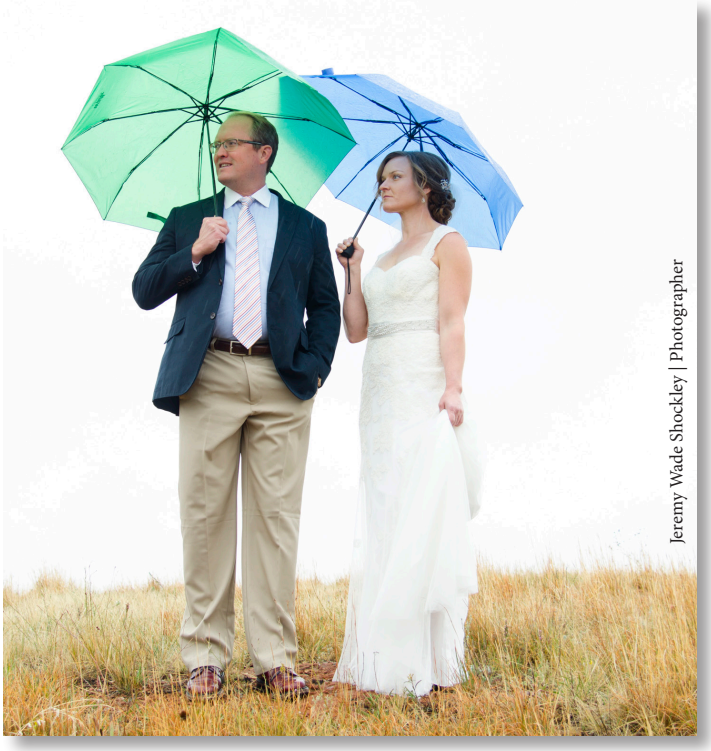
BELFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH • DAGLUM LUTHERAN CHURCH • MEDORA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parish Visitor

OCTOBER 2017 VOLUME 14, ISSUE 9

Unexpected Blessings!



Jeremy Wade Shockley | Photographer

Thank God for the rain! What a joy it was to see and hear the rain at midnight Friday after months of hot, dry weather! Isn't it amazing how quickly the earth responds? Parched pastures with crunchy grass softened as new shoots emerged. All creation and God's creatures were made to reflect the Presence and Glory of God! Sometimes that's hard to see, especially in a drought or flood. But God often shows up when things go the opposite of the way we expect.

Saturday, I saw the Spirit of God at work in what could have been a challenging situation. A bride and groom's hope for a simple outdoor wedding went down the canyon as temperatures and rain drops fell. Even hardy outdoor lovers like Eve Suchy and Chris Dopson would want to spare their family and friends the chill of sitting in a September rain.

Eve was raised on a Morton County ranch. Both her mom, Linda, and dad Chuck were raised on family ranches. They know and sing about the fragility of farm and ranch life. Chuck had sung to drought stricken farmers and ranchers a week earlier at Reeder. But what dad would want his daughter's hope for short, simple outdoor wedding ceremony to be rained out, even if his livelihood depended on rain?

Eve and Chris are faithful Christians. They knew that life doesn't always go the way you want. "Well, lets just see what happens," said non-anxious Eve when we talked a week earlier about options should it rain. "We'll prepare as though we can be outside," added Chris. His close friends Greg and Jeremy built a wedding arch to be assembled upon arrival from Colorado. It would frame the view where Elliot and Sodie had said "I do" weeks earlier.

(See "Unexpected", continued on page 2.)

October Worship Schedule

1	8:30am	Worship & Coffee - Medora
	10:00am	Worship & Coffee - Belfield
	11:45am	Worship & Dinner - Daglum
	4:30pm	Belfield Fall Dinner - St. Bernard's
8	8:30am	Worship & Coffee - Medora
	10:00am	Worship & Coffee - Belfield
	11:45am	Worship & Dinner - Daglum Followed by Fall Dinner
15	8:30am	Worship & Coffee - Medora
	10:00am	Worship & Coffee - Belfield
22	8:30am	Worship & Coffee - Medora
	10:00am	Worship & Coffee - Belfield
29	8:30am	Worship & Coffee - Medora
	10:00am	Worship & Coffee - Belfield

