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www.sothem.org

January 2023 Newsletter

Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MARY

Happy 2023 Everyone!

It's official - we've started a new calendar year, which means it is almost time for us to gather as a congregation to BOTH celebrate 2022 AND plan for 2023. So please make it a point to be at church for our **Annual Congregational Meeting/Potluck** on **Sunday, January 29th**. The morning will begin with Sunday School (8:45am), a brief worship and Annual Meeting (all beginning at 10am), followed by a potluck meal. We WILL be celebrating being DEBT FREE at some point in the morning and giving thanks for the freedom this offers us as a congregation.

As we begin 2023 our Sunday Bible text will begin to make our way through the *Gospel of Matthew*. This particular book of the Bible was written sometime between 80-100 C.E., a time in Jewish history when the people were still reeling from the fallout from the 66-70 C.E. war between some Jews and the Romans, and the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 72 C.E. The *Gospel of Matthew* announces that Jesus is God's long-promised Messiah, come to be Emmanuel/"God with us". This Good News brings hope to the weary God-believers of the 1st century. The re-telling of Jesus' life and ministry teaches hearer/readers of all centuries about the Messiah's teaching, healing, suffering, death, and resurrection. It gives each hearer/reader the opportunity to ponder and practice what they are learning, and take on the identity of a *disciple*...a person who accepts and follows the pronouncements of a teacher...*in this case of Jesus*. <https://enterthebible.org/courses/matthew/lessons/summary-of-matthew#>

The gospel readings for the next couple of months will be familiar ones. But it is my hope and prayer that we can read/hear them with open minds and hearts...listening for something new...some way that God is leading you/us to live and love more like Jesus in 2023. And yet, this Good News is too good...too important to keep to ourselves. Perhaps 2023 is the year we become emboldened as Christians, to bring this Good News outside the walls of the church?! Perhaps this is the year we equip families, couples and single people to ready/study the Bible, pray, and/or participate in various service opportunities?! And/or perhaps this is the year we get to know one another better?!

I look forward to experiencing with you whatever inspiration the Spirit sends our way...so hold on as we move into the year together...deepening our relationship with God...and growing stronger together.

- Pastor Mary Eide





ANNUAL MEETING and Mortgage Burning... will be held after a shortened worship service on **January 29th**. Please make plans to come and join in the celebration of all the Lord has led us to do and make plans for the future! Following the annual meeting we will be having potluck and a Mortgage Burning.

FROM COUNCIL: Upcoming proposal for Annual Meeting.

The council wants to propose a change to the bylaws of the constitution. This will be presented to the congregation in the next two newsletters and in the agenda that will be sent out prior to the Annual Meeting. The proposed change will then be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

The proposed change is to Chapter 18, Part IV, Line 4

Current: At its annual meeting, the congregation shall elect a Church Council of fifteen (15) members.

Proposed change: At its annual meeting, the congregation shall elect a Church Council of up to fifteen (15) members.

FUTURE DATES for 2023

- Sun., 2/12 *Super Bowl Sub Sale*
- Wed. 2/22 *Ash Wednesday Soup Supper (6pm) Worship (7pm)*
- Wed., 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, and 3/29 *Lent Midweek Soup Supper (6pm) Worship (7pm)*
- Sun. 4/2 *Palm Sunday Worship (10am)*
- Wed. 4/5 *Senior Holy Week Lunch (Noon) and Worship (1pm)*
- Thur. 4/6 *Maundy Thursday Worship (7pm)*
- Fri. 4/7 *Good Friday Worship (3 and 7pm)*
- Sun. 4/9 *Easter Sunday Worship (10am)*
- Sun. 4/23 *Lutheran Campus Ministry Sunday Worship (10am)*
- Sat. 4/29 *Northwest Synod of WI Synod Assembly (in Rice Lake this year)*
- Sun. 5/14 *Elk Mound Baccalaureate Service (7:30pm) at Trinity United Methodist Church*

WORSHIP

Plenty of opportunities to assist in worship. We've consolidated the various Worship Team volunteer positions into 2 sign-up sheets: 1 for Acolytes, and 1 for all the other positions (Lectors, Ushers, Communion Assistants). This way families or friends can easily identify ways they can volunteer together on a particular Sunday, or even for a month at a time. These sheets are located in Gathering Area near where you get your worship bulletin. You can also email us at sothlc@sothem.org to sign up.

