



The Shepherd's Post

A monthly publication of Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Parish

Shepherd of the Prairie
Lutheran Parish
537 3rd Street
Walcott, ND 58077

February 2017

February Events

SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 5	9 am Hickson*	11 am Christine*- potluck/annual meeting
February 12	9 am Hickson*	11 am Walcott*
February 19	9 am Hickson	11 am Christine
February 26	9 am Hickson	11 am Walcott

**Communion Worship*

EVENTS

Mondays	Pastor's day off
Tuesdays	9:15 am Walcott quilting (weather permitting)
February 1	6:15 pm 8th grade confirmation—Christine 7:00 pm 9th grade confirmation—Christine
February 1-2	9am—1 pm Parish office hours
February 7-16	LeAnn's vacation—parish office closed
February 7	7:00 pm Parish Council meeting—Christine
February 8	6:30 pm 8th & 9th grade confirmation—Hickson
February 9	7:30 pm Walcott Council
February 15	1:30 pm Hickson Bible study—Alice Mathison's home
February 15 & 22	6:15 pm 8th grade confirmation—Hickson 7:45 pm 9th grade confirmation—Hickson
February 16 & 23	9 am Bulletin info due
February 17	9 am—1 pm Parish office hours
February 20	9 am March newsletter info due
February 21-23	9 am—1 pm Parish office hours (return to regular hours)

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Soup Supper served at 6:30 pm*

Worship at 7:30 pm

March 1	Ash Wednesday communion worship—Christine
March 8	Hickson*
March 15	Walcott*
March 22	Christine*
March 29	Hickson*
April 5	Walcott*
April 13	Maundy Thursday communion worship—Walcott
April 14	Good Friday communion worship—Hickson



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To everyone who got their annual reports in on time!

Also a BIG THANK YOU to **Marilyn Jordheim** for assembling the annual reports for each of the congregations. I really appreciate your work!

- LeAnn Toppen
Admin. Asst.

Darkness and Light

I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

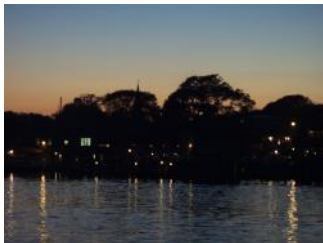
– Isaiah 45:3



When I was gone to Luther Seminary for a reading week, I read Barbara Brown Taylor's book, Learning to Walk in the Dark.

Meandering around campus, with a multitude of quiet places to read and reflect was nostalgic for me. The book and the place stirred up recollection of one of my favorite songs during my seminary years, some 27 years ago. It wasn't a hymn, but it was a song with deep theological meaning for me. During the *Phantom of the Opera*, which was playing at the Guthrie Theater, I was mesmerized by the song, *Music of the Night*.

*Night time sharpens, heightens each sensation
Darkness wakes and stirs imagination
Silently the senses abandon their defenses
Helpless to resist the notes I write
For I compose the music of the night
Slowly, gently night unfurls its splendor
Grasp it, sense it, tremulous and tender
Hearing is believing, music is deceiving
Hard as lightening, soft as candlelight
Dare you trust the music of the night...*



In her book, Barbara Brown Taylor explores the darkness as friend and teacher and something of beauty. She says, "Most people do not know what they mean by "darkness" except that they want to stay out of it...it is shorthand for anything that scares me – that I want no part of – either because I am sure that I do not have the resources to survive it or because I do not want to find out. The absence of God is in there, along with the fear of dementia and the loss of those nearest and dearest to me." (pg.4)

And yet...she writes, "I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is really only one logical conclusion. I need darkness as much as I need light." (pg.5)

March 1st is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Church Season we call Lent, a time in which we intentionally enter the darkness. We too need darkness as much as we need light. Look to the Sunday bulletins in the days ahead, and the March Newsletter to find out more about our mid-week services and theme for this year.

Lent is a quality season. It is a time of rediscovery, a golden chance to open ourselves more deeply to the beauty and power of the night – of dying and rising to new life in Jesus. A time to allow it to soak into our deepest parts.

Pastor Karin

Offerings as of 11/30/16

Congregation	2016 Budget	Monthly Offering needed	December Offering	Y-T-D Totals
Christine	\$ 24,200.00	\$ 2,017.00	\$ 1,763.40	\$ 16,196.91
Hickson	\$ 73,933.00	\$ 6,162.00	\$ 10,673.00	\$ 62,191.96
Walcott	\$ 70,894.00	\$ 5,908.00	\$ 4,987.00	\$ 63,433.00

February Wish List

1. Devotional materials for the parish
2. Weekly bulletin mailing to homebound/nursing home members: \$6/wk or \$25/mo
3. Sponsor March newsletter: \$50
4. Sponsor weekly bulletin: \$25
5. Mileage for pastoral visits: **any amount

**Please make check payable and mail to:
Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Parish,
537 3rd Street, Walcott, ND 58077**

If you are interested in sponsoring one of these items, please contact LeAnn Toppen at 469-2183 or email her at shepluthpar@wtc-mail.net Gifts will be acknowledged in the following newsletter.

