

**GLORIA DEI**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**NOVEMBER 2016**  
**NEWSLETTER**

## From the Desk of Pastor David Maxfield

Dear Friends in Christ,

The days grow shorter, the wind is colder, the harvest is in, it must be November. More than a holiday, November is a month of **Thanksgiving**. Consider,

**All Saints Celebration-Nov. 6** As baptized disciples of Jesus, all who live in faith are saints. During worship we will remember those from our congregation who have died in the Lord and rest in peace. We will also remember and light a candle of prayer for the “saints” of our lives who have shared the light of God’s love with us. They are family members and friends, co-workers and neighbors for generation upon generation all the way back to the disciples. That is an awesome thought, and really beyond comprehension. Perhaps this is why the writer of Hebrews wrote, “... *since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run the race that is set before us, ... keeping our eyes set upon Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...*” (Hebrews 12:1,2) or John, who in his vision of heaven saw this, “*After this I looked and behold a great multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and languages standing before the throne and before the Lamb...*” (Revelation 7:9). Not only are we called to remember and give thanks, but in the vision of the “Communion of Saints” we see that they are with the Lord, encouraging, praying, interceding for you and me in our journey of faith.

**Veterans Day- Nov. 11** We say thank you as a nation for the men and women of each generation who have responded to the call to serve and defend our freedom in times of conflict and days of peace.

**Thanksgiving Day- Nov 24** Need I say more? This year, perhaps as never before I sense in prayer the need for each of us to bow his/her head and humble ourselves before God. Thanksgiving becomes thanks-living when we realize that all is gift. The humility of saying “thanks” transforms our lives, it takes us away from our self-centered self and calls to see life as it truly is. Then we can receive one another as gift.

November is also a month of silence. I was out for a walk away from the city. The noise of the traffic was stilled, and so too was the songs of the birds, the chirps of the crickets. Even the wind seemed to blow in whispers. Silence can be uneasy, but silence too can be a gift. The Psalmist calls us to discover the gift of silence as he writes, “*be still and know that I am God.*” It seems to me that there is more to the silence of November than creation snuggling down for the cold nap of winter. It is almost as if after the glory of autumn has passed, and the silence of November settles in, nature itself awaits the silence in which God speaks. Do you know this gift of sheer silence? I would invite you to take a walk physically and or spiritually and discover the sound of silence.

Shalom

Pastor David

P.S. Margaret and I would like to thank the Council, Call Committee and all who made our installation day so wonderful. It was truly a celebration of our ministry together. Now I ask you to pray daily for the Call Committee as they begin the work of discerning who will come among us as our Pastor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry. We are praying every morning at 7 am for the members of the Committee, our candidates and the congregation. If you can pray at 7 please join us. If another time works better in your schedule, please add it to your daily priorities and prayer.

### Adult Bible Study

#### *Gloria Dei- What’s in a name?*

November 6, 13, 20 Pastor Dave will lead a bible study on the name and meaning of our congregation. Come and search from the Garden to Gethsemane, from the Tabernacle to the Temple, from expected to unexpected places. Bring a Bible, bring a friend, bring a cup of coffee and your questions every Sunday, 9:45 in the Family Room.



## Holiday Worship Schedule

- *Thanksgiving Eve Worship, Wednesday, November 23rd - 7 PM*
  - *Quiet Christmas Service, Sunday, December 18th - 4 PM*
- *Christmas Eve Worship, Saturday, December 24th - 3 PM, 5 PM & 9 PM*
  - *Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th - 9:30 AM*
    - *No Saturday Service on December 31st*
  - *New Year's Day Worship, Sunday, January 1st - 9:30 AM*



### Church Bazaar

Date: November 19th

Time: 9 AM - Noon

If you would like to help please contact the church office at 701-572-2667.

### Gloria Dei's Confirmation Class of 2016

Jamison Bervig	Parker Rude
Jeremy Haagenon	Denver Sheets
Brayden Heller	Jenna Sime
Jaxon Meyer	Benson Slotsve
Jada Osborn	Grace Solomonson
Taysha Overland	Hailey Vader

### Operation Christmas Child

It's time to pack the shoeboxes!!

Stop by the church and pick up a shoebox. Follow directions and return it to the church before November 17th. We will be blessing them in church that following Sunday before they get shipped off to the children.

