

January 2024

Volume 21 Issue 1

Parish Visitor

Belfield Lutheran Church · Daglum Lutheran Church · Medora Lutheran Church

From the Pastor—Happy New Year!

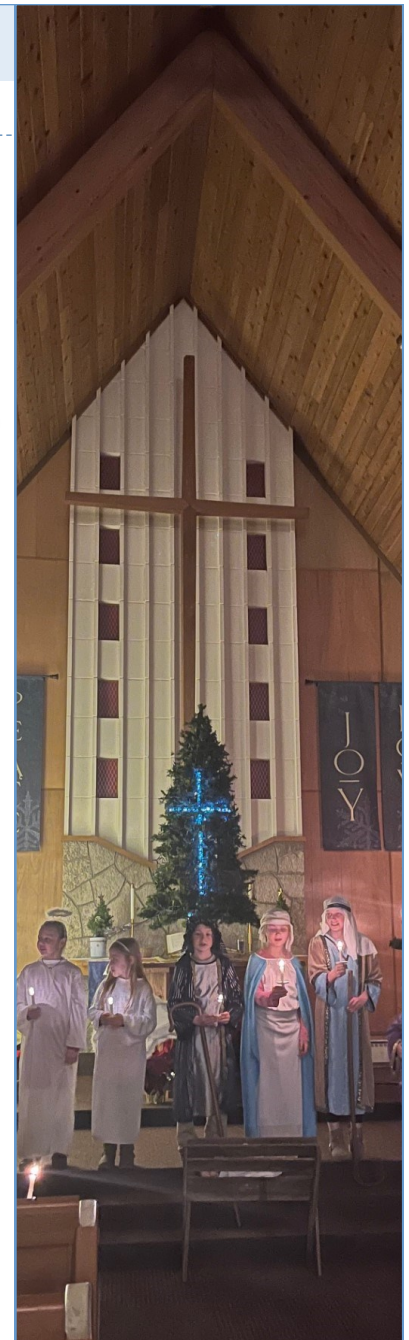
Happy New Year! The new year is a time for setting new goals and celebrating the accomplishments of the last year. When called to serve this parish, I was asked to do the following:

1. Become acquainted with the members of Belfield, Daglum & Medora, encouraging them to become active participants in our Christian journey together.
2. Acknowledge, raise up, and utilize members' talents and abilities. Be a visible pastoral presence in the Belfield, Daglum & Medora communities.
3. Welcome members of all ages, meet with them where they are in their faith journey and guide them in their personal relationship with God, especially the youth!
4. Coordinate and lead the pastoral care ministries of the three congregations.
5. Work with members and the councils to build up attendance and to restore relationships with members.

I have also been encouraged to participate in Synod activities and Badlands Ministries Bible Camp.

Here are some of the ways I have worked toward these goals:

1. Weekly phone calls, visits, and written notes, connecting with members and visitors and those who are unable to attend in person. I am limited on time with the responsibilities of three congregations, but I don't want anyone to feel unacquainted. Reach out anytime you'd like to visit!
2. I have tried to encourage each of you with the gifts I have observed and I know that we have had more of you volunteer in worship and in our community gatherings like the pavilion suppers, the extravaganza, and the pig roast. There are many areas of our parish where your assistance is needed, so if you don't know where you can contribute, please reach out and we'll figure out where we can use your gifts.
3. I am excited to connect with our youngest members and I have enjoyed leading confirmation, LYO, and monthly youth gatherings. The monthly study I started two years ago has dwindled to just a few participants, so we might change things up a bit this year. (Check out an opportunity to ask faith/theological questions later in the newsletter!)
4. I have actively called and visited our members in nursing home facilities, as well as others who have been ill or unable to worship with us in



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Sunday School Program
- Church Council Seats
- Santa Lucia Celebration
- Annual Meetings
- National Youth Gathering 2024

Annual Meetings: Parish 1/6; Medora 1/14; Daglum 1/21; Belfield 1/28/2024

In Memory of....



