

The Spirit

August 2019

Behind the Scenes

Dear friends in Christ,

Ruth and I just got back from our trip. We had the opportunity and the privilege of taking a trip from Budapest to Amsterdam. It was incredibly beautiful and full of so much history. We found ourselves on the Danube, Main Canal, and the Rhine Rivers. To walk into churches, some of them built in the 11th century, was truly mind-boggling. To see the large cathedrals and witness the reconstruction of many of the towns after the devastation of World War II was incredible.

As with any river cruise you are at the mercy of the levels of the river. Prior to our arrival, there had been little rain and unusually high temperatures. This meant that the river levels were dangerously low. Now, why all this detail? It has to do with what I observed. Because of the river levels the captain, crew and staff were constantly having to make changes. On the surface of things, the operations of the ship and the schedule seemed to be going extremely well. Seemingly all of our walking tours went off without a hitch, the buses that we used were on time, the 900+ bridges that we went under and the 68 different locks we went through did not cause a problem. **On the surface.** Yet I observed all of the various changes that had to be made because of the weather circumstances, and, there were a lot. We did not always know what was happening but the crew and staff were working hard “behind the scenes” to make sure we had a good experience - and we did!.

Now if I “stretch” this line of thought a little, it reminds me of church. Most of us come to church to worship, a good thing. I would guess that for most of us not much thought is given to what is going on “behind the scenes.” There is a lot of organizing, preparation, and last minute changes going on. There must be the securing of the preacher, liturgist, organist, ushers, and special music, lights have to be turned on, the sound system has to be turned on and operators in place, overhead screens with announcements and liturgy to be followed, oh yes, and then there is the preparation of the 200-400 bulletins, with not only the service outlined but also the announcements and daily events for the next week. You see where I’m going with this, this all happens primarily “behind the scenes” but they all are terribly important for the work of worship and fellowship in this place.

In yet another area, “behind the scenes,” our Church Council, Executive Committee, Church Committees, Mutual Ministry Committee and the Call Committee are all organizing of the work of ministry for Decorah Lutheran Church. And yes, it is always a challenge to communicate all the things that go on here at Decorah Lutheran, but we all must seek to understand and try to learn from all these things that go on behind the scenes, in order that we can do the work of ministry in the name of Jesus Christ in this place.

In a real sense we could also look at the life of Jesus in this way. On the surface we see a person who came into this earth who lived and died, but, there is so much more “behind the scenes” in the life of Jesus. It takes an openness and desire to understand why Jesus came to this earth, why His teachings are so important for all of humankind, why the sacrifice of His life on the cross was so crucial for us, why the resurrection is absolutely **the most important thing** for each and everyone of us, and what this all ultimately means to you and to me. But, it is much more than just understanding what it “means” to you and to me, it also is important to recognize what we are *called to do and to be as Christ followers*! We are invited to be a part of the church, the fellowship of believers, called not only to faith in Christ on a personal level but also to live our lives in such a way that others may know importance of Christ in our lives as they see it reflected in our lives.

We can talk about the importance of being “spiritual.” We hear that conversation a lot in our culture today, but what does it mean? Spiritual? We have many people today seeking to become spiritual, “I am not religious, but I am spiritual!”. Implied with this attitude one of the questions is, “What do I have to do?” And there in lies the crux of the issue. For the disciple of Christ Jesus it’s not what we do, but it is what Christ has done for us and for many that is the sticking point. **What do we do Jesus Christ?** What difference does it make in my life and the life of my loved ones? There is the basic question not only for us but for a world desperately in need of the saving grace and the love of our God.

So, “behind the scenes” of life, God is working in and through us though the Word, Sacraments and the power of the Holy Spirit. So, let us be faithful and continue the work of ministry being faithful to the written Word and the Lord and Savior of the Church.

Serving Christ with you,
Pastor Jim Glesne

Announcements

Ruth Circle members will meet at Vennehjem for lunch Thursday, August 15. Arrive by 11:45 A.M. and bring the correct change of \$8.50. Call Caron Carlson (387-6121) or Dorothy Sunday (382-3047) no later than August 6, for reservations.



