



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
521 N. 8TH STREET
MANITOWOC WI 54220 USA

January 2024

MESSENGER

Remember When?

Remember when the old 'downtown'

Seemed , oh, so far away:

Drugstores had soda fountains,

And kids went 'out' to play?

Did you try catching lightening bugs

In Mom's old jelly jar;

Read stacks and stacks of comic books,

And wish on every star?

Did you take a drive on Sunday,

Then stop off for a treat;

And later, head to Grandma's house

For something good to eat?

I remember penny candy,

And bread was just a dime;

Though life moved at a slower pace,

It was a special time!

Now if these things bring forth a smile

Whenever they are told;

You must have had a fun-filled life,

BUT...you're also kinda old!

May the coming year bring you many more fond memories!

Elaine Kestly 2012

Highlights From FLC's Council Meeting December 12, 2023



Pastor's Report:

- ♦ The transition of our financial accounting to Burbey is going well. They will provide ongoing accounting support and generate clear and accurate financial reports for us beginning in January.

Old Business:

- ♦ Pat Nickels will help with the transition to Burbey and conclude her service to our church at the end of January. Thank you, Pat, for your years of faithful service!
- ♦ All of the new lighting has been installed and a few minor modifications to the circuitry will be completed in the coming weeks. The new lighting looks wonderful!!
- ♦ We continued our discussion regarding the budget for 2024. Budgeted expenses have been significantly higher than income in 2023 and the congregation may need to make some difficult decisions at the congregational meeting in January to balance the budget. Please look for more information from the council regarding this situation.
- ♦ The "Warm the Sanctuary" capital campaign to fund our new boiler began in early December. With a small percentage of pledge cards returned, we have already exceeded the goal! We thank God for the generosity of our congregation! Additional funds raised will be used to offset the budget deficit and strengthen our financial position moving into 2024. Those who were planning to make a contribution to the boiler but have not yet done so, will be asked to prayerfully consider still making a donation.

Please Note: All are welcome to listen in at the church council meetings which are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30, except in July. If you have concerns, questions and comments, please reach out to our council president, Tyler Fellows, Pastor Andy or other council members. A complete copy of the minutes, once approved at the following month's meeting, will be available on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room or in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Greene
Council Secretary

Congregational Meeting

Sunday January 28, 2024 10:15 am

First Lutheran will hold a Congregational Meeting on
Sunday January 28th 10:15am (following worship).
On the agenda will be the proposed 2024 budget.



WHO'S WHO

THE STAFF

Pastor Andy Wendle

Pastor Brian Staude
Visitation Pastor

Connie Dorner
Faith Formation Director

Stephanie Bowman
Contemp. Music Coord.

Rebecca Konik
Church Secretary

Brenda Leick
Church Secretary

Patricia Nickels
Bookkeeper

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres.: Tyler Fellows 901-2273

V.P.: Yolanda VanHaren 860-5053

Treas: David Bowman 629-5487

Sec.: Patty Greene 246-4476

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Christian Education
Nichole Rabitz

Christian Fellowship
Karin Jaeger

Christian Outreach/Servanthood
Patty Greene, Conrad Sonnemman
Teresa Laham

Christian Stewardship
David Bowman, Karin Jaeger,
Jean Olson

Congregational Care
Harry O'Connell

Finance
David Bowman, Nick Port

Music & Worship
Linda Jurgens, Lorene Jakel

Personnel
Yolanda Van Haren, Karin Jaeger

Property
Karyl Rommelfanger

Youth Ministries
Nichole Rabitz, Ned Jerabek



Missionaries in Japan
Rev. James & Carol Sack



Grace and Peace to you from our living and loving Savior, Jesus the Christ!

Happy New Year! Good bye 2023 and hello 2024. May we discern and discover God's presence anew in this year!

So how are we going to do that? How are you going to do that? In our lives we typically make New Year resolutions in order to accomplish new things in the new year, what faithful resolutions can we make? Hopefully you have your own thoughts but here are a few of mine ...

