



Pella Lutheran Church

Ambassador



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

December 2017

Sunday Advent Activities

Everyone is invited to participate in Pella's advent activities. Some of our activities this year will be making garland, making ornaments, watching a seasonal video, caroling, and the nativity walk. These activities are for ALL ages and will be held after fellowship time (10:30). After the activity, we will enjoy lunch/fellowship. The Sundays in Advent are:

- 🕯 December 3
- 🕯 December 10
- 🕯 December 17
- 🕯 December 24

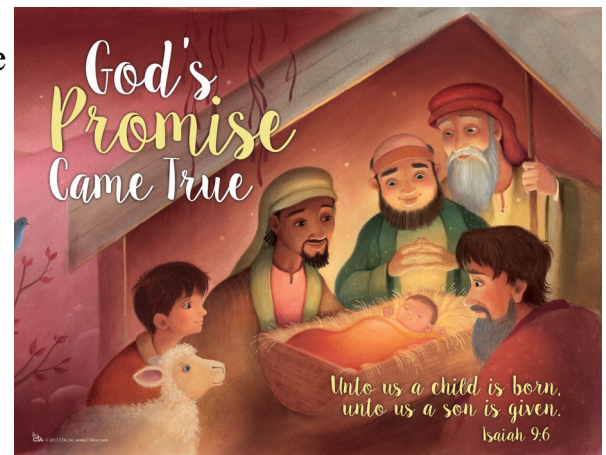
If you think you might come to any of these events, please sign up in the Gathering Commons.

WBS Christmas Program ... Christmas Dinner

Please join the Wednesday Bible School students at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20, in the Sanctuary. The students will be presenting "God's Promise Came True" as their annual Christmas Program.

The Community Meal on Wednesday, Dec. 20, will be the Annual Christmas Dinner. The crew will begin serving at 6 p.m. With support from a Thrivent Action Team, proceeds from the meal will benefit the Richland County Food Bank.

Please join us!



Christmas Services

In addition to our regular worship service at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24, Pella will celebrate the season with the following Christmas Eve candlelight services times:

2:00 p.m. **4:00 p.m.** **9:00 p.m.**

No Christmas Day worship on Monday, Dec. 25.

Janelle Leader Lamb, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator

Interim Perspective by Pastor Joel

Jesus gave up the “form of God” and took on “the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.” (Philippians 2:6-7) Philippians uses words such “emptied” and “humbled” and “became obedient.” All of these point to what happened when Jesus was born (Christmas) and became one of us in the flesh (incarnation).

I think of this as “power with” as distinct from “power over.” I also think of it as vulnerability.

Jesus had it all; power, authority, control, choice, freedom, etc., yet he did not “exploit” that. Instead he relinquishes it all, anything that put him in the driver’s seat as God. He did it to become one like us and one with us.

Remember that Jesus was not born to royal parents and was not born in a palace. He was born instead to common people in a small insignificant town.

This made Jesus vulnerable like us – to sickness, poverty, alienation, death, sin and the devil, violence, prejudice, etc.

Think of the baby born at that time and in the way described in the Gospel of Luke: “laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn.” (2:7) The conditions were unsanitary, there was no midwife or assistance or support, he was exposed to the elements, etc.

Remember also that King Herod sought to kill Jesus and would have were it not for Joseph heeded the angelic warning to flee to Egypt with Mary and the newborn child.

Jesus was not only born in such a way of sharing power and being vulnerable, he also lived it and taught it, died and was raised to new life for it.

Sending his disciples out to do exactly what he had been doing. He also instructed them to remain in Jerusalem after his ascension to await power – which they received on Pentecost. He told his followers that they would be able to do even more. He taught us forgive others as we have been forgiven and to love as we have been loved.

Jesus stated that he came not to be served but to serve. He was obedient – unto death, even death on a cross. He never raised an army for an uprising or to defend himself.

When the time was determined he went to Jerusalem and did not hide from the authorities who he knew wanted to put him to death. He was open, real and genuine – not hiding his true self.

Sharing power with us and being vulnerable in our midst – that is how Jesus was born and lived and died and rose again. God is with us in this way - Immanuel!

Updating Pella's Constitution

Pella is in the process of updating its constitution. The proposed changes in the By-laws will be mailed out later in December and copies of the proposed update for the constitution will be available at the Information Desk and Church office. Plans are for both of these to be considered and voted on at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2018.

In 2016 the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) made changes to the Model Constitution for Congregations. Each congregation is asked to review and update its constitution in accordance to this current Model Constitution.