Also on the 29th at 11:00am (CDT) - Reformation Festival Worship - Bismarck Event Center (see pg. 3)

ROGER DIETERLE, PASTOR • LYNN PETERSON, SECRETARY • THERESA HOWIE, EDITOR
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("Unexpected" from page 1)

Chuck had "killed the fatted calf." He saved the best steaks to feed the twenty guests. Linda and other family members and friends brought fresh garden vegetables and other delicacies. Chuck had baked fresh sourdough bread at home early that day. Each guest had done something to make the day special and honor their loved ones.

The decision was made Saturday morning. It would be too cold and wet to sit outside at 2:30 p.m. even for a short ceremony. The wedding party went to work. They modeled Christian teamwork. They carefully emptied my 12x 24' living, dining room and kitchen of items not needed in a wedding chapel. Twenty-four small covered folding chairs neatly faced the carefully decorated arch. Rain continued to fall. West River Road was soupy. But God blessed the day. The music was outstanding. The small assembly broke into spontaneous four part harmony on "Beautiful Savior" and "How Great Thou Art." We were reminded that even on gray, rainy days and less than ideal situations we can bask in the warmth of Jesus' presence.

Officiating Pastor Renée Splichal Larson of Heart River Lutheran in Mandan spoke words of hope and joy. God's ever present mercy uphold and empowers us. The ceremony was inspiring. "We are Marching in the Light of God" was a joyous finale.

Family members then carried in my dining room table and two deck tables while the bride and groom took pictures. A friend spontaneously began grilling steak and chicken. Salads came together at the hands of others. Everyone did something and respectfully helped others.

Soon all guests were seated at tables and well fed in the same space they'd witnessed the vows. Dad Chuck surprised many when he brought out his accordion to provide festive music. "The Butterfly" and other folk dances transformed my kitchen into a place of joy. Everyone had fun listening or dancing. But Chuck and Linda had animals to tend at home and miles to drive. Goodbyes were said and I wondered if the music was over.

First Chris' uncle Warren Dopson played and sang with his guitar. Then Chris' Uncle John rose to the occasion. "The Entertainer" (theme song from *The Sting*) and other songs descended from my loft piano. The self taught "play by ear" musician wowed all of us with his spontaneous songs of joy and celebration. What a great ending for a day that could have been gloomy. God had gathered a small group of people together in less than desirable conditions. What unfolded was far better than any of us could have planned! Eve and Chris knew what God was doing. They trusted God, gave up control, and set the stage for their family and friends to bless them in ways none of us could have imagined .

What a reminder to always remain faithful to God even in the most challenging times and see what God does with the gifts we share as we honor God and work together with joy!

Our parish has been blessed in recent years. New families, new income, good cattle prices and crops have given us great financial resources. That has changed. The drought, depressed oil economy and lower agricultural prices reduce incomes while costs keep rising. That makes our lives more challenging. Carmen Waldo, our parish treasurer has noted a significant drop in offerings. How do we as Lutherans talk about financial issues?

500 years ago this month Martin Luther talked about money. He opposed the idea that people could use money to buy salvation. He reminded us that the Bible says salvation is a free gift given to us through faith in Jesus Christ. We are unable to buy salvation. It is always a free gift given to us by God through faith in Christ. So Lutherans sometimes fail to talk openly about money to avoid feelings of guilt.

How ARE we to respond to God's free gift of salvation? Luther says we are to live lives of gratitude to God for all that God has done and thank, praise, serve and obey God! That includes sharing our financial resources. Some say "we're too quiet and apologetic about financial matters." They are probably right! We show our love of God by being generous and supportive of God's work especially in challenging times as did Eve's and Chris' families in their time of need. We give, not in order to gain God's love, but because we love God.

I thank God for each of you who give generously of your finances and time as you're able. I invite those of you who think "someone else" can give to give and be surprised by the good feelings that will come to you and others. Give because you love God, as Chris and Eve's families gave out of love for them.

You will be surprised when you see what God does with even humble efforts.

