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# November 2017 Newsletter

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## From The Pastor...

There is no question that we live on a fractured planet where life and relationships are not what God intended. We need Christians who would be uniters not dividers, bearers of grace, forgiveness, and mercy in a world gone mad with war and hatred. Now more than ever we need the Good News of the Gospel. Thankfully, the New Testament offers us a vision for the healing and transformation of the world. St. Paul writes to the church at Rome about what it means to live a Christ-like life:

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God...So, we who are many, are ONE body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.” St. Paul’s words echo in the song: “We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that our unity will one day be restored.”

Yet we are currently a fractured nation and even as a Christian church we are divided. And like during the days of the Civil War, we find friends and family members pitted against each other—each convinced of the righteousness of their cause. When we allow anger, prejudice, and intolerance to raise its ugly head—our witness to the world is weakened.

Martin Luther once said: “God doesn’t need our good works, but our neighbor does.” He talked a lot about caring for the neighbor in need. But who is our neighbor? Do they include people who are different than us? Who have a different color of skin? Who have a different faith or are of a different political persuasion? Are they our neighbors?

Jesus tried to answer this in his parable of the Good Samaritan. Moreover, he led by example. Jesus didn’t keep to his own, rather he ministered to the outcast, the leper, the tax collector, the adulteress, even the Gentile. Race, color, or creed was no barrier.

St. Paul takes it one further in his letter to the Galatians: “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” In Christ, all the divisions are wiped away and the walls come down. We are called to extend God’s love and compassion to all people. There is no place for hate or fear of the Other in God’s Kingdom.

As a nation and as a church, we are stronger for our diversity. And in these turbulent times we must look to our better angels to guide us. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote these words of encouragement: “I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”

In an age of cynicism, prejudice, hatred and fear, we can be healers in the world. We can offer an alternative in the Good News of Jesus. We can conquer hate with love. We can offer hope. Ultimately, it is the only way to bring healing and wholeness to our lives, to our relationships, and to our world.

May God’s love, light, and warmth radiate through us all as winter approaches,

Pastor Ryan



# **Council President's Report...**

## **View From Da Pew**

View From Da Pew

November 2017

As I write this, Dekorra is faced with a very difficult decision that needs to be made sooner rather than later. I hope that by the time you read this we will have made the decision to fix the septic problem so that we can continue to function as a church. I would like to thank those who helped with the cleanup that was caused by the backup. A big thank you to Peggy and Harry Benson, Tim Anderson, Bob Acker and anyone else that I may have missed.

The church council has set the date for the annual meeting as January 28, 2018 at 10:00am. We would like all reports into the office by January 10<sup>th</sup> and all newsletter articles in by January 17<sup>th</sup>. If your committee is planning on spending money in 2018 we need you request into the finance committee by "All Committee Night" on November 11<sup>th</sup> so that we can incorporate them into the 2018 budget.

Speaking of all committee night, we are in dire need of new committee members. We are planning to have each committee present its case at "coffee hour" on the next several Sundays. It is YOUR church; we need YOUR help in its operation. Please consider joining a committee and helping to manage Dekorra's mission and future.

A big thank you from Habitat for Humanity for the work crew on October 21<sup>st</sup> and the \$1,000 that Dekorra gifted for this build.

In consideration of our problem with the septic, I will be proposing to the council that we put the video screens on hold until we get a handle on this problem. If you wish to continue to donate to the "video fund" that is fine, just be advised that it may not happen as soon as we had planned.

In His service, William

**We would like to thank all of you that helped in the "Adopt a Hi Way" Clean-up in October.**

**Bill Statz - Columbia County Highway**



**Please remember in your prayers.....**

Greg Ayers; Joanna Hall (daughter of Mary Dibble); Doug Van Buren (friend of Mike and Ellen Keller); Katlyn Saley; Lisa Hohlstein (daughter of John & Ruth Nelson); Margie Knuteson, LeRoy Breneman; Kristen Armstrong (granddaughter of Barb & Bruno Kalan).

