

Holmes/BC News

December, 2024
2102—2nd Ave. N
Reynolds, ND 58275



Every Sunday is Special Parish Moves to First and Third Sunday Worship Services



In January both Holmes and Beaver Creek will move to having worship on the First and Third Sundays of each month. We won't have worship on the second or fourth Sundays (unless something like Easter falls there). For example, there will be worship at both churches on January 5 and January 19. There has been no final decision on what to do with fifth Sundays (next one is March 30).

This will allow us to more easily schedule preachers and keep from burning out our musicians and tech folks.

Our Sunday morning fellowship is special and you now know when worship will happen. Generally there will be communion on the first Sunday of each month at both churches.

If weather causes a cancellation you can expect to hear about that via Facebook or the email chain on which this newsletter is sent.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Holmes will have a 9:00 am worship service on Sunday, February 2 so Beaver Creek can have an 11:00 am worship service followed by a pot-luck and their annual meeting. See more on page three of this newsletter.



What Makes a Great Newsletter?

Every quarterly newsletter will include routine info like birthdays and anniversaries for three months.

What makes a newsletter special isn't who edits it or what program we use to run it, but *all of you* participating and sharing information. Is something happening — a big anniversary, special birth or community event? Make sure we know so we can share the news with everyone.

See below how to contact Mark or Betty.

FOR PASTORAL CARE:
*contact a Church leader or
Chaplain Mark:*
Chaplain Mark Ellingson
Cell: (218) 779-5707
mellingson56@gmail.com

**RECEIVE A QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER BY
EMAIL:**
Send your email to Mark
(above) or to Betty
(bettyjellingson@gmail.com)

What I've Been Thinking And Now Another New Year

“And the one sitting on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’” Revelation 21:5

Happy New Year. Tell me something, what does the date turning from December 31 to January 1 mean? Here's some things which came to my mind.

+January 1, means you have a new tax year. And have to file your taxes for last year!

+January 1 means you have to start over paying on your medical deductible.

+The new year means you have to remember to write 2025 on checks and other documents.

+There will be shopping specials and parties for the New Year.

But will anything *important* change? For all the resolutions made and promises offered, will anything be different within us and between us? Here's a couple of truths.

Every day is a new day, a time when things can be changed and when we can alter our course. “This is the day the Lord has made.” Read the rest of that verse in Psalm 118:24. Or hear what Hebrews 4:7 tells us, “God again set a certain day, calling it ‘today.’” And once again from Psalm 95:7-8, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

There's a number of ways our hearts might become a little harder — jealousy, anger, envy. One of the biggest hardeners is unforgiveness. Below, see how we might soften that.

Start with creating a new slate. There's a place to start and it is called “forgiveness.” It is hard to walk with Christ holding a grudge or unforgiveness in your heart. We cannot change other things in our lives with that inside. Hear this word from Colossians 3:13:

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

I know some people don't seem like they deserve forgiveness. And we can't control what is happening in their heart and life. But Jesus died upon a cross precisely to bring forgiveness to us before we ever asked. It bears repeating — *Forgive as the Lord forgave you.* Start by making this a part of your prayers just as the Lord's prayer leads us, “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive the trespasses of others.”

Let the New Year — or any new day — be a day we clear the slate by forgiving.

See you in Church!
Chaplain Mark

Pastor's



Beaver Creek Annual Meeting

Every year Beaver Creek meets to determine leadership and committees and to establish financial goals.

Beaver Creek Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 2. Worship will be at 11:00 am followed by a pot-luck and the meeting.

Beaver Creek Anni-Birthsaries

January

- 2 Annette Ulberg
- 7 Karen Ness
- 10 Alicia Johnson
- 13 Jason Ness
- 17 Adaley Ness
- 25 Tyler Tenneson
- 26 Erick Gronhovd
- 28 Annie Nagengast
- 30 Audrey Ostlie
- 31 Peter Ness



February

- 5 Emmitt Ness
- 8 *Leslie & Marci Johnson*
- 6 Amanda Boyer
- 7 Shaycee Johnson
- 17 Amy Sanda
- 22 William Ness

March

- 3 Jeff Johnson
- 15 *Jeremy & Alicia Johnson*
- 5 Jeanette Ostlie
- Randy Ness
- 8 Keith Johnson
- 11 Marci Johnson
- 17 Liza Enfield
- 22 Carole Pederson
- Adam Boyer
- 27 Scott Ness



Stuff Happening

The funeral for Terry Fichtner was on December 4. Terry was remembered as a ball-player, hunter, fisherman and a good friend. One of the best stories came from his sister Lorie who says Terry brought her — she was one year younger — to first grade as his show and tell.

