

Parish Pulse

United In Christ
DECEMBER 2022

VOL. 26 ISSUE 12

Council Meetings

7TH- LN 7PM
13TH- CLC 7PM
14TH- F 7PM
21ST- ML 7PM
T 7PM

Pastor's Notes

We begin a new church year on the First Sunday in Advent, which is this Sunday, November 27th. The season of Advent is four weeks long. Advent is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and also of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ.

Prepare – prepare, make ready, put together, arrange, assemble, construct, compose . . .

Isaiah 40:3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

I shared this poem from Renee Swope with you last year, and I want to share it with you again.

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Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion--Saturday, Dec 24

Faaberg--4:00 p.m.-candlelight worship; Pr. Dan
Little Norway--6:00 p.m.-candlelight worship; Pr. Dan
Concordia--4:00 p.m.-candlelight worship; Pr. Phil
Trinity--6:00 p.m.-candlelight worship; Pr. Phil

Christmas Day Worship Sunday, Dec 25

Maple Lake--10:00 a.m.; Pr. Dan

The Manger of My Heart

By Renee Swope

This Christmas, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.
As I prepare for the holiday and gifts to be given,
Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.

The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.
You came as a baby born in a manger.
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.

Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,
When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth,
Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.
And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light.

"Do not be afraid," they said, to the shepherds in the field.
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.
Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.
Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.

Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.
Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.
In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel your hush.

This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.
Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.
Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.
Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

In Christ,

Pastor Phil Larsen

AUCTION



Maple Lake Lutheran Church

County Hwy 41 - Rural Fertile

December 7th, 2022

Supper: 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

BBQ's, Chips, Pickles, Bars & Cookies

Auction: 6:30 PM

Crafts, Baked Goods, Baskets, Jams & Jellies, Lefsa, Pies & More!

All proceeds will go to the church for expenses.



Bump Erickson was the winner of the Veteran quilt made by the quilters at Concordia Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 13th, 2022.



DECEMBER 2022

Concordia Worship Participants

Thank you for serving in this capacity!
If you are unable to serve on the Sunday listed
please exchange with someone on the list and
notify the church office.

9:30 a.m. Worship

Altar Guild:

Kathy Netland
Cathy Forgit

DEC. 4

Advent Candle: Amber & Taylor
Sannes & family

Ushers: Daryl and Evan Haas

Greeters: Craig & Cindy Engelstad

Lector: Tim Sykes

Acolytes: Kane & Indigo Oistad

Communion Assistants: Scott Braun,
Larry Erdahl, Carol Petersen

Live Stream:

DEC. 11

Advent Candle: JanaDee & Tim
Fuchs & family

Ushers: Ben & Caleb Sather

Greeters: Kurt & Heidi Larson

Lector: Larry Erdahl

Acolytes: Kane & Indigo Oistad

Communion Assistants: Heidi & Kurt
Larson; Carol Swenby

Live Stream:

DEC. 18

Advent Candle: Kristina & Cory
Sandberg & family

Ushers: Jeff & Connor Haaven

Greeters: Tyler & Adelle Christianson

Lector: Lindi Christianson

Acolytes: Willow & Koa Larson

Communion Assistants: Kylie, Ryan,
& Brooklyn Strem

Live Stream:

***Sunday School program 4:00 p.m.**

Live Stream-

CHRISTMAS EVE-4:00p.m. Service

Ushers: Matthew and John Larsen

Greeters: Craig & Heather Larson

Lector: Taylor Sannes

Acolytes:

Communion Assistants: Lindi
Christianson; Ron & Lori Sannes

Live Stream:

**DEC. 25--NO WORSHIP SERVICE AT
CONCORDIA**

Pastoral Acts for November

Concordia:

Baptism-

-Aaron Matias Mendoza, son of
Florencio & Courtney

Funeral-

Allen Torpet; Pr. Dan
Jeff Hegg; Pr. Phil

Maple Lake:

Baptism-

-Arlen Allen Melby, son of
Matthew Melby & Nicole
Olson; Pr. Dan

**Sunday, December 4-
First Communion for 3rd
grade students**



Sunday School Christmas Programs

Little Norway-Dec. 11-11:00am

Faaberg-- Dec. 18-11:00am

Concordia--Dec 18-4:00pm

Maple Lake--Dec 18-7:00pm

Concordia Sunday School is looking for volunteers to bake 1-2 dozen Christmas goodies for the students to serve after their Christmas program Sunday, Dec. 18. Please text or call Hannah Chisholm (612) 382-0017 or Amber Sannes (218) 686-3353 if you are willing to help! Thank you!