Because we didn't get the January WORSHIP TEAM signup out until January 1st, the only position filled is ALTAR GUILD: Linda Eder

- 1/8/22 LECTOR:
- ACOLYTE:
- 1/15/22 LECTOR:
- ACOLYTES:
- COMMUNION ASSTS:
- 1/22/22 LECTOR:
- ACOLYTE:
- 1/29/22 LECTOR:
- ACOLYTE:



EDUCATION

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation will resume Jan 4th...but we will NOT meet Jan. 18th.

Sunday School...will get back into the swing of things beginning January 8th. We'd like to get Adult Sunday School

GROWING IN GENEROSITY: The Sunday School Children's offering have been generous enough to reach their first two 2 Generosity Goals: **\$50** was raised enough money to purchase a pig and bees through ELCA Good Gifts; **\$100** for a goat, seeds and gardening tools. NOW they are pursuing their 3rd Goal: **\$150** to for Pastor seminary classes. Thank you so much kids...you ARE making a HUGE difference in peoples' lives.

OUTREACH

Hats, Mittens and Coats...Winter is officially here. Children and adults in our community need cold weather clothing items. Can you help by providing new or gently used/clean items? Hats and mittens/gloves can go on the Hats/Mitten tree in the Gathering Area; coats and snow pants can be placed on the clothing rack downstairs or left by the Mitten tree. Thank you for your generosity!

GRIEF SHARE...

...starting back up on **Sun., January 8th 1:30-3:30pm at Trinity United Methodist Church, 105 S. Holly Ave., Elk Mound.** We will meet weekly to watch the week's video, discuss it and our previous week's reading. The only cost for this 13-week support group is \$15 to purchase the workbook. You can reserve a spot and pick up a book at the church by calling 715-879-5596. If you, a loved one or friend is struggling with the loss of a loved one, please consider attending this group. You can also go to www.griefshare.org to locate another group that is meeting in-person or online.

SPECIAL THANK YOU NOTES

From AUDREY BRACHER – *“Greetings Friends, As many of you may know, I made a big change this year and moved from Elk Mound to Colfax. After much thought and discussion with family, I moved to an Assisted Living Apartment at the Colfax Rehabilitation Center. The nice thing about the new apartment is I am in an independent living wing, where I have a small kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom. So, I still have my privacy, but I was able to sign up for meals, housekeeping and laundry service that I need, as my eyesight continues to fail and is a challenge for daily tasks. There are only twelve apartments in our wing, and each has a small patio too, so it is quite nice. My new address Colfax Rehabilitation Center, 110 Park Drive, Apt. 8, Colfax Wi 54730. My phone number is 715-704-6007. I would love to hear from you, or have you come by when you have time.”*

From DIANE DEMOE *“Shepherd of the Hill family, Thank you so much for the many cards I received while in the nursing home in Chetek. I've now moved to the Colfax Rehabilitation Center, 110 Park Drive, Room 108 Colfax Wi 54730. I'm usually in my room, so come for a visit or call me at 715-704-6194. I miss seeing you all.”*

THANK YOU

So much happened throughout the month of December, and there are so many people to thank. Not to mention those people who keep us open and running throughout the year:

- ♥ Thanks to...the entire Sunday School staff and students for all their hard work in preparing for the Christmas Program this year. It took a LOT of people to make this happen...children, youth and adults. Don't want to try and list all the names, for fear of missing someone. Sincere thanks to ALL!

