

Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches

Newsletter—May 2024

INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT

As the “interim” pastor of the Benton / Willow Creek Lutheran parish, I plan and lead Sunday worship and a few other ministry items as designated by your church council. My ½ time contract allows me to finish out the confirmation year and bring Holy Communion to shut-ins, as time allows.

“Interim, by definition, means “between” – the period of time linking one fully called pastor with another.

The interim time is important for the congregation. I understand the waiting and uncertainty is not easy for most people, but the in-between time can allow the congregation to celebrate and be completed with the former pastoral leader and become ready and excited for the new pastoral leader. The task of the interim pastor is to keep the ministry going and provide space for the congregation to emotionally and spiritually let go of the former so they can embrace the new.

Calling a pastor is not like hiring a new employee. It is a time for prayer, with discerning where God is leading.

Calling a pastor is not like hiring an employee. Yes, the Call committee will review resumes and interview potential candidates, but the South Dakota Synod Bishop's office assists in connecting available pastors with vacant congregations. But the two – congregation and pastoral candidate – need to “fit”. They need to match (a little bit like dating). Benton / Willow Lake can afford to pay a pastor with limited amount of experience. The parish is in a rural setting that will appeal to some pastors and not to others. Your particular ministry needs (established in your congregation's Ministry Site Profile) will limit some candidates. The Bishop's office will help pair up potential pastors that fit your church's profile with your Call Committee for interview.

Ultimately, the decision lies with the Benton / Willow Lake parish whether to Call a particular pastor or not. And such decisions are best made with lots of prayer and time for reflection.

As best I can, I will be with you in the interim time.
Pastor Kent

“PARISH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”

Call Committee Update:

April 7th, 2024, a Parish meeting was held to update and inform Benton and Willow Creek as to the process for calling a new Pastor. Pastor Renee Splichal Larson from the SD Synod office was here to explain the call process and answer questions.

The Parish call committee has been meeting with Renee since Nov. 2023. During this time the site study and profile was completed. We are currently awaiting profiles from the Synod of candidates who are interested in our Parish. Once the call committee receives these profiles, they will review them and set up interviews.

Thank you for all the work the call committee has done and will continue to do with this process. Call committee members are Paul Mesner, Beth Warne, Bonnie Dybedahl, Gary Jongeward, Kerrie Arens and Linda Person

Some Dates to Remember:

Benton Rural Life Sunday- May 5th
Last Day of Sunday School – May 5th
Last Day of Confirmation- May 8th
Baltic Graduation – May 11th
Dell Rapids Graduation – May 11th

Mother's Day – May 12th
West Central Graduation – May 18th
Tri-Valley Graduation – May 18th
Memorial Day – May 27th

CHURCH SERVICE TIME CHANGES – SUMMER HOURS

Sunday, June 2nd, 2024 – Sunday, September 1st, 2024
Willow Creek 8:30am, Benton 10:00am

OFFERINGS - WAYS TO GIVE:

As the summer months arrive and we all get very busy with kids sporting events and family vacations, our Sunday attendance drops quite a bit as well do our offerings. We continue to have bills to pay and ongoing projects. If you are unable to attend services but would like to give, we have made some convenient ways to continue your offerings. We appreciate your faithfulness, Thank you.

MAIL : Benton PO Box 706 Crooks, SD 57020

Willow Creek 24795 470th Ave Dell Rapids, SD 57022

ELECTRONIC GIVING Check the websites giving image.

www.wclcdellrapids.org & www.bentonelca.org

BENTON'S 'TEXT TO GIVE'

1: Text “give” to the number **1-605-205-7789**. The automated response will direct you to the webpage. Once the system has your number stored, this will be a simple way to give right during the offering time!

2: The donations webpage through your browser is

<https://bentonchurch.breezechms.com/give/online>



FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED

Primary needs assessed for this month: Canned fruit, peanut butter and jelly. Please **no** expired or opened food.

Donations can also be dropped off at Baltic City Hall, Baltic School Commons, or in the entry way of Baltic Lutheran or East Nidaros Church.

Monetary Donations – Mail to PO Box 244 Baltic SD 57003

REMINDERS:

Please look for updated info on worship & events via our websites, Facebook pages, weekly announcements or by contacting the office.

(bentonwillowoffice@gmail.com)

wclcdellrapids.org & bentonelca.org

ANNOUNCEMENT: *All Willow Creek & Benton Announcements for the bulletin should be emailed by Tuesday at Noon each week, and Newsletter Announcements by the 15th of each month. Thank you!* (bentonwillowoffice@gmail.com)

“BENTON NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”



Rural Life Sunday Celebration – Sunday, May 5th

The annual Benton Lutheran Rural Life Sunday begins with **9:30am Sunday School for all ages**. There will be a rural themed Sunday School in the light of God’s Creation. Farmers bring animals, seeds, dirt, and rural decorations to help us all celebrate our rural roots. **At 10:45am** we will worship outdoors (weather permitting) and include a blessing of the Seed, Soil, Water, Animals, and the Farmers. This is a great day to invite your friends and neighbors to come and worship with us. **A kid friendly rural meal will be served following worship!** *This Sunday will also be the Last Day of Sunday School.*

Benton Worship Teams:

May 5th, 2024, First Team—Doug & Sandy

May 12th, 2024, Second Team—Roger & Linda

May 19th, 2024, Third Team, Cheryl & Connie

May 26th, 2024, Fourth Team—Butch & Lorri

TEAM HELP NEEDED!

