



Established 1900

ST. JOHNS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

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Farmersburg, Iowa 52047
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307 Church Street
Luana, Iowa 52156
PHONE: 563-539-2321
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Established 1893

Pastor Jeremy Wolfe
pastorjeremywolfe@gmail.com
563-258-2936

VOLUME 1 DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE 73

Advent blessings to all!

I always like to share a bit of wisdom in the newsletter, but first, I have some "plugs" to share. Have you ever watched a talk show where the celebrity guest seems to be there mostly to promote their latest movie or project? Well, I find myself in a similar position, though I promise these plugs are meaningful!

The first is a potential new tradition at St. John Luana: hosting a Christmas Day meal. The flyer with details is attached. Why Christmas Day? Our culture has shifted over the years, with many spreading out their Christmas celebrations across the season. It's a welcome change from the days of running to multiple events on Christmas Day. However, this has also left some with nowhere to go on Christmas Day itself. That's where we come in. This meal is about fellowship, good food, and making sure no one is alone. How can you help? If you're free, join us! Bring a dessert as we have all other aspects of the meal covered. I figured the odds are high that folks might be making treats for family, so if you can, make an extra batch for us. You can also help serve; just let me know if you're interested. This event is funded by a synod grant and Thrivent donations, so it's a freewill meal. Any proceeds will go toward funding next year's meal, which we hope to host in Farmersburg, alternating locations each year.

The second "plug" is a new program launching in Luana in the new year: P.E.E.P.S. The name is silly, as "Peeps" is slang for people, but it's also an acronym: Play, Educate, Eat, Praise, and Share. This program, funded by a grant and a generous donation, will provide kids with a space after school on Wednesdays. It will include playtime, a simple meal, a class, and a worship service that is open to all. I'll share more details in next month's newsletter, but I'm excited to see how this program will bless our community.

Now, with those announcements out of the way, let's return our focus to what this season is truly about. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, we are reminded of the babe in the manger. The King of all creation who humbled himself to reconcile us to God. In Philippians 2:7-8 (RSV), Paul writes, "He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross." This humility and love are at the heart of the Advent season. And as we look back to Christ's first coming, we also eagerly await his return, when he will establish a perfect kingdom of peace and justice, as foretold in Isaiah 9:6 (RSV): "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'"

In the hustle and bustle of the season, keep your eyes on him, the true reason for our hope and joy.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Jeremy Wolfe

FARMERSBURG NEWS

FARMERSBURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres: Bill Scherf III. (25)
V. Pres: Bruce Glawe (25)
Sec: Loretta Weipert (26)
Treas: Ryan Moon (24)
Council Members: Ken Erickson (24),
 Dave Hageman (25) & Linda Schoulte (26)

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Kelly Shaw

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

Kelly Shaw

OUTSIDE JANITOR:

Loren Scherf

INSIDE JANITOR:

Mary Beth Tielbar

WELCA:

Pres: Shirley Marmann
V. Pres: Velma Kuehl
Sec: Nancy Moon
Treas: Becky Fuelling
Mission Action: Bev Moon,
 Nancy Moon, Marlene Glawe

MEN'S GROUP:

Pres: Jason Klinge
V. Pres: Brad Hoth
Sec/Treas: Don Bossard

ALTAR GUILD:

Directress: Cheryl Bossard
Sec: Loretta Weipert
Treas: Velma Kuehl

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson: Tammy Muller (24)
Secretary: Vicki Baade (24)
Members: Janelle Smith (25)
 Becky Fuelling (25)
 Aaron Smith (26)
 Linda Schoulte (26)

NEWSLETTER EDITORS;

Cheryl Bossard & Tammy Muller

Church Website:

<http://www.stjohn-farmersburg.org>

Remember to like St. John Facebook Page.



GIFT TREE

The council has decided to support a local family that is going through rough times this year. There is a tree set up in the narthex with gift tags on it. Gifts need to be at the church by Sunday December 15.

The Sunday School

Christmas Program will be on Sunday, **December 15 @10:30** am. Sunday School Program Practice will be held on Sunday December 1, 8 & 15 @ 9:00 am. NO Sunday School on December 22 or 29.



