

FAITHNOTES

October 2025

*The Newsletter for Communities of Faith/Peace
United Parish, United Methodist*

Clarissa - Clotho - Eagle Bend – Long Prairie

Thoughts from Kali . . .

A certified lay servant is a person who has taken the Connexion class. It may open the doors for a person to serve as staff or a volunteer in a specialized ministry. It may also lead you down a path where you know yourself better than you did before. It involves taking an online course by yourself or with a group. Each person completes an asset inventory which highlights your gifts and may help you discern what you want to do with those gifts, in church or in the community. So often we do not look at our gifts and assets in life. We go through the process of saying yes or no to an opportunity. So often, the no comes easiest and perhaps, we don't get to participate in something that would bring value and meaning to our life. It may also bring value and meaning to the life of others. Kind of seems like that would be what a Jesus follower would be looking to do. The Connexion class costs 25 dollars and our church would pay for the class. This information would make an impact on our churches and would enhance personal development. So, if you are interested, please be in touch. This could be a life changer!!!!

My Course of Study class this fall is on evangelism. It is interesting and challenging. What do you think of when you think of evangelism? Many of us have a negative connotation, but it really has to do with everyday living and offering Jesus in our daily lives. We become involved in a faith formation, becoming baptized and often, confirmed to add value to our lives and to add value to the lives of others. It is life changing and hope filled as we grow in love and care of one another. The more you know about your Jesus connection, the more you rely on him and grow in him. We all are in the need of connection and growth, sometimes more than others.

Evangelism offers us to be in connection, growing together. We have been in ministry together for years in one way or another, through sharing ministries and relationships. The decision of Wrightstown UMC to join the rest of us is a wonderful thought and reality to plan for. We need to firm up some thoughts and schedules; however, there are some very exciting opportunities to look at. The Cabinet will get back to us as they plan for the change in connection. Hopefully, we will make plans accordingly, holding an open mind and heart. Two of the schedules that have been lifted up would allow me to get to all churches two times a month which would provide for some consistency that I would appreciate. There may be a couple options to look at financially, and it would be fun to look at the options openly, actually seeing what may be the best option. At any rate,

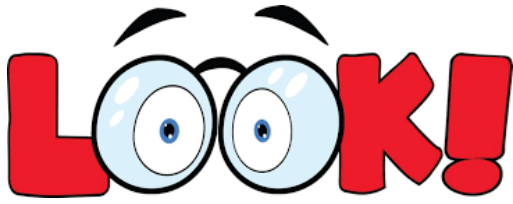
I am excited about the opportunities for all of us. The more assets and gifts, the more input, the more we can share resources, the more we can celebrate our mission and ministries! Again, a good reason to explore your personal passions and how you can bring them to fruition in the light of ministry and evangelism.

In looking to a new year of ministry, the church conferences have been set. Our cluster is at Alexandria on the date of the bazaars in Eagle Bend and Long Prairie, just like last year. This is less than ideal for us, but if we can get two people from each church to attend, we can cover the basic actions needed. Each church or the cluster of churches can then affirm the rosters at our churches in November and December. We are expected to be in Alex at 10 a.m. on November 1st. If you can let me know who can go, that would be great. Hopefully, more than two from each of the churches not hosting a bazaar that day can attend. The pastoral compensation form is due by December 1st, so that will have to be submitted.

Evangelism entails the grueling work of the church, the ministry, the mission, and the day-to-day connection. As we studied the materials for this class, it was easy to see the places you are stepping up in sharing the love of Jesus with each other.

We have all experienced hurt and pain, victory and loss, and it is in the fellowship that we can come together and grow through the difficulties. On Wednesday during conversations, I read from the book, "God Didn't Make Us To Hate Us". By Reverend Lizzie McManus-Dail. In this particular devotion, Reverend McManus-Dail said that hard things happen in life. We err and cause harm and others cause us harm. That is why the body of believers matters. We lift each other up and hold each other accountable and we extend and receive mercy. Doing something bad does not mean that we are beyond redeeming and mercy does not mean co-signing on what was done to us. Forgiveness inherently recognizes that what happened was not okay, because the act of forgiving inherently acknowledges that something bad has happened. We do not forgive good things, we do not forgive people who have done us no harm. To forgive, to choose the brutal path of mercy, is to say: I am choosing more...more life, more freedom, more possibility...even in the face of something or someone who wanted to steal my freedom, steal my possibilities, and possibly even end my life. This is why mercy comes from God. Mercy is an act of imagination. It imagines there can be so much more...more color, more forgiveness, more joy, more time together...we can be more than the worst things we have ever done and we can be more than the worst things done to us. Mercy is a language of God's imagination for what we can be, all of us, together. That is GOOD NEWS! Looking forward to conversation, plans, hopes, dreams, and a big dose of imagination! God's blessing as we dream together! Amen