- ♥ Thanks to Sue Suechting for organizing this year's *Christmas for Kids* for our congregation. Also, thanks to the many who donated to this cause, and that includes those who donated to this year's *Love Lights* program.
- ♥ Thanks to Edie Litzkow and Linda O'Mara for organizing the *Christmas Love Lights* program. Not only did we add a bit of color and light to the dark skies in town, we raised a significant amount of money to help with the *Christmas for Kids* AND our General Operating Fund

Now as to those 'unsung workers' who keep things going throughout the year...Thank you to:

- ♥ Our Sunday School teachers and superintendents for your time/talent
- ♥ Weekly Counters who tally our financial gifts: Carol Stuckert, Karen Gugel, Mary Ausman, Mary Gilbertson and Faylene Howe.
- ♥ Barb Vadnais, our volunteer Financial Secretary
- ♥ Keith Lee for his passion for the Lord and the many ways he shares his gifts
- ♥ Holly Sweeney and Diane Rose-Johnson for helping Keith and Pastor Mary with Confirmation
- ♥ Food Pantry volunteers on Tuesday nights and Friday mornings
- ♥ Mounder Meals volunteers
- ♥ Sue Suechting and Lisa Strom for keeping our food shelves filled and food ministry moving
- ♥ Michelle Young our wonderful musician who make our worship time so special; as well as those who've provided special music throughout the year
- ♥ Cindy Wenzel, who manages our church website
- ♥ To Kris Jenson and Linda Dempski who hosted many of our Fellowship hours
- ♥ Dedicated Head Usher (Tim Jenson) and Tech Team (Randy Eide, Rita Lee and David Young) who given so much of their time this past year. *They could use more helpers in 2023!*
- ♥ Altar Guild team that prepares things for communion, keeps candles filled and changes the paraments/banners, led by Claudeen Oebser
- ♥ Thanks to our quilters...for LWR quilts...Carol Carlstrom was especially busy with quilts in 2022!
- ♥ Linda and Bob Dempski...for the many 'extra duties' that come with being 'next door neighbors'
- ♥ Tim Jenson for the many extra hours he put in for Kitchen project work, and the rest of the Kitchen Committee for their dedication
- ♥ Our staff...including Terry Stamm and Pastor Mary Eide...for their dedication to this congregation.
- ♥ Our bookkeeper, Kim Holten, who has been an amazing resource of energy, ideas and insight.
- ♥ Hope we didn't miss anyone...but the bottom line...it takes a whole lot of people and resources to do God's work. Thank you all once again!

GIVING

...of TREASURES

GIVING ENVELOPES – You can find giving envelopes on the table in the Gathering Place..

CHECK OUT OUR NEW GIVING PAGE at www.sothem.org/give where you can find an explanation for each of the funds you can contribute to with your offerings. You can set up one time or repeated giving through this secure site from Vanco. If you are a current user of Give +, you may be directed to set a new password when using the new site.

WRITE YOUR NAME ON YOUR ENVELOPE, and be as clear as possible if you are splitting the donation to various funds.

These transactions are all tracked in your giving record and including in your giving statement for tax purposes. This is an easy way to ensure the donation you are making for God's work is placed into the church account. **Start small if you like, and then build on your generosity as time goes on.**

November Giving:

\$ 9,843 Income

\$ 12,581 Expenses

\$ (2,738) Month's DEFICIT

\$ (6,395) Year-to-date DEFICIT

YOUTH

Many thanks to Kris Jenson for organizing an Action City event for our 7th-8th graders on December 29th. The kids got a good workout, while Kris, Pastor Mary and Keith Lee (wisely) watched from a distance. We hope to be scheduling more outings for the youth and including more age groups.

