

KINDRED CONNECTIONS

UNVEILING JESUS

January 2016

News & Notes	1
Baptisms	2
Stewardship	3
New Member	3
Susan Smith	4-5
Via de Cristo	5
Prayers	6
Calendar	7

News & Notes from Pastor Andrew

Dear Kindred Family,

Thank you for being the people of God! Thank you for sharing so generously of the gifts God has given you to make the Kingdom of God a reality in this place and throughout the world.

Thank you for being supportive, uplifting and generous to Vallorie, Elizabeth and I. We are so grateful to be here with all of you in Kindred. We pray that you had a most blessed and astonishing Christmas!

The life of faith has been compared to a journey where we walk with God in the details of life and hang out with Jesus. One of the most important experiences of my journey was attending a Via de Cristo retreat in 1996. Via de Cristo is a Spanish word meaning "Way of Christ." It originated in the 1940's and moved to the United States in the 1950's. These retreats are held throughout the country.

Via de Cristo is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and

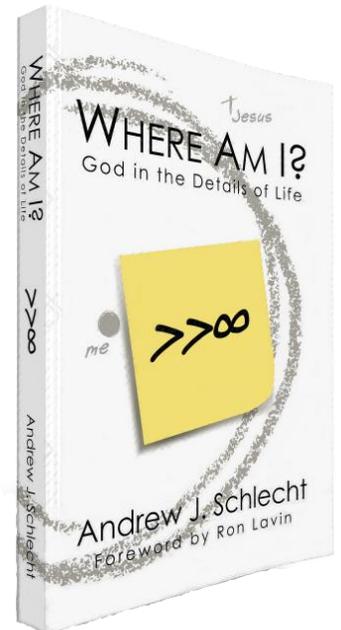
teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on Via de Cristo itself, but on the local church. The objective is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches and communities.

I am inviting you to seriously and prayerfully consider attending a weekend. We have had several people from Kindred attend, including Dona Schock, Marie Moe, Sandy Olsgard, Lori Zietlow-Elliott, Barb Rude and Vallorie Schlecht. I encourage you to ask them or me about the weekend should you have any questions.

The next retreat will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Perham, MN, which is only about a 1-1/2 hour's drive from Kindred. In fact, it is no different than driving to the lake for a weekend. Just a hop, skip and a jump! The men's and women's retreats are held on consecutive weekends:

- Men [February 25-28](#)
- Women [March 3-6](#)

The weekend begins Thursday evening and runs through Sunday afternoon. I will be serving as one of the spiritual leaders on the women's weekend again this year. I hope you will accept the invitation. Please see me for an application.



Finally, I am excited to announce that I have been writing a book: *Where Am I? God in the Details of Life*. It is a memoir about my own journey and my struggles with faith. The book will be available on February 14 from Amazon.com.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Andrew



Jesus tells Nicodemus, **“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.... Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit”** (John 3:3,5-6). As Christians, our baptismal birthday is more important than our birthday! “I am baptized!” Baptism makes all the difference!

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Roger	Johnson	1	3
Karen	Hertsgaard	1	5
Tenille	Bakko	1	8
Brenden	Fowler	1	9
Brittany	Fowler	1	9
Dylan	Brandt	1	9
Brock	Woehl	1	9
Gavin	Rude	1	10
Nicholle	Zurn	1	10
Darryl	Olson	1	11
Tate	Miller	1	14
Owen	Hoyme	1	15
Taya	Spelhaug	1	17
Daryl	Brandt	1	19
Lori	Pearson	1	20
Julie	Otterson	1	25
Tyler	Sahr	1	26
Cora	Johnson	1	28
Suzanne	Boyer	1	29
John	Hertsgaard	1	29
Candace	Boyer	1	29
Jack	Ilvedson	1	30
Susan	Johnson	1	30
Allen	Nokleberg	1	30
Jackie	Miller	1	31

Baptisms!

On December 16, 2015 Kindred Lutheran Church welcomed **Silas Archer Mund** in Holy Baptism. Please pray for blessings on Silas and his parents, Adam & Ashley Mund along with his sponsors Ann Huether, Ben Huether, and Deb Mund.



In Baptism, you are born again (John 3:3-8)! God promises to:

- *make you a child of God, for you are baptized in God's name (Matthew 28:19; Galatians 3:26-29),*
- *wash you clean of sin (Acts 22:16),*
- *give you the Holy Spirit, which will enable you to call upon Jesus as Lord (Titus 3:5; Acts 2:38),*
- *make you a member of the body of Christ, the Church (Romans 6:1-10), and grant you eternal life (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21-22; Romans 6:3-7).*

Baptism marks the beginning of your calling to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Every day when you wash your face or hands or while standing under the shower or taking a bath, remember your baptism and live in the confidence of God's promises!

