

Parish Visitor

JULY/AUGUST 2016

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God Can, and Does, Use Each of Us!

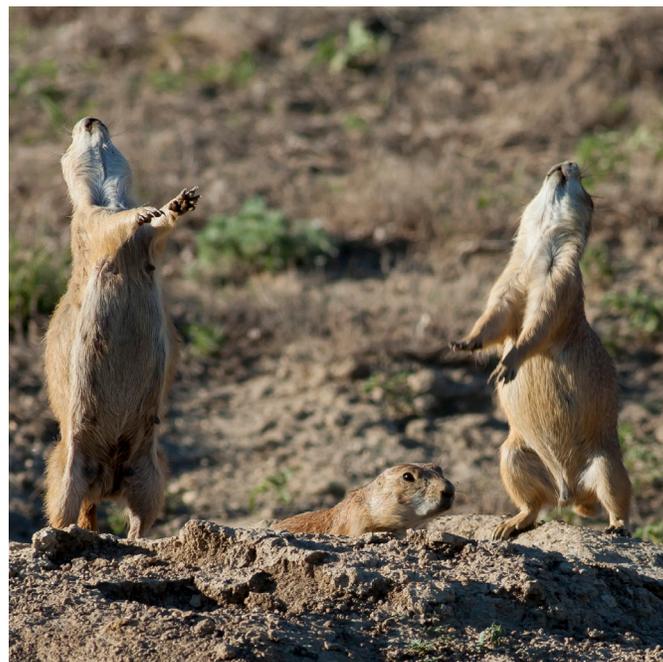
Dear Friends in Christ:

Greetings from windless Paulsbo, WA. I'm enjoying a few days vacation in western WA after a great continuing education class this weekend in Seattle. Key questions for Christians include "Can and does God use me?" and if so, "How?". The answer is "yes", God desires to use each of us and does so in our daily life and in our work with others.

Craig McGlaughlin and I gained insights into this reality by taking part in our Synod's assembly June 9-11 in Bismarck. Bishop Mark Narum kicked off the assembly with a GREAT sermon that challenged each of us to do our part. Bishop Narum's edited sermon at the opening worship follows:

"Welcome to the Western North Dakota Synod Assembly, arms open wide, a smiling host, anticipation of time together - and then this text from Luke 3: 1-15 slaps you across the face. Opening worship of our time together and you get to hear weeping and gnashing of teeth. Visions of judgement - ax lying at the root of trees, winnowing forks, fire consuming chaff. Welcome to synod assembly!

These words on John's lips - you know John - the vision of an Old Testament Prophet - dressed in camel's hair, eating locusts and wild honey. A wild man on a mission to prepare the way for one who is more powerful...
(Cont. pg 2)



KEN HOWIE

Lift up your hands...and praise the Lord!
Psalm 134:2

July 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 | Worship & Dinner - Daglum |
| 24 | 8:30am | Worship & Coffee - Medora |
| | 10:00am | Worship & Coffee - Belfield |
| 31 | 8:30am | Worship & Coffee - Medora |
| | 10:00am | Worship & Coffee - Belfield |

(Narum - Cont. from pg 1)

-John wants you to know the long awaited Messiah is coming.

-The promise is about to be fulfilled.

-God is about to act - and it matters!

You know the story - God did act! Stepped into human skin, born under scandalous circumstances, to non-descript youngsters. Through the ordinary- the mundane God chose to forever change how God related to humans. Luke relays this story of life, death and resurrection - so that we too might believe. But not just believe for own sake - what God did is most certainly for you - but it is not a story to be hoarded away - it is a story meant to bump up against your life, my life, our life and cause us to pause - to ponder - to ask the question - So What about us - What should we do?

Paul - in his letter to the Corinthians - pushes us to hear, to understand that each of us has been gifted by God, the same God who has gifted the person beside you. These gifts, activated by God have one purpose - for the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Some times that proclamation comes through words: prophets, evangelists, those who speak in tongues and those who can interpret what has been spoken. Other times I want to argue that this proclamation comes through actions - listening, baking, gardening, sewing, building - spiritual gifts where others are shown deep love, care and respect. The Gospel is lived out in all of these ways and more. And it matters!

But let's slip back to John, John who most certainly understood what his calling was - at least to those of us looking back two-thousand years - it seems he is crystal clear in his call. It is to prepare the way for the one - who is more powerful, who will baptize with water and the Holy Spirit. John it seems, knows what he is about. And he engages that calling with gusto.

But what about the "Fire and Brim Stone" of John - "What is the point?" Why these words, they are not on Jesus lips after all? Why not find a more fitting text for this opening of synod assembly, let's say something less challenging?

What if our lives are both wheat and chaff - What if a baptism of Holy Spirit and fire is meant to burn away

the chaff which clings to us, burns away that which would stand in the way of our using our God given gifts as God intended?