Love Lights Dedications

| Donor | Light | Remembrance |
|---|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Angela Barrio (Holly Sweeney's Friend) | Blue | Aurora Barrio |
| Conrad & Sandy Barth | Green | Leonard & Angelina Barth |
| | Green | Lloyd & Violet Olson |
| | Green | Shirley Brooks (Conrad's sister) |
| Carol Carlstrom | Gold | Verl Carlstrom |
| Bob, Linda & Cara Dempski | Green | Art Dempski |
| | Green | David Reed |
| | Green | Fred & Mamie Dempski |
| | Green | Harvey Dempski |
| | Green | Lawrence & Irene Jensen |
| | Green | Stan Dempski |
| Lyn & Judy Dieter | Gold | Paul Dieter |
| | Green | Doris Dieter Smith |
| | Green | Inez Jensen |
| | Green | Wilmer Jensen |
| Randy & Pastor Mary Eide | Gold | Bill Holmes |
| | Green | Leigh Moross |
| | Green | Oleda Eide |
| | Green | Rita Holmes |
| | Green | Shirley Eide |
| | Red | Future Grandchild |
| Randy & Stephany Grossbier | Green | Bob Grossbier |
| | Green | LaVern Loken |
| | Green | Nancy Grana |
| | Green | Susan Loken |
| Karen Gugel | Green | David Gugel |
| | Green | Jerry Gugel |
| | Green | Lonnie Miller |
| | Green | Marge Miller |

Billy & Betty Heltne

Gold Marvin Heltne
Green David Dean
Green Donald Dean
Green Marvelyn Dean
Green Mary Dean
Red Elizabeth Jorde
Yellow Russell Jorde

Faylene Howe

Green Casey Anderson

Kris & Tim Jenson

Green Danita Howe
Gold Bailey Jenson
Gold Ron Amick
Gold Steven Jenson
Red Eloise Jenson
Red Grayson Tyynismaa
Red Lincoln Jenson

Vic & Lori Jenson

Blue Mark Jenson
Gold Steven Jenson
Green Albin Hanevold
Green Doris Mohr
Green Inez Jenson
Green Phil Hanevold

Olivia & Sandy Kenefick

Gold Robert Kenefick
Green Anna Marie Briedenstein
Green Mattie Herreid
Green Ove Herreid
Green Ruth Kenefick
Green Steve Kenefick
Green Tom Herreid
Red Pastor Mary

Dave & Kathy Kopp

Green Manny Price
Green Myrna Price

Keith & Rita Lee

Blue Scott Lee
Gold Earlin Bennes
Green Adorine Bennes
Green Gerald Lee
Green Sylvia Lee

DiAnna & Lloyd Scheffler

Green Alvin Scheffler
Green Odeal Scheffler
Green Paul Garnett
Green Pearl Garnet

John & Evie Silvernale

Gold Walt Silvernale (Smokey)
Green Diane O'Flanagan

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|------------------|
| | Green | James O'Flanagan |
| | Green | Kayo Silvernale |
| | Green | Lenny Usher |
| Carol Stuckert | Gold | Arthur Scharlau |
| | Gold | Harold Stuckert |
| | Green | Laura Scharlau |
| Holly & Steve Sweeney | Green | Mary K St. John |
| | Green | Mary Leibrenz |
| | Green | Russ Nelson |
| | Red | Dorthy Anderson |
| | Red | Marcia Sweeney |

Shepherd of the Hill Council Minutes

November 28, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:29 by President Barb Vadnais

Members present: Carol Carlstrom, Kris Jenson, Alison Young, Marshall Fuhrman, Barb Vadnais, DiAnna Scheffler, Stephany Grossbier, Steve Sweeney and Pastor Mary Eide

Members absent: Claudeen Oebser

Devotions:

First Coming *Madeleine L'Engle*

He did not wait till the world was ready, till men and nations were at peace.

He came when the Heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time. He came when the need was deep and great.

He dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

To a world like ours, of anguished shame he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,

for to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Mutual Ministry: Joann Knutson passed away Wed., 11/23rd Visitation, funeral and luncheon will all take place Wednesday 12/7; Sandy Kenefick hospitalized with infection, system may be compromised from the chemo; Kay Tubbs still at nursing home to heal and regain strength after leg surgery

Approval of Agenda: Alison Young made a motion to approve the agenda and Dianna Scheffler seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary's report: Dianna Scheffler made motion to approve the minutes with changes and Kris Jenson seconded. Motion Carried

Treasurer/Financial Report: Dianna Scheffler made a motion to file the financial report for audit. Marshall Fuhrman seconded. Motion carried.

