Hope, some of you may experience difficulty rejoicing this holiday season. In addition to the celebrations, our community has also mourned the loss of several members this year. Although we remember them and honor their names on All Saints' Sunday, and we might even call their funerals "celebrations of life", we might not feel like celebrating. This year, on the longest night of the year (12/21), we will host a Longest Night service in Belfield. This is a service of reflection and gives us an opportunity to step back from the seeming requirements of the season to be joyful. We give



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- BLC Pancake Breakfast
- Christmas Services
- Confirmed Members
- Sunday School Program
- Gospel Seeds



ourselves permission to mourn and to rest in the quiet peace of candlelight. In the midst of the darkness we express our faith and our hope in the Light and Love of Christ. Our Easter promise of new life comes through the death of Jesus on the cross. Our promise in the face of death is this: "Today you will be with me (Jesus) in paradise." Death does not have the final word. Jesus has the final word. And that word points to hope beyond the grave.

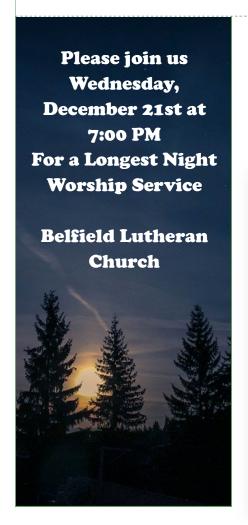
Our Advent Hope culminates in Christmas Love. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. There is no greater gift to celebrate! Thanks be to God!

Blessed Advent Hope and Christmas Love to you!

+ Pastor Dawn Busch



And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger *Luke: 2:12*













Belfield Lutheran Attar Guild

Thank you to Paulette Dorval and Marina Redig
For Serving in November
Serving in December
Amanda Johnson and Sara Bock
Anyone Can Join the Altar Guild!
See Jean Franklin for details.

Parsonage Fund

We, your BDM Parish Council, want to thank each and every one of you that have helped us fill this glass. Some of the things your donations have helped complete are painting and flooring on the main floor, basement windows, shingles on the house and garage, gutters, basement bathroom updates and repairs and exterior doors.

Even though this goal has been reached, donations can always be made for parsonage upkeep. The above list is not all inclusive. There are and will be things that will need to be done to keep the parsonage in good condition and comfortable for our Pastor. Some of these things include: replacing the main floor windows and having the hot water heater, furnace and central air checked. So, if you are looking for a specific place to make a donation, you can always designate a donation to be used for parsonage upkeep.



Thank you for all of your support!

Build Up BLC Fundraiser!

The BLC Property Committee and the BLC Council would like to say thank you to all that have donated to our **Build Up BLC Fundraiser** in 2021 and 2022! We have raised a total of \$64,063. We need an additional \$20,937 to reach our goal of \$85,000!

We have installed a new boiler, siding, windows, wall air conditioners in the kitchen, fellowship hall and Pastor's office. The entryway has been updated with new walls, paint, coat rack and lighting. The Sanctuary walls also have a new coat of paint! The new windows have new trim that has been stained as well. The masonry was fixed and new flooring was installed throughout the church. There is also a new sound system in the church.

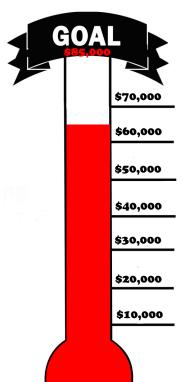
If you have not donated and feel you can, please fill out the portion below and mail to Belfield Lutheran Church C/O Building UP BLC Fundraiser, PO Box 416, Belfield, ND 58622. You can also choose to donate online at https://www.belfieldlutheran.org/give-online. Please reference the Building

UP BLC Fundraiser when donating. Please help us reach our fundraising goal of \$85,000! If you have already signed up to give a monthly donation, please remember to mail the donation to Belfield. Thank you









Please accept my donation to the Building UP BLC Fundraiser

Name:						
Address:						
State/Zip:			Phone:			
□ \$1,000	□ \$750	□ \$500	☐ Other \$			
Please circle: One Time Donation / Monthly Donation / Annual Donation						
Other						
In Memory /	Honor of:					
□ I would □	refer to remain	anonymous				

Tear this section off & keep for your records.