Annabelle Palmersheim & Scarlett Scherf received Bibles. Liam Scherf received his Catechism in Nov.

St. John Farmersburg
 Christmas Eve
 Candlelight Service
 December 24 8:30 pm.



December
 ANNIVERSARIES

December

- 10 – Tim & Connie Lessard
- 27 – John & Kathy Klinge
- 28 – Jeff & Deb Tidwell

KNOWN BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

December

- 1 – Ethel Lenth
- 6 – Adam Lnenicka
 Andrea Lnenicka
 Amanda Goltz
- 8 – Jeff Wiedenman
- 11 – Annabelle Palmersheim
- 13 – Glenda Henkes
- 25 – Melissa Wolfe

Blessings on the Anniversary
 of your Baptism



In One Spirit
 we are all
 baptized

FARMERSBURG NEWS

USHERS

December 1 & December 8
Captain Jason Klinge Randy Wiedenman
Bill Scherf IV Jim Lenth

December 15 & December 22
Captain Brad Hoth Zach Radloff
Wyatt Geick Scott Goltz

December 24 (Christmas Eve) & December 29
Jeff Klinge Matt Radloff
Martyn Geick Dan Moon

ALTAR GUILD
Marlene Glawe
Shirley Marmann
Tracey Phillips



December

- 2 Randy Scherf
- 3 Glenda Henkes
Derek Radloff
Cora Fuelling
Cassidy Penrod
- 4 Marlene Glawe
Eugene Dreier Jr.
- 5 Lisa (Howard) Pavlovec
Jill Jennings
- 8 Connie Rohde
- 11 Amanda Richard
- 12 Loren (Barney) Scherf
- 13 Brian Henning
Dallas Lee Tielbar
- 14 Andrew Rodas
Kurt Hauschild
Melvin Walleser
- 15 Ethan Goltz
- 16 Lori Tielbar
Marcella (Tootie) Kessler
- 18 Scott Peterson
Briella Schmidt
- 19 Derek Leuchtenmacher
- 22 Cory Pritchard
- 23 Amy Suhr
Michael Klinge
Madelyn Lnenicka
Isabelle Kirby
- 24 Matthew Scherf
- 25 Alan Feldmann
- 26 Randy Muller
Robert Bossard
- 29 Velma Kuehl
- 31 Don Bossard

ACOLYTES

December 1 Carsen Kirby
December 8 Connor Kirby
December 15 Brayden Hoth
December 22 Carsen Kirby
December 24 Christmas Eve 8:30 PM Connor Kirby
December 29 Brayden Hoth



COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

December 1 Bruce Glawe
December 15 Dave Hageman
December 24 Ryan Moon

GREETERS

December
1 Jim & Carol Lenth
8 Randy & Diane Wiedenman
15 Zach Radloff & Autumn Schuety
24 Bill & Michelle Scherf III
29 Brad & Brenda Hoth

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Jeff Klinge & Deb Tidwell

NOVEMBER 30TH Decorate basement Christmas Tree—Group 2

Chairperson: Stacy Fuelling
Co-Chairperson: Theresa Rodas

WELCA

December

- 4 12:00 Noon Unit Meeting
1:00 pm Christmas Party invite Ladies from Luana & Guests.
Farmersburg ladies bring Christmas treats to share.



FARMERSBURG NEWS

ST JOHN CHURCH COUNCIL

November 10, 2024



MEETING
MINUTES

Present: Bill Scherf, Linda Schoulte, Loretta Weipert, Ken Erickson, Ryan Moon, Bruce Glawe, Dave Hageman and Jeremy Wolfe.

Meeting called to order by President Bill at 1120 am. Opening devotions given by Jeremy Wolfe.

Loretta moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Linda. Motion carried.

Linda suggested corrections to the October council meeting note as follows: Memorial- "Memorial fund contributed to the sidewalk project in memory of Brook Scherf". Motion to approve the minutes of October 13, 2024 after correction made by Linda, second by Dave. Motion carried.

Bruce moved to approve the treasurer's report, second by Linda. Motion carried.

Victor's Report: Updates on Christmas meal. Heather Crogan and Heather Hageman volunteered to manage carry outs for Christmas meal, so there now will be carry outs available. Mentioned that he has decided to continue his schooling with the goal of being a counselor. He will need hours, so he will be providing counseling via SOTH.

