Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15
November and December are great months.

- On All Saint’s Sunday we remember the saints who were promoted to heaven during the last year.
- We will be having a lefse making day! Check the newsletter for information!
- Thanksgiving worship; when we give extra special thanks and gratitude to our Lord for the blessings of the past year, and the blessings coming down the road.
- The Sundays of Advent; when we remind ourselves of the special gift of the Incarnation: Immanuel.
- The Sunday School Christmas program; when the children have the chance to tell the story of Christmas.
- Christmas caroling; when we remember our members who can no longer get to church, but still like to see their church friends and hear the Christmas carols.
- Christmas Eve worship. That special feeling when we snuggle close in a warm sanctuary, and thank God for the day his Son took his first earthly breath in this world. And went on to save us.
- Worship on New Year’s Eve day. I know. That is usually a rather low attendance day. But I hope to see a lot of you on that day. We will sing many hymns and worship songs. A good way to end one year, and begin a new chapter.
Greetings!

On behalf of the Pontoppidan Executive and Parish Planning Council, we extend our gratitude to Pastor Doug for 30 years of service. We are thankful for the many baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, confirmation classes, bible studies, visitations, and music gifts that he has shared. As Doug transitions to a well-deserved retirement, where he can spend more time with his grandchildren, on the golf course, with his family, and worshiping, we would like to provide the congregation with an update on timing and Call Process.

Before we get into the details, as the Church President, I feel blessed to work with your elected council members. I’m confident that we are not only going to transition smoothly to a new Pastor, I am confident that you have elected the best servants of God to lead your congregation.

Here is a roster of your leadership team:

1. Paul Linstad, Vice President
2. Eva Blanchard, Secretary
3. Jenny Trogstad, Treasurer
4. Cindy Linstad, Director of Worship
5. Ben Hushka, Director of Discipleship
6. Krista Steele, Director of Evangelism
7. Aaron Fagerwick, Director of Fellowship
8. Scott Spanjer, Director of Ministry

In addition, we have LaDonne Vik leading the Nominating Committee, Carrie Snyder leading the Foundation Board, Lisa Vig leading the Youth Group, Kim Stromberg leading Sunday school.

- **In July 2017**, the Executive team met with the ELCA Synod office representative, Charlie Axness, to gather resources, understand timeline and expectations, and solicit advice on next steps. Charlie’s advice was to ‘honor Doug’s last months of service’, hire an interim for 12-18 months, and undergo a Ministry Site Profile (MSP) to help us define our core strengths as a church so we can share this with pastoral candidates during the call process.
- **In November 2017**, Charlie Axness is meeting with the PPC.
- **In December 2017**, Charlie Axness, as the Synod Representative, will identify an Interim Pastor. Pastor Charlie is very familiar with our church, with Doug’s leadership, and our needs.
- **January 2018**, Synod Office will conduct a Ministry Site Profile and hold an open forum.
- **April 2018**, Congregation will vote on the Call Committee membership at the Tri-Annual Meeting
- **April 2018**, the Market Study results will be presented at the Tri-Annual meeting
- **May 2018**, Call Committee will be installed.
- **Summer 2018**, Call committee training on process and interviewing
- **September to December 2018**, Candidates for Personal interviews selected.
- **December 2018**, Extending the Call to the best candidate to lead Pontoppidan.

I am confident in the process, the leadership team, the Synod office and your patience that we will find the best Pastor for the future so we can continue to **Proclaim the Gospel, Live in Christ, and Care for Neighbors**. If you have any questions at all, please call or talk to any of the leadership team or please give me a call. I can be reached at 701.361.9270 or pmcgee2@hotmail.com.

I welcome your call and your Input…

Pam McGee, President, Pontoppidan Lutheran Church
Greetings from the Foundation Board!

This past year we have been pretty active in the congregation and I wanted to share a few highlights to let you know how we were able to help the members of Pontoppidan.

In December, the board was able to approve $6,000 in donations to 16 local organizations in our community. This was up from the last year, as the interest earned on our Mission account increased from the previous year.

The Foundation was able to help send two members to Pathways camp, gave a scholarship to a member of the congregation to go to Concordia College, and helped pay for a youth trip this past July.