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."
Acts 2:37-41



Applying Biblical Principles of Stewardship

We've all heard the expression, "Money talks." That's true. Money does talk. Oh, not in words or phrases that constitute a language, but money talks. Because it is valuable to us, how we use it communicates volumes to those about us. People tend to spend their money on things that are important to them. With the exception perhaps of taxes, all of us vote with the contents of our purses, wallets and checkbooks concerning what means the most to us.

In fact, we could even go so far as to say that a person who does not spend money on something which is supposedly very important in his or her life really does not place much value on that item or activity. Suppose for a moment that you think "little league" baseball for kids is very important. You talk about it wherever you go. You attend the games. You enroll your own children in the program. But when someone calls you to ask you to be a sponsor of a team, or when someone "passes the hat" at a game to pay for equipment, you refuse to participate.

Would you not agree that an impartial observer of such behavior would conclude correctly that little league baseball really does not mean much to you? Your lack of financial support would outweigh the other positive aspects of your attendance, enthusiasm and participation.

The same thing is true in the spiritual realm. It is one thing to talk about Christianity. It is yet another to demonstrate our faith by how we use the money which God has entrusted to us. And that is especially true in our support of the ministry of Kindred Lutheran Church. As someone said recently in one church just before the offering was received, "Lord, in spite of all we say and do, this is what we think of you."

Or as the Lord Jesus put it, ". . . let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).



New Member Luncheon and Sunday

You are invited to join us for good food and fellowship! On **Sunday, February 14, 2016, from 11 AM to 2 PM**, all who are interested in joining KLC are invited to join Pastor Andrew for lunch served by the Church Council and a discussion of membership at KLC! No obligation...come check us out! Sign up in the church entrance or [email Pastor Andrew](mailto:andrew@kclc.org). Reception of new members will be **Sunday, February 28**, during worship. Requirements for membership are: baptism, attendance at the New Member Luncheon, and the completion of the membership information letter, which can be mailed to you or picked up at the church office.





Gifts and Preparations Susan Smith, Garoua Boulai December 20, 2015

A Christmas tradition worldwide is to give gifts. Jesus was a gift to the world. The wise men brought him gifts. St Nicholas who died in 343 became known, in part, because he gave gifts. So, today, we give gifts too at Christmas time.

Yes, I know many complain that Christmas has become too commercial. Even those who don't celebrate Jesus' birth go into debt to buy lots of (especially name-brand or up-to-the-minute) "stuff." But, the distortion of a tradition doesn't negate its basic value even if it might influence the ways we give (or ask for) gifts.

Since I have been in Garoua Boulai, I have tried to find gifts that meet the needs of the recipients and to give something small to those I see the most often. I am giving the Bible School students ibuprofen because they don't have basic medicines, mostly because they have so little money. I am including directions for its use. I even wrapped them up in old yogurt containers. (No, each is not full of medicine, but the container is also a small gift.) I have baked pumpkin pies and ginger snaps that I am sharing with friends – both Christian and Muslim.



I know that others like to give gifts, too, even if they don't have the means to give much. So, I requested a gift from the Bible School students and their spouses. During morning meditations, they sing beautifully and in harmony. I asked them to come 15 minutes early to a meditation one day so that they could sing four hymns (in Gbaya) which they often sing and that have become favorites of mine. They were overjoyed to do it! How do I know? Instead of 15 minutes early, they showed up at 6:45 – 45 minutes before the meditation! At 7:05 they sent the class president to my house to say they were ready and waiting for me. (This, from students who are often late for the 7:30 meditation, class, meetings, etc.) They sang with gusto and even borrowed a drum to accompany the songs! I am thrilled with my present.



We also took pictures of the students and their families in front of their houses. That was for me, too, although I am sharing the photos and songs with any student who can bring a USB flash drive.

I attended the children's Christmas pageant. OK, it was part of OSEELC Week that I wrote about recently, but the children of hospital employees, directed by Dr. Joely, sang Christmas songs in Malagasy, English, and French. They also retold (in French) the Christmas story. Well done.

Special meals are also a tradition for the Christmas season – in the USA and Cameroon/CAR. I will be sharing Christmas dinner with Dr. Solofo and Dr. Joely. I think someone has been trying to help me out; several cattle have been grazing (and lowing) around my house. This week, three have decided that my carport is a great place to be. I figure if they use my space and leave me cow pies (presents?), they must be gifts that I can use for Christmas dinner, no?? (Well, maybe not. I would have to butcher them myself and the owners might be upset. I guess it would be better to try to find the owners and get them to control where their cattle go.)

Here, like in the USA, gifts for kids are meant to be a surprise. I am keeping a couple of dolls and some blocks for a neighbor. She will get a surprise, too,

since I have wrapped them in Christmas paper and added a small "Santa Claus" gift.