Commitment to Give:

\$_____

Every _____

We've partnered with Belfield Lutheran Church

Sunday School Program

Come join us for the 2022 Sunday School Christmas Program December 18th, 2022 during Worship at Belfield Lutheran Church

Attention Sunday School Participants and Parents

Practices for the Program will be held December 4th and 11th during Sunday School.

No Sunday School on December 25th or January 1st.



And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1 John 5:11

In our ongoing prayers...

The family of Mary Sherer · The family of RoseMarie Andreas
The family of Purn Webb · Schuhrke family · Bishop Craig Schweitzer
JoAnne Suomala · Philip Malkowski · Steven Cowan · Jeannie Redmond
Denise Cowan · Dale Oyhus · Mary Knotts · Bryce Wigert
Norma Newton · Lanie Nichols · Margaret Braun · Johnny Syminow
Mark Hinrichs · Nicole Koegl · Lincoln Lee Johnson · Duane Davis
Marilyn Oyhus · Carmen Ruud · Mindy O'Brien · Becky Yadon
Monica Hushka · Mark Trechok · Janeen Nichols · Carol Johnson
Bennette Mansfield · Chandler Nichols

Please continue to pray for those who have lost their jobs, those with mental illness, those seeking Sobriety, those struggling with infertility, all troops & those working for peace in our world.

Please help us keep this prayer list active.

To add a loved one to the prayer list for next month's issue, please fill out a prayer request slip during worship, making sure to indicate your desire to have the request published in the newsletter, and place it in the offering basket or email us at newsletter@belfieldlutheran.org



December

Saturday	8	8:00 am – 10:30 am – Pancake Breakfast @ Belfield Lutheran 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Daglum Ladies Christmas Party 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – BLM Camp Christmas – BEM Camp Christmas – Belfield Choir sings 6:00 pm – Shadow Nativity @ Belfield Luth followed by caroling	71	Worship 24 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm – Medora 8:00 pm – Belfield	31
Friday	2 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	16 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	23 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	30 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran
Thursday	1 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	8 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	15 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	22 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	29 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran
Wednesday		5:30 pm – Confirmation © Belfield Lutheran 7:00 pm – Choir Practice © Belfield Lutheran	5:30 pm – Confirmation © Belfield Lutheran 7:00 pm – Choir Practice © Belfield Lutheran	Worship 21 7:00pm – Longest Night Worship Service @ Belfield Lutheran	28
Tuesday		6 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Luth. 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	13 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Luth. 6:30 pm Belfield Council Meeting @ Parsonage 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	20 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Luth. 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Luth. 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran
Monday		ν	12	19	26
Sunday		Worship 4 8:30 am – Medora 9:00 am – Sunday School 10:00 am – Belfield 11:45 am – Daglum 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's Please RSVP	Worship 11 8:30 am – Medora 9:00 am – Sunday School 10:00 am – Belfield 11:15 am – Santa Lucia celebration @ Belfield Luth 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's Please RSVP	Worship 18 8:30 am – Medora 9:00 am – Sunday School 10:00 am – Belfield 11:45 am – Daglum 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's Please RSVP	Worship 25 Christmas Day 8:30 am – Medora 10:00 am – Belfield

Christmas Eve Worship Services

COME & JOIN US!

We Invite you to celebrate the most beautiful time of the year with us!

