

Parish Visitor

OCTOBER 2015

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 9

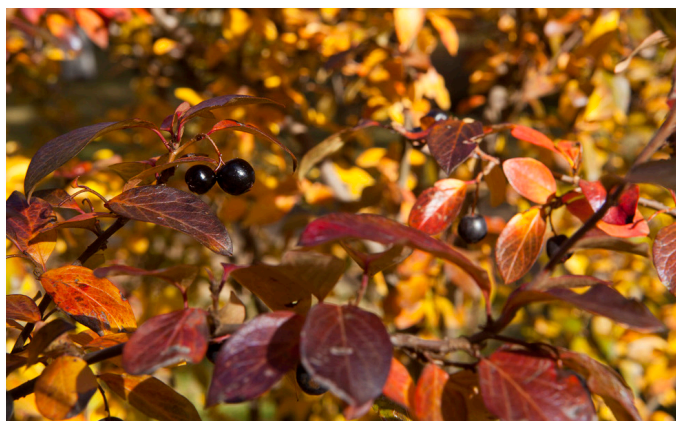
An Abundance of Grace Every Day!

We are a blessed people! God's grace is evident everywhere! Recent rains renewed the vibrant prairie grass. WND Pastors ate great steak grilled by Paul Douglas at the Sunday barbecue, plus wonderful salads prepared by Bishop Mark and the Synod staff. The meal was a feast "fit for kings and queens."

Our Synod staff modeled servant leadership as we kicked off the annual Pastor's Conference at Badlands Ministries. Young families with small children abounded. I was moved to tears of joy by the beauty and spirit present as we worshipped and communed behind Bethlehem while gazing at the cross on the butte. God has truly blessed Badlands Ministries. Grace abounded in the site and spirit of those gathered. What an exciting time and place to serve God!

6:30 Monday morning: Bright sun indicated another beautiful, summery day. As I came downstairs, I noticed "Buddy" my aging canary was huddled in his seed cup. He looked cold. I gently warmed him in the palm of my hand. He was grateful. I picked up a soft washcloth, wrapped him in it, put him back in his tuna/can seed dish, and placed the can, the bird wrapped in cloth in a baseball cap on a sunny spot on our table.

When Jesse came to breakfast, he noticed the cloths, opened them and found Buddy. "Is he dying? he asked? "Yes he is", I responded. He gently picked up Buddy and held him in his hand. (*continued on p.2.*)



Berries at St. Demetrius. Photo by Ken Howie.

October Worship Schedule

- | | | |
|----|---------|--------------------------------|
| 4 | 8:30am | Worship & Coffee - Medora |
| | 10:00am | Worship & Coffee - Belfield |
| | 11:45am | Worship & Dinner - Daglum |
| 11 | 8:30am | Worship & Coffee - Medora |
| | 10:00am | Worship & Coffee - Belfield |
| 18 | 8:30am | Worship & Coffee - Medora |
| | 10:00am | Worship & Coffee - Belfield |
| | 11:45am | Worship & Fall Dinner - Daglum |
| 25 | 8:30am | Worship & Coffee - Medora |
| | 10:00am | Worship & Coffee - Belfield |

Sunday School is moving to Wednesday nights!
See page 4 for more info.

Choir rehearsal every Wednesday night at 7:00.
See Jean Franklin for more info, or to join.

Bible Study in the Book of Romans at Dwelle's
each Saturday night at 7:00pm.

“Mary will be happy.” ‘Make sure you talk to Buddy everyday and that he doesn’t die alone’ she said days earlier as she packed her bags to go with Don to their new life as winter hosts in Georgia.



We finished breakfast. The warm sun gave Buddy comfort as I put him carefully back in his cage before watering my planters. About 8:30 I came in to leave for Pastor’s conference. Buddy had died. His earthly life ended about the same time his beloved Mary pulled out of Red Trail Campground to begin her new role in Georgia. Was that a coincidence, or a reminder that for everything there is a season? Endings and new beginnings are part of life.

I grieved the loss of my oldest canary. Buddy hadn’t sung for years. But last spring, when I brought “Elvis”, my new young singer home, Buddy gave him a warm welcome like I hadn’t heard for years. This summer, Buddy recovered his ability to sing thanks to personal

attention from Mary. He sang his full song just days before he died. Her kindness gave him new life!

Three people close to me dealt with deep personal challenges as the week unfolded. Two difficult situations in ministry surfaced. Friday morning, Sunday evening’s abundant grace and peace seemed like a distant memory. I was reminded by the fragility of life and the reality of human vulnerability, including my own.