Thank you, for the ways you show your love and gratitude for all God's gifts to you.

Pastor Roger

Obituary of Someone Else

I know that all of you were saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our church's most valuable members -- Someone Else.

Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years, and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than the normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. Someone Else can work with that group. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's lips, "Let Someone Else do it." It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest givers in the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed that Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing super-human, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? Remember, we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

- Author Unknown -

Belfield Lutheran Altar Guild

Our thanks to Rhonda Tooley and Joyce Reisenauer for serving on Altar Guild in September.

Serving in October:
Shelly Dukart and Barb Newton

Serving in November:
Paulette Dorval and Marina Redig

Join the Altar Guild! See Jean Franklin for details and to take your place on our Altar Guild calendar.

In our ongoing prayers...

- **Mike Tucker's father,** in need of a heart transplant.
- **Jory Boltz** recovering from surgery at home.
- **George Hegge** dealing with pacemaker adjustments.
- **Lynne Nalin** having heart surgery.
- **Lori Weisenberger**, daughter of Lants and Barbara Hurt, dealing with effects of traumatic brain injury after car accident in 2015. Unable to return to work.
- **Marilyn Oyhus** in therapy at St. Luke's.
- **Noel Nichols**

With sympathy to...

- Don and Connie Fulton and family in the loss of Don's father **Buzz**, who passed away August 18. His funeral was held August 24, in Beach.

Help keep our prayer list current. Names are removed after 3 months unless requested to remain. To add a loved one to the prayer list for next month's issue, please send their name to Theresa Howie at belfieldlutheran@gmail.com or fill out a prayer request slip during worship and place it in the offering basket.

Synod Worship Service

Sunday October 29, 2017 - 11 am
Bismarck Civic Center

Set to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, Rev. Mark Narum says this is a *once in a lifetime event* for all of us. Included in the day will be choirs and bells performing glorious music. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Many in the choir are planning to attend the service in Bismarck. If you are interested in attending, let Jean Franklin know.

Belfield Lutheran hopes to have live streaming of the service that day.

Confirmation!

Third year confirmation began September 20th and meet each Wednesday at 5:30. Second and first year students will begin in November after Confirmation Sunday.

Confirmation classes are held in the Fellowship Hall at Belfield Lutheran Church. Please contact Pastor Roger for more information - belfieldlutheran@gmail.com

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Hey Kids!
Wanna have fun and learn about God?
Come to Sunday School every Sunday at 9:15am at BLC!

New Members Welcome!

Are you interested in joining our congregation? We plan to receive new members at Belfield Lutheran in November. Talk to Pastor Roger any Sunday after worship, or email the church office at belfieldlutheran@gmail.com. A new members class will begin in the near future. We look forward to welcoming you!

Luther League:
Attention Youth & Parents!

Confirmation age and up will be meeting at 7:00pm on October 4th at Belfield Lutheran Church. See Jordan Bloomgren, Craig McLaughlin or Marina Redig for more information.

It's Time for Choir!

The Belfield Lutheran Church choir has begun a new season! Rehearsals are every Wednesday at 7:00pm, in the BLC Sanctuary. The choir will present songs of worship on various Sunday mornings through Spring 2018. We'll also make a trip to Medora to join other area choirs for a fun and meaningful Christmas concert.

Voices are needed! Make new friends and enjoy laughter and fellowship as you serve the Lord with your musical ability.

If you are interested in joining choir, please contact Jean Franklin in person or email the church office - belfieldlutheran@gmail.com.

It's "Fall Dinner" Time!

Belfield will host its Fall Dinner, October 1. Daglum's Fall Dinner will be held October 8. Mark your calendar now so you don't miss a morsel!

A Message from the Council Treasurer

Most of us have probably heard the expression "we don't know what we don't know." If there's something we don't know, but someone else does, then the person that does know may have the responsibility of letting those that don't, know.

So, I feel compelled to let you know that when it comes to church finances, expenses are up and giving is down. This is a trend that has been happening for a while, but we are beginning to approach a point where we may have to borrow against our Thrivent investment account should we have a major financial need (think roof repair). Hopefully, we'll never reach that point, but if the current trend continues, we may be there within 6 months.

