



December 2019 Newsletter

Worship Schedule

Sept. - Dec.

8:30 Garfield Worship

9:00 LqP Sunday School

10:15 LqP Worship



FROM THE PASTOR

It's amazing, isn't it? We actually celebrate the birth of a baby born in a manger in the far off little village of Bethlehem, a baby born over 2,000 years ago. And we call that baby God. That is even more all the amazing. It is almost as if God were trying to hide himself. God came into the world in the opposite way that we would seemingly expect. The centers of the civilization at that time were Greece and Rome, not Bethlehem. Even Jerusalem would have been a better place for God to arrive than Bethlehem. God came as a baby. Now babies are nice and cuddly and cuter, But God is God, after all, the creation of all things, power beyond all power, not cuddly and cute. God was born in a stable in absolute, abject poverty. Again, remember that God is the creator of all things; the wealth of the cosmos is His. The first to know of His birth were shepherds. Shepherds were looked down on by all of society. One could go no lower than to be a shepherd. Shepherds were not even considered a part of society. And they worshipped God that evening. The Emperor of the Roman Empire was not told of the birth, nor were kings and princes, nor were the wealthy and the powerful, nor was even the "middle class." It is almost as if God were hiding, as if God were dealing with us in the opposite way that we would expect.

God does work that way, through opposites, even today. Can you imagine what God's entrance into the world would have been like if it had been turned over to Cecil B DeMille or to Steven Spielberg? I seriously doubt if there would have been a baby, or a manger, or shepherds, or poverty. What a grand entrance God would have been given. Is there anybody in the world who could have denied that God was God with the grandness of that entry? But God chose a different way. He chose the baby, the manger, the shepherds, and the poverty. Even today there are many who look for God in the great, the majestic, and the powerful. "Heal me, Lord, and then I will believe." "If only God would raise this hand and wipe out all poverty and hunger in the world." There are so many variations of our "need" to see the majesty of God before we will believe or act. Yet, God continues to come. Perhaps God comes to the world today through very simple people whose task it is to give of themselves so that others may have bread to eat. Today God is still hidden in the simplest things: things like water and bread and wine and people. Common, ordinary, simple people like you and me. Today God is present among us as we gather for a simple service of worship. Today God is present as we— yes, we— extend a word of kindness and love and care to a neighbor or a friend or even to someone we don't know. God does feed the poor and the hungry. Today the poor and the starving are fed through people like you and me who work to find ways to share the wealth God has given to us.

It is soon Christmas once again. We will read of God's presence among us in the baby Jesus born in a manger in Bethlehem. But, it would be well if we look beyond the baby to see the presence of our God among us today. Christmas is God's message to us that He still is found among the simple, the poor, and the hurting. Christmas is God's message to us that He still is found in the opposite ways and places that we expect. Immanuel, God is with us. Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to His people on earth. Amen.

A Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to you all!

Pastor Bruce, Jennifer, Rachel & Jacob Bringle

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If you know someone who would like to be included on the newsletter email list or the postal mailing list, please email the church secretary at secretary@lqpluthern.org with your request.





News for Both Churches



ACOLYTES FOR DECEMBER

	<u>For Garfield</u>	<u>For LqP</u>
December 1	Cole Bjornson	Broady Nelson
December 8	Jayden Jimoh	-----
December 15	Kaidyn Stender	-----
December 22	Pastor/ Usher	-----
December 24	Jacob Bringle	-----
(Christmas Eve)		
December 25	Rachel Bringle	-----
(Christmas Day)		
December 29	Katelyn Wiese	-----



	<i>Church Attendance</i>	
	Garfield	LqP
November 3	50	50
November 10	34	37
November 17	62	41
November 24	32	26
November 27	19	77
(Thanksgiving Eve)		

USHERS- Please remember to get a count of the people at the worship services and write it down. We do make use of the attendance—we have to report it in the parochial reports to the ELCA, and it helps in next year’s preparation as to how many bulletins to prepare, Communion to get ready for, etc., especially on holidays in the church. Thanks!