We were also able to help offset the cost of repairs of the heating system by $7,000.

The board receives many requests for benevolence, and we take all these requests into consideration per the by-laws.

The Foundation has not had any donations for over 2 years now, and this does affect in the long run how much we are able to spend out of our Mission, Program, and Building Improvements and Repair Funds. I encourage you to consider the Foundation when looking to donate to the church, or when planning your estate.

When I was nominated to the board almost 6 years ago, I had no idea what the board did, or to be honest, that it even existed. I started as vice-chair and was moved to president the past 2.5 years. I learned a lot about the church, the generosity of people who bequeathed money to the Foundation, and have enjoyed the warm feelings that come with helping a fellow church member be able to attend a youth camp, helping financially with church repairs, or helping in our community with costs of running operations that impact people in our church.

My time with the board will be finished this spring, and I hope there are a few of you out there who would love to join the board and feel as fulfilled as I have while serving.

Please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Carrie Snyder
Foundation Board President
Caring for our Neighbors  Submitted by Jackie Jabens, WELCA Stewardship Rep

Reminders to be thankful and opportunities to share our blessings and abundance are all around us this time of the year. These are Pontoppidan’s current WELCA stewardship projects:

- The annual **ELCA Thankoffering** ingathering. These monetary gifts are sent to the churchwide organization in Chicago to support the ongoing ministries of the Women of the ELCA. An envelope is provided in this newsletter.
- The **New Life Center** serves many people in need; we can help by providing them with warm clothing; winter socks, mittens, gloves, caps, and scarves, etc. Items may also be used as long as they are clean and in good condition. Please place your donations in the grocery cart.
- The **YWCA Unique Boutique**. Every December, the YWCA is transformed into a holiday store where families utilizing the shelter’s services are able to shop for presents for their immediate family members at no cost. Mothers lovingly search for gifts on their children’s wish lists while children excitedly race to find the perfect gift for mom – and keep it a secret! This magical event features various gifts to choose from, all generously donated from individuals, organizations, and churches. Gift items of all kinds (new only, please) and Christmas wrappings, bows, etc. are needed. There is a box by the church office for these donations.
- The **Pastor’s Discretionary Fund**. Pastor Doug receives many requests for assistance throughout the year; this fund allows him to share our blessings with those in urgent need. These gifts may be brought to a circle meeting, delivered to the church office, or placed in the offering plate (please be sure to designate your gift clearly).
- We also begin anew collecting bath size bars of soap for LWR. Donations may be placed in the blue bin near the church office door.

October is Lutheran World Relief shipping month and, on the 16th, several of Pont’s members loaded up and delivered boxes packed with 54 quilts, 90 school kits and 21 pounds of soap to Midwest Motor Express to be shipped to LWR and then overseas. From those who bring soap and school supplies, to the quilters and sewers, to the packers and deliverers, we say “Thank you, good and faithful servants!”

“Thank you, wise and loving God, for this season of joy and wonder. Thank you too, for the gifts you have given me, and for the feelings of happiness and satisfaction that sharing them with others brings me.” Amen

**WELCA EVENTS:**

◊ **November 7, 2017 at 1:30 pm Business meeting in the Living Room:** The budget will be looked at, revised if needed, and approved for the next year. We also will have reports from our representatives. Paulette will be leading a thank offering service. The offering will be sent to the National WELCA organization in Chicago to support programs nationally. You will be receiving the thank offering envelope in this newsletter. All members of Pontoppidan are invited to participate in this offering. It can be brought to the church office or put in the church offering during the month of November if you are unable to attend our business meeting. Please give as you are able.

◊ **Looking ahead: December 5th is our Advent Tea at 7:00 pm.** The program will be the “Prime Time Singers”. They sang for us a couple years ago and they are a very talented and entertaining group of singers and will be a perfect way to start the Advent /Christmas season. Hope to see the sanctuary filled for this event. Please invite friends or family members to join you. We will then go to fellowship hall for our Advent tea for special treats and fellowship! It is a very special evening and all women of Pontoppidan are invited to attend.
Greetings from Sunday School!