Funeral Services for Jeanie Vanvig, 80, of Dickinson, ND, were held on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at the Medora Community Center with

Pastor Dawn Busch officiating. Burial followed at the Medora Cemetery.

Jeanie passed away, Friday, November 24, 2023 at Hill Top Home of Comfort, Killdeer, ND.

- person. It has been a privilege for me to lead worship for St. Luke's and the Benedictine Living Facility on a regular basis.
5. It is still difficult to know who we are missing, but a couple people are working with me to try and get a directory together. It is exciting to note that we are printing more bulletins this year than we have in the previous years. Please continue to invite your friends and join us when ever you can. I would love to see more fellowship time after worship in Belfield! Medora has consistent coffee hours and Daglum has a potluck every time they meet! Come check them out!

As a Pastor in the Badlands Conference of the Western North Dakota Synod, I have been connected with other leaders in our conference by way of weekly text studies, round-robin Lenten services, and with other leaders in our Synod sharing Prairie Faith devotions. I continue to serve as Dean of our conference and Secretary to the Badlands Ministries board. I look forward to continuing this work alongside each of you! I couldn't do it without your gifts.

As a part of my call, these are the things which have been promised to me:

1. You are willing, energized, and excited congregations ready to do God's work! You will support my efforts toward effective ministry.

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
Isaiah 43:19*

In Memory of....



Larry Gene Hanson, 87 years young of South Heart, ND, passed away on December 16, 2023, after a brief illness with family by his side.

A Celebration of Life Service was held Thursday, December 21, 2023 at Belfield Lutheran Church, with Rev. Dawn Busch officiating. Military Honors were be provided by the Belfield American Legion William C. Blair Post 144. Inurnment followed at the Belfield Lutheran Cemetery.



2. You will lend your time and diverse talents to aid my efforts.
3. You will maintain and grow your commitment to attendance, inviting and encouraging others to attend, and participate in worship and service.
4. You will continue your efforts toward relationship building, increasing the strength of your community and support the ministry of our parish and pastor.

It is my prayer that we will continue to engage in ministry together as individuals, as congregations, and as a parish. Please communicate with me in whatever way works for you (phone call, text, email, or just stop in), and remember that you are people God has called together for such a time as this. Let us give thanks and praise to God for one another!

+ *Pastor Dawn Busch*

FAITH *Conversations*

Let's have conversations about Bible Stories and how we experience God in our lives.

Join us in person or online for "Faith Conversations"

Classes are held the 4th Monday of each month.

This months class will be January 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Belfield Lutheran Church
Zoom is an available option—please contact Pastor Dawn if you need to attend the class via zoom.

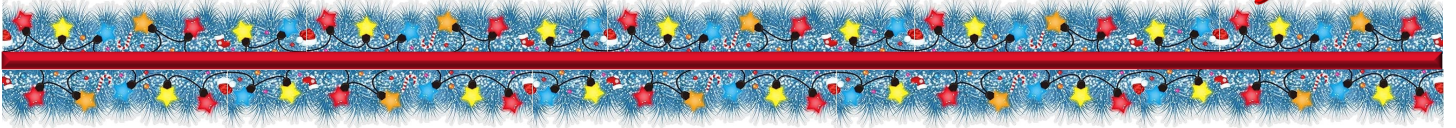
Please submit your questions to Pastor Dawn by the 15th of each month and she will let you know what topics will be covered each month.

January

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year	2 3:30 pm – Pastor’s Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	3 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	4 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	5	6 11:00 am – Parish Annual Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran
7 Worship 8:30 am – Medora 9:00 am – Sunday School 9:00 am – Choir Practice 10:00 am – Belfield 11:45 am – Daglum 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle’s Please RSVP	8	9 3:30 pm – Pastor’s Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	10 5:30 pm – Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	11 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	12	13
14 Worship 8:30 am – Medora 9:00 am – Sunday School 9:00 am – Choir Practice 9:45 am – Medora Annual Meeting 10:00 am – Belfield 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle’s Please RSVP	15 6:30 pm – Belfield Council Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	16 3:30 pm – Pastor’s Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	17 5:30 pm – Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran 6:30 pm – Youth Group @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	18 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	19	20
21 Worship 8:30 am – Medora 9:00 am – Sunday School 9:00 am – Choir Practice 10:00 am – Belfield 11:45 am – Daglum 12:45 pm – Daglum Annual Meeting 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle’s Please RSVP	22 7:00 pm – Faith Conversations @ Belfield Lutheran	23 3:30 pm – Pastor’s Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	24 5:30 pm – Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	25 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	26	27
28 Worship 8:30 am – Medora 9:00 am – Sunday School 9:00 am – Choir Practice 10:00 am – Belfield 11:15 am – Belfield Annual Meeting 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle’s Please RSVP	29	30 3:30 pm – Pastor’s Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	31 5:30 pm – Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran			

