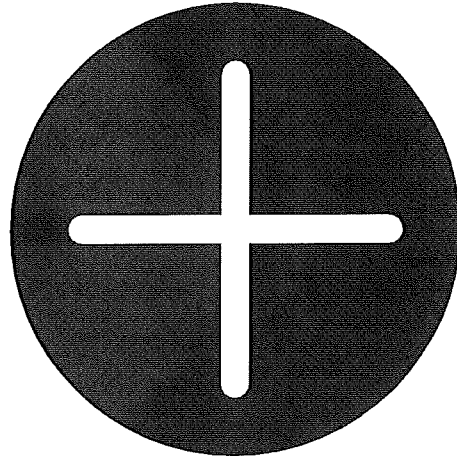


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GLYNDON
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
ANNUAL
REPORT

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Agenda

Glyndon Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Agenda January 21st, 2018

1. Call to Order:
2. Secretary's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Reports: Any Discussion
5. 2018 Budget Determination
6. New Business
 - a. Elections:
 - Officers and Council Members
 - Nominating Committee
 - Boards—Eventide, Churches United
 - Delegates for Synod Assembly (June 8th & 9th)
7. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Minutes Annual Meeting

Glyndon Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes January 29th, 2017

The litany was read and the congregation was led in prayer by Deb Tollefson.

Secretary's Report- Report was read.

Motion to approve: Sean Rothschadl

2nd: Eric Billings

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Report was reviewed. The church ended in the black for 2016 coming in under budget by \$17,020.00

Motion to approve: Cindy Henriksen

2nd: Sean Rothschadl

Motion carried

Foundation Report- Discussion resulted in a move to review accounts in order to find a higher interest rate. Ron Labrensz will be looking into this and the council will vote once the information is received.

Motion to approve: Ron Labrensz

2nd: Wanda Peterson

Motion carried.

Official meeting was called to order by Deb Tollefson.

1. Furnace Discussion:

- Two of the furnaces within the church are in need of replacement.
- It was asked if we could just repair them.
- LeRoy Babolian commented that it would cost just as much to fix as to replace.
- Esther Ellingson indicated that we have already received \$1,080.00 in donations to help pay for the replacement.
- It was also suggested that we borrow from the foundation. Ron Labrensz was not in favor of this option in case we need the funds further down the road.
- The bids that have been received were discussed. It was pointed out by LeRoy Babolian that the bid received from Robert Gibb & Sons had the best warranty and service for only a minimal higher fee.

Move to accept bid from Robert Gibb & Sons: LeRoy Babolian

2nd: Sean Rothschadl

Motion carried.

- Cindy Henriksen suggested we do a mailing of envelopes for donations like we did with the organ fund. This option will be considered.

2. Open church representative positions to be filled.

- Synod assembly: Kim Anderson, Karan Ambuehl
- Churches United: Eric Billings
- Still need a 1 year replacement for Cary Anderson
- Voting will take place later in the meeting.

3. Global Missions:

- It was discussed that we rarely hear from our sponsored missionaries the Sacks.
- Another option was discussed to change our global mission to the young adult global missions.

Motion was made to approve this change: Sean Rothschadl

2nd: Melissa Rames

Motion carried.

4. Budget:

- Each section was reviewed for comments and discussion.
- Youth Ministry - LeRoy Babolian questioned the positive difference between 2015 and 2016.
- It was responded that there was no "big trip" this year, only the summer trip. Ski trips etc. were paid for by the participants. We only covered the cost of the chaperones.
- The garbage and sewer bills were raised due to an increase of cost.
- Esther explained the fees and miscellaneous sections. She indicated that the money is just going in and out of these sections.
- Kari Myhre requested that staff receive a 2% cost of living raise for 2017.

Motion to approve the budget as presented including the staff raises in compensation for the staff.

Sean Rothschadl

2nd: Kari Myhre

Motion carried.

5. New Business-

- Changes to the constitution need to be made in order to meet the ELCA Model Constitution.
- The treasurer position was limited to a 4 year term. It was decided to make this an unlimited in the regards to the term. Treasurer shall have a voice but no vote in Church Council business.
- The previous Council President shall be allowed to attend future council meetings after the end of term. They will have a voice and a vote in Church Council business.
- The verbiage of the duties and expectations for Church Council members were tweaked to match ELCA guidelines.
- Any changes in the constitution require two congregational votes. We will have one now and one at a later date. This will allow us to bring our constitution to current standards.

Motion to approve changes to the council and treasurer positions:

Don Lien

2nd: LeRoy Babolian

Motion carried.

Motion was made to accept all amendments within the constitution:

Eric Billings

2nd: Don Lien

Motion carried.

6. Elections: Ballots were dispersed and the vote resulted in the following.

- President- Deb Tollefson
- Vice President- TJ Hopkins
- Council 1 year term- Jennifer Lee
- Council 2 year term- Nick Kinnen
- Churches United- Eric Billings
- Eventide- Cindy Henriksen
- Synod Assembly- Kim Anderson
Karen Ambuehl

7. Other items:

- Kari Myhre initiated the discussion in regards to more time options for Sunday worship. Possibly changing to 9:30?
- It was decided to take a poll of the congregation in the form of a letter to go out in February which will address this and the replacement of the furnaces.

Meeting was closed in prayer by Reverend Kayla Billings
Deb Tollefson adjourned the meeting.

Pastor's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Wow! What a year 2017 was for us all here at Glyndon Lutheran. As I take a moment to reflect back on all that has happened, I recognize that we had moments of great joys and great sorrows, along with many other emotions and experiences that landed somewhere in-between. I want to take a moment to briefly highlight a few key pieces from this last year, while also taking time to look ahead at what 2018 has in store for us here at GLC.

In the early months of 2017, we as a congregation were able to **update our constitution**, making it a more accurate reflection of the Model ELCA Constitution as well as the way in which our church functions. Thanks to those who were present at both, the Annual Meeting and a special meeting that was called in March, the constitution was officially amended.

The spring also brought about the normal **Lenten schedule**, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Holy Week, along with a celebration of First Communion for 10 of our young people at the evening Maundy Thursday Worship. This last year was a key learning year for us as staff when it comes to the worship scheduling for Holy Week with classes being in session on Maundy Thursday, but no matter the numbers we are reminded that where 2 or 3 are gathered Jesus is present.