A. Profit & Loss: October 2022

- October Income \$15,313; Expenses \$14,561
- Net Ordinary Income \$1,258

B. Profit & Loss Budget Performance: January through October 2022

- Current DEFICIT for the year is (\$3,384) was (\$4,942)
- YTD Income \$129,958; YTD Income \$129,417
- YTD Expenses \$133,642; YTD Expenses \$136,286

C. Dedicated Accounts: Month End Balances

- Checking for *General Operating* \$16,951
- Money Market for *Dedicated Funds* \$11,117
- *Mortgage Balance* \$5,859

D. PROFIT & LOSS Previous Year Comparison

January through September

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • General Income 2022: \$129,958 | General Income 2021: \$122,538 |
| • Total Expenses 2022: \$133,642 | Total Expenses 2021: \$125,677 |
| • General Income up \$7,420 | Total Expenses up \$7,965 |
| • Deficit 2022: (\$3,684) | Deficit 2021: (\$3,138) |

E. OTHER POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- Mortgage will be paid off by December
- Donation to Mounder Meals from the Autumn Fest -- \$650
- Ad was placed in Colfax Messenger (donors)

New Business:

Benevolence: Council is unsure of the final balance after the distributions from last month. Council will table distributions for November and reevaluate in December.

Council members

- Carol, Alison and Stephany are each finishing 3rd year/1st Term; Marshall, Barb, Claudeen, and Steve are finishing the 2nd year/1st Term.: Stephany is willing to stay for another term.

- Carol is not interested in holding a council position for another term, so her position needs to be filled.
- We need to fill two vacated positions: Council members will talk with some possible nominees
- Someone to finish 3rd year of Jennifer's 1st term: Alison is willing to finish this open position
- someone to complete 2nd & 3rd year of John's 2nd Term.

Bylaw Change: Council proposes that we change to bylaws as follows: Chapter 18, part IV, Line 4 from: *At its annual meeting, the congregation shall elect a Church Council of fifteen (15) members.* To *At its annual meeting, the congregation shall elect a Church Council of up to fifteen (15) members.* This will be published in the December and January newsletter. It will also go out in the annual meeting agenda and will then be voted on by the congregation.

Council designated Committees (per 3/28/22 minutes):

Education: Claudeen and Alison;

Evangelism: Stephany; Property: Marshall (& John)

Social Concerns: DiAnna;

Stewardship: Steve

Worship: Barb and Claudeen;

Youth: Kris

Other Committees: Nominating: Holly, Kris, Dave Y, Barb and Stephany Shepherd's

Fund: Renee, Ken, Kim, Dave Y., Sue S., Sarah L, Alison and Barb

Old Business:

Pastor Mary 2023 Compensation package:

Council has proposed increasing the amount that is contributed into Pastor's 401K. Pastor's current base salary is on the low end of the Synod salary range for someone with her years of experience and her education level. The council proposes that we contribute the 10% of the recommended base salary into her retirement fund. This would increase her retirement contributions by \$2,818 for a total of \$8,911.20 annually. Carol Carlstrom made the motion, Stephanie seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

A. Property Report: Kitchen is still being worked on; however it is on hold due to water infiltrating the basement along the one wall. Solutions are being investigated.

B. Sunday School: The Sunday School children continue to raise money towards funding a student in seminary school. They have already bought bees, seeds, gardening supplies and a goat.

C. Pastor's Report

- I **so appreciate** the amazing Sunday School Coordinators/staff we have and our Confirmation Staff. Inspired by Holly Sweeney's lead, we are making many opportunities for the children and youth to be supportive of other peoples' needs through letter writing, fundraising, and supporting individuals within the congregation and far beyond the borders of our state...or country.
- It has been a challenge, at times, to get out and visit folks as often as I'd like...while also preparing for Confirmation class, weekly worship, dealing with a multitude of other ministry/administrative issues AND making time for family/self-care. Because I am prioritizing the member visits and not compromising on family/self-care time, I am not always able to meet deadlines for other ministry needs. I'm working at creating more balance in my life and learning to better assess what can get done within the workweek. FYI: My work week begins early Sunday morning in preparation for worship, includes full days of work Monday through Thursday and usually at least a half day on Saturday.