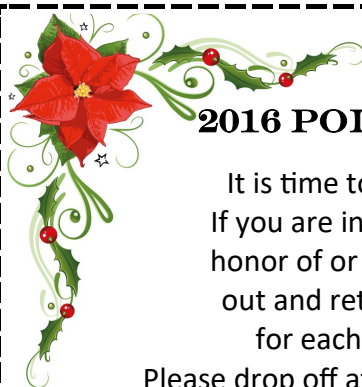


### **PARSONAGE PAINTING PARTY!!**

**Come join the Property Committee & Pastor Dave and paint the parsonage!**



**Date:**  
**November 14th**  
**Time: 6:00 PM**



### **2016 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

It is time to put in your orders for Poinsettias! If you are interested in purchasing Poinsettias in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please fill out and return this order form, along with \$15 for each Poinsettia that you are ordering. Please drop off at the church off by Sunday, December 4th.

**QUANTITY \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 EACH**  
**TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**

**THESE POINSETTIAS ARE IN:**

**HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_**

**MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_**

**GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_**



We will be decorating the church **Dec 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30.** Everyone is welcome! The more hands, the lighter the work. Light meal will be served following decorating.



## October Memorials

In Memory of Marjorie Evanson

Harold & Arlene Tvedt.....50/50 Fund

In Memory of LaVerne Holle

Gary & Linda Knudsvig.....50/50 Fund

In Memory of Dick Coughlin

Duane & Dorothy Fenster .....Campership

In Memory of JoAnn Oyen

Jeanne Knudsvig.....50/50 Fund

John & Lois Kuester.....50/50 Fund

Mr & Mrs Winfred Smith.....Memorial Fund

Stan & Shirley Lyson.....50/50 Fund

Larry Berg.....50/50 Fund

James & Loyce Rauser.....50/50 Fund

Rich & Jane Studsrud.....50/50 Fund

### In Honor of Pastor David Maxfield's Installation

Phil & Sharon Rabon.....50/50 Fund

Rick & Jane Studsrud.....50/50 Fund

Rob & Deb Kemp.....50/50 Fund

## GDLC YOUTH GROUP NEWS

November 2016



### Grapple (Grades 5-7) 6:00pm-7:00pm

Wednesday, November 2 – What if Jesus is a Liar? (Jesus is Always Truthful)

Wednesday, November 9 – No 412 Youth Group

Wednesday, November 16 – What if Jesus is a Lunatic? (Jesus' Style of Religion)

Wednesday, November 23 – No 412 Youth Group

Wednesday, November 30 – What if Jesus is a Loser? (Jesus is the Biggest Winner)

\*\*\*Report on our October Service Project: We had **38 kids** who made apple pies, no-bake cookies, and hand-made cards and delivered them to the Fire Hall during Fire Prevention Week! Thanks to all of the parents who helped with the project and drove our kids to the Fire Hall!

\*\*\*Volunteer Sign Up Sheets for Church Services: Thank you to Floyd Peterson who spent time with our youth teaching them how they can take an active role in our church services at Gloria Dei by acolyting, ushering, passing the offering plate, etc. We will be passing around sign up sheets on Wednesdays for the kids so they can sign up to help during church so please encourage your kids to sign up!

### 8-12 Youth Group: (Grades 8-12) from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm (Time Change)

Sunday, November 6 Halloween Mystery Dinner

Sunday, November 13 Human Clue & Sockball

Sunday, November 20 Thanksgiving games

Sunday, November 27 No youth group due to Thanksgiving break.

Call Melissa Meyer at 770-5443 if you can bring snacks for November. A huge thank you to Sarah Opsal and Dawn Hustad for being willing to help Melissa call for snacks!!

We need volunteers to help make the youth groups run!!! Maybe it is one Wednesday a month, or all you do is organize games, bring snacks, promote youth group activities etc. To help with Grapple/412 Youth, contact Wendy Slotsve at 770-3330 or Bobbi Gathman at 406-262-3775 and for 8-12 Youth Group contact Jodi Mischke at 570-1062 or Deb Kemp at 770-1997.



E-Mail

For 8-12 youth group this is the E-mail ([gloriadeilutheran@ymail.com](mailto:gloriadeilutheran@ymail.com)) that is used to keep you up to date of what is going on for this group!! If you are not receiving an e-mail please send an e-mail to this e-mail address and you will be added!!

