

#### SPECIAL WINTER EDITION

### Stewardship — Rooted in God's gift to us

We are learning and growing, celebrating and trusting in God's faithful provision. We are prayerfully asking you to grow in your stewardship life because the mission and ministry of Christ's church at First Lutheran needs what you have to offer.



There are numerous opportunities for you to use your gifts. We are counting on you! Prayerfully consider how you might serve. We want you to use your gifts for Jesus' sake.

You can sign up to serve by going to "Ways to Serve" under "Ministries" on our First Lutheran Church website or we can mail you a form to easily check off.

If you have questions or concerns and would like to visit with pastor or a stewardship team member, please feel free to call the office. We would be glad to set aside time to assist you with your stewardship journey! God bless and guide you in prayerful consideration of how you will respond to God's gracious provision.

"The giving of gifts is not something [people] invented. God started the giving spree when he gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of his Son."



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January 7: Installation of Officers



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#### FROM THE PASTOR:

# **Winter News!**

January 2024

Happy New Year! I pray that the New Year finds you well and that you look forward to 2024 as a time for

new possibilities. Some of the new possibilities within our congregation this year includes bible studies, different ways to serve during worship and within our congregation. Serving on church council. New youth opportunities that involve our new youth director Dan Brandt. Take a look at this newsletter and look for

something new that you haven't tried before. Be open to the Holy Spirit and where the Spirt might be calling you to

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serve or participate.

As we begin the new year, believe it or not the days are actually getting longer. As we start to experience more sunlight each day, I am reminded that following the season of Christmas we enter the season of Epiphany the season of light. Epiphany is a time where we focus on the revealing of Christ to the world. We are reminded also during this season that it is Christ's light that we shine, it is Christ's light that we reflect to the world. As God's claimed and called children through baptism we are commissioned to be "the light of the world". As Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see

your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." I hope that these words sound familiar to you, they are very similar to what we hear in our baptism service. When the baptismal candle is lit and given to the person being baptized (or parents or sponsors) a representative of the congregation reads the following words, "Let your light so shine before others that they

may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven". Notice that this commission is after the actual baptism after God claims the person as God's own. As children of God we are sent out to share the light of Christ with the world. As you notice the days getting longer ponder what it means for you to receive the light of Christ, but also to share the light of Christ with the world.

Live into this New Year knowing that you are a new creation in Christ and that you are God's own.

> In Christ, **Pastor Scott**



1st Tuesday—5:15 Youth/Ed Team 1st Sunday—Worship Team 2nd Tuesday—11:45 Preschool Board, 5:15 Finance Team 2nd Wednesday—2:30 WELCA 2nd Sunday—Brunch 3rd Sunday—Discipleship Team 3rd Monday-5:30 Council Every Sunday—12:30 MS Youth Every Tuesday—9:00 Bible Study Every Wednesday—1:00 Quilters, 5:30 CSI, 6:30 Confirmation, 7:-00 HS Youth, 7:00 Choir Quarterly—Property Team



# **Youth Update**

- Youth Gathering in New Orleans registration/deposit (\$150) deadline is January 10th.
- High School Youth Group resumes January 3rd 7pm.
- CSI and Confirmation resumes Jan 10th.
- Jr High Youth Group resumes Jan 7th.
- Doughnuts on Sunday January 21st and 28th 6-12th grades fundraiser (adult volunteers needed)
- Jr High Bowling Team, "10 Pin Commandments", is currently in 2nd place and continues thru all of January 28th...starting February 5th we will meet at church 1230pm instead of bowling alley

## **SPECIAL** CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**JANUARY 7, 2024 at** 10:30 AM (after church service)

AGENDA: Vote on the bid from Corland Construction in Sidney for the FLC lift project

# Council Notes

Council members present: Shelly George, Beverly Johnson, Marvin Johnson, Mandy

Rasmusan, Tara Wesen, Donna Lee, Darcie Waarvik and Judi •Third grade Bibles: Shelly will look into using Thrivent to Martin. Absent: Max Knodel. Others present: Leanne Fontaine, John Fontaine, Hayley Young, Mandy Thompson and Pastor Scott.

- •Youth and Family report: The stew feed/pie auction went well. They made \$3201.
- •Steering Committee Report 11/16/2023 given by John Fontaine
- •On October 23, 2023 Joel from G &J Enterprise made formal notification of the price increase effective 1-1 2024. The increase of eight percent is \$2,537.04. (31,713 x .08 equals 2,537.04 or\$34.250.04) No word if freight will also increase as well. Note delivery time is approximately two months from order date.
- •SDI architects have plans ready for review. Jon and John reviewed the plan changes and spec book. The entire lift plans have been included as an addendum to specs. The plans have been updated and sent out to the plan builder exchanges and advertised in the Glasgow Courier.
- •Bidding will close December 15, 2023 at 3pm. Bid opening to be determined with council. This gives time to consider • Pastor Scott: Had 3 funerals, Divine Drama Bible studies bids and lift increase. Brandon from SDI will facilitate bid tabulation via phone.
- •The lift equipment, electrical, flooring, and sprinkler modifications have been excluded from general contractor bid.
- •Treasurer's report: Total income for October was \$27,981.48. Total expenses for October were
- •\$27,296.80. October's cash flow was \$684.68. YTD cash flow is -\$12,895.60. The balance for the year end is \$2,336.20.
- •CSI report: The dinner will be Wednesday December 13.
- •Bake Sale: The bake sale will be December 16. Baking will

November 20, 2023 be done on Sundays and Tuesdays. All are welcome to help.

- purchase the Bibles.
- Visionary budget for 2024: Leanne explained the visionary budget.
- •Discipleship: Tara reported they are working on the schedule for service group leaders and coffee after the services. The noisy offering for December will go to the high school youth. The brunch schedule has been set for 2024. January -Discipleship Team. February - Finance Team. March - no brunch. April - Property Team. May - WELCA. June, July and August - no brunches. September - Worship Team. October -Stewardship team. November - No brunch. December - CSI dinner/Youth Education. No brunch.
- •Finance: The \$300.15 from FOR went to the High School Key Club snack pack program.
- •Worship: The members of the worship team bought 6 silk poinsettias. They bought Christmas devotionals for \$225. Church services on Christmas Eve will be Sunday at 9:30 and Sunday evening at 5:00. The service for Christmas Day will be at 9:30.
- Visits at Prairie Ridge and Valley View. LPA meeting. Youth Ed meeting. Slides for CSI. Hospital and home visits. Working closely with Dan Brandt. Reported the deck, railing and screen door are very nice. Had 10 vacation days.

November Financial Update			
	Income	Expenses	Difference
November	\$14,974.05	\$18,439.09	\$ -3465.04
Year to date	\$172,348.20	\$195,427.32	\$ -23,079.12

# **Bi-Annual Meeting**

Important Opportunity for Members....

## Please! Right after Church.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the semi-annual congregational meeting on January, 2024.

#### Agenda:

- ⇒ Call meeting to order & Prayer
- ⇒ Approve minutes from September, 2023 biannual meeting.
- ⇒ New Business: Visionary Budget, Synod Delegates, Elect Nominating Committee
- ⇒ Team Reports: Education, Discipleship, Finance, Property, Stewardship, Worship
- ⇒ Other Reports: Preschool, WELCA, Youth/Family, President, Pastor Scott. Thrivent

Adjourn meeting with Lord's Prayer

Sunday, January 28 after church



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