READING THE APOSTLE'S MAIL

Two days after Labor Day, September 4, at 9:30 a.m., Pastor Ole Winter plans to offer a study of a Biblical book. The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall of Decorah Lutheran Church. Under the general title, "READING THE APOSTLE'S MAIL," he will offer a fall term study in the Biblical book of the Apostle Paul's First Letter to the church in Corinth. Pastor Winter said, "We plan to take a new look at this personal letter written by the great missionary known simply as Paul. Though it might be considered a 'theological treatise' it is really a personal letter to a congregation of which he was the founding pastor. It is truly a letter where he speaks the truth in love."

Every class session will conclude by 11:00 a.m. with a coffee break supplied by members of the class. Plans call for this class to continue until the Christmas season. All are welcome!

Happy Birthday to our 90+ Members!

8/26: Anna Iverson (101), 2479 River Rd., Decorah, IA

8/30: Joan Amundson (91), 312 W Broadway, Decorah, IA



Parish Statistics

Baptisms

7/13: Mia Marie Sommers

Deaths

7/3: Fran Jeffers

7/12: Jim Gipp

Weddings

6/29: Kelsey Einck & Kyle Ihde

Education News

by Pat Gjere



A GREAT week at Vacation Bible School!

Thank you to the volunteers who assisted
Sugar Creek Staff with Vacation Bible
School: Rhonda Storlie, Luke Stock, Em-
ma Fretheim, Nancy Spilde, Darin Rude,
Teresa Dehning and Scott Leiran.

Thank you to the volunteers who furnished
food for Sugar Creek Staff: Jeremy Thompson,
Shanna Dibble, Dennis Wohfeil, Peggy Rovang,
Connie Kuennen, Rhonda Storlie, Aaron
Haedike, Jenn Sullivan and Claire & Julie
Askelson.



Rally Sunday - Sunday School begins September 8 with fun activities in the church parking lot during the
Sunday School hour.

Update from Worship Committee

Greetings! Hope you are having a good summer! Cannot believe how fast it is going!

Pastor Rehfeldt will be our primary supply pastor beginning August 31st. We have been blessed with many wonderful pastors these past months and are grateful for their service to DLC.

The advertisement for the Organist position has been placed and we will be reviewing applications. As many of you, know Kathy will be retiring. We appreciate her dedication and service to DLC.

The Outdoor Service at the Hatchery will be Sunday August 25th at 10:00 a.m. See the details here in the Spirit.

Please keep Decorah Lutheran in your prayers, especially the council members and the call committee as we work together to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Renee Lillibridge

Chairman of Worship Committee



Health Ministry

Keep Your Hands Healthy

A Health Ministry Check-Up

By Krista Vanden Brink, RN

We use our hands countless times a day. From brushing our teeth to typing on the computer to gardening, our hands allow us to perform daily tasks and enjoy many recreational activities. Our hands are a valuable asset that needs to be protected. It's important that we make adjustments to our routines to make sure our hands aren't strained or overworked.

A common hand health problem for those who do repetitive hand motion is carpal tunnel syndrome. This condition happens when one of the major nerves in the hand is compressed or squeezed. It can cause pain, tingling, and numbness in the hand and arm.

Arthritis is a leading cause of disability in America and affects more than 50 million adults according to the Arthritis Foundation. Joint pain, swelling, stiffness and decreased mobility are common symptoms.

Other similar hand health problems include cramping, tendinitis and bursitis. Your health care provider can help to identify what's causing the pain and recommend exercises and treatment that can help.

Prevention is key to hand health. Taking regular breaks is vital. If you're doing "hand-heavy" activities such as sewing or gardening, set a time limit and stick to it. Just because you feel good after 9 holes of golf, don't push it thinking you'll be fine after 18. Keep your wrists in a neutral position and avoid extreme finger and wrist positioning. Finger and arm stretches, shoulder rolls and neck circles also help to break up a long period of sitting in one position.

