



- 1st Jeff Amidon, Hunter Fedie, Vicky Loesel
- 2nd
- 3rd Kaycee Wik, Rebecca Zenger
- 4th Judy Sonju Kendall, Sue Murray, Lauren Schultz, **M/M John Rud**
- 5th Jacob Sandberg, Ella Taylor
- 6th Payton Hovey, Tammy Kuba
- 7th Jamey Cleasby
- 8th Brett Cole, Pam George, Gary Larson, MacKenzie Pfund, Rhonda Segerstrom
- 9th Verle Deetz, Katelynn Nelson, Lucy Olson
- 10th Barb Johnson
- 11th Dan Mamary, William Mattausch, Aaron Severson
- 12th Adam Fredrickson, **M/M Melvin Yoder**
- 13th John Hovey, Bryan Reidt
- 14th **M/M Bill Sommer**
- 15th John Anderson, **M/M Michael Olson**
- 16th Dorin Knudtson, Diane Vold, **M/M Scott Nygaard**
- 17th Travis Perry, Virginia Zittel
- 18th
- 19th Kellee Sessions
- 20th Damontae DeWitt, Jon Flury, Marjorie Peterson
- 21st Augustus Hovey, Michael Maukstad
- 22nd Benjamin Genrich, Kathie Mattausch, Dennis Serum
- 23rd Susan Poeschel
- 24th Billie Loesel, Pat Ness, Cody Nygaard
- 25th Nevaeh Rud, Alanna Severson
- 26th Dylan Bohlinger, Susan Solli, **M/M Bill Hermanson**
- 27th Molly Rongstad, Gloria Severson
- 28th Mason Franson, **M/M Glen Woychik**
- 29th Erin Kensmoe, Bryanna Reidt, Michael Wogh
- 30th Karen Larson
- 31st Bethany Christianson, Ronald Hovey, Denise Rand, Terrie Sommer



“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Proverbs 28:19a

This transition period is a time to look at purpose and vision. There are two contrasting ways at looking at purpose and vision.

Chapel	Outreach Center
Personal preference	God worthy of worship
Time permitting	Remember the Sabbath
Cosmic Therapist	Great Commission
Divine Butler	Great Commandment
Keep the lights on	Let your light shine
Keep doors open	Open doors to others
Hatch – Match – Dispatch	Faithful participant
Confirmation as end point	Affirmation of Baptism as take off
Grow older	Grow younger
Sunday School drop-off	Home and congregation
Upstairs/Downstairs	Cross-Gen
Inward focus	Outward focus
Lethargy	Vitality
Milk	Meat
Chaplain	Challenge

Newly elected and installed Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Bishop Lori Skow-Anderson shared her purpose and vision for the synod as well as resources with the rostered ministers gathering of the Dairyland Conference at Central Lutheran in Mondovi on October 18th.

Purpose & Vision

The purpose of the synod is to help the congregations of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin be increasingly strong witnesses to the triune God so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus.

1. Strengthen Congregational Vitality: Connection to God, each other, neighbors
2. New vitality matrix: #Forourneighbor: Number of people actively engaged in their neighborhood explicitly representing their Christian faith and congregation
3. Equip and resource congregations for Cross-Gen and First Third of Life Faith Formation
4. Deepen Connection with Malawi companion congregations: Sponsor 7 youth from Malawi to attend the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN 2021
5. Grow our synod stewardship and endowment funds
6. Increase volume of the synod’s voice on justice issues. Increase the size of our communication footprint.
7. Create a cohesive staff with synod ministers who are present at conference and congregational gatherings building mutual trust and meaningful relationships.

Winter Theological Event – Innovation in Ministry
January 20-21, 2019 at 29 Pines – Eau Claire, WI

E.P.I.C. Effective Practices for Innovative Congregation Councils
February 2, 2019 at Bethany Lutheran – Rice Lake, WI

Walking Together + Christ Jam – “Holy Experiments”
March 9, 2019 – Davies Center – UWEC

I encourage you to embrace a mission perspective as a faithful follower of Jesus and as vital congregations in this synod.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Lowell Bolstad

Tri-Parish Happenings

Pastor Bolstad is open to visits in the church offices, homes, cafes, or other places. Contact him at 715.226.0163 or interimpastor1953@gmail.com

Poinsettias will be ordered by each individual this year instead of through the Tri-Parish. Feel free to order them and bring them to church. If you would like them acknowledged in the bulletin and Parish Post, please send who they are in honor or memory of and who they are from by Monday, December 17th by leaving a message at 715.287.3146 or emailing nrsparish@tcc.coop.

