

Good Hope Parish Informer

“Celebrating and sharing together
Christ’s love for all people.”



On Our Way Rejoicing!
Pastor Bob Stover

“On our way rejoicing; as we forward move, hearken to our praises, O blest God of love.” ELW#537

It seems like just yesterday that I arrived and began working with Pastor Peter Soli to complete the creation of the Good Hope Parish and launch its inaugural year. So many worries and fears! So much potential and hope! We knew that forming Good Hope was a well-thought-out plan, but as with all future dreams, we didn't know for sure that it would actually work. While it's been hard to evaluate anything in this pandemic year, it would seem that working together as the Good Hope Parish has been successful. Last year the churches gathered nine confirmation students to weekly classes. WELCA leaders met with me to better prepare them to teach the monthly Gather Bible studies. Each church continued its own traditional fund raisers and dinners and celebrations. Churches have retained their autonomy while leveraging their collective strengths.

I have enjoyed our worship services rotation, particularly on those months that had a fifth Sunday for a joint service. What a joy to gather our voices and hearts. I am sorry that I cannot add my voice to the 30-voice choir that will start up again after they can begin safe practices again. What a joyous sound they will make, a richness that no one of our congregations could do on its own.

And now you begin a new chapter for Good Hope in welcoming your parish's first permanent pastor, Steve Woyan. This is a showing of faith, and this is a sign of Good Hope's strength. As he arrives, and as you view an eventual end to the Covid-19 crisis, Good Hope will rise up to its best days, a future ensured by good leadership, pooled resources, and creative anticipation. While I go on my “way rejoicing” to wherever God may call me next, I pray for

the best for Good Hope, and I look forward to hearing reports of good things happening here in the Kiester, Brush Creek, Thompson, and Bricelyn areas. I hope you also will "forward move" with rejoicing, as you look to whatever God holds in the future for you. Whatever else you do, be sure to remain full of Good Hope.

~ Good Hope Parish News ~
Letter of Call with Pastor Steven Woyen

The congregational votes held on December 6 resulted in approval to extend a call to Pastor Steven Woyen and he has accepted the call. He will begin his ministry at Good Hope Parish on January 5, 2021.

The letter of call with Pastor Steve has been forwarded to the synod office for signatures. Included in the call letter is a section to list the ways members of the parish will encourage the new pastor's ministry. We as parish members are asked to: be gracious, kind and respectful;

offer public support of the pastor; and to keep the pastor and his family in our prayers. Let us all be mindful of these goals as we welcome Pastor Steve. His first Sunday leading us in worship will be January 10.

Thank you to the parish call committee members for investing their time in bringing Pastor Steve to Good Hope Parish: Chair of the committee Sheila Rame, Bob Voges, Paulette Legred, Joan Bidne, Cathy Van Hove, Terry Van Hove, Dorothy Courier, DJ Bullerman, Diane Jacobson, Carol Soma, Mike Eilertson and Kathy Anderson. Thank you also to parish council president Bruce Anderson who was liaison between the committee, the synod office and potential candidates.

WOW EVENT

WOW KIDS! A Zoom Nativity Bingo game will take place on Wednesday, December 30th at 5:30 p.m. Follow the link that will be emailed out to your parents or go to the WOW Facebook page for the link. Be ready to play with your new Nativity Bingo game given to you by the WOW program. See you then!!

How to access Good Hope Parish Live church services

Go to your Facebook page. Click on the magnifying glass at the top of the page. Type in the words Good Hope Parish in the search bar and click on the site. That should take you to the GHP FB page. You may have to scroll down to find the Live Stream. If you want to watch after the live service ends, click on 'videos.'



All committee reports, budgets and agendas are due in the church offices by January 8. Reports may be sent by email to bricluth@bevcomm.net or oursaviorslutheran@gmail.com or brought to the office. Reports should be typed and print ready if possible.

Annual Meetings Schedule

Bricelyn Lutheran Church:

Sunday, **January 17** following the 9 a.m. worship
Alternate date if needed: January 24 at 10 a.m.

Attention BLC Members:

Adding continuing resolution C10.08.A20 to the congregation's constitution will be voted on at the annual meeting.

C10.08.A20: 'This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.'

North Blue Earth Lutheran Church:

Sunday, **January 24** following the 10:45 a.m. worship.