Look at all sections for more information.

SPRC & Communities of Faith/Peace United Parish Council



Thanks for the fun of Porch Ponderings this summer. I love that we get to know our neighbors, sharing our delight and passions and journeys! Patti Venekamp closed up the season with a great presentation on coping with care and love, taking good care of ourselves. It was a refreshing and hope filled way to end the season!

LAITY SUNDAY will be celebrated on Sunday, October 19th! Thanks to all of you who make church a place of vitality, spreading the love of Jesus far and wide. We salute you and are so grateful for your partnership in daily life!!!!



Ministerial Team...

- 5..Erin and Kali
- 12..Pam and Kali
- 19..Erin and Kali
- 26..Marlys and Kali

Ministerial Team will meet on Wednesday, October 15th, 5:30 p.m. at Marlys' apartment building.

EXCITING NEWS:

We have a parishioner being trained for parish nurse ministry. I will let her introduce herself, but as you see, she has been busy. Her hope is to have a charge wide health team with some common goals and information to continue to boost our health. If this is something you are interested in, we would love to have you join in. Watch the bulletin and newsletter to get more info...in the days ahead!



Health and Wellness

"Health is a state of well-being, while wellness is an active process of making choices to achieve better health. Health is the foundation, and wellness is

the journey of intentionally building on that foundation. The two concepts are deeply interconnected and influence each other".

Health Theme for 2025: "Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures".

October Health Topics:

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Mental Health Awareness-October 10th is World Mental Health Day
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- National Cybersecurity Awareness Month
- Bullying Prevention Month

Did you know? Handwashing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs.

Remember to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Miracle Prayer for health- "Heal me, Change me, Strengthen me in body, soul, and spirit. Come Lord Jesus, cover me with your Precious Blood, and fill me with your Holy Spirit. I love you Lord Jesus. I praise you Jesus.

Proverbs 17:22- "A cheerful heart is good medicine". We could add:

-Get your flu shot to protect yourself and others from the flu. Check with your Doctor or local pharmacy about availability.

-Mental wellness check-in: The shorter days can affect our mood. Prioritize your mental health by staying connected with others, finding time for prayer and meditation, and getting enough rest.



JOIN US IN CHURCH...Would love to have you join us in church...we are missing you and look forward to connecting at worship services at any of our churches. While the opportunity for social media to keep us connected is beneficial, there is nothing like personal presence. We encourage you to think about how and when you could worship with us.

Thanks to everyone who continues to financially give as they can. Our churches are operating and have a desire to extend our presence in the communities. Your gifts support the mission and operation of our churches.

Clarissa, Clotho, Eagle Bend people, feel free to send any monetary gifts to PO Box 158, Clarissa, MN. 56440.

Peace United Folks, send your offering to 524 Central Avenue, Long Prairie, MN. 56347. Hope to see you soon. Feel free to be in touch. You can reach me at 320-808-6301 or Communities of Faith UM Parish, PO Box 158, Clarissa, MN. 56440 or Peace United Church, 524 Central Avenue, Long Prairie, MN. 56347.



Fall Book Study coming your way.....

"UNTANGLE YOUR EMOTIONS". Naming what you FEEL and KNOWING what to do about it! A 6-week series

starting Thursday, Oct 2nd. 1pm at Clarissa UMC.

The following 5 weeks will be held on Wednesdays...same time...same place.

How often have you heard, "Don't let your emotions get the best of you?"

Feelings aren't something we need to fix; they are something to feel. Not to stuff, dismiss or minimize. They are real. Discover how God Made You to Feel and why.