Concordia Lutheran Church Council Meeting November 8, 2022

President Elaine Erdahl called to order Concordia's Church Council Meeting at 7:02 pm on November 8, 2022. Those present were Pastor Phil Larsen, Elaine Erdahl, Taylor Sannes, Nick Neibauer, Carol Petersen, Mackinzie Burke, Salome Hansen, Darcey Larsen, Ben Sather, and Sue Lindberg.

Pastor Phil opened with devotions from Isaiah 6:3 and 1 Peter 1:1.

The Secretary's Report was reviewed and accepted as presented. M/S/A (Taylor/Darcey)

Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Report The treasurer's report was accepted as presented. M/S/A (Carol/Sue) Nick has contacted the Aramark's company on adequate supplies and the billing was clarified. Signature forms at Red River State Bank have been signed.

Pastor's Report The third-grade class for First Communion will be held November 13th and 20th. The Parish Thanksgiving Service will be at Concordia on Tuesday, November 22nd @7:00 pm with pie and coffee to follow in the Fellowship Hall, served by the Youth group. A date for the annual meeting is tentatively set for January 29th, 2023.

Committee Reports:

Management and Finance: (Nick) Quotes are being requested from two insurance agencies for the church's insurance. New signs "Funeral Parking Only" will be purchased. Time was spent reviewing and revising last year's budget for 2023. The 2023 proposed budget will be ready for the December council meeting.

Outreach: (Mackinzie) Work continues on our new website using "Word Press". Concordia will again sponsor the Angel Tree for Christmas donations, coordinating with the school. The church will serve as a drop off spot for these gifts.

Home and church Life: (Lori) Lori was absent at the November meeting.

Education: (Ben) The Sunday School kids will sing November 20th for services. Recommendations from the children of the Sunday School will be reviewed for donations from the Noisy Offering and Sunday School offerings. The Concordia Christmas program will be December 18th @ 4:00 pm with cookies to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Daycare: (Taylor) A new contract will be drawn up for the daycare to be approved at the December council meeting.

Worship: (Carol) A new linen cloth for the altar is needed as the old one is showing signs of wear and is stained.

Old Business: Discussions were held on possible dates for Concordia's 100th Anniversary celebration in 2023. The bishop will be invited to attend, a special church service will be held, and a banquet will be planned. Volunteer's for the committee's will be welcomed.

New Business: None

An adjournment motion was made @8:34 pm. M/S/A (Nick/Carol) followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Sue Lindberg, Secretary

Little Norway December Anniversaries & Birthdays

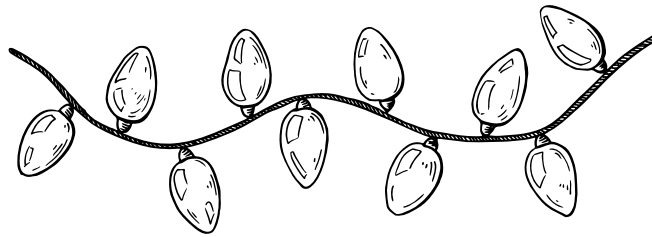
Anniversaries

28-Ginny & Dean Radke
29-Kathy & Ernie Christensen, Jr

Birthdays

03-Duane Hanson
10-Jordyn Berhow
Sydney Larson
11-Preston Hovde
12-Mark Morvig
14-Levi Roggenbuck

16-Edward Larson
17-Jodi Lene
18-Charles Schulstad
20-Karen Busch
23-Robert Heckman
30-Karl Lisburg



December Deacon-Lisa Duckstad **Janitor**-Don Larson

Altar Guild & Communion Prep:

Mary Esther Circle- Dec 1st, at church

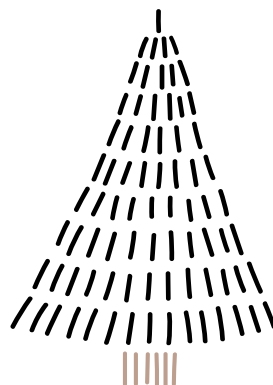
Dorcas Circle- Dec 12th, 7:00 p.m. at church

December Readers:

Dec 4th - Ernie Christensen Dec 18th - Garth Kaste

Dec 11th- Sunday School Christmas Program Dec 24th - Mark Gullickson

Dec. 25-No Church



LITTLE NORWAY COUNCIL

November 2, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Dan, Gloria Kaste, Lisa Duckstad, Heidi Benson, John Gullickson, Kim Larson, Don Larson, Brent Bakke, and Jamie Morvig

John called the meeting to order.
Heidi gave devotions on Thankfulness

Pastor's Reports: Dan reported everything is going fine. Looking for some help with the technical issues for recordings, YouTube, and Web page.