I remembered Pastor Joe Natwick, Associate Pastor at St. John Lutheran’s wise words at text study- the week before: “The church is meant to be a place where people can be real and vulnerable; where we share our joys and our struggles and discover who we really are in community.”

I knew Joe was right. I called three wise friends. They listened and cared. “My internal hard drive crashed” I shared with another face to face. “Really, they asked?” ‘Yes, it did, my heart and soul had to reboot and let go of the pain, suffering, and fear that touched me this week.” Maybe that’s what Jesus meant when he says we are to “die to self and rise in Christ.”

True friends help us let go of pain and fear and return to a life of hope based on God’s unconditional grace:

”When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchain grace; In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil. On Christ the solid rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.”

I thank God for continually providing everything I need to live a full, abundant life at all times. I thank God that God uses ordinary vulnerable people like you and I to help others experience God’s mercy,-kindness grace so as to live lives of hope no matter what.

Pastor Roger

We Celebrate with...



Molli Gray Johnson, daughter of **Kwirt and Amanda Johnson** was baptized Sunday, September 20 at Belfield Lutheran Church. Her sponsors are Derek and Amanda Liggett. Molli was born May 27 in Dickinson. Pray for her continued spiritual growth.

But to each
one of us *grace*
has been given,
as Christ
apportioned it.

Ephesians 4:7

Our Congratulations!

Blessings and best wishes to Ty Niedhardt and Sarah Esslinger. They were married by Pastor Roger at Tjaden Terrace, September 19.

In our ongoing prayers...

- **Shayna Monson**, hospitalized in Denver with a severe brain injury after a vehicle accident.
- **Marilyn Oyhus**, dealing with health concerns.
- The family of 28 year old **Kara Heldebreder** who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly.
- **Blake and Ty** need reassurance of God's love for them.
- All of the **Christians** being persecuted in the Middle East.
- **Diane Berger**, dealing with cancer treatment.
- **Dan Sandvik**, dealing with recurring cancer.
- **John Ktytor**, dealing with cancer.
- **Dave & Kathy Schmidt** dealing with cancer.
- **Anonymous**: Grandma to stay healthy, and dad to come to church and stop cussing.
- **Dolores Roy**, friend of Jean Franklin, dealing with cancer.
- **Mary Solberg**, dealing with health concerns.
- **Scott Rask** hospitalized at St. Alexius in Bismarck.

Confirmation Sunday, October 25

Jon Schurke will be confirming his faith at worship in Belfield, Reformation Sunday. Let's celebrate this milestone with Jon and his family.

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 Lynn Peterson at peteronlynn@yahoo.com by the 15th day of the month.

Sunday School News!

Sunday School is moving to Wednesday Evening!

Who: All kids age 4 to grade 6

When: Wednesday evenings at 5:30 starting October 7

Where: Belfield Lutheran Church

A healthy snack will be provided!

WORSHIP NIGHTS!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN 2015.

We had a great first season! Attendance at Worship Nights at Belfield Lutheran Church averaged 75 people, with at least 9 denominations represented. God called us to offer a contemporary worship service that would unite people of all faiths, as together we worship the One true God. He was faithful to His promise - where two or more are gathered, God showed up!

Worship Nights will return in January with new music, along with the well known favorites of this past season.

Musicians, Cafe Hosts and Audio/Visual team members are needed! If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Theresa Howie in person or by email at belfieldlutheran@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 11th SUNDAY WORKDAY

The church property is in need of some maintenance attention, inside and out. Taking care of God's house is up to all of us, and something we should do willingly and joyfully. Work can be great fun when you do it in fellowship with others; and together, we can accomplish so much!

Join us October 11th after church for a PotLuck and Sunday Workday. For more information, please get in touch with one of our Council Members, or email the church office at belfieldlutheran@gmail.com

*New members will be
received in November!
Contact Pastor Roger
for more info.*

GRIEF/LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

CHI Heartland Home Health and Hospice will be hosting a Grief/Loss Support Group, on Tuesday evenings starting October 6th, from 5:30-7:30pm. The gatherings will run for 6 weeks.

There is no cost to attend. However, registration is required as group size is limited.

For more information or to register call (701) 456-4378.

CHI Heartland Home Health & Hospice
986 2nd Ave West
Dickinson, ND



Gospel Seeds... ***October 2015***

A Monthly Update from the Western North Dakota Synod Office

"Dishin' With the Bish"...

The chili spices have been put in the cupboard, the recipe (what recipe???) has been retired, "Chili with the Bishop" is no more. But wait, synod staff are still cookin'!