Christmas offering ELCA Good Gifts

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's Christmas offering! The total offering from all three churches was \$1,258! Thank you members of Shepherd of the Prairie!

Your gifts help fund the ELCA projects and programs in areas of international emergencies, health care and sustainable development. They reflect God's love, making a difference in people's lives and around the world. Your gifts support long-term, sustainable solutions that ensure that these good gifts last for more than a couple of days or weeks. They keep on giving for years to come.



- ◆ **Parish office hours:**
9 am-1 pm
Feb 1 & 2, 17, 21-23,
& Feb 28-Mar 2
- ◆ **LeAnn's vacation:**
February 7-16
- ◆ **Bulletin printed:**
9 am Thursday,
February 2 & 23
- ◆ **March Newsletter info due:** Feb. 20
- ◆ **Jan-Mar Christ in Our Home** devotionals are available in the church entrances

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

8th grade 6:30 pm
9th grade 7:30 pm
(unless otherwise noted)

SNACK SERVERS

Feb. 1 (Christine)
8th gr: Kerry Nelson
9th gr: Carmen Foss
Feb. 8 (6:30 pm Hickson)
Jason Ingebrigtsen & Carmen Foss
Feb. 15 (Hickson)
8th gr. Nicole Bice
9th gr. Dawn Schaffer
Feb. 22 (Hickson)
8th gr. Penny Vikander
9th gr. Carmen Foss



Hello from Montana!

Dear Shepherd of the Prairie members:

Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl! It keeps me warm when I have the 'chills' also thank you for the extra 'tucked in' the box!

My family and I thank you for your concern and prayers.

Lorraine Read, Hickson

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

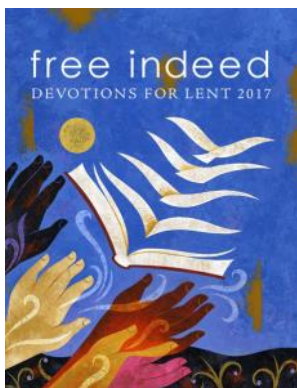
June 27-July 1, 2018

Every three years 30,000 youth and their adult leaders gather for faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their daily lives.

The theme for the Youth Gathering is "This Changes Everything." Ephesians 2:8 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God."*

The vision is for youth to understand the fierce love that God has for them, just as they are, and that by grace, through faith, they have been saved. When young people—or any person of any age—claim this reality, it changes everything. So, high school students, please consider being part of this great event which will be held in Houston, Texas! Contact Pastor Karin or your youth leader if interested!

- Info taken from the ELCA website and ELCA publication: *"Seeds for the Parish"*



Explore the Small Catechism during lent!

"Free Indeed: Devotions for Lent" is a striking, full-color, pocket size devotional that takes the reader through Lent with daily excerpts from the Small Catechism. Each reading is accompanied by a thought-provoking contemporary photo, a quote to ponder, a brief reflection and a prayer. It is also published in large print and 3-book editions. Call 800-328-4648 or augzburgfortress.org to order.

Christine tidbits...

- Thanks to those who served coffee following 9 am worship last month!
- Annual meeting booklets are available to pick up in the church entrance.
- Potluck will be served following worship on February 5th.

Quilting Day in Hickson

February 11

On Saturday, February 11th beginning at 9 am, quilts for our high school seniors will be worked on. Main course for lunch will be provided. You are invited to bring a salad or something to share for the meal. If you are a quilter,

please feel free to bring your own sewing machine and scissors. Everything else will be provided. All are welcome!

For storm cancellations, please call me at 701.866.4990

- Diane Ricker

This month in Hickson

WORK GROUP/ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Feb. 5: Jon & Penny Vikander

Acolyte: Ali Henke

Feb. 12: Mitch & Dawn Johnson

Acolyte: Marcella Nettetstad

Feb. 19: Kent & Melissa

Rademacher

Acolyte: Carson Andel

Feb. 26: Marcus & Deb Larson

Acolyte: Jack Wold

BIRTHDAYS

2/1: Casey Ricker

2/3: Cash Aaland

Matt Peterson

2/7: Megan Johnson

2/9: Steve Brakke

2/17: Mary Freitag

Jason Kaseman

2/19: Jayme Nettetstad

2/20: David Andel

THIS MONTH IN CHRISTINE

Worship

11:00 am
February 5 & 19

Annual Meeting

February 5
Following 11 am
worship and potluck

CHRISTINE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

Together we are
Claimed by God's
Grace

Living in Faith and
Fellowship

Commanded to
Serve others and
Share the Gospel



CHRISTINE

2/3: Rylee Hendrickson
Samantha
Hendrickson
2/6: Kay Skoog
2/26: Trevor Dufner
2/28: Ryan Skoog