We were made to move. We need to protect *our* moving parts.

Decorah Lutheran Library

The 25th Anniversary Edition of The Dakota Series by Lauraine Snelling includes five books featuring the intertwining lives of five inspiring women who live in the early 1900s in farming communities of North Dakota.

#1 – *Dakota Dawn* takes readers to Soldahl, North Dakota with Nora Johanson who at age 18 has just arrived from Norway to marry Hans Larson. When Hans fails to arrive at the train station that night, Nora finds herself thrown into a life she never expected with people she doesn't know—Reverend John and wife Ingeborg Moen and Carl Detschman, a grieving German immigrant.

#2 – *Dakota Dream* features Nora's sister Clara Johanson who has been given a ticket to come to Soldahl, including a photograph of a very handsome man. The person who meets her at the train station is Dag Weinlander, a man of few words and smelling of his job as a blacksmith. At least Clara knows she will see joy in her sister's face when she surprises her by arriving at her home.

#3 – *Dakota Dusk* features Jude Weinlander, the brother of Dag, who is very handsome, but has the heart of a bully and a cheat. When a fire leaves him full of anger and guilt, he leaves Soldahl, wandering from town to town until he reaches Willowford where he finally finds he is needed. He agrees to help schoolmarm Rebekka Stenesrude by rebuilding the schoolhouse before he moves on.

#4 – *Dakota December* brings readers back to the outskirts of Soldahl on Christmas Eve, with a North Dakota storm raging. Sheriff Caleb Stenesrude finally realizes that his dog has been trying to get his attention to hear another noise outside. When the sheriff climbs over a gate in the blizzard, he is there to catch a woman and her small child as they fall off a horse. Caleb tends to warming up the near-frozen mother and boy when the woman lets out a piercing cry of labor pains. This would be a Christmas Eve like no other.

#5 - *Dakota Destiny* features Mary Moen, the oldest daughter in the Reverend Moen family, as she finishes her schooling to become a teacher. She and Will Dunfey, an assistant to blacksmith Dag Weinlander, declare their love for each other. However, Will has just joined the army to fight in the war with Germany and was set to leave in a matter of days. Mary writes to Will daily, but receives only a few letters from him before a telegram arrived that he was missing in action and presumed dead. After months of agonized waiting, news comes of Victory Day, November 11, 1918. Does Mary have reason to hope?

DLC Library Committee Members: Sue Boehm, Marcia Fox, Dianne Fye, Bonnie Gilbert, Ruth Jauert, Elaine Sims, Cheryl Thompson, Jan Tyler-Blanchard, Jeri Wilson, Laurel Womeldorf, and Lilly Womeldorf.

Youth Ministry

We are redoing the bottom part of the youth room and we are looking for donations of a pool table or a ping pong table. If anyone is willing to donate please contact Randi-Kate.

We also have workdays set up and are looking for volunteers, if anyone is able to come help us on any of these days please contact Randi-Kate:

- ♦ August 3-4: Renovation days-- this will include painting, staining, wall building, sawing, and framing
- ♦ August 11th: Reassembly day--Putting it all together and putting on the final touches!



Church Council Minutes

June 11, 2019

Members Present: Interim Admin. Rev. Jim Glesne, Dave Sacquitne, Tim Wilson, Tamie Onsager, Scott Nordschow, Ron Stoskopf, Rebecca Swella-Smedsrud, Jim Sims, Susanne Twedt, Rick Twedt, Renee Lillibridge, Deb Myhre, Dennis Young, Ted Wilson, Dennis Wohlfeil, Jeremy Thompson, Danielle Askelson, Andrea Wilson, Matt Burkey

Members Absent: Randy Iverson, Julie Askelson, Connie Kuennen, Greg Pattison, Richard Cole, Cortney Holm

Call to Order: Pres. Dave Sacquitne

Devotions: Pastor Jim Glesne

Review of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda with additions of adding Call Committee Youth names for approval & investment of Rita Kern's monetary donation; Motion by Ted Wilson, 2nd by Tamie Onsager; Carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve May Council minutes by Becky Smedsrud, 2nd by Rick Twedt; Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Fitch shared that May was typical month regarding income/expenses. Motion by Ted Wilson to approve Treasurer's report by Ted Wilson, 2nd by Tamie Onsager; Carried.