Martin Luther King Day is Monday, January 20. This might get overshadowed since that is also the day of the presidential inauguration.

Presidents Day falls on Monday, February 17. In 1879 a federal holiday was established honoring our first president, George Washington. Later — in the 1960s-1980s — legislation eventually changed the holiday to honor all presidents.

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 5 and officially is the beginning of Lent. We will likely have an Ash Wednesday service in the parish at a time and place to be announced.

Daylight Savings Time will start on Sunday begins on Sunday, March 9 (unless the congress decides to change/end it).



Spring Begins this quarter — on March 20. There is something to look forward to!



JANUARY

- 1 Dale & Sheri Fadley
4 W.A. "Willy" Hamm
6 Laurel Yates
Tommy Sullivan
8 Dennis Beine
9 Marvin Klamm
10 Arlen Klamm
12 Gail Swanstrom
13 Lisa Ivers
Eric Burger
15 Stephanie Melfeld
16 Darrell Hart
18 Stephanie Russell
20 Patti Beine
22 Michael Nienas
Annha (Klamm) Hannasch
Mark Lambrecht
Nick & Kate Naujokas
23 Katie Richardson
24 Travis Bengs
27 Emilie Brend
31 Nick Naujokas

FEBRUARY

- 2 Sharon (Mrs. John) Klamm
4 Calvin Holweger, Jr.
7 Michael Webb
Heidi Reiter
8 Michael Klamm
9 Greg Schroeder
10 Brent Griffin
Will Hahn
11 John Klamm
Casey Wollangk
Alanna Ivers
Bennett Grabanski
13 Abi Brend
15 Norma Riedemann
17 Josie Roeder
19 Joan Bahr
Natalie Karge
Tallulah Ellingson
20 Nathaniel Lange
Haley Hayes
22 Steven Ellingson
24 *Brian & Karen Schneider*



FEBRUARY CONTINUED

- 25 Steve Evanson
26 Sheri Fadley
Dennis Klamm
Blaine Melfeld
Elle Olson
Carter Servance
27 Carole Bosch
28 Faye Winters

MARCH

- 1 Nathan Klamm
Jaret Webb
2 Alexander Mehs
Leigh Mehs
8 Bradley Disrud
10 Caroline Chapman
11 Joshua Dahm
Jim Yates
Marsha Lange
12 *Brent & Shirley Griffin*
13 Jacqueline Salmonson
14 Shelley Wold
15 Janel Evanson
Brian & Marilyn Reigel
17 Brice Hendrickson
18 Timothy Lange
19 Kari Lange
20 Wayne Roeder
Kelly Winters
21 Larry Klamm
22 Aksel Roeder
23 Thomas Lambrecht
Eva Holweger
Kate Naujokas
24 Jerry Bengs
26 Holly Haug
27 Mike Yaeger
30 Linda Olson
31 Carla Krueger
Aaron Johnsen
Bryna Keenaghan
Cathy Hamm



Anna & Emilio Holmes Anni-birthsaries

Let us know about any changes!

Harwood answers call to lead Solar Oven Partners ministry

"I am excited just to be a part of this ministry," said Pastor Randy Harwood, who serves as a bi-vocational pastor in Casselton, N.D. "There are not many jobs where you can actually see a change or know you changed someone's life. That's how I see this ministry."

Harwood has been named as the new director for Solar Oven Partners (SOP), a mission ministry of the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church. For 23 years, SOP has distributed over 12,500 ovens to families who helped build and learn to use them in the Dominican Republic, Sierra Leone, and, most recently, the Navajo Nation in Arizona and New Mexico.

Solar Ovens allow cooking with only the power of the sun, saving wood, etc.

Editor's Note: Holmes has supported the Solar Oven Project over the years and will likely do so in the future as well.



The Editor's Corner

Christmas Decorations Down

When do you take down your Christmas decorations? I'm sure it varies for all of us. We enjoy our lit tree not only because it is a Christmas tree but a nice night light when we're watching TV.

