

Quilt ministry helps 'wrap in God's love'

"Wrapped in God's love." That's what the senior class members of St. Paul Lutheran Church are reminded of when they cozy up in their homemade quilts from the church.

Since the year 2001, the St. Paul Lutheran Church has continued their tradition of sewing up denim quilts for their seniors in high school as a graduation gift.

Pam Lee and Pam Seefeldt, members of the church, have been the leads in getting the job done every year with help from others. "We could always use more help and more denim cut in seven inch squares," stated the pair of their annual sewing project for their senior members in high school.

"It's a mission in keeping our church connected to our youth," stated Pam Seefeldt. "It's a ministry for them to be reminded of their church family - the church that was praying for them and supported them in their younger days."

The church name and the student's name are machine embroidered on each quilt towards the end of the project by St. Paul member Tammie Paulson, FACS teacher at the Clark High School.

The quilts are very durable and warm as they are made out of denim from one's blue jeans pieces. About 150 squares make up each quilt which covers a twin sized bed.

"One year I recall, one mother had all of her relatives contribute their jeans for the project. She had two children graduating and their quilts were represented by their entire extended family. That was really a special gift," added Pam Seefeldt.

The ladies send out letters to the graduating seniors parents telling them of their project intentions in advance. Old jeans are used most often for the denim contributions and all family members usually contribute to the project.

"We'll provide the size we need and will even lend them rotary cutters if needed. We ask for 150



Pam Seefeldt on the left and Pam Lee on the right hold up two of the senior quilts that will be presented in May to the St. Paul Lutheran Church senior church members.

They have four quilts to be presented this year. Made from denim squares, taken from family jeans often, the durable quilts will last a lifetime.

squares," explained Seefeldt.

The denim jean pieces are durable and also personal, often being pieces of jeans from their own past. "Some have holes, some have appliques, some have pockets and some end up with notes in the pockets, too," stated Lee. "One year, one quilt had pockets all along the sides as a request. We've had a lot of different kinds over the years."

"The year that we had 14 seniors - that was a little hustle," said Seefeldt with a smile. "Barb Schlueter volunteered in sewing them together for many years. Now Pam and I are the ones who take the pieces home and sew them together."

A collaborative effort
Family members, church mem-

bers, moms and grandmothers and even the students all come together to help 'tie' the quilt tops to the washable sheets used on the underside. Pam Lee usually sews up the sides at the end of the project. Both ladies welcome more seamstresses to the group.

One year senior Jennifer Hurlbert did a nice job in sewing up four or five tops as part of her senior project through school.

"Some years when some kids don't have any relatives to cut squares, we can help them out with extra denim pieces we've collected," noted Lee. "Sometimes jeans will just show up on my porch. We always appreciate our volunteer help."

Lee originally brought the idea to the church 20 years ago after at-

tending her nephew's graduation. "Their church had made a quilt for him and I thought that was a good project, so I brought it up to our

Quilt ministry (continued on page 2)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Mar. 16.....	31	27	0
Mar. 17.....	33	27	.04
Mar. 18.....	--	--	--
Mar. 19.....	47	27	0
Mar. 20.....	48	28	0
Mar. 21.....	62	43	0
Mar. 22.....	53	29	0
2021 precipitation to date			2.00
2020 precipitation to date			1.09

36th annual Pro Pheasants banquet is Friday, March 26

The Clark County Pro Pheasants 36th annual banquet is Friday, March 26 at the Clark American Legion Hall.

Clark County Pro Pheasants Club president Robert Steffen said that the organization is committed to working with their members to increase the pheasant population in Clark County.

In 2020 the organization enrolled 398.5 acres in the food plot program in Clark County. "These acres are stable with 2019," said Steffen.

The club also helped members in releasing over 2,500 fertile hens in Clark County in the spring of 2020.

Steffen said, "We have secured hens for the spring 2021 release. We also have a live trap program we subsidize. We have a limited number of traps available to members on a first come, first serve basis. Any

programs offered by our organization are available to Clark County Pro Pheasants members only. There will be an opportunity to sign up at the banquet for anyone interested in participating in any or all programs."

Steffen reported that the fall youth hunt went very well. Kids from Clark County who have recently passed their hunters safety course are invited to attend. "This year we had 15 kids sign up. The kids had a great time and were able to get five roosters. We look forward to having our annual youth hunt next fall," stated Steffen.

Clark County residents make up a good portion of the Pro Pheasants' membership, but members also come from surrounding counties and from Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio.