2023 Sunday School Christmas Program



Thank you to our Sunday School Children and their teachers for putting on a beautiful program this year. Thank you to the parents for encouraging and directing your children to be a part of this special program. The message of Jesus' Birth and his continuous love are worth celebrating every day!





Santa Lucia Celebration 2023

A Celebration held at Belfield Lutheran Church on December 17th, 2023.

Thank you to Bailey Ross, Ava Reddig, Camree Kling, Maci Wanner and Natalie Layton for celebrating as Saint Lucia.

Today we recognize and celebrate the life and service of St. Lucia and some of you may wonder “Why”

Belfield Lutheran Church began as early as 1883. Rev Norby traveled about 95 miles to hold a service now and then. At the time Norby saw there weren't enough people to establish a church. He came back in 1889, when there was and did occasional services. Services were also held in Norwegian households along Norwegian Creek southeast of Belfield. At a meeting on March 4, 1907, settlers organized an official congregation which was called the Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. There were 39 charter members. The first church building was built in 1909 when the first American born Lutheran minister, the Rev. Henry Thorpe started having services in English. Morning services were done in Norwegian and afternoon services were held in English. In 1963 the current structure was built.

So now you know – we celebrate Saint Lucia here at Belfield Lutheran church in honor of our Scandinavian heritage.

Santa Lucia (Saint Lucy), whose name Lucia refers to “light”, is a Catholic saint who was born in Syracuse, Sicily, in 283 AD and was martyred at the age of 20. At a time of Christian persecution, Lucia vowed at a young age to live her life in the service of Christ. According to legend, Lucia brought food and aid to Christians hiding in the Roman catacombs, wearing a candle lit wreath on her head to light her way and have her hands free to carry as much food as possible. Though she lived a considerably short life, she is still celebrated in different parts of the world almost two thousand years later, particularly in Sweden. There is speculation that stories of Lucia's brave faith were brought to Sweden by traders and even by Vikings after their journeys to Southern Europe. It is believed that Lucia and her feast day were adopted as a bearer of light at the beginning of the dark, cold Swedish winter. Her feast day, which coincided with the shortest day of the year, is widely celebrated as a festival of light. Falling within the Advent season, Saint Lucy's Day is viewed as a precursor of Christmastide, pointing to the arrival of the Light of Christ on Christmas Day.

Today's Lucia celebrations involve the oldest daughter of the family dressing in a long white robe with a red sash around her waist, along with a crown of fresh greens and lit candles worn upon her head. The young lady rises before the rest of the family and serves them traditional Lussekatter (Lucia buns), ginger cookies, and coffee. In many villages and towns across Sweden, there are Lucia processions and concerts and the celebrations signify the beginning of the Christmas season.



It has been said that we should think of St. Lucia Day as a stopping point in a busy season, a pause, a time to remind ourselves that the coming of Christmas is a celebration of the spirit. As Christians, we are called to not only walk in the light, but be the light for others. We are to be a beacon of hope and truth in a world that is dark and full of despair. When we let our light shine, we are not only glorifying God, but also inspiring others to do the same.



UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETINGS 2024—CHURCH MATTERS

Parish Annual Meeting - January 6 11:00 a.m. at Belfield Lutheran Church

Medora Annual Meeting - January 14 After Worship

Daglum Annual Meeting - January 21 After Worship

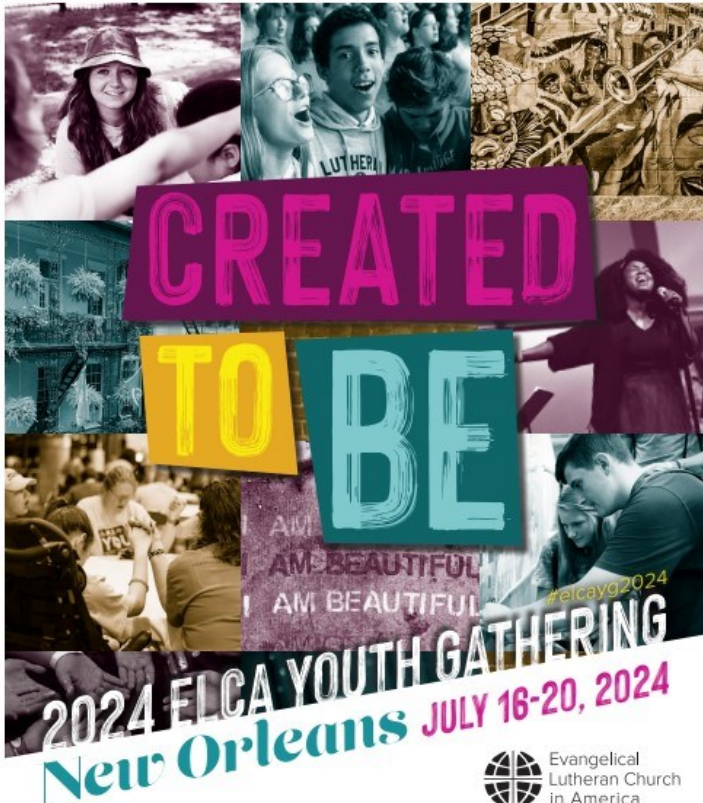
Belfield Annual Meeting - January 28 After Worship

The presence of voting members at annual meetings is greatly encouraged as we elect council members, discuss the future and make decisions on items important to the ongoing health of our parish.

ATTENTION!

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING—THIS SUMMER!

Please register with Pastor Dawn by 1/28/2024 in order to be eligible for the regular registration rates.



MYLE

Multicultural Youth Leadership Event of the ELCA
JULY 13-16, 2024

the tAble

An ELCA Gathering of Youth with Disabilities
JULY 13-16, 2024

Young Adult Gathering

A new ELCA Gathering for Young Adults
JULY 16-20, 2024

fb.com/youthgathering

@elcagathering

elca.org/gathering

Church Council:

Take Your Seat at the Table

Hello BDM Parish (that's you – Belfield, Daglum, and Medora members)!

Provided are some details about how our Council functions.

Belfield council usually meets on the third Monday of every month, with online options available. Meetings typically last about 1.5hrs. Medora council meets 3-4 times/year, and Daglum meets as needed. The Parish council consists of 3 people from each congregation and they meet 4 times per year to make decisions that affect the entire parish. The majority of the meetings are:

- a) reviewing church finances
- b) discussing new business which may require Council approval and
- c) going over old business (ie. Outstanding items for review)

Finance discussions might be around new projects the church is proposing like landscaping or building upgrades. Examples of new business would include projects like a sound system or other ideas for building relationships in community.

We start with devotions and finish with prayer. We always have an enjoyable time together and recognize the importance of our role in helping congregations and the parish fulfill the mission to which God calls us.

Please consider joining the Council in 2024!

Please speak to Craig McLaughlin for more information.

2023 Fundraising Updates:

Parsonage windows donations: \$11,459.46

BLC BuildUp fund received in 2023: \$3,115. (\$85,000 goal)

BLC BuildUp fund total 2021 2022 2023: \$68,631.33

Medora Landscaping Fund: taking donations

We are still seeking donations for these projects in 2024!

