

# CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN

## DECEMBER 2023



### *December Calendar of Events*

Sunday school 9 a.m., worship 10

- 12/1 6:30 Girl Scouts
- 12/2 9:30 Women of CTS meeting  
6p Rescue Mission meal
- 12/4 7p Bible study
- 12/6 6p meal, 7 Advent service
- 12/7 9 PieceMakers quilting
- 12/10 Sunday school Christmas program;  
potluck following
- 12/11 7p Bible study
- 12/13 6p meal, 7 Advent service
- 12/14 2p Bible study
- 12/15 6:30p Girl Scouts
- 12/18 7p Bible study
- 12/20 6p meal, 7 Advent service
- 12/21 2p Card club  
6p MOPS  
6:30 Council meeting
- 12/24 7p candlelight service
- 12/25 Merry Christmas!**
- 12/28 2p Bible study
- 12/31 Food Pantry Sunday
- 1/1/24 Happy New Year!**

### *Happy Birthday*

- 12/9 Gabriel Olson, 8
- 12/11 Sharon Boelman
- 12/14 Don Knee
- 12/17 Marilyn Woolard
- 12/19 Shirley Theil
- 12/23 Don Burke
- 12/24 Pastor Cindy
- 12/28 Jeff Petersen

### *Happy Anniversary*

12/28 Roger and Dee Bailey  
###

Our church is really blessed. Clanking the Cans totaled \$110.23 which included an offering brought in on Tuesday. We kept \$30.18 to pay for batting for senior quilts for next year. We gave two quilts to our senior this spring, four quilts to the Rescue Mission, four quilts to the Grain Train plus postage for shipping, 14 quilts to Lutheran World Relief plus postage for shipping. May God bless each one of you that made the quilts, paid for the shipping, put the quilts on the pews, and packed and delivered them to St. John's Lutheran Church. They pay college students to drive them to Minneapolis as part of their college training. Our quilting group is shrinking (age) and we need more people to help us. Maybe a night would be better? We have great fellowship and food! We meet at 9:00 a.m. the first Thursday of each month. Please join us!

### **November Local Benevolence**

Good Neighbors: \$266.88

### **Card of Thanks**

Norfolk Rescue Mission: Thank you for your gift of four homemade quilts! We believe that together, we will make a difference.

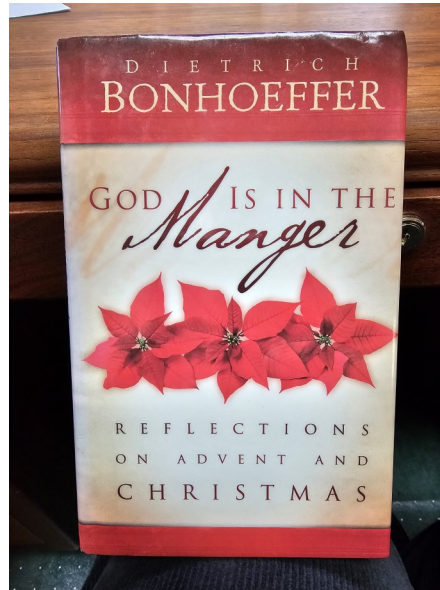
Orphan Grain Train: Thank you for your sacrificial gift of \$40.74 to International Shipping. Your gifts, prayers and encouragement are a blessing to us.

Tunnel to Towers Foundation: Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution of \$67. On behalf of America's heroes, thank you so much for your support.

From the Pastor – December 2023

Can you believe that we are already talking about Christmas? Where has this year gone? Does it seem that things are moving fast? I know I can't believe it....but here we are planning, preparing, anticipating all the food, the gatherings, the singing of carols and so much more.

But, first we need to stop....slow down....and remember why we are moving so fast. During this season of Advent we will be exploring Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, "God Is In the Manger".



Beginning on December 3, we will look at "Waiting" and begin our journey. December 6 will guide us further into this Waiting time and allow us to hear from an amazing witness.

December 10 and 13 takes us to the "Mystery" and allows us to consider the journey we will share. On December 10 we will also share in the Christmas Program based on what it was for Martin Luther and his family.