It's early spring, but water could be a precious commodity

Each spring in South Dakota it seems as if there always is a fine line between drought and flood.

In South Dakota it also seems that the northwest is somewhat drier than the rest of the state and the southeast wetter than the rest of the state.

In spring 2021 that is not true. The northwest is very dry, as is most of the state, including the southeast. The only two sections of the state that aren't considered drought areas are the southcentral and the northeast.

Clark County is in the section of northeast South Dakota that is considered extremely dry, but not in the drought category. To the west and south, there has been less moisture and therefore drought conditions exist.

Forecasters expect nearly the entire country to be warmer than normal for the next three months, and that worsens drought. The U.S.

Drought Monitor says the northwest third of South Dakota and part of southeast South Dakota are in a severe drought. They say much of the rest of the state is either under moderate drought or abnormally dry.

It will be interesting to see how much rain was received yesterday, Tuesday, as there was an 80 percent chance of measurable moisture.

The rest of the week is a typical March forecast, with lows around freezing and highs around 50', with quite a bit of wind, daily.

This is the most area of drought across South Dakota since April 23, 2013, when we were coming out of the drought in 2012, Laura Edwards, Extension State Climatologist for SDSU Extension said. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released their winter summary, which covers Decem-

Early spring
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After tough 2020, S.D. tourism industry hopes for big bounce back in 2021

By Bart Pfankuch
South Dakota News Watch

South Dakota tourism officials and operators are happy to see a tough 2020 in the rearview mirror, and even happier to look forward to what could be a banner year for visitors and spending in 2021.

Aside from some pockets of unexpected prosperity in 2020 — in tourist activities focused on the outdoors and at accommodations located in wide-open or wilderness settings — the South Dakota tourism industry suffered significant reductions in visitors and revenues last year.

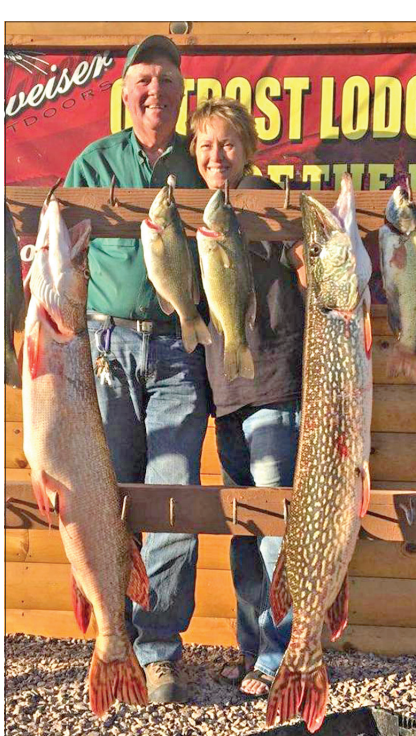
The state saw about 12.6 million visitors to the state in 2020, a decrease of 13% over 2019, and spending by tourists is estimated at \$3.4 billion in 2020, a drop of 18% or about \$700 million over the prior year.

Early in the pandemic, the tourism industry shed about 15,000 jobs due to a decline in tourist visits, said South Dakota Secretary of Tourism James Hagen. Arrivals at airports in Sioux Falls and Rapid City fell by 48% to only 408,000 in 2020, he said.

Yet tourism officials and operators in South Dakota and elsewhere are almost certain the worst is behind them.

A rise in vaccinations against coronavirus, a falling number of COVID-19 cases and a simmering desire among tourists to travel after a year many stayed home are expected to result in a potentially record-setting year for tourism in South Dakota.

"From every indicator we're looking at, every survey that's been done, 2021 is shaping up to be a



Les Wulf, owner of The Outpost Lodge near Pierre and his fiancée Barb Leesman, celebrate a successful outing on Lake Oahe. Wulf is seeing strong early bookings at his lakeside resort of 2021.

Photo: Courtesy Les Wulf

strong year when it comes to travel and tourism," said Hagen.

South Dakota ranked third best in domestic bookings in 2020 and fared better than most of the nation, which saw tourism spending fall by 45% during the year.

Recent national surveys have shown that 84% of Americans say they plan to travel within the next six months, that 39% are planning a vacation of a week or more, and that the top six destinations will be

Tourism
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Easter services planned at area churches

The thief cometh not, but for to steal and to kill and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep. John 10: 10 & 11. King James Bible.

That is exactly what Jesus did. He gave his life for our sins and that is what Easter is all about. His death, but then his resurrection three days later - all for his children - us.