THIS MONTH IN WALCOTT

WORSHIP

Feb. 12 & 26

USHER

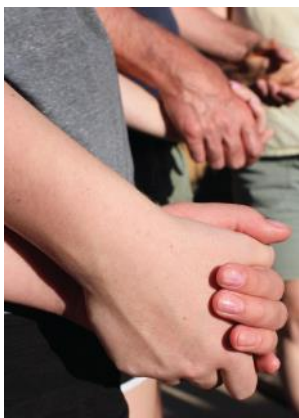
Dan Girodat

COUNCIL MEETING

Feb. 9—7:30 pm



2/6: Gene Iwen
2/7: Rose Ensminger
2/9: Aden Oestreich
2/10: Easton Heglie
2/14: Keith Anderson
2/16: Greg Oestreich
2/17: David Anderson
2/18: Seth Heglie
2/23: Mike Brakke
2/24: Cordy Farsdale
Stu Swandal
2/25: Amber Nordquist
2/29: Linda Stone



WELCA News

WELCA met January 20th at 10 am with a brunch served by **Sandy Heglie and Linda Stone**. We had installation of officers:

President: Nina Stone

Vice President: Linda Stone

Secretary: Shelly Swandal

Treasurer: Claire Heglie

Committee for Action, Grow, and Community: Kathryn Haskins-Jostad

2017 WELCA BOOKS

The new WELCA books are available in the church entrance. Those that aren't picked up will be mailed out.

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

If you would like to be on the prayer chain or would like to be

Pray for a quick recovery

As reported in the January newsletter, **Aden Oestreich** will have chest reconstruction surgery in Norfolk, VA on February 15th. He and his parents, Greg and Beth, will fly to Norfolk on February 10th and will be there for 7-10 days. Recovery includes one month

contacted by text, email or a different phone number, please let us know. Just to remind everyone, if someone activates the prayer chain, please call through the entire list until you get to the one that started the prayer. If you get someone's answering machine, please leave a message and then continue on to the next person so there aren't any delays. If you have questions, please give me a call.

WELCA MEETING

Next WELCA meeting is March 18th at 10 am. Servers are **Ellen Ista** and **Heidi Goldberg**. We may also have a speaker. More to come in February...

- Nina Stone, President

out of school and about 3 months before any playing/running around for Aden. Surgery will take place at The Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters.

Please keep Aden and family in your prayers!

- Pastor Karin





**WALCOTT CHURCH COUNCIL
UNAPPROVED MINUTES (MODIFIED TO FIT SPACE)
DECEMBER 15, 2016—7:30 PM**

The Walcott Church Council met December 15th at 7:30 pm in the memorial lounge of the church.

Present were: Shelly & Stu Swandal, Leeanne and Dan Girodat, Allan Stone, Ron & Sandy Heglie, Cheryl Anderson, Beth Oestreich and Pastor Karin.

REPORTS

Parish Treasurer's report: LeAnn Toppen handed out the proposed 2017 Parish Budget and explained a few of the line items that had increased such as computer expenses and the Giving Units for the Walcott Parish. There will be a cost of living increases for Pastor Karin and LeAnn. LeAnn will switch from a salaried to hourly wage position.

Treasurer's Report: Leeanne Girodat handed out the proposed 2017 Walcott Church Budget. It included the 2016 Budget, the Actual 2016 Budget and the proposed 2017 Budget.

Our biggest expense for the 2016 year was the shingling of the roof. The overall budget was within \$100 of the proposed budget. Good job! Also discussed were line items for Sunday School/Sunday School supplies/and VBS. Approximately \$1000 per month from savings is used to meet budget. We are behind in offerings this year.

Pastor's Report: Pastor will be on vacation Dec. 26-Jan. 9. Pastor Ivers will officiate at the January 8th service.

Trustees Report: The term for Derek Rhodenbaugh has expired. Replacement will be sought. Thanks to Derek for your service in this position!

1. Allen reported that two new shades are needed in the church.
2. There are heat issues with only two heaters working in the basement. Shelly will call Dakota Hills Electric and have them touch base with Allen so he can apprise them of the situation. He indicated that he would ask them to look at the light in the library when they come.
3. The sump pump in the dining room has been cycling on which is creating an ice issue on the sidewalk on the north side of the church. Will table this and fix in the spring.

Deacons Report: The term for Stu has expired. Greg Oestreich will replace him as Deacon. Thanks for all your hard work Stu.