Old Business:

*Christmas Family- SOTH provided the council with a list of requests for a local family. This is a single family mother of 2 boys. She had financial hardships due to medical issues that have prevented her from being able to work. She is a new client this year so she has never received help in the past.

*Harvest Meal- Loretta shared details/profits.

New Business:

*Stain Glass window and 2 pews have been stored in the school house for years, discussed options for the window. It was agreed upon to further discuss at the annual congregational meeting so the entire congregation can be involved in the decision.

*Ryan is going to talk to Kelly about paying Food Shelf and SOTH missions monthly instead of quarterly per organizations request.

Committee Reports:

*Evangelism- No report.

*Parish Education- Sunday School requesting that the Christmas Program be changed to December 15 instead of the 8th. Ryan & Tammy from the worship committee are okay with the change. Council agrees with the date change also.

*Property- School house floor completed. The sidewalk in front of the school house can be done in the Spring.

*Stewardship- No report.

*Worship- December 1st Advent starts. Dec 15 Sunday School Christmas Program. Christmas Eve service in Farmersburg at 8:30 pm.

*Memorial- No report.

*Mens Group- No report.

*Womens Group- No report.

Motion to adjourn by Ken, second by Linda. Motion Carried. Submitted by Loretta Weipert, secretary.

FARMERSBURG NEWS

October, 2024 – Treasurer's Report

Income:

558.00
2035.00
712.00
925.00
3483.00 (Harvest Meal)
156.17 (PayPal Offering)

Missions:

NE Iowa Synod: 270.00
SOTH: 232.00
Food Shelf: 122.00
St. Pt. Home: 35.00
LSI: 50.00
EWALU: 35.00

Staff Compensation:

Pastor: 2546.37 + 445.08 + 777.99 (Portico) (Housing from different Account: 681.17)
Inside Cust.: 215.48
Outside Cust.: 126.98
Organists: 129.28

Expenses:

Black Hills (gas): 39.66
Alliant (elec): 228.34
NEIT: 116.25
Church Mutual 597.57
Augsburg Fort. 77.50 (Devotionals)
Marco 502.09 (copier contract)
Fisk Farm and Home 119.83
US Treasury 987.63 (Federal/SS/Medicare)

Total Income: 7869.17

Total Expenses: 7654.05

General Checking Balance – October 1, 2024: 5048.12
October 31, 2024: 5263.24

Kelly Shaw, Treasurer



Treasurer's Report

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

October	6-	22
	13-	25
	20-	44
	27-	33



LUANA

CHURCH SECRETARY & FINANCIAL TREAS.:

Karla Schrader

CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Neil Landt (24)

V. Pres: Aaron Smith (25)

Sec: Mel Lenth (24)

Cur. Treas: Diane Kraus (25)

Bene. Treas: Sherri Johnson (24)

Financial Counters: Council

DEACONS:

Neil Landt (24)

Jerry Schroeder (26)

Tim Donlon (26)

TRUSTEES:

Sherri Johnson (24)

Mel Lenth (24)

Diane Kraus (25)

Aaron Smith (25)

Heath Landt (26)

WELCA:

Leaders:

January—March Vicky Baade

April—June Lisa Meyer

July—September Mel Lenth

Oct.—December Karla Schrader

ALTAR GUILD:

Pres: Sherri Johnson (26)

Sec: Darci Engelhardt (26)

Banners/Linens/Candles:

Mary Schroeder (24)

Lisa Meyer (25)

Special Services/Flowers:

Betty Handke (24)

Diane Kraus (25)

Bapt./Comm.:

Sherri Johnson

Darci Engelhardt

Seasonal Banners:

Altar Guild

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson: Tammy Muller(24)

Secretary: Vicki Baade (24)

Members: Janelle Smith (25)

Becky Fuelling (25)

Aaron Smith (26)

Linda Schoulte (26)

St. John's Luana website

www.stjohn-luana.org

LUANA NEWS



Poinsettia's in memory or in honor of loved ones...please give the name you are honoring to Karla.