Secretary report: Jamie read the minutes from the October meeting, Heidi motioned to approve, Gloria second/passed.

Treasures report: Gloria reported the annual insurance has been paid. World and Local hunger gifts are coming in. Mission Sunday with the Care & Share brought in \$4,728. ELCA Mission Investment fund will be rolling over with a rate of 1.8% compound interest for 2 years.

Vice President report: Parish meeting next week.

Deacons: - Lisa reported the Christmas services will be scheduled. Christmas program- date to be determined.

Trustee: Don reported Barry Wilkens from Northern Foam gave a bid for \$6500 to insulate the church attic. Colton Chandler sprayed for bugs, included the steeple. Travis Jensrud from Fire department has the lock box in process. Don talked to Dean K regarding the safe and possible placement. He will be willing to work with us, we will need to check on delivery process. Don will check with Grove Mechanical to complete the annual service to the furnaces. Brent reported the giving reports will need to be sent out in December.

Education: No report

Unfinished Business:

- a) Mission Sunday \$4,728 in donations.
- b) Comment Box-reviewed suggestions and comments
- c) Attic insulation- bid received November installation
- d) Safe- check on the delivery process and dates

New Business:

- a) Nominating committee will need to be organized by Vice President.
- b) Annual Meeting is set for Jan. 15th.
- c) Tree Decorating- November 20th after service.
- d) Christmas service schedule- Council discussed the early 3:00 pm service. We would like to have a later service of 4 or 4:30. Having the 3:00 pm service our attendance has been down. This will be addressed during Parish Meeting.

Brent motioned to adjourn, Jamie second.
Adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: December 7, 2022

Devotions: Mark Benson

Lunch: Jamie Morvig

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Morvig

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office will be open Monday-Thursday 8:30a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Fridays from 8:30a.m.-1:00 p.m. If at any time you need a Pastor, you may reach Pastor Phil on
his cell at 218-289-3970 or Pastor Dan at 320-260-6955. Thank you.



Faaberg Announcements

The Faaberg WELCA will meet Thursday, December 1, at 9:00 a.m. with Peggy Ystenes leading the devotions. We will spend the day decorating for Christmas and quilting. Bring a lunch for noon. We will also quilt Friday, December 2, at 9:00 a.m.

The Afternoon Bible Study will be held Monday, December 12 . at 1:30 p.m., with everyone leading the study.

The December 18th worship service will be at 11:00 a.m. and will include the Sunday School Christmas program. There will a potluck dinner following with Group 1 in charge.

Please contact Katy Krogstad if there are any changes suggested for the Prayer Chain, or if any more members would like to be included.

A beautiful, cozy, winter themed quilt made by the WELCA quilting group will be put up for silent auction until after the potluck dinner December 18th. Look for it on display in the entry with a sign up sheet for your bid.

December is already here! So much to do, so many activities to attend, so many ways to count our blessings as we celebrate the birth of Jesus – Our Lord and Savior!

Blessings to Arlen Allan Melby who was baptized recently at Maple Lake. Arlen is the son of Matthew Melby and Nicole Olson. Family and friends were present as the congregation promised to hold Arlen up in prayer and nurture him in his faith. God is good!

Everett Landsrud and Sadie Wishard will be receiving their 1st Communion on December 4th! We ask God to bless these young people and their families as we gather around the altar.

Be sure to take in the auction on Dec. 7th at Maple Lake! BBQ supper at 5:30 and the auction will begin at 6:30 with Josh Bolstad as auctioneer. It promises to be a fun evening! Free will offering for the meal and we know you will find many items to bid on besides lefse, caramel rolls, canned goods, antiques and quilts! The Lord is going to bless us with good weather.

All will be blessed as we look forward to the Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. It is a busy time for the teachers and students as they prepare – say a prayer for them! We will never tire of the songs sung by the kids and the re-enactment of the nativity scene. Come early and get ready to have your hearts warmed!

Wednesday, Dec. 21st at 7:00 p.m. – Council meeting. The budget will be finalized at this meeting in preparation for the Annual meeting on January 22, 2023.

Our Christmas worship service will be held on Sunday, December 25th at 10:00. Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Blessed greeters for December are Tyler and Amber Petry and family.

Blessed custodians for December are John and Kathy Swanson.

Greetings go out to former pastors and members from afar this holiday season! May you all have a very BLESSED Christmas!