A quick recap of our Fall

- We gave out Bibles to our new 3 year olds joining Sunday School as well as new Learner Bibles for our grade 3 students.
- We have sang 2 times during Worship
- We had a Scavenger Hunt during Sunday School. We read stories or looked up verses that pertained to each Hunting Spot!
- We have learned a new song that we use for offering during music
- God’s Work Our Hands! We have donated $99.34 in spare change to Central African Republic.
- We have 58 students on our Sunday School rosters

Looking Ahead

- **November 12th**-We will begin practicing for our Christmas Program, please try to attend each Sunday to learn our music and practice parts! PARENTS, if you know your student will be gone for the Christmas Program on the 17th, please reach out to Kim Stromberg or the church office as soon as possible. THANK YOU.
- **November 19th**-Sunday School sings at 10 AM Worship | We will be frosting cookies as a large group during Sunday School.
- **Saturday, December 16th**-Grades 1st-6th only, we will be having our Christmas Program rehearsal in the Sanctuary at 10 AM.
- **December 17th**-Sunday School Christmas Program during 10 AM Worship
- **December 24th** and **31st**-NO SUNDAY SCHOOL | We resume Sunday School on January 7th at 11:05 AM

There are many joyful family events and worship services to participate in during the months of November and December.

Please read the newsletter and the Sunday Bulletins carefully!

Sunday School Needs:

- Looking for donations of white frosting and fall sprinkles. (Please leave in church office or Sunday School office prior to November 19th.)
- Solid assorted colors of 3/8” or 1/2” satin ribbon

Please watch the Sunday bulletins for our local gift giving from Sunday School. We will be voting as a Sunday School Group as to where and what we would like to collect and donate this year.

Thank You! Blessings! Kim Stromberg 701.412.3262 kim@pontonline.org
QUESTIONS?
Please contact
Lisa Johnson at 232-0998

PLEASE NOTE: No Confirmation Class on Wednesday, December 27 and January 3

Did you know...that youth activities at Pontoppidan are for ALL youth in grades 7-12? Feel free to join in for any and all of our outings and service projects!

**November Acolyte & Kitchen Schedule**

**November 5—All Saint’s Sunday**
Acolytes—Molly Blanchard & Erika Blanchard
Kitchen—Blanchard Family

**November 12**
Acolytes—Erika Spanjer & Koby Peery
Kitchen—Spanjer/McGee Family

**November 19**
Acolytes—Kim Joneson & Grace Lanners
Kitchen—Joneson Family

**November 26**
Acolytes—Andrew Trogstad & Jacob Selseth
Kitchen—Johnson Family

**December Acolyte & Kitchen Schedule**

**December 3—First Sunday of Advent**
Acolytes—Grace Lanners & Erika Spanjer
Kitchen—Selseth Family

**December 10**
Acolytes—Seth Koskela & Caitllin Frank
Kitchen—Frank Family

**December 17**
Acolytes—Molly Blanchard & Erika Blanchard
Kitchen—Luehring Family

**December 24**
Acolytes—Ushers
Kitchen—Johnson Family

**December 31**
Acolytes—Ushers
Kitchen—Johnson Family

Join us on **Sunday, November 12** and **Sunday, December 10** for a $5 treat at **Atomic Coffee** on Broadway

Youth will be serving the meal at **Churches United for the Homeless** on **Monday, November 20**. Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join us for this meaningful service project. Please arrive as close to 4:30 as possible...all duties should conclude by 6:30.

There will be **NO Confirmation Class** on **Wednesday, November 22**. Please join us for Thanksgiving Eve Worship service at 6:30 PM followed by Pumpkin Pie.

**Whole Group Sunday School Project** is scheduled for **Sunday, November 19** at 11 AM. We need big kids and hands to help little kids and hands to frost cookies. These cookies will be enjoyed during our Fellowship Hour on **Sunday, November 26**.

Confirmation Class will enjoy some pizza while we do some decorating for the Holiday Season on **Wednesday, November 29**.

**Wreath Sales** will begin on **Sunday, November 26**! We will have a limited number of Christmas wreaths for sale...buy early to make sure you receive yours! Wreaths will be for sale every Sunday after church; November 26, December 3, 10 & 17.
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

Please join us for a special morning celebrating Pontoppidan’s Young People! Our Sunday School Christmas Program will be held at 10 AM! A special moment will be shared that morning as Pastor Doug presents quilts to our graduating seniors! (With Pastor Doug’s retirement planned for the end of the year, this class requested that they receive their quilts early!)

