

From the Pastor's Desk

A little humor to start the year!

YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM NORTH DAKOTA WHEN

- Vacation means going to Medora.
- You've seen all the biggest bands, 20 yrs after they were popular.
- East means to Fargo.
- You've ridden the school bus for an hour each way.
- You carry a blizzard survival kit in your car 12 months a year.
- You find 3 feet of snow a minor inconvenience.
- You know if another North Dakotan is from the eastern, southern, middle or northern part of ND as soon as they open their mouth.
- There is a Dairy Queen in every town with a population of 1000 or more, but McDonalds are spread out every 100 miles.
- You know Ole & Lena personally.
- You find it exciting to stare through a hole in the ice and look at the bottom.
- You can tell the difference between a gopher and a chipmunk at 300 yards.
- You keep the snow tires on your truck all year because it isn't worth taking them off for only two months.
- You are proud that your state makes the national news 96 nights each year because Bismarck is the coldest spot in the nation.
- Someone in a store offers you assistance, and they don't work here.
- You're polite to telemarketers.
- You may not have actually eaten it, but you have heard of Lutefisk.
- You are surprised to find that Lefse isn't served at Thanksgiving and Christmas everywhere in the country!
- You never had to rewind any part of "Fargo" because you "missed some of the dialogue".
- Your bank has the name of your town included in its name.
- You think that "UFF DA" is a Standard English phrase.
- You can recite, from memory, more than a half-dozen "Ole and Lena" jokes.
- You expect to be excused from school for deer hunting season and harvesting.
- Your soup du jour at your hometown cafe is always beer cheese or knoepla.
- You think of something other than the Bible when you hear the words "Great Flood".
- You drive to town during a blizzard just to see if the weatherman knows what he's talking about.
- You assume everyone has seen northern lights and sundogs.
- You understand "Yah, y'betchyah" means either "I agree" or "You're full of it" and know the inference.
- You think that ketchup is a little too spicy.
- You didn't know there was a Red River Valley in Texas
- The band you choose for your wedding has to know rock, country, and polkas.
- You wear a t-shirt, and no jacket in March on a warm day (in the 40's)

~ Pastor Bob ~

Pastor Bob & Beth will be on vacation from December 31st until January 19th. If there are any emergencies or needs, please contact Lori Lundblad 701-595-2313 or Preston VanLoon 701-751-3434. The church office is open from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm Monday through Thursday as well.

De-Decorating Party January 12, 2019

First of all, thank you to everyone who helped in decorating for Advent-- from bringing items down from the attic to doing the decorating on December 1. With the many hands we had on December 1 we were able to get our work done in just a few hours. We worked hard but had fun and then enjoyed a time of fellowship. Thank you to Pat Gingery for furnishing food for the meal.

Now that everyone has been enjoying the Christmas decorations during Advent we will need to take them down. We will do this on Saturday, January 12 beginning at 9:00 a.m. If we all pitch in we can be done in just a couple of hours -- it is always easier to take them down than to put them up. Come, enjoy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate and donuts and spend some time with fellow church members in putting the decorations away. The more people we have the quicker the task.

Thank you to all of the kids for all of their hard work during the Christmas program. Thank you also to Corina and Eric McCalister for putting together the treat bags.

Kathy Martin will be planning a movie night for January or February. She is open to suggestions for dates and times. Please let Kathy know if you have any thoughts on this. Watch the bulletin for future details.

Annual Business Meeting and Potluck Dinner January 27, 2019

On January 27, 2019 we will have our Annual Business Meeting. A potluck meal will be held after morning worship at approximately 11:15 a.m. to be followed by the business meeting beginning at approximately 11:45 a.m. Please bring a hot dish or salad or dessert to share. Plates, utensils and beverage will be furnished. Come for the food and fellowship and stay to hear the annual reports and to consider action on the 2019 budget, the 2019 slate of candidates for Church offices and constitution revisions. The proposed 2019 budget and constitutional changes will be posted by January 13 in the hallway if anyone would like to look at that information prior to the Annual Business meeting



6:30-8:00 pm

January 2nd - "Regular Night"

January 9th - "Island Night"

January 16th - "Regular Night"

January 23th - "NFL/Favorite Sports Team Night"

January 30st - "Regular Night"



A Taste of Christmas Potluck was held on Tuesday, December 4th, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. with 16 ladies present. There was a variety of foods to choose from ethnic and or family favorites.

Kevin and Claudena Tsiba were married in August and gave us the decorations from their wedding and we used them for our ABW dinner. Thank you for your generous gift. The chairs were covered with a white coverlet and a big red bow in the back completed the chair. The table had a red streamer down the middle of the table and red napkins to complete the arrangement. Our centerpieces were a nativity set. It was quite striking and festive.

For our program 4 ladies participated in reading "The Cradle, a Christmas Story" by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson. We ended the program by singing four Christmas Carols. We enjoyed the fellowship around the tables.

A Love Gift reading was given and the Love Gift received was \$150.00. Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. for White Cross Work Day.

The Lois Circle will be meeting Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. with Judy Wittmier as hostess. The Ruth Circle will be meeting Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. with Lori Lundblad as hostess.



