



# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## Faith Matters

DECEMBER  
2024

### WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAYS— 9:00 A.M.  
WEDNESDAYS — 6:15 P.M.

### CHURCH OFFICE

255 Roosevelt Street  
PO Box 369  
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Ken O'Leary, *Custodian*  
Tony Schad, *Custodian Helper and Lawn Cutter*

Sue Riesterer, Whitney Schamburek, Devin Zahringer  
*Organists*

FLC President: Bill Riesterer  
FLC Vice President: Larry Burzynski  
FLC VP Elect: Alan Gilbertson  
Secretary: Judy Harris  
Treasurer: Robert Pautz

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### Thinking About Christmas by Pastor Lyman

In the United States, Christmas is celebrated as our largest holiday. We seem to celebrate Christmas for days and days, in sacred and secular ways. But in the rest of the world it is quite different. In Spain, for instance, Christmas Day is very much a church holiday. The bells ring and everybody walks to the cathedral to thank God for the birth of the Christ Child. Then later, the bigger holiday is Epiphany, when the wise men arrive. That is when they celebrate with moderate gift-giving and feasting.

There are not a lot of Christians in Japan (about 2% of the population) but they, surprisingly, celebrate Christmas. They celebrate, not with Jesus, but with Santa Claus. It just caught on over there.

We start our Christmas season officially on the first Sunday of Advent, but it starts unofficially for all of us on Thanksgiving, right after we eat our pumpkin pie. And the retailers start it on Halloween!

In other places the season starts on December 6<sup>th</sup> on the saint's day for Saint Nicholas. He was a saint who was good to children and he also gave gifts. People found it natural to connect the patron saint of children to the Christ child, so Saint Nicholas became Sant Claus.

In my own tradition, the Swedes celebrated Santa Lucia on December 13<sup>th</sup>. She is the girl with a crown of candles you sometimes see. Her story of sainthood has her miraculously providing food during a famine. In modern times she is essentially the patron saint of cookies. And cookies and Christmas also go together.

Sometimes lost in the noise of Christmas is the surprising love of God that is shown in our Holy and Most High God leaving the throne of Heaven to come into the world of sinful people, the Almighty becoming vulnerable, the invisible becoming visible for our sakes. Let us give thanks, Merry Christmas!



Faith on Fire will be having their 2nd Annual Cookie Walk Fundraiser following the Christmas Program Sunday December 15th! Please drop off any cookie donations before service (between 8 & 9am). The cookie walk will run from 10-noon in the gathering space. Coffee and milk will be available for fellowship. Come support our youth and stock up on some delicious Christmas treats for your own home!



**Sunday, December 1st** we will hold an **Advent Workshop** hosted by the various boards at Faith Lutheran Church. Some of the great events include a puppet show, Christmas cookie decorating and of course

tasting, along with coffee/water being served for fellowship, games, Christmas music, and of course crafts. This will take place in the fellowship hall immediately following service until 11(ish) to kick off our Advent Season and prepare our hearts for the Savior's Birth. This event is for all ages (no Sunday School classes this day)! We hope you join us!!

Help us make someone's Christmas a little brighter this year! **In As Much Sunday** will take place December 1. Please consider donating a new toy or fun item for a child (0-18 years old) between Sunday, December 1st and Wednesday, December 4th. Our Faith on Fire Youth group will make deliveries following the Wednesday night service! We will once again partner with WELLS Manufacturing in Valders and our donations will be dispersed between 2-3 non-profit organizations in need.



