



Pella Lutheran Church Ambassador



With Christ, We Welcome, Nurture, Equip and Serve.

January 2017

Let's Talk "Mission" at Our Tables

Plans are to continue our use of "Table Talks" emphasizing different topics or themes during the seasons and times of the Church Year – just as we did this fall for Stewardship. During Epiphany our emphasis will be on Mission. You'll be invited to join the conversation on Pella's Mission Statement and on the transformational impact of mission. The hope is that you will engage others at the Fellowship time following Worship, or with family at home, or with friends over a cup of coffee or a meal. There may be a few of you willing to share from your own life to encourage the congregation.

We are using the term "Table Talk" to highlight and celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (October 2017). Table Talk is the name given to a collection of Martin Luther's informal conversations about issues of faith. Table Talk is also a designation to promote the encounter with God's Word in our lives and in the lives of others by sharing thoughts, ideas and stories.

WELCOME, NURTURE, EQUIP & SERVE:

Let's talk about Pella's Mission Statement. How do you understand the four components of Pella's mission statement: Welcome, Nurture, Equip or Serve?

January 8 – The Baptism of Our Lord

"...*God shows no partiality...*" (Acts 10:34) Let's talk about who we welcome as well as how, when, and where. Let's talk about how we are welcomed in Christ by others.

January 15 – 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

"*Come and see.*" (John 1:39) Let's focus our conversation on how we nurture our own and each other's faith. Let's discuss what helps and supports people in life.

January 22 – 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

"*...I will make you fish for people*" (Matthew 4:19) Let's visit around the topic of being equipped for ministry and mission. Let's deliberate about what our task is and how our lives can serve that emphasis.

Continued...



January 29 – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

“...do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8b) Let’s consult each other to discover how we serve our neighbors and the world. Let’s exchange ideas and experiences of serving and being served.

MISSION IS TRANSFORMATION: Let’s talk about mission being transformational. What kind of transformation do the following Biblical themes present in your life or thinking: letting your light shine, working together for a common purpose, and loving your enemies?

February 5 – 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

“...let your light shine before others ...” (Matthew 5:16) Discussion will focus on transformation brought about through justice and liberation.

February 12 – 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.” (Deuteronomy 30:15) Conversation will concentrate on how our daily ministry is able to transform our lives and the lives of others.

February 19 – 7th Sunday after the Epiphany

“...Love your enemies...” (Matthew 5:44) Visiting with each other we will delve into the transformation of relationships through the power of love.

February 26 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

“Get up and do not be afraid.” (Matthew 17:7) Our verbal exchange will explore what fears restrain and constrict us and what we are freed to “get up” and do in Christ.

PERSONAL STORIES: Let’s talk about what we have experienced. Could you present a brief “talk” at worship describing how mission has personally impacted your life?

Consider how you received or provided: welcoming, nurturing, equipping or serving at Pella. Recall times in your life when you have used your talents/gifts for others or when you decided to spend the day living in Christ or when you tried loving an enemy or when you were freed up by Christ to act?

If you are interested in giving a “Table Talk” at Sunday worship contact Pastor Joel. These “Table Talks” are short (approximately 2 minutes) personal experiences or perspectives on the topics and themes described above.

Even if you aren’t sure of being able to share in front of the congregation, Pastor Joel would enjoy listening to your accounts. If you aren’t sure that your “talk” would be interesting, inspiring or pertinent, check it out with Pastor Joel.

Faith Exploration – What’s so different about being Lutheran?

Join Pastor Joel in reading and discussing the book, RECLAIMING the “L” WORD: Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core by Kelly Fryer. This short, readable book offers a passionate response to the challenge of providing answers for those who are seeking. It builds from the basics of the Lutheran faith and theology. For these reasons the book appeals both to those familiar with Lutheranism and those who are interested in learning about the Lutheran faith.