Submitted by: Marlene Block

Maple Lake Church Council Minutes

Date: November 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Attending: Marlene Block, Pastor Dan, Karen Lunak, John Swanson & MaryBeth Swanson.

Devotions: Prayer for our Church & Church Families, Devotions led by Pastor Dan from Isaiah 26:3

Secretary's Report: MM/S by John Swanson/Karen Lunak to accept minutes as published. MC.

Treasurer's Report: MM/S by Karen Lunak/John Swanson to accept report as submitted. MC.

Pastor's Report: First communion classes for 3rd grade students have started. December 4th will be first communion for Maple Lake students. There will be a Parish Thanksgiving Service next Tuesday, November 22nd at 7 p.m. at Concordia. Advent is quickly approaching.

Parish Board Report: No meeting due to snow storm. Rescheduled for Friday November 18th.

Deacon's Report: Karen will make a new sign-up sheet for the Deacons regarding communion servers. Karen also volunteered to monitor communion items that may need ordering as to not run out.

Trustees' Report: No Report

Old Business:

1. Sign Update: It's not done yet, but it's in the works.
2. Fundraiser update: After brainstorming many ideas and meeting with WELCA an auction has been planned for Wednesday, December 7th. We will have a supper at 5:30, with an auction to follow at 6:30. Members have been contacted for auction items and to help with the meal. Donations should be at the church no later than Wednesday afternoon.
3. The nominating committee is in the process of contacting members for various committees for 2023.

New Business:

1. Planning for the 2023 budget has begun. Brenda submitted a proposed budget for 2023. After discussion and consideration a few changes were made to the proposal. After the parish board meets, we will have our parish support number. The budget will be finalized at the December meeting.
2. Shelia was able to make contact with the Paul Peltier (Painter). He apologized for not completing the work and over extending himself this summer. He offered to schedule a start date in June. In the meantime, Curt Block offered to complete the job for cost of materials. The council decided to have Curt do the work.
3. We will decorate the church for Christmas on Wednesday November 30th at 7 p.m. We need able bodies to crawl under the stairs and help with the tree.
4. After discussion a MM/S by John Swanson/MaryBeth Swanson to order Baptism napkins, gluten free communion wafers, welcome cards, and offering envelopes. MC.
5. Marlene will contact Mike Slevin to order the same treats as last year for the Sunday School program.

Adjourn: MM/S to adjourn by Karen Lunak/John Swanson. MC. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:04 p.m.

Next council meeting: Wednesday, December 21st, at 7:00 P.M.

Trinity Lutheran Church Council

November 16, 2022

President Sharon Lenz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members present were Sharon, Barb Hamre, Rory Hamre, Jolene Billing, Pr. Phil Larsen, Bob Yuergens, Joni Page, Dean Smith and Kristy Langved.

Pr. Phil opened the meeting with prayer.

Kristy gave the secretary's report. There was a correction that the 6 personal care kits went to Lutheran World Relief and not to Northland Rescue Mission. Rory made a motion to accept the report with that correction. Seconded by Bob and carried.

Jolene presented the treasurer's report. Bob made a motion to file for audit, seconded by Rory and carried.

Pr. Phil gave the pastor's report. Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00pm will be Parish Thanksgiving Services at Concordia, with pie served by the youth group. December 18 we are trading worship time with Faaberg, so Trinity will have 8:15 am services that one day. December 24: Faaberg and Concordia have 4:00 pm services, Trinity and Little Norway have 6:00 pm services. Maple Lake has 10:00 am services on December 25. Trinity annual meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2023.

Sharon asked about calling off worship due to weather. After discussion, it was decided that she and Pr. Dan and Pr. Phil will communicate as needed and will inform people through the service groups, and Phil will get it on the local tv station.

Sharon presented many mailings she has received regarding charitable donations. Dean made a motion to give \$600 to North Country Food Bank and \$400 to the Fertile Food Shelf. Seconded by Joni and carried.

Barb announced that everyone is encouraged to come to church at 9:00am on November 27 for brunch and to decorated for Christmas before worship services.

Bob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barb and we adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Langved

UNITED IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH BOARD MEETING

November 18, 2022

Members present: Kip Fontaine, Lyle Fuchs, John Gullickson, Pr. Dan Morton, Verna Norland, Pr. Phil Larsen, and Kristy Langved.

President Kip called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Pr. Phil led devotions from God Pause, reading from Luke 23: 33-43.

Kristy read the secretary's report from the September 8, 2022 meeting. Lyle made a motion to approve, seconded by Verna and carried.

Lyle presented the treasurers report. He will check on the gift for Karen as it appears it hasn't been given to her yet and he will get Laura Jossund's payroll information for Amy Motteberg. John made a motion to accept, seconded by Verna and carried.