Adult Bible Study resumed with a focus on the book of Genesis and took place throughout the spring, resuming the last few weeks of summer. We began at the very beginning and read through the whole book, taking in the genealogy and all. On the whole, though it appeared to be overwhelming sometimes with all those names, the study was well received, attended and very enjoyable. Bible Study will resume again this spring with a topic to be determined at the time of this writing.

Summer was exciting as we journeyed through a **hymn battle summer series**. Over the course of the summer, we explored different favorite hymns, learning the story and biblical backgrounds of each. This seemed to be very well received and was a joy to preach. In the summer of 2018 we will be doing another sermon series looking at favorite children's Bible stories where we will dive deeper into the beloved stories of our childhood. We hope you will join us!

Another exciting moment for us was the **hiring of our new organist**, Tony Sanders. Tony joined us for 6 weeks throughout the summer and sought the permanent position, beginning with us regularly at the end of August. It has been such a joy to have a regular organist who brings such musical talent and variety to our worship services each week!

One of our greatest challenges in 2017 was the **financial situation**. In order to help with the deficit that we were facing this year, a This 'N That sale was held at GLC in conjunction with Glyndon Days. It certainly helped bring us through the summer and was a great opportunity for fellowship to take place. I give immense thanks to all who put time and effort in to making it a success, including those who donated and worked any portion of the week!

Another key piece relating to our financial situation was the loan that was taken out in October from the foundation. Though it was not desirable, it was necessary. Council set forth with a plan to repay the loan little by little each month until it was repaid in full. Thanks to a generous member of the congregation, the loan has already been paid back as a result of a \$5,000 match on gifts above and beyond normal offering designated for loan repayment. It is because of many of you and your generous gifts that this was possible, so THANK YOU!

Looking ahead to 2018, it is my hope that as a community of faith and part of the greater community of Glyndon, we will have an opportunity to expand the ministry we do, reaching out to serve those in our area while spreading the love of Christ to all who may need to know about this unending love. I hope that you will join me in considering ways that we can work to expand the kingdom while continuing to grow in our own faith as well. If you have ideas that you would like to see considered in the coming year, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself, Kris or the Church Council.

In closing, I want to say a **word of thanks**. First, thanks to Kris and Lois who are continually working with me to help us do the best ministry we can at Glyndon Lutheran. Thanks to those who serve on our Church Council. The insight you bring to the table, the commitment you put forth, and your genuine love for this congregation are all truly important to living out our mission as a Christ-centered community church nurturing the faith of all generations. Thanks to you all as a congregation. We have encountered our fair share of challenges and through it all you continue to look ahead at how we can do what it is that God has called us to do. In addition, thank you for your support and love as Eric and I went through our own transition this year welcoming Nathaniel into our family. We are so grateful for all that you do to show your love and support to our family as we journey in ministry together. With the excitement of Nathaniel and his early arrival it is also important for me to thank Pastor Mark Asleson and Chris Hopkins who assisted with various worship services during my leave. I know that Kris and Lois were able to handle it with the many of you who stepped up, but I also know the extra assistance was greatly appreciated. Lastly, thank you to Eric and Nathaniel; without your love and support, I wouldn't be able to do what I do.

Blessings to you all as we now prepare to enter 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Kayla Billings

Pastoral Ministry Totals

Baptisms: 7

Confirmants: 14

Weddings: 0

Funerals: 4

Family Minister's Report

I have decided to try a new format for my eleventh Annual Report with Glyndon Lutheran, I can't believe that I have walked with you for 10 and a half years as your Family Minister. Here are some of the highlights of 2017.

Faith Formation is where I devote most of my time at Glyndon Lutheran. We have Sunday/Wednesday School for our 3 year olds – 4th graders; they did a great job with the Christmas program. After school on Wednesdays, Lois and I meet with the 5th-6th graders for a time of fellowship and digging into the Bible. Wednesday's after worship, Pastor Kayla and I meet with the 7th-8th graders. In the spring we discussed the Ten Commandments and how they impact our relationship with God and others. This fall we looked at the Reformation and the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Kayla and I meet once a month with the 9th graders looking at faith, using the Apostle's Creed as our primary focus. In the fall, I met with the 10th graders to work with them to complete their Confirmation requirements, including their Faith Statements. This fall we started (with Dilworth Lutheran) offering a pancake breakfast the last Thursday of the month for our High School students. It has become a great time to connect with our busy students. I send with them weekly devotions for them to do on their own. Two things in the summer that I love being part of is Pathways Day Camp, which we hosted with Dilworth Lutheran. This year our numbers were up and it was a great time! I also got to spend some time with our campers at Camp Emmaus.

Being part of the **community** is something that I love! I love being a DGF Rebel supporter, going to concerts, sporting events (even cheering the football team when they beat my Alma Mater, Detroit Lakes), and helping out with the Glyndon-Felton Parent Group Family Fun Days. We hosted (with Dilworth Lutheran) our first 5th Quarter-Family Bonfire after a football game this fall which was a lot of fun. This summer, as a church we were very active with Glyndon Days having our first rummage sale, bake sale and concession stand!

I have been involved with **Pathways Outdoor Ministries** in some different ways this year. I have been part of the Mutual Ministry Team for Steve Peterson, the Executive Director. I was on the Program Table with the Program Director, Brooke. I have also recently been part of the interview team for a new Program Director, after Brooke left Pathways to pursue her call to be a teacher.

The summer of 2018 brings another **ELCA Youth Gathering**, this time in Houston. As a church, we have been working on fundraising for our six youth and one Adult Leader (Lois) who will be going on the journey with Dilworth Lutheran. They will be traveling with Pathways Outdoor Ministries along with over 350 others. I have two roles with the ELCA Youth Gathering. The first is that I am the NWMN Synod Gathering Coordinator. I am also a Property Manager for the Gathering. If you are interested in learning more about my roles with the Gathering this summer, please ask.

I did some extra **worship leading** this year. While Pastor Kayla was away on vacation and continuing education this summer, I preached a Christmas in July series on the women of Christmas. An exciting thing that happened this year was that Pastor Kayla and Eric had Nathaniel (I call him Peanut). I am very grateful that Pastor Kayla and I worked ahead to get things lined up since Nathaniel decided to come a little early. While Pastor Kayla was on maternity leave I walked with the families of Jackie Fischer, Ken Muhle, and Chris Perron, during the holy time of losing them and led their prayer services and celebration of lives. I am grateful that Pastor Mark Asleson was with us to help lead worship for just over half of the time of Pastor Kayla's maternity leave. I am also thankful for Lois, the Church Council, and Chris Hopkins for helping in other various ways while Pastor Kayla was on maternity leave.

