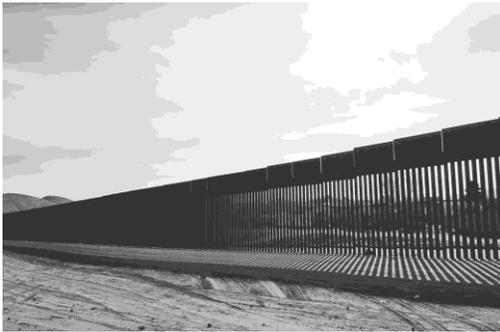


We intend to continue in the covenant God made with us in **holy baptism**:
to **live** among God's faithful people;
to **hear** the word of God and **share** in the Lord's supper;
to **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed;
to **serve** all people following the example of Jesus;
and to **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth



My Journey to the Border

During the week of January 12 – 19, I was able to go to the El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico border with four others from our SE MN Synod. I want to share a few things that I learned and witnessed while I was there.

We went to learn and accompany refugee families on their way to their new homes. Our base was Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces where the Border Servant Corps is located. We were

able to visit Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey for our Sunday morning worship. It was a wonderful two hour service and potluck. We had a beautiful host family who took all five of us for the week in Las Cruces and treated us to gracious hospitality.

We were able to meet two women, Estella and Berta from the Anapra Juarez area who shared their love and hope they have for their future. We said the Lord's Prayer with them holding hands through the border wall. It was an experience I will never forget. These two women are thankful for our country and the help we give them. They work together to raise money for uniforms so children can go to school.

Twelve refugee families came to Peace Lutheran on Tuesday. They were able to get clean clothes, some much needed sleep, good food brought in by many families. We tried in any way to help them on their way to their sponsored families. I helped take William and his son to the bus station for a 72 hour trip to Stockton, California. We packed a big backpack of lunch for them and they left with big smiles and their new warm jackets. Another blessing I will not forget.

Kari and Carol who run the Border Servant Corps are incredible. They do this on a weekly basis – setting up for the families on Monday and by Thursday they are taking cots down, cleaning up and getting ready for the next crew. There are many volunteers from the church and from the area that help in this endeavor. I was lucky enough to be in the kitchen (and you know that is my happy place) cooking and preparing meals for about 40. We heard many stories of faith – amazing stories of faith.

These are just a few of the precious stories from my visit. I am so very thankful for the week I spent there. Our AMMPARO team got to know each other well and I am so thankful for them. Here is my takeaway thought – Estella told us at the border that her morning prayer is this... “Thank you Lord for this day. I am ready for the adventures of this day!” She said it was that simple. I am trying to make it my prayer as well.

- Cheryl Kylo

You can read more about this journey on the Southeastern MN Synod Facebook page. There you will find some humbling and through provoking reflections written and shared by Rev. Emily Carson.

February Meetings

Annual Meeting: February 3rd @ 11:30 am
Adult Ministry: February 10th @ 11:30 am
Planning Council: February 13th @ 7:30 pm
Youth Board: February 24th @ 9:00 am
Pastoral Board: February 25th @ 6:00 pm

Financial Status

Dec 15th – Jan 14th

Income: \$ 25,234.00
Expense: \$ 10,547.43

Surplus: \$ 14,686.57
(as of January 14, 2018)



If you would like to receive a more detailed report on a monthly basis by either mail or email, please contact the office by phone or at kileen@minneolalutheranchurch.com.

Financial Secretary Report

Dec 15th – Jan 14th

Operating Income \$25,234
Building/Siding Fund Income = \$2,130
Fuel Fund = \$570

Thanks to all who continue to give as they are able to support our ministry. After our Annual meeting on Feb. 3rd we will be able to compare our average weekly giving to the approved budget for 2019. Until then, thank you for all your financial support of God's ministry through Minneola.

February Council Update

- Annual Meeting is Sun., February 3rd. The 2019 Budget will be presented.
- Thank you to everyone for all the giving of time, gifts and finances in 2018. Minneola was able to meet the 2018 budget of \$124,000.00.

Annual Report

Minneola's annual meeting is on February 3rd. If you would like a report mailed to you call the church at 507-824-2685 or email kileen@minneolalutheranchurch.com.



Lent is Coming!