DAGLUM LUTHERAN CHURCH 12/18/2022 11:45 AM

MEDORA LUTHERAN CHURCH 4:00 PM

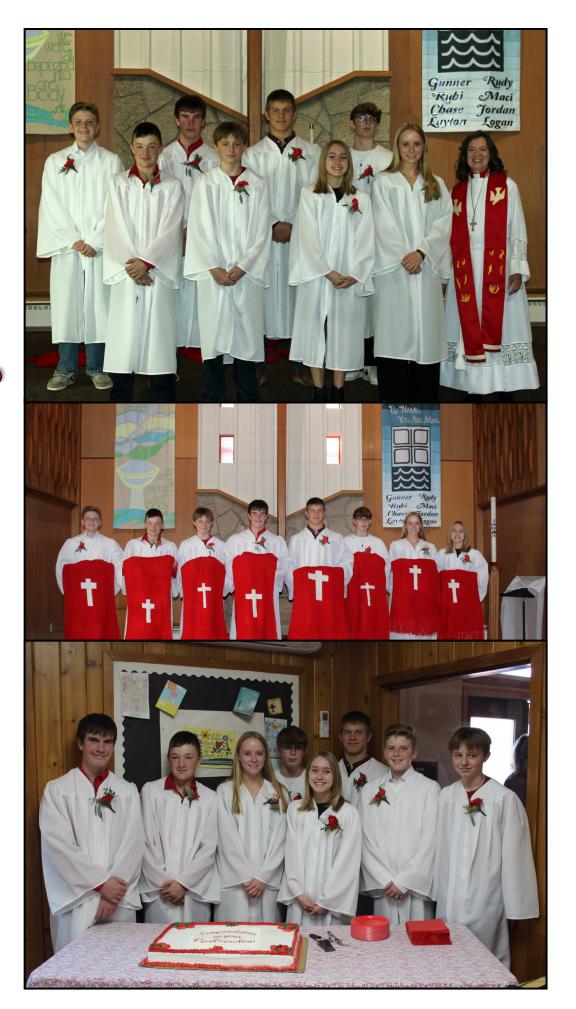
BELFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH 8:00 PM



Infirmation 2022

Top Picture Back L to R: Jordan Jung, Layton Bird, Logan Kukowski, Gunner Jandt Front L to R: Chase Kling, Rudy Hugelen, Maci Wanner, Rubi Johnson and Pastor Dawn

Sagaratulations!



Congratulations to Layton James Bird on his Confirmation

Layton was confirmed on October 31st, 2022 at Belfield Lutheran. Please continue to pray for Layton as he continues to grow in faith.

Layton's Faith Story

When I think of the word faith, I think of God. And in some situations, God is all I have. I have faith in God that he will keep me safe whenever I'm in a sticky situation. I have faith in him every time that I crawl down in those bucking shoots that he's got my back in case I'm in trouble. When I need help making a decision, he is the one that I turn to. I've had faith in God ever since I was just a little boy, he's helped me out with making decisions, needing a piece of advice, or when I just need to get something off my chest.

He's been there for whenever I've needed him. So, if I didn't have faith in him, he never would've helped me out when I asked him. God has never let me down whenever I needed him. When I think of God, I think of a man who is all knowing, helpful, our savior, and trustworthy. God means everything to me, if I don't have a good relationship with God then I've got nothing. He is the one that pushes me to be a better person in life and to always do the right thing. Because, if I make the wrong decision, that could impact some other people's decisions too. This is what comes to mind when I think of the word Faith.



Layton James Bird was born December 23, 2006 in Dickinson, ND.

Natasha Needham and Jason Bird are his parents.

Layton was baptized on December 23, 2007 at St John's Lutheran Church in Killdeer, ND.

His baptismal sponsors are Jessie Rolfson, Dean Bird, Kamie Carter and Nathan Bird.

Layton's favorite Bible verse is Psalm 37:13.

¹³but the LORD laughs at the wicked, for he sees that their day is coming.

"Amazing Grace" is his favorite hymn. Isaiah is Layton's favorite person in the Bible.

Congratulations to Rudy Beau Hugelen on his Confirmation

Rudy was confirmed on October 31st, 2022 at Belfield Lutheran. Please continue to pray for Rudy as he continues to grow in faith.

