



Parish Visitor

DECEMBER 2017

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 11

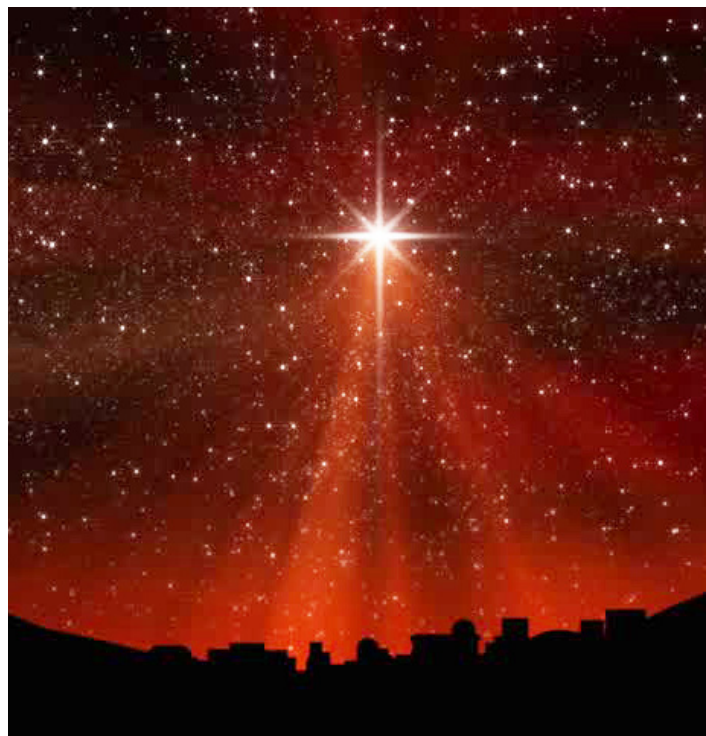
Like the star that led the wise men...

Have you seen them? Stars that shine on the darkest, coldest winter nights? Stars that are there, even when I can't see them? I'm always humbled, amazed and encouraged as I gaze to the stars...little ones, big ones, bright ones, falling stars. Stars remind me there is hope and that God is with us. Can there be too many stars? Can there be too much hope? Hope in this world seems to be in short supply. And yet it's here! It keeps showing up! It keeps showing up in the darkest times! In the strangest places. Where? Through ordinary people, who step out of their comfort zone to be generous and or do something for others.

Who or what gives you encouragement when your flame is weak? Who does God use to keep you going?

As I was preparing for my 5th funeral in 4 weeks, I called a partner in Christ about a church matter. As I thought about the challenges facing this faithful Christian, I realized that this person models faithful, non-complaining perseverance and generosity that only God can give. I thanked them for being a star in world that needs more. I realized God would see me through a difficult funeral.

I saw God's light shine in the midst of darkness through Julie Newton and her family as they walked together in the soul-searching time of loss of her niece Kelcee. "Pastor Roger, I have bad news, Kelcee, my niece died. Will you talk to her mother, my sister?" asked Julie Newton. (cont. on page 2)



December Worship Schedule

- | | | |
|----|---------|--|
| 3 | 8:30am | Worship & Coffee - Medora |
| | 10:00am | Worship & Coffee - Belfield |
| | 11:45am | Worship & Dinner - Daglum |
| 10 | 8:30am | Worship & Coffee - Medora |
| | 10:00am | Worship & Coffee - Belfield |
| 17 | 8:30am | Worship & Coffee - Medora |
| | 10:00am | Worship & Coffee - Belfield |
| | 11:45am | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Daglum |
| 24 | 8:30am | Worship & Coffee - Medora |
| | 10:00am | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Belfield |
| | 4:00pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Medora |

(from page 1)

How could I say no? “Sure”, I said, thinking, “what do you say to this young widow who lost her only daughter at age 34— leaving two children without a mother?” Kind of made me stop dead in my tracks and remember the fragility of life. God was at work. “I’m sorry,” came out. Nothing else was needed. God guided Julie and Pam in their darkest moment; “I just said ‘God keep leading me, and He has!’ ”, exclaimed Pam. Her smile was radiant and very convincing. I witnessed God’s presence in one whose spirit radiated joy in the midst of pain, and I was richly blessed.

I see church treasurers’ eyes brighten as they tell me of unexpected gifts they receive that will help us continue to carry out the ministries God has entrusted to us.