Contact: Pam Cook, 218-220-9368 for more information or questions.

All are welcome. Non-denominational.



Servant Leadership Institute...is

here. We look

forward to this opportunity for training every year and here it is. October 1, 2, 3, five of us from our 5 churches will be inspired by the Crew at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Thanks for taking the time to carve out this place in your schedules! Participants: Jennifer Blom, Sue Boehland, Christina Esposito, Marlys Frederiksen, Kali Christensen.

Certified Lay Speaker training is available in November over zoom. We will pay for the training. The cost is 75 dollars. Please be in touch with Marion Hansen to register and discuss with her. Marion can be reached at 2218-837-5054. The connexion course is a pre-requisite and can be taken by yourself or with a group. The cost for this is 25 dollars and we will cover that cost too. So, be brave and give it a try. The Connexion class assists in looking at your gifts. This is a good way to see where you are at and what your interests might be. Hope I hear from you to access the funding to say yes to Connexion!!!!



Meanderings of the Preacher...

Kali will be at worship at the care centers the first and third Wednesdays this month. Rural Ministry Matters

meeting on the 17th and Couse of study classes on zoom the 17th and 18th. Assignments due the 27th. Kali officiates a wedding on the 4th in rural Sauk Centre. Wellness zoom is on

the 9th at noon. Hilltop Regional Kitchen and Community Circle meetings on the 14th of October, 11 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.



PLEASE REMEMBER OUR NURSING HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING FAMILY...

Central Todd County Care Center & Assisted Living – Clarissa

- Shirley Carrick

- Darlene Bodle

- Gene Bodle

Meadow Place – Long Prairie

- Darlene Baxter

- Jan Miller

- Devona Berry

Long Prairie Memorial Nursing Home

- Orin Baxter

- Sherri Nyman

Nursing home services at Central Todd County Care Center will be covered by us on Wednesdays, October 1st and 15th, 2:30 p.m. We will cover at Long Prairie Nursing Home on Wednesday, October 15th, 9:45 a.m. Allan and I are switching the 2nd and 3rd Services.



CONVERSATIONS. . .

continues each Wednesday morning, 7 am, Facebook, Kali Christensen page. We are enjoying a challenging devotional and a few other tidbits. Hope you can join us as it works for you!



Larry Roush, colon cancer surgery, healing at home
Nancy Ritter, returning to a swing bed in LP

For the victims of the school shooting in Colorado
Family of Charlie Kirk

Peace in our country and the world

A person named Mark who has a procedure tomorrow

Betty Kunerth as she awaits a surgery date

Funds for the Welcome/Wave Center in LP

For the meeting with Becky Jo Messenbrink and the

Wrightstown Congregation tomorrow night

Family of Lone Wood

Family of Jack Rehnberg

Florabel has improved

Roman Sullivan, an 11 year old with leukemia was able to throw out the first pitch at the Twins game.

Carolyn Vandenheuvel had 2 showings of her house yesterday

Russell Kline, home recovering

Jenny having teeth and other health problems

Wes Holt, stroke, was in St. Cloud, at Nyla's now, home tomorrow

Heidi Masters, continues on chemo, cancer has not metastasized. amen

Barb Thom, appointment at U on Friday...don't come back the doctor said...amen and amen!!!!
 Family of Billy Brown
 Family of Randy Taber
 Terry Ingman, knee replacement
 Little 10 year old Raya, diagnosed with leukemia
 Allison Dotzler, leukemia
 Family of Carol Marlow
 Erin's dog, Sterling was poisoned, has some issues with seizures. Good to have Erin and Sterling back in church.
 Peggy Carlson in church...yahoo!!!
 Fran Bokinskie in St. Cloud Hospital with fracture and pacemaker procedure
 Wes Holt, stroke, was in St. Cloud, at Nyla's now, home tomorrow
 Heidi Masters, continues on chemo, cancer has not metastasized. amen
 Barb Thom, appointment at U on Friday.....don't come back the doctor said...amen and amen!!!!
 Family of Billy Brown
 Family of Randy Taber
 Terry Ingman, knee replacement
 Celebrating Luke and Katie Mock
 Little 10 year old Raya, diagnosed with leukemia
 Allison Dotzler, leukemia
 Family of Carol Marlow
 Erin's dog, Sterling was poisoned, has some issues with seizures. Good to have Erin and Sterling back in church.
 Peggy Carlson in church....yahoo!!!
 Fran Bokinskie is in St Cloud Hospital with fracture and pacemaker procedure
 Congratulations and God's blessing to our three confirmands, Tucker, Bennett, Brooklyn.
 Jacob Hidalgo, injured in football, hospitalized in St Cloud
 Marlys Frederiksen, knee replacement
 Duane Line, neuropathy

