



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 2016

February Events

SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 7	9 am Christine*	11 am Walcott* - Annual Meeting
February 14	9 am Christine	11 am Hickson*
February 21	9 am Christine	11 am Walcott
February 28	9 am Christine	11 am Hickson

LENTEN WORSHIP

***SOUP SUPPER SERVED AT 6:30 PM**

February 10	7:30 pm (Ash Wednesday-Communion Worship)	
February 17*	7:30 pm Christine	
February 24*	7:30 pm Hickson	
March 2*	7:30 pm Walcott	
March 9*	7:30 pm Christine	
March 16*	7:30 pm Hickson	
March 24	7:30 pm Walcott (Maundy Thursday-Communion Worship)	
March 25	7:30 pm Christine (Good Friday)	

EVENTS

Mondays	Pastor's day off	
Tues-Thurs	9:00 am-1:00 pm	Parish office hours (office closed 2/1-5)
February 3	6:30 pm	Addiction/Alcoholism presentation (<i>for confirmation students/parents</i>) - Hickson
February 7	12:00 pm	Potluck/Annual Meeting—Walcott
February 10	1:30 pm	Hickson Bible study—Dorothy Brakke's Home
February 16	7:00 pm	Walcott Council
February 20	1:30-3:30 pm	Feed My Starving Children—Atonement
February 28	11:00 am	Gianna Griffis baptism—Hickson



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A Special THANK YOU

A BIG thank you to everyone who got their annual reports in on time!

SPECIAL thanks to **Marilyn Jordheim** and **Howard Ellenson** for assembling the annual reports for each of the congregations. I really appreciate your work!

-LeAnn Toppen
Admin. Asst.



It begins with God—the ultimate ARTIST

It seems a simple question – “Who are you?” “Who is that?” Many times in the last year, I have had to check back in the church directory or rely on someone in the “know” when I was unsure of who was who. I am still working on getting to know your names.



However, knowing your name only tells me a smidgen of information about who you are. It is in the quality of time spent with you, and the experiences shared that I begin to understand who you are and you begin to understand who I am.

It's the same with our relationship with God.

We can know things about God, but only real experience enables us to glimpse what God is really like. As we read scripture, we see how others have experienced God.

For Abram (later Abraham), God was the voice pushing him and his family from the comforts of retirement to new frontiers in a strange land.

For Hagar, God was a presence of strength and survival in an abusive and exploitive household.

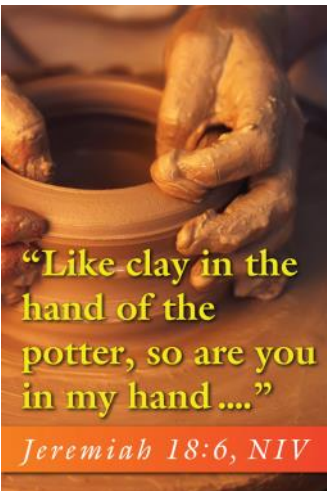
For Joseph, God was a rescuer who delivered him from a pit and prison and elevated him to somebodiness in Pharaoh's palace.

For Esther, God was an expert strategist who made a way out of no way and enabled her to save her people from massacre.

For Jeremiah, God was a fire shut up in his bones.

God is Potter, Healer, Refuge, Keeper... AND, in the person of Jesus Christ, God's Saving presence is with us. The Bible tells us, it all began with the Creator Spirit – hovering over the deep – ready to create something beautiful out of the waters of chaos – God, the ultimate artist.

During the season of Lent we will contemplate how the Spirit heals and transforms suffering through the use of our God-given creative energy – through storytelling, poetry, music, painting, building, handwork, etc. On the last Wednesday night we will have an open time of sharing for YOU – the congregation. It promises to be a time in which we will learn more about each other and about God.



Pastor Karin

Offerings as of 12/31/15

Congregation	2015 Budget	Monthly Offering needed	December Offering	Y-T-D Totals
Christine	\$ 27,200.00	\$ 2,267.00	\$ 3,625.00	\$ 17,895.25
Hickson	\$ 74,015.00	\$ 6,168.00	\$ 7,086.00	\$ 72,748.95
Walcott	\$ 71,558.00	\$ 5,965.00	\$10,980.00	\$ 62,858.11

February Wish List

1. Devotional materials for the parish
2. Weekly bulletin mailing to homebound/nursing home members: \$7.50/wk/\$30/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.

