



Third Cross Quarterly

a Publication for Friends and Supporters

Summer 2016

Bishop Andrea

Bishop of the SD Synod, Andrea DeGroot-Nedahl was a strong supporter of St. Dysmas in our early years.

Worship at St Dysmas was one of the first events I attended as the newly elected Bishop of the South Dakota Synod in the summer of 1995. It was the 5th Anniversary celebration of the congregation, and quite an introduction to this important ministry for me. It was also the first of many visits and ongoing work with this most unique congregation of the new synod I had been called to serve.

The chapel in 1995 didn't look like it does today with its lovely windows, air conditioning, and nice seating. It was rough, and hot, and full of identically dressed men who sang with gusto throughout the service. Pastor LeRoy Iseminger was the pastor, who I came to know as one of the founding forces behind this ministry. The two most memorable parts of the service that evening, and every time I've worshipped at St Dysmas since, were Holy Communion, and sharing the Peace of Christ.

I assisted with distribution, and was particularly touched by the hands and faces of each participant. They were like any other congregation I'd ever worshipped with....eager to receive the body and blood of Jesus, with faces registering their need and their faith that they were receiving the forgiveness of sin, the essence of grace, in the bread and wine. Communion didn't distinguish between

Inmates Giving Back



Inmates at Mike Durfee State Prison have used their creativity to make toys and clothing for newborns. All the hats, clothing and toys are donated to those in need. Thanks to the Women of the ELCA who provide the vast majority of the yarn used. Contact us at info@stdysmas.com if you are interested in receiving some of the crafts and hats produced by inmates. There is no charge.

inmate and visitor...Jesus came and died for all of us. Sharing the Peace was unlike what most of our congregations did during this practice in Lutheran churches. At St Dysmas, everyone moves around the whole chapel to greet one another with God's peace. Not just a small circle of greetings to those closest to where you might be sitting! Passing the Peace was a special experience at St. Dysmas worship.

Hand in hand greetings to people the inmates had never met before, such as myself or other visitors, as well as sharing the Peace with other men who they didn't see except at worship. "Friends in Faith", a phrase I'd heard in other contexts, became a good descriptor of what I saw at this worship.

continued on pg. 3

For information about attending a
St. Dysmas worship service
or supporting the ministry
call 605-338-1735 • www.stdysmas.com

Bathed in Tears by Christopher

Tears fall from my eyes,
Through you I see the past
The Devil's lies.
I feel the wetness upon my cheek.
Your love, my Lord,
Overpowers the
darkness in
me.
I am not perfect, in fact far from.

Yet Jesus grabs me, He pulls
me near.
I break down and
weep, as He calls me
son.
Tears fall from my eyes
because I feel the warmth
from His heavenly sky.
Thank you Lord for your Grace,

that brings me tears,
Cleaning my eyes, so
that I may see.
Tears fall from my eyes
cleaning away the dirt of sin,
crumbling the wall
that keeps me from
letting Jesus in.

Behind the Walls... *by Justin*

Justin explains how he came to be a member of St. Dymas.

Pastor Hansen has done so much for St. Dymas over the years – from its very beginning till now. Most reading this will probably realize how instrumental he has been to not only starting St. Dymas, but in keeping it running.

The way the Lord worked through Pastor Hansen to bring me back to church is a perfect example. Pastor Hansen not only helped hand in the beginnings of St. Dymas, but he has helped it continue to run through the years. In 2007 or 08 he was serving as interim pastor at St. Dymas, taking over at a tumultuous time. I did not know him yet, but had already been locked up for several years. I was at that point where I knew something had to change, but I

was still filled with doubt. I prayed my first sincere prayer – well, ever. I prayed that God guide me, to show his will to me. I was not yet convinced that Jesus was Lord.

