

SHOP
local

Shop / Eat / Spend / Enjoy

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VelvaareaVoice

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\$1.50

Church sends thanks for Elf Project success

Submitted by Libby Darnell



The basement of the Methodist church is turned into a Santa Shoppe for young children to browse and find the perfect gift for the ones on their lists. It takes volunteers over a month to plan and set up all the donations.



A young shopper, left, received help wrapping her gifts. Every gift that a child selects, about 720 in total, are wrapped and ready to go under the tree.

The Velva United Methodist Church recently held their annual Elf Project the beginning of December, 2025. The Elf Project is a program hosted by the church that allows young children to purchase presents for their loved ones at very minimal costs. In return, the Methodist Church makes donations to local people, or entities, that need financial aid.

"We had a great turn out this year," said Libby Darnell, Elf Project volunteer. There were more than 90 youth shoppers and over a dozen adults for the after-sale. These

are some of the best numbers they have seen in recent years.

Over \$2,200 was raised in 2025. Two donors gave \$500 each which the church is very grateful for.

"We have not yet decided on how to return this money back into the community, but we can be very creative," Darnell said. In the past, the church has given monetary donations to individual children in need, hosting local events and helping local youth-based programs.

If you know of someone in need, or a program that focuses on youth

Word on the Street

VELVA COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY:

January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15. The food pantry is open from 5:45-7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall of OVLC, Main Street. The pantry is short of these items: canned meats, canned fruit, personal hygiene products and laundry pods and can be dropped off at OVLC Mon.-Fri. 9am-3pm.

BREAKFAST:

Velva Senior Center, main street, serving breakfast from 10:30am to 1pm Sunday, January 25. Open to the public. For delivery in Velva call 338-2628.

in grades six and under, please let the church know. You can email Pastor Lisa Luft at luft68@gmail.com or send a letter to the Velva United Methodist Church, PO Box 333, Velva, ND 58790.

"The Elf Project is so very appreciative of all the support we receive. We get so many donations to turn into presents; we are sometimes just amazed. Thank you for making it another great year for the children in our community."

Photos are submitted.

Commissioners Approved Photograph of Jurors Every 20 Years

Source: Velva Journal, November 11, 1971 / Submitted by McHenry Co. Historical Society

Every twenty years the members of a jury panel for a term of court in Towner have been visited by a photographer for the purpose of taking pictures. This all began in 1909. Each twenty years since then individual pictures have been taken of each juror as well as court officials. The pictures are framed and now the four pictures for the years 1909, 1929, 1949 and 1969 hand on the wall of the front of the court room in the courthouse. Check with the McHenry County Auditor's office for availability of the courtroom to view the photos.

The 1909 jurors and officials were as follows: S.M. Camp, Velva; T.E. Estenson, Voltaire;

O.B. Fiskum, Balfour; Henry Kleinschmidt, Balfour; W.P. Campbell, Balfour; B.O. Fish, Towner; E.C. Stokely, Towner; H.T. Lee, Villard; Fred Allen, Deering; S.L. Cox, Bergen; G.G. Jorde, Towner; Enoch Mower, Towner; S.E. Brady, Deering; Maitland House, Bantry; Joe Zuther, Drake; J.E. Laizer, Willow City; A.L. Britton, Velva; Oscar Johnson, Velva; Lem Marshall, Bantry; Howard Beard, Bantry; John Johnson, Oakland; R. J. Brock, Upham; M.A. Halseth, Berwick; Harvey Taylor, Towner; Fred McDonald, Towner; D.W. Gross, Bantry; Officials: A.G. Burr, Judge; E.E. Ellis, Clerk of

Court; and H.B. Nelson, Court Reporter.

The 1929 pictures includes the following: G.G. Jorde, Towner; Ole Sveund, Towner; D.W. Gross, Bantry; Lloyd McCombs, Bantry; Joe Alme, Drake; A. Burkardsmeier, Towner; Martin Rothecker, Towner; Anton Gaffrey, Towner; Alfred Haugen, Willow City; Ed Kemp, Granville; H. Goodman, Upham; Peter Jaeger, Berwick; Fred Mehlhoff, Upham; Andrew Miller, Towner; Jay Dart, Towner; E. Pfau, Upham; C.H. Miller, Granville; A.T. Wegener, Granville; E.W. Fairbrother, Bantry; Phillip Torr, Bantry; Anton Hanson, Willow

City; John Wald, Karlsruhe; Thomas Reider, Anamoose; M. Leier, Orrin; J. Edwards, Denbigh; I. Smette, Upham; M. Loftesnes, Granville; Melvin Holte, Voltaire; C. Smestad, Velva; Gust Berndt, Drake; Chas. Palen, Deering. Boyd Grim, Geo. Livingston, E. Albrecht, Roy Hutton, and Kasmer Wald, bailiffs; G. Scholl, E. Schneider, Adolph Petrowski, Emilia Grim, all apparently court officials of some sort, such as bailiffs, jailers, etc. Judge G. Grimson presided over that term of court. D.F. Grim was Clerk of Court, Nels G. Johnson was States

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