Visitor Recognition & Communications: Richard Moore asks that we thank people you see around church for the long hours and hard work they do for the church.

Committee reports:

Education - VBS – after July 1 – Will begin calling to invite students to VBS also follow up on Facebook.

Rally Sunday activities – September 8th - recommendation is to have 8:30 & 10:45 worship

Handout of last year's activities. Planning same as last year between church services. Confirmation Committee: Tina Onsager, Teresa Dehning, Lori Ostlie, Kris Franzen, Michele Duwe, Pat Gjere – initial meeting to be determined. Rhonda Storlie will coordinate the Operation Christmas Project this year. Motion by Peggy and second by Jeremy to support Rhonda's endeavors. Reviewing 7th & 8th grade Sunday School curriculum. Tabled until next meeting. Bibles for baptism, 3rd grade, confirmation as follows. Beginners Bible for baptism, Hands on Bible for 3rd graders, and Student Bible for confirmands.

Palm Sunday parade 8:30, 10:45 or both services, tabled until next meeting. Other items discussed was our committee calendar for events planning. Adult Forum planning started for this fall.

Youth – Renovation of the lower youth room is planned, clean-out is on Sunday, July 7; renovation takes place; Aug 3 & 4 re-assemble the youth room; R-K is looking for volunteers to help; Youth Ministry Program director may be changed to help fill more areas of church needs; Students leave for Montana trip on July 13.

Stewardship- Working on bulletin board of church leaders, still need a few pictures, include Mutual Ministry; Noisy offering at \$576.50 and will help defray costs of VBS and the next recipient will be Kayden's Closet; considering next recipient of Noisy Offering; Reviewing materials for Run Sunday; discussed yearly committee calendar.

Worship – Pastor Glesne will be absent for 3 weeks in July; supply Pastors secured through August; Pastor Ellingson will be offered a contract for filling in as regular supply pastor; looking for an organist, will advertise

on Indeed, Outdoor service in Phelps Park on June 23 at 9:30 with coffee at 9:00.

Evangelism- Welcome center, want feedback; Community Meal well attended with 183 meals served.

Property & Mgmt- Approved 2 rentals, bell tower update, still on contractor's list for painting in 2019, approved purchases of new computer and Honda lawn mower; Sending funds to Kids Lunch Club of \$1209.00 & NEIA Food Pantry from Restricted Accounts; synod assembly offering was \$250.00; Tamie is seeking volunteers to finish painting door frames for this summer; considered recommendation by O'Keefe elevator to replace batteries and card; talked about the yearly committee calendar.

Pastors' Report- None

Old Business:

1. Council serves coffee June 30. Volunteers: Tamie Onsager, Dennis Young, Deb Myhre, Dennis Wohfeil, Danielle Askelson

New Business:

1. Mutual Ministry report – Chris Storlie
 - a. Motion to accept Decorah Lutheran Organizational Chart by Deb Myhre, 2nd by Danielle Askelson; Carried.
2. Mission statement review, "To openly accept God's call to [faithfully] teach, serve and share His gifts." Motion by Ted Wilson to accept the language change, 2nd by Deb Myhre; Carried.
3. July Council meets on July 16th, a week later than usual.
4. Richard Moore shared information, orally and with handouts about DLC, how many are there? Who pays? Wheel chart? DLC by numbers? DLC about members.
5. Call Process, motion to approve 2 Youth names for Committee on the Call Process of Nadia Johnson & Payton Schutte by Danielle Askelson, 2nd by Ted Wilson; Carried.

Other Discussion: Vote of Council on July 16th whether to stay ELCA: continue providing information to Congregation through temple talks, Spirit; letter writing campaign.