A few days later I was in my cell reading (I still remember the book: Dostoyevsky's House Of The Dead – a Russian classic about a Siberian labor camp) I am sitting at the desk, reading, my back to the cell bars. "Justin?" a deep voice behind me asks. I turned and this huge man was towering above me. My first thought was, "Crap, what'd I do?" The towering man continued, "Justin, I'm Pastor Bob Hansen of St. Dymas. Ray and Sandy said you were in prison and wanted me to look in on you....This, just a couple days after my prayer asking God for guidance! A pastor shows up at

my cell, prompted by people I had not seen since I was a boy!

The next week I was at St. Dymas, and I prayed that Jesus forgive me, a sinner.

And this is just one tiny example of the hundreds of lives affected for the better by Pastor Hansen, both here and in the world at large, but especially through St. Dymas.

Pastor Hansen, if you are reading this, I thank you for it. My life is so much better because you – mine and countless others. Thank You! On behalf of all St. Dymas, Thank you!

THRIVENT FINANCIAL/THRIVENT CHOICE

February 2016

David Anderson
Neil Bowes
Raymond Cheney
Sandra Cheney
Marc Christopherson
Joan Eitheim
Dennis Ellingsen
Sandra Ellingsen
Margaret Greene
Mark Gronseth
Correen Major
Kwen Sanderson

March 2016

Ranae Bostrom
Clara Downs
Myron Downs
Faith Freese
Kathleen Gorseth
Susan Howlet
Gerald Iversen
Arlean Jensen
Warren Jensen
Geneva Mattson
Irene Midden
Agnes O'Neal
Doris Rye

Kari Schoenfish

Glen Sellevold
Gregg Stormo
Collleen Wangsness
Marlin Wangsness
Shirleen Wixon

April 2016

Verdelle Anderson
Darwin Blume
Margaret Blume
Tracey Braithwaite
Bradley Danielson
Nellie Hagberg
Sharon Hoekman

Willard Martens

William Meisenhelder
Kevin Quail
Laura Quail

Ronald Risty

Norma Shumaker
Wanda Swenson
Lois Wetter
Romelle Wojahn

In Memory Of

Joe Peterson by Charles & Marla Myklegard
Dorothy Prendergast by Charles & Marla Myklegard
Pastor Norman Aronson by Dolores Aronson
Watler Herrig, for his daughter Jeanne Melmer,
by Inga Trygstad

In Honor of

Liz Davis by Scott & Cindy Hoy
Wayne Akland's Birthday by Sharon Akland

Bishop Andrea Continued...

I remember getting several special gifts at St Dysmas, as well. A small cooler was the first, a miniature 'freezer' (think lunch-size cooler) modeled after the life-size freezer the Synod Assembly had presented to our family after my 1995 election. My oldest son still thinks I should have mentioned I would be car-shopping after I got home from that Assembly, since my comment about freezer-shopping resulted in that freezer gift! St Dysmas congregation perfectly responded to that show of generosity and good humor started by the Assembly, and the inmates showed how much their church community is a part of the South Dakota synod and its ministry. Not in affiliation only, but also in spirit and in hospitality.

Other than worship experiences, I also remember meetings some years later with a small group of St Dysmas leaders working on a Renewal document, breathing new life into the bones or structure of the congregation with its inside and outside councils. The Congregation had gotten old enough to have a few 'ruts' that they wanted to get out of, and the Renewal work seemed to help them turn a page

into the next chapter of their ministry.

When I worshipped at St Dysmas again recently one of the previous leaders reminisced with me about that time period in the congregation's history, and how they are currently working with that structure. It's certainly gratifying to hear that Reformation and spiritual growth continue to move the church forward, wherever it is located.

That conversation, though, reminded me of the most important part of visiting at St Dysmas...the people. The men; their conversations with me, and each other. Their leadership for a ministry they valued and benefitted from. Their commitment to be a part of something larger: The Church, within and beyond the prison walls. I recall again how meaningful sharing communion and passing the peace during St. Dysmas worship services has been to me. Singing there....as one of just a few women's voices in a sea of men's voices is also a strong memory. Because of the existence and ministry of St Dysmas the South Dakota Synod actively remembers those in prison,

and I am grateful for that in many ways.

