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**December**

**2017**

**Newsletter**



and  
*suddenly*  
there was with  
the *angel*  
a multitude of  
the heavenly host  
*praising God*  
and saying  
*Glory to God*  
in the highest, and on earth,  
peace, goodwill towards  
men  
Luke 2  
13-14

# From the Desk of Pastor David Maxfield

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*Waiting... ponder with me moments of waiting.... In a deer stand at dawn.... For a phone call, a letter a text... for aromas to become reality in your favorite meal...the waiting of labor... the waiting of love.... the waiting of vigil at grandma's bedside...for the pastor to write his reflections for this space (right Amber?).*

*How are you with waiting? Impatient? In a hurry? Just wanting to get on with it, get over it, get through it, fix it. I wonder if our instant culture of real-time 24 hour news cycles, instant replay and instant everything hasn't lost sight of the gift of waiting.*

*(the sound of a match striking the draw-board, a hint of sulfur tickling your sniffer, the sizzle of the first-light of the flame).*

*With child-like wonder watch the flame on a candle dance in the darkness, illuminating the shadows. Welcome to Advent– the blessed season of holy waiting. If your looking for cyber deals– you won't find it; if your impatient with Wal-Mart, the traffic, the kids, yourself– you won't hear it; If the busyness of December leaves you breathless, burnt-out and exhausted you need it, and if the silent spaces of your life are filled with loneliness, emptiness, and the restlessness of something more, you are yearning for it.*

*Come, light a candle each day and for a few moments, sit and wait.... It is well worth the journey.*

*"...be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46.10)*

*Shalom,*

*Pastor David*

I found this poem on waiting (or is it a prayer?) in an e-book entitled [The Advent Door](#), by Jan Richardson. The poem itself is more extensive than the space provided, so I have included just a few samples to whet the appetite of your mind and spirit...

## **Blessing for Waiting**

*... those who wait for the night to end,*

*those who wait for the night to dawn... bless them.*

*...those who wait in the hospital room, who wait in the cell,*

*who wait in prayer...bless them*

*...who wait for the news, who wait for a phone call,*

*who wait for a word who wait for a job, a spouse, a home, a child...bless them*

*...who wait for the one who will come home,*

*who wait for the one who will not come... bless them*

*...who wait with fear, who wait with joy, who wait with peace, who wait with rage,*

*who wait for the end, who wait for a beginning, who wait alone who wait together...bless them*

*...who wait for the fulfillment of waiting, who walk in the fullness of time,*

*who wait befriending emptiness, openness and ready*

*Who wait for you...bless them.*

**Thanks and shout-outs to...**everyone who made the Bazar a fun filled day...to Roy and Kathy Trogstad who taught the art of Lefse making to a kitchen full of confirmation youth... to the 4-12 youth who are learning of worship through reading the lessons, ushering and greeting, and lighting the candles of prayer, to God who is doing wonderful things in and through you...

# Church Committees... WHODOESWHAT

## Happy Holiday's from the Worship Committee!

December is a very busy month for us all, and especially for the church!

- We begin this holiday season with the 4th annual Christmas Closet! This event has become a wonderful tradition in Williston and surrounding communities, and we encourage you to spread the word of our shopping opportunities on Thursday, December 7th from 5 to 8pm, and Saturday, December 9th from 9am to 1pm.
  - December 9th at 9:30am we will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. This is a very big job and we welcome all of the help we can get! Many hands make light work as they say, and you may even get fed!
  - December 10th will be our first holiday worship opportunity with our Quiet Christmas Service at 4pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect with a quiet, traditional service.
  - Christmas Eve Sunday will consist of 3 services: 9:30am Sunday service followed by candlelight services at 4pm and 9pm. December 31st will be our Lessons & Carols service at 9:30am. This Sunday will also consist of a Healing Service.
- We ask that you prayerfully consider volunteering to help within the church as well; ushers, communion assistants, acolytes, and readers are always needed and much appreciated. If you have questions about the duties involved in each area we would be happy to answer them for you.

The next Worship Committee meeting is on Tuesday, December 19th at 6pm and we welcome you all to join us!

Chelsey Vinger, Linda Clemes, Kathy Molland, Dave Rod, Paul Solomonson, Peggy Hagen, Steve Peters, and our newest member Clair Keene!