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Doug & Connie Schlein

Read Lessons & Prayers:

Dec. 1 - Duaine Davis

Dec. 8 - Jerry Schroeder

Dec. 15 - Keith Johnson

Dec. 22 - Janelle Smith

Dec. 29 - Karla Schrader



Acolyte:

Dec. 1 - Dayne Anderson

Dec. 8 - Karsten Steege

Dec. 15 - Emme Wikner

Dec. 22 - Josh Schierholz

Dec. 24 - Livia Steege

Dec. 29 - Tyce Wikner

Communion Servers:

Dec. 1 - Jerry Schroeder and Stan Dull

Dec. 15 - Neil Landt and Aaron Smith

Dec. 24 - Tim Donlon and Diane Kraus

Altar Guild: Sherri Johnson

Flowers: Linda Davis



**7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
@ St. John Luana**

DECEMBER

5 - Paul Miller

11 - LaRee Berger

13 - Stephanie Wikner

15 - Robert Handke

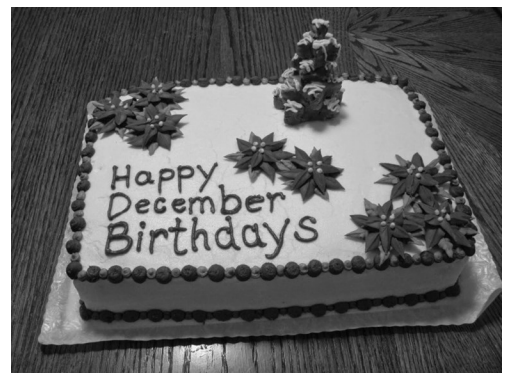
17 - Diane Doerring

18 - Carol Goettler

Kimberly Kraus

19 - Burke Schrader

26 - Darin Schlein

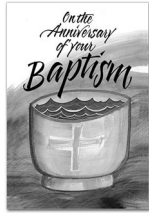


**Merry
Christmas**

LUANA NEWS

Known Baptismal Birthdays December

15 - Lonnie Baade
17- Marjorie Schrader
22 - Matt Baade
27 - Tim Donlon
Neal Wikner



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Att.	Comm
Oct. 27	27	
Nov. 3	46	40
Nov. 10	35	
Nov. 17	<u>45</u>	<u>41</u>
	153	81



Our Sympathy goes out to the family of Joann Meyer. Her funeral at St. John, Luana was held on Saturday, November 16th.



December 9
Jerry & Mary Schroeder



1st Annual Christmas Meal will be Christmas Day at Luana.

Volunteers for desserts needed.

St John/Luana Council Minutes October 13, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President Neil Landt at 7:30 am.

Present were Diane Kraus, Neil Landt, Pastor Jeremy, Stan Dull, Heath Landt, Sherri Johnson, Tim Donlon, Jerry Schroeder, Aaron Smith and Karla Schrader, church secretary. Absent, Melanie Lenth.

Devotions were led by Pastor. Previous meeting minutes were read. A correction will be made to change that the shrubs and rocks on the west side of the church should read "south side". Motion by Jerry and second by Heath to approve the September meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The September financial report was read. Sherri will transfer \$250 from the Memorial account to the Current fund for the Ordination gift card. Motion by Stan and second by Tim to approve the financial report, motion carried.

Old business was discussed. Pastor presented different color options for the sign in memory of Ozzie Goettler. Pastor will present the options to Carol Goettler for her to make the final color selection.

Tim said the baptismal font is still a work in progress. Sherri mentioned that she did have a response from one member of the Education Committee regarding Sunday School but nothing further to report at this time. Tim reported that the person who may do repair work on the parsonage would like to look at the job before he commits to anything. Tim will get in touch with the individual and then contact Aaron for him to set up a time to look at the job. Karla confirmed that she will be sending a certified letter to the renters on November 1, 2024 informing them of the rent increase, effective January 1, 2025. Pastor talked about the after school program that he and Keith Hanson are working on. The funding for the program was received from a grant. They are currently looking at Monday nights after school and would like others to help by sharing their talents whether it be through music, food, etc. The Christmas meal that will be held on Christmas Day was also discussed, Pastor will have a sign up sheet for volunteers.