# CHRISTMAS



# PROGRAM

Faith Lutheran's Youth Christmas Program

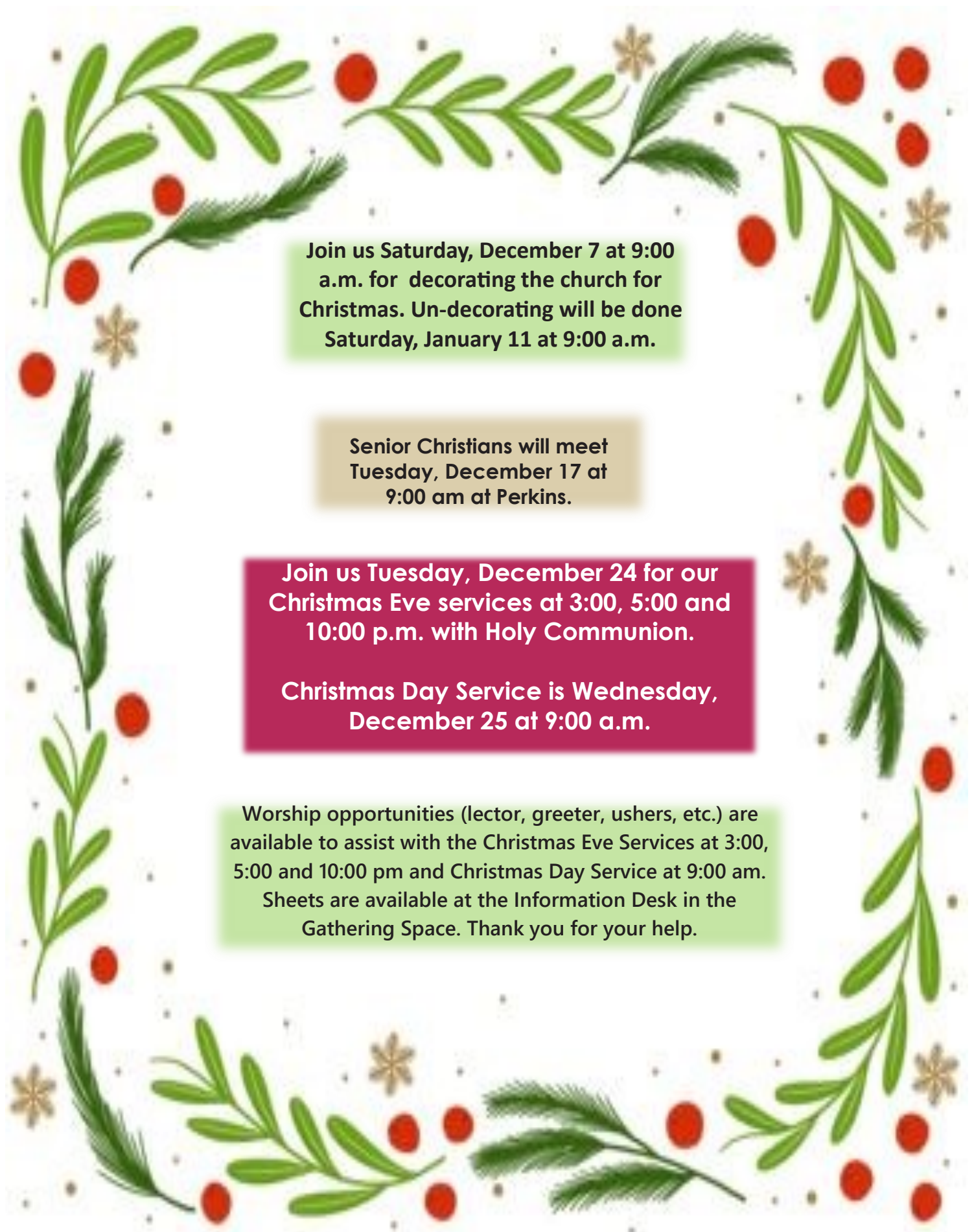
Sunday, December 15th at 9:00 am

Students should arrive at 8:30 am and meet in the fellowship hall to prepare. Following the service children will return to sit with their families. Below you will find info to the weeks leading up to our big event.

Practices have already begun and music has been sent home for practicing!

- ∞ No SS on December 1st but please participate with your family in the Advent workshop.
- ∞ Dress rehearsal for the program is mandatory for all who want to participate in the program!! This will take place Sunday, December 8 10:15-11:45am.
- ∞ Following our Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15th there will be a party in each classroom for SS students! Parents please support our HS Youth Group's Cookie walk during this time. There will be free coffee for fellowship along with cookies to purchase.
- ∞ Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Classes resume Sunday, January 5th, 2025.