**Prayers for those serving our country in the military...**

Deontá Backovitch; Nicholas Paske (great nephew of June Fiske); Dustin Hoiten (nephew of Ted Koch); Bill Warren (son of Cheryl Lytle); Quinten Case (great-nephew of June Fiske); James Wampole (nephew of Gene & Betty Hehl); Moira McCormack (granddaughter of Renate Lokotz); Kole Purtell (grandson of Chuck & Penny Judd).



## **Dekorra Women of the ELCA -Upcoming Events**

Nov 12-Thankoffering Service

Dec 2- Advent Brunch

### **Women's Bible Study Groups**

Wednesday, Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 1:00pm (Hope); Tuesday Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm (Joy); Saturday Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am (Faith)

**Thankoffering Sunday** - The special Thankoffering service at Dekorra will be held Sunday, November 12. A special offering will be taken as we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800s. Each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year in Thanksgiving for blessings received. They would join their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds. We continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings to support the life changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together we do more than we could ever do apart. We are blessed to be part of this ministry.

**Quilter News** - On October 7 - Dekorra quilters sent 137 quilts made this year to Lutheran World Relief, LWR warehouse in MN. When disaster calls for kits or quilts come in, they are shipped out from of the warehouses to areas throughout the world. Take time to look at the posters to see where they are sent to.

Our SW-WI area sent 9,000. There are many THANKS to be said and people to be commended for the efforts made here. The gals working to layout tops, bottoms and batting then tie them together are: Irene Anderson, Joan Ayers, Aileen and Ray Brager, Ann Carncross, Michelle Fitzgerald, Pat Geeslin, Margo Holzman, Rev. James Martin, Phyllis Peterson, Robin Kinnunen, Karen Millard and Donna Schwoch. Special Thanks to Lorraine Knuteson for hemming 127 of the blankets. She does an excellent job. Also Esther Dibble crochets 100's of lap robes, caps, scarves, baby blankets and full length afghans for Veterans and LWR. Many quilts are sold as gifts and personal use. Some are given to Wyocena Helping Hand, Columbia County Human Services, Reach Out Lodi and the Dekorra Men's Club. We want to thank all the people who donated fabric to us. It takes \$3.00 per completed blankets to ship them around the world. So if you bought, donated, or contributed in any way to the Dekorra Quilters you have helped many families. All gals and men are welcome to help us tie and make quilts. Please join us on Thursdays from 1-4 pm.

## **Women of the ELCA 2017 Craft Show - Bake Sale - White Elephant Sale**

Our craft show was a success with fifteen crafters filling the tables with a huge variety of craft items.

We thank each of them for their participation. Our White Elephant room and Bakery Items were as always a huge success with "lefse" being a best seller. We had a steady stream of customers for the delicious lunch served with the traditional pumpkin slices. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** who donated their time and talents including those men & women who set up the fellowship hall prior to the sale and reset the room after the sale. Our total profit for the day was \$2,021.51.

**Once again we have been blessed to have such wonderful members.**

**October 7, 2017 Craft Show Re-Cap**

Respectively submitted:

Barb Kalan, treasurer



**Operation Christmas Child - Shoe Box** - We will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again as a Sunday School Mission project. Take an empty shoe box and wrap it with Christmas paper. Wrap the lid separately. Mark the shoe box **Girl or Boy** and age (2-4, 5-9 or 10-14). Fill the box with gifts such as: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, Beanie Babies, harmonicas, yo-yos and jump ropes. School supplies: pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, coloring books, writing pads or paper. Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, washcloth. Miscellaneous: sun glasses, candy (NO chocolate), gum, toy jewelry, hair clips, small picture books etc. Please bring to Church by November 5<sup>th</sup>. Call Kathy Pederson (445-5175) with questions.

