CHRISTMAS EVE
Worship Schedule
Sunday, December 24th

2:00 pm  Nekoma Lutheran
          Bethlehem Lutheran

3:45pm  Our Redeemer’s
         Joint Service United Lutheran
         & Lawton Lutheran in Lawton

5:30 pm  Mountain Lutheran
          Concordia Lutheran

Holy Communion by intinction at all services

Annual Meetings and Deadlines

Annual meetings for the churches of the Parish are as follows:
Lawton Lutheran – January 7th
Our Redeemer’s – January 14th
United Lutheran – January 14th
Bethlehem – January 21st
Concordia Lutheran – January 28th
Mountain Lutheran – January 28th

Deadlines for reports: into office or by email by 9 a.m. on the following dates:
Lawton Lutheran – January 2nd
Our Redeemer’s – January 9th
United Lutheran – January 9th
Bethlehem – January 16th
Concordia Lutheran – January 23rd
Mountain Lutheran – January 23rd

Parish wide Christmas projects – A detailed explanation of our two projects can be found in the Lawton News section of this newsletter!!
With the beginning of December, we are given a great gift: the call to slow down and wait. If we are honest with ourselves, slowing down and waiting are not in the vocabulary of most of our lives. I am the first to admit that life rushes on in a frenzied pace and that “I want it now!”

Yet, the Church gives us the gift of Advent. What a counter-cultural season we embody as Christians!

Slowing down, and waiting. Slowing down to listen for the still small voice of the One who came, who comes, and who will come again. Waiting for God to be reborn in each of us, birthed through us – the church – into the world. Advent is our New Year. It is a time to start afresh. Advent is an opportunity to clean out the mangers of our hearts, making room for Christ to be born anew. It is a time of “getting ready,” of “waking up,” of doing the hard work of turning swords into plows, of praying for the peace of Jerusalem, and the peace of our lives together.

During this busy season, slow down and wait. Find a prayer partner. What a wonderful Advent practice – to pray with another brother or sister for the church, the pastor, the world, the community, and for each other.

Which leads me to extend this invitation to you: *Let us enter this Season of Advent with a holy expectancy… knowing and trusting that God will come again!*

With Christ’s Peace, *Pastor Don*

---

**High Plains Parish News**

Since our November newsletter, the High Plains Envelope fund has received memorial gifts in memory of Doris Martinson, Richard Strand, and David Hendrickson. We also received a generous Lord’s Acre gift from a member of Our Redeemer’s. Thanks to all who supported the High Plains Envelope Fund.

A team from the High Plains Parish will serve the evening meal at the Northlands Rescue Mission on Tuesday, December 5. The team will serve baked potatoes and chili with all the trimmings. Thanks to Hall’s Potato Company, Hoope, for providing the potatoes for the meal and to Thrivent for approving this meal as an Action Team project. The Men’s Prayer Group will serve the evening meal at the Mission on Friday, December 8. They will serve homemade pizza and a hotdish. Thanks to all who support this parish food ministry with your memorials and other gifts.

Please remember that our High Plains Envelope fund is available to anyone in the parish who would like to take a meal to the Mission. We welcome new teams who would like to join this ministry. Just talk to one of our pastors or me to get started.

*Irene Levang, High Plains Northlands Rescue Mission Contact*
What a crowd Concordia had for their dumpling dinner fundraiser. The meal itself was fit for royalty and the table talk in the fellowship room was continuous. Way to go Concordia, a job well done! After filling my belly, I went back to the kitchen and thank the crew for the delicious dinner. Dorothy Johnson informed me that she has passed on her crown and title of “butter queen” to Sandy Knoke. Sandy took over preparing both the plain and onion butter and didn’t want it to scorch. Next time you see Dorothy tell her she did a great job with her butter duties and congratulate Sandy on her new title as “butter queen of Concordia”.