**Join us Saturday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m. for decorating the church for Christmas. Un-decorating will be done Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Senior Christians will meet Tuesday, December 17 at 9:00 am at Perkins.**

**Join us Tuesday, December 24 for our Christmas Eve services at 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 p.m. with Holy Communion.**

**Christmas Day Service is Wednesday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m.**

Worship opportunities (lector, greeter, ushers, etc.) are available to assist with the Christmas Eve Services at 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 pm and Christmas Day Service at 9:00 am. Sheets are available at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. Thank you for your help.

# Finances

## *Income - October 2024*

		<i>Budget</i>	<i>YTD Actual</i>	<i>YTD Budget</i>
Envelope Offerings	\$ 20,721.00			
Other Income and Offerings	\$ 318.00			
<b>General Fund Income</b>	<b>\$ 21,039.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,757.25</b>	<b>\$ 243,645.40</b>	<b>\$ 237,572.50</b>
Dedicated Income	\$ (1,742.50)		\$ 5,589.57	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 19,296.50</b>		<b>\$ 249,234.97</b>	

## *Operating Expenses - October 2024*

Benevolence	\$ 2,525.65			
Board & Other Expenses	\$ 5,816.33			
Personnel Salaries/Benefits <sup>1</sup>	\$ 21,259.19			
<b>General Fund Expense</b>	<b>\$ 29,601.17</b>	<b>\$ 29,797.02</b>	<b>\$ 273,322.15</b>	<b>\$ 297,899.10</b>
Dedicated Expense	\$ 7,100.00		\$ 22,431.87	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 36,701.17</b>		<b>\$ 295,754.02</b>	

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**Year to Date General Fund Net Income : \$ (27,875.65)**



**QR Code Giving:** Just use your smart phone's QR Code Reader and scan this QR Code to begin your generosity giving! You can set it up to give your gift for a One Time gift or you can set up a recurring gifts (Every Week, Every Two Weeks, Twice a Month (1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>), Monthly, Quarterly, or Annually). You can have your gift taken directly from your bank account or you can give with either your debit or credit card. You can pick the day you want your gift to be given. With this way of giving, you can also give to the General Offering, Church Property, World Hunger, and Lent/Holiday gifts. To view the different giving opportunities: When you first enter the app just scroll down to the line that says "View more giving opportunities" below the "Add to Basket" highlighted line.

# Liturgical Roles ~ Worship Responsibilities

## Pastoral Acts

Baptisms.....Hayes Michael Sabourin and  
Braeden Mitchell McCulley

## Membership

Baptized .....823  
Confirmed.....559  
Families .....111

## Worship Attendance

	Sunday	Wednesday
10/20	124	40
10/27	116	47
11/3	136	54
11/10	126	44

## Altar Guild Servers

### Communion:

December..... Bev Torrison, Chair (Committee #2)

## Lectors

12/1 Don Schreiner  
12/4 Susan Christel  
12/8 Erin Lenzner  
12/11 Dennis Luckow  
12/15 Bob Wigen  
12/18 Cambria Behnke  
12/22 Ava Ulness  
12/29 Don Domrath



## Communion Servers

12/1 Eliza Wilker  
12/11 Judy Valleskey  
12/15 Al Gilbertson

**Head Ushers** ..... Glenn Otto and Tom Madson

## Acolyte Schedule

12/1 Grace Sorenson  
12/4 Allison Goehring  
12/8 Mitchell Kaderabek  
12/11 Peytyn Peterson  
12/15 Ethan Spindler  
12/18 Noah Boll  
12/22 Zachary Lenzner  
12/29 Eliza Wilker

## Greeters

12/1 Audrey Sorenson  
12/4 Keagan Hougen  
12/8 Marlene Evenson  
12/11 Keagan Hougen  
12/15 Tom and Rae Madson  
12/18 Keagan Hougen  
12/22 Ron and Jo Jones  
12/29 Cheryl Domrath



## Ushers

12/1 Mark, Jen and Mitchell Zutz  
12/8 Ron and Kaye Jandrey, Tyler Madson  
12/15 Keith Lippert, Richard Menza, Brian Ulness  
12/22 Bonnie Gordon, Lori Propson, Dean Behnke  
12/29 Brian and Tammy Brill

## Sound Operator

12/1 Loren Ulness  
12/8 Lucas Spindler  
12/15 Loren Ulness  
12/22 Erin Lenzner  
12/29 Bill Riesterer

## Video Operator/Live Stream

12/1 Carter Kuenstler  
12/8 Carter Kuenstler  
12/15 Eric Thomsen  
12/22 Carter Kuenstler  
12/29 Bill Riesterer

## Projection

12/1 Whitney Ulness  
12/4 John Schnell  
12/8 Addison Spindler  
12/11 Kayla Hildebrandt  
12/15 Libby Olson  
12/18 Trevor Pinkerton and Sue Christel  
12/22 Erin Lenzner  
12/29 Judy Harris

Today in the  
town of David a  
Savior has been  
born to you....