"Redemption" is the next piece of the journey and we will look at this on December 17 and the 20.

We complete our journey on December 24 as we enter in the "Incarnation". We will have our Advent worship in the morning....Come evening we will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship time.

On the morning of December 25, we will gather to share in the carols of the season and have time to celebrate the birth of the King who changed the world

Come along on this amazing journey and celebrate all that God has given us, His Son....

Pastor Cindy

Elizabeth Broders would love to hear from people! If you would like to send her a note of encouragement or just to say hi, her address is 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434. There is also a link to send her a care package: <https://cune.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/StudentCarePackages20222023/StudentCarePackages20222023/tabid/1318713/Default.aspx>

#### CTS Love Meals:

The first CTS Love Meal was delivered on December 14, 2021. There have been 31 Love Meals delivered since December 2021 to September 27, 2023.

Shirley Theil & Nell Finkral

#### Kitchen Project Update:

On Sunday, October 15th the congregation voted in favor of moving forward with the kitchen remodel. Cupboards have been ordered through Century Lumber and Kevin Lingenfelter has been contacted. Plans are for Kevin to start Tuesday, December 26th in the kitchen. Pay attention for announcements with updates, such as selling of the 2 refrigerators and dishwasher, and needing help to clean out the cupboards.

Kitchen Committee: Michelle Anderson, Tara Peters, Louise Skoglund, Mary Weich

#### 2023 Year End Tanzania Update:

As we come to the end of the year, we would like to update you with our partnership with Tanzania. We continue to meet with the 3 parishes in Tanzania either with the pastor or a representative of the parish.

We started out the year with some changes to our meeting times. We meet as a partnership quarterly and the other months we meet with our prayer sister and brothers. This gives us the opportunity to meet with more of our sisters and brothers. Margaret and Michelle have been working with some of you in getting a way to communicate with your sister or brother via email or WhatsApp. We understand that there can be a communication barrier, however there are many times that our family in Tanzania is able to have someone with them to interpret for them. If this is something that you would be interested in, please reach out to Margaret or Michelle and we can start that process.

In September, Pastor Emanuel Owoya that was the lead pastor at Msaranga Mandaka was called to another parish. This is common in the ELCT, Evangelical Lutheran Church Tanzania, for the pastors to be called to another parish. There is a new pastor serving the parish, don't remember his name.

We would like to ask you to participate in a \$5.00 Challenge. How it works is each time you receive a \$5 bill then you save it. We will ask for you to bring the money prior to it being sent to Tanzania. The money which you have saved will be used to focus of providing food for those in need. There will be more information provided in the future to explain the challenge.

Last, we will again have our December Zoom meeting for a Christmas fellowship. We invite you to attend and will provide the information when it is confirmed. This zoom will take place at the church. Be watching for more information to come.

## Christ the Servant Council Meeting

September 21, 2023

Members present: Brian Anderson, Greg Moen, Linda Schaffer, Jared Weich, Linda Sheppard, Brenda Beaudette, Pastor Cindy.

Absent: Tara Peters.

Linda Sheppard opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Guest: Michelle Anderson represented the Kitchen Committee and presented the estimates for the remodel. The total quote is \$50,304.14. Discussion was held on a possible start date. Michelle will be in contact with the general contractor on possible dates. The committee will hold informational meetings on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., and on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The vote by the congregation on approval will be on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Motion was made to accept quote on the work by Brenda, Linda Schaffer seconded, motion carried. Budget will reflect

Pastor Report: Christmas Program will be on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Dedication of Playground equipment on Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday School hours need to be reposted on the church signs

Financial: Giving for the month of September was positive at \$2800. YTD we are positive by \$9800.00. The council approved \$5000.00 to be moved from the memorial fund to the kitchen fund. Also approved was \$444. For drainage system on the southwest side of parking lot.

Benevolence September- Oasis, October- Good Samaritan fund, November- Good Neighbors, December- Rescue Mission.