# November BIRTHDAYS

11/01

MACKENZIE COLYER  
ALLISON GARDNER  
CASEY GARDNER  
ALLI MONSON  
RUBY NELSON

11/03

CARTER BAKKEN  
WENDY MCGINLEY  
MEDREIN SANDVOLD  
DEREK WOODHAMS

11/04

LANDSON SIM  
MARK SLOTSVE  
ASHLEY WEISZ  
MCKENZIE WILSON  
JENNIFER WINLOW  
LAYKEN WRIGHT

11/05

SEAN ALLEN  
KENNETH BERGSTROM  
WILLIAM VESTAL

11/06

ANDREW LLEWELYN  
KELLIE LLEWELYN  
CHLOEE STUNDAL  
KYAH STUNDAL  
JORDEN VACHAL  
JOHN WESTLIE

11/07

JAI BROWN  
RON HOGUE  
TYRELL REDKA  
TREVYN SUNDBY

11/08

SHERI RETZER  
ARIA STACH  
RACHELLE THOMPSON

11/09

TYLEIGH BROSTUEN  
ZACHARY ERICKSON  
RON HAGEN  
LILLY HANSON  
BRAYLEE HARSTAD  
TAESON HENDRICKSON  
SAMI MONSON  
TUCKER OVERLAND  
BILL STILLWELL  
AUSTIN WILKERSON

11/10

JOHN FORTHUN  
SARA SOLBERG

11/11

KYLE HERING  
KENT SYVERSON  
MEGAN TELEHEY  
STEVE TESKE

11/12

BONNY ATANASU  
FYNN KRENZ

11/13

CATHY HOWE-SCHMITZ

11/14

BRAXTON BOOTH  
TREVOR CHRISTENSEN  
SHELLY LYNCH  
JANESSA NELSON

11/15

TERRA ERICKSON  
JODIE HANSON  
CADEN HURAVITCH  
MARVIN JORDAN  
LOGAN KNOX  
CHAMP MEYER  
SANDY MOLDENHAUER  
AERIS PETERSON  
CIARA RISINGER

11/16

CHERYL AMUNDSON  
WIL OLSON  
WILLIAM RAMEY  
LINDA SELBY

11/17

RONALD ATANASU  
RICK CLEMES  
EVERLY MORTENSON  
DEBBY SALVEVOLD

11/18

KHLOE ALVARDO  
JERRY FLECK  
DAVID KEENE

11/19

BRANDON JAGER  
STEVE MORTENSON

11/20

SHIRLEY ENGSTROM  
CASSIDIE HANSEN  
DAWN HUSTAD  
SYLAS O'NEIL  
TAYSHA OVERLAND  
JIMMY SPRENGER  
RYLUN SUNDHAGEN  
KEEGAN WALZ

11/21

ALEXIS CHRISTENSEN

11/22

DELORES AMUNDSON  
LUKE LLEWELYN  
RYDER LLEWELYN  
JORDAN SCHROEDER

11/23

BRAD BEKKEDAHL  
LISA HANSON  
ANDREAN OSBORN

11/24

HAYLEE JOHNSON  
SHIRLEY LYSON  
BEN OLSON

11/25

RUBY BINDE  
LOGAN HENDRICKSON  
RICK NICE  
LARRY SCHILKE  
BLAINE SWALLOM  
SAVANNAH WATTERUD

11/26

TOM ATOR  
MARISA SALVESON  
MARY SCHMIDT  
KATIE WIESE

11/27

CEDAR HENDRICKSON  
SHAUNA STALOCH

11/28

KELEA BRUNELLE  
JACKIE COLLINGS  
DARRIN KNUDSVIG

11/29

MACKENZIE COOK  
HAZEL ENGBERG  
ANDREW KOLLING  
MIKE MOLDENHAUER  
DEAN STRINDEN

11/30

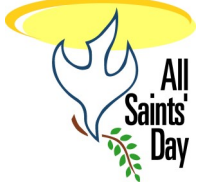
BROOKE AMUNDSON  
TAYLOR JAGER



**Gloria Dei Sunday Schedule**

8:30 AM	Traditional Worship
9:30 AM	Gloria Dei Coffee Hour
10:45 AM	Contemporary Worship

# NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
		<b>1</b>  <b>Executive Meeting - 5:30 PM</b>	<b>2</b> Stewarship me <b>Dinner</b> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>Church School -</b> <b>4:12 Youth -</b> <b>Glory Band -</b>
<b>6</b> <b>All Saints Day Services</b>  <b>8 - 12 Youth Group - 7 PM</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>Glory Band -</b>
<b>13</b> <b>No Sunday School</b>  <b>Piano Recital - 2:30 PM</b>  <b>8 - 12 Youth Group - 7 PM</b>	<b>14</b> <b>SOS - 7 PM</b> <b>TCC - 7 PM</b>  <b>Parsonage Painting Party</b> <b>6 PM - EVERYONE IS WELCOME</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Dinner</b> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>Church School -</b> <b>4:12 Youth -</b> <b>Glory Band -</b>
<b>20</b>  <b>8 - 12 Youth Group - 7 PM</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>Worship Committee - 6 PM</b>	<b>23</b> <b>No Church Scho</b>  <b>Thanksgiving</b> <b>Service -</b>
<b>27</b> <b>No Sunday School</b>  <b>No Youth Group</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>SOS - 7 PM</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>Parish Ed Committee - 8:30 PM</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Dinner</b> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>Church School -</b> <b>4:12 Youth -</b> <b>Glory Band -</b>





# BER 2016

Faith Lutheran Sunday Schedule

10:00 AM      Worship

Gloria Dei Saturday Schedule

5:00 PM      Worship

	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Meeting 7:30AM 5:30 - 6PM 6 -- 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 8 PM</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Dyer/LaDue Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Gideons - 8:00 - Noon Bible Breakfast - 8 AM Dyer/LaDue Wedding</p> <p>Worship - 5 PM</p>
<p>8 PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Council - 6 PM</p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>VES - 9 AM - Noon Bible Breakfast - 8 AM Worship - 5 PM</p>
<p>5:30 - 6PM 6 -- 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 8 PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Last Day for Operation Christmas Shoe Box Drop off</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Bazaar - 9 AM - Noon</p>  <p>Worship - 5 PM</p>
<p>Eve 7 PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Happy Thanksgiving!</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Bible Breakfast - 8 AM Worship - 5 PM</p>
<p>5:30 - 6PM 6 -- 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 6 - 7 PM 8 PM</p>			





# ***Gospel Seed..November 2016***

**A Monthly Update from the Synod Office**

## **Synod Endowment Fund News...**

Your Synod Endowment Fund has received over \$2.2 million in gifts. Thanks for your generosity and your investment in the future of ministry in this synod. The Endowment Fund has two branches – the Ministry Fund and the Mission Fund.

Gifts to the Ministry Fund provide financial support to people from Western North Dakota who enter seminary. Some may become Pastors – others may become Deacons with the church. These gifts are also helping to provide some help with debt buy down for church leaders who are called to serve in Western North Dakota.

Gifts to the Mission Fund help provide seed money for Christ-centered ministries. Through these funds, we are able to help sustain several important ministries and encourage outreach experiments on our territory.

These funds have grown over the past several years because of the support, commitment, and vision of people within this synod. Know that your gifts are making a difference – so, Thanks! You are blessing others.

## **Gains Captured...**

The gifts given to the Endowment Funds are invested according to policies established over the past 25 years. Each October, the Endowment Fund Committee meets and one of their items of business is to capture gains. The gains come either from interest earned on the investments or an increase in value of the investment. This year, the committee was able to capture **\$81,500**. Wow!

What this means is that together, we – your Synod – will have \$81,500 to help support seminary education and debt buy down, support mission outreach within our territory, and continue the work of growing the Endowment Fund. Thanks, again!

## **How does the Fund Work...**

The principle behind your Synod Endowment Fund is really simple – all gifts given to the fund are investments. Those gifts earn interest and rise in value (gains). The financial gift that you give is never given away; it continues to earn interest or increase in value. This means that a gift given today will continue to provide for ministry for generations to come.

## **Tax Advantages Available for Some Gifts...**

A gift of \$5,000 or more to either the Ministry Endowment or the Mission Endowment portion of the Fund may earn you a state tax credit. Depending on your individual tax obligation, that same gift might also earn you a federal tax advantage. Synod staff would be glad to share more information about the funds.

## **Fall Assignment Process...**

This fall the Western North Dakota Synod was blessed to receive the name of one recent seminary graduate who is available for call. That candidate has just started the call process with two congregations in our synod.