Last year - "This too shall pass" was quoted in the Easter story and many churches had online Easter services. This year is different now and slowly getting better for gatherings - in His name.

Celebrating Easter and its promise of eternal life in one's heart however, will never be shut down.

A special experience, artist/Pastor Paul Oman and his 'Drawn to the Word' service will happen on three different days at three different locations during Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday, Pastor Oman will be at St. Paul Lutheran, in Clark, on Good Friday, he will be at Our Redeemer in Bryant and on Easter Sunday he will be at the Willow Lake auditorium.

Easter services in our area include:

Maundy Thursday

Churches having a Maundy Thursday service in the area on Thursday, April 1, include in Clark: The St. Paul Lutheran Church will host a community Maundy Thursday service with members of the ministerial association and host worship leader Jody Peterson leading the service at 6:30 p.m. Starting at 4:45 p.m. a light supper will be offered to-go before the service at St. Paul.

Saint Michael Catholic Church will celebrate with a Holy Thurs-

day of the Lord's supper mass with members of the Saint Henry Catholic Church at 7:30 p.m. in Florence at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

At Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church, members from Peace Lutheran in Clark and Bethlehem Lutheran in Raymond will join together at the Willow Lake church for a 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service.

Members of the Prairie Star Lutheran parish will gather at 7:00 p.m. at the Grace Lutheran Church in Willow Lake.

Members of the Lake Gospel Church will be attending the Spirit Lake Presbyterian Church's 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service.

At Crocker Lutheran in Crocker, a 7:00 p.m. worship will be held.

Good Friday

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Raymond will host a Good Friday Tenebrae (service of shadows) service at 7:00 p.m. for members of Peace Lutheran in Clark and the Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Lake Gospel Church will be hosting a 7:00 p.m. Good Friday service.

In Carpenter, members of the United Methodist Church will have a 7:00 p.m. service.

In Clark, a Community Good Friday worship is being planned at the

United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. Members of Saint Michael parish are planning a 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Mass for Good Friday at their church.

Prairie Star Lutheran members will attend a 7:00 p.m. Good Friday service at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bryant. At Saint Henry Catholic Church in Henry, a 5:30 p.m. Good Friday Mass will be held on April 2.

Easter Sunday

In Clark, the Easter service at the Plymouth UCC church will be at 9:30 a.m. with Pastor Fawn Lamb. At St. Paul Lutheran Church a sunrise service will be held at 7:00 p.m. with special music from the 'Mom' band. The youth group will serve breakfast following.

A 9:00 a.m. Easter service will be held with Sunday School children singing and a flower processional. Worship leader Jody Peterson will officiate.

Reverend Randy Bader will host an Easter Resurrection Festival service at 9:00 a.m. at Peace Lutheran Church in Clark which will include members of Bethlehem Lutheran in Raymond.

At the Clark and Garden City United Methodist Churches the Reverends Mark and Joy Tracy will present the Easter message at the 9:00 a.m. service in Garden City and at the 11:00 a.m. service in Clark.

In Clark at Saint Michael Catholic Church, Father Daniel Smith will host an 8:30 a.m. Mass on East-

ter Sunday.

Pastor Mark Cronauer will officiate at their Easter service which will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Assembly of God Church.

Pastor Marion Grimes will celebrate their Easter festival service at Crocker Lutheran at 11:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.

The Reverend Jonathan Gossett will host Easter services at 10:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Clark. An Easter breakfast will begin at the church at 9:30 a.m.

The First Presbyterian Church in Raymond will host their Easter worship at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.

In Vienna, a Sunrise service will be held at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 7:00 a.m. The service will have breakfast following.

The Good Hope Church will have their Easter Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.

In Willow Lake at Grace Lutheran Church a 9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday worship with communion will be held. At 9:30 a.m. an Easter Worship service will be held with Pastor Steven Johnson at the Lake Gospel Church. At the Willow Lake Evangelical Church, a 10:45 a.m. festival worship with communion will be held with Reverend Randy Bader officiating at the service.

In Bryant at the Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, an 8:30 a.m. Easter worship will be held. In Henry, Father Daniel Smith will officiate at an 11:00 a.m. Easter morning Mass at the Saint Henry Catholic Church. Also in Henry at the United Methodist Church, an Easter morning service on April 4 will be held at 10:45 a.m.

In Carpenter, at the United Methodist Church, their Easter Sunday service will be held at 9:00 a.m.