I consider it a great gift that I could talk to the Pittsburgh Ragin' Grannies last Wednesday for 40 minutes during their holiday gathering. Yes, I had to call at 1:30 a.m. my time, but it was well worth it! Love the new "no guns" version of the gaggle song. Thanks for all the news and good wishes.

My new computer, camera, passport, etc. are in Yaoundé! I can't really call them presents since the insurance and I paid for them after the theft at my house, but I can say it will be like Christmas after they come the last eight hours to GB. Thanks to Willie Langdji who brought most of my new "stuff" from the USA after his meeting in Chicago. (I'm not sure yet when or how they will make the last leg of the journey.)

Other preparations. I have never really gotten into doing a lot of decorating for Christmas. In Pittsburgh, I used the excuse that I usually left my house to be with family for the holiday. I don't have that excuse here. I could say that it's because it's



not cold and snowy. (Of course, from what I hear it isn't cold or snowy in Pennsylvania now either! Temperatures in the 60s.) It is hot and sunny (up to the mid/upper 80s during the day, even if it gets down to 55-60 at night), so it doesn't "feel" like Christmas here. It's probably safer to say that I am just lazy... Why put up stuff that you just have to take down in a couple of weeks?? I did get a carved crèche scene last year. I so have put it and the hot mitt with Father Christmas out, so I have decorated! (The hot mitt belongs to the guest house; I found it here...)

Advent is not big here (although it has been mentioned in a couple of sermons). Christmas carols aren't very common either. That is, they exist, but I rarely hear them. Children, though, go around the neighborhood singing on Christmas Eve. They are given candy or small coins for their efforts. I have some candy ready.

I am preparing as I can and reflecting on Jesus' teaching – ways we can better follow his example wherever we are as we wait for his second coming

and the celebration of his birth: feed the hunger, give drink to the thirsty, clothe those without, visit the sick and imprisoned. Treat all as our neighbors, especially those who are different in culture and religion.

Blessed Advent and an early Merry Christmas!

Via de Cristo!

You are invited to attend a Via de Cristo weekend here in Fargo! Pastor Andrew will be serving as assistant spiritual director for the women's weekend.

Via de Cristo is designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. The method is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The three-day retreat, beginning Thursday evening and ending Sunday evening, includes 14 talks about living the basic Christian truths. Participants live, study, worship and commune together daily. There is music and singing, food and fellowship, a time for laughter and a time for prayer.

Via de Cristo originated as a Catholic retreat in Majorca, Spain, in the 1940's. The Spanish word *Cursillo* (kur-see-yo), meaning "short course", was adopted as the name of this Christian movement. This Lutheran ministry is named Via de Cristo (www.viadecristo.org) meaning "way of Christ" in Spanish.

Men's Weekend: February 25 – 28, 2016

Women's Weekend: March 3 – 6, 2016

[Calvary Lutheran](#), 619 3rd Ave SW, Perham, MN

Cost: FREE! There is a limited number of people who can attend and it fills up quickly. Please contact Pastor Andrew if you have any questions and for an application if you are interested.



Prayers of Intercession

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective!"
James 5.16



Please lift up the following in your prayers this month.

THANKFULNESS FOR...

Baptism of Leah Cynthia Hillman
Baptism of Lennon Ann Wolf
Baptism of Silas Archer Mund

HEALING FOR...

Lori Zietlow-Elliott (broken hip)
Bonnie Gruel (torn ACL, surgery)
Kasie Johnson (surgery)
Erika Johnson & baby
Melissa Schmid (wife of Pastor Andrew's nephew)
Niki Burgan (cancer – sister in law Jodi Nesemeier)
Samantha
Erick (cancer – Michele Gietzen's brother)
Jamie (Michele Gietzen's sister)
Leon Perhus
Max (infant with heart problems)
Duane Hanson & Family (Sharlene Mattson's dad)
Avery (cancer – granddaughter of Brad & Sheila Childs)
Katie Ayer (EDS and Ankylosing spondylitis)
Sharon (lung cancer)
Cory (addiction)
Bud Johnson (cancer, Dave Johnson's uncle)
Karen (cancer, Dave Johnson's sister)
Betty Johnson (Dave Johnson's mother)
Stewart (heart and kidney problems)
Jason Allison
Karen Johnson
Zach White (burns to half of body)
Chris Wear (Leukemia)
Sandra Johnson (juvenile myoclonic epilepsy)
Mikel Karels (5-year-old, cancer)
Marci Conlin
Katelyn Alyce (baby 12 weeks premature)
Phil (paralyzed, auto-immune disease)
Blair Grandalen
Jim Ostenson (dementia, kidney failure)
Layne Billing (cancer)
Bev & Reuben Braaten (parents of Paula Erickson)
Sue (Marian Perhus' daughter)
Sarah (Marian Perhus' granddaughter, tumor)
Deb Hoyme (breast cancer)
Marvin & Corrine Swanson (Deb Leslie's parents)

COMFORT FOR...