I continue to work ¼ time with the **Synod Office**. This year we had three youth gatherings, including a make-up gathering for the November 2016 Middle School Gathering that was postponed due to weather.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Dernier, Family Minister

President's Letter

2018 Church Council President Report Glyndon Lutheran Church

It seems like I just finished typing this report for 2016. This year has seemed to pass so quickly. We've had many events and issues through the year with the majority being very successful.

We launched our first "this and that" sale during Glyndon Days festivities. Thanks to all who donated items and to those of you worked so hard to make it happen. A big thank you to everyone who browsed and purchased items. We made \$2500.00 which was added to the general fund. This event was so successful we are considering doing it again this year. Any volunteers would be welcomed.

The two furnaces in the basement of the church needed to be replaced this year. Thank you to all who donated moneys to see this accomplished. The new furnaces will keep our toes warm during services.

After decades of birds and possibly other critters building nests in our bell tower, many plastic bags of debris were removed. In addition, many areas of the church were identified to be sorted and cleaned while our youth were also at work assisting with highway cleanup. All of these tasks were performed on "Gods Work. Our Hands" Sunday. Thanks to all who participated!

Our Harvest Supper menu changed this year. Fried chicken was replaced by meatballs. The weather wasn't very cooperative as it was both windy and raining. This likely led to a decrease in the number served but we were still able to welcome 211 people through our doors. Of those who braved the elements, their response to the change was positive. Let's pray that this year's weather will be better.

A special thank you to the 5th graders of Kelly Tweeton's class for their generous donations of canned goods to the community food pantry, located here at our church.

After months of hoping and praying that giving would catch up to our financial needs, the council decided in October that taking out a \$10,000.00 loan against the foundation account was the wisest way to try and catch up on past due bills. A proposal was brought to the council by someone, who wishes to remain anonymous, that if the congregation could donate money over and above their normal offerings, the money received would be matched up to \$5,000.00. Our church members accepted this challenge and responded. The matching funds campaign began. You, the members of GLC came thru and the money was matched. The loan was paid back to the foundation fund account. Once again, thank you to the anonymous donor for your generous gift.

I'd like to thank Kris and Pastor Mark Asleson for covering services and duties while Pastor Kayla was on maternity leave.

Thank you to all the members of Glyndon Lutheran for helping our church make a difference in the community and in people's lives. If anyone sees a way to improve and grow our church, your ideas and comments would be greatly appreciated.

Deb Tollefson, Council President

Properties Board Report

Projects at GLC:

- The furnaces in the basement of the church were replaced by Gibbs and Sons at the end of August.
- Laney's came out and inspected the boiler in the education wing.
- The east door bracket on the south end of the building was replaced.
- The addition of an Exit sign in upper room Sunday School area to meet insurance expectations.
- Coded locks were put on the boiler room door as well as the door under the ramp.
- The steeple was cleaned out on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday.

Glyndon Lutheran Foundation Memorial Fund				
Checkbook Balance	1/7/2017			\$ 433.04
Income	\$0.00			
Total Income			\$0.00	
Disbursements				
Total Disbursements			\$0.00	
Checkbook Balance	1/7/2017			\$ 433.04
Savings				\$ 23,134.56
10-10-17 Transfer money to General Fund				\$-10,000.00
12-31-17 Reimbursement from General Fund				\$ 10,000.00
Stifel Money Market				\$ 5,892.92
TOTAL				\$ 29,460.52

Food Pantry Report

A special thank you is extended to everyone who so graciously donated food items and money to the Food Pantry this past year. We gave out 13 baskets at Thanksgiving and 16 at Christmas.

We helped about 411 people this past year, which averages about 7.9 people per week. (This does not include Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets).

Thank you again, without your support we would not be able to help these people.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lois Blattenbauer

Mary Circle

Although the number of our members has decreased over the years, God has blessed us with friendship and a chance to share bible study again during 2017.

In addition to our bible studies, we were able to share some of our gifts and talents with Glyndon Lutheran Church as well. These included:

1. Donating \$300 to the furnace fund in March
2. Purchasing summer and fall floral center pieces for the dining room in May and decorating tables for each of the seasons
3. Purchasing and filling 12 school bags for world missions in August
4. Donating \$200 to the general fund in August
5. Purchasing \$100 envelope for grocery purchase for the fall Harvest Supper
6. Organizing the December bake which nested \$256 for debit reduction which we hope will be met with matching funds.

We want to give a special thanks to all members and visitors to GLC who donated as well as purchased goodies from this bake sell.

Our meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month March—December at 6:30 p.m. in a member's home with bible studies led by a member.

Our March study on Women of the New Testament—Lydia—will be held at Marvel Jones' home.

God's blessings to all of you in 2018,
Pauline Litch and Sally Tanner

Esther Circle

Esther Circle members meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1pm. We begin our meetings with coffee and dessert followed by a business meeting and a bible study. If anyone is interested in joining our Circle, we would be very happy to have you!

Our Annual Ladies Retreat was held in July at the lake home of Keith and Lorraine Langseth on Turtle Lake. We were blessed with a beautiful day and we thoroughly enjoyed sitting on their patio for the entire day taking in the view of the lake. We had a very good attendance. We thank Lorraine for her hospitality. We had a delicious potluck lunch along with a couple of coffee breaks. Pastor Kayla was in charge of the program and we all participated in a very good discussion. It was a day well spent. The offering that day was designated for the general fund at the church.

We participated in the This 'n That Sale and concession stand that was held at our church in conjunction with Glyndon Days in August. We made over \$2200.00

Our Circle participated in the "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday that was held on September 10th at the church by instructing some of the young people how to quilt.

The Annual Prayer Breakfast for the New Life Center was replaced this year with a Dessert Social on November 16th at the Avalon Event Center in Fargo. The speaker was Ron Hall, author of his first book "Same Kind of Different as Me", which quickly became a New York Times platinum bestseller. Ron Hall was a successful international art dealer, enjoying the good life, until 1998 when he encountered Denver Moore, a homeless man who was threatening to kill everyone in the Fort Worth, Texas shelter where Ron and his wife volunteered. I highly recommend the book! Two members for our Circle, one member of Mary Circle, and Pastor Kayla attended. It was a most enjoyable evening.