Upcoming Christmas Services

Sunday School program at Norden on December 9th at 10:30am in place of 8am service

Sunday School program at Chimney Rock on December 16th at 9:30am

Sunday School program at Good Shepherd on December 16th at 11am

Blue Christmas at Good Shepherd on Wednesday, December 19th at 7pm

Christmas Eve at Good Shepherd on Monday, December 24th at 4pm

Christmas Eve at Norden on Monday, December 24th at 9pm

Christmas Day at Chimney Rock on Tuesday, December 25th at 10am

Chimney Rock representatives notified the TriParish Council at its October 29th meeting of its decision from the October 11th congregation council meeting to withdraw from the TriParish effective February 1st for financial reasons pending a vote at a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 2nd. The decision was made to continue the November and December parish service time schedule through January. Pastor Bolstad will meet with the three congregation councils during the first two weeks of November and with the representatives of Norden and Good Shepherd on November 28th to prayerfully deliberate possible options. Pray for our leadership during this time of decision making.

Advent Is About The “Coming Days” - The season of Advent begins Sunday, December 2nd. God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks in Advent. With the ancients we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper. *Adapted from Sundays and Seasons, Year C 2019*

Student Recognition Sunday - The Christmas season is a time to welcome our students back home from college and other institutions of higher learning. A special invitation is extended to our students and their families to come to the post high school student recognition on Sunday, December 30th. Luke Peterson will give a student recognition message at Norden, and Rachel Hovey will give one at Good Shepherd. Pray for our students pursuing post-secondary education.

Community Events

Holiday Bake Sale and Luncheon on Saturday, December 1st from 11am to 1pm at Central Lutheran Mondovi, 221 W Main St. Lunch is \$6 and includes: Hot Sandwich, Chips, Coleslaw, Pickle, Dessert and Beverage. For purchase will be baked goods, crafts, canned goods, caramel corns, quilts, candies, produces, jams and jellies.

Annual Christmas Bazaar at St Johns Lutheran Church, 709 S 2nd St, Alma on Saturday, December 1st from 10:30am to 1pm. Lunch will be at 11am with Soup, Sandwich, Beverage and Dessert with carry outs available. Silent auction will be from 10:30am to noon followed by a live auction. There will also be a craft and bake sale.

Mondovi Sharing Table will be hosting a free meal on Wednesday, December 5th from 4:30pm to 6:00pm at Central Lutheran Church, Mondovi. Meals will be offered monthly and are open to everyone absolutely FREE. This month it is being sponsored by Our Savior's United Methodist Church/Christmas Walk.

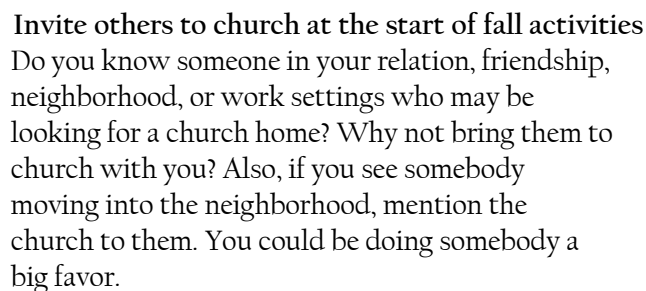
Sleigh rides will be on December 15th and 16th and January 12th and 13th from 9am to 7pm at S359 Nicholes Rd, Mondovi. There will be a bonfire, s'mores, hot chocolate, hand crafted items for sale and about a 30-minute sleigh ride. Please call ahead to set up a time or reserve a spot at 715-279-6862. Cost: Free will donation. All proceeds will go towards Cheyanne Yoder's mission trip. Cheyanne is daughter of Melvin Yoder who is a member of Trinity of Norden.

Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution on Thursday, December 27th from 6:30pm to 8pm (unless food is gone before 8pm) at Harvestime Church, 840 Highway 37, Mondovi. \$20 cash donation, bring 2 large boxes or laundry baskets for food. More information call 715-579-3049. Please do not come until 5pm when parking will be available.