Family of those murdered by terrorists throughout the world, especially in Paris and San Bernardino

HOPE FOR...

Peace in the Central African Republic, Syria, Iraq and the places affected by terror attacks.

Missionaries: Sam & Rebekka Rood; Louis and Annie Liss and children in Lebanon; Susan Smith in the Central African Republic.

Christians in Egypt, Iraq, Central African Republic and throughout the world who face persecution.

The Gideon's ministry that doors would be opened and Scripture would be placed and God's Word would accomplish what God sets out to do!

Our brave men and women in Libya, Afghanistan and Iraq and throughout the world.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Heavenly Father, I lift up _____ to you. Please calm the storms in his/her life and help him/her keep his/her heart focused on Jesus. Let him/her feel your loving arms wrapped around him/her and hear you whisper in their ear, "I love you! We're going to make it! Dad knows the way home." Strengthen their faith so that they will stand firm to the end and grant them the gift of eternal life. Amen.

Note: If you have a prayer request to add to the prayer chain, please submit on line under "[Prayer Chain](#)" and you may submit a prayer request directly to Pastor Andrew and to the prayer chain.

JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Counters - Darren/Kristin Hoyme & Kevin/Tanya Kvamme 10:00 AM Celebration Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship	28 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours	29 9:00 AM Pastors Text Study	30 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 7:00 PM ignite wednesday worship 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	31	1  New Year's Day 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 9:30 AM Quilting 1:00 PM Seniors Gathering	2 Pastor Andrew's Day Off
3 10:00 AM Celebration Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship	4 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours	5 9:00 AM KAMA Meeting 9:00 AM Pastors Text Study	6  Epiphany 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 10:00 AM Chapel 4:00 PM 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation 7:00 PM ignite wednesday worship 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	7	8 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 1:00 PM Seniors Gathering	9 Pastor Andrew's Day Off
10  8:45 AM Learning 10:00 AM Celebration Worship/Children's Choir 11:00 AM Fellowship 6:30 PM 4H	11 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 12:00 PM Seniors Center Dinner	12 9:00 AM Pastors Text Study 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting	13 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 4:00 PM 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation 7:00 PM ignite wednesday worship 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	14 6:30 PM KLC Council Mtg.	15  9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 9:30 AM Quilting 1:00 PM Seniors Gathering	16 Newsletter Articles Due Pastor Andrew's Day Off
17 8:45 AM Learning 10:00 AM Celebration Worship/Adult Choir/Ritterman Baptism 11:00 AM Fellowship	18 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours	19 9:00 AM Pastors Text Study	20 Annual Reports Due 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 4:00 PM 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation 7:00 PM ignite wednesday worship 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	21	22 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 1:00 PM Seniors Gathering	23 Pastor Andrew's Day Off
24 8:45 AM Learning 10:00 AM Celebration Worship/Children's Choir 11:00 AM Fellowship	25 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours	26 9:00 AM Pastors Text Study 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting	27 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 4:00 PM 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation 7:00 PM ignite wednesday worship 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	28	29 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 1:00 PM Seniors Gathering	30 Pastor Andrew's Day Off
31 8:45 AM Learning 10:00 AM Celebration Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship	1 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours	2 9:00 AM KAMA Meeting 9:00 AM Pastors Text Study	3 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 10:00 AM Chapel 4:00 PM 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation 7:00 PM ignite wednesday worship 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	4	5 9:30 AM 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Church Office Hours 9:30 AM Quilting 1:00 PM Seniors Gathering	6 Pastor Andrew's Day Off



Vision

Following Jesus is a journey, a lifelong process of faith formation that we describe simply as: **Gathered to Grow . . . Sent to Serve!** This is our vision. And everything that we do at Kindred Lutheran is focused on this faith formation process. It is our way of helping one another become the disciple Jesus is calling us to be. Discipleship is what **we** do. Faith formation is what **God** does.

Repent. Trust his promise. Respond to his call. Follow Jesus. Be his disciple. Enter the kingdom. And together let's be his witnesses! Join us on the journey of a lifetime . . .

Visit our webpage
www.kindredlutheran.com

Join us on
[facebook](#)

Read our blog
blog.kindredlutheran.com

Follow us on Twitter
[@KindredPreacher](#)

Watch us on YouTube
YouTube/KindredPreacher



391 Spruce St.
PO Box 115
Kindred ND 58051

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Kindred, ND 58051
Permit #11