We gave \$300 toward the purchase of lefse for the Harvest Supper. One of our members, Darlene Sandal, made her 1,000th quilt which she donated to the church for a raffle item. It was a beautiful quilt and sales went very well.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Hemmah, Secretary

New Life Center Auxiliary

Lodging, Emergency Shelter—Collectively, 38,196 nights of lodging. On average, 105 guests were housed nightly. These figures include in-house winter overflow beds.

- 950 unique individuals stayed in the Men's Shelter.
--544 of these guests had never stayed at the New Life Center before 2017.
- 89 (13%) of the total guests we served were Veterans of the United States Uniformed Services.

Accountability Based Programs—Harbor and Passport

- The Harbor program is for guests in their first 30 days.
--879 men participated.
- Passport program is an extended stay program for those who want additional assistance at a deeper lever.
--192 men participated.
--60 moved into permanent, stable housing.

Medical Respite Program—90 individuals screened and 42 admitted to the program.

Nursing visits—839 shelter guests received medical attention from the onsite nurse.

The Kitchen served 81,983 meals. This averaged 224 plates of food served daily.

New Life Thrift Store provided 1,832 individuals (1,602 adults and 230 children) with clothing, furniture, and other household essentials at no cost through a clothing and houseware program. This program was especially helpful for guests leaving the New Life Center and moving into permanent housing.

Volunteerism—1,585 individuals served a total of 7,071.5 hours.

Christian Growth Opportunities—Morning devotions are offered weekdays at 7:45 a.m.—8:15 a.m.; attendance has grown from 8-12 to 20-30 each day. Volunteers lead weekly bible studies on Monday and Saturday evenings. On Wednesday evenings, Rock Church holds a church service in the NLC Chapel. Local non-denominational churches offer rides to church services each Sunday morning.

Total served in 2017=3,621

Submitted by: Pat Hemmah

Churches United for the Homeless

October 2017 marked the 30th anniversary of the founding of Churches United for the Homeless (CUFH). As the organization took the opportunity to commemorate this anniversary, it provided a moment to reflect on the organization's history, to give thanks to God for the progress that has been made in caring for people living in poverty and homelessness in our communities, and to strengthen our resolve to continue working toward the goal of ending homelessness in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

In 2017, CUFH sheltered over 600 people. Nearly one in four of those sheltered were children, approximately half of whom were under the age of 5. In addition, CUFH served around 65,000 free meals to people struggling with poverty in our community. The average length of stay has been reduced from about 90 days (in early 2016) to 32 days. By better transitioning families and individuals into long-term housing, CUFH is able to serve more people in need and reduce the number of people who need to be turned away from the shelter each day.

Construction on the Bright Sky Apartments (BSA) complex is nearly complete. Located just north of US Highway 10 and 34th Street in Moorhead (near Cashwise Foods), BSA will enable CUFH to provide 43 units of permanent, supportive housing to families and individual adults. BSA is anticipated to begin operations in March of this year.

As 2017 came to a close, bitterly cold weather settled in to our area. In cooperation with the Salvation Army, the National Guard, local government officials, and other organizations, CUFH has been operating an emergency overflow shelter since December 27. The overflow shelter was located at the Moorhead Armory (with the consent of Gov. Mark Dayton) through January 4 and has since been moved to the Dilworth Community Center.

If you have any interest in becoming more involved with Churches United for the Homeless, feel to reach out to me, or visit www.churches-united.org/volunteer for more information. If you would like to support CUFH with a donation of supplies for its shelters, current (as of early January) needs include baby wipes, diapers in sizes 5 and 6, infant formula, cough drops, over-the-counter cold medication, deodorant, new adult underwear, and twin size bedding and blankets.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Billings

Young Adults in Global Missions (YAGM)

At our last annual meeting we voted to change our global missionary support to the Young Adults in Global Missions (YAGM) program that is put on by the ELCA. One reason is that there are many young adults in our synod who participate in this program, including some who have served as counselors at Pathways. As a result, we are able to see the impact it is having, both near and far, as we hear about the adventures during and after their time serving with this program.

This year, more than 85 young adults are serving in 11 countries across the world. Service with this program includes a large variety of opportunities including that of health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women's issues and children and youth. As the young adults live in the countries where they are serving they live with host families, while working for a small stipend that is comparable to the wage of the country in which they are serving. For many, this experience is a life changing experience that completely changes are they understand God and the world in which we live. One of the YAGM participants this year is Rachel Mann, who was also on summer staff at Pathways over the past 4 years. The following is from Rachel's blog back in November.

Unexpected. That's the word I would choose to sum up my Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) experience thus far. During orientation in Chicago, back in August, the ELCA staff and YAGM alums mentioned many times how we would face all sorts of unexpectedness this year. I knew I would meet different people, encounter new situations, and discover diverse ways of thinking. I was definitely excited (and I still am). I thought I was prepared for anything that might come my way. But how can you possibly be prepared for things you never even imagined?

I enjoy not having expectations. It's not that I'm afraid of disappointment if my expectations aren't met; it's that I like being surprised. I like experiencing things without the shadow of my own preconceptions. As much as I tried not to have too many expectations for this year, though, there were some things I assumed were certain. I figured I would be settled into my host community right after our three-week in-country orientation. I assumed that, once there, I would soon start teaching English, which was one part of my placement I was looking forward to the most. I believed that when November rolled around, I would be in the midst of my second month living in Fianarantsoa.

These past months, however, have reminded me again and again that God's plan doesn't always match my own. For example, I didn't expect a bridge to collapse in mid-September that would delay our departures to our host communities. I didn't expect to spend the majority of my first month in Fianarantsoa on my own, waiting for my schedule to get figured out. I didn't expect to have only taught one class by the end of October. I didn't expect there to be an outbreak of plague in Madagascar. I didn't expect to temporarily relocate to South Africa with the rest of the Madagascar volunteers.