New Members: none

Transfers In: none

Remove from Membership: none

Transfers Out: none

Next Executive Mtg: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 @ 6:30 PM

Next Council Mtg: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 @ 7:45 PM; committees at usual times.

Motion to adjourn: by Pastor Jim Glesne, 2nd by Jim Sims; Carried.

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Swella-Smedsrud

Substitute Council Secretary



Join us for the 6th Annual Outdoor Service

When: 10 a.m. August 25th, 2019

Where: Siewer Spring/Fish Hatchery

Bring your own lawn chair.

- **Parking is limited and so we encourage carpooling with family, friends or neighbors.**
- **There will be some chairs provided for those who cannot bring one or who would like to ride their bike to church.**
- **Hotdogs, BBQ Pork, chips, bars and lemonade will be served following the service.**

Change of location due to weather will be at the church and will be announced on the local radio stations and posted on Decorah Lutheran's Facebook Page.

Note: The 5:30 Saturday evening service will be at the church

DLCW Ministry

Coffee Hour Schedule: August 4 & 11 Deborah Circle
 August 18 Prayer Shawl Ministry
 September 1 & 8 Priscilla Circle

August 1 - Aase Haugen Birthday Party - Ruth Circle

Anyone celebrating a special day and would like to furnish treats for coffee hour please call Church Office, 382-3601.

Thank You received from First Lutheran Women for our hospitality during the stabilization of their building.

A request was submitted for \$2000.00 to the Depot Outlet to be used towards the wallpapering of the walls of the Social Hall. The money was received and applied towards that project which has been completed and looks great. We are thankful and grateful for this donation from the Depot Outlet. The remaining monies for this project was paid by WELCA.

Ladies here is the corrected address for the Quarterly Bible Study Magazine if your group choose to switch to a different study. LWML, 801 Seminary Place, Suite #L010, St. Louis, MO. 63105

Save cancelled postage stamps. Cutting a ¼" to ½" border around stamp. Containers in Library. Also saved Box Top labels help the Navajo Christian Academy financially, containers found in Library

The kitchen cleaning committee has been doing a wonderful job on cleaning the kitchen area. It shows and is much appreciated by all. Keep up the good work.

Please check Kitchen for pans or dishes you may have left.

Questions, concerns, or suggestions, please call the church office.