Area Ministry Conversation on Thursday, January 24th at 6:30pm at Osseo Lutheran Church. Representatives from congregations in the Dairyland Conference are invited to an Area Ministry Conversation. Representatives will be invited to engage in conversation about what makes sense for congregations going forward in cooperating with each other.

Haiti Mission Trip January 21-28, 2019 – Living Water of Cameron is partnering with Reiser Relief, a Roman Catholic non-profit based in the twin cities to offer a mission trip to Haiti, this January 21-28. Space is limited. For information on cost, accommodations and what we will be doing, please email: livingwatercameron@gmail.com

Plan now to join Liz Bartsch as she hosts a 10-night journey to Germany and Austria where we will visit major Martin Luther sites, encounter the Dachau Concentration Camp and visit many historic castles and landmarks. One of the highlights will be the Passion Play in Oberammergau! For more information contact Liz Bartsch at 715-859-6810 or lbartsch@nswwi.org



Invite others to church at the start of fall activities
Do you know someone in your relation, friendship, neighborhood, or work settings who may be looking for a church home? Why not bring them to church with you? Also, if you see somebody moving into the neighborhood, mention the church to them. You could be doing somebody a big favor.

Newsletter By Email

Would you prefer to have your newsletter by email or digital format, please email: nrsparish@tcc.coop and we will start emailing you the newsletter instead of sending it in the mail. Please indicate what church you are affiliated with.

Prayer Concerns

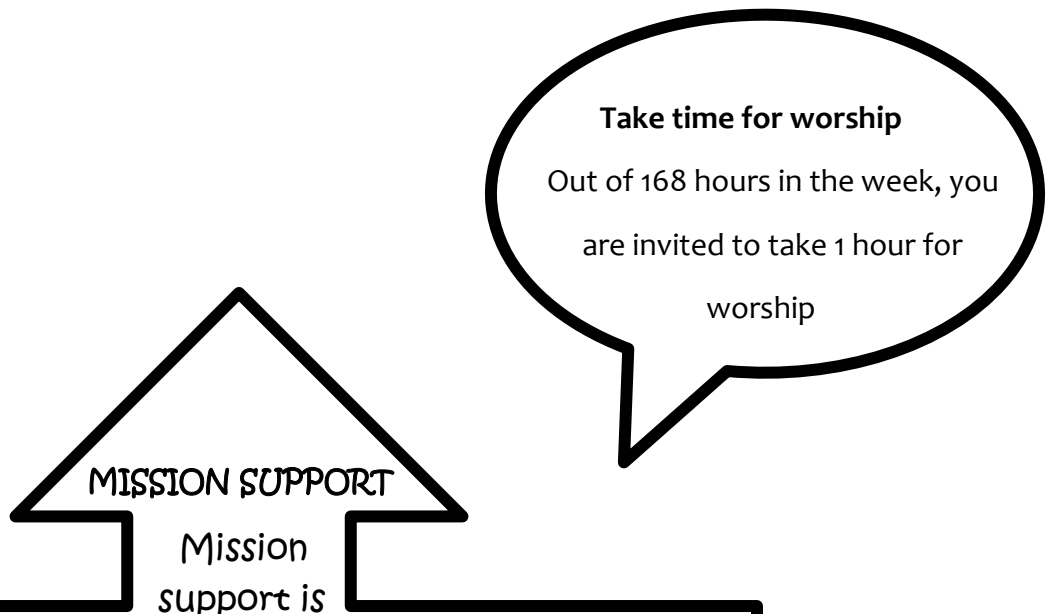
Briella (Bella) Tiegs, Ray Severson, Linda Marsolek, Mary (Pat Brenn's sister), Helen Larson, Bryan Falkenberg, Jen Taylor, Tanya Emerson, Dennis Dubiel, Gina Stevens, Candyce Gray, Brady Lamberson, Vilas Hovey, Mackenzie Mueller, Mary Peterson, Leslie Urness, Elaine Colby

Subscribe to Three Sides podcast

Three Sides is a new monthly podcast featuring stories from the ELCA. As a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together, Three Sides will share diverse voices from across this church. Typically, it's said there are two sides to every story. But often a middle or third side of the story is revealed, providing another perspective to consider. Listen now at LivingLutheran.org/podcast.