Pastor Jodi had a beautiful church service for Confirmation Sunday. There were two confirmands here at Concordia; Wyatt Knoke and Jadyn Harpestad. After the service Rick and Sandy Knoke and Wade and Jessie Harpestad parents of Wyatt and Jadyn, hosted a ham and scalloped potato dinner for the honored guests and family. A beautifully decorated confirmation cake was served as dessert to the guests. A big congratulations to both Wyatt and Jadyn. Welcome to the newly confirmed members at Concordia Lutheran church.

Marcy Ketelsen, a former resident of Edmore, and member of Concordia has posted on Facebook that treatments and all the prayers are working, once again they seem to be killing the cancer and healing her. Marcy continues her teaching career in Ray North Dakota where her family is now living after leaving the Edmore area.

Everyone, mark your calendars on December 10th as a reminder that the High Plains Christmas concert will be held at Mountain Lutheran Church in Adams. We all enjoy listening to the trio when they perform and this is the perfect way to put each one of us in the Christmas spirit.

Lloyd Heck has recently been a patient at First Care Health Center in Park River. Lloyd is a current resident at the Edmore Rest Home. He used to be the cop in Edmore for many years and was a great asset to the community. By the way, it is Lloyd’s son, Dean, who keeps all the snow clear on the sidewalks here at Concordia. And his daughter Debbie, helps make the prayer shawls which High Plains Health Ministry gives to those in need. Let’s keep Lloyd in our prayers.

David and Irene Levang invited me to ride with them to Nekoma for the church dinner after services on November 12th. They served ham, turkey with all the trimmings and then some and it was delicious. The Pain Reliever was just buzzing with people visiting and laughing.

Clavinova Team

If you would like to join the clavinova team at Concordia, please contact Irene Levang. As a member of the team you would run the clavinova for worship services.

Church decorating will take place on November 29th after Church School at 5 p.m. Lunch will be provided. This is for all members and kids.

Our Fall Fund Drive will take place on December 10th with a potluck following worship.

The snow outside is getting me excited for Christmas. My Christmas shopping is almost completed and I’ve started decorating my house for the holidays. I still have three wreaths to put up and of course my tree. I have so many old decorations; they all have such sentimental value. Until next time have a beautiful Thanksgiving and of course Merry Christmas.

God’s love, Doyal

Usher- Larry Legacie
WELCA cleaning and coffee chair - Joan Zahradka and Marlyce Lorenz

The Lawton WELCA will meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 6th with a sweet treat potluck lunch. We will be discussing our Christmas causes we give to and our proposed budget for 2018.

The monthly Parish Women's Bible Studies and potluck led by Pastor Jodi have been very well attended throughout the year. This month the Bible Study potluck will meet at 11 a.m. December 13th at the Lawton Lutheran Church. All are welcome. The participants who have Angel tree tags please bring your gift bags to the Bible study on December 13th. We will have “show and tell” about our gifts at Bible study. They need to be brought to Devils Lake by December 15 so they can be distributed to the designated families.

Volunteers are great! The hunters breakfast served at the Farmers Union in Lawton during waterfall and
deer hunting was very successful again. The profits are all
donated to our church. Thanks to the following volunteers;
Larry Legacie, Skip and Lorenz, Pastor Don Reynolds,
William and Joe Rysavy, Earl Nickerson, Immanuel
Gauche and Earl Miller. A special thanks to Larry and Mary
for coordinating and getting supplies for the breakfast.
Thank you from our church family for all your time, energy
and culinary skills that make this a very worthwhile project
to benefit our church. Thanks Kathy Nash for your time and
energy cleaning up the flowerbeds for the winter. Your
work does not go unnoticed.

The Lawton WELCA members who volunteered at
the Hope Center, food pantry, in Devils Lake included:
Lovina Charon, Marlyce Lorenz, Kathy Nash, Francis
Omath-Salee and Joan Zahradka. Their new operations
manager is Katie Fitch. She gave us a tour and told us what
needed to be done. The donated bread from the Supervalu
stores were packaged as well as donations of fresh
produce items for individuals to take. We also printed time
changes on their fliers. During the month of September, the
Center served 324 households with 15,945 pounds of food.
The Hope Center wish list includes: peanut butter, canned
meats, feminine Products, plastic grocery bags, shopping
totes, toilet paper, devotional books, and unopened
nonperishable food items and volunteers. If your group
would like to get involved at the Hope Center contact Katie
at 665–4673.

