



Northland Lutheran Church

Messenger

January 2024

Thank you letter for Pastor Dan Somers

1 Corinthians 12: 4-8

There are different kinds of gifts. But it is the same Holy Spirit Who gives them. There are different kinds of work to be done for Him. But the work is for the same Lord. There are different ways of doing His work. But it is the same God who uses all these ways in all people. The Holy Spirit works in each person in one way or another for the good of all. One person is given the gift of teaching words of wisdom. Another person is given the gift of teaching what he has learned and knows. These gifts are by the same Holy Spirit.

Employing your God-given skills, talents, and gifts for His will results in a blessed work. God called Dan Somers to employ his gift of teaching God's Word at an early age. By December 1995, he was called to Northland and installed on February 25, 1996, by Bishop John Beem.

Dan dove headfirst into shepherding not only Northland, but Hitterdahl Lutheran Church, a sister church that shared Dan's services for many years until the churches split in 2009, allowing him to give Northland his full focus. During his tenure at Northland, Dan had great insight into God's Word and led many Bible studies. Not only does he have a love for God's Word, but also a love for family and country, as evidenced by the subject of many of his sermons. It's that love that held him at Northland for so many years, with many member families growing up under his watch.

Dan announced his retirement one year ago, allowing us time to locate another pastor. With the very capable help of Mary Fiane, Dan finished out the year at the Sunday School Christmas program, leading the congregation in prayer, and after the program, reminisced about a career worth living.

As this specific chapter closes at Northland, we take the opportunity to say thank you. Thanks, Dan, for all your love, support, guidance, and wisdom. Thank you for all the laughs and thank you for standing strong on God's Word in a world that would rather ignore it.

Thank you for choosing Northland to employ your spiritual gifts for these so many years. May God continue to bless you and your family. May He give you clarity of thought and purpose and surround you with His hedge of protection.

Thank you, Dan! We love you.



Welcome Pastor William Stuckenberg!!!

From the Desk of Pastor Bill

Well, here we are again. Looking at the start of a new year. For many of us, this is a time of new beginnings, a time of fresh starts, a time of New Year's resolutions. Mine usually involves losing weight and exercising more. For some, it may be a resolve to be more financially responsible. For others, it might be a commitment to work on troubled relationships. All of these can be good goals, but unfortunately, what we find is that even if we can accomplish our January goals, in the big picture, our lives really don't change that much. Perhaps, this year, we should look at a whole different kind of goal.

In Colossians 3:1, the apostle Paul writes, "**Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.**" Paul instructs us to set our hearts and minds on things above, **not** on earthly things. I believe that this resolve is the key to real life change. Thinking like He thinks, valuing what He values, loving like He loves, forgiving like He forgives... and the list could go on and on. To set our hearts and minds on the things above is to make God and His ways our number one priority. God and His ways are the filter everything else in our lives runs through. Now that is a resolution that can change things.

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus makes a similar statement about setting our hearts and minds on the things that are above. "**So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'** ³² **For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** Seek first God's Kingdom! That sounds like a worthy resolution for each of us for 2024. I especially like the fact that in His words, Jesus does not say that all those other things are not important. In fact, he tells us that our heavenly Father already knows that we need them. And then He gives us a promise. As we set our hearts and minds on things above where Christ is and seek first His Kingdom, all of these other things will be added as well.

As your new pastor, I too have a resolution for 2024 and for whatever years God allows us to be a part of Northland church that I borrowed from the Apostle Paul.

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

For all of us, I think that's a great place to start. Pastor Bill



Northland Church Council Meeting

December 10, 2023

Members Present Shelly Erickson, Craig Anderson, Pam Dahle, Marilyn Mitchell, Richard Kirchhoff, Daniele Oligney, Dianne Erickson. Guest Jesse Glodowski.

Craig opened the meeting.

Pam D. opened with prayer.

Secretary report read and accepted as read.

Treasures report read and accepted as read.

11-30-23 checking acct. \$23,803.10

11-30-23 Memorial fund Bal. \$120,199.17

Cash Flow for November 2023 \$882.74

Thank Offering was missed in November, We will take Thank Offering Sunday December 31 2023 this offering will go to Foundations For Living.

Installation of Pastor William Stukenberg will take place in February or March.

Discussion on wood sign of Pastor where to have changed Craig will investigate.

Dianne will check into snow plowing parking lot.

Discussion New member will check with Pastor Bill.

Motion to adjourn 1st by Richard K. 2nd by Pam D. motion carried.

These minutes have not been approved. Secretary Dianne Erickson

Welcome Pastor Bill

Pastor Bill's first day as our New Pastor is January 7th 2024, to help him out with our names, please write your name on a name tag. Name tags are in the front entry. Please do this for a couple of weeks.



January 2024

ALTAR GUILD: Sally Van Epern

AA MEETING: Every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the church basement.

MEN'S MINISTRY: Sunday, January 7th following Worship.

NORTHLAND WOMEN'S GROUP Saturday January 6th, 2024, Northland

Women's Group Take down Christmas decorations plus meeting at 9:00 am

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS DUE JANUARY 11

TUESDAY QUILTER'S: January 16th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, January 18th at 4:00 PM

ANNUAL MEETING: Sunday, January 21st following Worship

USHER: Sally Van Epern

PROJECTOR OPERATOR

January 7. Kevin D.

January 14. Craig A.

January 21. Bruce M.

January 28. Carl

Confirmation January 10, 17, 24, 31, at 6:00 – 7:30 PM

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2nd Susan Voie

3rd John Peterson

4th Dausen Anderson

10th Patricia Olson

13th Cole Smith, Anna Wogsland, Darla White

16th Jordan Lashua

18th Debra Thompson

21st Dennis Miller, Ross Wyman

22nd Jackson Hahn

25th Keaven Olson

27th Brigs Wogsland