Everyone is invited to bring a plate of Christmas goodies to share during the coffee hour.

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**91ST ANNUAL CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS CONCERTS**

- 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1
- 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2
- 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3

Memorial Auditorium

For ticket information, visit ConcordiaChristmas.com

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**Christmas Caroling**

**Sunday, December 10 | 4:00 pm**

Come join us as we sing Christmas Carols to members of our congregation throughout the community. We will meet at the Church at 4pm and carpool to different locations around the area. Afterward, we will have dinner at Mexican Village.

**Wednesday, December 13 | 6:30 pm**

Confirmation Class Christmas Caroling

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**Cookie Exchange**

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**Sharing Books With Our Community**

Foot Traffic is brisk walking by our church every day. Many stop to browse the books in our own “Little Free Library” built by Jim Kain. Go to “littlefreelibrary.org” and find us on the map. If you need to find a home for books you have read, drop them off in the Little library. You can also leave them inside in our church library to be shared with others. All kinds of books are welcome!
**Intergenerational Lefse Making Party**

All ages are welcome to come join us for a lefse making party on Saturday, November 18th at 10am in Fellowship Hall. If you have never made lefse before, come and learn how. If you are interested in participating and have a lefse making kit, please bring it along as well. We are in need of lefse making equipment to be able to accommodate everyone. This equipment includes: lefse grills, large (round) wooden cutting boards, lefse turning sticks, lefse boards, stand mixers, lefsa rolling pins, dish towels, and zip-lock bags. Even if you do not have any of this equipment, you are still invited to participate.

We are also asking for ingredient donations including: russet potatoes, lard, flour, and sugar, and salt. We would like to make enough lefse to sell for a fundraiser since lefse is a popular food, particularly during the holiday season.

In addition, we are looking for volunteers to help with dough prep on Friday, November 17th. Those interested are asked to boil potatoes at home, rice them, add the other ingredients, cool them overnight, and bring them to the church to make the lefse the next day. The potatoes and directions for prep will be provided.

If you are interested in participating, have any equipment you are willing to contribute, would like to donate any items, or have any questions, please contact the church office, Aaron Fagerwick, or Krista Steele. Expect more details as the date moves closer.

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**Poinsettias for the Sanctuary**

*(Please order by Dec. 18, 2016)*

You are invited to purchase a poinsettia for the sanctuary to remember or celebrate loved ones during the holidays. The cost is $12 per plant. *After the Christmas Eve service you may take your plant.*

I would like to purchase ___ poinsettia (s) for a total of $__________.

*(Please PRINT clearly.)*

In Memory of: _____________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

In Honor of: _____________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Given by: _______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________
Memorials & Honorariums

**Pastor’s Discretionary Fund**
Jeff and Teresa Huff in memory of Jean Moe

**Radio**
Jeff and Teresa Huff in memory of Sharon Berg
Jeff and Teresa Huff in honor of Lorraine Nelson
Martha Schneider in memory of Sharon Berg
Audrey Bueide in memory of Sharon Berg
Ray and Bev Hubbard in memory of Sharon Berg
Curt and Malvina Moe in memory of Sharon Berg
Fred and Esther Anderson in memory of Sharon Berg
Paul and Cindy Linstad in memory of Sharon Berg
Ruby Craik in memory of Sharon Berg
Bill and Denise Duke in memory of Sharon Berg
Dave and Ruth Stensland in memory of Sharon Berg
Alvin Berg Jr in memory of Sharon Berg
Bruce and Gay Seelig in memory of Sharon Berg
Anne Snyder in memory of Sharon Berg
Jim and Kathy Kain in memory of Sharon Berg
Janet Rogne in memory of Sharon Berg
Leon and Karen Andersen in memory of Sharon Berg
Carol Anderson in memory of Sharon Berg
Rod and Diane Jordahl in memory of Sivert and Florence Jordahl
Olerud Family in memory of Arthur B. Olerud
Paul and Cindy Linstad in honor of Etta Baraky
Jim and Kathy Kain in memory of Erik Grant
Harvey and Kathy Bruse in memory of Barbara Hoaby Harbison
Ruby Craik in memory of Barbara Hoaby Harbison
Ruby Craik in memory of Josephine Hegstad
Harold and Lila Unruh in memory of Barbara Hoaby Harbison
Joyce Christensen in memory of Bertha Anderson