Remember Luther called us to return daily to our baptisms. Remembering that in those waters we were claimed by God, as beloved children. Remember that those waters wash away our sin and sinfulness. So what would happen if we were daily reminded of the chaff which needed to be burned away? That which clings close, stopping us from being what God intends for us...

Chaff might look like self-doubt: 'I'm not good enough after all, find someone who is more eloquent to speak, Lord.' Chaff might look like self-centeredness: Share - 'I'm not so certain about that there might not be enough for me and mine. It is mine after all!' Chaff might look like an unexamined life where time is squandered on things which really don't matter leaving central things like worship, service, prayer, family faith formation relegated to - 'Someday I will get to that...'

Listen to what John tells them - there is no calling to something grand, beyond who they already are or what they are about in their lives... 'What am I to do, well if I have two cloaks - share one.' Tax collector - 'collect no more than what is due.' Soldier - 'don't extort money and be satisfied with your wages.'

This is what I am certain of - you are a beloved child of God - claimed by God in the waters of Baptism. You beloved child of God have also been gifted by God - you are unique, precious and gifted.

Claimed child - gifted child listen closely - listen closely those gifts are meant to be used for the sake of your neighbor... Discover your gifts and giftedness - Use those gifts and in so doing Christ is revealed."

Mark Narum, Serving as Bishop, WND Synod

Looking forward to seeing you at worship!

Pastor Roger

We Celebrate with...

- **Tiffany and Jason Lee** on the arrival of their daughter, Bethany Rose Lee, born June 1st in Dickinson. Bethany joins a sister, Anna.
- **Trevor and Apryl Ridl**, married June 11th at Belfield Lutheran Church. Pray for the Ridl's, and all new couples, as they begin their life journey together.
- **Aiden James Chamberlain**, born March 29 to Jordan Hutzenbiler and Brett Chamberlain, was baptized at Belfield Lutheran Church on June 26. Baptismal sponsors are Paul Hutzenbiler, Jr., and Destiny Chamberlain.

Rejoice always, pray
without ceasing,
in everything give
thanks; for this is
the will of God in
Christ for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Our Sympathy to...

- The family of **Marcy Smith**, who passed away May 18. Services were May 23 in Dickinson.



In our ongoing prayers...

- **Paulette Dorval**, recovering at home from surgery.
- **Dennis Keblar**, in poor physical health.
- **Tess C.**, struggling with mental illness.
- **Darnyl Malkowski**, recovering from back surgery.
- **Victims of the mass shooting in Florida**
- **Nikki Fisher**, dealing with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- **Sprynczynatyk Family**, on the loss of Elizabeth Sprynczynatyk of Bismarck.
- Barb Newton's sister, **Cleta**.
- **Vinson Waldo**, who began his deployment in April, and for all of our service members who are deployed in service to our country.
- **Chuck and Kim Sommers**. Chuck (Dana Tescher's father) is currently battling Lou Gehrig's Disease.
- **Julene Griffin**, undergoing treatment for Lyme disease in Arizona.
- **Greg Matteson**, for continued improvement in physical therapy after heart surgery and a resulting stroke.
- **Margaret May** dealing with seizures.
- **Bud Griffin**, recovering at home.
- **Marilyn Oyhus**
- **Ardeth Jensen**
- **Cliff Solberg** in therapy.
- **Noel Nichols** recovering at home.



Pray for our Youth
as they travel
and minister.
Youth Mission Trip
July 24-29

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.

Day Camp 2016

*Scripture reference
from Bishop Narum's sermon
on our cover page:*

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

9 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?'

11 In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'

12 Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?'

13 He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.'

14 Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,*

16 John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with* the Holy Spirit and fire.

17 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Luke 3:7-17



Another great week of Day Camp is behind us! We'll see you next year. Thanks to all those who participated!



Son Day School comes to a close for the season. We'll see you again soon!

**WE LOVE
OUR KIDS!**





Gospel Seeds... July 2016

A Monthly Update from the
Western North Dakota Synod Office

Synod Assembly Re-Cap

A record number of people (at least in recent years) gathered to worship, engage Bible study, learn together, and conduct business during this year's Synod Assembly June 10th & 11th in Bismarck.