Board of Education:

1. Beth shared that the Christmas program was a success. Unanimous thanks and congratulations were offered as to how much everyone enjoyed it.
2. Beth also shared that she had replaced some basic Sunday School supplies
3. There was some discussion about how to handle VBS and what is ultimately the best for the kids.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Shelly will continue as Council President. Thank you for all your hard work!
2. Church closings were discussed and how to word the announcement so it would be clear as to which church was closing.
3. The annual meeting for the Walcott parish follow 11 am worship and potluck January 22nd.
4. The Parish Council meeting will be at Christine on February 7th at 7:00 p.m.
5. The next Walcott Council meeting will be February 9th at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

We closed the meeting by praying the Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Karin.

Motion to adjourn was made by Leeanne and seconded by Stu.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Heglie, Council Secretary



February 9 Giving Hearts Day

On February 9th log on to impactgiveback.org and select from 366 charities to support. Every \$10 or more in donations are matched. Sponsored by Dakota Medical Foundation.



February 13 Old Fashioned Coffee Party

2:00 pm Kindred City Hall. Come and visit with your local seniors. We would like to meet and treat you. Sponsored by the Kindred Area Senior Citizens.



Grief Support Groups for 2017

Support groups in the Fargo-Moorhead area are held at the Fargo office of Hospice of the Red River Valley, 1701 38th St. S. Call (701) 356-1500 or (800) 237-4629 for more information.

Grief Journeys for Adults (18 yrs & up): 1:00-2:30 pm 4th Tuesday of each month or 6:30-8:00 pm 2nd Tuesday of each month

Grief Journeys for Widows: 1:00-2:30 pm 3rd Tuesday of each month or 6:30-8:30 pm 1st Tuesday of each month

Grief Journeys for Men: 10:00-11:30 am 3rd Tuesday of each month

Pregnancy and Infant Loss: 6:30-8:00 pm 4th Tuesday of each month. This is an ongoing support group, co-facilitated by Harlynn's Heart, for anyone who has experienced the death of a baby through pregnancy loss, stillbirth or in the first year of life.



March 17 Bach's "Ein feste Burg" and Music of Early Lutheran Masters

7 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 210 7th St. S., Moorhead, MN. Presented by the National Lutheran Choir. Tickets (in advance): \$20 adults; \$10 college students (17 & under free). At the door: \$25 adults; \$12 students. Tickets may be purchased at Trinity's church office, call 218-236-1333 or visit <http://bpt.me/2605803>



Bethany... did you know?

...that Bethany Retirement Living offers a support and educational program called "Endings and Beginnings" for family members who have a loved one with a dementing illness living in a nursing home? This multi-session program is offered twice a year and there is no cost to attend. Participants need not have a resident at Bethany. Topics such as change, loss, the stages of Alzheimer's, behavior, end of life and emotional issues are discussed. For additional information, contact Tara at (701) 239-3529.





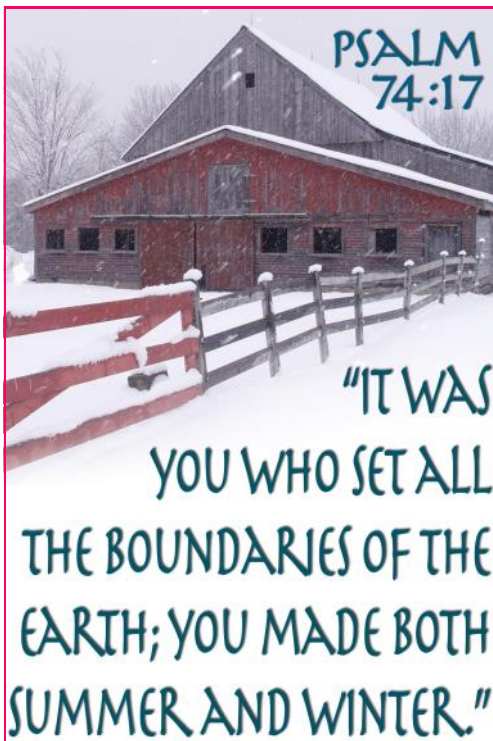


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Serving the ELCA Congregations of
Christine, Hickson & Walcott

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The Shepherd's Post is published monthly for members and friends of Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Parish.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Karin Moberg
Administrative Assistant LeAnn Toppen
Organists Kay Skoog, Christine
 Mary Jo Lothspeich, Hickson & Walcott
Newsletter Editor LeAnn Toppen
Production Assistants.....Marilyn Jordheim & Howard Ellenson

Office Hours: Tuesdays-Thursdays 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Parish Office Phone (and Walcott Office): 701.469.2183
Hickson Office Phone: 701.588.4354
Pastor's Phone: 701.793.6252
Pastor's Email: pastorkarin14@gmail.com
Parish Office Email: shepluthpar@wtc-mail.net
Parish Website: www.lutheransonline.com/shepluthpar
Facebook: www.facebook.com/shepluthpar