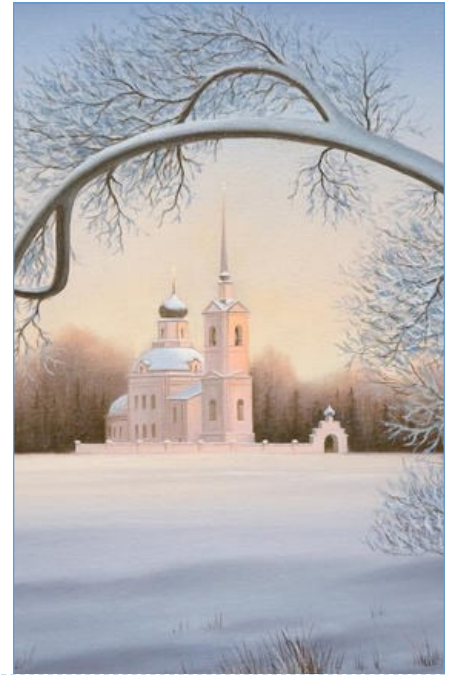
Belfield Lutheran Altar Guild

Thank you to **Amanda Johnson and Sara Bock**
for Serving in December

Serving in January

Doris Urban and Heidi Kukowski

Anyone Can Join the Altar Guild! See Jean Franklin for details.



“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
Jeremia 29:11

In our ongoing prayers...

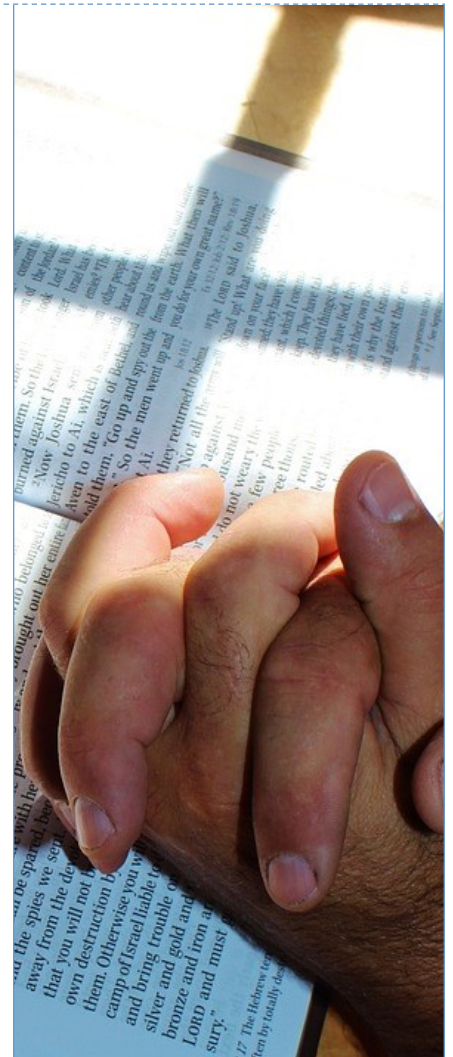
Remembering those in our prayers:

The family of Jean Vanvig, The family of Larry Hanson, The Durgin triplets, Shirley Olson, Bambi Mansfield, Barbara Hurt, Shelly Dukart, Brady Thompson, Sue Mosser, Sherry Solberg, Delores Roy, Todd Corneil, Cord Kessel, Cory Tuhy, Halle Blain, Glenda Buckman, Rosemary Walter, Kwirt Johnson, Mary Knotts, Lanie Nichols, Mark Trechock, Craig McLaughlin, Marilyn Oyhus, Bernadette Obrigewitch, Maurice Obrigewitch, JoAnne Suomala, Johnny Syminow, Lincoln Lee Johnson, Monica Hushka, Mindy O'Brien, Chandler Nichols, Bennette Mansfield,

those who have lost jobs, those seeking Sobriety, those struggling with infertility, all troops, including SPC Cole Potter, and their families and 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



Belfield Lutheran Church
Daglum Lutheran Church
Medora Lutheran Church

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January 2024

TO:



January 2024 Worship Schedule

7	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship Daglum Worship
14	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship Medora Annual Mtg
21	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship Daglum Worship Daglum Annual Mtg
28	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship Belfield Annual Mtg



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