



Pella Lutheran Church

Ambassador

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



February 2017

Table Talks Look at Transformative Impact of Mission

Continuing our use of “Table Talks” we are emphasizing Mission during Epiphany. In February we will focus 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 even 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.

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, daily ministry, and loving others?

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.

Interim Reflections

by Pastor Joel

I remind you that I am not available for the call to Pella. It is clearly stated in the interim contract that the Congregational Council and I signed: *“The Interim Pastor will ... agree under no circumstances to be available for regular call to this congregation.”* I will keep my commitment to that.

It’s primarily because I sense my call is to interim ministry. That’s what brought me here, and it’s what will take me somewhere else when you call a new pastor. So, it’s not because I don’t like you. I enjoy being with you; preaching, teaching, visiting, and supporting you in your call as a community of faith. I am invested in you fulfilling the ministry and mission you are called to do “with Christ.”

With the Call Committee now in place, I may be here for only a few more months (if the process goes really well) or for another year (if more time is needed). I hope you feel at ease no matter how much time it takes to find a pastor who will match with you and your mission and ministry.

Until then I am your pastor, however not quite like one who is called by the congregation. For that reason I encourage you to once and a while imagine that I am no longer here and instead picture someone else is here and that I am doing interim somewhere else in Montana.

Another thing that is part of the Interim contract states: *“The Interim Pastor will ... agree not to be involved in the congregation’s call process except when the Synod bishop requests such participation.”*

As the Call Committee does its work, I will not be involved. I will not know any more than you do. I will not suggest any names; I will not comment on any names; I will not be a reference for any candidate. I am not a part of the Call Committee. It’s literally YOUR call; not mine.

I will pray for the Call Committee, as I hope you will also. I will look forward to getting updates from the Call Committee, even if they tell us they are waiting. I also hope you will respond to any requests of the Call Committee in gathering information to complete the Ministry Site Profile which is the document detailing and describing the congregation. I will pray for you, as a congregation, to be ready to receive a new pastor.

The Call Committee is just getting started. The process takes time. You want to find a match that is mutually satisfying and fulfilling. Be patient and prayerful and at peace.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES IN COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION

“Connecting with Your Heart:”

A Compassionate Communication Workshop on Self-Empathy

Saturday, February 11, 9 am—3 pm

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.

Learn the process known as Self-empathy and become familiar with the basics of Compassionate Communication. This is the second of three workshops on Compassionate Communication. You are welcome whether this will be your only choice because it can stand alone. You are also welcome to add this choice to the previous workshop on Empathy and/or the next one in March which will be on Honest Self-expression.

This workshop on Self-empathy will be Saturday, February 11, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Pella Lutheran. Pastor Joel Westby will be the facilitator.

There will be 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.

Starting a New Series: Compassionate Communication Practice Group

Monday evenings, 6:30-8:00 pm, Starting February 6

The Compassionate Communication Practice Group will start anew on Monday, February 6. The group will meet most every Monday until May 15 (12 sessions). Each session runs from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

New comers are welcome. There will be short presentations on the fundamentals and then “live” practice on situations that are important to participants. Confidentiality is expected from all who attend.

You need to purchase the book “Connecting Across Differences” (2nd Edition) for use. There is no other cost. Be sure to contact Pastor Joel to join the group.

LYO Selling Butter Braids Soon

LYO's annual Butter Braid fundraising campaign will be coming soon. 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 Chees & Herb Butter Braid with marinara dipping sauce.

All products are \$14. LYO will start taking orders toward the end of February, ending the sale in mid-March. Butter Braids will be delivered April 1 – just in time for your Easter celebrations. Thanks for supporting LYO!



Save the Date – 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. More details will be coming your way soon!

LYO Subs & Chili - Order by Friday, Feb. 3

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 _____

Acolytes for February

5 Ben Carlsen & Bradyn Page
12 Emma Doty & Payten Syth
19 Colten Dahl & Jacob Thompson
26 Avery Iversen & Zariah Gonzalez



Thank you for your donations to the various memorial funds

To Music Memorial fund

In memory of Donna Johnson
Kevin & Karen Boehler

To Property & Grounds fund

In memory of Eldon Steffens
Kevin & Karen Boehler

To Endowment - Building fund

In memory of Donna Johnson
Olson Family Foundation
In memory of Elsie Redlin
Olson Family Foundation

To Radio fund

In memory of Aileen Moran Hackley
Sherman & Marlys Dynneson

Missing Pan

The kitchen crew is missing a stainless steel pan (2.5" deep). If you know where it is, please contact the church office. Also, if you would like to borrow any items please let the office know.