God works in mysterious ways. It would be easy to write off all these unmet expectations as problems or setbacks. It would be easy to get caught up in my own vision of this year and ignore God's vision. It would be easy to be angry that things are not going as planned. Instead, I am choosing to view these unexpected events as gifts. Because, through them, God has given me so many wonderful blessings that were equally unexpected. Because of the bridge collapse, I gained bonus time with my fellow YAGMs. I was more excited than I would have thought possible to reach my host community. I was more prepared with my Malagasy language skills, thanks to an extra week of tutoring. Because I didn't teach often, I spent more time bonding with my host family. I got

to know some of my future students outside of the classroom and establish relationships with them, which will only improve my teaching. I not only started learning how to be alone but also how to enjoy the time to myself. I gained more free time to explore Fianarantsoa. Because of the plague, I experienced firsthand my host community's boundless love, support, and understanding. I was reunited with the "Madagasgals" sooner than expected. I had the chance to strengthen my relationships with the other volunteers. I had the opportunity to travel to another country and learn about another culture. I realized, through being reluctant to leave and missing Fianarantsoa while in South Africa, that I've already come to consider my community home.

I hold fast to Philippians 4:11, which reads, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." I trust that God has a plan. I know that God has placed me where He needs me to be. I have faith that God's grace is always sufficient. I believe that it's okay when expectations aren't met. I am hopeful that this year will exceed my expectations in ways that I never could have imagined. And I embrace the unexpected.

As we continue to work to serve the needs of our community here in Glyndon, let us also remember in prayer those who are serving all over the world, including the current staff and volunteers for the YAGM program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Kayla Billings

Eventide

Here is a recap of Eventide's "year in review" from the 2017 Annual Meeting held December 5th at the Centrum of Eventide Fargo.

Eventide has four key strategic initiatives to achieve their mission of "empowering older adults to thrive."

Strategy 1: "Service integrity and quality care delivered in culture of compassion and pride."

- Eventide piloted a New Employee On-boarding and Mentoring program in Moorhead.
- Continues to keep their employee turnover numbers well below industry averages.
- The overall staff and resident satisfactions scores continue to increase.

Strategy 2: "Intentional growth that sustains Eventide's reputation as a premier provider."

- Ranked as the #76 of the top 170 not-for-profit senior living systems in the country. Employs more than 1,400 staff and serves approximately 1,200 older adults every day across six senior campuses in five communities.
- Eventide has outgrown its present leased corporate office space and began evaluation options for a permanent location. Also will be part of a new mixed-use building to be located on the corner of 8th St and Main Ave in Moorhead.

Strategy 3: "Flexible, innovative options that people need and want."

- Eventide has a unique partnership with Bethany in Fargo and Knute Nelson in Ethos, a Medicare-certified home health company serving the FM area. This new company continues to grow and they are pleased to announce that they will be also adding hospice services.
- Eventide, along with Ethos partners, recently purchased ownership interest in a therapy company, Centrax. This will allow for better quality of therapy services.

Strategy 4: "Community connectedness and contribution."

- Eventide was pleased to present our "Leaders in Living" thought leader series last fall. The event was moderated by WDAY's Kevin Wallevand and was very well attended providing a great discussion about death, dying, and living life to the fullest.
- Last winter Eventide lead a community discussion called "Silos to Circles" funded by a grant from the Margaret Cargill Foundation designed to bring about discussion and awareness of the various providers of formal and informal services to older adults in the region. The work has led to Eventide applying for a 2 year \$150,00 grant to bring better information and coordination tools to Clay County with special focus on rural areas. They believe this grant will create some outstanding training, coordination, and information to all Clay County seniors seeking out information for any number of questions about services available to keep people aging well in their communities.

Submitted by: Jon Riewer, President & CEO

Edited by: Lois Blattenbauer

Full report is available in the church office

Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly



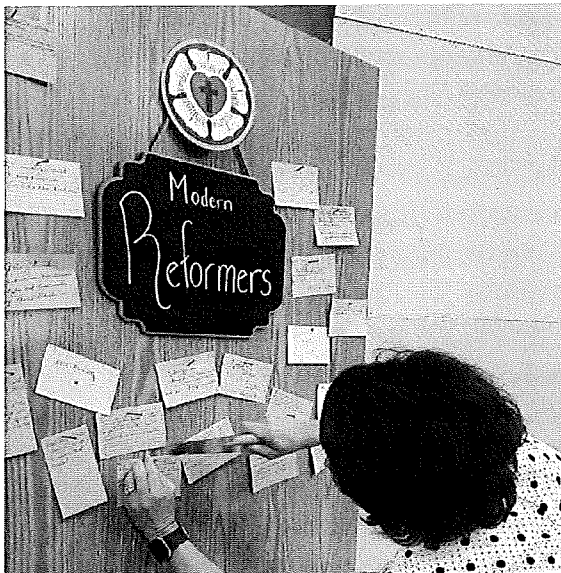
2017 Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly June 9-10, 2017

Attendees for Glyndon Lutheran Church:

- Pastor Kayla Billings
- Family Minister – Kris Dernier (On behalf of the Synod)
- Karan Ambuehl
- Shelby Bleick

I had the privilege again this year to attend the 2017 Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly. It was held at the Concordia College in Moorhead MN under the theme “Risky Business: Always Reforming” as it is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Throughout the assembly we celebrated Lutherans over the years who took risks with their faith. To help us through this journey Rev. Dr. Mark D. Tranvik a Professor of Religion at Augsburg College spoke on some of the great risk-takers. The overall goal of the weekend was to prepare us to see the risks God may be calling us to take this year.



Shelby and I met lots of new people and sat at a table with a couple from Shelby’s home area church in Hendrum MN – Clarinda and Dell Schnabel. We had lots of discussion time with the other members attending the assembly on various topics. This allowed everyone to think of new ideas to bring back to their congregations on how to spruce things up in our churches. Also, to go along with our theme we nailed notes on doors with some of these changes just like Martin Luther did.

Ms. Molly Beck Dean – Director of the ELCA Youth Gathering provided the 425 voting members and 44 visitors with the ELCA Churchwide report. There were many recognitions done for the Assembly members ranging from years in service, awards and in remembrance of past members of the year. Synod Bishop Larry Wohlrabe delivered his report and talked about his time as the Bishop. During the assembly he also announced that he will not run for another term when his is up in 2019.

During the assembly we were provided with many different breakout sessions. Shelby and I attended the session How to use “narrative budgets” in congregation. This was a great session that provided us with some new and effective ways to show how the church is using their funds and how to help the congregation see how they can help in different areas of the church whether that is finically or simply with their time. Some of the other topics there were: campaign for the ELCA, cultivating a culture of call, preview of the 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering and the affirmation and hospitality for the LGBTQ community.

There were several resolutions passed and elections held. I listed these below.

