

January 2012

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace in this New Year! The other day I was visiting someone from First Lutheran who was in the hospital. She told me that 2011 had been a year filled with many challenges for her and people she knew. Then she said, "Maybe we should all just burn the 2011 calendar to ring in the New Year!" I'm not sure that we really need to have a calendar burning, but I understand her point. She was trying to say that we shouldn't dwell on the past; we need to move forward.

There are many times in life when we go through trials and don't understand why they happened to us. But we know that we cannot change the past. It is helpful, though, to look back and say, "What did I learn from all this?" Though God doesn't cause bad things to happen to us, he uses the hard times to make us all stronger people. He molds and shapes us through these experiences to be the people that he would have us to be.

We have much to look forward to in 2012! One thing is the fact that our parish has been using the Narrative Lectionary since the beginning of Advent. Now we move from Old Testament readings to the Gospel of Mark. Another is that we may be asked to host more flood recovery volunteers this spring at Glenburn as people in Minot begin to rebuild their homes.

Let us thank God for all his abundant care in 2011 as we move into 2012!

Coming Up

Thurs. Jan. 5th – Turtle Mountain Conference pastors will meet at Glenburn at 9:30 am for their monthly meeting.

Sat. Jan. 7th – From 9 am to noon, the Parish Council will meet for our Annual Visioning Retreat. Others are welcome to join us as we set goals for the coming year.

Sat. Jan. 14th – Pastor Heather preaches and leads worship at First Lutheran in Minot at 5:30 pm.

Sun. Jan. 15th – Lansford's Annual Meeting. We will have a shortened worship service at 9 am, followed by a brunch. Then we will convene the annual meeting. Glenburn will worship at 11 am.

Sun. Jan. 22nd – Glenburn's Annual Meeting. Again, we will have a shortened worship service at 9am, followed by a brunch and then the annual meeting. Lansford will worship at 11 am.

Sun. Jan. 29th – A guest preacher will lead worship in Glenburn & Lansford, as Dave & I will be participating in a Respite Retreat at Metigoshe for Minot area pastors.

In Christ,

Pastor Heather