Coming from Advent, Christmas Eve and the Christmas season hopefully we can make the resolution to look for God to enter into the ordinary moments of our lives. Looking with faithful eyes for this to happen means that we honestly expect God to enter in and transform our world. It means that like the wisemen we look for the star and see how and where we can follow. Together let us look for God to enter into our ordinary lives and help those places in our lives, individually and together, become extraordinary places of God's love and light.

Knowing that we are living into a new time and place for the church in our world today, hopefully we can live into this new year as learners. Let us discover anew what it means to build relationships within our community so as to be able to accompany others as they discover God's love. We will take specific concrete steps towards this but learning about what it means to be God's people in this time and place, 2024, means that we all need to look with new eyes toward what God might be doing in our midst.

Let us joyfully and generously live our life as the community of First Lutheran Church. Our times of transition are now over – yours and mine - let us find ways to celebrate with joy the gifts God has given. Yes, we have responsibilities to take care of, ways that we need to live a little more responsibly for our life together, your church council will be bringing some of those to our annual meeting this coming year, but let us also “rejoice in the lord always, again I say rejoice.” Let us look for where God's love is springing forth in our midst and put our positive energy, time, talents and gifts there.

Finally, let us seek to dwell deeply within God's Word by studying scripture, by being active in prayer, by developing relationships with those in our community that we might not know yet. We often approach these things as functional sort of things that we “should” do, but the reality is the more time we spend in these ways the more formative these various disciplines become. In other words, the more energy we put in these good places the more opportunity God has to work within us.

So those are four of my “resolutions” for the new year. What are yours?

In Peace,
Pastor Andy



Living by Faith

Salvation Army – “Giving Tree”

“Kindness is the connection that link us
all together and strengthens the bonds
within our community, neighborhoods,
and families.”

Rosalyn Carter

The Salvation Army was in need of 'kindness' from our First Lutheran Family as they had the largest number of needy families and individuals in their “Adopt-A-Family” program **ever** this year. On that list were 615 individuals representing 132 families in Manitowoc County. They also had 200+ families on their Toy Shop list.

We adopted 40 of those individuals representing 11 families. Additionally, 8 individuals with First Lutheran connections were adopted. The overflowing bags given to the families showed your “kindness” to our community because of the hundreds of granted Wish List items in those bags. Gifts ranged from comforter sets to pillows to car cleaning supplies to pots and pans to cleaning supplies and to generous gift cards for the adults. Some of the children and teenagers' wishes that were granted were for arts and crafts supplies, Spiderman toys, Pokémon items, desk lamps, Legos, make-up sets, cozy blankets, Barbies, warm clothes, gift cards, games, and even a foldable purple chair.

Thank you for the 'kindness' you continue to show “that links us all together and strengthens the bonds within our community, neighborhoods, and our church family”. Once again you have shown our God-given mission to “Go out to serve and invite others to faith in Christ” by your “kindness”.

Many thanks to Donna Bandt, Cathi Burish, Mary Gammelin, and Darlene Schmieder for their assistance with this project as shoppers, baggers, and organizers.

(Sandee O'Connell for the Board of Christian Outreach/Servanthood.)



January Scriptures

Jan. 7 **First** Genesis 1:1-5
 Psalm 29
 Second Acts 19:1-7
 Gospel Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 14 **First** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 Second 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 Gospel John 1:43-51

Jan. 21 **First** Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm 62:5-12
 Second 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
 Gospel Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 28 **First** Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 Second 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
 Gospel Mark 1:21-28

Women's Zoom Bible Study

First & Third Thursday
 from 9-10:30am

Led by Jenny Hanstedt Berger
 & Elizabeth Kocourek



This Bible Study group of women is an extension of the "Women's Intergenerational Bible Study" that Kristine Jacobson used to lead on Thursday mornings every other week in the lounge.