The Lawton church council has designated
Sunday, December 3, 2017 as Stewardship Sunday. The
council is hoping for a generous response so we can meet
our budget obligations. Your support would be greatly
appreciated. The Lawton church council will be meeting
following church services on a Sunday to be determined. It
is time to plan our 2018 budget.

The lawton annual meeting has been set for
Sunday, January 7, 2018. Our WELCA will provide a
potluck meal following the meeting. Buns will be provided.
Check out the new "Gods work our hands" picture collage.
The pictures depict some of our church activities.

Our two Parish Christmas projects are on their
way after a few bumps making connections with the
right personnel. We are excited about remembering
the Sudanese community in Fargo along with
remembering our local children in our area with our
angel tree project. Our church members are invited to
help along with our parish church school children who
will be remembering 60 Sudanese children ages infant
through age 17, with suggested items of caps, mittens
for ages. We would like each church to have a
collection box designated for the Sudanese children
Christmas project. The items will be collected and
packed for each child by our parish church school group.
The Synod is also trying to start an "after-school
program" for the Sudanese children to help improve
their English language. There will be a free will offering
taken at our Parish Christmas program service which
will be designated to their Sudanese after school
program. There is a change in our partner for the angel
tree project. We will be partnering with the Dakota
Prairie Community Action Agency in Devils Lake for
Christmas angel tree project instead of the salvation
army. I will try and get the tags to each church contact
person by Thanksgiving or as soon as possible.
Partnering with a different agency caused a delay in
getting your tags. I hope you will understand. The tags
will have a data source number for identification of
each child along with the child's age, sex, size and
wants. These gifts can be put in a gift bag with the tag
stapled on the outside of the bag so it gets to the right
child. Each church can distribute the tags to
individuals or work as a group project with several
families filling the needs on the tag. You may add a toy,
candy, book, puzzles etc. along with the child's wish.
We would like the bags returned to Lawton church by
December 13th. They can be brought to Lawton church by
Lawton Bible study potluck gathering.

Thank you for your participation and generosity,
these projects are a great opportunity to show how God's
love can work through our High Plains Parish to make a
difference in each child's life letting them know they are
loved and thought about.

It is Christmas in the heart, that puts Christmas in
the air. Have a blessed holiday season.

Submitted by Joan Zahradka

Come let us
Adore
Him

+
We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the nice cards we received for our Anniversary. We would also like to thank Our Redeemer’s Church for the hospitality shown to us and to Helen Landsem for singing. It was all so nice.

A special thank you to our family for all they did for us to make it special. It was all very much appreciated.

God Bless Your All, Allen and Opal Myrvik

**United News**

Altar Chair: Doris McMorran

Please take a look at the calendar as we have a couple Sundays with different times and activities going on. December 10th at 8 a.m. No Church on the 17th. There will be a Christmas Program at Concordia 10 a.m.

WELCA hosted the November Parish Ladies Bible Luncheon on a cold and blustery day. Thank you to the brave ladies that tackled the roads and the weather.

We will be participating in the Angel Tree project in conjunction with Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency. We will be receiving 3 tags with children’s names on them. Anyone wishing to take a tag please contact Stephanie or we can do this as a WELCA project like we did last year where WELCA provided the funds for the gifts. You can read more in the Lawton News for details. Also, there will be a collection box in the entry way for our other parish Christmas project for the Sudanese children in Fargo. A list of needs is also in Lawton’s news.

**Bethlehem News**

Holiday time is fast approaching, bringing with it some special activities and projects to our little church!

Saturday, December 2nd, the Bible study ladies are treating themselves to a holiday lunch at Elaine’s in Lakota at 11:30, as their monthly gathering. All are welcome.

Sunday, December 3rd, our Sunday school children gather for their December session following church services. The youngsters will help decorate our Christmas tree, along with some other fun activities. If you know of any children in the area who would like to join us, we would love to have them! Please contact Kim Zinke 701-351-1193.