I saw stars step up and shine quietly as they worked together to set up for yet another funeral, providing lunches and fellowship for yet another family in their time of grief.

I saw a bright light shine after yet another long day setting up St. Bernard’s Parish Center “for the Lutherans.” Andy Prociv could be complaining, and wishing we Lutherans would use our own fellowship hall and stop coming over! Yet, Andy works tirelessly with joy, as he works for God. His radiant smile makes everyone who enter feel welcome and touched by God.

I saw God’s light shine brightly in a kind patient MD whose wife I later learned is battling cancer. I saw God’s light shine in a hospital cafeteria in a helpful, smiling cashier. I see stars shine in the eyes of children who are learning about Jesus in Sunday School. I see stars shine in the our senior high youth who are excited about monthly activities. I see stars shine in a visitor who asks a member, “Is this where the sinners sit?” as she comes late to worship and is greeted with a smile rather than a frown. And the list could go on...I look forward to seeing where you see stars reflecting the light of Christ.

Every day, someone is hurting in God’s beloved world. That’s the BAD news. Many feel alone and sad with no one to turn to. Sadly, the last place many would expect to find hope is in our churches. They expect judgment, criticism or suspicion when they

need warmth, acceptance, and solace, like each of us.

This month I invite you to think of the stars in your life— the people that give you, or model, Christian hope and encouragement. People that inspire rather than discourage you. I hope you’ll realize that they are all around you.

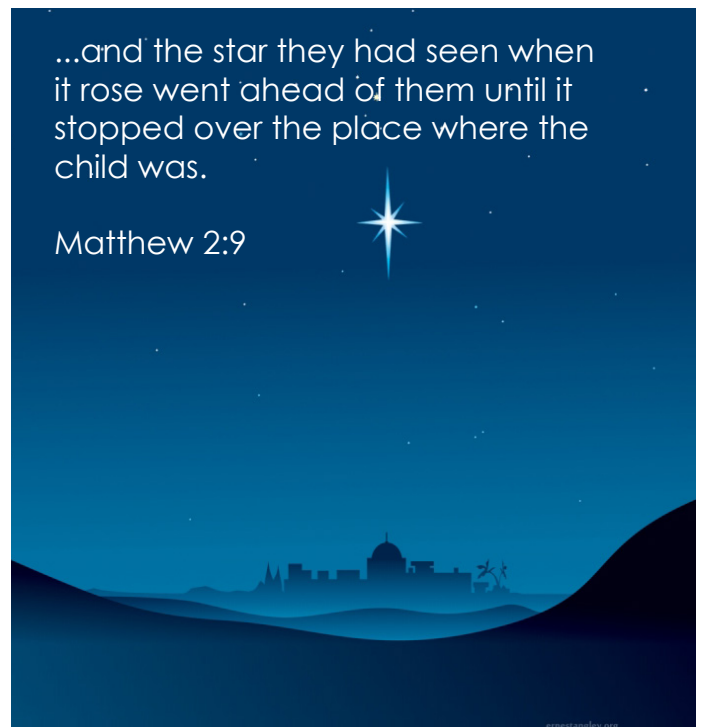
This Christmas season, let’s share the light of Christ with everyone by drawing attention to those stars God has brought into our lives. Every week, starting December 10th, you’ll find cut outs of ornaments on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Take time to write the name of one your life’s “stars” on the ornaments. Share how they shine God’s light in your life. Add a supplied ribbon to your ornament, and hang it on the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Let’s witness together the brilliant “stars” in our lives that make a difference in this world of darkness!

Like the star that led the wise men on that night before Christmas so long ago, may each of our congregations become bright constellations, helping all people in our world see that God who came to earth in Jesus still is here living in each of us! May we shine brightly and be a blessing!

Pastor Roger

...and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Matthew 2:9



We celebrate with...



• Erik and Mirya Laajala on the baptism of their son, **Easton Michael Laajala**, on November 5, 2017 at Medora Lutheran. His baptismal sponsors were Justin and Giesella Johnson. Maternal grandparents are Robin and Donovan O'Brien and Delwin Ordahl. Great grandparents are Bud and Laura Griffin and Elaine Ordahl. Great aunt is Julene Griffin. Easton was born April 28, 2017 in Bismarck.

• Amber and Rodney Hofstad on the birth of their son, **Brody Kash Hofstad**, on September 18, 2017 in Dickinson. Grandparents are Dennis & Joyce Reisenauer and Ray & Kim Hofstad. Big sister is Everlee.