- Two resolutions amended constitutional provisions and bylaws of the synod.
- Another resolution memorialized the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to amend the ELCA Constitution to remove the requirement that the ELCA Conference of Bishops approve every Letter of Call to non-stipendiary service that is issued by a synod council.
- The fourth resolution repudiated the European Christian-derived “doctrine of discovery” that was invoked to justify European settlers taking over lands that were already occupied by indigenous peoples. This resolution also committed the synod to seek closer relationships with tribal communities in northwestern Minnesota.
- The fifth resolution memorialized the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to amend the ELCA Constitution to expand the criteria for allowing synods to authorize theologically-trained laity to offer Word and Sacrament ministry in appropriate parish settings.
- The Assembly elected two new officers: Pr. Karla Mickelson as Synod Secretary and Catherine Dickey as Synod Treasurer. Elections to the Synod Council, Discipline Committee, and Consultation Committee were also made.

The next synod assembly will be June 8-9th, 2018 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Moorhead and the theme will be “Pursuing Reconciliation.” The keynote will be Dr. Lois Malcom of Luther Seminary, St. Paul.

Thanks

Karan Ambuehl

Shelby Bleick

WELCA Treasurer's Report

**Women of the ELCA
2017**

Started—\$7565.64
Deposit—\$7680.20
Spent—\$8900.07
Ending balance—\$6345.77

Deposits—

6 Funerals—\$1650.00
Quilters Memorials—\$760.00
Coffee Sales—\$51.20
2017 Harvest Supper Ticket Sales—\$2548.00 (served 211 people)
2017 Donations for Harvest Supper—\$2371.00
Esther Circle—\$300.00 (lefse)

Spent—

Food for serving funerals—\$747.49
Napkins, lemonade, paper towels, bags, batteries—\$404.06
Pathways Bible Camp—\$862.50
Cinnamon roll dough for Easter—\$42.00
Ecolab sanitizer—\$284.75
Equal Exchange-Coffee—\$474.00
GLC General Fund—\$3500.00
GLC Benevolences—\$380.73
Renew "Gather"—\$39.80
Sheets for Quilters—\$612.01
Batting for Quilters—\$411.24
Table Clothes—\$40.66
Groceries for Harvest Supper—\$1080.74
Mailings for Harvest Supper—\$14.70
Stamps—\$5.39

Submitted—Deb Tollefson-treasurer

2018 Budget Sheet

2017 Proposed 2017 Actual 2018 Proposed

1000 · Stewardship			
1100 · ELCA Benevolence			
1120 · Synod Missions	500.00	500.00	500.00
1130 · Global Missions	500.00	300.00	500.00
1140 · Pathways	500.00	300.00	500.00
1150 · Other ELCA Benevolence			
Total 1100 · ELCA Benevolence	1,500.00	1,100.00	1,500.00
1200 · Non ELCA Benevolence			
1210 · Eventide	500.00	300.00	500.00
1220 · REACH	500.00	388.73	500.00
1230 · Churches United	500.00	300.00	500.00
1231 · Dorothy Day House			
1240 · Mission Possible			
1250 · Food Pantry		1,028.18	
Total 1200 · Non ELCA Benevolence	1,500.00	2,016.91	1,500.00
1500 · Synod Assembly	350.00	360.00	360.00
1600 · Stewardship Supplies and Events			
Total 1000 · Stewardship	3,350.00	3,476.91	3,360.00

2000 · Worship & Music			
2100 · Worship			
2110 · Copyright License	200.00	260.00	260.00
2120 · Worship & Music Supplies	750.00	493.53	500.00
2130 · Accompanist	9,000.00	8,700.00	9,000.00
2140 · Organ & Piano Repairs	200.00		850.00
2100 · Worship - Other			
Total 2100 · Worship	10,150.00	9,453.53	10,610.00
2200 · Supplies			
2210 · Communion	250.00	214.05	250.00
2200 · Supplies - Other			
Total 2200 · Supplies	250.00	214.05	250.00
2300 · Adult Choir			
2310 · Adult Choir Music			
2320 · Adult Choir Director			
2330 · Adult Choir Accompanist			
Total 2300 · Adult Choir	-	-	-

2400 · Children's Choir			
2410 · Children's Choir Music			
2420 · Children's Choir Director			
Total 2400 · Children's Choir	-	-	-
2000 · Worship & Music - Other			
Total 2000 · Worship & Music	10,400.00	9,667.58	10,860.00

3000 · Evangelism			
3100 · Community Postcards	100.00	-	25.00
3200 · New Member Sunday			
3000 · Evangelism Other			
Total 3000 · Evangelism	100.00	-	25.00

4000 · Education			
4000 · Education - Other			
4100 · Children's Ministry			
4110 · Sunday School	1,000.00	739.40	100.00
4120 · Vacation Bible School	100.00		100.00
4130 · Day Camp	750.00	500.00	100.00
4100 · Children's Ministry - Other		827.42	
Total 4100 · Children's Ministry	1,850.00	2,066.82	300.00
4200 · Faith Formation			
4210 · Faith Formation 5/6-7/8	1,000.00	68.92	100.00
Total 4200 · Faith Formation	1,000.00	68.92	100.00
4300 · Adult Education	250.00	57.50	250.00
Total 4000 · Education	3,100.00	2,193.24	650.00

6200 · Youth Ministry			
6210 · Jr. High Gathering (synod)	600.00	-	100.00
6220 · Sr. High Gathering (synod)	500.00		100.00
6230 · Bible Camp	-		-
6240 · Summer Trip Chaperones	450.00	350.00	100.00
6250 · ELCA Youth Network -Extravaganza	-	-	-
6260 · Youth Ministry Expenses	250.00		100.00
6270 · College Age Gathering	-		-