January 1st - New Year's Day-Church Office Closed

January 3th - 1:00pm Stonecroft Prayer Connection

January 6th - Worship & Communion Fellowship with Pizza

January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30th - 6:30 - 8:00 pm: Youth

January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30th - 6:30 - 8:00 pm: 

January 8th - 6:30pm: Church Leadership Meeting

January 9th - 1:00pm: Lois Circle

January 12 -9:00am De-Decorating Party-

January 15th -7:00pm Ruth Circle

January 19th - 10:00am White Cross Work Day

January 21nd - Annual Business Meeting Reports Due

January 25rd -February Newsletter Deadline

January 27th - 11:15am Annual Church Potluck

11:45am Business Meeting





“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Mathew 28:19-20.

Dear Loved Ones,

Greeting from Haiti. We hope that each one of you had a way to praise God for this Thanksgivings. Now we are all looking forward to a richly blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year 2019.

From human perspective, if there is a legacy that can be called the Nzunga legacy, it is the training of young professors at our University, the Universite Chretienne du Nord d’Haiti. Way back now, when I privately started with my first assistant professor, Rigard Charles, I had no idea that this program was going to go wild. When Rigard moved on to work on his Master at Central Seminary, the president of the university then, Dr. Jules Casseus, asked me to train Henri Claude Telusma. Today Henri Claude holds a PH. D from France and is the Dean of research and the founder of Center of research in Ethics and Anthropology in Haiti. Then came Albertus Phucien who has two Masters from France and getting ready for his doctorate in Canada. Meanwhile Albertus Phucien is heading the Master in theology program. Many young people have gone to further their studies overseas and are coming back to take over the future of this university.

Today all the schools that we have here: theology, Education, Agriculture, Fine Arts, Business Administration, Nursing, Master in leadership and English are eagerly training the professors of tomorrow in Haiti. The youth are assuming their role and their responsibility of training their fellow countrymen.

This year I am training three gifted young people in my Motivation class with 334 students.

Looking at all those young professors today as they lead and teach at our university, our mind could not stop praising God for His wonders. We praise God for the missionaries He used to train us in Congo and now we can follow on their footsteps. We can say that our time in Haiti has not been in vain. This is our Thanksgivings.

Thank you for standing by our sides in training the leaders of tomorrow that Haiti badly needs. In Haiti, Nzunga & Kihomi

Dear Friends,

Nzunga writes this journal while being locked in his house for a week.

The country has broken out in riots once again over political matters. Please pray for things to calm down.

Unfortunately this is all too common there.



KIHOMI NGWEMI &
NZUNGA MABUDIGA

When Nzunga arrived over twenty years ago the university lacked organization and a clear path for the brightest students to go on to further education. He was instrumental in organizing departments overseen by deans with clear goals. He has taught ethics since the beginning which is sorely needed in Haiti. He has written some of the text books. Many of you may not know he has a doctorate. He does not like me to ever call him Doctor when introducing him as he says it puts a barrier between him and people. He and Kihomi speak six languages. You cannot go anywhere in Haiti without being greeted enthusiastically by former students. He is going to be mad at me for bragging about him but I want you to know what a great missionary you support. Haiti is lucky to have him and Kihomi.

Their success is your success as I know many of you have supported them for their entire ministries. You are definitely storing your wealth where thieves and moths cannot destroy, Thank you.

In Christ,

Denny Shewell – MPT Communications Advocate & Convener

VOLUNTEERS

Flower Committee: All Church De-Decorating
Van Drivers: Lloyd Gingery, Leo Heinz, Karlene Fine
Ushers: Gary Allmendinger & Joyce Allmendinger

Please contact the church office for updates and corrections.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5 th – Achille NGoma	
7 th – Alvina Allmendinger	14 th – Norma Eberly
7 th – Tara Buck Elk	15 th – Don Kasper
10 th – Marilyn NGoma	16 th – Annette Ekstrom
10 th – Zota Dennis	16 th – Martha Just
13 th – Ann Schoepp	19 th – Barbara Ellison
14 th Barbara Gierke	19 th – Sheri Cichos

Please contact the church office for updates and corrections.



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WILL HOST THE AWANA SUPPER ON
JANUARY 2ND AT 5:30 PM**

Needed: Bars, Rice Krispy Treats, Brownies, etc.

Sign-up sheet in Church Foyer

Prayer requests

Long Term Prayer Needs:

- Charlotte Martin
- Edwynna McRaney
- Mary Ann Rauser
- Norma Eberly
- Sue Reuther
- The Congo

Please be in prayer for....

- Ann Schoepp
- Bob (Anita Ballie's brother)
- Bruce Rauser
- Caryl Kaseman
- Dale & Annette Eckstrom's granddaughter
- Deanna Hedegaard
- Edwynna McRaney
- Kari Kolstoe
- Mary Ann Rauser
- Mickie & Tammy (Deb Burck's Friends)
- Norma Eberly
- Scott Withun

Military Service:

- Adam Vettel (Norma Eberly's grandson)

Remember our Home Bound: Norma Eberly, Curtis Funches, Ann Schoepp, Charlotte Martin, Edwynna McRaney, Mary Ann Rauser, Shirley Zacher.

If you have an on-going need for prayer, please contact Marty Lundblad, Chairperson for the Diaconate, so we can include it in the newsletter.