The author, who was not raised Lutheran, states: *“But the God I have met through this church – in its teaching and preaching and in the people whose lives have been shaped by its history and heritage – is a God who has changed my life.”* (from the Preface, p. 8)

Mission is transformational – it changes people’s lives. Come and explore and discuss the ideas and possibilities presented in seven concise and enjoyable chapters. There will be two options: (1) Sunday mornings, 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. and (2) Tuesday afternoons, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Here is the schedule:

Sundays (10:45 am): January 8, 15, 22, February 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Tuesdays (2:00 pm): January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14 and 21.

If you have a group of people who would like to read and discuss this book on a different schedule, consider being a facilitator. Pastor Joel is available to provide support. He may also be able to facilitate if his time and schedule allows.

Order a book yourself or call Pastor Joel – he has a limited number of copies available for \$10.

Annual Fall Stewardship Campaign

In anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, we “Set the Table of Grace” for our Fall Stewardship Campaign. Just as Luther often engaged in theological conversation with his family and guests at the table, we invited our congregation to gather around the “table” as we enriched our understanding of Christian stewardship.

Our guest preacher, Jeanne McCoskery, “Set the Table of Grace” with an insightful and inspirational sermon on stewardship.

A total of 50 Estimate of Giving Cards were received totaling.....	\$201,124
For those who didn’t turn in a card, we make an assumption that their giving will be the same as last year.....	\$138,188
Loose offerings for the last year.....	\$7,559
Total anticipated income for 2017.....	\$346,871

Thank you for your blessings to Pella! Through sharing our gifts of time, talent and possessions, we are serving our Lord Jesus Christ, helping our church family at Pella, our community and beyond.

Compassionate Communication Workshops

There are three processes that are part of Compassionate Communication: Empathy, Self-empathy, and Honest Self-expression. Pastor Joel will present a workshop on each one of the processes on Saturdays: January 14, February 11, March 11. Each workshop will run from 9 AM to 3 PM. There will be no cost. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary. Invite a friend or more. Bring your own lunch.

You are welcome to attend any or all of the workshops. Sign up in the Church Office or email your name and phone number to Pastor Joel at: pastorjoel@pellachurch.net.

Each workshop will work with basics of Compassionate Communication to help understand and experience one of the processes. Here is a description of the intended outcomes.

January 14: Process 1 – Listening from the Heart

Strengthen your connections with others. Learn to be present in a non-critical way. Grow in listening and looking for the human-ness in others. Bring great clarity, connection and harmony to your relationships and interactions with others.

February 11: Process 2 – Connecting with Your Heart

Uncover and clarify what is truly important to you. Move away from self-judgement and guilt and shame. Move toward greater self-love and acceptance and inner peace. Learn to be self-full instead of selfish or self-less.

March 11: Process 3 – Speaking from the Heart

Learn to tell your truth in love. Express yourself in a way others can more easily receive. Ask for the things that are important for you. Find what you can respond to with full affirmation to others and yourself. Engage with others by sharing your genuine self.

Contact Pastor Joel if you have any questions.

Thank you, Thank you

Stan and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone especially our friends from Pella Lutheran Church for all the meals, visits, cards and flowers while I was recuperating from surgery after my cancer diagnosis. Everyone's thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated. Stan & Shelly Rosaaen



Thank You!



Acolytes for January

- 1 Grady Larson
- 8 Blake Benson & Wes VanHook
- 15 Daisy Snow & Sarah Karanjai
- 22 Ryan McGinnis & Nathan Wilhelm
- 29 Hannah Anderson & Whitney VanHook

Thank you for your donations to the various memorial funds

To Radio fund

- In memory of Reuben Hundtofte
Gail & Rhonda Peterson
Family & Friends
- In memory of Aileen Moran Hackley
Louise Iversen

To Memorial fund

- In memory of Aileen Moran Hackley
Gail & Rhonda Peterson

To Set Free to Serve

- In memory of Reuben Hundtofte
Gene & Bonnie Meldahl
- In memory of Izetta Jensen
David McMillen
- In honor of Marlys & Sherman
Dynneson's 55th Wedding
Anniversary
Gene & Judy Sondeno

Scripture for January

1/1/2017 Happy New Year!

- Name of Jesus**
- Numbers 6:22-27
- Psalm 8
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Luke 2:15-21

1/8

Baptism of Our Lord

- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Psalm 29
- Acts 10:34-43
- Matthew 3:13-17

1/15

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

- Isaiah 49:1-7
- Psalm 40:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- John 1:29-42

1/22

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

- Isaiah 9:1-4
- Psalm 27:1, 4-9
- 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
- Matthew 4:12-23

1/29 (Annual Meeting)

4th Sunday after Epiphany

- Micah 6:1-8
- Psalm 15
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- Matthew 5:1-12

Interim Reflections

by Pastor Joel

By the end of the month, at the Annual Congregational Meeting, you will have selected a Call Committee. This group will work to bring a recommendation of someone to serve as your next pastor. When you vote in favor of that recommendation you will issue a “call” to that pastor (which is different than “hiring”).

Pastors aren’t the only ones to be “called.” Every follower of Christ is “called.” Jesus said to his first followers, “Come and see” (John 1:39) and “Follow me...” (Matthew 4:19) When we baptize a person they are infused into the body of Christ and Christ is forever CALLING them: “Come and see” and “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

Each calling seems to have an invitation and purpose. Invitation: come or follow. Purpose: see or fish for people. Sometimes we get settled into thinking that these are the sole responsibilities (call) of a pastor. Let me give you some unsettling news – every one of you is called!

Jesus calls to each and every one of us to Come and See. Christ calls each and every one of us to Follow and to Fish for people. We fulfill that purpose in different ways, and that purpose is to share the love of God in Christ with others.

“Let your light shine before others ...” is what is spoken to the baptized when their baptismal candle is lit from the Christ candle. This is a call that each baptized person receives. The invitation is in the words “let your light” and the purpose follows, “shine before others.”

The invitation implies that you have what it takes. The purpose assumes that you can accomplish the task. The Spirit provides us with the gifts and energy that are necessary.

I like to think of the roles designated in the congregation as “calls.” I believe that we are consistent in our theology when we understand the selection of Council members, various Committee members, worship assistants, educational leaders, etc. as specific “calls.” These “calls” don’t last forever like our calls as Christ followers. They are temporary but they come with an invitation and purpose: Come and serve.

These calls are different than requests for a “warm body” to fill a position. If you have been asked to “come and serve” I would encourage you to understand that as a “call.” Consider how the Spirit is moving in your life and the life of the congregation. What gifts have you been given for the “call?” And weigh that with other “callings” that might require more of you presently – family, vocation, community, etc.? Let the Spirit lead you in your callings.

I would hope each and every one of you reflect on your call and various callings in life, not just as it pertains to the congregation. Think about your call to be a follower of Christ as well as the ways you share the love of Christ with others – your family, your friends, your co-workers, your community and more.

2016 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

From

Mark & Marilyn Olson
 Johnny & Rita Steinbeisser
 J. Harry Johnson
 Randy, Kelly, Alec
 & Danny Johnson
 Kerry Rasmussen
 Leo & Shirley Miller

 Duane & Linda Anderson

 Dave & Becky Reidle

 Palmer & Doris Norby

 Marvelle Fink
 The Lambs
 Vanessa Pooch
 Russ & Enid Huotari

 Iona Hansen

 Brian & Caroline Bronowski
 Ann Ginther

 Randy Roberts

 Edward Vaira
 Kim Hill
 Curtis, Erin, Hannah
 & Aiden Anderson

In memory or honor

Chris, Lindsay, Tucker, Asher & Lindsay
 John Steinbeisser
 Donna Johnson

 Donna Johnson
 Curtis & Florence Rasmussen
 Jennifer & Nathaniel Miller
 Pastor Joel Westby & Diane Beirwagen
 Vera Anderson
 Ken & Caroline Klasna, Daniel Anderson
 Maddalyn Anderson, Margie Christianson
 Dale Reidle
 Arnold & Adeline Dige, Ruth Reidle
 Florence & Del Ulgenes
 Ramona Weideman
 Walter Groth
 William F. (Bill) Fink
 All pastors who have served at Pella
 Alice Strand & Ida Pooch
 Donna Johnson, Madeline Averett,
 Dean Thogerson, Kelly Roberts,
 Reuben Hundtofte, Selene Gaffri
 Gunnar Hansen
 Andrew & Martha Miller
 Lyle & Helen Frounfelter
 Rienie Ginther
 Pastor Joel Westby & Diane Beirwagen
 Kelly & Ryan Roberts
 Ivy, Randy & Kristen Roberts
 Susie Vaira
 Allan & Audrey Herman