We meet the first & third Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:30. We usually do a study from the Lutheran magazine "Gather". Last year we read the book, "The God Story" during Advent and discussed it, and we include time for prayer requests. I usually send the link to get on Zoom a day or two ahead of time. Some of the group are: Annette Brown, Jennifer (Hanstedt) Berger (Jen lives in Lake Geneva), Kathy Protsman (Michigan), Betsy Kocourek (myself), Clara Mikkelsen, Ann Lorentz (Milwaukee), May Schuh, Gail Zinkel.

So if anyone would like to join they are more than welcome!

You can contact me (Betsy Kocourek)
 at Blitzfarmers@charter.net
 Or text me at: 920-860-0165

A year that whispers Jesus

For author Nancy Tichy, a small holiday gift once sparked big-picture thoughts about Christian living. One December she received a kitchen towel with the message "I want a Christmas that whispers JESUS." That prompted thoughts of what it's like to have an entire year that whispers Jesus.

For starters, that involves daily quiet time, devotion and prayer. "Sometimes I wake with the thought of a person on my mind," writes Tichy. "I'm quiet with this impression, interceding for the family member or friend until it has lifted. Could this be a whisper from our Savior?"

Many other daily occurrences are "worthy of [Jesus'] whispered response of love," Tichy points out. That's true whether we're distracted by tasks and troubling thoughts or buoyed by encounters with contentment and joy. "For me," she writes, "whispering is part of intimacy, and that is what I want to make a hallmark of the coming year. I want closeness with our Savior that enables me to hear from him, even when he whispers."

financial news

Offerings

As of December 13, 2023

Regular Giving	\$286,195.92
Total Receipts	\$432,620.88
Total Expenses	\$429,173.64
2022	
2022 Reg Giving	\$365,860.58
2022 Total Receipts	\$427,540.50
2022 Total Expenses	\$357,384.42

-Patricia Nickels

HOW CAN I GIVE?

We now have four (4) safe and secure options available!

- ◆ You can continue to mail your check;
- ◆ Instruct your bank to mail a check through online banking;
- ◆ Call the church office to set up electronic giving through your bank account.
- ◆ **You can now also give by credit card, if it's easier for you.**

We use tithe.ly, an ELCA-preferred and secure vendor. Just click the green "Give" button on our homepage: www.flcmanitowoc.org.

Ministry continues, and we are grateful for your generosity.



FIRST LUTHERAN MINISTRIES*

- [] Rev. Sack Mission Fund \$40
- [] Altar Flowers \$25 vase/\$50 two vases
- [] Prayer Shawl Ministry \$25
- [] Radio Broadcast [Sunday on WOMT]

full sponsor= \$450 (1/2 sponsor= \$225)

*Monetary gifts of any amount are welcome. Your gift/sponsorships can be acknowledged in our weekly 'Life at First' insert - Deadline for announcements is 10AM Tuesday prior to the Sunday of choice. For more info call the office at 920-682-7742.

Sunday of Sponsorship: _____

Message: _____

Name & Phone: _____

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Sunday School, Confirmation and High School Faith Formation

Connie Dorner, Faith Formation Director

First Lutheran Church 682-7742 ext:106 cdorner@flcmanitowoc.org

Cell phone: (920) 901-2584



James 1: 5,6. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

Greetings First Lutheran Family and Happy New Year!

The thought of January always brings to mind a new year with new starts. I've just read an interesting article by a Christian author, Britt Mooney*. He suggests five excellent bible-based resolutions:

1. "Stay connected with your local faith community." *For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.* Matthew 18:20
2. "Remain flexible and open to what God is doing." *We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.* Romans 8:28
3. "Slow down. Take time to rest." *Be still and know that I am God!* Psalm 46:10
4. "Speak the life of the gospel into the chaos of the world." *Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.* 2 Timothy 2:23
5. "Love your neighbors." *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.* Matthew 5:16

Let me fill you in on some events and activities since our last newsletter. One big event was our annual cookie walk. Many thanks to all our bakers, parents and volunteers who helped with this sale! I was so impressed with our confirmation students who helped to bake and decorate cookies as well as helping with preparations before and during the event. And more than just a fundraiser, it's just a great opportunity for me to connect with our teens and have some fun in the process. Our confirmation students also participated in a service opportunity at The Crossing helping to sort and package diapers and stock their pantry. Pastor and I are pleased to provide these enriching opportunities of learning and service for our students throughout the year. We look forward to our Christmas celebration with them next week.