The Belfield Council has discussed ideas to help resolve this pending problem. One avenue we are investigating is an automatic deposit option for tithes and offerings. So, if you can't be in church any given Sunday, your financial giving can still make it to the church treasury. More information will be distributed about the auto-pay options as it becomes available. When you see the information, please consider enrolling.

Hurricane Relief - October 15th

Want to support Hurricane Relief? Shirley Dykshorn from Lutheran Disaster Response will speak at worship Sunday, October 15. She will help us know what we can do together through this crisis ministry of Lutheran Social Services and give us opportunities to give, should you choose to.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galations 6:2

Save the Date!

The 15th Annual
Extravaganza Soup Luncheon and Auction
February 25, 2018
St Bernard's Parish Center, Belfield

Watch your church bulletins and upcoming issues of the Parish Visitor for more information on this popular event. Trust us-you don't want to miss it!

TIME TO MOW!

Did you know that it's the people of our parish who minister with hospitality and mow the church grounds each week? It's true... and there's room for you! Take a look at our mowing schedule below. To claim your weekend, please see Judy Kubischta or call her at (701) 590-1677.

October Mowing Schedule
6th - Available
13th - Available
20th - Carmen Waldo
27th - Damon Ross Family

Our mowing season comes to an end at the end of this month. THANK YOU to all who helped this year. Your gift to the church and community is so very appreciated.

Thank you, Judy, for your willingness to serve in finding those who would mow and organizing the schedule.

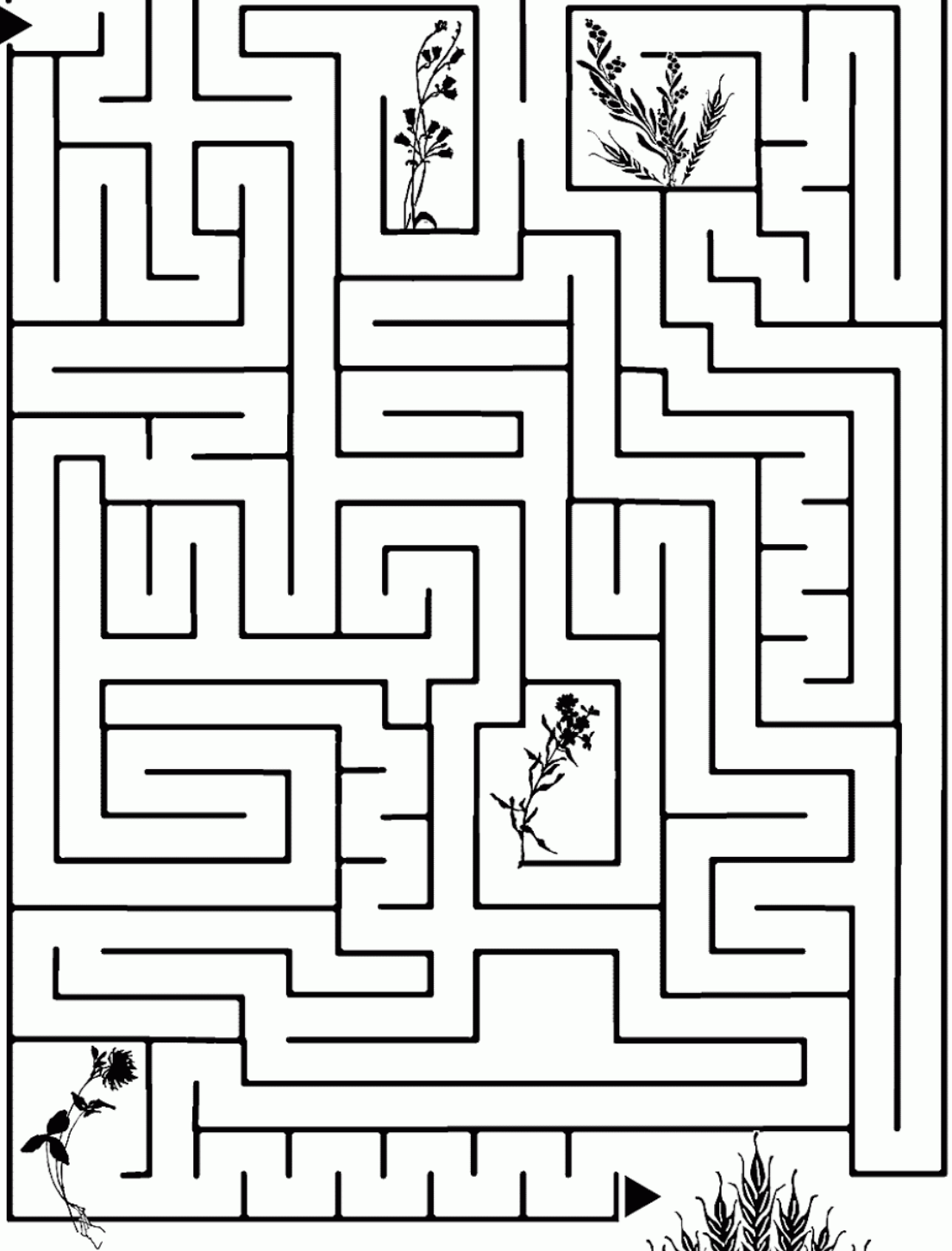
Hey Kids! Here's a page just for you!

