



Pella Lutheran Church

Ambassador



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

March 2017

“Covenant Living” on Wednesday Evenings

Beginning Wednesday, March 1, our Wednesday evenings will include worship at 6:45 pm. The theme will be “Covenant Living: Reflections on Luther’s Small Catechism.” The first Wednesday is Ash Wednesday so the worship will include Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. This worship will probably be an hour in length while the following five worship services will be no longer than 30 minutes.

Here’s the schedule:

- March 1 – Covenant of Renewal – Confession and Forgiveness
- March 8 – Covenant of Community – Ten Commandments
- March 15 – Covenant of the Heart – Apostles’ Creed
- March 22 – Covenant of Prayer – Lord’s Prayer
- March 29 – Covenant of Water – Holy Baptism
- April 5 – Covenant of Bread & Wine – Holy Communion



To complement that series, Pastor Joel is encouraging people to purchase a copy of the book 40-Day Journey with Martin Luther (Gracia Grindal, editor). The book promotes reflection and journaling. The book guides you through the Small Catechism and provides questions for you to consider. You are invited to find others who are journaling for a time of shared reflection. The Fellowship/Dining Room is usually available during the time following the worship or request a space in the Office area.

2017 Lenten Noon Luncheon Schedule

- Wednesday, March 8 at Peoples’ Congregational Church - Topic: Creating
Speaker: Pastor Melanie Martin-Dent of Lonsdale United Methodist
- Wednesday, March 15 at *Pella Lutheran Church* - Topic: Crossing
Speaker: Pastor Neil Lindorff of Peoples’ Congregational Church
- Wednesday, March 22 at Lonsdale United Methodist Church - Topic: Healing
Speaker: Father Tran of St. Matthew's Catholic Church
- Wednesday, March 29 at Zion Lutheran Church, Fairview - Topic: Calming
Speaker: Pastor Joel Westby of Pella Lutheran Church
- Wednesday, April 5 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church - Topic: Promise
Speaker: Pastor Roberta Pierce of Zion Lutheran Church, Fairview

Labyrinth for Lent

Why for Lent?

Lent is a time we are encouraged to practice spiritual disciplines. From the Ash Wednesday liturgy (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) we hear this invitation:

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent - self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love - strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

When will it be available? The tentative schedule is for the labyrinth to be available beginning Wednesday, March 1 (Ash Wednesday) and continue through Saturday, April 15 (day before Easter).

Sundays; 10:15 am – 8:30 pm (**6:30 – 8:30 pm**)

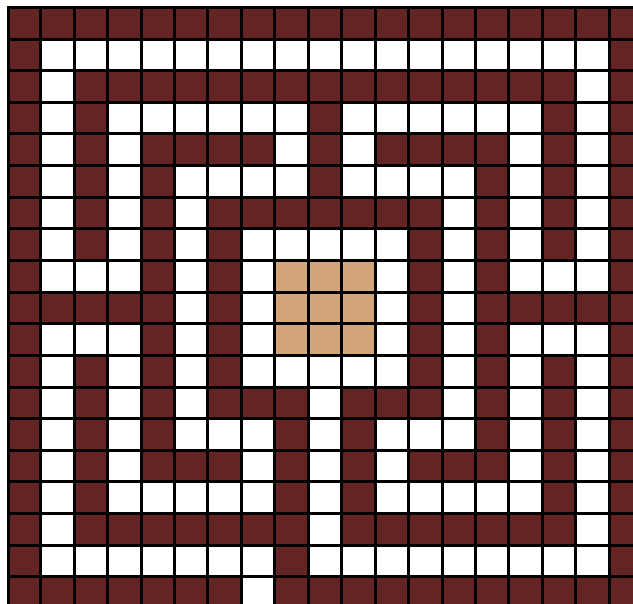
Mondays - Wednesdays; 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Thursdays; 6:30 am – 4:30 pm (**7:45 – 8:30 am**)

Fridays; 8:30 am – Noon

* Extra times will be offered on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Pastor Joel will be available during the times in **bold** to introduce people to the practice of walking the labyrinth and provide guidance.



Focus on Spiritual Formation: Walking and Praying the Labyrinth

“Make me to know your ways, O God; teach me your paths.” Psalm 25:4

The Practice

The labyrinth is a metaphor for life. The Christian life is often described as a pilgrimage or journey with God. In life, as with the labyrinth, we don't always know where the path will take us, what twists and turns the future holds, but we trust that the path will arrive at the center, to God. Once we reach the center, we are in a place to receive answers to our questions. On the journey out, we are sent back into the world, potentially energized and with a broader sense of identity and ideas of how to be of service.