Luke 2:11





**Instructions for Ordering**

**\$10.00 per plant.**

**All poinsettias will be red—6 1/2" pot.**

**Please make checks payable to  
Faith Lutheran Church.**

**DEADLINE for orders is WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 11.**

I (We) wish to order a poinsettia to be placed in  
church during Christmas.

Name(s) of person(s) ordering:

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This plant is (circle one)

**IN SPECIAL THANKSGIVING or**

**IN MEMORY    IN HONOR of:**

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**Amount of money enclosed \_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant by Sunday,  
December 29.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Please donate my plant.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**World Hunger**

I would like to give money to **World Hunger**  
instead of a plant.

Amount of money enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

This is (circle one)

**IN SPECIAL THANKSGIVING or**

**IN MEMORY    IN HONOR of:**

---

**Lefse Making is fun!**



Donations of baked goods are being accepted for this event. Please see the poster in the gathering space for instructions and to sign up for what you will be donating.

# "Baby, It's Cold Outside"

A FREE Community-Wide Holiday Event Benefiting the

**Manitowoc Warming Shelter**

**2pm-4pm on Saturday, December 14**

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary - 502 N 8th St, Manitowoc

Bring the whole family to join us for an afternoon of great music, great food, and great FUN.

Predicting a visit from Santa Claus and Santa's Elves.

Bring your kids ... and your camera!

Christmas Gift Baskets will be raffled!

Holiday music by  
The Faith Choir  
Rowen Erikson, Organist  
The LUUF Guitar Group  
Culminating in a  
massed choir finale!

Featuring a colossal  
HOLIDAY BAKE SALE  
Get all your Christmas  
Baked items here!

If you would like to volunteer your time, talents or bake sale items for this festive fundraising event, please contact event coordinator Sheryle Lyman at 352-615-0400



Manitowoc  
WARMING  
SHELTER

If unable to attend, donations may be made to the MWS via their website [manitowocwarmingshelter.org](http://manitowocwarmingshelter.org) or mailed to:  
Manitowoc Warming Shelter, 502 N 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

*The Manitowoc Warming Shelter (MWS) provides a safe, warm, non-judgmental facility for any adult that finds themselves without safe overnight shelter during colder months. MWS's third season saving lives will run November 13 through April 11. This collaborative effort of local churches, organizations, and volunteers is currently housed at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Manitowoc.*

## Faith Lutheran Church Minutes— October 21 2024

**New Business:** Christmas wreath- we need a new one. Julie will take care of purchasing a new one. A motion was made and carried to purchase a new Christmas wreath. The church will use money from the undesignated memorial fund (amended to take it from interest placed into the general fund). We also need to replace the existing tree located in the gathering space as the one we have is in poor shape. A motion was made and carried to purchase a new tree for gathering space. It should be pre-lit, and money for it will come from the undesignated memorial fund (amended to take it from interest placed into the general fund). A couple of bank CD's are coming due for renewal—one is due on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, another for \$50,000 Renewal (Faith on Fire). Discussion generated the decision to roll over the principal for CDs, and to put the interest into the general fund. Then that interest can be used to pay for the wreath and the new tree. A motion was made and carried to roll over the principal only of the two CDs, and to place the interest generated by them into the general fund. It can then be used to pay for the new wreath and Christmas tree.

**Lay Ministry** – *Jennifer Ott*. The funeral pall has been dry cleaned. All Saints will be a part of the worship service on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thanksgiving week there will be no Wednesday night service; it will be moved to Tuesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> to allow for travel and family preparations. Christmas activities will be: December 7<sup>th</sup>- decorations to be put up December 24<sup>th</sup> – three services will be held, at 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. December 25<sup>th</sup> – service will be at 9 a.m. January 11<sup>th</sup> – decorations to be taken down.