New business - Neil received a questionnaire from Church Mutual, insurance provider for the church. Heath volunteered to take a look at the questionnaire. Neil also mentioned that the Interchurch Council will be having a book sale at the Community Center on election day and that the Thanksgiving service will be held on November 27 at 7:00 pm at Monona Methodist. Pastor said that St John Farmersburg was testing Paypal/Venmo as a means for receiving offering and he will report back at a later date how it is going.

Next meeting will be held on November 10, 2024 at 7:30 am.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 am with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted by Sherri Johnson.



Council Minutes

LUANA NEWS

St. John/Luana Council Minutes November 10, 2024

Meeting called to order by President Neil Landt at 7:32am

Present: Pastor Jeremy, Neil Landt, Stan Dull, Heath Landt, Aaron Smith, Sherri Johnson, Diane Kraus, Melanie Lenth and Jerry Schroeder.

Also in attendance church secretary, Karla Schrader

Absent: Tim Donlon

Devotions were led by Pastor.

Minutes from the last meeting were unavailable.

Financial Report: Motion by Jerry and seconded by Stan to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Old business: Council approved the color green for the new church sign. Melanie will be in contact with Schultz Sign.

Baptismal font still work in progress.

Aaron discussed the work and the cost to be done for the dry wall in the parsonage entry way and a bedroom wall. Estimated cost for 22 hours of repair work at \$32.00/hr. The repairer will not do any painting. Motion to approve the repair cost was made by Sherri and seconded by Heath. Motion carried.

Church insurance policy is still under review.

Pastor gave an update on the Christmas meal and informed the council that Heather Crogan and Heather Hageman will be in charge of the "carry outs." Pastor will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Pastor budgeted for 300 people, and he will also handle the advertising. Congregations will be asked to provide the desserts. Time is set for 11am-1pm with a free will donation.

New business: Transfers out - Jessica Landt Shubert family and Sara Landt Strong family.

The church Christmas tree will be set up after service on November 24th. Volunteer's are welcomed. Neil will contact the council nominating committee-Jim Meyer, Doug Schrader and Duaine Davis. Three new members will need to be elected for a 3-year term. If any member is interested to run for council, please contact the committee.

The 2025 budget will be on the agenda for the December meeting.

Karla will look into the piano tuning for both pianos.

The council discussed ways to improve church attendance and contributions. Discussion will continue at next month's meeting.

Next meeting: December 8, 2024 at 7:30am

Meeting concluded with the Lord's prayer at 8:23am.

Respectively submitted by Melanie Lenth, council secretary



LUANA NEWS
OCTOBER REPORT

Karla Schrader, Treasurer

EXPENSES

Black Hills Utilities –Nat. Gas	37.75
Alliant - Electricity	177.57
Karla Schrader –Secretary	500.26
Cindy Landt – Custodian	461.50
NEITEL	119.53
Jeremy Wolfe- salary	2,546.37
Jeremy Wolfe - Sept. mile & supp.	635.20
Jeremy Wolfe – housing	681.17
IRS	79.93
1517 Media – Sun & Seasons	359.00
Portico – Ret. (Both churches)	1,555.97
Farm & Home – supplies	6.97
Plunketts – ext.	204.94
CCLI – copyright lic.	<u>65.00</u>
	7,531.16

INCOME

Oct. 6	1,045.00
Oct. 13	987.00
Oct. 20	1,010.00
Oct. 27	<u>647.00</u>
	3,689.00
Mem Fund	250.00
Repair Fund	1,800.00
void ck	<u>40.00</u>
	5,779.00
Bal. Sept. 30, 2024	325.23
Income	<u>5,779.00</u>
	6,104.23
Less Expense	<u>7,531.16</u>
Bal. Oct. 31, 2024	(1,426.93)

SPECIAL FUNDS

St John Scholarship Fund CD	40,895.06
Ruby Breitsprecher CD	5,500.44
Willard & Anne Kamin CD	4,499.38

RENT/REPAIR FUND

Bal. 9-30-24	\$30,633.01
10-31-24 Rent	500.00
To Current	1,800.00
Int.	<u>67.25</u>
Bal. 10-31-24	\$29,400.26