A labyrinth has only one path. Utilizing our right brain, it engages our symbolic mind and is representative of our life's journey. There are no blind alleys or false leads, no puzzle to figure out. There is only one path that leads you to the center and that same path leads you back out again. The labyrinth is a path of prayer, a walking path of meditation that can become a mirror of the soul.

Getting Started

Walking the labyrinth can be approached in many ways. There is no “right” way to walk the labyrinth. It can be used for prayer, discernment, healing, self-knowledge; some find the labyrinth especially helpful in times of loss and transition. It can be helpful to do some brief journaling prior to entering the labyrinth, naming the parameters of your life and what you are seeking spiritually.

One approach is to think of the walk as a three-fold path.

THE WAY IN: Release. The way in is a time of letting go.

AT THE CENTER: Receive. Rest. Take as much time as you need. Stand, sit, kneel or lie down.

THE WAY OUT: Return. Follow the path back out the way you came in. This is a time of integrating whatever you received or learned, and returning to the world.

After you have completed the walk, you may want to ask “God, how can my experience here help me understand my life?” You might find it helpful to spend some time journaling your answer to that question and your experience of the walk.

Background

Labyrinths have been a part of human history for more than 4,000 years. They have been used as meditation and prayer tools for centuries. The first documented example available of labyrinth use within the Christian tradition is in 324 C.E. when Christians placed the labyrinth on the floor of their church building in Algiers, North Africa. The use of labyrinths has recently been revived for Christian worship, in hospitals, and schools as an invitation for contemplative prayer and insight.

LYO Selling Butter Braids

LYO's annual Butter Braid fundraising campaign is underway. If you are familiar with Butter Braids, you know how delicious they are. If you've never tasted one of these delicious pastries, don't miss out this year.

LYO will be selling the following products:

- Caramel Rolls
- Apple BB
- Blueberry & Cream Cheese BB
- Cherry BB
- Cinnamon BB
- Raspberry BB
- Strawberry & Cream Cheese BB
- **NEW this year:** Four Cheese & Herb Butter Braid with marinara dipping sauce



All products are \$14. LYO will take orders until March 19. Butter Braids will be delivered April 1 – just in time for your Easter celebrations. Thanks for supporting LYO!

Tell a Great Story at Easter Vigil

On Saturday evening, April 15, there will be an Easter Vigil. Part of that worship will be the telling of a few of the great stories of faith. Telling the story can include a monologue, dialogue, play or skit, singing, prompts, etc. We are looking for people who would be willing to put some energy into telling (or re-telling) at least four of the appointed stories. The list of the Biblical stories (readings) can be found on page 269 of the ELW (our current red worship book). If you are interested or want to know more, please contact Pastor Joel.

If you are wondering what an Easter Vigil is check out pages 266-270 in the ELW. ELW is the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book that is our primary source for worship at Pella.



Acolytes for March

- 5 Max Nicholson & Tyler Olson
- 12 Mikael Savage & Hattie Brothen
- 19 Jenna Anderson & Rowan Ellingson
- 26 Grady Larson & Olivia Schoepp

Thank you for your donations to the various memorial funds

To Music Memorial fund

In memory of Anna Laursen
Gail & Rhonda Peterson

Missing Pans

The kitchen crew continues to have pans missing. If you would like to borrow any items please let the office know before you take them home. When borrowing items from the kitchen, please return them by Wednesday. Thank you.

Sermons on the Web

So you missed worship but would still like to hear the readings and sermons? No problem! The four most recent sermons are now available on Pella’s web site. Go to www.pellachurch.net. Click on the “News” heading near the top of the page. Here you are able to access an audio file that contains the day’s readings and sermons for your listening pleasure.



Scripture for March

3/5

First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11



3/12

Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

3/19

Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

3/26

Fourth Sunday in Lent
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41



LYO Thanks YOU

LYO wants to thank everyone who ordered their Super Subs & Chili. We hope you enjoyed the food. You helped us raise more than \$800 for our ELCA Youth Gathering Fund. Thanks again!