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3..Missy Thom
 6..Dick Lackmann
 7..Marcia Woeste
 7..Emilie Kleinschmidt
 7..Sawyer Dinkel VanValkenburg
 7..Conner Almendinger
 11..Evey Mathews
 16..Abbi Larson
 17..Verna Christopher
 17..Michelle Deaver
 18..Don Halbur
 20..Pat Christiansen
 22..Addie Roering
 23..Roger Berkness Sr.
 28..Stacy Lux
 29..Chuck Harlow
 31..Elliot Dinkel VanValkenburg



COMMUNITIES OF FAITH/PEACE UNITED OPPORTUNITIES-NEWS

Clarissa Chatter. . .

Budgets are tight and Clarissa Admin Council has decided to host a bakeless bake sale, hoping to generate some funds to get some needed parts for the lift. Letters were sent out this past week. We are preparing to serve a community breakfast in October, inviting the community to have breakfast together. We are looking forward to gathering up and eating together. Stay tuned for more information.

Admin Council will meet October 27th, 5 p.m. at church. The opportunity to get more done, have more participation, and some good conversation will be more efficient and fun during the week than cramming it in after church. We want to fellowship with each other on Sundays. The Council meeting is for everyone, so mark your calendars and share your ideas. See you the 27th at 5 p.m.

Trick or Treating at the Church will be in line with the hours the Community Club is hosting trick or treat. We always partner in supporting the action at the Community Center. Stay in touch and be involved if you can....it is always fun!!!!

Clotho Corner. . .

Coffee in Clotho, Friday, October 3rd, 6:30-9 a.m. All are welcome!

Sunday School begins, Sunday, October 5th. We look forward to the Sunday School action for ages 3 through high school. Sunday School will be held during church the first and third Sundays of each month. Looking forward to seeing the faces of KIDS!!!

Music Jam, October 6th, 1 p.m. Come and join the fun. Your spirit will be elevated! A great event! Refreshments served!

Administrative Council, Wednesday, October 22nd, 7 p.m. EVERYONE is welcome to attend!!!!

Annual Hayride and Supper is scheduled for Sunday, October 26th, at 4 p.m. We come together for an old-fashioned ride outside. It is so fun to feel the breeze on your face, see the countryside, and join the tradition of gathering! Dress warm, bring a blanket, all ages are welcome and invited to attend. Everybody can get on as there are assistants ready to get you on the ride. Supper is always warm and good!!!!

The annual auction is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5th, at 7 p.m. There will be a light supper served for a free will donation. Come for the fun and conversation, bring your money to shop for the holidays

and for yourself. You will have a great time...you can be assured!

Eagle Bend Box. . .

Soup and Sandwich Supper, Tuesday, October 21st, 4:30-6:30 p.m. We have had great attendance the last couple of months. Thanks for making this opportunity a priority. Feeding people, hosting a place of fellowship and care, all so important to the well-being of each of us. Dana has developed a questionnaire to fill out regarding the future of this meal. Please fill it out and share your thoughts. We know that isolation and nutrition are factors in ongoing health and wellness of all age groups. How can we be an asset in our community? Let us know what you think.

The next Admin Council/Focus Group meeting will be held after soup and sandwich, 6:45 p.m., October 21st. We hope to see a great crowd show up.

Trunk or Treat, October 26th 2 p.m. Let's get our Halloween on and celebrate! More details to be shared! Bring a bag of candy with you to church for the fun! Get your costumes ready and join the action.

Annual Fall Bazaar I'll be held on Saturday, November 1st, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rolls and coffee in the morning. Turkey and biscuits for lunch, baked goods, canned goods, crafts all day. Don't miss the good food and the opportunity to stock your holiday needs!