Beginning in January 2017, a Constitution Review Team consisting of Pastor Joel Westby, Greg Miller, Kerry Rasmussen and Diane Savage undertook a review of the Constitution including By-laws. Pella last approved and updated its constitution in 2005. The Team prepared a proposed draft that was then reviewed and given preliminary approval by the Montana Synod Review Team.

In addition some changes were recommended by Pella's Review Team and presented to the Church Council who approved them for consideration at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

If you have any questions or comments you can contact Pastor Joel, Diane Savage or Randy Iversen.

Estimate of Giving

If you haven't had time to fill out your estimate of giving card, it can still be put into the church box in the Gathering Commons. We are planning to leave the church in place thru the end of the year. Thank you for your continued support!



2017 Pantry Contributions



Set Free to Serve - \$1,500; LYO - \$1,000; Boys & Girls Club - \$1,000; Richland County Food Bank - \$1,500; Council Discretion - \$500; Richland Opportunities, Inc. - \$600; Domestic Abuse - \$600; Matthew House - \$600; and Upper Missouri Ministries - \$700

Thank you for your continued support!

Summary of November Council meeting

Information was shared regarding the need for the Free Store to relocate from Lonsdale Methodist Church. It was suggested that Pella's south parsonage be considered. This was placed under Old Business regarding the South Parsonage use. There were eight Confirmation students attending, along with two Confirmation guides, as part of the program's expectations.

A Thank You card from the Garfield County Fire Foundation was read. It was noted that donation requests are not being taken for anything beyond our designated giving.

At the end of October the Checking Account has a balance of \$127,304.74, the General Fund balance is \$44,240.02, the Set Free to Serve loan balance is \$610,947.08. A principal payment of \$14,300 was going to be applied, so the loan balance would be below \$600,000.

The contract on our copier is up for renewal and the increase has prompted a review.

Payments were approved totaling \$15,986 as follows: ELCA World Hunger - \$1,925; ELCA Synod Benevolence - \$11,000; Rocky Boy - \$1,666.38; and Global Missions - \$1,394.62.

Annual Staff reviews are almost complete. Discussion was held in response to the question: "What does "Senior" Pastor mean to you?" It was suggested that perhaps the congregation should be made aware that although Pella is looking for a "Senior" Pastor, that only one pastor is being sought at this time.

The Call Committee "Skyped" with a candidate. They planned a church visit after Christmas.

Christian Education reported that: 3rd Grade Bibles were presented to 13 children on October 1st, and approximately 30 WBS children sang; December 20th is scheduled for the Christmas program and holiday meal; October LYO events were outlined, along with a potential cell phone policy; Adult educational activities were discussed, along with the various Reformation 500 activities; Advent activities are slated for December 3, 10, 17 & 24; Donated rectangular tables have been received and are working well.

It was noted that the sewer issue has been fixed and the cost was \$2,000.

Pella Pantry reported that the 2017 profit was \$10,316.71. Part of the proceeds will be put in the Pella Pantry Repair Fund. The Committee is choosing to use some of the profit, along with some of the Repair Fund to purchase a pie shell roller. Council approved the recommendation that \$8,000 be distributed as follows: Set Free to Serve - \$1,500; LYO - \$1,000; Boys & Girls Club - \$1,000; Richland County Food Bank - \$1,500; Council Discretion - \$500; Richland Opportunities, Inc. - \$600; Domestic Abuse - \$600; Matthew House - \$600; and Upper Missouri Ministries - \$700.

Under Old Business the Free Store as a potential use for the South Parsonage was discussed. A motion was made to allow the Executive Committee to have the final decision on the Free Store's

(COUNCIL SUMMARY CONTINUED)

usage of the South Parsonage. (Since the meeting the decision was made not to proceed with using the south parsonage for this purpose.)

In New Business it was decided to have three extra phones the church has installed in the workroom, library, and basement; and to purchase a cordless phone.

An article will be published in the December Ambassador to inform the congregation of the proposed changes in the constitution and by-laws and the upcoming mailing they will receive regarding those changes. The Council will be reviewing those changes another time before copies are made available. (The plan is to discuss and vote on these changes at the Annual Meeting.)

The Nominating Committee was clarified and they will begin their work shortly. Members of that Committee are: Sue Andersen (as Council V-P she will be the Chair), Craig Johnson, Greg Miller & Mark Olson (outgoing Council members); Susan Iversen; and Jason Lamb.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 5.

Pastoral Acts for November

FUNERAL: Lois Dynneson Olsen on Nov. 1.

