



Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church

2820 12th Avenue South Moorhead, MN 56560

Church Phone: (218) 233-5346

www.ascensionmoorhead.org

www.wels.net

May 2018 Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends of Ascension,

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior! The winter did seem to drag on and on. Perhaps it was because we were a little spoiled from some recent above average winters. Winter this year lasted until Sunday, April 15th. Fortunately, we missed out on the last major snowstorm. Even though it was somewhat cold here, churches to our south in South Dakota were cancelling their Sunday services. There was a dramatic change between the 15th and the 22nd. Our weather has improved considerably. I'm not complaining at all.

We continue to bask in the glow of our Savior's resurrection. While every Sunday is really a celebration of the resurrection, the Easter season is seven Sundays long, beginning with Easter Sunday. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25). 50 days after the day of resurrection, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles on Pentecost.

Our Spring Pastors Conference

was held in Bozeman, Montana this year. Why Bozeman—you might ask? Two years ago when we were in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, I suggested to Pastor Joel Seifert that Shining Mountains in Bozeman, Montana, host this year's Spring Conference. I did so because Shining Mountains was in the process of building a new church at a much better location in Bozeman. Pastor Seifert took a call to another congregation before this year's Spring Conference arrived. It was determined that we would still have the conference in Bozeman because of contractual obligations with the Hilton Garden Inn. Pastor Jeff Sonntag has accepted the call to Bozeman, but has not yet moved to Bozeman.

I had only seen the architectural drawings of what this new church might look like. As the Dakota/Montana District Mission Board chairman, I was very involved in the building project. Basically, it was mountains of paperwork that I had to approve and then convince the Home Mission Board that this was a worthwhile project that deserved their approval. No easy task.

Neither was getting all the financing arranged to make this project even feasible.

The church is far more beautiful than I had imagined. In the end, the project totaled between \$2.2 million and \$2.5 million. We had sold the parsonage, sold some land we had previously bought as a possible site for the church, sold the church, and were able to get a CEF grant and loan. Their current debt is a little over \$900 thousand.

At the conference several excellent papers were delivered. We also received various reports; the new reports for three of our four ministerial education schools are posted on the bulletin board at church. In our district president's report, President Doug Free reported that there are 125 pastor vacancies (106 parish vacancies, 7 part-time, four foreign calls, four professors and four "other"). Available for assignment from our Seminary in May are 26 candidates as well as two from previous classes. It appears we will have a shortage of pastors for the foreseeable future. "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:37).

In Christ's service,
Pastor Lloyd Schlomer



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GPLHS SPRING CONCERT



The Spring Kaleidoscope Concert is Friday, May 18th, at 7:15 PM. GPLHS graduation service is on Saturday, May 19th at 10:00 AM.

Great Plains Lutheran High School in Watertown, SD, will have their Association delegate meeting their Ladies' Auxiliary meeting on Saturday, May 5th at the high school in Watertown, SD. There will be several reports from the board of directors. A budget for the next school year will be presented. There will also be an update on the Master Plan for future development of the Great Plains campus. There will be an election for the board of directors. The meetings begin with a joint opening devotion at 10:00 AM.

SPRING WORK DAY



Our spring work day has been set for Sunday, May 20. May 20 is also the last day of Sunday school for the school year and we plan to have a potluck after Sunday school and Bible class.

We hope to have a list of projects for work day. There are always several projects both outdoors and indoors. Outdoor project will be as the weather permits. May 20 may seem a little late for our spring work day, but it was felt that spring was a little slow in coming this year and the third Sunday in May gave us a better shot at good weather.

JESUS CARES MINISTRIES A MINISTRY OF THE LUTHERAN HOME ASSOCIATION



We continue to meet once a month for our Jesus Cares Ministry. This ministry is for those with intellectual and development disabilities. This is an underserved group of people in our community.

We do devotion, a short Bible lesson, crafts, music and a snack. While the ministry is going well, we do not serve a lot of people and could serve more.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from this ministry, please refer them to our Jesus Cares team.

Any questions, talk to Darlene Schlomer.



Starting July 2018, if anyone is interested in taking on the monthly newsletter, please speak to Trisha Dominguez. This amounts to about a 2 hr. commitment per month.

If there is information you would like included in the monthly newsletter, please either drop a note in Trisha Dominguez's mailbox or send an e-mail to: newsletter@ascensionmoorhead.org

****All information for the June newsletter is due May 22nd****