

THE HERALD



From the Pastor:

October 2016

You may have heard of the Presbyterian Church referred to as a “connectional” church. It is our polity, our form of government. The Presbyterian Church is made up of the various “councils.” Council refers to the various governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church. The councils are the General Assembly (the national church); Synod, a region made up of presbyteries. In our case we are in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, made up of the Presbyterian Churches in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Presbytery is another council. We are in Homestead Presbytery, which includes the churches of eastern Nebraska, except for the Omaha area. The session of each local church is the remaining council.

What we mean by connectional is that each council is responsible to the more inclusive council. In other words, we are responsible to Homestead Presbytery. Presbytery must approve of the pastors that churches have called and approve the terms of calls of all pastors. Each year the session records are reviewed by the presbytery. If a church wants to sell property, or borrow money with a mortgage on the church, presbytery must approve it. Synod reviews the minutes of the presbyteries within their bounds, and the General Assembly reviews the minutes of the synods. These are just some examples of what it means to be a connectional church.

So why are we connectional? Why must each council be accountable to the more inclusive council? Because of our ecclesiology. Ecclesiology is the study of and our belief and understanding of the church. As Presbyterians we believe there is only one church, the church of Jesus Christ. You may note that in our creeds we declare our belief in the “holy catholic church.” This is NOT a reference to the Roman Catholic Church. Catholic, with the little “c” means the church universal, not just the Roman Church. Because there is only one church, we are all members of the one church. Each local church is a “branch office” of the universal church. It is unfortunate that the church of Jesus Christ is divided by denominations.

A Biblical example of the connectional nature of the church is found in Acts 15, a story known as the council at Jerusalem. The apostles and elders of the church met to consider the matter whether the Gentiles had to be circumcised to become Christians. We read that they “had no small dissension and debate with them.” (I like to refer to this as the first presbytery meeting!)

This ecclesiology, this understanding of the church, is also why the Presbyterian Church has been a leader in ecumenical work. We have been major contributors and participants in the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, the Consultation on Church Union which in 2002 became the Churches Uniting in Christ. For about four or five years I was the Presbyterian Church’s representative to the National Council of Churches Deaf Ministry Committee.

We must remember what we gain from being a connectional church. We have Presbyterian seminaries that train our pastors. General Assembly publishes Sunday School curriculum, to insure that we are teaching the Bible from a reformed understanding of our faith. The General Assembly publishes the *Book of Common Worship* and hymn books, such as the new *Glory to God* hymnal. This hymnal has been widely received by the church, and many non-Presbyterian churches use the hymnal. First Plymouth Congregational in Lincoln uses this hymnal. They are in good company! Many Presbyteries own and operate church camps. Research has indicated that church camping is one of the most influential ways the church can nurture their youth. The General Assembly prints books and other resources for churches and people.

If you have any questions about the polity (governing) of the Presbyterian Church, or about the connectional nature of the church, contact me!

Raymond A. Meester



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

- 04 Sebastian Newman
- 06 Shawna Haas
- 08 Lynette Helms
- 08 Andrew Singaas
- 10 Dawn Thompson
- 12 Haylea Lowe
- 17 Judy Guillatt
- 18 Frances Beurivage
- 20 Sharron Scheidt
- 20 Mark Smith
- 22 Curtis Pester
- 23 Levonne Salisbury
- 28 Ron Smith
- 28 C. Harvey Traudt
- 28 Clint Werner
- 29 Patrice Gaines
- 30 Melanie Haas
- 31 Sharon Baker
- 31 Sherill Quist



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Tom & Patty Doering
- 03 James Robertson & Jane Bitney
- 05 Bruce & Dehnia Bullerdiek
- 06 Arnold & Sharon Wells (55 years)
- 09 Duane & Barbara Kennedy
- 09 Andrew & Kate Singaas

Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was omitted or incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dorothy & Robert Hill and Dee Erlich were publicly received as new members during worship on September 18.

ONGOING YOUTH FUNDRAISERS

REMINDER TO SAVE BEST CHOICE UPCS AND USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES



As of September 18 only 153 more Best Choice UPC's are needed to have the next

1,000 needed for redemption. Thanks to all who continue to save them for our Youth.

HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB

*Congratulations to renewing and new Heritage Birthday Club Members
Loretta Neill & Ilah Harmon*



Consider renewing or joining Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) are made to our endowment fund. These gifts will be used to ensure that our ministry can continue in the future.



THANK YOU, HERITAGE, FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT OF OUR SUMMER MISSION PROJECTS!

- A clean-up bucket and three hygiene kits will be donated to the PDA from Heritage
- Numerous items (pots, jars, utensils) were donated to the church kitchen
- Randolph School will have an extra supply of pencils/paper/kleenex for use by their students

COFFEE CORNER



Don't forget to shop our coffee corner for fair trade products from Equal Exchange. In addition to coffee you will find teas, chocolate and olive oil. Thank you for helping to support

small farmers!

LINCOLN'S ANNUAL CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday afternoon, October 9.



Register and receive your walker packet from Ramona Meester. See insert for more information.

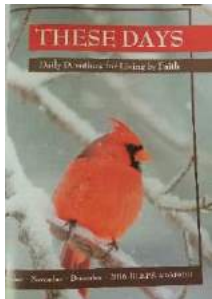
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Circle will meet on October 4th in the Gibson Room at 10:00 a.m. We will be studying John 11: *Back from the Dead*. All women are welcome even if you have not come before.

THESE DAYS DEVOTIONALS

These Days devotionals for October-December are available for pick up in the narthex and by the back parking lot door. They are made available for your use by the Christian Education Committee.



LET US WELCOME AMBER RUMBAUGH-OFFICE ASSISTANT

Please help us give a warm welcome to our new office assistant Amber Rumbaugh. She has been married to her husband Josh for 14 years and is a very busy mom to 4 boys. Though she is busy with school and sports with her children she enjoys playing softball and singing karaoke! Please join us in welcoming her and making her feel at home!



Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Peace & Global Witness Offering. The offering's theme, *Come to the Table of Peace*, invited all of us to be a part of the work for peace in our world. We do not know yet if we met our goal of \$500.00, but our congregation's 25% share will be directed to St. Monica's. **THANK YOU!**

Offering envelopes are available in the church pews or from an usher through Sunday, October 2nd.

COME TO THE TABLE

Join us on October 9 for *Come to the Table* Sunday. This date coincides with Global Food Week of Action October 9-17, an event supported by the Presbyterian Hunger Program. PHP is asking churches what is being done to end hunger and poverty in the community or across the globe. Join us as we:

- Donate non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry (community outreach)
- Bring our coins for the Cents Ability – this year's collections will be shared between the Food Pantry and the Presbyterian Hunger Program (community and global outreach)
- Share a meal with others at a potluck lunch after the morning worship (congregation outreach)

For more information about how individuals can support the Global Food Week, go to www.presbyterianmission.org/story/global-food-week-action-october-9-17

SAVE THESE DATES

September 28 – Session meets in Gibson Room at 6:30 PM

October 9 – Children Sing in worship

October 16th – November 6th – Hat & Mitten Drive for Randolph School

November 6 – Dedication of Heart of Heritage (Stained Glass)

All Saints' Day Remembrance during worship
Taco del Fiesta & Silent Auction Mission Fundraiser

November 20th- Hanging of the Greens

December 18th- Choir Cantata and Children's program during Worship



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL WRITERS NEEDED

Writers are needed for Homestead's Advent Devotional. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kris Peterson at 402-580-0947 or email krisp@homesteadpre.org

ALL SAINTS' DAY BANNER

A banner will be available in mid October on which you may add a bell with a red ribbon to remember a loved one who has passed away. Please add the name of the deceased person you are remembering to the list when you add their name to the banner.

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**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**



October 24th

Items received after

October 24th may not be included

Please refer to the online calendar for upcoming events.

Lectionary for October:

October 2nd-Lamentations 1:1-6; Lamentations 3:19-26; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

October 9th-Jeremiah 29:1-4; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 16th-Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

October 23rd-Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

October 30th-Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10