The problem with taking down the decorations is that things can look rather drab, in our homes or in the church or in the community. Instead of seeing lights of various kinds when we drive around in January, there's just the street lights in town or whatever the sky affords in the country.

What can we do to make the "Bleak Midwinter" (to quote a hymn) better?

Think about what made Christmas good — assuming it was for you. The best was time together with family and friends, seeing the meaning of life in Christ and taking some time to reflect. We can do all those things all year long. Seek and appreciate the fellowship you can have with others. Focus on the Lord's plan for you. And take time to think about such things.

Holmes Works to Update Membership Data

The Holmes membership roll hasn't been closely examined for many years. Without even trying we have found some folks who are a part of other churches which shouldn't be on our membership and couple who should be but weren't. We aren't trying to shave our rolls, but just to get it right.



Sometimes churches send out letters to everyone about this. We think we can do this better just by talking to everyone. So you might get a call — especially if you aren't local or haven't been to church for while — just to see what you want to do. If you are part of another church we can send a transfer if needed or simply take you off the Holmes rolls. You are also welcome to keep your name here at Holmes. A person could simply withdraw their membership until they are part of a church in the future.

There may also be some who would like to join the church. Just run that by the Closest-Thing-You-Have-to-a Pastor which is Chaplain Mark.

Important! You can get the Newsletter no matter what.

People who aren't officially on our rolls are still welcome to receive the newsletter (if they want) so tell others! We'd be glad to see you, member or not, at services. We are an extended family after all.

Christmas Leftovers

I was walking around a new store in Grand Forks called Runnings (the old Home of Economy) when I heard a voice from behind saying, "Gonna miss you at the Live Nativity." This regular Nativity attender told how the experience had been positive.

Though it was the right decision to end our Nativity ministry, I was grieving just a bit. This was a tremendous ministry which touched thousands over the years as this fellow reminded me.

We were able to do for the nursing homes, which was healing.

May God help us to appreciate what He has done through us and give us new opportunities to serve.

-MSE



Facebook

Our NEW Parish Facebook page for parish announcements is "Holmes-Beaver Creek." If you have trouble let Mark or Sara O know.

The original Holmes page will still exist and will be used for streaming Sunday services.

Use the QR code here to find the new page.



Poinsettias at Holmes This Advent

A Poinsettia in memory of Eva Lenz given by Peggy, Ruby and Larry Sieg family.

A Poinsettia in memory of Kevin Anderson and Eugene Bengs given by Tammy Anderson.

A Poinsettia in memory of Ross Lange given by Veronica Knoll.

A Poinsettia in honor of our Savior Jesus Christ given by Dale & Shirley Beine.

A Poinsettia given in memory of our very good friend Dwight Ollman by Wayne & Donna Roeder.

A Poinsettia given in honor of the continuing ministry of Holmes and Beaver Creek churches by Mark & Betty Ellingson.

A Poinsettia given in memory of Dwight Ollman, Don & Dorothy Ollman, and William & Florence Wallace by Sara Ollman.

A Poinsettia given in honor of all the family and friends who have helped me this past couple months by Sara Ollman.



Holmes Finance Summary for 2024

1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024 (There may be a few things coming in or out yet)

INCOME

Mileage For Pulpit Supply	2,713.70
Offering	29,533.40
Other Income	3,944.72
Rental Income	3,979.65
Salary	9,825.00
TOTAL INCOME	49,996.47

EXPENSES

Apportionments	5,510.94
TOTAL Bills & Utilities	5,181.87
Business Supplies	165.00
Compensation	4,200.00
Conference	657.00
Insurance	4,533.00
Local Missions	250.20
Misc Business	2,323.08
Misc.	3,933.00
Office Supplies	1,509.41
Pulpit Supply	28,753.33
TOTAL EXPENSES	57,016.83
OVERALL TOTAL	-7,020.36

Thank-you for Mission Giving!

Below you see a thank-you note we received from the Stockman's Association for the donation coming from Holmes Harvest Sunday. A quarter of the offering (\$1,514) went to help deal with the aftermath of the Western ND fires. A similar amount was sent to another service which was helping out with recovery from the North Dakota fires.