As of this writing, we are in preparation for our Sunday school program which promises to be a fun telling of the birth of Jesus. I am also excited for our Spark Christmas party, and our Youth Group Christmas Party and Jesus' Birthday Party! What fun times of celebration! Please look in our schedule section of this newsletter for more family events planned for January and February.

I continue to be grateful for time spent with our youth and Sunday school children. They warm my heart and are such a blessing. As we enter this new year, I pray for health and happiness for each family as well as renewed hope in Him, and thankful hearts for the new year.

Cheerfully in Christ,

Connie

*Works cited:

Mooney, Britt. "5 Bible-based Christian New Year's Resolutions for 2022." *The CrossWalk Daily*, 20, Dec. 2021, 5 Bible-Based Christian New Year's Resolutions for 2022 - Happy New Year (crosswalk.com). Accessed 12 Dec. 2023.

First Communion Classes

Parents, is your child ready to receive First Communion? Pastor Andy and Connie will be putting this opportunity together and we'll be excited to celebrate this important rite with you and your family. Our classes are for parents whose children are in 3rd grade AND any other families who feel their child would like to receive first communion, including any child younger or older than 3rd grade. Please look for a letter to families of First to come to you in the second week of January or so regarding scheduling our First Communion classes in the new year. If you have any questions before receiving the letter, please reach out to Connie.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to these young people who celebrate their birthdays in January!

Andrea Taylor	Jan. 8
Parker Valleskey	Jan. 16
Lincoln Curry	Jan. 17
Brooks Shavlik	Jan. 18
Anna Wendle	Jan. 19
Zachary Kohler	Jan. 20
Owen Miller	Jan. 28
Logan Kranz	Jan. 29

Baptismal Anniversaries

Blessings to the following babies, Sunday School Students & Youth who are celebrating their Baptismal birthdays in January.

Evan Denk	1/10/16
Annabelle Johnson	1/16/11
Zachary Johnson	1/18/15





CREATED
TO BE

Sunday School

Our Sunday School classes will resume our Lectionary Lessons beginning on Sunday, January 7 from 10:10 – 10:55 m in our classrooms.

Confirmation News

Our Confirmation classes will resume on Sunday, January 7 from 4 – 5:30. Additional January classes are on January 14 & 21. There will be no class on January 28.

Youth Group and Spark Times

Here are the January dates and times:

SPARK GROUP -
Wednesday, January 10 &
January 24. *Please note the new time of 4 – 5 pm.*
(Previously 5:15 ending time).

YOUTH GROUP –
Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 6:30 –
7:30 pm.

Sunday, Jan. 14 from 5:30 –
6:30 pm.

Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 6:30 –
7:30 pm.

***Youth group scheduled for Wednesday, January 17 is rescheduled to the 31st as Connie is in New Orleans in preparation for the Youth gathering trip.*

2024 Youth Gathering News

7 months and counting until our 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering!! I am excited to be able to attend the "Extravaganza" gathering for youth leaders in New Orleans from January 16 - 21st to learn more about our ELCA youth events and to explore the city before our trip in July!

Meanwhile, here are some important reminders for those participating:

Students and youth leaders in attendance are strongly encourage to attend all preparatory **Created to Be** classes. Classes will be held on the first Sunday of every month from 5:30 – 7 pm, January 7, February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2 and July 7.

All students participating are expected to help with all fund-raising activities for this trip.

The next deposit of \$100 per student is due by Wed., January 31. Please make checks payable to *First Lutheran Church* and write; 2024 SYG in the memo line.

