



Embracing Change

by Pastor Larry Gunther

Change is an inevitable and important part of life. Some changes are foreseen, even welcomed. Other changes seem to hit our lives out of the blue and can be scary, disruptive, and leave us feeling uncertain about the future. All changes come with a variety of emotions. Just as we face changes individually and as families, we also at times experience change in our church world. This is nothing new. The early church was faced with lots of changes from day one. Each time the believers banded together and worked through the changes the result was impactful growth in the kingdom of God. Let me share a few examples.

Acts 2 begins with a small group of believers [120 based on Acts 1:15]. They meet together, worshipped together, and prayed together. They knew each other by name. Then the unexpected happened. The church grew in one day to 3,120. The new people spoke different languages, dressed differently, ate different foods, and may have liked different music. Although we are not told what happened or how it happened, I believe that original group disciplined the new believers before they returned to their home countries. The results were 3,000 saved that day and an untold number of others won by those new converts.

Acts 6 describes a time of additional growth in the Jerusalem church that exposed a problem that threatened to divide the new church along linguistic lines—one Hebrew speaking group and one Greek speaking. The church's feeding program for widows overlook those ladies who spoke Greek. It was an unintentional situation, but one that had to be resolved by bringing additional leaders into the picture [i.e., change in the church]. Because the church embraced the change verse 7 states, So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 8 records what was the most bitter and may have been the most difficult change for the early church—the persecution brought about by Saul of Tarsus. People were threatened, beaten, jailed, and killed. Most of the believers in Jerusalem fled for their lives taking only what they could carry. Instead of giving up, those harassed believers preached the word wherever they went [8:4]. As a result, new churches sprang up throughout Judea, Palestine, and points west.

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Let us look at one more. Acts 11:19-30 and 13:1-3 describe the church at Antioch, the first fully Greek-speaking [Gentile] church in the New Testament. The mother church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to investigate. The church was growing rapidly so Barnabas went to Tarsus and bring Saul [now a believer] to help teach the new converts. The result was more growth. Things were going great until the Spirit announced a change among the leadership—Barnabas and Saul were to leave for a new ministry. I am sure there were many in the church who were not initially happy with the Spirit’s leading. It may have been their two most well-loved leaders were called to leave resulting in any number of changes. Yet the church embraced the change and the Gospel spread all the way to Rome and possibly Spain.

We are in a time of change at Northview. Many of you have already heard that Pastor Bob Ona has tendered his resignation to the Board of Elders. This was accepted and the Board has unanimously chosen Pastor Dave Leedahll to be the new Lead Pastor. It is now time for us to band together behind Pastor Dave and embrace this change for Northview eagerly anticipating the new things that God is going to do under our new leadership. We also can pray for the Onas as they begin a new chapter in their lives believing that God has great plans for their future as well as ours. ✝



SEPTEMBER Birthdays

2	Donna Kramer
5	Ardy Weiss
11	Brenda Frisk
15	Tom Kramer
19	Bud Bergquist
23	Jackie Addison
24	Fern Johnson

OCTOBER Birthdays

6	Verl Addison
7	Joanetta Larson
10	Diane Wagner
17	Karen Hagemeister
30	Harold Larson



Although there are others in the church of OASIS age who have birthdays in September and October, these are the ones who have given permission to have their birthdays listed in our newsletter. If you would like to have your special date included, please let us know.

Email: lwgunther72@gmail.com

Phone: 701-535-0249

NIGHT OF WORSHIP: Hymns & Choruses



Please join us for an evening of singing!

Fargo Elim Chaplain David Juve, along with other leaders from Fargo-Moorhead area churches, will lead us through a variety of hymns and choruses of faith.

A brief update about Fargo Elim will be presented during the event.

Sunday, October 10 4:00 PM

Bethel Church Auditorium

2702 30th Ave S — Fargo ND