 Maddalyn Lenore Anderson



2016 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

**From**

Violet Tharp
 Ron, Brent & Agnes Steffens
 Ron Steffens
 Tom & Nancy Hedegaard

Louise Iversen
 Dawn & George Biebl

Stan & Shelly Rosaaen

Eric & Karen Beenken
 Betty Cumming
 Larry & Tami Christensen
 Charles & Chole Butler
 Beth Redlin & Dan Mocko
 Robert & Diane Savage

Ruth Reidle
 Katrina Meldahl

In memory or honor

Turner Tharp
 Eldon & Janis Steffens
 Dean Thogersen
 Nels & Lois Dige
 Jim & Irene Hedegaard
 Ethan & Matthew Hedegaard
 Gene Iversen
 Lavern & Mabel Biebl
 Robert & Elizabeth Anderson
 Cole & Erin Fink & Dean
 Kyle Biebl
 Selmer Rosaaen, Evelyn Williams
 Fred & Nellie Ross
 Kenneth Beenken
 Selene Gaffri
 Our parents & children
 Our parents & Carmen Crosby
 Molly Elise Christensen
 Frank & Helen Savage
 Clare Jensen
 Mikael, Matthew & Andrew Savage
 Dale Reidle & Marilyn Lorenz
 Gene & Bonnie Meldahl

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, following the 9 a.m. worship. Following the meeting we will have a congregational potluck meal in the fellowship hall. Please plan to attend!

Council News Summary

The December 15 meeting was called to order and the previous minutes were approved.

John Nelson gave the financial report. The checking account has a balance of \$89,000.12, and the general fund balance is \$15,993.72. The Set Free to Serve loan balance is \$842,619.21 at this time. This report was accepted as presented.

Pastor Joel reported that he has been active in all groups meeting at the church, and he is continuing to plan for the upcoming table talks for Epiphany and Lent.

Erin Anderson, Christian Education Committee member, reported the Christmas Program on December 14 was well attended. The Community meal served more than 300 people and the free will offering went to the Richland County Food Bank.

Endowment Committee report was given by Craig Johnson. At their November meeting they discussed where funds would be donated in 2016. Diane Savage also noted for historical purposes that the money available in the Discretionary Fund comes from the Endowment Committee, as well as some from Pella Pantry.

George Biebl reported for the Personnel Committee. The Council agreed with the Committee's recommendations for wage increases for Chole Butler and Kenny Vannatta.

Property and Grounds report was given by Mark Olson. A few items need to be taken care of in the church and the north parsonage. Those tasks will be completed as soon as possible.

Craig Johnson reported on the Fall Stewardship Campaign. The estimate of giving cards were well received.

The worship and music report was reviewed as printed.

Randy Iversen reported the Nominating Committee has a slate of candidates and is also working on Call Committee members at this time.

Old Business: On the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Janitorial Assistant Position will be filled by Bev Jones and Becky Kallevig. They will begin working on January 1, 2017. The Constitutional Task Force is reviewing amendments, etc.

New Business: Building requests were reviewed and approved. The council reviewed the 2017 budget proposal. Annual meeting date was set for January 29, 2017.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 10 @ 7 p.m.

Annual Reports

If you have not turned in your 2016 annual report the office needs them by January 6, to be included in Pella's Annual Report. The office staff thanks you for your assistance.