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## Hello from Parish Ed Committee!

We appreciate every single volunteer in every capacity! We have a great group of volunteers that are doing an incredible job.

We have been serving around 100 kids supper on Wednesday nights! Its a busy evening. There are still a few slots open to provide or serve meals on these nights if your able to help out.

On Wednesday October 18th we had a very successful fellowship night out at cottonwood forest. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make this event a huge success! We hope to do it again next year! We are in the process of planning another fellowship opportunity for everyone to enjoy! We will have a bingo event on February 11th and 14th so watch for more details to come out soon!

Our Christmas program is quickly approaching. The program will be on Sunday December 17th at 9:45 AM. We have already begun practicing for this! We will have a combined practice with both Wednesday and Sunday school on Saturday December 16th at 9:30 AM. We plan to provide treats for the children this morning. Please mark you calendars!

Please let us know if there is anything you would like to help with throughout the year. Members of our committee include, Georgette Huravitch, Rachael Studsrud, Liz Shupe, Sherry Weyrauch, Steph Amundson, Heidi Clemes, Ann Nelson, and Kami Dornfeld. Happy Holidays!

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## Hello from Evangelism Committee!

As the weather has gotten colder we are seeing more people in need of our food pantry; thank you so much for your generous donations! Our members include: Audrey Frisinger, Mary Kay Odegard, Pat Day, Andrea Peterson, Lori Hahn, Judy Hogue, and Clarene Vee. We are in need of members to help serve homebound communion, if you are interested please contact the church office; education and support will be provided to new volunteers.

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## Greetings from Stewardship Committee!

This year's stewardship campaign drive wasn't as successful as last year, but there is still time. If you have not filled out a pledge sheet you can find one in your bulletin or at the tables in the gathering area.

We also have plenty of I Love My Church t-shirts still available if you would like to purchase one. Stop in the office during regular business hours or talk to someone on the stewardship committee.

*The Stewardship Committee -*

*Wendy McGinley, Kent Reierson, Alberta Parisien, Rick Clemes & James Bervig*

## **Stewardship is...**

We are called to be bearers of God's grace, mercy, and justice to one another. As stewards, we seek to manage what God has entrusted to us to love those in need, not only in word, but also in action. Stewardship is about love and justice. We are called to recognize the many tangible and intangible ways that God has shown God's love to us, and we look for the Spirit's guidance as to how we might share that love with the world. Stewardship is fun, life giving, and life changing.