## **Discernment Dinner...**

Are you wondering if God is calling you to serve within the church? On Friday evening, November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Synod Candidacy Committee will be hosting a discernment dinner. This is a time to come and chat with people about call, ask questions about the process, hear about options for seminary education, and listen to others' stories of call.

There is no obligation; you won't be bugged or badgered – but you will get a chance to engage deep questions with people who care. If you know someone you believe should be at this dinner – tell them about it, pray for them, and encourage them to attend.

If you have more questions about the discernment dinner, please call Beth Anderson at 701-223-5312.

## **Who Might You Pray for...**

Future leaders for God's church will come from our congregations. They will come out of our youth groups, our Bible studies, and our confirmation classes. They will come from our campus ministries and our Bible Camps. If you know of someone you believe has the gifts for ministry – begin to pray for them. Pray for God's guidance and the stirring of the Spirit. Prayer is always the place to begin. Then wait and see what God might do.

## **Rev. Mark Narum**

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



## September Financials

### General Checking Account:

Sept 1 2016 General Checking Account Balance	200,832.46
September Offering	+23,836.86
September Expenses	<u>(25,891.96)</u>
Sept 30 2016 General Checking Account Balance	\$198,785.84

### Special Checking Account:

Sept 1 2016 Special Checking Account Balance	266,099.54
September Specials Offering	+4,926.92
September Expenses	<u>(11,219.46)</u>
Sept 30 2016 Special Checking Account Balance	\$259,807.00

### Benevolences :

WND Synod—ELCA Benevolence	1431.98
UMM Bible Camp Benevolence	204.57
Bethel Lutheran Home Benevolence	143.20
Lutheran Social Services Benevolence	102.28
WND Synod- WND Benevolence	<u>163.65</u>
Total Benevolences for May	\$2045.68

Thrivent Mortgage Payment	\$6552.00
Building Loan Balance as of Sept 20th, 2016	\$278,555.78

## September Council Meeting Highlights

### Committee Reports –

**Pastor's report** - The resounding support of the congregation in accepting the council's recommendation to establish a Call Committee for the position of Associate Pastor: children, Youth and Family Ministry is an affirmation of the ministry we share and a positive step for our future. Confirmation is October 30th.

Good response to God's Work Our Hands.

Strongly encourages Gloria Dei's participation in the Synod Renewal Process. It is a step of faith, a journey of trust. One significant piece of this process will be strategic planning and visioning as we look at our congregation, our ministry context and the call of God to love and serve. A three-five year plan will give us an initial roadmap, and if we know where we're going, the trip is always better.

**Evangelism** - Collecting new hats and mittens to be taken to the district school office for distribution.

**Property** - Forming a parsonage sub-committee of 4-6 members. Work night is 2nd Monday of the month.

**Worship** - Exit poll being done on the unified summer service. Pastor David's installation is October 16th, potluck between services. Confirmation is October 30th.

**Stewardship** - Celebrate Generosity Stewardship Program on October 30th. Above and Beyond forms are available in the church office.

**Parish Ed** - Campership is October 9th.

**Website Subcommittee (Computer/Technology)** - Wired for wireless internet.

**Nominating - Open positions for council**

Evangelism, Parish Education and Youth rep for Youth committee

**Call Committee** - Working on ministry site profile.

Gloria Dei is going to participate in the Synod Renewal process. Team of 6-8 members is needed.

Bazaar will be held on a smaller scale in November.

Blood draw will be held at the church on December 11th 12:00 - 5:00.

Flu shot clinic is October 30th from 8:15 - 12:00.

# Faith Lutheran Church

Nov 6	Worship	10:00 AM
Nov 13	Worship	10:00 AM
Nov 20	Worship	10:00 AM
Nov 27	Worship	10:00 AM



## Faith News November 2016

Bill Christensen

**“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your master’s happiness.”**  
Matthew 25:23

In November will celebrate Thanksgiving. Hopefully we are thankful all year long. We in the church have many things to be thankful for beginning with our baptism, when we are given over as a child of God. We are thankful that we can call Almighty God our Father and know as our earthly father watches over us even more so will our heavenly Father.

When we celebrate Holy Communion we receive into our bodies the life of our Lord Jesus knowing that from His life we receive forgiveness for all our sins. We are reassured of this forgiveness each Sunday in worship as we confess our sins and receive absolution.

In the above gospel reading; we read in the parable that in the Christian faith when we have been faithful we are given more responsibilities in God’s kingdom, not less. The life of a Christian is never to sit back and say, God loves me, God forgives me, God takes care of me, ah life is good, I think I will take a nap. God says you have been faithful in the few things I will bless you with more things.

Thanksgiving is our time to count our blessings and the most treasured of all blessings is to be thankful that God has called to you to help in the work of his kingdom here on earth until the day comes when you will be with him in the kingdom of heaven. Thanks be to God.



### Faith Lutheran Church Christmas Schedule:

- \* December 24th - Christmas Eve Service - 5:00 PM
- \* No Service Christmas Day
- \* January 1, 2017 - Regular Worship Schedule - 10:00 AM



- Faith Women of the ELCA will meet October 1st @ 10 AM. Hostess - Nina Grev  
Bible Study leader - Darlene Benth
- Cleaning in October - Larry & Joanne Njos



## Celebrate Generosity

***Because God give abundantly, and because I want to be a faithful steward,  
I/we will take a step up in my/our giving.***

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ENVELOPE # \_\_\_\_\_

*I/We plan to grow toward or beyond a tithe by growing \$1.00 every week until I/we reach \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week. The starting point will be \$\_\_\_\_\_ for next week's offering. Each week, I will add \$1.00 to the previous week's giving.*  
\_\_\_\_\_ for the next year \_\_\_\_\_ until I reach \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week,  
\_\_\_\_\_ until I reach a tithe of my income \_\_\_\_\_ until I move beyond a tithe to \_\_\_\_ % of my income.

*I plan to grow toward or beyond a tithe by growing 1% of my income per year. Beginning next Sunday, I/we will give \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week/month (circle one)*

*I plan to grow toward or beyond a tithe by giving \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week/month/year (circle one)*

***PLEASE RETURN TO CHURCH OFFICE BEFORE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th. Thank you.***

***Gathering to Grow in the Glory of God!***

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church - 1821 9th Ave West - Williston, ND 58801 - (701)-572-2667**



## Community Connections

*Working together to be a community where all people are valued.*

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

Psalm 107:1

Change seems to be the theme for life in Williston once again. Throughout all of the changes Psalm 107 comforts us as we remember God is with us every second of every day. At Community Connections we decided to see the change in leadership at churches, schools, and our city as an opportunity. An opportunity to become a community that works together to provide the best possible care of people in need.

When Community Connections first began there were people arriving everyday looking for work. These were people from all over the United States that were looking for hope. They hoped to provide for their families, maybe even save their homes from foreclosure, hoped to find a community where they can feel valued, and in many cases hoped for a community where they will feel their families are welcomed. Unfortunately, in some cases they would arrive on the bus or train with few or no resources. They would be able to find work in a short period of time but had not realized how high the cost of living was going to be.

This past year we have experienced an economic downturn which in turn caused the Advisory Board of Community Connections to rethink what we can do for the community. The downturn meant that agencies and churches had to make the difficult decision to have less available for assistance to families in need. Yes, we were having fewer people arriving without a secure job but we began to have people come to churches and agencies feeling much more desperate. The people had gone from making a good living and providing for their families to either being laid off or having their work hours cut drastically. There were fewer people coming for assistance but their needs were deeper. Their concerns were how to pay their mortgage or rent, how to feed their family and how to pay their utility bills.

During the spring and summer there were leadership changes at eight area churches and in seven key leadership roles in our city. We decided this was our opportunity to make connections with the new leadership to have conversations about how best to care for the families we served. On September 7 Community Connections partnered with Job Service ND to hold a lunch for new leadership and employers that were beginning to hire again. Nine Social service agencies including Community Action Partnership, Salvation Army, Veterans Administration, and Family Crisis Shelter presented information about the services they provide and we had conversation about the needs in the city of Williston.

We have also held conversations with new clergy in Williston about working better together. We are moving toward Community Connections becoming a central hub for churches. To prepare for this possibility we have received a generous grant from the Deaconess Community of the ELCA which has allowed us to welcome Sandy Winter to the staff as Case Worker. Sandy meets with clients to access their needs and make referrals. As the fall progresses we will be meeting with pastors and other church leaders to discuss how best to accomplish the goal of a more centralized care for people. Watch for progress reports in the near future.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Lynea Geinert, Deacon



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church ELCA

1821 9th Avenue West

Williston, North Dakota, 58801



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor David Maxfield

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