6200 · Youth Ministry-Other			
Total 6200 · Youth Ministry		1,800.00	350.00 400.00
7000 · Properties			
7100 · Employees/Services			
7120 · Grounds Keeper	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00
7121 · Opener	-		
7130 · Snow Removal	2,000.00	962.50	2,000.00
Total 7100 · Employees/Services	3,050.00	2,012.50	3,050.00
7200 · Insurance			
7210 · Property Insurance	3,845.00	3,855.90	3,980.00
7220 · Workers Comp	1,046.00	1,045.62	1,041.00
7230 · Background Checks	150.00	15.00	150.00
Total 7200 · Insurance	5,041.00	4,916.52	5,171.00
7300 · Utilities			
7310 · Electricity	4,000.00	3,448.43	4,000.00
7320 · Gas	7,000.00	4,033.73	4,000.00
7330 · Garbage & Sewer	1,900.00	1,668.37	1,900.00
7340 · Solid Waste Tax	1,525.00	1,520.00	1,500.00
7350 · Phone & Internet	2,400.00	2,181.07	2,400.00
Total 7300 · Utilities	16,825.00	12,851.60	13,800.00
7400 · Maintenance & Improvements			
Painting (and prep)			
Hallway Repair			
Outside steps			
SE Sump Pump			
7405 · Improvements	10,000.00	8,822.49	10,000.00
7400 · Maintenance-Other		587.36	
Total 7400 · Maintenance & Improvements	10,000.00	9,409.85	10,000.00
7500 · Office			
7510 · Supplies	2,000.00	1,130.67	1,500.00
7520 · Technology			
7521 · Computer			
7522 · Website Hosting	850.00	783.00	800.00
7523 · Copier	3,000.00	2,955.72	3,000.00
7524 · Vanco	300.00	388.47	450.00
7520 · Other			
Total 7520 · Technology	4,150.00	4,127.19	4,250.00
7530 · Postage	1,400.00	910.70	1,200.00
7500 · Office - Other			

Total 7500 · Office	7,550.00	6,168.56	6,950.00
7900 · GLC Memorials		790.00	
Total 7900 · GLC Memorials		790.00	
Total 7000 · Properties	42,466.00	36,149.03	38,971.00

8000 · Staff			
8100 · Salaries			
8110 · Pastor			
8111 · Salary	35,474.00	29,199.43	35,474.00
8114 · FSA Health			
8115 · Social Security	3,610.76	3,610.80	3,610.76
8116 · Housing	11,725.43	18,000.00	11,725.43
8117 · Pension	4,719.94	5,081.04	4,719.94
8118 · Insurance	11,576.06	13,012.79	15,600.00
8110 · Other		2.43	
Total 8110 · Pastor	67,106.19	68,906.49	71,130.13
8120 · Family Minister			
8121 · Salary	42,024.00	42,024.00	42,864.48
8122 · State Withholding			
8123 · Federal Withholding			
8124 · Social Security SELF		-	
8125 · Social Security Church	3,214.84	3,214.80	3,279.13
8127 · Pension	4,202.40	4,202.40	4,286.45
8128 · Insurance	7,853.52	7,968.96	7,853.52
Total Family Minister	57,294.76	57,410.16	58,283.58
8130 · Office Administrator			
8131 · Salary	11,350.00	10,519.67	11,350.00
8132 · State Withholding		(1.00)	
8133 · Federal Withholding			
8134 · Social Security SELF		0.01	
8135 · Social Security Church	868.28	804.74	868.28
8136 · Pension			
Total 8130 · Office Administrator	12,218.28	11,323.42	12,218.28
8140 · Treasurer / Financial Secretary			
8140 · Treasurer	2,100.00	2,060.00	2,100.00
8141 · Financial Secretary	825.00	795.00	825.00
Total Treasurer/Fin. Sec	2,925.00	2,855.00	2,925.00
8150 · Custodians			
8151 · Salary	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
8150 · Other			
Total 8150 - Custodians	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00

14.84/hr

Total 8100 · Salaries	143,144.23	144,095.07	148,156.99
8200 · Expenses			
8220 · Business Miles			
8221 · Pastor	2,400.00	2,100.00	2,400.00
8222 · Family Minister	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
8223 · Office Administrator			
Total 8220 · Business Miles	4,200.00	3,900.00	4,200.00
8230 · Continuing Education			
8231 · Pastor	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
8232 · Family Minister	750.00	415.69	750.00
8233 · Office Administrator			
Total 8230 · Continuing Ed	1,750.00	1,415.69	1,750.00
8240 · Rostered Leaders Retreat	400.00		400.00
8242 · FCTE	225.00	225.00	225.00
8250 · Pulpit Supply	250.00	761.00	250.00
Total 8200 · Expenses	6,825.00	6,301.69	6,825.00
Total 8000 · Staff	149,969.23	150,396.76	154,981.99

9000 · Miscellaneous			
9200 · Misc. charges			
9300 · Miscellaneous		13,095.23	
9400 · Call Committee / Moving Expense			
Total 9000 · Miscellaneous	-	13,095.23	-

TOTAL RECAP			
Total 1000 · Stewardship	3,350.00	3,476.91	3,360.00
Total 2000 · Worship & Music	10,400.00	9,667.58	10,860.00
Total 3000 · Evangelism	100.00	-	25.00
Total 4000 · Education	3,100.00	2,193.24	650.00
Total 6200 · Youth Ministry	1,800.00	350.00	400.00
Total 7000 · Properties	42,466.00	36,149.03	38,971.00
Total 8000 · Staff	149,969.23	150,396.76	154,981.99
Total 9000 · Miscellaneous	-	13,095.23	-
GRAND Total Expenses	211,185.23	215,328.75	209,247.99

NOTE: \$0.13 difference due to reconciliation discrepancies

Children's Ministry Budget – Designated Funds Account

		2017 Actual	2018 Projected
4000 – Education – Other			
4100 – Children's Ministry			
	4110 – Faith Formation	739.40	425
	4120 - VBS	0	200
	4130 – Day Camp	500	500
	4100 – CM Other	827.42	350
Total 4100		2066.82	1475
4200 – Faith Formation			
	4210 – 5 th to 9 th Gr	68.92	0
Total 4200		68.92	0
Total 4000		2135.74	1475
6200 – Youth Ministry			
	6210 – J High Synod		600
	6220 – S. High Synod		500
	6230 – Bible Camp		
	6240 – Summer Trip Chaperones	350	600
	6250 – ELCA YMN		
	6260 – YM Expenses		1100
	6270 – College Gathering		
	6200 – YM Other		
Total 6200		350	2800
Total CM Expenses		2485.74	4275

**** Note: Expenses from 4100 and 4210 are now found under 6260
General Fund serves as backup for these funds.**

Adult Education is not listed on this designated budget as those funds remain in the General Fund.