HANGING OF THE GREENS/ ADVENT CELEBRATION - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Come one, come all - a fun time at the church to usher in the Advent Season!
 It will take place during our regular worship service!
Let us show our joy in the preparation for the season. Parents, bring your young ones and enjoy the fellowship of other parents, grandparents, and congregation members. Luther League/ Hi League, come and help decorate the church, and /or help with the younger children.

- SCHEDULE FOR GARFIELD:

- 8:30 a.m. - Special Advent service in the sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. - Breads and Coffee and Hanging of the Greens (decorating the church) by young and old!

- SCHEDULE FOR LAC QUI PARLE:

- NO Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. - Special Advent service in the sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m.. - Pot-luck in basement
- 12:00 p.m. - Hanging of the Greens (decorating the church) by young and old!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

There will be a Candlelight Christmas Eve service with Holy Communion held at 4:30 pm at Lac qui Parle and one at Garfield at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Joint Christmas Day Festival Worship with Holy Communion at Garfield

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Presented by the Trinity Lutheran Church Choir of Montevideo on Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend, and admission is free. Evening Tea will follow in the Fellowship Hall. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols celebrates the Advent and Christmas seasons through a series of Bible readings, followed by the singing of a holiday carol. Choir selections vary each year.

Continued.....



News for Both Churches



POINSETTIAS!

We would again like to have many poinsettias to decorate the church during the Advent and Christmas seasons. There will be a sign-up sheet out in the narthex. Please sign your name and if the poinsettia is in honor or in memory of someone. Please let us know by Wednesday, December 18th if you will be bringing a poinsettia. You are then welcome to take your poinsettia home if you choose after the Christmas services or leave it through the Christmas season (through the January 5th service).

Surprise Supper

On Wednesday, December 18th at 4:45 pm, there will be a "Surprise Supper" for all 6th – 9th graders from both churches held at Garfield church. What is a Surprise Supper, you ask? Well, you pick things off a menu which will have item numbers so you won't be quite sure what you are ordering. That's the surprise! For instance, a person might receive ice cream, bread, and a toothpick for the first course without realizing it. Then they will try to eat the ice cream without silverware. Or maybe someone will unwittingly order a fork, knife and spoon for one of their courses and then not be able to use the utensils for the other three courses! We will be finished by 6 p.m.

LqP

December	Lectors	Coffee	Ushers	Projector	Acolyte
1	Emily Busch	Hanging of the Greens– Pot-luck	Tom Boulton & Ireland Brothers	N.A.	Broady Nelson
8	Cadence Dove	Bothun Family in honor of Gen Bothun's Birthday	Cadence Dove	N.A.	N.A.
15	Sunday school program	Sunday school program	Tom Boulton & Ireland Brothers	N.A.	N.A.
22	JoAnn Roisen	No Coffee	Tom Boulton & Ireland Brothers	N.A.	N.A.
24	Christmas Eve	No Coffee	Tom Boulton & Ireland Brothers	N.A.	N.A.
29	Karin Falness	Dave & Colleen Falness	Tom Boulton & Ireland Brothers	N.A.	N.A.

Garfield

Dec.	Lectors	Ushers	Acolytes	Altar & Flower Committees	Videographers
1	Cynthia Huse	*Charlie Ludvigson	Cole Bjornson	Barb Ludvigson	Andy Gritmacker
8	Jordan Connor	Terry Berndt	LaRay Polzine	Cheryl Berndt Carla	Dale Hatfield
15	Collen Olson	Gary	Kaidyn Stender	Gritmacker	Dale Hatfield
22	Jennifer Bringle	Gritmacker	Pastor/Usher	Lorna Johnson	Dean Stoks
24	Christmas Eve		Jacob Bringle		Andy Gritmacker
25	Christmas Day		Rachel Bringle		Dale Hatfield
29	Lynn Hanson		Katelyn Wiese		Dale Hatfield



Garfield News



VIDEOGRAPHER SCHEDULE

Pastor soon will be making up the Videographer schedule for 2020. At this time, we only have three people on the rotation. Please consider volunteering so that we have more people on the rotation. Talk to Pastor if you wish to be put on the list.