Half of the offering (a bit over \$3,000) went to the Thanksgiving offering of the Dakotas Annual Conference to be sent to help with recovery from the hurricanes in the southeast part of the country.

Everyone — thank-you for giving to missions. This will not be your last opportunity to give in this way!

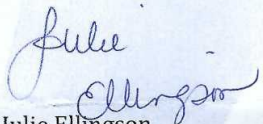
Dear Holmes United Methodist Church,

On behalf of the North Dakota Stockmen's Foundation, a heartfelt thanks to you for the generous \$1,514 gift to the Out of the Ashes Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund. Your contribution will be pooled with the Foundation's and Stockmen's Association's own gifts and distributed to cattle-ranching families devastated by the wildfires that hit the state beginning Oct. 5.

Thank you for reaching out to help those in need. With an estimated 100,000 acres scorched and losses ranging from farmsteads and fences to homes and livestock, I know the producers will never forget the destruction of the fire, nor the generosity and support shown to them by good neighbors like you. God bless you for your kindness.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Its federal identification number is 26-3385331. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation.

Sincerely,


Julie Ellingson
Executive Vice President

ENC. 1

More Thanks for Mission Giving!

Below you see a thank-you note we received from the ND Wildlife Federation for our donation coming from Holmes Harvest Sunday. A quarter of the offering (\$1,514) went to help deal with the aftermath of the Western ND fires. You can see another thank-you on the previous page of this newsletter.

Half of the offering (a bit over \$3,000) went to the Thanksgiving offering of the Dakotas Annual Conference to be sent to help with recovery from the hurricanes in the southeast part of the country.

Everyone — thank-you for giving to missions. This will not be your last opportunity to give in this way!

DEAR HOLMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND AND
THOUGHTFUL DONATION TO NDWIF'S
FIRE RELIEF PROGRAM, WHILE IT WILL
TAKE YEARS FOR THOSE IMPACTED TO
BUILD BACK, YOUR DONATION TO THEIR
CAUSE SHOWS THEM THAT THEY ARE
NOT ALONE,

GOD BLESS,

JOHN BRADLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE



The Tradition of Advent

BY ASHERITAH CIUCIU

An ancient church tradition, Advent, helps us prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." Observances often include an Advent calendar, daily devotionals and a wreath.

Using an Advent wreath is a fun visual object lesson that can impact all ages – from toddlers to grandparents. The Advent wreath involves an evergreen wreath with four candles, lit on successive Sundays in Advent, though some traditions add a fifth candle to be lit on Christmas Eve. Traditionally, the candles are purple, pink and white; however, you can choose to use all white candles instead.

The symbolism of each candle generally includes these variations:

- **First candle (purple):** Hope or Promise: We begin by remembering God's promise to provide a Savior to the world. This and subsequent candles may be purple to represent repentance. [ISAIAH 9:2](#)
- **Second candle (purple):** Preparation or Prophecy: The second candle reminds us that the prophets waited for a Messiah to come and save his people. It also offers opportunity to reflect on your own life, asking yourself how you're preparing for Jesus' return. [ISAIAH 40:3](#)
- **Third candle (pink):** Joy or Peace: The third candle reminds us that Jesus' birth brings joy to all who believe in him. This candle may be pink to represent rejoicing. [LUKE 2:10](#)
- **Fourth candle (purple):** Love or Adoration: The fourth candle reminds us that God demonstrated his love by sending his son, Jesus, to be born in a manger, to suffer and die for our sins, so we may live forever with him. [1 JOHN 4:10](#)
- **Fifth candle (white):** The fifth candle reminds us that the waiting is over. Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is born! The candle is white to remind us that Jesus is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior that makes us whiter than snow. [LUKE 2:11](#)

The evergreen wreath represents the eternity of God and everlasting life, available to all who believe in Jesus. The candles remind us of the light of Christ that overcomes the darkness of the world.

Create a family tradition by observing the Christmas season with an Advent wreath. Have your family members take turns lighting the candles and reading a special portion of Scripture related to the theme of the week. Make it a fun, memorable occasion that will ingrain the true meaning of Christmas in your children's hearts and minds for years to come.

Rediscover the joy of Christmas and point your little ones to Jesus by unwrapping his names one by one. Get your free 3-day sampler of *Unwrapping the Names of Jesus: An Advent Devotional* at tinyurl.com/UnwrappingTheNames.