Scripture for February

2/5

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Psalms 112:1-9 [10]

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Matthew 5:13-20



2/12

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

2/19

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Psalms 119:33-40

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

2/26

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9



Scout Sunday is February 5

Pella recognizes Sunday, Feb. 5, as Scout Sunday. You will notice Scouts assisting during worship and fellowship during this coming Sunday. This is not a new event for Pella, but there will be an addition to this year's worship service. Janelle has spent valuable time with two Scout groups this fall/winter, exploring the P.R.A.Y. program. The Scouts will receive recognition for participating in that program during worship on Feb. 5.

God and Family

In November/December, Janelle taught a class titled "God and Family" to a group of 4th graders. We spent six weeks studying the Bible and learning how "God and Family" are like pizza:

Crust – A family's foundation of faith is built on God's love.

Sauce – A family has a special heritage.

Toppings – A family has members with unique gifts and talents.

Cheese – A family has the 10 Commandments to hold them together.

Bake – A family goes through "hot" times but can come out better than ever.

Eat & Share – A family nourishes each other and shares God's love.



Scouts with their pizzas! (L-R) Logan Rettke, Aaron See, Evan Hampton, Corey Christensen

God and Me

In January, Janelle taught a different class titled "God and Me" to 1st-3rd graders. We spent four weeks studying the Bible and creating games for our GAMEBOX (God And Me Exploring Box):

Matching Game – God created me.

Guessing Game – Jesus is God's gift to me.

Prayer Cube – I can talk with God.

Board Game – Because God cares for me, I can care for others.

Participants of the "God and Me" class were:

2nd graders: Thor Fulgham, Casey Rettke, Rye Thrans

3rd graders: Stetson Armes, Shane Goergen, Nicholas Jorstad, Alex Karanjai, Ben Kordonowy, Paul Ownby, Christian Rasmussen

“CAN” You Feel the Love?

Richland County 4-H Junior Leaders are challenging all community members to “Share the Love” this February by participating in a county-wide food drive. Emma Torgerson is a Junior Leader and has a drop box near the office. She is hoping to collect some of the following supplies:

Canned vegetables	Canned fruit (including applesauce)
Canned meat	Canned soup
Canned or dry rice/beans	Feminine products
Hand soap/Dish soap	Travel-size toiletry items
Toilet tissue/Facial tissue	

Emma will transport any donations to the Richland County Food Bank. You may donate items throughout February.

Labyrinth for Lent

What’s a labyrinth?

It is a designed path typically used for spiritual discernment and prayer. Labyrinths are an ancient way the church has used to practice prayer and self-examination. There is one inlaid on the tile floor of the Music Room (see photo). This is a simple pattern that utilized the tiles and the space. The fact that it is a labyrinth is not obvious. Perhaps the most famous labyrinth is the one in the entry of the Chartres Cathedral in northern France. A labyrinth is a single path leading in to and out from a center spot. A cross will be placed at the center of the labyrinth to help focus our prayers and reflections.

Why for Lent?

Lent is often referred to as a journey to the cross. Like a pilgrimage. Lent is a time we are encouraged to practice spiritual disciplines. From the Ash Wednesday liturgy (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) we hear this invitation:



Continued next page ~

~ Labyrinth for Lent - continued

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: 8:30 am – 8:30 pm

Tuesdays: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Wednesdays: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

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

Fridays: 8:30 am – Noon

* Additional times will be scheduled for 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 some guidance before entering the labyrinth. More information will be included in next month's "Ambassador".

Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship to Feature Small Catechism

Beginning Wednesday, March 1, there will be a series of Worship services that will feature Luther's Small Catechism. 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. Sign up for a book in the Church Office (\$13 for new).

Council News Summary

The January 10 meeting was called to order and the previous minutes were approved with the correction that Diane Savage gave the Endowment Committee report.

Chuck Lowman presented the Endowment Committee's written annual report.

John Nelson gave the financial report. The checking account has a balance of \$61,784.97, \$201,304.78 in the Yellowstone Money Market fund and \$40,191.66 in the general fund. The account at Wells Fargo has been closed and those funds moved to the Stockman bank as approved by the Council.

Pastor Joel reported he will be on vacation February 16-22. He encouraged the Council to start thinking about planning a celebration for the Luther 500 celebration in October. It was also mentioned that the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) will need to be updated.

Jody Christensen reported for the Christian Education Committee. The Christmas program was a success and the meal following was also well attended.

Endowment Committee: Diane Savage stated they worked on the annual report and distribution of funds.