Souper Bowl of Caring Results

LYO thanks everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, Feb. 5. The money you dropped into the soup pots that Sunday totaled \$350. This money will go to the Richland County Food Bank. The Souper Bowl of Caring, which LYO has participated in for many years, is a national effort that allows youth organizations to use the energy of the Super Bowl to help feed the hungry. As of February 21, these were the national numbers for 2017: 5,124 groups participated and \$7,683,319 in money and food was collected.



LYO Prepares for 2018 Youth Gathering Informational Meeting March 8



Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the ELCA gather for a week of 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 faith in their daily lives. The 2018 Gathering will be held from June 27 through July 1 in Houston. The theme is: “This Changes Everything,” based on Ephesians 2:8 – “By grace you have been saved...”

On **March 8**, LYO students and parents will meet to discuss next year’s gathering. We will worship together at 6:45 p.m. After worship we will meet in the LYO Room. If you are interested in attending the Youth Gathering but cannot make this meeting, please contact Janelle at 433-3350 or jlamb@pellachurch.net.

“Speaking from Your Heart”

A Compassionate Communication Workshop on Honest Self Expression

Learn the process known as “honest self-expression” and become familiar with the basics of Compassionate Communication. This is the third of three workshops on Compassionate Communication. You are welcome whether you have attended either of the prior workshops or not.

Honest self-expression is speaking from your heart and speaking the truth in love.

The workshop will be Saturday, March 11, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Pella Lutheran. Pastor Joel Westby will be the facilitator.

There is no cost. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary. Invite a friend or more. Bring your own lunch. Sign up in the Church Office or email your name and phone number to Pastor Joel at: pastorjoel@pellachurch.net.

Pella Lutheran Church LYO Presents:

Noodles & Doodles

Saturday, April 1st



6:00 - Social & Silent Auction

6:30 - Pasta Buffet Meal

7:30 - Silent Auction Closes

\$15.00 Per Ticket

\$12.00 Senior Citizens

Free Will Donation

Childcare will be

available

during the event.



Lutheran World Relief Care Kits

To mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Lutheran World Relief is inviting everyone to join in a year of making "Kits of Care" for those in need. To support this project, Faith Circle here at Pella will collect and assemble Personal Care Kits during the months of March and April. Personal Care Kits supply necessary hygiene supplies to people who have lost everything through natural disasters or war and violence. The congregation is asked to join in to make a difference and bring hope to neighbors around the world.

In the church entryway, there will be a sample kit on display, and there will also be a collection box to drop off your donated items. Please note that you do not have to donate a complete kit, as any combination or quantity of the listed items will be appreciated. Kit items will be collected during March and April, so the kits can be assembled, packed and sent to the donation drop-off site in May. Please give new items only.

Here is a list of the items needed for the Personal Care Kits:

1. One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" minimum and 27" x 52" maximum), dark color recommended. (Light-weight towels are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space, and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.)
2. Two to three bath-size bars of soap, any brand, in original wrapping. No mini or hotel-size soap please.
3. One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging (toothbrush multi-packs are okay also, as we will separate and seal them individually before packing).
4. One sturdy wide tooth comb (no picks or fine tooth combs).
5. One metal nail clipper.

For individuals who would like to be a part of this mission project, but who don't want to go shopping for the items, please know that monetary donations are welcome, and the Faith Circle ladies will use the money to purchase the necessary kit items. Please make your check payable to Pella Lutheran Church and designate it for "LWR Kits." For more information about Lutheran World Relief, visit <https://lwr.org/>

Council News Summary

At the February 7 meeting:

It was reported that the checking account has a balance of \$85,562.08, and \$17,680.42 in the general fund. The Set Free to Serve loan balance is \$714,403.59.

The Council supported Pastor Joel's idea to form a Reformation 500th Year Task Force. Pastor will be seeking volunteers for this group.

Christian Education: VBS has been set for June 19-23.

Property & Grounds Committee: A map will be made of the church with all locations of fire extinguishers. The current parking situation was discussed and changes will be made to ease current potential hazards.

Worship & Music Committee: Previewed the Lent and Easter Worship plans. It was decided that there will be a Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Easter Vigil, and only one Sunday Morning worship this year.

Call Committee: Met on February 4, along with the Assistant to the Bishop, Jason Asselstine. Chris Hillesland was elected as the committee chair and D'lon Anderson as Secretary. The Committee is updating the Ministry Site Profile.

Old Business: Bylaws and Handbook are being reviewed. Some of the changes could also lead to changes in the Constitution.

New Business:

Election of Officers: Sue Andersen, Vice President and Erin Anderson, Secretary.

Council members signed up for committee representatives.

2017 Synod support was reviewed.

Council 2017 goals were set.

A complete set of the minutes is available upon request. Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting 2017 Summary

The January 29 meeting was called to order, devotions were led by Interim Pastor Joel Westby and the January 24, 2016, minutes were approved as presented.

John Nelson gave the 2016 financial report and 2017 proposed budget. The checking account has a balance of \$82,410.40, \$201,810.00 in the Money Market fund and \$13,844.66 in the general fund. Budgeted income for 2016 was \$333,877.11, with an actual income of \$338,421.81. Budgeted expenses were \$382,003.50 with actual expenses being \$319,865.24. John reviewed the Set Free to Serve summary balances. Checking had \$18,768.80 with \$108,975.31 in Thrivent Money Market fund and a remaining loan balance of \$751,597.27. The financial reports were accepted as presented and printed.

Pastor Joel presented his report prior to his start in August and through the end of the year. President Diane Savage gave her final report. She thanked all members for their work and service during the past year. Diane stated the congregation is Pella Lutheran and together we are the church.

Selection of new Council Members: The new Council Members serving three year terms are: Sue Andersen, Travis Rosaaen and Natalie West.

Election of Nominating Members: A motion was made to accept the following committee members: Susan Iversen and Jason Lamb, as well as outgoing Council members Craig Johnson, Greg Miller and Mark Olson. The new 2017 Council Vice President will join the committee upon the Council Election.

Selection of Call Committee Members: The Call Committee will be used to search for a new lead Pastor here at Pella. Those selected are: D'Lon Anderson, Katelyn Dynneson, Audrey Herman, Chris Hillesland, Bill Iversen, Randy Jones, Rhonda Peterson, Luke Savage, and Judy Sondeno.

2017 Proposed Budget: Randy Iversen presented the proposed budget, discussing the remaining \$13,844 in the general fund, being added to the end of the budget. A motion was made to accept the budget and it was passed.

Change of Leadership: Randy Iversen stepped up to receive the position of President from Diane Savage. Randy presented Diane a Peace Lily as a token of appreciation for her dedication and years of service.

Installation of New Council Members and Call Committee Members: Pastor Joel presided over the installation and asked current Council Members to join.

The meeting was adjourned and congregation sang grace before the potluck.



MARCH 2017

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

			1 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7:45 pm Confirmation & LYO	2 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Study	3	4
5 8:15 am Choir 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Hand bells 10:45 am Reclaiming the "L" Word	6	7 8 am Quilting	8 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO (Parent Mtg) 6:45 pm Lent Worship	9 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Study 9:30 am FLUTES 7 pm Faith Circle	10	11 9 am—3 pm Compassionate Communication Workshop (Speaking from Your Heart)
12 8:15 am Choir 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10 am Blood Pressures taken 10:30 am Table Talk 10:30 am Hand bells	13	14 8 am Quilting	15 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO 6:45 pm Lent Worship	16 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Study 9:30 am FLUTES	17	18
19 8:15 am Choir 9 am Worship Choir Singing 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Table Talk 10:30 am Hand bells Butter Braid Orders Due	20 Ambassador News Articles Due	21 8 am Quilting 5:30 pm Christian Ed. Committee	22 5:15 pm Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Lent Worship	23 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Study 9:30 am FLUTES	24	25
26 9 am Worship Praise Band 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Table Talk 10:30 am Hand bells	27	28 8 am Quilting 10 am Worship at Extended Care	29 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO 6:45 pm Lent Worship	30 6:30 am Men's Breakfast Study 9:30 am FLUTES	31	APRIL 1 Noodles & Doodles LYO Fundraiser

**PELLA LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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(Service also on the MRCTV
Community Channel 101)

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COORDINATOR:
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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
"AMBASSADOR" IS
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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)

Wednesday, March 22

NO WBS, Confirmation and LYO on Wednesday, March 22.

*The Community Meal will still be served at 6:00 p.m., and
Worship will begin at 6:45 p.m. that evening.*

Save the Dates

Senior Recognition Sunday will be April 30

Confirmation Sunday will be May 7



Vacation Bible School

Preparations for Pella's Vacation Bible School are already underway. Save the dates of June 19-23. Our theme this year will be Hero Central.



Pella Lutheran Church
418 West Main Street
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