Sunday, December 3rd, we worship at 11:00 a.m. This Sunday is our ANNUAL FUND DRIVE and we will be celebrating the 125th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH. Services will be followed by one of our wonderful pot luck dinners. A special cake will be provided for the celebration. Thank you to our friends at United for making a change in the worship schedule that day. Watch your mail for a letter from our council highlighting upcoming events.

This year we are happy to be taking part in the CHRISTMAS TREE TAG PROJECT Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency, benefiting local children in need. We had such a good participation last year, so we’ve requested more tags to fill. As soon as the tags become available to us, they will be hanging on the tree in the church entry. Please refer to Lawton’s newsletter for further details. Kim will again deliver our congregation’s gifts to the Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency location.

Our Bible study group continues to collect personal hygiene products for the females who are served by the Hope Center in Devils Lake. The collection box is in the church basement. Contact Kristy with any questions.

Sunday School sessions are going great! We’ve had 5 to 8 children attend (visitors at grandparents one weekend). Kim and her helper Kendra are providing fun learning projects that help the kids grow in their understanding and faith. Thank you! The grownups are enjoying coffee time and visiting upstairs as well!

Please refer to the Christmas worship schedule in this newsletter, and remember Annual meeting time is approaching. We will keep you informed.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas!

*submitted by Kristy Tronson*
Nekoma News

Greetings from Nekoma Lutheran at the Edge of Nowhere, where the darkness is coming earlier and earlier.

The turkey/ham dinner held at the Pain Reliever was a huge success. Thank you for attending and supporting our churches. A special thank you out to Josh Moen, returning to Nekoma all the way from Iowa, purposely to head up the meal preparation. To the Wilhelmi’s, thank you for all your help and hosting the dinner.

A special thank you to Linda and Tom Adsem from Mandan for their help once again this year. Thank you to everyone that brought the delicious deserts and to everyone who worked that day.

Nekoma Lutheran held their annual meeting and harvest festival Nov 19. Church services were held at 11am, followed by the business meeting, then on to a wonderful roast beef dinner. The roast compliments of Darren Larson, thanks.

Idella Petri was a special guest, coming over from the Osnabrock Com. Living Center to share the day. Gladys Bresdeson’s birthday was celebrated with delicious cake and ice cream made by Tamera Bredeson

Amanda Moen gave our church a beautiful 9 ft. Christmas Tree. Thank you so much.

Everyone is making plans for Thanksgiving. David and Eileen Moen will be traveling to Minnesota and Iowa to be with their daughter, son and daughter-in-law.

Hope to see as many folks that can make it to Thanksgiving eve services here.

Aiden Haraseth had his 8th birthday. Anna Haraseth was victorious at her first hockey game of the season. Sophie Myrvik tells me can play Twinkle Twinkle Little Star on the piano.

A very Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Our church family has so much to be thankful for.

Submitted by Patty Anne

Mountain News

Altar Guild: Lori Zahradka
Thank you to the Men's Club for the wonderful Hunter's Breakfast. They served pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs.

Our Sunday school age youth will be participating in the Parish Church School Christmas Program at Concordia on December 17th at 10 a.m. Please come out and support them in their presentation of the Christmas message.

Christmas decorating will be on November 29th at 5:00 pm.

If we know how to be content, we can relax our endless striving and welcome serenity.

If we know how to be content, we can enjoy the time we have with the person next to us.

If we know how to be content, we can make peace with our past and let go of our baggage.

Our Redeemer's News

Snow removal: No volunteer listed.

The WELCA Bible study and luncheon will be at Lawton Lutheran December 13, 11 A.M.

It’s time to think about your Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2017. Members have until the end of March to call in.

It’s time to think about reports and budget for the annual meeting in January. Our Redeemer’s meeting will be January 14, 2018.
Christmas Eve Worship at Our Redeemer’s will be at 3:45 p.m.

Another Thrivent Action project has been approved for Our Redeemer’s. Supplies are being purchased for personal care kits. An announcement will be made for volunteer help at church when a day is chosen to put the kits together.