JANUARY WISH LIST GIFTS:

\$ - 0 -

WOVEN PRAYERS

During this Lenten season, all are invited to contribute to the *Woven Prayers* project. In the narthex of each of our churches, you will find a basket filled with strips of paper on which prayers of your choice can be written. These strips will be collected and placed into the weaving in progress, on the loom at Walcott Lutheran. Other things of interest can be included as well, such as straight thin sticks, feathers, strips of fabric or ribbon, beads, etc.

The weaving will begin on Ash Wednesday and will be displayed at Easter at all three worship services. If you would enjoy participating in the weaving of the piece on the loom, please contact me at the number below with questions, and/or simply meet at the loom in the narthex at 7:00 pm, February 10th (Ash Wednesday).

- Heidi Goldberg 701.469.2538

Let the power of prayer combined in this piece, and the prayers of all here bring peace and love to all during this season and beyond.



- ◆ **Parish office hours:**
9 am-1 pm
Tuesdays-Thursdays
(closed Feb 1-5)
- ◆ **Bulletin printed:**
9 am Thursdays
- ◆ **March Newsletter info due:** Feb. 20
- ◆ **Lenten & Jan-Mar Christ in Our Home** devotionals are available in the church entrances

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Eighth and 9th grade students and their parents are invited to the rescheduled Alcoholism/Addiction presentation on Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:30 pm—Hickson.

There will be no classes during the Lenten season, however, students are to attend the Wednesday evening worship services.

Classes will resume on April 6th at Hickson



Midweek Lenten Series: Healing through the Creative Arts



SUNDAY SERVICES DURING LENT

*Step by Step with Jesus:
A Journey Toward More
Abundant Life for All*

Opening our eyes, ears, hands, hearts, and lives to those who suffer hunger, poverty and injustice. The council has designated our **special Lenten offering** to go to **ELCA World Hunger**—envelopes will be available on the usher tables throughout Lent.

The All Parish **"Feed the Hungry Children"** event will be held on **Saturday, February 20th from 1:30-3:30 pm**. Please sign up soon, so we can determine if we will need to reserve more slots.

Note: This series is subject to changes or revisions

Worship begins at 7:30 pm

Soup suppers are held at 6:30 pm from February 17-March 16

2/10: Ash Wednesday. Beginning our **"WOVEN PRAYER" PROJECT** —Walcott.

2/17: Lent 1. **"OPENING OUR HEARTS"** - Christine.

Joe and Linda Wallevand, members of Christine, will tell the stories behind some of our favorite old hymns—hymns written and composed in response to grief and suffering. And we will SING them.

2/24: Lent 2. **"OPENING OUR HANDS"** - Hickson.

Daniel and Dave Moberg and Corey Medina from Bemidji, MN, will share the transformational nature of music. They have written, composed, recorded and performed their music—the primary genres including hip hop, blues, and R&B. The passion and music they will share emerges out of their personal experiences with loss and addiction.

3/2: Lent 3. **"OPENING OUR EYES"** - Walcott.

Heidi Goldberg, a member of Walcott Church and Associate Professor of Art at Concordia College will give a presentation and exhibit her work called "Mist and Dust—Memories and Traces of the Dead." In Heidi's words, "These works are, in part, a way for me to reach peace with the deaths of people in my life. They embraces ideas of mystery, loss, and remembrance, and the divide between heaven and earth."

3/9: Lent 4. **"OPENING OUR EARS"** - Christine.

Silence, listening, prayer, and meditation/coloring—bring handwork, journal, etc. for meditation time.

3/16: Lent 5. **"Opening our Lives"** - Hickson.

Congregational sharing. You are invited to share a poem, a song, a story of healing. Something you have created.

3/24: Maundy Thursday. Communion Worship—Walcott.

3/25: Good Friday.—Christine.



Giving Hearts Day

February 11th

We're so excited to share with you that the Eastern North Dakota Synod is participating in Giving Hearts Day 2016! This regional fundraising effort encourages charitable giving to over 250 congregations on Thursday, February 11th via www.impactgiveback.org. We are thrilled to be a part of this special day, along with many of our ministry partners.

Up to \$5000 of donations made to our synod on February 11th will be matched by a generous donor. 100% of the funds raised on this day will stay in Eastern North Dakota to support mission and ministry—our primary focus being youth programming initiatives including our first ever Youth Summit being held this year in conjunction with Synod Assembly.