**Undesignated**
Bonnie Streed in memory of Cecelia Larson
Maryellen Sundby in memory of Sharon Berg
LaDonne Vik and Vicky Anderson in honor of Danny Bratholt’s birthday
LaDonne Vik and Vicky Anderson in memory of Josephine Hegstad
LaDonne Vik and Vicky Anderson in memory of Georgiana Maack

**Unified**
Arron & Doreen Smith in memory of Sharon Berg
Judy Jacobson in memory of Sharon Berg

**Youth**
Melvina Tranby in memory of Sharon Berg
November Birthdays


December Birthdays


November Workgroup

Chairpersons:
Sander, Lisa/Roy Jr. 367-6323
Stoutland, Jane/Jim 293-9559

Anderson, JoAnne 866-5826
Brovold, Kim/Randy 218-512-2581
Eliason, Marge (donate)
Hoaby, Delores 237-5580
Huff, Teresa/Jeff 282-2271
Jacobs, Carol 232-0187
Johnson, Irene 232-8250
Krogh, Amy/Morris 233-0291
Lanners, Kevin/Colleen 701-280-9140
McKinnon, Jeff/Am 298-6271
Olsen, Karoline 233-0450
Otto, Jessica 277-8255
Scheffler, Arlene (donate)
Sell, Paula/Don 235-3299
Spanjer, Scott/McGee, Pam 361-9270
Trimmer, Melvina 218-287-4251
Trimmer, Shanny/Tyrone 235-8390
Wrolstad, Phyllis (donate)

Clean refrigerators downstairs and in sacristy.
Clean the cupboards on the south wall and cupboards to east wall. Wipe off stoves & ovens. and ovens upstairs.

December Workgroup

Chairpersons
Anderson, Carol 236-1680
Vik, Vicki/LaDonne 429-0533

Akrehaven, Jeanette 701-238-5052
Grimes, Camille/Paul 235-5923
Groener, Sean/Diane 218-940-7005
Haugen, Carissa/Steve 701-793-9148
Johnson, Amy/Jeff 293-6376
Kading, Jean/Vern 364-0382
Kilsdonk, Joe/Jessie 233-3559
Klungtvedt, Matt/Tara 218-498-2098
Korsgaden, Greg 297-9383
Leichtenberg, Dallas/Hannah 701-799-9552
Markovic, Carol 235-3673
Mueller, Clara/Elmer 237-0750
Oelke, John/Marissa 701-269-2270
Rheault, Pat/Bob 701-200-7240
Smith, Bridget/Adrian 218-790-0489
Smith, Nancy 237-3140
Thorson, Ryan/Amanda 701-329-0544
Truhlicka, Nichole/John 293-5267

Clean refrigerators downstairs, in sacristy and one upstairs.
Clean cupboards upstairs.
CHURCH STAFF
Pastor
Doug Klungtvedt
Church Secretary
Jennifer Johnson
Financial Manager
Chuck Ritterman
Director of Christian Education
Kim Stromberg
Youth Coordinator
Lisa Vig-Johnson
Organist
Sue Jordahl
Choir Director
Del Jordahl
Church Librarian
Sandy Cegla
Congregational Visitor
Teresa Huff
Custodian
Doreen Smith

COUNCIL OFFICERS
President
Pam McGee
Vice President
Paul Linstad
Secretary
Eva Blanchard
Treasurer
Jenny Trogstad

BOARD MEMBERS
Worship
Cindy Linstad
Evangelism
Krista Steele
Discipleship
Ben Hushka
Ministry
Scott Spanjer
Fellowship
Aaron Fagerwick

TV & RADIO BROADCAST
The worship service is broadcast at 10:00 am on radio 1100 AM and the TV broadcast is on the City of Fargo channel 68 on Sunday’s at 12:30 pm (there is a one week delay). Repeated Wednesdays at 2:00 pm.

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday  8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.