The next meeting of the Garfield Women (not WELCA) is planned for December 4, 7pm at Garfield Church. A time of prayer, support, and snacks is planned. (Note: December Council meeting to be held on December 11 at LqP.)

Garfield Lutheran Church Council Meeting November 3, 2019

Garfield Lutheran Church Council met on November 3, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. Members present Gene Winkels, Mona Buer, Missy Schmidt, Sarah Bjornson, Todd Patzer, Jeri Pompa, Aaron Olson, and Pastor Bringle.

The meeting was called to order. Pastor Bringle led devotions and prayer.

Agenda additions: No additions or changes.

Secretary's minutes for September 29th were read. There is a correction from Cynthia Huse: "I did offer concern for WELCA and what I've been hearing from other women who do not want to be a part of WELCA. There is a meeting planned in November to brainstorm. However, this is NOT a continuation of WELCA. I do not know what WELCA has decided but hopefully someone will report what they are planning to do." Motion to approve report by Todd, seconded by Gene. Motion carried.

Treasurer's: In recent months the council has been carefully watching church finances. Unfortunately church expenses have been exceeding offering income. In some months the deficit has been significant. While the council continues to look for ways to save money and spend our resources wisely, they felt the congregation should be made aware of the trend. We will continue to monitor the situation closely in the coming months as we approach the end of the year and our annual meeting in January. Please keep Garfield in mind when making your giving choices.

Financial Secretary's Reports: was read. Motion to approve Treasurer and Financial reports made by Aaron, seconded by Todd. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: A) Thanksgiving Eve Service at Garfield Nov 27 at 5:30 PM OR at LQP Church at 7:00 pm (choir practice at 6:15). B) Synod Jr Hi Youth Gathering in Willmar is Saturday Nov 23 and Sunday, Nov 24-there are 3 boys from Garfield going- usually Pastor has gone along as the male counselor.

WELCA Report: WELCA is going to continue. Lorraine Connor as President, Fran Peterson as Vice-President, Carla Gritmacker as Secretary, and Rosemary Weber as Treasurer.

Trustee Report: Many projects have been completed.

Deacon Report: none.

Unfinished Business: A) Constitution and By-Laws Committee will meet sometime after harvest. B) Council will get a form for Pastoral Performance evaluation. Also will look at Congregational Ministry/Goals.

New Business: A) Advent Hanging of the Greens (decorating) on Sunday December 1. Church is at 8:30. Breakfast breads and coffee following the service while we decorate. B) Christmas program-planning on having it Dec 15 during the church service at 8:30-cookies/bars and coffee following service. C) Looking for council replacements for 2020 year. D) Videographer schedule for 2020 is down to 3 people. Jacob said he will begin helping in January. Looking for volunteers. Contact Pastor Bringle if interested.

The next council meeting is Joint Council meeting Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm at LqP followed by each council meeting separately.

The meeting was adjourned, . The Benediction was said "May the Lord Bless us and keep us..."

Respectfully submitted by: Mona Buer, Council Secretary.



LqP News



LAC QUI PARLE WELCA

There will be a LqP Church Christmas gathering on Wed, Dec. 11th at noon at the home of Sue Lund. All women are invited. Please bring a dish to pass and 2 dozen Christmas cookies, bars, or candy to box for our nursing home residences and other church members.

BIRTHDAY TREATS ON DECEMBER 8 IN HONOR OF GEN BOTHUN'S BIRTHDAY!
Everyone is invited to come to church for coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 8th (before church) in honor of Gen Bothun's 85th birthday!

A HISTORY OF LAC QUI PARLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Every month, we will run a paragraph or two about the history of Lac qui Parle Lutheran, in preparation of celebrating our church's 150th anniversary next June. Thank you to Phil Greseth for writing this up each month. This month's installment:

1870 Lac qui Parle Lutheran Congregation 2020

In the spring of 1869 a group of settlers from Fayette County, Iowa ventured north to explore and settle in new land that was opening up in the Minnesota Valley. This party was led by Peter F Jacobson, and became known as the Jacobson Colony. They were the first permanent group of pioneers to settle in Lac qui Parle County. This settlement was established in an area which is now Lac qui Parle County Park. The Reverend Peter Thompson, an ordained Lutheran Minister, was a member of the Jacobson Colony. As there was no church yet, Pastor Thompson conducted services in the open areas or various homes. In 1870 a Lutheran congregation was formed and it was named **The Lac qui Parle Evangelical Lutheran Congregation**. Pastor Thompson was called to serve this new congregation. Pastor Thompson resigned in 1874. A letter of call was sent to Pastor A. O. Utheim which he accepted, becoming the second pastor of this new congregation.