Food Bank Challenge

Katrina Meldahl, Tristan Lamb, Shanyln Reidle, Janelle Lamb, Jayda Strait and Crystal Strait

Great job Pella! We have gathered more than 607 food items (at publication) for the Richland County Food Bank!

There are more than 100 boxes of stuffing and 100 cans of mandarin oranges for the Christmas Coalition included in that. By reaching our goal of 500 items by Nov. 30, Thrivent Financial will be providing \$500 to the Food Bank. Thanks for your efforts and rapid response!

Worship Assistants at Pella

Com-mun-ion (ke-myoon-yen): noun (ME communioun, Christian fellowship, Eucharist <LLat. communio, Eucharist< Lat., mutual participation< communis, common.) 1. An act or instance of sharing or exchanging, as of ideas, opinions, or feelings. 2. A religious or spiritual fellowship...

Communion. **A)** The Christian sacrament in which consecrated bread and wine are partaken of in celebration of Christ's Last Supper. **B)** the Consecrated elements of this sacrament...

The above definitions of Communion from Webster's dictionary might offer a different perspective of the rite of Communion than most in the Lutheran denomination are familiar with. In particular, the phrases "mutual participation" and "the sharing or exchanging of ideas,... feelings" may afford new insight. It is our belief that God, thru Jesus Christ, *comes down to us in Holy Communion*, offering forgiveness of all of our sins. Most times, we think of our role as one faceted: we are the undeserving recipient of this amazing gift from our Heavenly Father. But within the terms "mutual participation," I think there is also room for us to be facilitators of the sacrament – we can make ready or prepare the elements so that the Eucharist is shared with the entire congregation, a true fellowship experience!

You may be aware, that in a typical service at Pella, three volunteers assist with the serving of the sacrament. These Communion Servers help the pastor deliver the consecrated elements efficiently to the remainder of the congregation, resulting in a more enjoyable experience for all.

You may not have considered, however, the work required "behind the scenes" which is invaluable to this spiritual fellowship. From home kitchens, volunteers quietly and dependably bake, wrap and deliver the unleavened bread to be consecrated each week. A single recipe makes enough bread for two typical worship services, so at least two bakers are needed each month. Also working "out of the spotlight," are the Communion Set-up/ Clean-up crews. Prior to each worship service, the communion trays are filled with clear cups, some containing grape juice, and the plates of bread are prepared for serving. These are set out in the sanctuary, at their respective stations, and two chalices are placed on the altar. In addition, baskets are set out on stands in the sanctuary to aid in disposing of the communion cups. Following the service, the remaining elements are returned to the sacristy, vessels and plates are washed and used communion cups are disposed of.

All of this takes place, whether witnessed or not, week after week, so that we may experience the sacrament and the gift of forgiveness as Jesus intended at his Last Supper. If you would like to share your time and talents to provide the Eucharist to your fellow Christians, please contact Becky at the church office: 433-3350. We are in particular need of two Bread Bakers and a few Communion Servers at this time.

Becky Reidle, Parish Assistant

Thank you for your donations to these memorial funds!

Radio fund

In memory of Tony Dige:

Iona Hansen, Lillian Dasinger,
Bec & Kendal Kallevig, Anna Ginther,
Michael & Nancy Knaff

In memory of Lois Olsen

Ruth Iversen, Selma Levno, Alida Dore,
Russ & Enid Huotari, Beth Redlin,
Dan Mocko, Palmer & Doris Norby,
Friends of J & N Dynneson, Friends of the
Dynneson Family, Anna Ginther,
Duane & Linda Anderson, Iona Hansen,
Bill & Carol Nankivel,
Sherman & Marlys Dynneson

In memory of Marvel Rider: Marvelle Fink,
Ruth Iversen, Iona Hansen, Anna Ginther

In memory of Pastor John Gonli:

Iona Hansen

In memory of Leland Evjen:

Iona Hansen

In memory of Lillian Ross:

Iona Hansen

Set Free to Serve fund

In memory of Tony Dige:

Randy & Kelly Johnson, Ron Steffens,
Mark & Kathy Iversen, Violet Tharp,
Palmer & Doris Norby,
Jim & Linda Tibbits,
Russ & Enid Huotari, Irene Hundtofte,
Louise Iversen

In memory of Lois Olsen:

Violet Tharp, Mark & Kathy Iversen,
Ron Steffens, Gene & Judy Sondeno,
Mark & Marilyn Olson, Louise Iversen,
Jim & Linda Tibbits, David McMillen,
Kerry Rasmussen, Irene Hundtofte,

Set Free to Serve Fund continued

In Memory of Lois Olsen:

Ron & Yvonne Gebhardt, Diane Savage,
Bill & Kathy Evanson, Ted & Linda Becker,
Friends of the Dynneson Family

In memory of Pastor John Gronli:

Mark & Marilyn Olson, Irene Hundtofte,
Louise Iversen

In memory of Lori Krugler:

Bill & Carol Nankivel

In memory of Marvel Rider:

Enid & Russ Huotari, Diane Savage,
Gene & Judy Sondeno, Ted & Linda Becker,
Bill & Carol Nankivel

Sign Fund

In memory of Tony Dige:

Ted & Linda Becker, Gene & Judy Sondeno,
Richard & Eileen Rein, Ruth Reidle,
Dale & Charlotte Iversen, Selma Levno,
Joanne & Ernest Larsen, Marvelee Fink,
Allan & Audrey Herman, Friends of Tony,
Karen & Eric Beenken, Sherry Bolstad,
Selma (Dige) Nealson,
Donald & Donna McCammon,
Gordon & Margene Rambur

In memory of Lois Olsen:

Dale & Charlotte Iversen

Endowment fund

In memory of Tony Dige:

John & Marilyn Olson

Pella LYO fund

In memory of Tony Dige:

Bill & Patricia Neiss

Memorial fund

In memory of Lois Olsen:

Cindy Irigoin

Music Memorial fund

In memory of Lois Olsen:

Dale & Janet Spracklin



Scripture for December

<p>12/3 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37</p>	<p>12/24 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46-55 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38</p>
<p>12/10 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2,8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15 Mark 1:1-8</p>	<p>12/24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> <i>Nativity of Our Lord</i> Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20</p>
<p>12/17 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28</p>	<p>12/31 <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40</p>

Faith Circle Christmas Party

The Faith Circle Christmas party will be on Thursday, 12/7/17, 6 pm at Shelly Averett's home.



December Acolytes

- 3rd- Emma Doty & Bradyn Page
- 10th - Ben Carlsen & Max Nicholson
- 17th - Payten Syth & Jacob Thompson
- 24th - Sienna Boehler & Braylon DiFonzo
- Christmas Eve Services
- 2 pm - Avery Iversen & Mikael Savage
- 4 pm - Tyler Olson & Max Nicholson
- 9 pm - Colten Dahl
- 31st - Drew Ellingson & Hattie Brothen

Christmas Poinsettias

Contributions may be made in honor or in memory of loved ones and will be listed in our Christmas Eve bulletin. We will be purchasing 20 poinsettias—contributions received above what is needed for these will be given to the sign fund per the Worship & Music Committee.

Your name _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____



Please make checks payable to Pella Lutheran Church and designate for "Poinsettias."

Deadline for contributions: December 15

DECEMBER 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 8:15 am Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Advent Activity 10:30 am Handbells	4 5:30 Property & Grounds Committee	5 8:00 am Quilting 7:00 pm Council	6 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band practice 6:00 pm Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO	7 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 pm Budget Committee 6:00 pm Faith Circle at Shelly Averett's	8	9
10 8:15 am Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Blood Pressures 10:30 am Advent Activity 10:30 am Handbells	11	12 8:00 am Quilting 6:30 pm Taize Worship	13 5:15 pm WBS & Praise Band practice 6:00 pm Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO	14 6:30 am Men's Breakfast	15 Poinsettia Contributions Due	16
17 8:15 am Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Advent Activity 10:30 am Handbells	18 Newsletter Articles Due	19 8:00 am Quilting 10:00 am Ext. Care Worship 5:30 pm Christian Ed Committee	20 5:15 Praise Band prac. 5:30 pm WBS Christmas Program 6:00 pm Meal 6:45 pm Confirmation & LYO	21 6:30 am Men's Breakfast	22	23
24 9:00 am Worship 2:00 pm Worship 4:00 pm Worship 9:00 pm Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 OFFICE CLOSED A.M. 8:00 am Quilting	27 No Wednesday night activities	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship						

**PELLA LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Email: pella@pellachurch.net
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Web page: www.pellachurch.net
Radio Broadcast: 95.1 FM 9 a.m.
(Service also on the MRCTV
Community Channel 101)

INTERIM PASTOR:

Joel Westby
pastorjoel@pellachurch.net

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Chole Butler
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

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
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
BY PELLA LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Office Hours

**Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(Closed from Noon to
1:00 p.m. for lunch)**

**No Wednesday Night Activities
on Dec. 27!**

SAVE THE DATES:

Annual Reports Due

Friday, January 5, 2018

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2018



**Pella Lutheran Church
418 West Main Street
Sidney, Montana 59270**