**Stewardship** – *Joan Pritzl*. Stewardship drive is underway. Jill suggested electric & gas bills could be combined into one account. As they're paid together, there won't be any change.

**Evangelism** – *Julie Hartman*. Julie Hartmann has already contacted someone about the design for our Christmas postcards which will be done through the Valdres Journal as before Welcome folders are up to date- 3 are ready in the cupboard. We currently have no new members, but we've had two baptisms a month since September. Language training-members of the board are reaching out to the farmers in the area. Pastor Dan has t-shirts for Spanish families if need is found. December 1st advent workshop, we ordered a craft, volunteers are needed to help that day. Advent resource - Pastor Dan ordered advent calendars, rejoice in hope, and Just add Jesus recipe books. Julie Endries has contacted the Salvation Army to see what is needed for the sharing tree. Judy Valleskey is making Christmas cards for our service members and will put them out for people to sign the first two weeks of December. We all need to be looking for new members to join our board. As Julie E will be leaving when she moves. There will be a fundraiser for the warming shelter on Dec. 14th. Pastor would like us to bring it to the council that we add them to our budget.

**Fellowship** – *Marilyn Robley*. They have been asked by Pastor Dan to get ready for March 11<sup>th</sup>, synod is coming here for a meeting during Lent. We are host church; therefore, we'll need to prepare their food.

**Property** – *Mark Zutz*. Windows installed last week; with a bit of altering on some, they made them fit. Outside work is finished; inside they still need a nice molding. We need blinds; those we have are in poor shape- Joan will look at pricing for those. When the work is done, we need to paint fellowship hall.

**Christian Education** – *Alisa Madson (May be reported by Larry &/or Bridget)*. They are discussing the advent workshop for Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. They're practicing for the Christmas program- Dress rehearsal will be on Dec 8; the program will be on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth and Family Ministry** – *Gretchen Spindler*. For the 2025 Youth and Family budget: No changes are needed. We had our youth fall event yesterday which went well. 15 kids attended; pictures were posted on the website. A reminder that lefse making will take place on November 15<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet for ordering will be up in the gathering space.

**A couple added notations:** Al Gilbertson – he and a few others have been straightening headstones in the West Cemetery, doing it for free. Thank you to him for that. A big thank you also to Doug Meyer, Jeff and Terry Evenson for helping with the windows, also to Marilyn and Sue for providing a meal for them. And a shout out to Joan Pritzl for taking over the web site, keeping it up to date, and the confirmation students are doing a great job filling the greeter spot for worship ministry.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting: November 18, 2024; Devotions – Judy Harris.

Submitted by Judy Harris

# Celebrating Your Birthday!

## DECEMBER

1. Colton Meidl
3. Carter Lenzner
5. Dayton Goehring  
JohnMarc Ergas
6. Quinten Robley  
Jomarie Ergas
7. Carol Nelson  
Landen Pinkerton  
Harley Beckman
8. Elizabeth Robley  
Bob Mattern
10. Marlene Evenson
12. Bonnie Gordon  
Ava Wenzel
13. Steven Ahrens  
Robert Pautz
14. Jerome Hoefner  
Ethan Ulness
15. Veryl Hein  
Terry Stenzel
17. Randi Hetland  
Kristy Wagner  
Clarissa Ulness
18. Frank Griffin
19. Robert Wigen
20. Peter Reinertson
22. William Zutz
23. Susan Wenzel  
Marcus Loritz
25. Daryl Gilbertson
26. Donald Johnson  
Holley Jeske  
Colton Wenzel
27. Seth Madson
28. Warren Wenzel  
Bridget Biely
29. Lana Nelson
30. Parker Ulness  
Melissa Boll
31. Gage Spindler

## JANUARY

1. Bryce Goman  
Breckin Franz
2. Marcus Simon
3. Esther Halverson
4. Wayne Huske  
Jo Jones
5. Jennifer Kiel
7. Ginger Linsmeier  
Addison Pinkerton
8. Elma Castro  
Abigail Reinke  
Tannor Wittmus  
Marann Schmidt
9. Susan Jeske  
Shannon Jorgenson  
Lenka Hougen





