



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**PERLEY LUTHERAN PARISH**  
**KIRKEBO AND NORA LUTHERAN CHURCHES**  
**346 WELCH ST. – P.O. BOX 379**  
**PERLEY, MN 56574-0379**  
Rev. John A. Jorgensen, Pastor

Home: **701-540-8635**

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January 2015

## ***Grace is a Gift—God's Riches at Christ's Expense***

Dear Members and Friends:



May all of you have a most Blessed New Year! This past year has been a very difficult one for so many of you: the loss of loved ones, increasing medical problems, financial woes, the end of personal relationships --- I could go on and on. Let's pray that this year will be so much different.

I want to thank all who made possible our Advent, Christmas and Sunday School Christmas programs this year, including those of you who put up the decorations.



And Barb and I thank all of you for your greetings, cards and gifts. They are so appreciated.



For our Advent Devotions this year Barb and I used a booklet written by Shelly Cunningham and entitled *Your People Long to Greet You*. She wrote the following based on Philippians 1:3-6.

*Imagine that today is bread-making day. It starts with a little yeast and warm water, dissolved in a bowl. Cups of flour and spoonfuls of salt are gently mixed in. It's a mess on the counter until the kneading process blends everything together. Finally, a lump of dough is carefully turned into a bowl and set aside to rise. It doesn't look like much...but with time and patience, the lump of dough will expand until it becomes a loaf of tasty goodness.*

*The promise that something beautiful will come from an unfinished "mess" isn't limited to bread dough. Paul writes that God "who began a good work in you will be faithful to bring it to completeness"*

*The truth is, God isn't finished with any of us...thank goodness. But it takes patience, faith and confidence to trust that wherever you find yourself --- even if it feels like a mess --- is not your final destination.*

One way that God molds us and helps us come to that destination is in Worship and in the reception of Holy Communion. These prepare us for the daily tasks of serving Christ --- as we serve all of the people we encounter each day.



If you haven't been faithful in Worship and in the celebration of the Holy Meal, January would be a good time to come back to enjoy the fellowship of your fellow Christians. Two of the couples in our congregations have shared with me that they would miss one Sunday, then another --- and many more --- until they were completely out of the habit of coming. Worship is not really a **bad** habit.



And once they came back, they couldn't figure out what took them so long. They are so happy to be back. So, if you have been away from Worship, why don't you come back, as well, OK?

Love,  
Pastor John



**Remember in Prayer:**

Please remember in prayer all of our family and friends who have been dealing with health issues this past month including: Gannon {Vern and Claudia Cleveland's grandson}, John

Jossund, Ralph Hest, Gloria Millegan, Evie Nelson and Doug Dosland, in his continuing battles with cancer. (If you know of others, please bring this to our attention so that they can be included in our worship and in home prayers.)

We remember our friends in area nursing homes, including: Myrtle Tollefsrud and Curtis Ellenson at Bethany; and Betty Lerud at Manor Care.

We also remember our friends and family members who are in assisted living or their own homes but less mobile, including: Del Upman, Marlys Dullum, Gloria Peterson, Lloyd Ellenson, Cynthia Johnson, Burton & Alice Larson, Evie Nelson, Barb Newberg, Sherman Hoganson, Sylvia Holte, and Deb Jacobson.

And as always, we remember our military men and women, serving both at home and abroad. And the people in so many countries now suffering from war and displacement.

If any names have be omitted, please call or leave a note for Secretary Sandy or for Pastor John. **PLEASE DO NOT** tell him when in line following a Worship Service, or he will likely forget. You could hand him a note at that time.

**Church Contact Information**

Pastor John: 701-540-8635  
Kirkebo Church: 218-861-6541  
Nora Church: 701-860-6681  
Parish Secretary Sandy: 218 861-6395  
Kirkebo WELCA: 218-233-0290  
Nora WELCA: 710-484-5538



**WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

Nora WELCA will meet on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon at *Sons of Norway Viking Room*. We each pay for our own meal.

**Bible Study:** Pastor John  
**Devotions:** Helen Madson  
**Worship Meditation:** Helen Madson

Nora Christmas tree should be down before January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Stewardship:** postage stamps  
**Cleaners:** Doug Rensvold and Ron Ellenson Families

**Birthdays:**

January 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jean Emery  
1201 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N. #411  
Fargo, ND 50102

January 16<sup>th</sup>: Alice Larson  
Valley View Heights  
2500 Valley View Ave. #264  
Bismarck, ND 58501

January 16<sup>th</sup>: Adele Reierson  
4764 51<sup>st</sup> St. S.  
Fargo, ND 58104

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**Kirkebo WELCA will not meet in January.**

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**WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP?**



Barbara Jorgensen wants to know if there are a number of women who would commit to join with her in a study group in an evening or on the week-end.

We could choose to study a book of the Bible or we could choose a good book to read and to discuss together. The ELCA Women have also produced a fine bi-monthly magazine (great articles) that contains Bible study material.

We could choose to meet at either Nora or Kirkebo, alternate between the two, or we could meet in the Jorgensen's town house in West Fargo. Please let her know of your willingness to commit and of your ideas.



## ANNUAL MEETINGS

Our two congregations have scheduled their Annual Meetings. Kirkebo will meet at 11:40 a.m. on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. Nora will conduct their Annual Meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:40 a.m. Each will follow an abbreviated Worship Service beginning at 11:00 a.m. A potluck meal will follow each annual meeting!

## JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL

Our joint church council (Kirkebo and Nora) will meet at Kirkebo on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars so that we will have everyone in attendance.



