



NEW SCANDINAVIA LUTHERAN CHURCH SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2022

The Church and Technology

Our church in the 21st century has been going through a technological change in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Partly due to the Covid-19 epidemic and the request to subside in-person worship many congregations, including New Scandinavia, have innovated worship participation with Facebook, You Tube and on-line availability. Knowing that still many elderly do not computer or cell phone capabilities we have simultaneously continued to provide CD's to shut-in's and our monthly Newsletter for church information.

The sound and visual system at church also have capabilities that have yet to be fully tapped in for the Sunday worship experience. Future leaders in the church, however, will be able utilize the potential that our system can provide especially if they have technology training.

A recent exploration into the field of technology is the investigation by the Church Council into a new electronic sign in the front of the church. More and more churches are attracting new people with innovative signs. Traffic on county "O" is constant and a community church needs to find ways of inviting new neighbors to hear the Gospel.

Regarding Parish Education, we have learned that children today absorb learning through media presentations. This has changed the approach from book learning to media learning at church. Once again the use of computers and media screens as well as software means our teachers have had to adapt to teaching methodology similar to public schools.

The Calling of a Pastor

When this Interim Pastor was called in November 2021, our congregation was planning to move forward with the hopes of calling their own part time pastor. After leaving the partnership with Dallas, it was felt that we could and should call our own pastor. Unfortunately, after six months, we discovered that there are so few pastors available for call it is impractical to think that we can find even a part time pastor.

Thus, we have moved into conversation with neighboring ELCA churches to discover avenues for partnership. We have had conversations with other churches and their pastors. Presently, we announce to you that United Lutheran Church in Prairie Farm, is interested in having conversations with us to explore the possibility of a shared pastor.

Last November United Lutheran called Pastor Sarah Feld as their pastor. She is originally from the Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin area and left a two-point parish in South Dakota to become the new pastor in Prairie Farm. Our church is eleven miles from United Lutheran. There will be a future meeting with the leadership of both churches and the Northwest Synod to discuss a mutual ministry plan. I have met and talked with Pastor Feld personally and she is friendly, energetic, and inspirational. Rick Broten, our Church council President, feels strongly that Prairie Farm and New Scandinavia are very alike and would become good partners should the congregations agree upon a working plan together.

Prayer for Our Future

I ask that every one of us keep our hope for the future in your daily prayers. We seek God for His guidance and direction and for our discernment of his will for our little church. We are a family of God that works together to serve him in this time and in this place. May God be glorified for He deserves our praise and thanksgiving!

In Christ, pastor Ron Gerl, Interim Pastor

Prayer for God's Future at NSLC

Almighty God and Lord and Savior, we humbly beseech you to guide us as a congregation to way, the truth and the life. You have guided us into conversation with United Lutheran Church in Prairie Farm to work together in mission with the same pastor. You know our future is your future and so we ask your blessing through the Holy Spirit to help us both to make the right decision. Whatever our outcome we pray that Jesus Christ would be gloried and that your kingdom would come into being both now and forever. We ask that may the choirs in heaven and earth sing in rejoicing for fulfilling your most holy will. In Jesus name, **Amen.**