It soon became apparent that a cemetery was needed as well as a house of worship. This new congregation then purchased a one acre tract of land from Amund Olson to be used as a cemetery. This cemetery was used until 1884. Building a church created much discussion as to where it should be built, until Ole Hoyum offered a tract of land one mile due west of this original cemetery. This offer was accepted, and in 1876 a church was built in what is now section 25 of Cerro Gordo township. After building a church, the congregation continued using the original cemetery until 1884. In 1884, land adjacent to the church was purchased and developed into a new cemetery, discontinuing use of the original cemetery which we now called **A Pioneer Cemetery**. In 1879 a momentous event occurred in this new church. The Hauge Synod convention was conducted. 39 teams were sent to the area towns to welcome the conferees and transport them to this area, and local lodging was furnished by the congregation's members. Congregation membership continued to increase, as the church records indicate a membership in 1890 consisting of 782 baptized members. Pastor Utheim built a large house which was used as a parsonage during his tenure. Pastor Utheim resigned in 1907 having served as pastor for thirty three years. Pastor Barstad was called, and he accepted, beginning his tenure in 1907.

--- church history continues next month ---



LqP Lutheran Council Minutes

LqP Lutheran Church Council Minutes

The Lac qui Parle Church Council met on Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 at 7:00pm. Members present include: Mark Roisen, Dallas Kelly, John Dove, Tim Stensrud, Pastor Bruce, Tracy Dove, and Sue Lund. The meeting was called to order by President John Dove. Pastor Bruce read devotions from Psalm 123 and Christ In Our Home. The agenda was reviewed with no corrections or additions. The October 9th meeting minutes were reviewed. These will be approved at the December meeting due to no quorum.

President's Report: Nothing to report

Financial Report: Not available

Pastor's Report: Nominating/Personal committee will be meeting next Wednesday, Nov. 20th at 6:30pm at LqP Lutheran. Lisa Lund and Carrie Kleven will be printing the bulletins for this Sunday (11/17).

Deacon's Report: Everything is set for Thanksgiving and Christmas services.

Trustee's Report: Nothing to report

WELCA Report: Shoe boxes are due by Sunday, November 24th.

Youth/Parish Ed. Report: Christmas Program is December 15th during the church service. We will serve cookies and coffee/cider after. The Veteran's Day program on Nov. 19th went well.

Unfinished Business: No date has been set for the LqP Budget meeting. Pastor Bruce would like to know when the meeting is going to take place so he can attend. As he remembers there are usually some questions he can answer if he knows when the meeting is to take place. Auditing/budget committee needs to meet in January to go over the books. (Tristin, Josh, Bob L., Lindee, and Trustees) The pianos in the balcony and sanctuary have been tuned. The one in the basement was fine. Pastor Bruce and three Garfield youth will be going to the synod Jr. Hi Youth Gathering in Willmar. He will be gone Sunday, Nov. 24th. John Dessonville will preach at both church services. Reminder that Thanksgiving Eve Services will be on Wednesday, Nov. 27th at either Garfield at 5:30 or at LqP Lutheran Church at 7pm. Coffee and bars will be served after. Ecumenical choir practice will be at 6:15pm. Advent Service/Hanging of the Greens will be Sunday, December 1st. Potluck to follow.

New Business: Food for Kidz packing event will not be taking place this year. The annual meeting will be January 19th following the church service. Still working on getting the projector up and running. Mark will look into some options and bring them to the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on December 11th, 2019 at LqP Lutheran. Joint council will be at 7:00pm. Both councils will meet individually following the joint council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned and we closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Tracy Dove, Council Secretary