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 belfield-lutheran@gmail.com or fill out a prayer request slip during worship and place it in the offering basket.



In our ongoing prayers...

- Mark Kasian recovering at home.
- Norvella Solberg in rehab in Fargo.
- 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.
- Barb Newton's sister, Mary
- Noel Nichols
- Allen Roller
- Kurt Ridl

With sympathy to...

• Sue Kadrmas, her family and friends on the passing of **Glen Kadrmas**, November 7, 2017, in Bullhead City, AZ. Glen's funeral was November 17, at Belfield Lutheran. Interment was at Belfield Lutheran Cemetery.



• Julie and Gary Newton, and family in the loss of their niece, **Kelcee Pavlicek**, daughter of Pam Pavlicek, on November 15 in Dickinson. Kelcee's service was held Monday, November 20, at Stevenson Funeral Home with Pastor Roger officiating. Interment was in Dickinson Cemetery.



• Sonny Thompson and family in the loss of his last surviving sister, Marcy Miller, of Audobon, MN, who passed away November 19th. Her service will be Saturday, November 24th in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Faith Stories

AS TOLD BY THIS YEAR'S CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Jerzi Lynn Kukowski

My faith story is in our God Jesus and what he represents. I believe in God and the story of God. I believe in our Lord's prayer and all that it says it represents. He died on the cross and sacrificed his son Jesus for our sins. I believe in God because he represents a new beginning for those who have done wrong and those who have been wronged by others. I thank my grandparents and parents for taking me to church and teaching me the ways of our church. I will serve God by going to church and teaching his ways to others and by praying to him when my times are tough.

Forgiveness allows everyone to have a new beginning in their lives and that is what our God does for us. At the beginning of each month we take a piece of Jesus. When given to us we are given a new chance to have less sins or none at all by following his ways and remembering the ways he had lived.

Jerzi Lynn Kukowski was born October 6, 2002 at St. Joseph's hospital in Dickinson to Heidi Ann and Joshua Paul Kukowski. She was baptized December 1, 2002 at Belfield Lutheran Church. Her baptismal sponsors were Juanita Knutson, Suzanne Schoenbeck, and A.J. Gerbig.

Jerzi's favorite Bible character is Jesus. Her favorite Bible story is Noah and the Ark. Her favorite Bible verse is Psalm 5:3: "In the morning, Lord you hear my voice. In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly." Jerzi's favorite hymns are "Borning Cry" and "On Eagle's Wings".

Carlee Josephine Hutzenbeler

My faith story is about my connection with God. I became a Christian when I was baptized at Belfield Lutheran Church. I feel most connected with God when I pray. I believe in Jesus because he forgives us for our sins. God sacrificed his only son Jesus so we could be forgiven. God is my Lord and Savior. He leads us in the right direction when we go wrong. God forgives me when I do wrong if I repent. My family grew up to love God so that is how they

taught me. They taught me to love and worship him even in the rough times when I don't have much faith. God loves everyone. He loves me even when I mess up. I plan to follow God as long as I live. I will continue to serve God by going to church and teaching others the ways of God.

Carlee Josephine Hutzenbeler was born April 17, 2003 to Corey Alen and Debra Lynn Hutzenbeler. She was baptized May 18, 2003, at Belfield Lutheran Church. Her sponsors were Tom Hutzenbiler and Sherrell Hutzenbiler.

Carlee's favorite Bible character is Jesus. Her favorite Bible story is the story of David and Goliath. Carlee's favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 18:13 "To answer before listening that is folly and shame." Her favorite hymn is "Borning Cry".

Paige Renee Jung

For the first three years of my life, I lived in Bismarck with my mom and my grandparents. My grandparents would take me to church almost every Sunday. In Sunday school they taught me stories from the Bible like Noah and the Ark, the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, etc. As I got older I went through some hard times and I barely had any friends. I kept praying to God for help but felt like it wasn't solving anything. Everything seemed hopeless and at times it felt like God would really wasn't watching me. Then one day of, a friend of mine said to me "God doesn't put us through things that we can't handle."

A few months after that, I went to a Bible Camp called Camp Metigoshe. I made so many new friends and I had so much fun but in the last day, I was sad to leave I didn't want it to end so soon. But that day I learned that I'm loved by many.