Phil and Dan gave the pastors report. The parish Thanksgiving Worship will be at Concordia on Tuesday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve, December 24, services at Faaberg and Concordia will be at 4:00 p.m. and Trinity and Little Norway at 6:00 p.m. Maple Lake will have Christmas Day, December 25, services at 10:00 a.m. Dan talked about technology and the foreseeable need for an IT person within the parish. Dan will explore it.

Old business: Marcia Schoenborn has resigned as a visitation minister.

New business: Lyle made a motion to change the meeting time for this group to 8:15 a.m., seconded by Verna and carried.

John made a motion to forgo the December payment from each church to the parish, seconded by Lyle and carried. Phil will contact each treasurer.

Budget: There was much discussion. All utilities have increased. A tentative budget was started and we will meet again the beginning of December to finalize it. This meeting may be by zoom or email.

Lyle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John and we adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Langved

25 Random Acts of CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

1. Say "thank you"
2. Bake cookies for police officers
3. Sign up to ring bells for Salvation Army
4. Deliver gifts to shelters
5. Go caroling
6. Offer to wrap gifts for others
7. Offer to take elderly shopping
8. Donate to Toys for Tots
9. Help a friend clean
10. Visit and offer to decorate nursing homes
11. Volunteer or simply donate to a local food pantry
12. Donate to a giving tree or angel tree
13. Give up your spot in line
14. Send cards to military
15. Participate in Operation Christmas Child
16. Pick up someone else's tab at a restaurant
17. Invite a friend to Christmas dinner
18. Donate supplies to a pet shelter
19. Grab coffee for school crossing guards
20. Help someone load/unload groceries
21. Donate coloring books to a children's hospital
22. Pay for someone's layaway
23. Bring cookies to a local organization
24. Leave a treat for your mailman
25. Deliver random acts of kindness treats



Daily Bible Readings

DECEMBER 2022-GOD'S RENEWING WORD OF JOY

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Psalms 30 | 17 | Isaiah 38:1-20 |
| 2 | Psalms 136 | 18 | Isaiah 7:1-25 |
| 3 | Psalms 138 | 19 | Isaiah 8:1-20 |
| 4 | Exodus 12:1-14 | 20 | Isaiah 8:21—9:7 |
| 5 | Exodus 12:15-36 | 21 | Luke 1:1-25 |
| 6 | Exodus 12:37-51 | 22 | Luke 1:26-56 |
| 7 | Exodus 13:1-10 | 23 | Luke 1:57-80 |
| 8 | Exodus 13:11-22 | Christmas Eve | |
| 9 | Exodus 14:1-18 | 24 | Luke 2:1-20 |
| 10 | Exodus 14:19-31 | Christmas Day | |
| 11 | Exodus 15:1-18 | 25 | John 1:1-18 |
| 12 | Exodus 15:19-27 | 26 | John 1:19-34 |
| 13 | Exodus 16:1-21 | 27 | John 1:35-51 |
| 14 | Exodus 16:22-36 | 28 | Luke 2:21-38 |
| 15 | Exodus 17:1-16 | 29 | Luke 2:39-52 |
| 16 | Psalms 75 | 30 | Matthew 1:1-25 |
| | | 31 | Jude 1-25 |



NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORDIA, LITTLE NORWAY,
MAPLE LAKE, TRINITY, AND FAABERG
CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITED IN CHRIST
LUTHERAN PARISH, ELCA

Philip Larsen: Senior Pastor 218-289-3970 or 945-3228
email: pastorphil_uclp@gvtel.com
Daniel Morton: Associate Pastor 320-260-6955
email: pastordan_uclp@gvtel.com

Laura Jossund: Youth Director 701-566-1760
email: ljossund@isd599.org
Office Managers: Lori Sannes and Jennifer Larson
email: office_uclp@gvtel.com

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Worship Schedule
DECEMBER 2022

	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18 * (only)	Dec 25
F 8:15am	Pr. Dan	Pr. Phil	Pr. Darrell *(T-8:15am) *(F-11:00 am)	no worship
C 9:30am	Pr. Dan	Pr. Phil	Pr. Darrell	no worship
T 11:00am	Pr. Dan	Pr. Phil	*(only) Pr. Darrell *(T-8:15am) *(F-11:00 am)	no worship
ML 9:00am	Pr. Phil	Pr. Dan	Pr. Dan	Pr. Dan
LN 11:00am	Pr. Phil	Pr. Dan	Pr. Dan	no worship