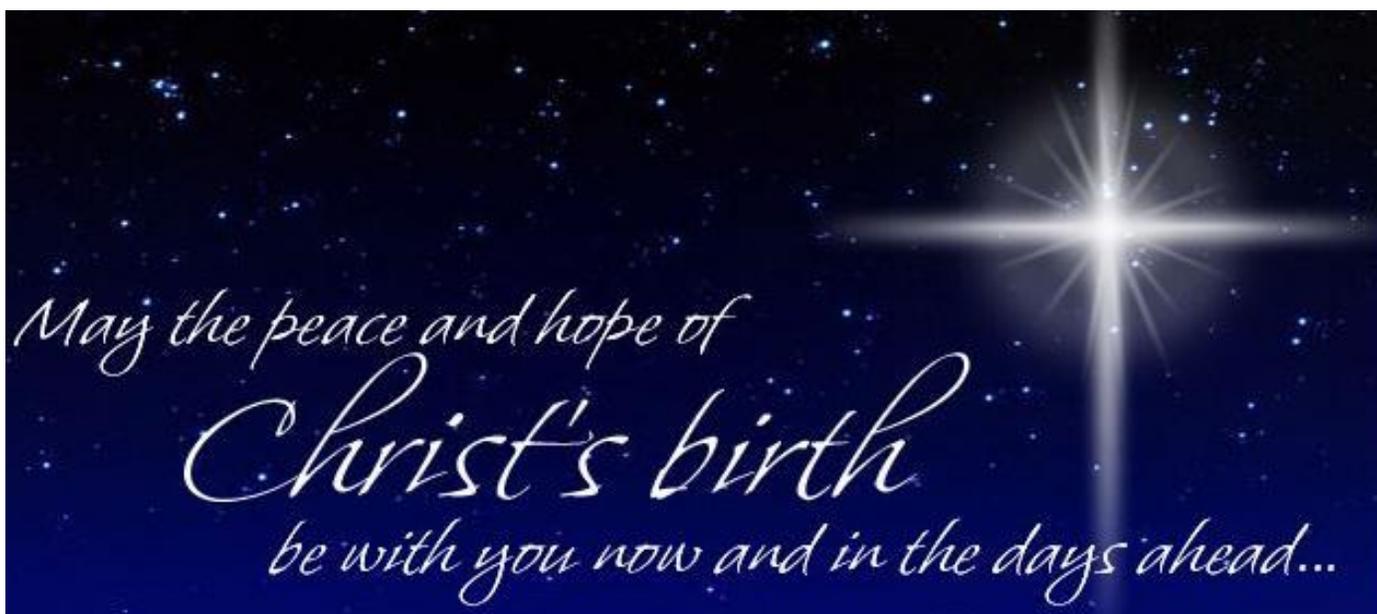
# Community Connections

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

We often talk about answering the call that God has ask of us. As I was thinking about Advent approaching with all the preparations and anticipations for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I began to think about the call of Mary. The angel Gabriel came to her to tell her that God has called her to be the mother of his son. After a short conversation Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said." (Luke 1:26-38).

Now think about this. Mary is a young woman betrothed to Joseph. She is going to need to go to Joseph and tell him she is pregnant and by the way God is the baby's father. She knows that Joseph has the right to say he is done with her. She could end up a single mother, shunned, shamed and sent out of the community with no support from anyone. But, yet she has the faith to say she is God's servant and will do his will. And her faith as well as Joseph's gives them what they need to get through and raise the Son of God. How many of us have that kind of faith?

At Community Connections we continue to work hard to have a least a little faith even on those days when it feels like we are just too busy to think about God. As Jesus said to the woman who had been sick for twelve years "Take heart, daughter your faith has healed you." (Matt. 9:27) we know that if we continue to have faith God will bring opportunities to us to serve and take care of those in need. We thank our heavenly Father every day for all of you as our faithful supporters and co-workers in this ministry.