Sandy Kittelson & Nancy Spilde, Co-Chairpersons of DLCW



Worship Assistants

Ushers

August 3

5:30 pm – Jim & Kari Burns

August 4

8:30 am – Dave Sacquitne, Pat Lien, Victor Fye

August 10

5:30 pm – Tom Little, Scott Nordschow

August 11

8:30 am – Robert & Becky Smedsrud

August 17

5:30 pm – Cal Anderson, Marlyn Askelson

August 18

8:30 am – Steve Darrington, Larry Thompson

August 24

5:30 pm – Roger Timp, James Gilbert

August 25

8:30 am – Jeff Martin, Dave Hansmeier

August 31

5:30 pm – Gene Sanderman, Scott Lang, Tony Gossman

Nursery

August 4

8:30 am – Cristy Nimrod, Briggs Duwe

August 11

8:30 am – Lydia Frank

August 18

8:30 am –

August 25

8:30 am – Tracy Frieden, Annika Brynsass

Greeters

August 3

5:30 pm – Craig & Sarah Chyle, Kari Burns

August 4

8:30 am – Jonathan & Sarah Carlson, Mary Ellingson

August 10

5:30 pm – Jim & Bonnie Gilbert

August 11

8:30 am – Mike & Renee Smock, RuthAnn Proctor

August 17

5:30 pm – Sharon Roher, Willard & Verna Hanson

August 18

8:30 am – Linda, Keith & Nadia Johnson, Ron & Carole Fox

August 24

5:30 pm – Jerry & Heather Frey

August 25

8:30 am – David & Jill Amdahl

August 31

5:30 pm – Janice Gossman, Scott & Marissa Nordschow

Readers

August 3

5:30 pm – Ron Onsager

August 4

8:30 am – Tiffany Lundtvedt

August 10

5:30 pm – Larry Berland

August 11

8:30 pm – Carol Gaustad

August 17

5:30 pm – Keith Christensen

August 18

8:30 am – Jim Burns

August 24

5:30 pm – Ted Wilson

August 25

8:30 am – Jason Maret

August 31

5:30 pm – Paul Oftedahl

Altar Guild for August

Bev Heffern, Nancy Spilde

Communion Set-up

August 4

8:30 am – Krista Vanden Brink

August 10

5:30 pm – Jim Burns

August 18

8:30 am – Laurann Gilbertson

August 24

5:30 pm – Jean Ryan

Communion Assistants

August 4

8:30 am – Terry Ramlo, Laurann Gilbertson, Steven Vanden Brink

August 10

5:30 pm – Jim & Kari Burns

August 18

8:30 am – John Boehm, Kari Iverson, Danielle Askelson

August 24

5:30 pm – Janice Tyler-Blanchard, Elsie Kittleson

Acolytes

August 3

5:30 pm –

August 4

8:30 am –

August 10

5:30 pm –

August 11

8:30 am –

August 17

5:30 pm –

August 18

8:30 am –

August 24

5:30 pm –

August 25

8:30 am –

August 31

5:30 pm –

2019 August

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
28		29		30		Jul 31		1	5:00 PM Community Meal	2	6:30 AM Men's Group	3	10:45 AM Youth Room Renovation 5:30 PM Worship
4	8:30 AM Worship w/ HC 9:40 AM Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Youth Room Renovation 6:30 PM Call Comm. Mtg	5	6:30 AM Men's Group 9:00 AM Do-Day	6	7:00 AM Men's Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Meeting 6:30 PM Exec. Comm.	7	6:30 PM Service Broadcast	8		9	6:30 AM Men's Group	10	5:30 PM Worship w/ HC 5:30 PM Formanek Baptism
11	8:30 AM Worship w/ Noisy Offering 9:40 AM Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Youth Room Reassembly	12	6:30 AM Men's Group	13	7:00 AM Men's Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Comm. Mtgs 7:45 PM Council Mtg	14	6:30 PM Service Broadcast	15	9:00 AM Ruth Circle 2:00 PM Priscilla Circle (Hazel Grotegut)	16	6:30 AM Men's Group 4:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal	17	3:00 PM Cochrane/ McKay Wedding 5:30 PM Worship
18	8:30 AM Worship w/ HC 9:40 AM Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Worship w/ HC @ Springwater 6:30 PM Call Comm. Mtg	19	6:30 AM Men's Group 9:00 AM Do-Day	20	7:00 AM Men's Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Meeting 12:00 PM Spirit Deadline	21	11:00 AM Eastern Star 1:00 PM Wellington 2:00 PM Aase Haugen 6:30 PM Service Broadcast	22		23	6:30 AM Men's Group	24	5:30 PM Worship w/ HC
25	9:30 AM Coffee Hour 10:00 AM Worship @ Hatchery	26	6:30 AM Men's Group	27	7:00 AM Men's Group 9:00 AM Staff Meeting	28	6:30 PM Service Broadcast	29		30	6:30 AM Men's Group	31	5:30 PM Worship

Decorah Lutheran Church
309 Winnebago Street
Decorah, IA 52101
Address Service Requested

563.382.3601

www.decorahlutheran.org
office@decorahlutheran.org
Office Hours M-F: 8am-5pm

Non Profit Org.
Permit No. 106
U.S. Postage
Decorah, IA

*Purpose: to openly accept
God's call to teach, serve,
and share His gift's faithfully.*

**If you would like to
view the SPIRIT on the
church website only,
please inform the
church office and we
will take you off the
mailing list. If the
office is not notified
you will receive a pa-
per copy. If you DO
NOT want a paper
copy please call or
email the church.**

Special Events

- Youth Room Renovation Days: Aug. 3-4 & 11.
- Outdoor Worship at the Fish Hatchery: Aug. 25.
- Ole's Class Starts Sept. 4.
- Rally Sunday - Sept 8. - Sunday School Begins