Greg asked if members had any items that would need to be reflected in the upcoming budget. The budget will be presented and approved to move forward to the congregation at the council meeting in October.

Jared Weich and Greg Moen will switch committees. Greg will have Building and Grounds and Jared will take over Mission.

Jared Weich closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted: Linda Sheppard

CTS Council meeting                      Thursday, Oct 19, 2023

Brian, Linda Shaffer, Greg, Tara, Brenda and Pastor Cindy were in attendance. Linda Shepard and Jarod were absent.

Tara opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

We discussed that the April Congregation meeting minutes and the Kitchen voting meeting minutes need to be sent out before the congregation meeting in November. Jared did the meeting minutes for the Kitchen congregation meeting. Minutes were reviewed. Tara motioned to accept the meeting minutes. Greg seconded. Motion carried.

Greg went over the financial report. The September financial report was approved. Discussed the 2024 budget. All agreed to send to congregation for approval. Budget will be voted on at the congregation meeting on November 19.

Pastor Cindy – Cindy and Ron has gifted Leaf Filter gutter guards for the house.

Discussed monthly benevolence. Cindy suggested to add SOLA, where we get a lot of church material from, as a monthly benevolence. SOLA is non-profit. Everyone was in agreement.

Pastor Cindy suggested that we have Good Shred come to next all church garage sale. Pastor also received information on Project Homeless Connect. Something we can consider for next year.

Lights need to be fixed on the women's restroom.

Pastor Cindy will be gone from November 5 – November 11.

Christmas Eve – Advent service in the morning. Christmas Eve service (evening). Christmas morning service.

Elizabeth and Delilah Broders requested \$100 to attend TECH event.

Brian closed meeting with prayer,

Next meeting, Thursday, November 16.

Brenda Beaudette

		Nov 1, 2023
	<b>Designated Giving Checking Acct</b>	
	DG Church Emergency Fund	\$8,619.35
	DG Good Samaritan Fund	\$300.30
	DG Memorials	\$2,179.52
	DG Missions/Growth	\$3,365.71
	DG Special Projects (Kitchen)	\$28,247.73
	DG Tanzania Travel	\$9,088.20
	DG Worship Fund	\$2,323.47
	DG Youth Checking Account	\$3,609.03
	Interest-Designated Checking	\$314.41
	Designated Giving Checking Acct - Other(Fidelity)	(\$49,250.00)
	<b>Total Designated Giving Checking Acct</b>	<b>\$8,797.72</b>
	<b>Fidelity Investment(\$49,250 DG &amp; \$34,234.49 General)</b>	<b>\$83,484.49</b>
	<b>General Checking</b>	<b>\$6,909.17</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,191.38</b>

I would like to give you an update as to how my classes are going with St. Paul's Lutheran Seminary where I am pursuing the Parish Service Certificate. I am coming to the end of my 3<sup>rd</sup> semester. This fall I took 2 classes, Hermeneutics and Homiletics II.

Hermeneutics I started out learning how to read again, but this time it is to read the Bible for the sake of faith. We have been looking at each verse, looking at the content around the text, reading in slow motion, taking time to digest what is being said. Each week we would have a paper to write that we would share with our classmates. I presented my final paper to the class on November 7<sup>th</sup>, which was Mark 7:1-17. I took what I learned with interpreting the scriptures to explain what Mark was writing when the Pharisees asked Jesus why the disciples were eating with defiled hands.

Homiletics II is my second preaching class where we discussed how to preach a sermon for weddings and funerals. This time we preached 4 sermons, the first sermon for this semester I preached on Matthew 20:1-16, the labors of the vineyard. When it came to the wedding and funeral sermons, we were given a scenario of who we would be preaching for. I will be preaching my last sermon for the class on Nov 29<sup>th</sup> where I get to pick if I will be preaching a Sunday sermon, wedding, or funeral.

I would ask for your continued prayers on my journey. If you would like to know more, I would be happy to talk with you.

As we enter this Christmas season, let's take the time to prepare for the birth of our Savior. Take your time to read the Christmas story, listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you.