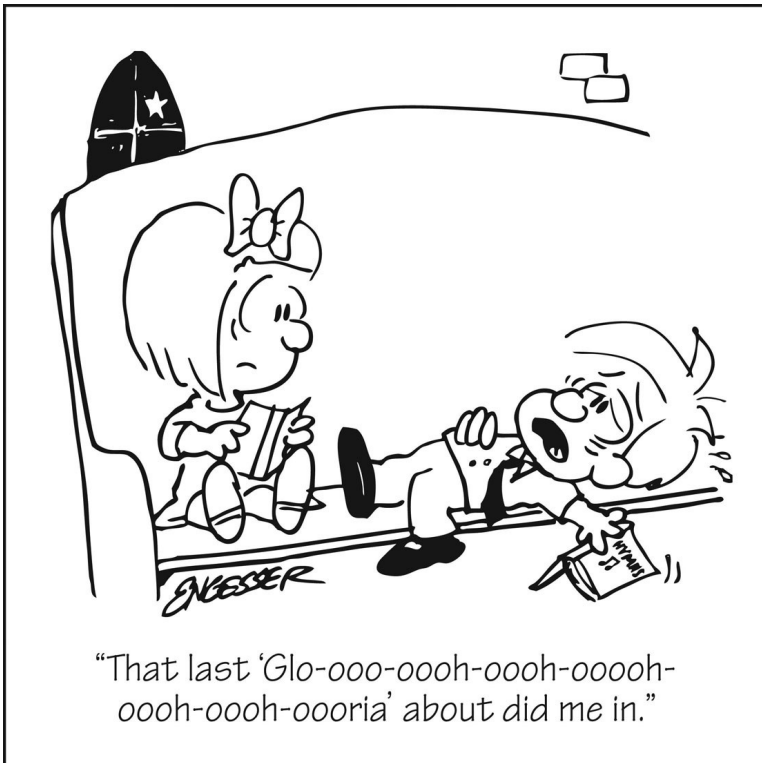
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 <i>In As Much</i></b> 7:50 Sing along 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Inspiration Choir 11:00 Advent Workshop <i>First Sunday in Advent</i>	2 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Jazzercise 6:00 Boards of Lay Ministry and Evangelism	3 3:00 and 6:00 Bible Study	4 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship 7:00 Confirmation and Faith on Fire	5 5:30 Jazzercise	6	7 9:00 Christmas decorating
8 7:50 Sing along 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Hour 10:15 Inspiration Choir, Sunday School <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i>	9 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Jazzercise	10 3:00 and 6:00 Bible Study	11 9:00 Jazzercise  6:00-9:00 Cookie Making 6:15 Worship 7:00 Confirmation	12 8:30 Secretary's Meeting 5:30 Jazzercise	13	14 9:00 2nd Saturday Bible Study
15 7:50 Sing along 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship—Christmas Program 10:00 Fellowship 10-12 Cookie Walk 10:15 Inspiration Choir, Sunday School, 9th grade confirmation Newsletter info due <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i>	16 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Board of Stewardship 5:30 Jazzercise 6:30 Council	17 9:00 Senior Christians at Perkins 3:00 and 6:00 Bible Study	18 9:00 Jazzercise 6:15 Worship 7:00 Confirmation	19 5:30 Jazzercise	20 Annual reports due to church office 	21 9:00 Open Pantry
22 7:50 Sing along 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Hour 10:15 Inspiration Choir <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i>	23 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Jazzercise	24 <b>Christmas Eve services at 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 with Holy Communion</b> 	25 <b>Christmas Day worship at 9:00</b> <i>No Communion</i>	26 Office closed 5:30 Jazzercise	27	28  <i>The Gift that Changed the World</i>
29 8:00 Bell Choir 9:00 Worship — Service of Lessons and Carols 10:00 Fellowship Hour 10:15 Inspiration Choir	30 9:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Jazzercise	31				

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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Alcoholics Anonymous  
Meets at 6:00 p.m. Mondays  
St. Gregory's School, 212 Church Street, St. Nazianz

Al Anon  
Meets at 7:00 p.m. Mondays  
404 S. 29th Street, Manitowoc  
and  
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.  
443 Manhattan Street, Chilton