*Are you on a Benton Worship Team? If not, please contact the office (bentonwillowoffice@gmail.com) so we can connect you with a Sunday morning Team. We are looking for willing hearts and hands to assist with our Sunday morning routine—**especially those interested and able to run our camera/ IPAD during service. This is a great opportunity for our youth to get involved in their church family!**

Benton 2024 Church Council Members:

Dan Larson (President), Maria Kendle, Wade Mulder, Rocky Foster, Nathan Stroschein, Roger Person, Amanda Schuette, Sandy Schuette, Rick Arens

List of Active Boards: Who are your contacts?

Christian Education – Amanda Schuette

Evangelism – Roger Person

Property – Rocky Foster

Worship – Sandie Schuette

Mission – Maria Kendle

Stewardship – Dan Larson

“WILLOW CREEK NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”



Willow Creek Church will be Celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2025.

As we prepare to celebrate, we want to ensure that our celebration appeals to the majority of our members. Please complete a survey on the table in church entry. Feel free to write in any others ideas.

Surveys will be gathered at the end of May 2024.

We also need members to contact a committee member and join a subcommittee to assist with planning.

Correspondence and Hospitality - Linda Linge

Worship and Program - Paul Mesner

Finance - Kevin Hoekman

History - Kevin Hoekman

Catering - Andy Berg

Decorating - Bonnie Dybedahl

(Please let me know if you have questions.)

Thank you,

Linda Linge (605-212-2400)

Willow Creek Worship Teams:

May 5th, 2024, Team 2—Craig & Bonnie Dybedahl, Paul & Mary Mesner, Pat Nytroe, Steve & Sherri Tokheim

May 12th, 2024, Team 3—Linda Linge, Terry & Kris Smart, Eric & Jenna Smart (Louisa & Lilah), Jared & Brenda Deters, Jay & Tina Soderquist (Mya & Grace)

May 19th, 2024, Team 4—Justin & Lyndsay Koepp (Faith and Sawyer), Ken & Debbie Mader, Shane & Beth Warne, Nancy Offerman, Steve Schmidt, Austin & Shelby Schmidt (Lily & Elliot)

May 26th, 2024, Team 5— Rick & Sandy Zwart, Jason & Erin Mitzel (Max), Steve & Kim Bazata (Kael & Mack), David Olson (Levi)

2024 Willow Creek Council:

President - Katie Hoekman

Vice President - Justin Koepp

Treasurer - Kevin Hoekman

Secretary - Tina Soderquist

Deacons - David Olson & Steve Bazata

Trustees - Terry Smart & Eric Smart

2024 Willow Creek Committees:

Education: Erin Mitzel, Kim Bazata

Worship and Music: Kris Smart, Lisa Rave, and Paul Mesner

Mission: Steve Schmidt, Pat Nytroe, Phyllis Koepp

Cemetery: Craig Dybedahl (Sexton), Al Hilmoe, Shane Warne, Paul Sunderman.

MEN'S COFFEE / QUILTING LADIES

Join us Saturdays at 8:30am at Willow Creek for food, coffee, and fellowship. Join us Mondays at 9am as we enjoy quilting and fellowship at Willow Creek.



MAY Birthdays – HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

1 Benjamin Berg **2** Josh Schuette **3** Karla Hosinger, Steven Walters **4** Andrew Mulder, Jackie Benson, Adams Robert **5** Keith Halverson, Deanne Underwood, Christina Halverson, Amanda Schuette **6** Conner Person, Jason Mitzel **7** Lee Person, Ginger Rumzis **8** Ashton Benson, Levi Kretzschmar **9** Ezekiel Hilmoe **10** Shannon Lofswald **11** Carol Johnson, Melissa Klein, Kiley Riedel, Linda Linge **12** Jordan Person, Brynn Kindelspire **13** Tamie Hartman **14** Carter Warne **15** Connie Knippling, Jason Mitzel, Michelle Henderson, Brooke Chabra **16** Robert Person, Ellie Larson, Lilli Schenkel **17** Daren Heidebrink **18** Ron Person, Keith Johnson **19** Brittney Kendle, Kenneth Mader **20** Delight Jensen, Laura Larson **21** Trevor Freudenthal, Cooper Klein **22** Brady Bernards, Emmalyn Letson, Elijah Hoekman **23** Dale Benson, Emma Gulbrandson **25** Gregg Hilmoe **26** Daxten Cornelius Scheibler **27** Joyce Linge, Sandy Schuette **28** Leon Johnson **29** Aspen McGreevy



Mother's Day Word Search



B N A M D N A R G D J V K B E C P U
 I S N O S S E L X Q N T C N D O R J
 M V K J J R Z G L F M O T H E R E K
 V N V A D Y H V M G E S L O V E S S
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 Y R T L I P Q S M U B I R T H E N S
 P V O Z H M I E N A D U E S U F T V
 T P G F C I W K I S S G W Z I Y S B
 X Z P B A F A M I L Y B O N Z C T W
 G W H W D G N D K I R E L W A P T F
 N H O F Q G A P A Z K S F Q D M Z F
 W V O D W E S A D Q A I U B W O N J
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 C Z T A E E V H O M L C U M Q W I M
 R C O O K I N G N X V G V B M J F I



MOTHER
 GRANDMA
 FLOWERS
 ADOPTION
 WISE



CHILD
 LOVE
 PRESENTS
 PERFUME
 LESSONS



PARENT
 FAMILY
 BIRTH
 KISS
 COOKING



myunentitledlife.com

To all our wonderful Mom's out there.

"Happy Mother's Day"