Next Meeting: December 19 at 6:30 pm

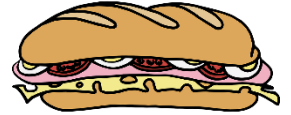
Adjourn: DiAnna Scheffler made motion to adjourn. Kris Jenson 2nd. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm. We ended by praying the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by

Alison Young

SUPER SUB SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 12, 2023



SHEPHERD OF THE HILL LUTHER LEAGUE FUNDRAISER

Orders should be placed no later than Tuesday, February 7, 2023. Complete this form and place in the manilla envelope at church. Payment is due at pick up before or after church on February 12th. Contact Kris Jenson 715-563-1402 if you have any questions or need an alternate pick-up time.

****New this year delivery in the Elk Mound area****-- Steve Sweeney 715-530-0743

Profits help support the youth attending the next National Youth Gathering and other Luther League activities throughout the year!

~ **THANK YOU** for your support!

Please Complete This Order Form

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

PICK UP TIME AND PAYMENT DUE ON FEBRUARY 12, 2023

Before Church _____ After Church _____ Special pick up/Delivery Needed _____

ALL SUBS COST \$9.00

Checks made Payable to "Luther League"

***** BREAD CHOICE: WHITE OR WHEAT *****

PLEASE CHECK ALL DESIRED BOXES FOR YOUR SUB

| CHOICES | SUB #1 | SUB #2 | SUB #3 | SUB #4 | SUB #5 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| "SUPER SUB" (turkey and ham) | | | | | |
| TURKEY | | | | | |
| HAM | | | | | |
| Co-Jack Cheese | | | | | |
| Lettuce | | | | | |
| Dill Pickles | | | | | |
| Bread & Butter Pickles | | | | | |
| Tomato | | | | | |
| Green Peppers | | | | | |
| Onions | | | | | |
| Jalapeño Peppers | | | | | |
| Oil | | | | | |
| Mayo | | | | | |
| Salt and Pepper | | | | | |
| Black Olives | | | | | |
| ** WHITE BREAD | | | | | |
| ** WHEAT BREAD | | | | | |

ALL SUBS COST \$9.00

"Encouraging faith & proclaiming God's love by Gathering Growing and Giving."



January 2023

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|---|--|---|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 NO Sun. School 10am Communion Worship 1:30-3:30pm Grief Share @ Trinity UMC | 2 7pm AA meeting | 3 4-6pm Food Pantry | 4 3:20-4:30pm 7 th - 8 th gr. Confirmation | 5 | 6 10am-Noon Food Pantry | 7 |
| 8 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 1:30-3:30pm Grief Share @ Trinity UMC | 9 7pm AA meeting | 10 4-6pm Food Pantry 6pm Finance Committee | 11 3:20-4:30pm 7 th - 8 th gr. Confirmation | 12 | 13 10am-Noon Food Pantry | 14 |
| 15 8:45am Sun. School 10am Communion Worship 1:30-3:30pm Grief Share @ Trinity UMC | 16 7pm AA meeting | 17 4-6pm Food Pantry | 18 NO Confirmation today | 19 | 20 10am-Noon Food Pantry | 21 |
| 22 8:45am Sun. School 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 1:30-3:30pm Grief Share @ Trinity UMC | 23 Pastor at Luther Park 6:30pm Church Council 7pm AA meeting | 24 4-6pm Food Pantry | 25 10am Bible Study 3:20-4:30pm 7 th - 8 th gr. Confirmation | 26 | 27 10am-Noon Food Pantry | 28 |
| 29 8:45am Sun. School 10am Brief Worship/Annual Meeting/Potluck 1:30-3:30pm Grief Share @ Trinity UMC | 30 7pm AA meeting | 31 4-6pm Food Pantry | | | | |

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