If the service is cancelled due to the weather NBE will conduct its annual meeting that morning as a Zoom meeting. Here is the information needed if **there is no worship:**

Bruce Anderson's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jan 24, 2021 11:45 AM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83005135264?pwd=dm5ZeHZ4ZGc3T3RHRzN0S
HJYZmExdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83005135264?pwd=dm5ZeHZ4ZGc3T3RHRzN0S
HJYZmExdz09)

Meeting ID: 830 0513 5264

Passcode: 594926

Our Savior's

Sunday, **January 24** following 9 a.m. worship

Alternate date due to bad weather – January 31 at 10 a.m.

Trinity

Sunday, **January 31** following **9 a.m.** worship. There will be only one worship service for the parish on January 31 at 9 a.m. Trinity members are encouraged to attend, all others may view on Facebook Live. Trinity's annual meeting will follow the worship service. If needed due to bad weather the alternate date will be February 7 after the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

Celebrations of Life

Betty Leland – BLC
07-28-1929 to 11-28-2020

Arlen Legred - NBE
01-19-1933 to 12-01-2020

Waldo Platte – OS

01-27-1928 to 12-21-2020

Glorian Sander - BLC
04-08-1940 to 12-23-2020

Thomas Engelby – OS
08-25-1995 to 12-24-202

~ **North Blue Earth News** ~

Worship and Fellowship Leaders in January

Organist: Sheila Rame

Deacon: Katie Hanson

~ **Bricelyn News** ~



No Needle and Thread in January

Ruth Circle: Tuesday, January 12 at 9:30 a.m. Social distancing and masks will be required.

Worship and Fellowship Leaders in January

Organists: Barbara Carlson and Beth Jacobson

Deacon/lector: Mona Skare

Altar Guild: Karen Berkeland

Ushers: Mark Anderson, Jeff Berkeland, Josh Berkeland

~ **Trinity News** ~

On Sunday, January 3rd, Trinity will be showing the 1999 Trinity Christmas Program during the usual worship time at 10:45 a.m. Hope you are able to attend to take a nostalgic walk down memory lane.

January snow shoveling: Don Van Hove

January church cleaning: The Hill family



Prayer is powerful, meaningful, comforting interaction with God. Please pray for members who can no longer or can seldom worship in our facilities, persons undergoing treatments or therapies, person with chronic illness, persons facing terminal illness, persons grieving personal loss, person serving in the military and persons in special circumstances.

Alta Erdahl	Albert Lea
Alvin Kluender	Albert Lea
Arlene Matson	Albert Lea
Caroline Jelle	Blue Earth
Betty Leland	Blue Earth
Sally Erickson	Wells
Hazel Peterson	Bricelyn
Donna Schobert	Fairmont
Dr. Jack Peterson	Wells
Richard Warmka	Winnebago
Jeanne Nelson	Winona
Alvin Kluender	Albert Lea

Please contact your church office to add names to the prayer list.

Our Savior's

01-02 Larry Kluender
01-03 Preston Alphs
 Jan Engebretson
01-05 Bruce Cottew
 Carol Soma
 Harley Schroeder
01-06 Gladys Borkowski
01-07 Jeanette Parriot
01-12 Ryan Pederson
 Darin Schroeder
01-13 Jim Borkowski
 Lori Mehrhof
 Marion Platte
 Brooklynn Sowell
01-14 Stephanie Engelby
 Louie Heitzeg
 Marcy Kapplinger
01-15 Matt Simonson
 Karen Zabel
01-20 Marlin Anderson
 Brock Franks
 Lance Tveit
01-22 Dee Ann Sime
01-24 Gloria Pederson
01-25 Sam Knutson
01-26 Ashley Thronnd Sinniah
01-27 Trisha Osheim
01-28 Alvin Kluender
01-30 Nolan Hemingsen
 Lee Schumann
 Myrna Sorenson
01-31 Kim Sunding

JANUARY Birthdays

Bricelyn

01-02 Douglas Leland
01-06 Michael Johnson
01-07 Dan Klingbeil
01-09 Patricia Rike
01-15 Cindy Klingbeil
01-16 John Skare
01-17 Nolan Weiss
01-22 Bryan Moller
01-22 Callahan Scholten
01-26 Karen Berkeland
01-31 Mona Skare

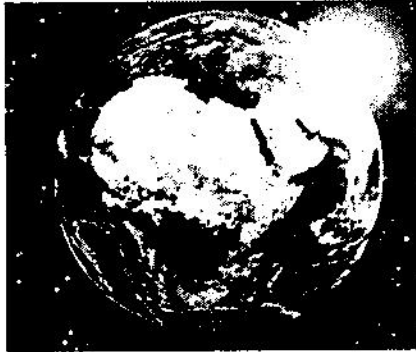
North Blue Earth

01-11 Kari Leigred
01-20 Brent Legred
01-25 Robert Voges
01-27 Brenda Godlove

A wish for a longer Epiphany

Living Lutheran at elca.org

By Diane Roth



I've often wished that the season of Epiphany was just a little bit longer, and not just because it would give me a little more time to get ready for Lent to begin. It is also possible that I like long Epiphanies because there is a better chance that (at least here in Minnesota) Easter will be a warm spring day with some flowers blooming, which is the way I imagine it should be.