Rudy's Faith Story

I believe in God the Creator of everything who helps me get through the hardest of my life and easiest. He is always right there for me, always ready to catch me when I fall. This is why I put all my faith in Him, because I know that He always has my back. Every Sunday I get to learn more about Him and this strengthens my faith in Him. This is how I will continue my faith with God. He has done everything for us and He deserves everything from me. I trust Him to keep me safe when I get into a car or on a plane. He has saved me and loved ones countless times. This is why I put all my faith into God.



Rudy Hugelen was born April 9, 2008 in Dickinson, ND.

Grace Sneed and Ryan Hugelen are his parents.

Rudy was baptized on July 4, 2010 at Belfield Lutheran Church in Belfield, ND.

His baptismal sponsors are Corey Hugelen and Jose Hugelen.

Rudy's favorite Bible verse is Psalm 119:105.

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

"Now is the Time of Grace" is his favorite hymn.

Noah is Rudy's favorite person in the Bible and Noah and the Flood is his favorite story.

Congratulations to Gunner William Jandt on his Confirmation

Gunner was confirmed on October 31st, 2022 at Belfield Lutheran. Please continue to pray for Gunner as he continues to grow in faith.

Gunner's Faith Story

Throughout this past year, I have learned so much about God. I feel as if I've become closer or more connected to Him, and throughout this journey I understand so much more. To me God is someone that anyone can go to worship or help them through tough times. I believe in a creator, by that I mean I believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. I see God as someone I can go to when I'm in trouble of having a hard time. I see Him as our creator, the man who made everything. I was born into a Christian family. So, I learned about God at young age. When I was little, I would go to church with my grandparents, a couple of years later I was going to Bible School. Learning about God at Bible School was such an amazing way to introduce me to the Lord. I am thankful for all of the amazing experiences I got to be in. After I get confirmed, I plan to remain a Christian and go to church.



Gunner William Jandt was born on January 31, 2008 in Bismarck ND.

Amy Marie Hlebechuk and Jacom Mathis Hlebechuk are his parents.

Gunner was baptized in March 2011 at Bethany Lutheran Church in McLeod, ND.

His baptismal sponsor is John Manske.

Gunner's favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 11:21

²¹Be assured, the wicked will not go unpunished but those who are righteous will escape.

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" is his favorite hymn.

David is Gunner's favorite person in the Bible and David and Goliath is his favorite story.

Congratulations to Rubi James Johnson on her Confirmation

Rubi was confirmed on October 31st, 2022 at Belfield Lutheran. Please continue to pray for Rubi as she continues to grow in faith.

Rubi's Faith Story

What is faith? Faith means something different for everyone. The textbook definition of faith is to have complete trust or confidence in someone or something. In scripture, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. God says that without faith it is impossible to please Him.

To me, faith is knowing and believing that God created everything out of nothing. In order to believe in God, you need to have faith that he will always be there for you and listening. You have to know that while you can't actually see Him, He is there, which is the basis of faith. I believe that God is the Creator and that he always has a plan that you just have to trust. He is my shepherd and my light, and I am his servant. I follow Him and go to church to learn more about Him and to grow my faith.

Faith can be a very hard thing to understand and learn about because of the many things it stands for. I hope that I can continue discovering my faith and gain a greater and deeper understanding of it through my whole life.



Rubi James Johnson was born on July 11, 2007 in Dickinson ND.

Amanda Johnson and Kwirt Johnson are her parents.

Rubi was baptized on August 26, 2007 at Belfield Lutheran Church in Belfield ND.

Her baptismal sponsors are Seth and Nicole Weishaar.

Rubi's favorite Bible verse is Psalm 46:5 NIV

⁵ God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

"Amazing Grace" is her favorite hymn.

Joseph is Rubi's favorite person in the Bible and the story of David and Goliath is her favorite story.

Congratulations to Jordan Jacob Jung on his Confirmation

Jordan was confirmed on October 31st, 2022 at Belfield Lutheran. Please continue to pray for Jordan as he continues to grow in faith.