2017 Bishop's Report to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

For Annual Meetings of the Congregations

From Bishop Lawrence R. Wohlrabe *pictured here preaching at the 2017 NW MN Synod Middle School Youth Gathering in Alexandria.*

WE ENGAGED THE NEXT GENERATION at synod youth gatherings in March, April and November that reached hundreds of middle and high-schoolers. Their theme, *Reformation Remix*, invited youth and adult leaders into deep conversations about contemporary issues in light of God's unconditional promise and love in Christ. Hundreds of NW MN Synod young people are registered to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering, *This Changes Everything*, next summer in Houston, TX.



WE COMMEMORATED REFORMATION500 in a host of ways. *Lutherans Making a World of Difference* was the title for my bishop's monthly studies (<http://www.nwmnsynod.org/2017study>) Catholic and Lutheran ministers gathered at Trinity, Moorhead for a Joint Theological Day (April 20th) on the topic, *On the Way: Encountering Christ Together* with former ELCA presiding bishop Mark Hanson and Father John Crossin serving as keynoters. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (*see picture*) keynoted the Concordia College Symposium in September on the theme *Reformation: Transforming the World One Door At A Time*. An ecumenical Reformation worship service involving representatives of ELCA, Catholic, United

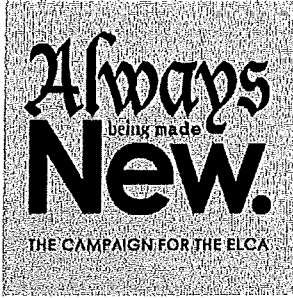
Methodist, Moravian, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian and Episcopalian churches marked the conclusion of the symposium. On November 5th I joined Bishop Donald Kettler of the Diocese of St. Cloud for a stirring joint Catholic-Lutheran worship service at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Fergus Falls.

WE WELCOMED NEW MINISTERS. During 2017, 25 congregations of the synod *welcomed new pastors and deacons*. Three of these pastors were ordained in 2017 to serve their first calls in the NW MN Synod: Pr. Kent Krumwiede, Peace and Grue of Ashby; Pr. Anne Meredith, Zion of Blackduck and Our Savior's of Kelliher; Pr. Elise Pokel, associate, Trinity of Crookston and First Presbyterian of Crookston. Deacon Jon Leiseth was consecrated as a Minister of Word and Service, serving in campus ministry at Concordia College. In addition, 19 lay persons with theological training are serving as Synodically Authorized Ministers in 27 congregations of the synod. Currently there are also 15 persons from our synod preparing for rostered ministries in the ELCA.



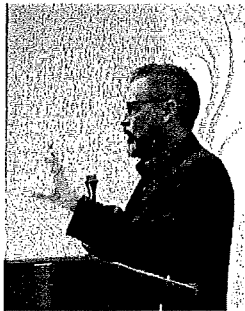
Pr. Anne Meredith (center) was ordained to serve the North Beltrami Parish, Blackduck and Kelliher.

WE CARED FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR US: Starting in October the synod's pastoral staff began a series of *Together in Ministry* (TiM) visits: hour-long, one-on-one conversations with all pastors, deacons, and SAMs currently serving under Letters of Call or contracts in our synod. The purposes for TiM visits are to listen to one another and become better acquainted; to celebrate opportunities and identify challenges in ministry; to share support and encouragement; and to pray together. Thus far the synod pastoral staff have done TiM visits in four of the synod's eight conferences; the remaining four conferences will be visited in February 2018.



WE GAVE GENEROUSLY, running slightly ahead of last year's giving toward ELCA/synod mission support (as of 11/30/2017). Congregations and individuals continued to support *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. As of September 30, our synod had raised \$2,137,980 toward its \$4.75 million goal. Just one year after it was established, the *NW MN Synod Fund for Leaders Endowment* has received over \$175,000 in gifts for seminary student scholarships—including over \$33,000 from 125-member Little Norway Lutheran Church of Fertile.

WE GATHERED IN ASSEMBLY, with nearly 500 folks at Concordia College, Moorhead, for the *2017 NW MN Synod Assembly, June 9-10*, on the theme *Risky Business: Always Reforming*. Dr. Mark Tranvik of Augsburg College was the keynote speaker, and Ms. Molly Beck Dean of the ELCA Youth Gathering was our ELCA churchwide representative. The Assembly passed resolutions amending the synod constitution and bylaws; urging changes to ELCA churchwide governing documents to make more flexible the criteria for non-stipendiary calls and Synodically Authorized Ministers; and seeking reconciliation with and closer ties to our Native American neighbors. Two new synod officers were elected: Pr. Karla Mickelson as Synod Secretary and Ms. Catherine Dickey as Synod Treasurer.



Pr. Brad Skogen, Battle Lake, led one of our *Boundaries in Ministry* workshops.

WE HELPED SERVANT-LEADERS GROW at School for Lay Ministry classes on topics like *Creating Worship Vitality in Any Setting* (with Jay Beech) and *Bereavement: Reaching Out With Care and Healing* (with Pr. Gayle Bintliff). Two *Equipping Congregations Days* were held in Thief River Falls and Perham last February—with a keynote message on *We've Never Done It That Way Before* and a host of breakout groups on timely topics. The synod also co-sponsored learning events such as *Re-Rooting in God's Mission* (last April), *Mission Interpreter Trainings* (in August and September), *Embracing Stewardship* (in October) and *Navigating Change in Changing Times* (in November). Pastors, deacons and synodically authorized ministers attended two *Boundaries in Ministry* workshops (in May) and our annual *Theology for Ministry Conference* at Fair Hills, with Dr. Winston Persaud from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa (in September).

WE STARTED TO PONDER OUR SYNOD'S NEXT CHAPTER, following my announcement at June's synod assembly that I will not be available for a third term as bishop. So, as we prepare to elect a new bishop in 2019, our synod council formed a 2019 Bishop Transition Commission, chaired by Pr. Matt Peterson of Trinity, Moorhead. The "bish commish" as they call themselves has engaged the services of Michelle Snyder with Crow's Foot Consulting. Early in 2018 leaders in our congregations and synod will be invited to make their views known by way of a wide-ranging survey, called *The Landscape*. Findings from the Landscape will shape the drafting of a Ministry Site Profile (MSP)—similar to the MSPs that congregational call committees prepare—to lift up the hopes, dreams and gifts that we'll seek in our next synod bishop. Please participate in this crucial process of spiritual discernment as we trust the Holy Spirit to guide us!

Thanks—as always!--for your congregation's constant prayers, faithful partnership and generous financial giving as we continue to serve God's mission in the world!