Please let me know if you have any other questions regarding our trip. I will be able to let you know more information such as hotel accommodations and project days as I become aware of them.

Upcoming events

Family Tubing/Sledding Fun!

Join us for an afternoon of tubing at Kewanee Winter Park (N3787 Moore Lane, Kewaunee) on **Saturday, Jan. 27 from 1 – 2:30 pm.** Lift tickets and tube rentals are \$10 per person or \$45 for a family of five. No reservations are needed but if you plan on attending, PLEASE RVSP to Connie so we'll know who is scheduled to meet together on that afternoon. (Saturday hours are from 10 am – 4 pm and hours are subject to change based on hill conditions.)



30 Hour Famine

Students in grades 7 – 12 are invited to participate in our 30 hour famine event schedule for **February 9-10** beginning at 4 pm on Friday and continuing until 6 pm on Saturday. The 30 hour famine is an advocacy campaign that gives us an opportunity to raise our voices for those living in hunger and poverty. Students will sleep overnight and will participate in making soup to sell at our fellowship hour for our "Souper Bowl Sale." All proceeds will go towards the Salvation Army and World Hunger Organizations. I hope many teens will join me!

Synod Youth Gathering Opportunity

This year's Synod Youth Gathering will be on **February 16-18** at Imago Dei Village. This year's theme is Journey with Jesus Peace by Piece and will feature motivational speaker and musician, Frankie Moscato. This overnight camp event is for students in grades 6 – 12. Please save the dates and talk with your children and encourage attendance. There will be more information as the date approaches.





Winter Wonderland

winter
snowstorm
sled
quilt
hotchocolate
firewood
blizzard

wind
snowman
ski
pinecone
gloves
february
blanket

toboggan
snowflake
skate
mittens
gingerbread
evergreen

sweater
sneeze
shiver
january
frost
eggnog

socks
slush
scarf
jacket
flurries
 earmuffs

shovel
sleet
reindeer
icicle
flannel
boots

Q	W	H	O	P	T	E	K	N	A	L	B	S	F	L	W	N	A	S	T	O	O	B	G
F	O	R	H	F	M	L	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	F	T	K	H	E	U	Z	L	A
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M	V	N	P	B	Z	P	H	B	J	K	N	Q	K	F	L	U	R	R	I	E	S	P	K



Hope House Manitowoc County

Hope House
1000 S. 35th St.,
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920)686-1436
hopehousemc.org

**First Lutheran's Host
week is Dec 3-9**



Exciting News - Chamber Award Nominations!

We were informed that Hope House has been nominated for not one, but TWO awards!

2023 Non-Profit Organization of the Year Award
2023 Collaboration Award - Cardboard City

Hope House of Manitowoc County has been nominated for the 2023 Non-Profit Organization of the Year Award. This award is given to recognize a non-profit Chamber member organization for its dedication to serving our communities in 2023.

Cardboard City has been nominated for the Collaboration Award. The Collaboration Award recognizes initiatives, programs, events, or activities that require collaborative efforts of non-profit organizations in our community which may include government, business, education, service groups, the elderly, or other groups working together to promote a strong economy and quality of life in Manitowoc County.

All nominees will be honored, and the award will be presented to the winner at The Chamber's Awards of Distinction event being held Thursday, February 8, 2024, at the Capitol Civic Centre, Manitowoc. Thank you for your support!

Holy Communion Delivery

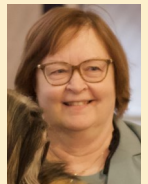


First Lutheran's congregation members that are homebound or unable to drive to church have the opportunity to receive communion in their homes once a month. We will also deliver communion on a short term basis for those unable to attend services. This service is not just for the long term homebound. Simply call the church office (920-682-7742)



Welcome Jan Graunke, our new Executive Director

We are happy to announce and introduce our new Executive Director, Jan Graunke. She brings great experience and knowledge to help in serving our mission. She looks forward to meeting our faithful volunteers & supporters very soon.