Highlights include:

- Opening worship with musicians gathered from across the synod leading us in joyful song.
- Engaging conversation around how God gifts and calls each of us through our baptism for the sake of our neighbor. Bishop Terry Brandt and Shar Gumke, Eastern North Dakota Synod, helped us engage these issues and ponder how God might be calling each of us.
- Heard stories of wrestling with God's calling from the perspective of a farm/ranch couple - Myron and Georgean Lick, from the perspective of a woman who is Native American - Prairie Rose Seminole, from a Campus Pastor and college student - Rev. Christoph Schmidt and Karen Langemo, and from the perspective of a business leader - Reier Thompson, CEO of Missouri Slope Care Center.
- Heard a detailed presentation of your Synod's financial condition. The good news is Mission Support has continued to grow the past several years; the challenging news is recent budgets passed by Synod Assemblies rely on reserve funds to balance the budget. The Assembly then spent time in table top conversations to provide your Synod Council members with advice about how we financially sustain our synod. We are not in a crisis situation, rather, we are in a time where steps need to be taken to solidify our financial future for the sake of ministry in Christ's name.
- A memorial was brought forward late in the Assembly on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. The Assembly Reference and Counsel Committee referred the memorial to Synod Council noting it was too important a document to engage in a limited amount of time.
- Tabled a proposed Synod Bylaw which would have brought the Synod Constitution and Bylaws in alignment; this would have removed term limits for the Bishop.
- Gave notice that next year there will be constitutional changes proposed; watch for the text of those changes this fall.

More Assembly News...

The Assembly Bible study, the conversations around vocation, and Dan Rift's keynote presentation on the work of World Hunger will all be available online as resources for your congregation.

In other news:

-The Assembly heard that through "Bringin' Home the Bacon", the #HungerRide, and other offerings the Western North Dakota Synod has shared over \$95,000 with ELCA World Hunger.

-Those attending the Mission Gala at Lord of Life were treated to an excellent meal; thanks to Pastors Nadine and Larry, as well as, the talented kitchen crew.

-Rev. Taryn Montgomery was honored with the Peterman Award for her efforts in modeling and teaching holistic stewardship. Each year one pastor from across the ELCA is chosen for this award.

Milestone Reached...

Over the top! Thanks to the Mission Gala, Live Auction, and Silent Auction at Synod Assembly the Western North Dakota Mission Endowment Fund has gone over the half million-dollar mark. Congratulations to all of you who have contributed to this fund in the past six years! That is correct... In six short years, we have invested that amazing amount of money!

Thursday evening, the Synod Council Executive Committee gathered and awarded three grants from proceeds of the Mission Endowment Fund. One award was given to the youth of Bread of Life Lutheran, Minot for a Mission Trip to form relationships with people in Haiti. A \$1,000 grant was given to Carpio Lutheran, Carpio for their handicap accessible, raised garden project, and a \$1,000 grant to Zion Lutheran, Berthold to help them buy fixtures as they establish a community food pantry.

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

Synod Assembly 2017 - Grand Hotel - Minot
Mission Gala & Auction: Thursday, June 1
Assembly: Friday & Saturday, June 2-3



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

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Special thanks go to all of the volunteers who help with the hand assembly of each edition.

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.

Would you prefer to receive your issue of the Parish Visitor electronically? Send your email address to belfieldlutheran@gmail.com. Your next issue will arrive via email, and we'll remove your name from the regular mailings.

*Our thanks to
Cloria Johnson
for sponsoring the
Parish Visitor
in Loving Memory
of her Parents
Cullick & Elvina
Thompson*

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One month sponsorships are \$350. Newsletter sponsorship gifts of any size are welcome and help lower our publishing fee. Please send your newsletter sponsorship contribution to:

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Belfield, ND 58622

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

JULY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST 2016 August 5 – A. Sandvik Wedding Rehearsal August 6 – A. Sandvik Wedding August 7-14 – Pastor Roger at ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Call Pastor Ellery at 701-483-1550 in case emergency.					1	2 7:00 PM “Mark” Bible Study at Dwelle’s
3 COMMUNION WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee 11:45 AM-Daglun-dinner	4	5	6	7	8	9 1:00 PM Belfield Council 2:00 PM Parish Council← 7:00 PM “Mark” Bible Study at Dwelle’s
10 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee 10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee	11	12 10:00 AM – St. Luke’s Worship 1:15 PM – Pastor’s Text Study, Dickinson 4:00 PM – St. Ben’s Worship 8:00 PM-AA meets, Belfield Lutheran	13 Belfield WELCA serves Pavilion Supper	14	15	16 7:00 PM “Mark” Bible Study at Dwelle’s
17 8:30 AM-Medora-coffee Communion Service 10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee 11:45 PM-Daglun-Dinner	18	19 1:15 PM – Pastor’s Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran	20	21	22	23 7:00 PM “Mark” Bible Study at Dwelle’s
24 WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora <u>10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee</u> 31 WORSHIP 8:30 AM-Medora 10:00 AM-Belfield-coffee	25	26	27	28	29	30 7:00 PM “Mark” Bible Study at Dwelle’s
← Belfield Youth Mission Trip to SD – July 24-29						
		1:15 PM. Pastor's Text Study, Dickinson 8:00 PM AA Meets @ Belfield Lutheran				

Belfield Lutheran Church
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*Parish Visitor
July/Aug 2016*

To:



KEN HOWIE

PRAY FOR OUR NATION

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14