CURRENT FUND

	Envelopes	Plate	Total
Oct. 6	1,025.00	20.00	1,045.00
Oct. 13	957.00	30.00	987.00
Oct. 20	940.00	70.00	1,010.00
Oct. 27	<u>642.00</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>647.00</u>
	3,564.00	125.00	3,689.00

THRIVENT BALANCE

Bal. Oct. 31, 2024	303,120.46
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BENEVOLENCE REPORT

INCOME

Oct. 6	Offering	70.00
	Operating	50.00
Oct. 13	Offering	15.00
	Food Shelf	10.00
	Operating	100.00
Oct. 20	Offering	15.00
	Food Shelf	10.00
Oct. 27	Offering	65.00
	Operating	<u>60.00</u>
		395.00

EXPENSES

SOTH Oper	\$210.00
SOTH	130.00
Food Shelf	20.00
Synod	<u>35.00</u>
	\$395.00



Both Churches News

You are invited to a Christmas Party at St. John Farmersburg on **DECEMBER 4th @ 1:00 pm** for an afternoon of fun, games & Refreshments.
Set the date and plan to attend.

December 24th
7:00 pm @ St. John Luana
8:30 pm @ St. John Farmersburg



**JOIN US FOR
CHRISTMAS IN MARQUETTE
BENEFIT FOR THE
CLAYTON COUNTY FOOD SHELF**

Thursday, December 12 from 5pm – 7pm
located near the Marquette Park Shelter.

Casino Queen Marquette in conjunction with the City of Marquette, and the Marquette Action Club will sponsor: Christmas in Marquette Benefitting the Clayton County Food Shelf.

Donations of nonperishable food items and cash donations will be accepted for admission.

Kids can visit Santa and his Elves near Santa's Toy Shop.

Plus, Pinky will also be there to visit the kids.

Enjoy a warm beverage and cookies in the park shelter along with festive musical acts to see and hear.

Stroll past the stationary light parade and displays.

Warm up near the fire ring.

Plus, other fun activities for the kids.

Join Us For

*Christmas Day
Community Meal*

**ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH-
LUANA IA
307 CHURCH STREET**

DEC 25TH 11 AM-1 PM

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT

- SERVING HAM-POTATOES-STUFFING-CORN-ROLL-DESSERT
- FREEWILL OFFERING
- RSVP IF POSSIBLE

Questions or RSVP?
hcrogan74@gmail.com
563-880-1017
pastorjeremywolfe@gmail.com
563-258-2936

Scan for RSVP

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Sue Grotegut, Stacy DeSotel, Carolyn Middendorf, Tom Meuleman, Kent Seitz, Linda Hughes, Larry Doerring, Missy Adams, Julie Mohs, Ryne Landt, Charlie Post, Lonnie Baade, Joy David, Rick Conley, Harper Armstrong, *Dallas Tielbar, Shelby Preston, Bram Byroade, Robert Pate, Melody Pate, Jim Fuelling, Mike Reardon, Ron Tayek, Cheryl Bossard*

MILITARY: Avrey Smith, Andrew Rodas & Beth Rodas

ELKADER CARE CENTER: Grace Doerring

GARDEN VIEW PLACE: Juanita Mohs, Darlene Moon

TOWER LIVING CENTER: *Lendall Schievelbein*

SAMARITAN BETHANY ROCHESTER, MN 55901: *Dorothy Kluth*

KENSINGTON ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Russett

WAUKON GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER: *Rita Pritchard*

HOMEBOUND: *Glenda Henkes, Lee Klinkenberg, Jeanette Krambeer, Jim Fuelling, Shirley Wagner*



Both Churches News

Christmas Meal FAQ



Q: When and where?

A: St. John Lutheran Church in Luana, 307 Church Street. Serving from 11 AM to 1 PM.

Q: Who can come?

A: This event is open to the public. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Many families celebrate Christmas on other days or in the evening. We'd love for you to join us if you're free.

Q: What is a freewill donation, and where does the money go?

A: A freewill donation means you choose how much to give. If you'd like a guideline, \$10.00 is suggested per meal, but any amount is appreciated. Proceeds will fund next year's meal.

Q: What are you serving?