parable

The Wheat and the Weeds

Help the owner of the field separate the wheat from the weeds.

START



Jesus said that the Kingdom of God was like a man who sowed his field with quality wheat seed. While he was sleeping his enemy crept in and sowed weeds. Rather than risk hurting the wheat he chose to let them grow together until harvest time. Then the reapers gathered the weeds to be burned and gathered the wheat into the barn.

maxiPraise © 2002

Gospel Seeds - October 2017

A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff

A Time to Say Thank-You…

Fall is upon us again – cooler temperatures, leaves turning and dew on the grass in the morning. With the changing season comes a time to say thanks to our Rostered Leaders both Pastors and Deacons. I am thankful for these servants who teach of God's love and grace, challenge us to connect the Jesus story with our daily lives and walk with us in times of great joy and deep grief.

I hope that you will take a moment to thank these servants as well. Let them know they are in your prayers.

Dishin' With the Bish…

The last week of October Synod Staff are heading on the road for our Annual "Dishin' with the Bish". You are invited to make your way to one of these gatherings for a free meal, cooked and served by Synod Staff. We will eat together, share some time in Bible Study, talk about ministry and engage your questions.

The meal is served from 5:30pm to 6:15pm. Our Bible Study and Conversation Time starts at 6:15. We promise to wrap up no later than 7:30PM

Here is our schedule:
Monday, October 23 – Lebanon Lutheran, Amidon
Tuesday, October 24 – Bethlehem Lutheran, Ross
Wednesday, October 25 – First, Fessenden
Thursday, October 26 – Trinity, Steele

We look forward to hosting you and enjoying some Christ centered conversation with you all.

Thank-You Visits…

Ministry does not happen alone, Christ calls us to be partners together. With that in mind Synod Staff are making 4 stop to share coffee and conversation with people. Come and have a cup of coffee and some Kuchen. All events start at 10:00AM and are very informal.

Tuesday, October 24 – First, Watford City
Wednesday, October 25 -Christ, Minot
Thursday, October 26 – Bethany, Rugby
Friday, October 27 – Zion, Beulah

We look forward to seeing you at one of these events.

Synod Council Meets…

September 15 and 16 the Western North Dakota Synod Council met at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Bismarck. Below are some of the issues which came before your synod council.