Jordan's Faith Story

I believe in God. I believe that God is the creator of everything. He is the one I can talk to and He cares for me and keeps me safe. God is caring and powerful. He is the Father, He is the Son, and He is the Holy Spirit. I know who God is because I learn about Him in church and in the Bible. I worship God by going to church so I can be in a closer relationship to Him. I believe that sin is the bad things that people do in the world that go against God's laws. I believe that people can be both good and evil depending what they are like. What makes people good and evil is by what they do in the world. In this world God makes sure everyone is cared for and keeps them safe. I am a Christian. I believe that you become Christian by believing in Jesus. I first became a member of the family of Christ when I was baptized. It makes a big impact in my life knowing the God is here for me. I believe that through my faith in God, He will guide me down the right path in life.



Jordan Jacob Jung was born on August 28, 2007 in Bismarck ND.

Kristen Renee Jung and Scott Michael Jung are his parents.

Jordan was baptized on October 1, 2011 at House of Prayer in Bismarck ND.

His baptismal sponsors are Brent Jung and Dora Jung.

Jordan's favorite Bible verse is John 3:16

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Borning Cry" is his favorite hymn.

Moses is Jordan's favorite person in the Bible and the story of Joseph is his favorite story.

Congratulations to Chase Dakota Kling on his Confirmation

Chase was confirmed on October 31st, 2022 at Belfield Lutheran. Please continue to pray for Chase as he continues to grow in faith.

Chase's Faith Story

What is faith? This is what I think – faith is having complete trust and confidence in someone or something. Having a strong belief in God and everyone. I am happy to know God will love us forever through the good and bad times. God will guide us back through any times good or bad. I want to help share God's word and the gospel.

What is worship? I think it is the response of grateful and humble people giving their thanks, thoughts and emotion to God. My favorite part about worship is that I get to grow my faith and my family and friends get to hear God's word and gospel.



Chase Dakota Kling was born on August 26, 2007 in Dickinson ND.

Kami and Russell Kling are his parents.

Chase was baptized in 2007 at Bethel Lutheran Church in New Town ND.

His baptismal sponsors are Jessica Woodbury, Laci Rodne, Eli Williams and Ted Keeper.

Chase's favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13

¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

"Amazing Grace" is his favorite hymn.

Noah is Chase's favorite person in the Bible. Noah's Ark and the Christmas Story – Birth of Jesus are his favorite stories.

Congratulations to Logan James Paul Kukowski on his Confirmation

Logan was confirmed on October 31st, 2022 at Belfield Lutheran. Please continue to pray for Logan as he continues to grow infaith.

Logan's Faith Story

To me faith is a leap of trust. In Hebrews 11 it says to have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for and to be certain of the things we cannot see. To believe in God is to have faith that is there even when you can't see Him, and if or when you do consider it a blessing for Him to honor you with his presence which begs the question of who is God?

God to me is known and unknown but you trust him just the same. He if someone that you can always turn to in your deepest times of need. I believe that God is what makes a man what he is and gives a man his true purpose in his life. It's what makes a man want to live among God's faithful people. To want to be with true believers such as yourself. To want to share your experiences with God with other people, to spread the Word of God. It makes us all better people in the image of Jesus himself. So when I'm in doubt, I think to myself, what would the Lord want me to do? What path is he choosing me to do to serve him?

"It's not the hand you're dealt but how you choose to play 'em" in other words, "It's not the life you live, it's how you choose to live it." Meaning that whatever path you choose think to yourself, "Is this the path God wants me on is this the path?" So, when you are doubting your place just remember that God has you in this place, remember God is your Shepherd. So, He is not gonna put you in harms crosshairs. If you find yourself in that situation, just remember that Jesus is with you always. Believe it or not there is a place for you in His plans, you just might have not found it yet. So, believe in God, in Jesus, because they are one and as long as you believe then you are promised eternal life with God, and there always a light on the other side.



Logan James Paul Kukowski was born on July 6, 2007 in Dickinson ND.

Heidi and Joshua Kukowski are his parents.