## NORA'S CHURCH COUNCIL

The Nora Church Council will meet on the first Sunday in February, February 1<sup>st</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

## SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

It's nice to think about summer just now, but we know that it is a long way off. In fact, we are just at the beginning of winter.



But with the Joint Church Council meeting in early January, there is something we want you to consider, and to express any ideas that you might have to members of our two councils before that meeting.

Worship attendance always seems to be much better at the 10:00 a.m. service in the summer than at the 8:30 a.m. service.

Would you like to schedule a 10:00 a.m. service at both congregations with Pastor John and Barb leading the two services, alternating back and forth? Every other Sunday they would move to the other congregation.

When they vacation in July, that service would also be at 10:00 a.m. So, every summer service would be at 10:00 a.m.

## PASTOR JOHN'S WINTER VACATION



Each winter Pastor John and Barb like to spend a week in the south, this year once again at Clearwater Beach in Florida, to thaw out. This is one of the perks with being a retired pastor.

This year we will take Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, through Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, meaning that we will be gone on Sundays January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>. On those Sundays we will have a joint Worship Service at 11:00 a.m., at Nora for the first and at Kirkebo for the second.

We always take our winter vacation after the Advent and Christmas season and before the season of Lent begins.

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



*"Yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present."*

*from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane*

May we see our lives as a present from God that we use to bring him glory and praise. We each need to ask: ***How can I do that where I work and live and play?***

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

### Kirkebo:

- 6 - Vicky Borgen
- 10 - Morgan Taylor
- 11 - Rada Gullekson
- 14 - Natalie Krogstad
- 16 - John Jossund
- 18 - Logan Nelson
- 22 - Vernee Martell
- 25 - Linda Magnuson  
Kent Thompson  
Michael Hoff
- 28 - Sara Jobgen  
Heather Guttormson

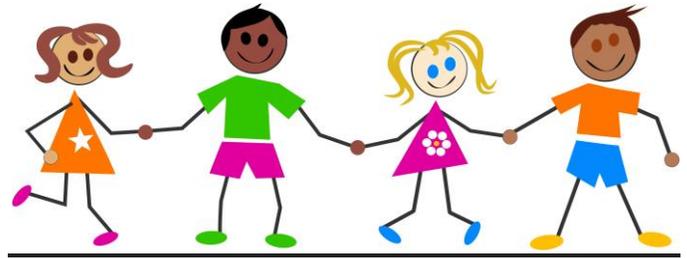


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### Nora:

- 3 - Chris Lougheed  
Noah Christensen  
Jean Emery
- 5 - John Ellenson
- 6 - Ron Brauckmuller
- 10 - Emme Renee Jalbert
- 11 - Nils Buringrud  
Jennifer Martin
- 15 - Jodi Schmitz
- 16 - Alice Larson  
Adele Reierson
- 23 - Alex Knudson
- 24 - Syllas Mead
- 30 - Erin Novotny
- 31 - Doug Smith Sr.

## Just a Reminder:



Sunday School resumes on  
January 11.

## ANNUAL REPORTS DUE IN JANUARY

Please prepare the Annual Reports as soon as possible in January. If at all possible have them print ready either as hard copy or, if you have a computer, copy them to a CD or flash drive or email the file to [swgjervold@loretel.net](mailto:swgjervold@loretel.net). You may also drop them at the church.

## KIRKEBO MEMBERS:

If you would like a total of your contributions for 2014, please contact Sandy at 218-861-6395 or email at [swgjervold@loretel.net](mailto:swgjervold@loretel.net).

### **In Loving Memory of Michael R. Buringrud**

Michael R. Buringrud, 60, of Gardner, ND died peacefully in his home on Saturday, November 29, 2014 surrounded by his loving family and under the care of Hospice of the Red River Valley, after a courageous 17-month battle with pancreatic cancer.

Michael was born February 24, 1954 to Nils and Elaine Buringrud of Gardner, ND. He retired in 1997 and enjoyed fishing, boating, attending dirt track races, watching NASCAR, tinkering on cars, and spending time with family. Michael was so excited about recently becoming a grandpa and truly enjoyed all the time he spent with his Dad and their many outings together.

Michael served on the North Cass Water Resource District Board since July 19, 1993, and became Chairman in 1999. He also served on the Cass County Joint Water Resource District Board since 1999. He took his work on water issues very seriously and his efforts provided benefits for people throughout the county and the region.

Michael is survived by his wife Eileen, Gardner, ND; children David, Jessica (Derek) Houim, and Steven, all of Fargo, ND; his grandson Jarrett Michael Houim; his father Nils Buringrud; sisters Wanda Hoffman, Marcia Buringrud; brothers Terry Buringrud, Jon Buringrud; and many nieces and nephews.

Michael was preceded in death by his mother Elaine Buringrud, and sister Marilyn Hein.



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### **In Loving Memory of Nora Nelson**

Nora Nelson, 97, died at Eventide Lutheran Home in Moorhead, MN, on Sunday, December 21.

She was born on November 28, 1917, at Perley, MN, to Oscar Sr. and Ida (Hovland) Nelson. She grew up and attended school at Perley and lived and worked in Clay County all of her life.

She is survived by her brothers Oscar (Grace) Nelson, Moorhead, MN, and James L. (Dorothy) Nelson, Sabin, MN, and sister Pernell Jones, Valdosta, GA, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Lorraine Potratz and Alice Erickson and brothers Norman and Arthur Nelson.

Nora's funeral was held December 27 in Wright Funeral Home, Moorhead, MN. Interment will be at Bethania Cemetery, rural Perley.