The staff of Community Connections,  
Lynea Geinert

Sandy Winter

Steve Peters

Janice Halvorson

**603 Main Street #2  
Williston, ND 58801**

**701-713-6783  
[communityconnectionswilliston@outlook.com](mailto:communityconnectionswilliston@outlook.com)**

# December BIRTHDAYS

**12/01**  
**LETA BERG**

**12/02**  
**JIM GROSULAK**  
**KENNA HARSTAD**  
**AMBER MELLAND**  
**KAZUMI REEB**

**12/03**  
**GLORIA JORDAN**  
**KAELYN SIME**

**12/04**  
**BRETT FISKETJON**  
**PAT GREENFIELD**  
**RACHEL MAXFIELD**  
**SABRINA NICE**

**12/05**  
**RYAN SWENSON**  
**SOFIA WATTERUD**  
**TY WATTERUD**

**12/06**  
**JUDY HOGUE**  
**JACKIE TESKEY**

**12/07**  
**EMMA MCKINZIE**  
**RYAN MCKINZIE**  
**CUTTER RONESS**

**12/08**  
**BRIAN ENGBERG**  
**LORI HAHN**  
**CREW HENNIX**  
**MELISSA MEYER**  
**HAYLEE SUNDBY**

**12/09**  
**SLOANE THEIGE**  
**SARAH WALZ**

**12/10**  
**ALEA BUBLITZ**  
**KAIN LACOUNTE**  
**DAXON LUND**  
**MEAGAN WENSTAD**

**12/11**  
**BRETT COLEBANK**  
**GARY SKARPHOL**

**12/12**  
**HOLLY CHRISTIANSON**  
**DUANE GRONFUR**  
**IONE NICE**

**12/13**  
**KARMA-LEE BURCH**  
**AIDEN SAILER**  
**JOCELYN WALZ**

**12/14**  
**KRIS REDKA**

**12/15**  
**GAVIN HEGGE**

**12/16**  
**GAVIN HEGGE**  
**GRAADIN BARKIE**  
**MYRNA BUMMER**  
**LANCE LANDERS**

**12/17**  
**DOMINIC GRUNDSTAD**  
**ALYSSA HODENFIELD**  
**WINTON VESTAL**

**12/18**  
**CAL NASS**  
**JORY SKALSKY**

**12/19**  
**NEVAEH BARTEN**  
**NASH DOUCHETTE**  
**JESSICA JORDAN**  
**ALYSON RONDESTVEDT**

**12/20**  
**MOLLY HAAGENSON**  
**ALYSSA SMITH**  
**HENRY WARDELL**  
**MADISON WILKIE**

**12/21**  
**CHERYL ENGBERG**  
**NATE TANGEDAL**

**12/22**  
**CHERYL ENGBERG**  
**NATE TANGEDAL**

**12/23**  
**DOROTHY BERCE**  
**AMANDA HAGEN**  
**SHARI NASS**  
**MALAKAI SMALTZ**

**12/24**  
**TODD PARISIEN**

**12/25**  
**JESUS**

**12/26**  
**GRANT HAAGENSON**  
**SHIRLEY SKARPHOL**

**12/27**  
**RHYS ENGET**  
**RUSS FRISINGER**  
**JOEY SKAARE**  
**KARLA SYVERSON**  
**GRAYSON VADER**

**12/28**  
**AYLEIGHA LANDERS**

**12/29**  
**HAYDEN KEMP**

**12/30**  
**CAITLYN ANDERSON**  
**ALYSSA JAGER**  
**RYLEE MURRAY**

**12/31**  
**CHELSEY VINGER**





## November Memorials

### In Memory of Rose Slette

Mortgage Reduction Fund  
Bill & Lola Christensen  
Rae Olson  
Jan Stoner  
Rick & Janet Tangedal  
Judy Hogue  
Jan Hogue  
Norm & Lisa Hanson  
Marty & Wanda Hanson  
David & Janice Arnson  
Harold & Arlene Tvedt  
Hazel Kolden  
Ruby Nelson  
Kayleen Njos  
Paul & Deb Solomonson  
Youth Group  
Jory & Melissa Meyer  
Contemporary Music  
Joan Bekkedahl

### In Memory of Dr George Hegge

Mortgage Reduction Fund  
Betty Hegge

### In Memory of Eleanor Sathre

Mortgage Reduction Fund  
Norm & Lisa Hanson  
Dick & Marg McKennett  
John & Carrie Forthun  
Duane & Dorothy Fenster  
Jerome & Lori Hahn  
Bill & Lola Christensen  
Jan Stoner

### In Memory of Eleanor Sathre

Mortgage Reduction Fund  
Kent & Lois Reierson  
Paul & Deb Solomonson  
Roger Altenburg  
Jim & Loyce Rauser  
Floyd & Donna Peterson  
Ruby Nelson  
Rose Slette Family  
Delores Schneider  
Quilting Fund  
Rich & Jane Studsrud  
Stephen Ministries  
Ryan & Amber Ogaard  
Brian & Kathy Engberg  
Rob & Deb Kemp  
Contemporary Music  
Bonnie Kolden  
Food Pantry  
Gary & Marilyn Rooks

### In Memory of Rose Rossland

Contemporary Music  
Joan Bekkedahl

### In Memory of Edwin Arends

Mortgage Reduction Fund  
Bill & Lola Christensen  
Harold & Arlene Tvedt

### In Memory of Don Stewart

Mortgage Reduction Fund  
Duane & Dorothy Fenster

### In Memory of Kaye Skadeland

Mortgage Reduction Fund  
Bill & Lola Christensen  
Harold & Arlene Tvedt

### In Memory of Penny Cohrick

Mortgage Reduction Fund  
Duane & Dorothy Fenster

### In Memory of Mark Chaney Sr.

Mortgage Reduction Fund  
Harold & Arlene Tvedt



*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*



# ***Gospel Seed...December 2017***

**A Monthly Update from the Synod Office**

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## **Waiting...**

The season of Advent, a season of waiting. We wait expectantly for the Savior of the world – the Christ – to return. We gather for Christmas programs, family gatherings with good food and presents. We gather with friends and co-workers and we celebrate.