Living Lutheran Reader Call

For an upcoming article in *Living Lutheran*, we want to know: What draws you into God daily? Where do you see glimmers of God's presence in ordinary moments? By Monday, January 7th, send your 300-word reflection to livinglutheran@elca.org, subject line: God.



the portion of financial offerings from members of the ELCA that is shared for synodical and churchwide mission and ministries beyond the local congregation. Mission support helps to fund ministry partners both domestically and around the world including campus ministry, several social organizations, missionaries across the globe, colleges, universities and seminaries of our church, and outdoor camping ministries, just to name a few. These offerings provide over 80 percent of the resources that are used to fund ministries that we do together within the ELCA.



GOOD SHEPHERD NEWS & NOTES



Direct Donation

Exciting news for Good Shepherd members! You can now sign up for a donation to be taken directly from your bank account for the church. No need to worry about forgetting your donation at home. Contact John Hovey to get a form to sign up or with any questions.

Laehn-Bloom Wedding

Heather Laehn and Matthew Bloom desire to announce their intention to be married on Saturday, December 8th and request your prayers.

Tree Trimming-Candy Filling-Caroling

Good Shepherd students and parents are invited to the church on December 1st at 3pm. We'll begin by trimming the tree and filling candy sacks for the Christmas program and then we'll go to Mondovi to carol at The American Lutheran Home for the residents. We will finish the day by getting supper at Subway while watching the Holiday Parade, so make sure students have money with them for their sandwich. If you can help drive that day, please contact Jeanette Thompson (946-3914). The more the merrier!

Sunday School

The Good Shepherd Sunday School Christmas Program will be held Sunday, December 16th at 11am. Please take note of the following practice times:

Sunday, December 9th 9-11
Sunday, December 16th 9-11

Please encourage your child to practice their piece and to speak slowly and clearly. Thank you.

Good Shepherd General Fund

Beginning Balance 10/01/2018 \$4,024.84
Income \$5,279.82
Expenses \$3,965.83
Ending Balance 10/31/2018 \$5,339.13

Good Shepherd Church Council

President	John Hovey	715.946.3802
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Molly Marsh	
Financial Secretary	Rod Amidon	
Treasurer	Ruth Rud	
Deacon	Cindy Bloom	
Deacon	Larry Herbenson	
Trustee	Lisa Wulf	
Trustee	Jeff Gray	



CHIMNEY ROCK NEWS & NOTES



Chimney Rock Tree Trimming

We will be trimming the trees and decorating the church on Saturday, December 1st at 9am. Any and all help would be appreciated.

Chimney Rock Special Congregational Meeting

Chimney Rock Special Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, December 2nd after 9:30am service to act on recommendation of Congregation Council to withdraw from the Tri-Parish for financial reasons effective February 1, 2019.

Pianist Needed

We thank Sara Kensmoe for her dedicated service in playing piano over the past several years. Since she is unable to play anymore, we're looking for a replacement to help Virginia. If anyone in the Chimney Rock congregation has musical talents and is willing to accompany at worship services occasionally, please let Barb Sylla know.

Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to Eric Mueller and Mackenzie Olson, who were united in marriage at Chimney Rock on October 20th. God's Blessings to both of you!

Chimney Rock Memorials Gratefully Acknowledged

- ❖ Joan Smedberg memorial to the Cemetery Association given by Alan & Michele Barneson
- ❖ Gordie Twerberg memorial to the Cemetery Association given by Debra Twerberg
- ❖ Clarice Bergman memorial to the General Fund given by Ray & Roxie Severson
- ❖ Bernice Marten memorial to the Cemetery Association given by Mavis Erickson
- ❖ Bernice Bryn memorial to the General Fund given by Dell & Gloria Koxlien
- ❖ Dale & Roxie Erickson memorial to the Cemetery Association given by Jerald Erickson
- ❖ Alpha Girtman memorials to the General Fund given by Jean Relph, Ron & Marlene Onstad, William & Darlene Huck, Warren & Diane Huck, and also family & friends
- ❖ Gift to Chimney Rock W/ELCA given by Clayton & Mary Steffenson

Chimney Rock Council Members – 2018

President	Brad Olson	715.694.2239 715.797.5559
Trustee	Vacant	
Trustee	Gerald Hawkenson	715.287.3454
Deacon	Jenessa Perry	715.985.4664
Deacon	Alan Barneson	715.287.3193
Deacon	Randy Olson	715.985.3309 715.797.2988
Treasurer	Don Solfest	715.287.4562 715.797.3014
Secretary	Mary Olson	715.694.2239

Pray for the
educational
and confirmation
ministry of our congregations.

Pray that God will empower
parents to carry out their
primary task
of teaching
the faith.

Chimney Rock Council Minutes – October 11, 2018

The Congregational Council of Chimney Rock Church was called to order at 6:00pm on Thursday, October 11, 2018, by Council President Bradley Olson. Members present: Interim Pastor Lowell Bolstad, Alan Barneson, Gerald Hawkenson, Randy Olson, Bradley Olson, Mary Olson, Don Solfest, Janessa Perry. Billie Loesel arrived at 6:21pm. Member's Absent: None. Additional People Present: Jennifer Perry

Pastor Bolstad read devotions and led the group in prayer.

The Pastor's report was read. Pastor Bolstad has regular pastoral ministry tasks such as parish visits, funerals, etc. He also attends community events as well as events with other members of the ministry. The Council continued the discussion on Transition Dynamics. This meeting focused on our Vision, Our Future, Where is God Leading Us?

Chimney Rock Church's Vision, hanging on the wall in the church basement, is "Be alive and well in ten years with healthy evangelism and vital family fellowship." The Council discussed that the "vital family fellowship" was not functioning well in our church at this time. We talked about possible reasons for this and things we as a council and congregation could do to improve it. Things we could do to improve it included: everyone treating each other respectfully, even when they disagree, not saying things that disrespect/hurt others, appreciating each other, supporting church leaders even when members don't agree with a decision, and getting more people involved, especially, youth in the congregation.

The upcoming change to hours of worship was discussed. Beginning November 1 through December 31, Chimney Rock will have services at 9:30am, each Sunday. The Tri-Parish agreed upon three times for services, 8:00am, 9:30am and 11:00am. These would rotate every three months after January 1.

There are three parts to the Call Process for a new pastor. One part is the Psychological Profile, which Susan Solli and Forrest Nutter have been working on. Another part of the Call Process for a new pastor is looking at the Fiduciary piece. To share a pastor with Norden and Good Shepherd Churches costs Chimney Rock around \$30,000 a year. This includes housing, pay, mileage and benefits for a full-time pastor. Church donations are down. Chimney Rock Church does not have the financial solvency to support our share of another full-time pastor. At the upcoming Tri-Parish meeting on October 29, Chimney Rock will advise the other parish council members of the lack of finances to sustain our share of the Tri-Parish agreement. The third part of the call process is Strategic. What will Chimney Rock do for a pastor if we don't have a permanent one? There are several options that were discussed. Some parishes use interim pastors long-term, some use lay ministers and/or retired pastors.

The Secretary's report was accepted.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Current copies of Chimney Rock Church Constitution were sent to all council members.

Old Business:

The concrete on upper church steps is not yet repaired.

New Business:

Don made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm.

Pastor Bolstad led all in the Lord's Prayer.

Next Congregational Council meeting will be held on Thursday, November 8 at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Olson, Council Secretary

Chimney Rock Council Minutes – November 8, 2018

The Congregational Council of Chimney Rock Church was called to order at 6:00pm on Thursday, November 8, 2018, by Council President Bradley Olson.

Members present: Interim Pastor Lowell Bolstad, Alan Barneson, Gerald Hawkenson, Randy Olson, Bradley Olson, Mary Olson, Don Solfest. Jenessa Perry arrived at 6:07pm.

Members Absent: Billie Loesel

Additional People Present: Jackie Hawkenson, Jennifer Perry

Pastor Bolstad read devotions and led the group in prayer.

The Pastor's report was read. Chimney Rock's Mission Statement is: "As a family of God rooted in the strength and inspiration of God's Holy Spirit, we are called forward facing challenges by the promises of God to reach out in love to our rural community, especially cherishing and welcoming children." The council discussed what this meant and how it was working today. It was agreed that it meant that it was a unified effort of open arms welcoming others, extending hospitality, especially to children and youth.

Chimney Rock services will be at 9:30am during the months of November, December 2018 and through the end of January 2019.

Old Business:

Letters have been send out informing members of the congregation of an upcoming congregational meeting that will be held after church services on Sunday, December 2, where a vote will be taken on remaining in or withdrawing from, the TriParish Agreement with Trinity of Norden and Good Shepherd. Council members discussed options for pastoral services that might be available if the vote is to withdraw from the TriParish Agreement.

Concrete steps still awaiting repair.

New Business:

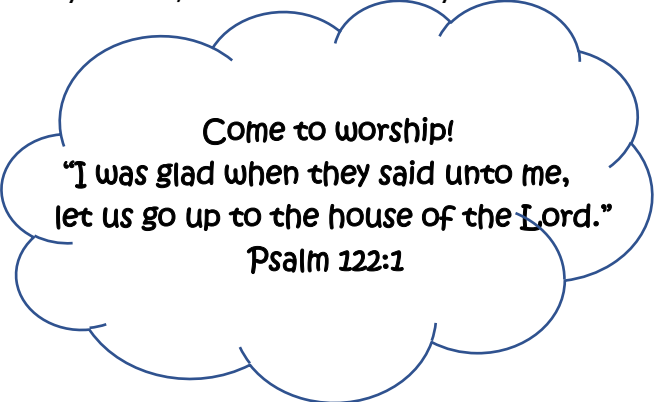
Billie Loesel submitted his resignation, effective immediately, as a member of the Chimney Rock Congregational Council. Since there is only one more Council meeting before the January annual meeting, it was decided that his position would be filled with the other open position during the January annual meeting. Two congregation members will be needed as Trustees. Gerald Hawkenson is the remaining Trustee that will move up and become Council President in 2019 when Bradley Olson steps down as President.

Don made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:33pm.

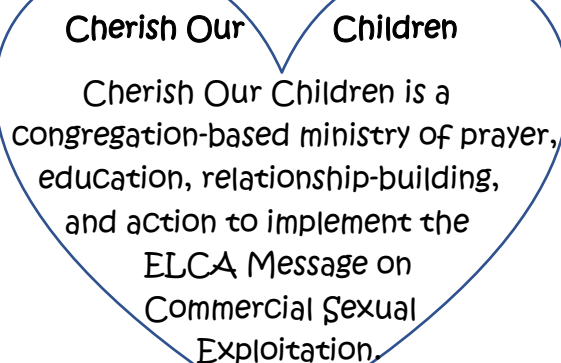
Pastor Bolstad led all in the Lord's Prayer.

Next Congregational Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 13 at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Olson, Council Secretary



Come to worship!
"I was glad when they said unto me,
let us go up to the house of the Lord."
Psalm 122:1



Cherish Our Children
Cherish Our Children is a
congregation-based ministry of prayer,
education, relationship-building,
and action to implement the
ELCA Message on
Commercial Sexual
Exploitation.



TRINITY OF NORDEN NEWS & NOTES



Trinity of Norden W/ELCA

November meeting was held after the first November service. Ann read the treasurer's report. Motion was made and seconded that we would not be giving monetary gifts this year to the seven charities that we have given to in the past, mainly because we don't have much money. We discussed the fact that we support various organizations throughout the year by other means other than money, so it isn't as if we aren't contributing. We, however, will continue with the Christmas stockings at the nursing homes. Motion was made and seconded that we would give offerings that are going to be collected at the Christmas Party to the Strum and Mondovi food pantries.

Congregation Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 8th beginning at 10am. Maddex Larson and Roger Larson will be the entertainment. Please plan on attending for a fun morning of music and fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass for a potluck luncheon. NEW this year ... if you wish to participate ... a \$5 gift exchange. Bring a \$5 gift to be exchanged with someone else at the luncheon that has also brought a gift. If you do not wish to participate in the gift exchange, a basket will be available where a \$5 donation can be put that would then be forwarded to the food pantries mentioned above.

Blakely Risler Baptism

Michaela Dutter and Nicholas Risler to present Blakely Risler for Holy Baptism on Sunday, December 2nd. Pray for the parents, sponsors, and child that this child might be raised in the faith.

Sympathy

We extend our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Marilyn Elizabeth Allison whose funeral was held at Trinity of Norden on November 10th.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Lenore Larson whose funeral was held at Trinity of Norden on November 14th.

Prayer Concerns Change

Prayer concern names will be in the bulletin for 2 weeks and if you would like your loved one to appear longer in the bulletin, please email nrsparish@tcc.oop or call 715.287.3146 and leave a message. Even though your loved one is not on the list, we will continue to pray for them.

Christmas Tree Trimming-Potluck

Trinity of Norden will be trimming the tree on Friday, December 7th at 6:30pm with a potluck to follow.

Treasurer Needed

Are you looking for a rewarding part-time position while growing in your faith? You will be responsible for effectively disbursing all funds received into the church treasury in a responsible and organized manner, with funds identified and bills paid when due. Amy has everything set up as automatic withdrawal and on excel, so knowledge of excel is a plus. This is a salaried position at \$180 a month (gross) and an average of 15 hours a month. If you are interested Contact Marla Severson at 715.287.3461

Fill in Organist

Anyone who is interested in being a fill in organist to play during worship service, please contact Marla Severson at 715.287.3461.

Sunday School Calendar

Below is the calendar through the end of the year, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us.

The Board of Education,

Krista Nygaard – 715-225-9844 Teresa Accola – 715-450-2205 Luke Pederson – 715-797-0752

December 2nd - Sunday School Christmas Program Practice 9:00-11:00

December 9th - **Norden Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:30am. Christmas Program Practice starts at 9:00.**

December 16th - No Sunday School – Christmas break

December 23rd - No Sunday School – Christmas break

December 30th - No Sunday School – New Year's break

January 6th - Sunday School Resumes

Stewardship - Gods Work - Our Hands

Thank you again for the contributions to our mission box.

For the months of November and December winter items will be collected such as: hats, mittens, scarfs, jackets, socks, long underwear, long sleeve shirts, turtlenecks and etc.

A tote has been placed in the entry of the church for your contributions.

Thank you again for your support. If you have any questions, please call Jean Larson at 715-287-3356.

Memorials

Trinity of Norden Cemetery:

In Memory of Clifford Christenson

\$30 given by Laverne & Betty Doenier

\$100 given by Dave & Janice Kneer

\$100 given by Roy Christenson

Trinity Norden Church Council

President	Marla Severson	715.287.3461
Vice President	Missy Ostertag	715.287.3453
Secretary	Dawn Asher	715.530.0405
Treasurer	Amy Ausen	715.287.3413
Deacon	Ginny Zittel	715.287.3263
Deacon	Neil Segerstrom	715.926.5375
Deacon	Ann Larson	715.797.0637
Trustee	Jennifer Iverson	715.530.0377
Trustee	Brett Cole	715.926.5673
Trustee	Erica Larson	715.450.9619
Financial Secretary	Marlys Marten	715.287.4248



Bishop's Christmas Message 2018

Dear Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

I'm writing this the day after I get home from my first ever trip to the Holy Land. My husband Randy and I decided that after three decades as pastors we should make a pilgrimage to all the places we've been preaching about for so many years. I was excited to see Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Garden of

Gethsemane, the Temple Wall, and Athens, Corinth and Rome and all the other landmarks of our Spiritual Geography. I was especially excited to see Bethlehem.

While I was in Bethlehem, I heard Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones, a gifted story teller recite from heart, Luke 2, the Christmas story. We were in a beautiful chapel on the site where according to tradition; the angels announced to the Shepherds the good news of Jesus' birth. Imagine these familiar words, spoken from the heart, echoing off the stones of the Shepherd's Field chapel.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

The group of pilgrims I was with sat in silence for a few moments before we sang Christmas carols: O Little Town of Bethlehem, Angels we have heard on High, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Silent Night, Away in the Manger... It was a holy moment and highlight of our trip to the Holy Land. It was simple, beautiful, goose bump, Hallmark Card moment...

BUT the undercurrent of that moment is more complicated. As tourists we were well aware that Bethlehem in 2018 is a city controlled by the Palestinians and the surrounding area is controlled by Israel. It is a land that has been fought over throughout known history by those who considered it Holy; Jews, Muslims and Christians. It is a place that builds walls to separate, and struggles with daily violence and conflict.