OUR WISH LIST *for our Guests...*

- Toilet bowl cleaner Laundry detergent
- Disinfectant spray (Lysol, Microban)
- Baby Wipes Adult body wash
- Women's deodorant
- 13-gallon garbage bags
- **WalMart Gift Cards** (\$10 or \$20)
- **Kwik Trip Gas Cards** (\$10 or \$20)

Thank you for the continued support of donations!
Follow us on Facebook Learn more about us at
Hope House (hopehousemc.org)



Hope House is a United Way Funds Recipient



FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION Next collection: January 7, 2024

Stop by and pick up some Black Cloth bags printed with "First Lutheran Church - Gather, Grow, Go..." (part of our mission statement) that are available in the lobby near the office, to use to bring back your donations on First Sunday. And remember that if you wish to have your donations picked up, just call or leave a message for Harry at 920-242-2489.

NEW Pantry needs: Cereal, peanut butter and jelly, all canned fruits and veggies (except green beans), pastas and sauces, rice, packaged sides (like rice or noodle type dishes), crackers, canned or pouched meats, any of the easy to eat items that can be accessed if you don't have a home (we put these in the blessing box), fruit cups, instant oatmeal, canned soups, mac and cheese, dressing for salads, flour, sugar (brown and granulated), cake mixes & frosting (nice for a family to be able to choose for an upcoming BD), boxed stuffing (like Stove-Top), canned or bottled gravy, instant mashed potatoes.



Thank you for your continued support!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Years Day Closed	2 9:3 Staff Mtg	3 9:3a Bible Study 5-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:3- 7:3 YG	4	5	6
7 9am Worship Trad—HC Handbell Choir 10:10 Sunday School 10:15-Fellowship Coffee 4-5:3—Confirm. Classes 5:30-7p—ELCA Youth Gathering Grp	8 10a Pastor Txt Study 6p Handbells	9 9:3 Staff Mtg 6p Bd Music/Worship	10 9:3a Bible Study 4-5p SPARK* 5-Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13
14 9am Worship CC—HC 10:10 Sunday School 10:15-Fellowship Coffee 4-5:3—Confirm. Classes 5:3-6:3 YG*	15 10a Pastor Txt Study 6p Handbells Messenger Deadline for January	16 6p Exec. Comm. 6:3p Council	17 9a RUTH 9:3a Bible Study 5-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:3 Bd Property	18	19	20
21 9am Worship Trad—HC 10:10 Sunday School 10:15-Fellowship Coffee 4-5:3—Confirm. Classes	22 10a Pastor Txt Study 1p Snip n'Sew 6p Handbells	23 9:3 Snip n'Sew	24 9:3a Bible Study 4-5p SPARK* 5-Chancel Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27 1-2:3P FAMILY TUBING FUN @ KEWANEE WINTER PARK
28 9am Worship Trad—HC 10:10 Sunday School 10:15 Congregational Meeting	29 10a Pastor Txt Study 1p Snip n'Sew 6p Handbells	30 9:3 Snip n'Sew	31 9:3a Bible Study 5-Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:3- 7:3 YG			

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

521 N. 8th Street
Manitowoc WI 54220

Phone: 920-682-7742

Web: FLCmanitowoc.org

E-Mail: Office@flcmanitowoc.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



January Messenger 2023

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Manitowoc, WI 54220
Permit No. 93



To:

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Andy Wendle



Sunday services at 9am

WOMT 1240AM/107.9FM, womtradio.com
YouTube, Facebook Live www.facebook.com/FLCManty521

Holy Communion – Every Sunday

10:10 Sunday School (Sept.-May)

Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 10:00-3:00

Friday: 9:00-12noon

920-682-7742

Email: Office@flcmanitowoc.org

Web: FLCmanitowoc.org

Our God-given mission is to...

Gather in the name of the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,

Grow in faith and love,

Go out to serve and invite others to faith in Christ.