- Terry Brandt, Bishop
EaND Synod



All Parish Intergenerational Service Opportunity: Feed My Hungry Children

Where: Atonement Lutheran

When: 1:30-3:30 pm February 20

- ◇ Confirmation students are encouraged to participate.
- ◇ 20 slots currently available

- ◇ Children 5 years and up can participate if they are paired with an adult one on one.
- ◇ Sign-up sheets are at each congregation or you can contact Pastor Karin.



Christmas offering

Good Gifts Program

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to this year's Christmas offering!

\$1,097 was designated to purchase specific items/animals and \$600 was undesignated for a total of \$1,697!

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.



THIS MONTH IN CHRISTINE

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sundays at 9 am

LENTEWORSHIP

February 17

6:30 pm Soup Supper

7:30 pm Worship

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

There are still openings to serve coffee following worship this month. Sign up sheet is in the church entrance.

Happy birthday to you!

Take a moment to wish the following Christine members a Happy Birthday this month!

2/3: Rylie Hendrickson
Samantha Hendrickson

2/6: Kay Skoog

2/26: Trevor Dufner

Reed Rufer

2/28: Ryan Skoog



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



2/1: Casey Ricker

2/3: Cash Aaland

Matt Peterson

2/7: Megan Johnson

2/8: Meagan Johnson

2/9: Steve Brakke

2/17: Mary Freitag

2/19: Jayme Nettestad

2/20: David Andel

2/23: Dale Mathiason

This month in Hickson

WORSHIP

11 am

February 14 & 28

LENTEWORSHIP

6:30 pm Soup Supper

7:30 pm Worship

February 24

ACOLYTES

February 14: McKenna Braaten

February 24: Mason Nipstad

February 28: Mason Nipstad

FOOD PANTRY: February 14

BIBLE STUDY

1:30 pm

February 10

Dorothy Brakke's home

WORK GROUP

John & Jodi Freitag, Coordinators

Bice, Nicole

Nipstad, Jerome & Sandy

Bauman, Greg & Vicki

Braaten, RaeDell & Heidi

Peterson, Matt & Donna

Sorby, David & Lucy

Shook, Carolyn

BETHANY... DID YOU KNOW

That Bethany Retirement Living offers transitional care? If your physician recommends transitional care to help your recovery process, we can help you heal as safely and quickly as possible. Transitional care is available on a short-term basis for those who are well enough to leave hospital care after an injury, illness or surgery but not quite ready to resume all of the daily activities at home. Services include (but are not limited to) social services, rehabilitative therapy, PT/OT/ST, diet and nutrition counseling, exercise and social programming, pharmacy services, wellness care, spiritual care and more. For more information, contact Lisa Sailer, Admissions Coordinator at 701.239.3525 or Lsailer@bethanynd.org.

WELCA news

The 2016 WELCA booklets are ready for pick up at the church. We will leave them there for a couple of weeks, any left will be mailed out.

We will have a potluck dinner following the worship service on February 7th.

The next WELCA meeting is March 19th at 10 am. Brunch will be served by Denise Heglie and Kathryn Jostad.

The Spring Cluster meeting will be coming up sometime in April. The date has not yet been determined.

- Nina Stone, WELCA President

Our Sunday School is growing!

The Walcott Sunday School program is growing slowly but surely! During the fall semester we had seven children and this semester with two new families, we have grown to ten! Projections show that there will be at least

three new preschoolers starting next fall!

Thanks to our teachers, **Beth Oestreich** (superintendent) and **Tara Cuypers**, as well as substitute teacher **Tasha Heglie**.

February... a big birthday month!

There are several birthdays in the congregation to celebrate this month. With this being Leap Year, **Linda Stone** also gets to celebrate her special day on her actual birthday!

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

THIS MONTH IN WALCOTT

ANNUAL MEETING/ POTLUCK

February 7
following 11 am
worship

COUNCIL MEETING

February 16
7:30 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 7 & 21
11 am

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

February 10
7:30 pm

ACOLYTES

Feb. 7: Aubrie Goldberg
Feb. 21: Logan Myers

USHER

Dan Girodat

DEACON

Stu Swandal








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Serving the ELCA Congregations of
Christine, Hickson & Walcott

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See what love the
Father has given us,
that we should be
called children of God.

1 John 3:1, NRSV

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/Pianists Kay Skoog, Christine
Mary Jo Lothspiech, Hickson; & Reed Rufer, Walcott
Newsletter Editor LeAnn Toppen
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