This is a time to remember that God made a choice, a choice of incredible love for you, for each of us, for all the world. The choice to become fully human, in the form of an infant. One who would experience all of life, including death. So we celebrate and we await His coming again as we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

## **Guests Are Coming!**

As I write this we are preparing to welcome four guests from our churchwide offices. Reverend Dr. Stephen Bouman, the Executive Director of the Domestic Mission Unit along with three Washington D.C. based staff members of the Advocacy Office will be in the synod in mid-December. They are coming to learn more about rural life and issues, as well as energy issues. This visit is about meeting faithful ELCA Lutherans who make their living from the land and how federal policy affects the work they do. Pray for this group, for safe travel, fruitful conversation and learning all around.

## **Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to visit...**

We have just received word that Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be with us during our Synod Assembly in Bismarck, June 1-2 as well as for our pre-assembly workshop May 31. Each year a churchwide representative is at synod assembly to talk about the inter-dependent partnership between congregations, synods and churchwide.

Remember each congregation of the synod may send at least two voting members to assembly. Once again, we will also accept visitor registrations for the assembly. More details will be shared about theme and schedules in the coming months.

***“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord...” Luke 2:10-11***

## **“We give Thee, but thine own...”**

God has blessed us! There is no question about that fact. I want to thank those who have shared lavishly with their congregations this past year. Those who have quietly shared their time serving on committees, being confirmation mentors, church council members or worked in the kitchen sharing the gift of hospitality – well done good and faithful steward. Thanks to those who have shared their talents; those who have organized events, those who have cut, stitched, bound and quilted; those who have taught or visited or sang or play an instrument, your gifts are valued – well done good and faithful servant. I want to thank those who have shared from the financial resources God has provided them. Those who gave to their church, those who have given gifts to the synod appeal, those who have shared with the Synod Endowment Fund – your generosity is contagious. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Ministry in Christ’s name happens because ordinary people, use their time, talent and treasures faithfully. Thank You!

## **End of Year Giving...**

You still have time to make an end of the year gift to the Western North Dakota Endowment Fund. The earnings off these funds help train up future pastors and deacons, support creative Christ centered ministries in our synod and provide funds to do the work of walking with those in discernment.

Gifts of \$5,000 or more may receive a North Dakota Income Tax credit. Check with your tax advisor for ways your gifts can benefit you come tax time. Faith Simonieg, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Generosity is more than happy to assist you with gift planning – I would love to introduce her to you.

## **First Call Theological Event...**

One way we support first call leaders across this church is through a program called First Call Theological Education. All first call leaders in their first three years of service attend these gatherings which happen once a year, in late January. We gather to talk about the joys and challenges of ministry. We gather to worship, learn, laugh and eat together. Through these events leaders are formed for the sake of the proclamation of the Gospel. We are thankful to God for these leader and they gifts they bring to their settings.

Blessings all!

**Rev. Mark Narum**

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod



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

## October 2017 Financials

### General Checking Account:

October 1 2017 General Checking Account Balance	198,733.02
October Offering	+29,085.90
October Expenses	<u>(28,939.37)</u>
October 31 2017 General Checking Account Balance	\$198,879.55

### Special Checking Account:

October 1 2017 Special Checking Account Balance	258,669.58
October Specials Offering	+8,729.87
October Expenses	<u>( 8,663.93)</u>
October 31 2017 Special Checking Account Balance	\$258,735.52

### Benevolences :

WND Synod—ELCA Benevolence	1761.62
WND Synod- WND Benevolence	201.33
UMM Bible Camp Benevolence	251.66
Bethel Lutheran Home Benevolence	176.16
Lutheran Social Services Benevolence	<u>125.83</u>
Total Benevolences for November	\$2516.60

Thrivent Mortgage Payment	\$6552.00
Building Loan Balance as of September 20, 2017	\$195,945.24

## November Council Meeting Highlights

### **Committee Reports –**

**Pastor's report** – Pastor David was unable to attend due to the loss of Margaret's mother.

**Evangelism** – A New Member potluck is planned for November 12.

**Property** - Work night is 2nd Monday of each month as the committee continues to work hard on their list of tasks.

**Worship** – Committee continues to plan for upcoming holiday worship services.

**Stewardship** – Committee has continued work on the I Love My Church campaign.

**Parish Ed** – Church school is gearing up for the Christmas Program, and the 412 group continues to plan fundraising events for their 2018 mission trip.