These aren't reflections of the 'good old days', as they say. Prison and good old days just don't go together. But if a person ends up in prison, for reasons I (nor other visitors) never knew, then I am grateful that we could share communion and peace together. Grateful to be able to proclaim Good News to the prisoners. Grateful that Jesus was always there, during worship and other times. Grateful for pastors like LeRoy, Ed, Bob, Bill, Marlin, and now Bob Chell who felt strongly called to serve Jesus in a congregation within a prison.

We can all be grateful for the ministry of St. Dysmas, and can participate ourselves in its continuation well beyond these first 26 years.

*Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl
Bishop Emerita
South Dakota Synod/ELCA*

Are you a Thrivent member?

Thrivent is changing the way it supports ministry by the creation of Thrivent Action Teams. Every Thrivent member is encouraged to initiate two projects a year with \$250 funding support from Thrivent. Projects can be in the areas of Service, Education or Fundraising.

Service grants could cover travel costs to visit St. Dysmas, Education costs could provide meals to view and discuss the ELCA's new resource, "Called to Hear" about the criminal justice service. Fundraisers could supply yarn for men who knit caps donated to the needy or to provide a special meal or event in our congregations.

We would love to partner with you! Let us know how we can help.

Thrivent Choice

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members, please direct Choice Dollars to St. Dysmas of South Dakota.

Either: (1) Log into Thrivent.com/thriventchoice and select "Get Started;"

Or: (2) Contact a representative from the Member Connection Center at 800-847-4836 and, when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice." When next prompted, say, "Choice Dollars."

St. Dysmas of South Dakota
1300 E 10th St
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1779

Address Service Requested

For more information about
St. Dysmas:
call Sioux Falls - 605-338-1735
www.stdysmas.com

If you need to change the number of
newsletters you currently receive
call 605-338-1735

Thinking of Retiring From The Farm?

St. Dysmas is a member of Lutheran Planned Giving which can help donors protect assets while supporting St. Dysmas.

The decision to retire from farming brings concerns regarding capital gain on the value of land, the “depreciation recapture” on equipment, and if there is crop and livestock to sell, questions about income tax implications. The use of a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) is a tool to consider when there is significant capital gain in the value of your land. Let’s use an example:

Dick and Jane own farmland valued at \$600,000. If the couple transferred half the value of the land to a CRT and the land is sold by the trust, there is no capital gain on that portion of the land sold by the trust, and they receive a significant charitable income tax deduction. The rest of the land is sold for the fair market value of \$300,000. Because half of the land was sold by the trust, the net

result to the couple is tax owed. For the remainder of their lives, the trust will pay them \$18,000 per year. At the end of their lives, the value remaining in the trust is a gift to charities and ministries of their choosing.

A CRT is an option to consider when exiting the farming operation and selling machinery. When machinery is transferred to a CRT and sold at auction, it provides an advantage since the CRT does not pay any tax on the sales due to the charitable nature of the trust. The terms of the trust typically require that the grantor be paid annual income over the term of years. The term can be up to 20 years. This provides a way to avoid a large spike in income in the year of the sale and moving into a higher tax bracket.

The CRT may also be advantageous for the sale of crops and livestock, which are both subject to income tax and self-

employed Social Security tax. The CRT eliminates any self-employed Social Security tax on those assets.

Your tax advisor can help you determine the precise cost and benefits of considering the use of a Charitable Remainder Trust.

If you would like to begin discussions and see illustrations of how these options may work for you, Jim Schade or Kurt Osborne with Lutheran Planned Giving and the ELCA Foundation are equipped to provide details.

Contact Information:

jschade@sdsynod.org
605 940-2363,
kosborne@sdsynod.org
605 940-7524