Logan was baptized on July 20, 2008 at Belfield Lutheran Church in Belfield, ND.

His baptismal sponsors are AJ Gerbig and Suzanne Harris.

Logan's favorite Bible passage is Hebrews 11.

11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

"On Eagle's Wings" is his favorite hymn.

Paul is Logan's favorite person in the Bible and the Conversion of Saul in Acts 9 is his favorite story.

Congratulations to Maci Jean Wanner on her Confirmation

Maci was confirmed on October 31st, 2022 at Belfield Lutheran. Please continue to pray for Maci as she continues to grow in faith.

Maci's Faith Story

Who is God? God is our savior, our creator, and protector. It's written that God will love us no matter what. I didn't fully know what that meant until a little bit ago. We as people of God are created in his image. He will never abandon or forget about us. He will love us unconditionally in every aspect of our lives. As Christians we have faith in God. What is faith? Faith is believing. Believing in yourself, in God, in life after death, that you have a path set for you. Faith can be complicated and hard at times. But by asking God to guide you to where you need to go, you can persevere. I hope to grow my faith in God. As I get older, I may stumble but I will call upon God to help guide me back.



Maci Jean Wanner was born on February 6, 2008 in Dickinson ND.

Dana Wanner and Cory Wanner are her parents.

Maci was baptized on March 30, 2008 at Belfield Lutheran Church in Belfield, ND.

Her baptismal sponsors are Julie and Broc Striefel.

Maci's favorite Bible verse is Psalm 110:1

^{110:1}The LORD says to my lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool."

"I Love to Tell the Story" is her favorite hymn.

Esther is Maci's favorite person in the Bible and Noah's Ark is her favorite story.



Gospel Seeds

WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNOD

WNDSYNOD.ORG

DECEMBER 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 2022

This Month's Writer: Paul N. Marsh, CFRE from GSB Fundraising

Finishing the Year Strong

Paul N. Marsh, CFRE GSB Fundraising

Did you know that donors in the United States give 35% of their gifts between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve? And 10% are given in the last 3 days of the year? We want to make sure that your ministry is well-positioned to receive some of those gifts.

Even if you have just finished your stewardship appeal, there are still donors in your congregation who are able and willing to make a special year-end gift. Their favorite nonprofit organizations are soliciting those year-end gifts. Many donors don't even think about their church at the end of the year because no effort has been made to invite those gifts.

The fundamental steps of informing, inspiring, inviting, and thanking still apply. So, when inviting end-of-year gifts, make sure that you are specific as possible about how those gifts will be used. Simply stating that "end-of-year gifts will be used to avoid a deficit this year" inspires no one. Highlighting a specific ministry that is changing people's lives for the better is far more inspirational and will excite your donors to be more generous.

At year's end, there are several special ways that donors choose to give. Taking time and making the effort to remind your donors through your general communication channels, of these methods can make a significant difference in the ministry of your church. These include:

- Giving a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), a form of gift that is given in place of the donor's required minimum distribution from their IRA. These donors must be 70 ½ years or older and can give up to \$100,000 per person annually in this manner.
- Some donors may wish to give gifts of stock to your church. Make sure that your congregation has a plan in place to receive stock and to sell it as soon as possible.
- Other reminders are best delivered with directed personal communication, such as a letter or email.
- Invite your donors to complete their gift intents from last year on a timely basis, or to let the church office know if they will be unable to do so.
- Invite those who have given nothing to the church throughout the year to consider making a special year-end gift, again focused on a specific ministry.

Bringing these opportunities for additional generosity to the forefront will ensure that your ministry ends 2022 in a position of strength and ready to launch into an even better 2023.

Paul Marsh, CFRE is a consultant with GSB Fundraising and serves the Western North Dakota Synod as a stewardship resource person along with the Rev. Peter Reuss. Paul and Pete's contact information may be found on the Western North Dakota Synod's website.



Belfield Lutheran Church Daglum Lutheran Church Medora Lutheran Church

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December 2022

TO:



