

December 2024

Volume 21 Issue 12



Parish Visitor

Belfield Lutheran Church · Daglum Lutheran Church · Medora Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

How do you experience God's grace? God's grace has been creating new beginnings from before time began. In the beginning the Spirit of God moved over the waters, God spoke, and creation happened. By God's grace, new beginnings are created over and over again in our lives. I like to talk about new beginning in the spring when signs of new life are all around us. I might also talk about new beginnings in September when students are going back to school, new friends, new teachers, and new experiences can be scary and also exciting. Advent is also a time in the church year when we are anticipating a new beginning, by God's grace. We are waiting for the birth of Christ, the ultimate gift of God's grace!

Pastor John Stevens has written an Advent devotional called *Grace-Filled Beginnings*, which you can find on Amazon and probably other bookstores. This devotion will be the focus of our worship and reflections for the month of December. We ask God to stir in our hearts a sense of awe and wonder in anticipation of the Grace that arrives in a manger. This Grace is God's gift to you and me every day! Are you prepared to receive such a gift?

John the Baptist tells anyone who will listen to "*prepare the way of the Lord!*" (Luke 3:4) What a great way to begin the church year - preparing our hearts and minds to experience the Grace of God!

God prepares us for Grace in the waters of baptism. God names us children of God to share this good news together and to share this good news with our neighbors. Maybe we prepare for this good news by setting aside a special time of devotion and prayer. Maybe we prepare a place in our homes with an advent calendar or an advent wreath that helps us to focus this season on the Grace of God among us.

In the busyness and bantering of the world around us, let us find a place of peace and quiet to listen for and to experience God's grace. God's grace is not a promise that life will be easy or even happy. God's grace is a promise of salvation for us that begins in the manger. God's grace gathers us together into the body of Christ, and brings joy to the world! This advent season, each congregation will have copies of colored pages of Advent scriptures that you can take home and use for a daily reminder of God's grace. These scrip-



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Baptism
- Christmas Services
- Women's Retreat
- Advent Scriptures

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:14



tures are copied on paper that can be cut into strips to make a paper chain that will grow longer each day as we approach Christmas Day. In whatever way you choose, I hope you find a meaningful experience of God's Grace this month!

In God's Grace,

+ Pastor Dawn



BDM VITALITY SURVEY

Please watch your email for a survey from our leadership in ministry. We hope to get responses from members of all three congregations, in order to guide us into the future. The survey results will be useful for both gaining insights about where you see ministry happening and opportunities for growth on our faith journey together. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by December 10th. If you do not receive a survey by 12/5, please contact Pastor Dawn or one of your church council members to have it resent. Thank you for your participation!

*Day 1 There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. **Luke 21:25-36***



Join us for the
**2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS**




MEDORA LUTHERAN CHURCH
Friday, December 20th at 5:00 p.m.

BELFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Belfield Lutheran Altar Guild

*Thank you to Paulette Dorval & Marina Pickett for Serving in November
Serving in December Amanda & Rubi Johnson & Sara Bock
Anyone Can Join the Altar Guild! See Jean Franklin for details.*

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship 1 8:30 am – Medora 9:15 am – Sunday School @ Belfield Lutheran 10:00 am – Belfield 11:45 am – Daglum 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's	2	3 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	4 3:30 pm – Sunday School @ Medora Lutheran 5:30 pm – Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran 7:00 pm – Choir Practice @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	5 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	6	7 Medora's Cowboy Christ- mas Badlands Ministries Camp Christmas with the Belfield Choir
Worship 8 8:30 am – Medora 9:15 am – Sunday School @ Belfield Lutheran 10:00 am – Belfield 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's	9	10 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	11 3:30 pm – Sunday School @ Medora Lutheran 5:30 pm – Confirmation @ Belfield Lutheran 7:00 pm – Choir Practice @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	12 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	13	14 Daglum Ladies Christmas @ Daglum Lutheran
Worship 15 8:30 am – Medora 9:15 am – Sunday School @ Belfield Lutheran 10:00 am – Belfield 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's	16 6:30 pm – Belfield Coun- cil Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	17 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	18 3:30 pm – Sunday School @ Medora Lutheran 5:30 pm – Youth Group @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	19 7:00pm – Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran	20 5:00 pm – Sunday School Program @ Medora Lutheran	Worship 21 Pm – Longest Night Service @ Belfield Lutheran
Worship 22 8:30 am – Medora 9:15 am – Sunday School @ Belfield Lutheran 10:00 am – Belfield 11:45 am – Daglum Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's	23	Worship 24 Christmas Eve 4:30 pm – Medora 7:00 pm – Belfield 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran	Worship 25 Christmas 10:00 am – Belfield 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Medora Lutheran	26   is the Reason for the Season. 	27	28
Worship 29 8:30 am – Medora 10:00 am – Belfield 6:00 pm – Bible Study @ Dwelle's	30	31 3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study @ Belfield Lutheran 8:00 pm – AA Meeting @ Belfield Lutheran				

BAPTISM

Baker Lee Sweeney



We rejoice with Mikayla and Brenden Sweeney as their son Baker was baptized November 24th in Belfield. Baker Lee Sweeney was born October 14th, 2024 in Bismarck. His baptismal sponsors are Liz Storley and Karson Backer

We welcome you into the Lord's family, Baker!

Day 2 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

2024 Women's Retreat—Belfield Lutheran Church



The women of Belfield Lutheran Church held their Fall Retreat on November 9th. There were 13 women who spent the day gathered together playing games, reading scripture and learning about two great women in the bible, Esther and Priscilla. There was also time for crafting and of course some delicious food!



If you get a chance, take some time out of your day and read about Esther and Priscilla. Esther was a beautiful, patient and courageous woman who saves the Jewish people from destruction. Esther teaches us to trust in God's providence even when we can't see it working. Priscilla was an ordinary woman, a tentmaker, but was thought to have been the first example of a female teacher. She and her husband often opened their home to others to spread the word of God. She used her gifts of knowing God's truth to share the Gospel messages with others.

Thank you to the people that helped plan, cook, teach, and inspire!





First Communion

Ava Bock



Congratulations to Ava Bock as she joined us at the Lord's table of Holy Communion, on September 29th, 2024. Ava is the daughter of Sara and Loren Bock. Welcome to the Lord's Table, Ava!

Day 3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is the 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgement and destruction of the ungodly. 2 Peter 3:3-7 [1-18]

Santa Lucia
 Celebration &
Choir Worship

12.15.2024

BELFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH
 DURING 10:00 A.M. SERVICE



Please stay for Coffee and Cookies after worship!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER INSTALLATION

Thank you Rebecca Kasian and Diana Dwelle for teaching the Medora students about Jesus!"



Jenna Beck, Katie Oe, and Amanda Johnson (not pictured) were also installed in Belfield on October 6th. Thank you for teaching the Belfield students about Jesus!

Day 4 Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."
Revelation 22:12-13,16



W	C	H	R	V	Z	W	C	I	W	I	R	K	R	X	V	G	K
V	H	O	L	Y	I	R	O	A	M	P	E	A	C	E	E	S	R
Q	G	P	G	L	B	N	P	R	N	M	W	U	J	J	E	D	E
S	K	E	A	M	E	P	M	C	S	D	A	O	B	R	L	E	J
H	K	A	D	A	T	G	E	Z	F	H	L	N	Q	Q	O	C	O
F	M	M	V	R	H	H	S	Y	R	M	I	E	U	O	V	O	I
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I	W	E	N	L	E	F	I	A	N	G	E	L	M	A	L	A	E
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M	O	U	Y	K	E	F	H	S	A	V	I	O	R	P	F	E	W
U	M	S	Y	M	F	D	B	Y	Y	U	F	V	B	B	L	N	
A	L	X	B	L	N	P	A	J	O	S	E	P	H	N	X	C	V

Advent Word Search

Peace	Advent	Decorate	
Hope	Savior	Worship	
Candles	Angel	Love	
Jesus	Messiah	Holy	
Mary	Bethlehem	Immanuel	
Joseph	Wreath	Rejoice	

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

DECEMBER 22ND - 11:45 AM AT DAGLUM LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24TH - 4:30 PM AT MEDORA LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24TH - 7:00 PM AT BELFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH



Christmas Day Worship Service

DECEMBER 25TH - 10:00 AM AT BELFIELD LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Day 5 Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God...May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hand for us—yes, establish the work of our hands. **Psalm 90***

In our ongoing prayers...

Remembering those in our prayers: Family of Sodie Lindbo, Family of Russell Sandaker, Steve Cowan, Sandy Simnioniw, Cory Wanner, Rick Wolfgram, Kim Shade, Emma Hlibichuk, Bert Salo, Christine Perrin, Denise Tibbs, Loren Bock, Randy Wolfgram, Randy Urban, Tom Adams, Duane Tessier, Madella Brinkman, Shirley Olson, Gerry Suomala, JoAnne Suomala, Mary Knotts, Delores Roy, Cord Kessel, Halle Blain, Marilyn Oyhus, Mark Trechock, Craig McLaughlin, Johnny Syminow, Mindy O'Brien, Lincoln Lee Johnson, Josephine Shypkoski-Thompson

Please continue to pray for those who have lost their jobs, those with mental illness, those seeking Sobriety, those struggling with infertility, all troops including PFC Cole Potter, and their families & those working for peace in our world.

Please help us keep this prayer list active.

To add a loved one to the prayer list for next month's issue, please fill out a prayer request slip during worship, making sure to indicate your desire to have the request published in the newsletter, and place it in the offering basket or email us at newsletter@belfieldlutheran.org

Advent Scriptures Available!

In this newsletter, you will notice that our scriptures start with Day 1 and end at Day 5, but there are 24 days of Advent. These Advent Scriptures are available for pickup at your church, or you can request a copy of them be sent to you via email.

Please email us at newsletter@belfieldlutheran.org



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TO:

December 2024 Worship Schedule

1	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship Daglum Worship
8	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship
15	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship
22	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship Daglum Christmas Eve Worship
24	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Medora Christmas Eve Worship Belfield Christmas Eve Worship
25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship Belfield
29	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Medora Worship Belfield Worship

Sponsorship Matters

Newsletter sponsorship gifts of any size are welcome and help lower our publishing fee. Printing and mailing fees are around \$350 per issue. Please send your newsletter sponsorship Contribution to:
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