Arise, shine; for your
light has come ...
Luke 1:16, 17

But I also just like Epiphany, as a season, even though, I confess that I don't think of it as much as I ought to. It is that obscure little season between Christmas and Lent. Christmas is famous.

Everyone has heard of it, even people who don't ever go to church. Many people are also vaguely aware that there is something called "Lent," partly because of its reputation as that season when people have to "give something up." But Epiphany? What's that? It's an odd word really, that most people don't even use or know. Even as a Christian-in-the-know, I can't help but think of Epiphany as that "sandwich" season: a smattering of Sundays after the big high of Christmas but before the serious discipline of Lent.

Friends, it should not be so. Epiphany is a season. It is a season that begins with the wise men following a star to Bethlehem and ends with Jesus' face shining on a mountain. In between, we get stories about light, and stories about Jesus calling his disciples. We get the story of Jesus' baptism and stories of him healing people. But why? Why these particular stories right now? They are small windows of light, small revelations of who Jesus is in the world, and of who we are in the world, as well.

The word Epiphany actually means "a showing forth, a revealing." An epiphany is a revelation, a flicker or a flash of light, a moment when you said, "aha!" and just knew something, without studying or going through all of the steps. Or maybe you WERE studying: you were reading a book, or doing the research, or singing a song at church, or sitting at your desk at work, and in the midst of it all you had an epiphany, which is to say, that the truth just came

to you, not as the fruit of your studying, but just as you were going along, in your working, in your playing, in your worshiping.

In some religious traditions, the season of Epiphany is also called "Ordinary Time," as opposed to, for example, Christmas and your wedding and other high moments of your life. But perhaps that is one of the reasons that I like it. Most of our lives are, actually, ordinary time. I wouldn't trade the high moments for anything, but the promise of Epiphany is that the light shines also on ordinary days. So it goes like this: When you are going about your working, studying, playing, regular Sunday morning worshiping life, suddenly, somehow, something will happen, and you will say, 'aha!', and you will know, just know, who Jesus is. And you will know who you are, as well. It could be as small a thing as a handful of water, shimmering, a line that leaps out at you from a book, or a song, a small piece of a small conversation that you had, just because you showed up. So I sometimes wish that Epiphany could be a little longer, just a few more days to hear healing stories and be surprised by the possibility that God could be in this place, although we did not know it. I do wish that Epiphany could be just a little longer, although I suspect that it is the nature of the season to be fleeting, just as fleeting as our ordinary lives.

In the meantime, sing songs about the light, the light of a candle, the flame of the fire, the light in the darkness.
For that is who you are.



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

Pastor Steven Woyen

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Bricelyn Lutheran

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Trinity Lutheran Church

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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Kiester MN 56051

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Email: oursaviorslutheran@gmail.com

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00am - worship at BLC 10:45am - worship at Trinity	4	5 10:00am - Interfaith Caregivers support group	6 9:00am - quilting at OS 6:00pm - Confirmation meeting for students and parents at OS	7 4:00pm - Kiester Community Pantry open until 6 p.m.	8	9
10 9:00am - worship at OS 10:45am - worship at NBE	11 7:00pm - council meeting at OS	12 9:20am - Ruth Circle at BLC	13 9:00am - quilting at OS 6:00pm - Confirmation class at OS	14	15	16 9:30am - Channel One Food Bank at BLC
17 9:00am - worship at BLC followed by annual meeting 10:45am - worship at Trinity	18	19	20 9:00am - quilting at OS 6:00pm - Confirmation class at OS	21 4:00pm - Kiester Community Pantry open until 6 p.m.	22	23
24 9:00am - worship at OS followed by annual meeting 10:45am - worship at NBE followed by annual meeting	25	26	27 9:00am - quilting at OS 6:00pm - Confirmation class at OS	28	29	30
31 9:00am - worship on Facebook Live from Trinity, Trinity annual meeting following worship						