Nomination Committee: Randy Iversen recommended on behalf of the committee that nine names be chosen by lottery for the Call Committee (Chris Hillesland, Luke Savage, Judy Sondeno, Rhonda Peterson, Bill Iversen, Katelynn Dynneson, Randy Jones, D'Lon Anderson and Audrey Herman). A motion was made and passed to accept these nominees. Nominees for Council were: Scott Koterba, Travis Rosaaen, Natalie West and Sue Anderson.

Old Business: Diane Savage reported that the Bylaws and Handbook are being reviewed.

Randy Iversen presented the final budget proposal of \$360,043 for the Budget Committee. A motion was made and seconded to present this budget at the Annual meeting, January 29.

The Council approved the Benevolence funds be distributed as follows: \$18,452 to the Montana Synod, \$4,000 to Global Mission, \$3,000 to Rocky Boy and \$880 to ELCA World Hunger. The total amount distributed was \$26,332. After these payments a balance of \$13,859.66 was carried over into the 2017 year budget.

Facilities Request: The Council approved PEO using the facility on January 14.

Boy Scout Troop 141: The Council approved the reimbursement for the re-charter fees of \$443.20.

Annual Meeting: January 29 with potluck to follow, set-up and cleanup by Council.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 7 @ 7 p.m.

Outgoing Council President

President Elect Randy Iversen presents Diane Savage (Outgoing President) with a thank-you gift at the annual meeting.



Installation

Pastor Joel installed members of Congregational Council and Call Committee at Pella's Annual Meeting, held January 29.

(Left to Right) Chris Hillesland, Randy Jones, Rhonda Peterson, Luke Savage, Bill Iversen, Mark Olson [outgoing Council], Diane Savage, Randy Iversen, Vanessa Pooch, Erin Anderson, Natalie West, Sue Anderson, Travis Rosaaen, Craig Johnson, [outgoing Council] Judy Sondeno, Audrey Herman, D'Lon Anderson. Not pictured: Greg Miller, [outgoing Council]

2017 Congregational Council members are:

Diane Savage, Randy Iversen (President), Vanessa Pooch, Erin Anderson, Natalie West, Sue Anderson, Travis Rosaaen Not pictured: April Boehler and Jody Christensen

Call Committee members are:

Chris Hillesland, Randy Jones, Rhonda Peterson, Luke Savage, Bill Iversen, Judy Sondeno, Audrey Herman, D'Lon Anderson Not pictured: Katelynn Dynneson



FEBRUARY 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO	2 6:30 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	3 LAST DAY to order Subs & Chili	4 2 pm Sub & Chili Prep 6 pm Call Committee Mtg.
5 8:15 am Choir 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10 am Blood Pressure 10:30 am Hand bells 10:45 am Reclaiming the "L" Word	6 6:30 pm Compassionate Communication Practice Group	7 8 am Quilting 2 pm Reclaiming the "L" Word 7 pm Council meeting	8 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO	9 6:30 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 7 pm Faith Circle	10	11 9 am—3 pm Compassionate Communication Workshop (Self-Empathy)
12 8:15 am Choir 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Hand bells 10:45 am Reclaiming the "L" Word	13 6:30 pm Compassionate Communication Practice Group	14  8 am Quilting 2 pm Reclaiming the "L" Word	15 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO	16 6:30 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	17	18
19 9 am Worship Choir Singing 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Hand bells	20 Ambassador News Articles Due	21 8 am Quilting 5:30 pm Christian Education Committee	22 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band Practice 6 pm Community Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO	23 6:30 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study	24	25
26 9 am Worship Praise Band 10 am Fellowship 10:30 am Hand bells 10:45 am Reclaiming the "L" Word	27 6:30 pm Compassionate Communication Practice Group	28 8 am Quilting 10 am Worship at Extended Care 2 pm Extended Care Birthday Party 2 pm Reclaiming the "L" Word				

PELLA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Kenny Vannatta
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MISSION PARTNER

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at
Rocky Boy

COMPANION SYNOD

Cape Orange Diocese
Evangelical Lutheran Church
of South Africa

COMPANION CONGREGATION

Uppington 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)



Hand crafted by Alton Hillesland 2016

This clock (hanging in the Gathering Commons) depicts Luther's seal. The center of which is a black cross on a red heart to remind us that faith in Christ saves us. "One who believes from the heart shall be justified." (Romans 10:10) The heart rests on a field of roses. Surrounded by the eternal circle, showing that God has no beginning and no end.

Eight sections surround the clock, as with the eight sides of the Baptismal Font in our Sanctuary. The wood in the clock is black walnut from Alton's farm in Iowa. The wood in the red heart is Paduk from Africa.



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