Paige Renee Jung was born March 13, 2003 in Bismarck. Her parents are Kristen Renee and Scott Michael Jung. Paige was baptized October 1, 2011 at House of Prayer Lutheran church in Bismarck. Her sponsors were Kaylon and Nicole Lewis.

Paige's favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." Her favorite hymn is "Jesus Loves Me!"



Children's Nativity Play December 17th

Our Sunday School
kids will present
the nativity story
during worship
at 10:00 a.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

This year will be a little different as we celebrate the birth of Christ together in candle lit worship on Christmas Eve.

Daglum Lutheran
December 17th at 11:45am

Belfield Lutheran
December 24th at 10:00am

Medora
December 24th at 4:00pm



Belfield Lutheran Altar Guild

Our thanks to Paulette Dorval and Marina Redig for serving on Altar Guild in November.

Serving in December:
Carmen Waldo, Kristen Jung and Sue Willett

Serving in January:
Lynelle Smith and Doris Urban

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

Special Note: A December edition of Gospel Seeds, the newsletter from Bishop Mark Narum of the Western North Dakota Synod, was not available at the time of this publication. Watch for more Gospel Seeds in 2018.



Hear the Choir!

The Belfield Lutheran Church Choir invites you to attend the annual festivities at 1:00 on December 9th at the Badlands Ministries Bible Camp in Medora. Our choir will join other area musical groups for the fun and meaningful Christmas Choir & Hymn Sing.

Then, on Sunday, December 17th, the choir will present a selection of Christmas music during the morning worship service.

Interested in joining choir? Voices are needed! Make new friends and enjoy laughter and fellowship as you serve the Lord with your musical ability. Please contact Jean Franklin in person or email the church office - belfieldlutheran@gmail.com.



JOIN THE LADIES OF WELCA
AS WE DECORATE THE
BELFIELD LUTHERAN CHRISTMAS TREE
DECEMBER 3rd
AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

ONCE THE TREE IS READY FOR
THE SEASON, THOSE INTERESTED
ARE INVITED TO MEET AT
TRAPPER'S KETTLE
FOR LUNCH* AND FELLOWSHIP.

*Please note that we'll each be responsible
for the cost of our own meal.

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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
Roger & Berne Kiwimagi
for their sponsorship
of this issue of the
Parish Visitor
in memory of
Bobbie Kiwimagi
and
Lindsay Davis*

Be a Sponsor!

The Parish Visitor is made possible by the generous financial contributions of monthly sponsors and those of you who send gifts as you are able.

Newsletter sponsorship gifts of any size are welcome and help lower our publishing fee.

We welcome returning sponsors. You've helped us to consistently send the Parish Visitor to 400 families. We invite readers to send any size gift you can afford - be it a contributing gift to help keep costs down or a full sponsorship.

Please send your newsletter sponsorship contribution to:

Parish Visitor
Box 416
Belfield, ND 58622

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Daglum WELCA Christmas Party
3 COMMUNION WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 9:15 AM-Belfield SS 10:00 AM-Belfield -coffee 11:45 AM-Daglum-dinner 2:00 PM-Medora Council Meeting	4	5 1:15 PM. Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	6 5:30 PM-Confirmation Hope Ridl serving 7:00 PM Belfield Choir	7	8	9 1:00 PM—Christmas Choir Sing at Badlands Ministries
10 WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 9:15 AM-Belfield SS 10:00AM—Belfield-coffee	11	12 1:15 PM. Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	13 5:30 PM - Confirmation Joey & McKayla serve 7:00 PM Belfield Choir	14	15 6:00 PM-Medora Dinner and Christmas Story January Parish Visitor Deadline	16
17 WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 9:15 AM-Belfield SS 10:00 AM-Belfield SS and Choir Christmas Concert 11:45AM-Daglum Worship Christmas Eve Candlelight	18	19 1:15 PM. Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 6:00 PM Belfield Church Council Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	20 5:30 PM – Confirmation Jade, Jaylyn & Dreyden serve 7:00 PM Belfield Choir	21	22	23
24 WORSHIP 10:00 AM-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Belfield 4:00 PM-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service At Medora 31 WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee	25	26 8:00 PM AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	27	28	29	30

Belfield Lutheran Church
Daglum Lutheran Church
Medora Lutheran Church

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To:

Celebrate our Confirmation Students!
Read their Faith Stories on page 4 of this issue.



Jerzi Kukowski, Paige Jung and Carlee Hutzenbeler in their prayer shawls at the celebration of their confirmation in November.