**Nominating** – **Open positions for council**

Vice President, Secretary, Worship - 1, Youth - One youth

**GIVE  
ONLINE**

Visit [www.gloriadeiwill.org](http://www.gloriadeiwill.org) and sign up for online giving.  
Click on the 'Give' tab and create an account. If you have any questions,  
please call the office at 701-572-2667.

# Faith Lutheran Church

November 5	Worship	10:00 AM
November 12	Worship	10:00 AM
November 19	Worship	10:00 AM
November 26	Worship	10:00 AM



## Faith News December 2017 Bill Christensen

**And while they were there the time came for her to be delivered and she gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.  
Luke 2:6-7**

A preview of the Christmas Pageant. God asks that we use the talents he gives us and the people. We are blessed to have Rosemary Sullivan and her puppets with us and will be doing the Christmas story live with the animals this year. Hope to see you at one performance.

Dorcas the Donkey: Mary never complained one time while we traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. At times the journey was hard.

Caleb the camel: Dorcas you think your journey hard long and hard. I am not complaining mind you but we came from the east far away and I had a bright star shining in my eyes all the time.

Belle the cow: I want to give the family some of my milk as they look so hungry and tired.

Hubert the Lamb: I can't believe that none of their kind would make room for them. Also staring is Little Billy and Spot his faithful dog.

Mary kept all these things pondering them in her heart and the shepherds returned to their fields glorifying and praising God.

We wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas!



- **Christmas Eve Services will be held at 5 PM on 12/24. There will be no worship service on Christmas Day.**
- **Faith Lutheran Church council will meet Tuesday, December 12th at 7 PM.**
- **Faith Women of the ELCA will meet December 2nd at 10 AM at the church. Bible study leader - Joanne Njos. Potluck lunch. Bring goodies for shut-ins— 12 boxes.**
- **Church cleaning in December - Larry & Joanne Njos**

8:30 AM Traditional Worship

9:30 AM Coffee Hour

10:45 AM Contemporary Worship

# DECEMBER 2017

10:00 AM Worship

5:00 PM Worship

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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Church Decorating- 9:30 AM  
Bible Breakfast - 8 AM  
Christmas Closet - 9 AM - 1 AM

Bible Breakfast - 8 AM  
Church School Program Practice - 9:30 AM  
All Students - Preschool thru 4th grade

OFFICE CLOSURES AT NOON



Unified Service - 9:30 AM  
Candlelight Service 4 PM & 9 PM  
Healing Unified Service - 9:30 AM

Bible Study - 1:30 PM  
Bible Study - 6:30 PM  
Christmas Closet - 5 - 8 PM

Supper 5:30 PM  
Education Hour 6 PM  
Extended Youth Group 7 PM  
Glory Band 8 PM

Bible Study - 1:30 PM  
Bible Study - 6:30 PM  
Gideons - 6 PM

Property Comm - Noon  
Bible Study - 1:30 PM  
Bible Study - 6:30 PM

Supper 5:30 PM  
Education Hour 6 PM  
Extended Youth Group 7 PM  
Glory Band 8 PM

Supper 5:30 PM  
Education Hour 6 PM  
Extended Youth Group 7 PM  
Glory Band 8 PM

No Church School

No Church School

Quilting - 9 AM  
Executive Meeting - 5:30 PM  
Stephen Ministries 6:30 PM

Quilting - 9 AM  
Stephen Ministries 6:30 PM  
Woodworkers - 5 PM

Quilting - 9 AM  
Worship Committee 6:00 PM

Quilting - 9 AM

GDLC Work Night - 6 PM  
Tri County Childcare - 7 PM  
SOS - 7 PM

OFFICE CLOSED

OFFICE CLOSED

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church ELCA  
1821 9th Avenue West  
Williston, North Dakota, 58801



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**Gloria Dei Council**

**Executive Committee**

President - Ashley Weisz  
701-770-1865  
blackbird0219@gmail.com  
Vice-President— OPEN

Treasurer - Lois Reiersen  
701-770-1922  
Secretary - OPEN

**Committee Council Representatives**

**Parish Ed**

Kami Dornfeld  
Heidi Jeanotte  
Sherri Weyrauch

**Evangelism**

Lori Hahn  
Judy Hogue

**Property**

Mark Telehey

**Stewardship**

Wendy McGinley

**Worship**

**Youth Committee**

Bill Reeb