Another Thrivent Financial Action Team project has been completed. Deb Anderson, representing the Parish Health Ministry, purchased yarn for prayer shawls. With the generous gift from Thrivent and a shopping coupon, Deb said she was able to buy a good supply of yarn!!

Our Redeemer’s will be joining with Lawton to provide Christmas gifts for the Dakota Prairie Community Action organization. Gift suggestions are on the tags. Please put your items in a gift bag with the ‘tag’ stapled to the outside of the bag. The bags will be collected on December 13 at the WELCA Bible study in Lawton. Gladys will be going so I can take the gifts. You may add candy, books, puzzles etc if you so desire.

Submitted by Gladys Hammer

Thank you to the High Plains Trio for singing the songs Mom and Dad loved, and thanks to John Martinson for playing! We will miss Mom so much, but we are at peace!

Barb, Claire, Richard, Diane, Lavonne & Larry

The High Plains Church School will be presenting ‘Emoji Christmas’ on December 17th at 10 a.m. Come and enjoy hearing the Christmas message told in a new and fun way as three BFF’s (that’s Best Friends Forever for those who might not know) use their smart phone technology to present the Christmas Pageant. Brunch will be served following the program. A free-will offering will be taken to support the after-school program for the Sudanese worshiping community to provide English language education skills for their children.

After the Church School program on December 17th, there will be a bus going to Fargo leaving at noon. Christmas gifts to Sudanese children will be delivered that day and we will join in in their worship services at 3 p.m. Anyone wishing to attend is more than welcome to come. Contact the office at 644-2486 and leave a message.

Thank you to all who participated in the food drive for the Hope Center in Devils Lake. We started out with a door to door trick or treat in Edmore which was very successful. We took our first 250 items to the Hope Center along with 20 of our youth on November 8. The youth helped at the center making and filling boxes. We have exceeded our goal of 500 items with support from the entire parish and are hopeful that our donation will be matched with a $500 grant from Thrivent Financial. Again, THANK YOU!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Sunday of Advent – Blue Holy Communion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 am Nekoma-layperson</td>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 am Pastor’s Text Study</td>
<td>1:30pm Lawton WELCA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Men’s Group-Mission Meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 am Bethlehem/Mountain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1:45 pm Edmore Rest Home Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 am Lawton/Our Redeemer’s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3:30 pm LDC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 am United/Concordia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No Church School, Edmore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 pm 7-9th grade Confirmation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Sunday of Advent – Blue 10 Stewardship Sunday in Bethlehem and Concordia</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 am United/Nekoma</td>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 am Pastor’s Text Study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 am Lawton/Our Redeemer’s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 am Bethlehem/Concordia potluck dinners to follow both</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mountain please worship with neighbors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 pm High Plains Trio Christmas Concert at Mountain Lutheran, Adams</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Sunday of Advent – Blue 17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 am Parish Service at Concordia Church School Program with brunch to follow served by church school</td>
<td></td>
<td>1:45 pm Edmore Rest Home Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Noon Bus leaving for Fargo</td>
<td></td>
<td>3:30 pm LDC, Church School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 pm 7-9th grade Confirmation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nativity of Our Lord – White 24 Holy Communion</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 pm Nekoma/Bethlehem</td>
<td></td>
<td>No LDC, Church School or Confirmation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:45 pm Our Redeemer’s United/Lawton at Lawton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast Concordia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30 pm Mountain/Concordia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 am church school program practice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Sunday of Christmas – White 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 am Bethlehem/Nekoma</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 am Lawton/Our Redeemer’s</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 am United/Mountain Concordia please worship with neighbors New Year’s Eve</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIGH PLAINS MINISTRY
Pastor Don Reynolds and Pastor Jodi Myrvik
Mountain Lutheran, Adams
Bethlehem Lutheran, Doyon
Lawton Lutheran, Lawton
Nekoma Lutheran, Nekoma
United Lutheran, Brocket
Concordia Lutheran, Edmore
Our Redeemer’s, Fairdale