### **Adult Education Opportunity**

To celebrate the 500 year Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation Pastor Ryan will be leading an adult study called *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*. This course will be held on Sunday morning's beginning on October 15th at 10am and will also be offered Thursday nights at 5:00pm and possibly Friday mornings at 10:00am. According to Augsburg Fortress, "The contributions to *By Heart* address the reader in the second person. This is to keep faith with both the everyday, ground-level language that Luther uses in the explanations and to embody the declarative nature of the gospel which he strove to encode in that language. By adhering to the "for-you-ness" of the gospel in the design of this course we hope to do some justice to Luther's intentions in the Small Catechism." Please sign up for the course on the bulletin board or send Pastor Ryan an email if you are interested.

### **Sunday School:**

The Sunday School will sing and recite memory work on Sunday Nov. 5th at the 8:30 service. Looking forward to December, please note that we will have a Happy Birthday Jesus Party on Dec.3 during the Sunday School hour. Parents are encouraged to assist with treats or activities. Let the teachers know if you can help.

The children's Christmas program will take place December 17 at 10:30 AM

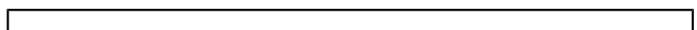
### **Book Club Survey**

A review of the past year is taking place as the book club determines a schedule for 2018. Participants in the Oct meetings have been asked to share their preferences. Any Dekorra members and guests are encouraged to fill out the following survey and return it to the church office or any Christian Education member.

**All Saints Day Observance - Saturday and Sunday (November 4th and 5th)** we would like to celebrate and remember the lives of all the Saints who have passed away during this past year and in the years prior. We will be announcing them during a special time of prayer during each service and a candle will be lit by the worship assistant to honor their memory. So we can get a proper list together we need people to submit names (in writing) to me no later than **Thursday November 2nd**. We ask you to consider honoring **one** individual who has encouraged and guided you in your faith journey. Thanks, Pastor Ryan

### **GWOH Project**

A nationwide ELCA event called God's Work, Our Hands was held in September requesting all congregations to participate in a service project in their area. Volunteers from Dekorra gave their time and talents to construct a fence around the property of Florence Schudlach to enclose a play area for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Recognition goes to Buck Bender, Bill Schleichert, Bob Acker, Bill Buckley, Tim Larson, Harry Benson, Tim Anderson, Pete Holzman, Bev Acker, Karen Bender and Pat Geeslin.



Additional thanks to Buck Bender for the use of his Bobcat and auger for digging the post holes (a tremendous time saver). We also thank Peggy Benson and Bev Acker for furnishing lunches for the workers.

**The Social Ministry Committee** is offering the opportunity to give a Christmas gift that will carry love and hope to people in need. Gifts can be designated in honor of or in memory of a special person or occasion. The Angels will be hung on garland decorating the sanctuary. The suggested donation is \$5.00 per angel. Please leave your completed form along with your donation in the box in the back of the church by **December 10<sup>th</sup>**. **Do not leave the forms and donations in the church office; place them in the baskets at the back of the church.**

**Christmas Poinsettia Plants** - The Altar Committee will take orders for Poinsettias through Sunday, December 17th. Please place your orders early! The order forms will be in the back of the church and in this newsletter if you wish to provide flowers for the worship area. Make your check payable to Dekorra Lutheran Church and place it along with your order forms in the basket at the back of the church. **Orders cannot be accepted after December 17.** The flowers may be picked up after Christmas morning worship service or left to share with the shut-ins. Call Lorraine Knuteson with questions.

### **Needs for the Veterans - Madison**

1. Car/airplane/military models (plastic)
2. Model paint (paint pods with glue)
3. Adult Color Books / Colored Pencils
4. Paint by Numbers – Plain note cards
5. New men's sweatpants size XL-XXL
6. Reading glasses (various strengths)
7. Nail clippers and nail files
8. Forever Stamps
9. Toothbrushes and small tooth paste
10. Small Kleenex or tissues

*We have different people that drive for the veterans to appointments at Madison hospitals. They can take articles down with them. Esther Dibble makes lap robes. A box will be in the old kitchen for veteran articles.*