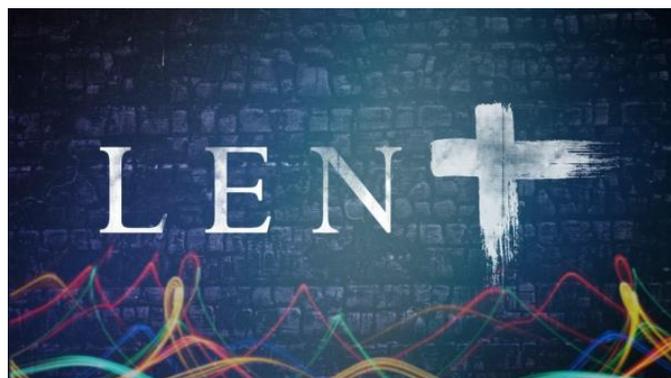
In 2019 Lent won't begin until March 6th, which feels extremely late, but we have all of February to prepare. So update your Wednesday night calendar and be sure to bring some veggies or other donations for our Stone Soup Supper before Wednesday March 6th.

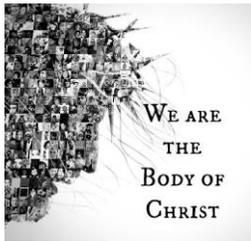
- **Wednesday March 6th**
 - 6:00 pm Stone Soup Supper
 - 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- For 5 weeks beginning Wednesday March 13th our evening schedule will be....
 - 6:00 pm Soup Supper
 - 6:45 pm Lenten Study
 - 7:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer
- **Thursday April 18th:** Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service at 7:00 pm
- **Sunday April 21st: Easter Sunday**
 - 8:00 am Easter Breakfast
 - 9:30 am Easter Worship

For our Lenten study in 2019 we will be taking time to get to know each other better and the many hearts of ministry God has planted, cultivated and is blooming in our community. It will be a time to share, to deepen our relationship to God and to each other. Join each week, or whenever your schedule allows.

Hope to see you as we intentionally take some time with God this Lent.

- Pr. Hannah





A friend posted this to Facebook and I couldn't pass up the opportunity to share. It is long, however well worth the read. - Kileen

Church

Church is hard.

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgment.

Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.

Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for her own baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, and selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church:

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by the grace of Jesus.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted, and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church—the body, and the family of sinners-turned-saints—is where He resides, and when we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—
The days when I am at odds with a friend. When I've fought with my spouse. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter. When I've been under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold. When I've fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me. And He'll meet you too.

Happy Anniversary

Derek and Tracy Ludington 2/19

Happy Birthday

Billy Gifford 2/5

Reagan Peterson 2/6

Patricia Salo 2/6

Aдриanna Kruse 2/7

Mia Blakstad 2/8

Edwin Mostad 2/8

Dustin Husbyn 2/10

Fred Schliep 2/12

Charlie Sibley 2/13

Percy Thompson 2/22

David Husbyn 2/25

Mark Nerison 2/28

Paul Nestey 2/28



February, 2019

Minneola Lutheran Church

13628 County 50 Blvd
 Goodhue, MN 55027
 Telephone Church Office: 507-824-2685
 Rev. Hannah Bergstrom de Leon Cell: 952-564-7002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2  <i>Groundhog Day</i>
3 9:30 am Ol' School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Annual Meeting	4	5	6 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation	7	8	9
10 9:30 am Ol' School 10:30 am Worship w/communion 11:30 am Adult Ministry 11:30 am Potluck	11	12	13 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Planning Council	14 	15	16
17 9:30 am Cross+Gen Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Adult Choir to sing 11:30 am Baja 2020 Informational Meeting	18  <i>Presidents Day</i>	19	20 9:00 am Quilting 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study	21	22	23
24 Bold Women Sunday 9:00 am Youth Board 10:00 am Bold Women Worship Prep 10:30 am Bold Women Worship w/communion 11:30 am Bold Women Luncheon 2:00 pm Z. Care Service	25 6:00 pm Pastoral Board	26	27 6:00 pm Confirmation	28	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>March 1st World Day of Prayer</p> <p>March 6th Ash Wednesday</p> <p>March 13th Lenten Wednesdays begin</p> </div>	

Minneola Lutheran Church
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 Office Assistant: kileen@minneolalutheranchurch.com