Thanks for Coming

We want to thank everyone who joined us for Wednesday Bible School’s presentation of “Sing with Us the Christmas Story” on December 14. More than 200 people joined us during the program. Then more than 300 people enjoyed the delicious Christmas feast. Thanks to everyone who helped with the program and the meal. What a wonderful way to celebrate our Lord’s birth!

LYO Prepares to Feed the Hungry in Our Community and ...

Join LYO on February 1 (Wednesday) and February 5 (Sunday) as they work to eliminate hunger in Richland County. All across the United States, young people will be collecting money and food for their local charities as part of the **Souper Bowl of Caring**, a national movement to encourage young people to care for others in their community and to raise hunger awareness. On the 1st and 5th, our students will be greeting you with pots and pans to fill up with money that will be donated to the Richland County Food Bank.

... at Our Church LYO will continue its annual fundraising tradition: sub sandwiches and chili for Super Bowl Sunday. So you have the opportunity to help eliminate hunger in your own home by picking up your pre-ordered food to enjoy as you watch the big game! The order forms can be found on the information desk or in the church office. Order forms should be turned into the office by Friday, February 3, 2017.

LYO Subs & Chili

6” Sub w/ ham, turkey, roast beef,		
American & Swiss cheese	_____	Quantity
Chili (in pints)	_____	Quantity

Free will offering can be made when picking up food.
Pickup on February 5th, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Name _____

JANUARY 2017

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

<p>1 Happy New Year! 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship</p>	<p>2 Office Closed</p>	<p>3 8 am Quilting</p>	<p>4 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO</p>	<p>5 6:30 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:30 am FLUTES practice 5:45 pm Budget Committee Mtg. & LYO</p>	<p>6 Epiphany</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 8:15 am Choir 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10 am Blood Pressures 10:30 am Hand bells 10:45 am Reclaiming the "L" Word</p>	<p>9 6:30 pm Compassionate Communication Practice Group</p>	<p>10 8 am Quilting 2 pm. Reclaiming the "L" Word 7 pm Council Mtg.</p>	<p>11 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO</p>	<p>12 6:30 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:30 am FLUTES practice 7 pm Faith Circle</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9 am—3 pm Compassionate Communication Workshop</p>
<p>15 8:15 am Choir Choir Sings 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Hand bells 10:45 am Reclaiming the "L" Word</p>	<p>16 6:30 pm Compassionate Communication Practice Group</p>	<p>17 8 am Quilting 2 pm Reclaiming the "L" Word 5:30 pm Christian Education Committee</p>	<p>18 NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES 5:15 pm Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>19 6:30 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:30 am FLUTES practice</p>	<p>20 Ambassador News Articles Due</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9 am Worship Praise Band 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Hand bells 10:45 am Reclaiming the "L" Word</p>	<p>23 6:30 pm Compassionate Communication Practice Group</p>	<p>24 8 am Quilting 2 pm. Reclaiming the "L" Word</p>	<p>25 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO</p>	<p>26 6:30 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 9:30 am FLUTES practice</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Hand bells Annual Meeting</p>	<p>30 6:30 pm Compassionate Communication Practice Group</p>	<p>31 8 am Quilting 10 am Worship at Extended Care 2 pm. Reclaiming the "L" Word</p>				

**PELLA LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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(Service also on the MRCTV
Community Channel 101)

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cbutler@pellachurch.net

PARISH ASSISTANT:

Becky Reidle
breidle@pellachurch.net

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

COORDINATOR:

Janelle Leader Lamb
jlamb@pellachurch.net

CUSTODIANS:

Kenny Vannatta
Bev Jones
Bec Kallevig

MISSION PARTNER

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at
Rocky Boy

COMPANION SYNOD

Cape Orange Diocese
Evangelical Lutheran Church
of South Africa

COMPANION CONGREGATION

Upington Parish
Northern Cape, South Africa

**THE PELLA
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CHURCH**

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

(Closed from Noon to

1:00 p.m. for lunch)

**The church directories are here. They are
at the information desk.**

**No Wednesday night
activities on January 18!**

**Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29
following 9 a.m. Worship.**



**Pella Lutheran Church
418 West Main Street
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