We are proud to unveil for you "Dishin' With the Bish". In fine Lutheran form, we will be serving Tater Tot Hotdish and Jell-O as we hit the road this fall. Staff will be coming to a location near you, so please plan to grab a few of your people and join us for a meal, fellowship, and Bible Study.

October 13 Bowdon, Bowdon

October 20 Peace, Scranton

October 14 English, Hazen

October 21 Bethlehem, Wing

October 15 St. Paul, Hazen

November 3 Trinity, Glenburn

November 4 Holy Cross, Powers Lake

November 5 Bethel, New Town

The meal will be served beginning at 5:30pm each night. We will begin Bible Study by 6:15 with conversation about centering our lives in Christ using Deuteronomy 6:10-15 and Luther's Large Catechism. There will be open time for questions and time for conversation around issues facing our churches.

Generosity in a Culture of Debt...

Join us for another great stewardship learning opportunity! The Nov. 14th GIFTS event from 9 am to 3 pm at Christ Lutheran in Minot features Nathan Dungan, who is founder and president of *Share. Save. Spend.*, has spent over 20 years helping individuals and families align their values with their money decisions. Nathan is an engaging and dynamic presenter and will send you home with a new awareness and newly equipped. Nathan will also meet with Lutheran Campus Ministry students

(LYOer's are also welcome!) for pizza at 6 p.m. and a presentation from 7-9 p.m. Come for one or both days - the theme is "Generosity in a Culture of Debt."

A Little Reminder...

In the long list of things you need to remember, here is another important one - make sure your congregational treasurer is paying the annual filing fee to the ND Secretary of State's Office. The corporate filing fee is important for a couple of reasons:

-It may affect whether or not your church owned property is tax exempt.

-It may affect your non-profit status and whether congregational members are legally able to deduct contributions as they file their income tax.

If the annual corporate filing fee is not paid, it can result in the state disbanding the corporation. Synod Attorney, Murray Sagsveen, recently helped one of our congregations navigate the process to re-establish their corporation. What he has learned is it is much easier to pay the annual corporate filing fee than it is to try and re-establish a corporation.

Portico...

Remember now is the time for congregations/parishes to make their coverage selections (Platinum+, Gold+, Silver+ or Bronze+) - October 5th through 30th. Employers make those selections on the Portico Employer Link website. This site has information available specifically for your congregation - including a comparison of the costs for each level of coverage.

Rostered Leaders will also make their annual selections November 2nd through the 30th. Watch your emails for reminders from Portico on these dates.

If you would like to use the "I Was Wondering..." talks from Synod Assembly for conversation in your congregation, you can find them on the WND YouTube channel.

Blessings - Bishop Mark Narum



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Special thanks go to the people of Medora Lutheran for the hand assembly of each edition, and to Sharleen Schuhrke who mails them.

Contributions, including articles, reports, photos and drawings are welcome, and will be used as space permits.

Photo Submissions:

Have a great photo of church or community events, or the beautiful North Dakota landscape? We'd love to share them for all to see in the Parish Visitor! Contact Theresa Howie at belfieldlutheran@gmail.com for more info.

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.

*Love and thanks
to a donor who wishes to
remain anonymous
for their sponsorship
of this issue of the
Parish Visitor*



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Parish Visitor
Box 416
Belfield, ND 58622

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

OCTOBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
November 8 Parish Extravaganza						
4 COMMUNION WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee 11:45AM-Daglum-dinner	5	6 1:30 PM-Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM-AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	7 5:30 PM – Sunday School at Belfield Lutheran with a healthy snack 7:00 PM – Choir Practice @ Belfield Lutheran	8	9	10
11 WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee *Belfield Church yard cleanup 4:00 PM-Clergy Supper, Pastor Roger's Cabin	12	13 1:30 PM. Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM-AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	14 5:00 PM-Belfield Council Meeting-Kwirt serves 5:30 PM – Sunday School at Belfield Lutheran with a healthy snack 7:00 PM – Choir Practice @ Belfield Lutheran November Newsletter Deadline	15	16	17
18 WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee Communion 10:00 AM-Belfield coffee 11:45 AM-Daglum 's Fall Dinner	19	20 1:30 PM. Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	21 5:30 PM – Sunday School at Belfield Lutheran with a healthy snack 7:00 PM – Choir Practice @ Belfield Lutheran	22	23	24
25 WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 10:00 AM-Belfield coffee Confirmation Worship	26	27 1:30 PM. Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	28 5:30 PM – Sunday School at Belfield Lutheran with a healthy snack 7:00 PM – Choir Practice @ Belfield Lutheran	29	30	31

Belfield Lutheran Church
Daglum Lutheran Church
Medora Lutheran Church
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October 2015*

To:

An Abundance of Grace