-Friday evening council was joined by Lorraine Davis, Executive Director of the Native American Development Center, Scott Davis, Director ND Indian Affairs Commission and Dr. Leander McDonald, President of United Tribes Technical College. These three guests helped us engage conversation around the question: How can the church be a partner in building bridges between native and non-native people.
-Spent time in conversation around open congregational calls in the synod and creative ways ministry is being provided across the synod
-Talked about the marks of a Vital Congregation and how leaders have the ability to impact congregational vitality
-Talked about a special candidate within our synod that staff are seeking an internship site for
-Walked through plans for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Worship service planned for October 29th at the Bismarck Event Center
-Agreed to bring an amendment to the synod constitution which would add another seat on synod council for a person of color
-Approved a Continuing Resolution on how the Synod's Nominating Committee will seek candidates for Conference Deans and Conference Secretaries
-Appointed Rev. Chrstina Martin Heart River Conference Dean, Rev. Kathleen Nygard, Turtle Mountain Conference Dean, Rev. Carter Hill Western Prairie Conference Dean and Rev. Nicole Martin and Rev. David Maxfield as Upper Missouri Co-Conference Deans

Reformation 500 Worship…

All are welcomed to a Festival Worship Service with Holy Communion on October 29, 2017 at the Bismarck Event Center. The worship service begins at 11:00am – however you are invited to come early for excellent prelude music.

Coffee will be served before and after worship. If you are unable to be present, the worship will be televised live on BEK's statewide network.

Rev. Mark Narum
Serving as Bishop of the
Western North Dakota Synod

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Printed at The Print Shop, Lemmon, S.D.

Special thanks go to the people of Belfield and Medora Lutheran for their hand assembly of each edition.

Contributions:
Have an article, report, photo or drawing that might be enjoyed by our readership? Contributions are welcome, and will be used as space permits. Please send your submission to belfieldlutheran@gmail.com. Be sure to include contact information so we can reach you with questions.

Church Bulletin Submissions:
If you have announcements or prayer requests for the weekly church bulletin, please call or email Lynn Peterson by Wednesday night. Contact info for Lynn can be found in staff listing above.

Our thanks to
Wes & Dorothy Schuhrke
for their sponsorship
of this issue of the
Parish Visitor
to recognize and honor
Dick & Sharlene Schuhrke
for their loving parenting
and faithful guidance of the
beloved children entrusted
to their care.

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Please send your newsletter sponsorship contribution to:

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Belfield, ND 58622

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 9:15 AM-Belfield SS 10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee 11:45 AM-Daglum-dinner 4:30-8:00 PM-Belfield Fall Dinner at St. B's	2	3 1:15 PM Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM-AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	4 5:30 PM-Confirmation 3rd Year Students 7:00 PM –Belfield Choir 7:00 PM-Belfield Jr. & Sr Youth and Parents Meet	5	6 Belfield WELCA Retreat through Sunday	7 10:30 AM-PUPPET SHOW At Community Center 3:30 PM-PUPPET SHOW At Community Center
8 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 9:15 AM Belfield SS 10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee 11:45 AM-Daglum with Fall Dinner to follow	9	10 1:15 PM Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM-AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	11 5:30 PM-Confirmation 3rd Year Students 7:00 PM –Belfield Choir	12	13	14
15 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 9:15 AM-Belfield SS 10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee 1:30-6:00 PM-"Embracing Stewardship" At St. John's Lutheran	16	17 1:15 PM. Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM-AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	18 5:30 PM-Confirmation 3rd Year Students 7:00 PM –Belfield Choir	19	20 5:00 PM-Tooley/Rikowski Wedding Rehearsal at Belfield	21 4:00 PM-Tooley/Rikowski Wedding at Belfield 5:00 PM-Knutson Wedding at Medora
22 WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora Coffee 9:15 AM-Belfield SS 10:00 AM-Belfield coffee	23 6:00 PM-Belfield Council Meeting	24 1:15 PM. Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	25 7:00 PM –Belfield Choir	26	27 Third Year Confirmation Retreat at Badlands Ministries	28 Belfield Youth – "Trunk or Treat"
29 WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 9:15 AM-Belfield SS 10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee 11:00 AM-CDT Reformation Festival Worship at Bismarck Event Center	30	31 1:15 PM. Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran				

Pastor Roger will be studying October 13-17. In case of emergency call Pastor Ellery Dykeman at Peace Lutheran (483-1550) or (701) 495-3160

Sunday, November 4 – 10:00 AM Confirmation Sunday at Belfield

Belfield Lutheran Church
Daglum Lutheran Church
Medora Lutheran Church

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Parish Visitor
October 2017

To:

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