Peace United Update...

Thanks for all the work and effort in the great hotdish lunch from so many of you. The attendance was good and the assistance in the roof repair was great! We are grateful for all who participated!

Material/craft/quilting sale along with our annual household and clothes sale will be held this coming weekend, October 2, 3, 4th. Cindy Rachuy's quilting supplies, material, and holiday kits will be sold. The material will be discounted 25% on Thursday and Friday, 50% on Saturday. Hours on Thursday: noon to 6; Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Hope to see you there. Friday highlights! Lunch available. Stop for a sloppy Jo lunch on Friday. Coffee and treats available each day.

Women of Peace will meet on Thursday, October 9th, 1:30 p.m.

Halloween Celebration! We will join in the festivities of the Chamber here in town, 3 to 5 p.m. on Friday, October 31st. Get dressed up and share a treat with the trick or treaters! Bring some candy to church as we prepare to participate in the fun. Brianna Lux will guide us through the fun!

Annual Bazaar at Peace United, Saturday, November 1st, begins at 9 a.m. Rolls and coffee, homemade soup and BBQ's, pie, vendors, Christmas wreaths, raffle...so

much for you and for your holiday needs. Mark your calendar!!!!

Wrightstown Wrap-up:

Lydia Circle will meet this month at Kathleen Schwabtzdahl's home, 11 a.m., Thursday, October 2nd. Join us for the inspiration and fellowship!

Potluck Brunch will be served after the service on Sunday, October 5th!

Becky Jo Messenbrink joined us for a meeting in August. It was decided that Wrightstown UMC will join in with our other 4 churches to worship together and plan activities, supporting each church in our local ministries. We will be meeting to iron out details! A very exciting time for all of us to see how God is in the mix of our everyday lives throughout our area. Amen and Amen!!!!

Looking ahead: Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Saturday, November 22nd, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

A little of this and a little of that...



Ministerial Fund...

The Ministerial Fund was gifted 500 dollars this month and we are grateful. The expenses have been great with folks struggling with cancer and making ends meet, electric shut offs, and medical visits. Our burger is about gone and we have had requests for food help. The requests are all looked at in line with all resources in our area. The other resources are pretty dried up. Our total in the account includes about 2500 dollars earmarked for immigration and needs related to displacement, homeless needs, food needs, etc. We have been contacted by many people outside of our county wanting to be available to assist with those who are coming from violent areas and hired here to work. The status of visas and work permits is always in flux with federal mandates changing and putting workers at risk of not having employment. We are grateful for all who have assisted in both areas of need. Our neighbors often include those in our own circles who ran into a hard time. Thanks for your love and generosity, the ways you always show up.



Coat Giveaway will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Saturday, October 11th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thanks to all of you who donated. I dropped all of the

coats at the church. If you are in need of winter wear or know someone who is, please give them this information. If you would like to volunteer to assist at this event, please contact Jason at 605-370-8495. Thanks!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!!! Would you be willing to take your family, join with another family, head up a night or two of Bingo every once in awhile at the Care Center in Long Prairie. The residents would love to see your faces about 6:30 p.m. for an hour or so. Quarters are favorite items for Bingo prizes. What a great help this would be to brighten the days of those we know and love. Let me know if you would be able to volunteer once in awhile for a bit of BINGO fun!!!!

Prayer Warriors.....would you be willing to partner with others in our area to pray once or twice a year. We hope to have consistent prayers offered in the chapel at CentraCare. Prayer Requests are left in the chapel. A calendar will be available once we have some volunteers. Please let Kali know if you could drop in at the chapel once or twice a year to pray for those requests that are left in the chapel. Look forward to hearing from you ...



**(Mark your
calendar)**

Annual Fall Bazaar, Eagle UMC, Saturday,
November 1st, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Annual Bazaar, Peace United, Saturday,
November 1st, 9:00 am
Clotho UMC Annual Auction, Wednesday,
November 5th, 7 pm
Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Saturday,
November 22nd, 11 am to 2:00 pm

Communities of Faith/Peace United
Parish/Wrightstown
P.O.Box 158
Clarissa MN 56440

TO:

October 2025
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Clotho, & Eagle Bend