The Shepherds of first century were well aware that Bethlehem was under foreign occupation by Rome. The Roman Caesar, Augustus sent out a decree that Jews were to be enrolled in their hometown to be taxed. There were uprisings and revolts against Roman rule of the Jews. It was and is complicated and there is no quick fix.


But all of that is far away or long ago. How about the here and now? Is your life like a beautiful peaceful Hallmark card wishing season's greetings or is your life more complicated like a major geopolitical conflict? Or is it somewhere in between? Regardless, there is one thing that is true, in the midst of it all God put on flesh and came down to us, to live among us. In the midst of it all, Jesus was born.

Bishop Laurie

NORDEN-ROCK-SHEPHERD LUTHERAN PARISH

Pastor Bolstad Cellphone #715.226.0163

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
GS Ushers: Mike Johnson & Corey Hovey GS Communion Servers: Kerri Johnson & Lori Hovey			Acolytes December 2 December 9 December 16	Good Shepherd Fabianna Klopp Olivia Wulff	Trinity of Norden Olivia Taylor Celia Ausen Cole Pratt	1 9am Tree Trimming at CR 3pm Tree Trimming/Candy Filling/Caroling at GS	
2 8am TN Worship/ Baptism 9am TN Sunday School 9:30am CR Worship/Sunday School CR Congregational Meeting 10am GS Sunday School 11am GS Worship	3	4	5 4pm Confirmation at TN 4:30-6pm Mondovi Sharing Table 6pm Confirmation at GS 6:30pm TN Council Meeting	6	7 6:30pm Wedding Rehearsal at GS 6:30om Tree Trimming with Potluck at TN	8 10am Congregational Christmas Party at TN 2pm Laehn-Bloom Wedding	
9 9am TN Sunday School 9am GS Sunday School 9:30am CR Worship/Sunday School 10:30am TN SS Christmas Program 11am GS Worship	10	11	12 4pm Confirmation at TN 6pm Confirmation at GS	13 6pm CR Council Meeting	14	15 9am-7pm Sleigh Rides	
16 8am TN Worship NO TN Sunday School 9am-7pm Sleigh Rides 9:30am CR SS Christmas Program 9am GS Sunday School 11am GS SS Christmas Program	17 Poinsettia names due to office	18	19 4pm Confirmation at TN 6pm Confirmation at GS 7pm Blue Christmas at GS	20 <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; opacity: 0.5;">Newsletter DEADLINE</div>	21 <div style="text-align: center;">  First Day of Winter </div>	22	
23 8am TN Worship 9:30am CR Worship NO CR or GS or TN Sunday School 11am GS Worship	24 4pm Christmas Eve Worship at GS 9pm Christmas Eve Worship at TN	25 10am Christmas Day Worship at CR	26 No Confirmation	27	28	29	
30 Student Recognition 8am TN Worship NO TN Sunday School 9:30am CR Worship NO CR or GS Sunday School 11am GS Worship	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> Council Presidents: NRS: Brad Olson – 715.694.2239 CR: Brad Olson – 715.694.2239 GS: John Hovey – 715.946.3802 TN: Marla Severson – 715.287.3461 </div>		Greeters	Readers	Ushers	
				December 2	Gerri Kolve	Mary Olson	Bob & Gerri Kolve
				December 9	Bev Paulsen	Susan Solli	Barb McGee & Ione Jacobson
				December 16	Sunday School	Sunday School	Sunday School
				December 23	Forrest Nutter	Jackie Hawkenson	Forrest & Jeanne Nutter
				December 25	Ione Jacobson	Mary Olson	Barb Sylla & Barb McGee
				December 30	Barb Sylla	Barb Sylla	Don & Cheryl Solfest

NORDEN-ROCK-SHEPHERD LUTHERAN PARISH
S367 COUNTY ROAD Y
MONDOVI, WISCONSIN 54755

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
BULK MAILING RATE
PERMIT #52

Return Service Requested



cell (715) 226-0163

Lowell Bolstad Interim Pastor

S367 County Road Y, Mondovi, WI 54755

Church email: nrparish@tcc.coop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Newsletter of Norden-Rock-Shepherd Lutheran Parish

The Parish Post