A: Ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, corn, dinner roll, and dessert.

Q: Is the event accessible?

A: Yes! Both the dining area and the carry-out pickup location are accessible. Carry-outs will be available at the front entrance with a ramp and clear signage.

Q: How many carry-outs can I get?

A: To ensure we have enough for everyone, carry-outs are limited to 4 per person. Thanks for understanding!

Q: How can I help?

A: You can help by: • Donating a dessert of your choosing. • Volunteering in the kitchen, clearing tables, or assisting with other tasks.

Q: Why RSVP?

A: RSVPs help us plan quantities for food and seating, especially since this is our first year. You can RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/3JyWnPd9C5s5JF129>.

Q: Do dine-in guests get a drink?

A: Yes! Dine-in guests can choose from coffee, milk, or water. Drinks are not included with carry-outs.

Q: Can I share the flyer?

A: Absolutely! Please print and share it. We'd love to invite as many people as possible.

Q: What if I have questions?

A: Contact Heather Crogan at hcrogran74@gmail.com or 563-880-1017, or Jeremy Wolfe at pastorjeremywolfe@gmail.com or 563-258-2936.

Q: Do you want me to come?

A: Yes! If you're reading this, we hope to see you on Christmas Day

A note from Renee Hardman, President and CEO of Lutheran Services in Iowa:

Dear friends,

I hope this finds you safe and warm. As I am closing in on my first year as President and CEO at LSI, I am filled with gratitude for our generous donors, dedicated staff members, and kind supporters. Thanks to caring people like you, LSI had another incredible year serving our neighbors. Your donations ensured young parents had access to resources and support. Your in-kind items provided comforting beds for immigrants and refugees to rest upon. Your prayers lifted the spirits of our LSI team members and those we serve. As we enjoy this holiday season, I want to thank you for supporting LSI.

If you would like to serve more neighbors in need, please give at LSIowa.org/donate.

Eternally Grateful,
Renee

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2024



Christmas is right around the corner. I am busy getting things organized and families ready to shop at our Christmas for Kids event. Last year we served 514 children so I expect this year will be just as busy. We are asking for your support with new/unwrapped gifts that will be distributed to families in need. One of the most needed age groups is the teenagers. Yes, they are hard to buy for but they too need our support. Suggested items are fishing poles, gaming items, cologne, ear buds, headphones, sports items, hair products, hair straighteners/curling irons, hair dryers, nail polish, craft projects.

We will set up the auditorium on December 12-13. This is when we are open to the public to drop off their donations. The event will be December 18-19. All families will be by our referral process and will shop by appointment. If you are wanting to help and donate your time, please let me know. It is amazing how it all comes together. The generosity of our community is very overwhelming.

Clothing Center Updates:

We are getting some wonderful donations. Some of the items we are still in need of are: pots and pans, bath towels, wash cloths, baking dishes/pans, small kitchen gadgets, bedding(all sizes) sheets (all sizes/flat/fitted). Girls clothing from NB-size 18 youth. (Pants/shirt), Men's jeans (all sizes). We appreciate a scheduled appointment to donate as this allows us to plan our day/ schedule volunteers/schedule more donations. We do not require a set "time" just a day that the donation will be brought. Thank you for your continued support!

Shepherd Conference News:

If you are wanting to serve on the SOTH board, we will have openings for secretary (2 yr term) property (2 yr term) and the Synod Representative (3 yr term). If you have an interest in joining the board, please let me know by January 3rd, 2025.

Conference Assembly will be February 16 @ 2:00 pm with a snow date of February 23rd 2025. This year St. Paul Volga, Iowa will be hosting the conference.

The **Operating Fund** pays the utilities, insurance on the building, supplies, salaries and Lawn/Snow Care.

The **Crisis Fund** is used to help families with emergency rent or utilities and our sponsored events throughout the year

Please utilize the **MEMO LINE** on your check to specify Crisis or Operating Fund!

Please indicate what church you are from as well to provide better bookkeeping.

IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:

**Christmas for Kids
December 18th -19th**

**Conference Assembly
February 16th, 2025 @ 2:00 pm
St. Paul, Volga**

*Any event may be subject to change

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**Business Hours: Monday-Friday
9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm**