 ***Lifeline***

 ***Resurrection Lutheran Church***

 **December 2023**

***Our Mission***

***“****Live and Share the Love of Christ”*

 ***Our Vision***

*“Strengthen and grow our commitment to God, Church & Community.”*

 **Contact Us**

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Resurrection’s Prayer Chain is available to you!

The power of prayer.

Sometimes just knowing there is a place to get a prayer said for you in tough times or to enjoy a blessing received, we will pray for you in all confidence.

Simply call Kathie McFarlane at (920) 499-6381 or Linda Bertrand at (920) 217-8770.

**December Greetings from the President………**

December Lifeline President’s report.

Christmas greetings.

This is the end of my election term to the office of President of this congregation. Yes, I will still be serving as president during January and the annual meeting in February. But the end is near. President is an interesting job. I really don’t understand why anyone with any sense would want to be president of the United States, but being president of this congregation is really an honor.

Of course it takes some time. I volunteered to be on the council when we were informed that Pastor Ed would be taking a new call on Washington Island. I had been president a few times before and thought I knew what it would take to help lead us through the time of change.

Bill Hartung really made the job manageable. He was the one that asked me to let my name stand for the Council elections. I could not have kept up with the responsibilities of the pantry and the congregation without his work. YES, it took some prayer time and surely listening to God when making the decision to run for Church Council.

Now I am asking the congregation members to get involved and pray for guidance in staffing for the church council. There are some on the council who will be leaving this coming year, and we need some replacements for them. The council members attend council meeting once per month for a couple of hours reporting on what is happening in their areas of interest. It doesn’t mean you are in charge of all of those activities, but it does mean you will be reporting to the others on the council about those activities. We have some active and well-defined committees that actually do the work of planning and organizing things.

So here is the deal. We will need 4 or 5 people who want to be part of the formal church council for this coming year. Please see me if you have some interest. Don’t be surprised if someone on the current council asks you to let your name stand for election at the annual meeting. If you are not asked, don’t be shy about letting Vicar Melissa or me know you are interested. So now is the time to pray about this decision, so that when asked you have your plan in place. I promise that all of the funding for your campaign will be provided without a need for grant application activities and there will not be a need to affiliate with any political party. The only party to join would be the end of the year Council Christmas party to celebrate the close of another Council Year.

Council is not something to be avoided. We have a very interesting year coming. We will be formally calling a NEW Pastor. Yup the decision seems to be pretty easy. The budget is already finished for the year at least by the Resource and Finance committee and the personnel seems to be in place for the foreseeable future. Council should be a piece of Cake for this coming year.

Here is wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Remember the reason we celebrate Christmas is to thank God for the Gift of a Savior to show us how we should live.

May your season be bright with the Light of God this season and always.

Larry Peterson, Council President.

***From the Vicar…….***

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The days and months are flying by. We are almost to the end of another liturgical calendar year. By the time this reaches you, we will have had a successful Stewardship Sunday as well as a fantastic potluck. We are blessed with great cooks in this congregation. We will also have had our Trunk or Treat which made its first return after Covid last year. What a fantastic day it was. The weather was not cooperating, with rain and a chill in the air, but we had approximately 200 children. What a blessing to keep running out of candy and hot dog buns. Families enjoyed the candy, games, and snacks. It was a great opportunity to partner with the fire department as well as serve the community. A great time was had by everyone. A special thank you to Melissa Smith and Sally Seidl for all of your work planning this event. Also, thank you to all of those who showed up with a trunk. You are appreciated. This month we will have a Thanksgiving eve worship at 6:30pm on November 22nd. Just another way for us to praise God for all that we are given.

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Christ the King Sunday will be November 19th. Our Advent season will begin on November 27th. Wednesday services will begin November 30th. We will again partner with Bethel Lutheran for our mid-week services. Mid-week services will be Holden Evening Prayer and a message. Please plan to join us. More details to come. Our theme for Advent this year is “How Does a Weary World Rejoice.” I’m very excited about the liturgies and songs included in this theme. We will also plan to have an Advent-Fest consisting of projects to beautify the sanctuary and the start of a DIY nativity for your home. I am hoping we can make this an annual event. This will, of course, begin with a potluck after worship. This is planned for December 10th. No, there is not a Packer game. As we enter this holy season, we prepare. There are so many things that we prepare for at this time of the year, but it is truly the birth of our Savior that we wait for. I pray as we begin this journey toward Bethlehem that we are all blessed in community. I thank God each day for this community.

Peace be with you,

Vicar Melissa

**Pantry News**

Christmas Greetings from the Food pantry.

When the world was waiting for the coming of the Messiah the often-used phrase is how “long will it be….” Even as a kid I remember how long the month of December seemed while waiting for Christmas. There was a lot of anticipation of what would change in my/our lives as a result of Christmas. Now that I am older, I realize that for many, the world and our lives are not changed just because we celebrate the *anniversary* day of the bodily coming of our savior into this world.

I believe that God created us with a need to serve others. I know for the volunteers at the pantry they are all energized by the activity of preparing and distributing food to those who need it. It really gives us Joy to be able to serve our neighbors in this way. When we focus on making the lives of others easier, we often forget the problems we may be currently experiencing. It changes the meaning of Christmas Giving from material things to the Giving of ourselves.

I am not by any means disapproving of exchanging gifts during the Christmas season. It is often fun for both the giver and the receiver of those gifts. But looking for the perfect gift is sometimes very frustrating, and it sure takes a lot of energy.

So if you are looking for a way to give some special joy to others this season, I am asking you to consider and actually participate in the ***Reverse Advent Calendar*** giving this year. The Reverse Advent Calendar is a list of items that are needed at the pantry. The way the Reverse Advent Calendar works is: *Each and every day* you look at the Calendar, You remember those who need food assistance and pray for them. Then you add the item listed for that day to a collection bag. The food collected is brought to the church on Christmas Eve or shortly thereafter and given to the pantry for distribution to those who often don’t know if they will have enough to eat.

Prayer is a powerful thing. It changes us. It can improve our perspective and the way we look at the world. It gives us peace. You would be surprised at the number of Prayer cards that are submitted by our pantry clients. Most are for healing, thanksgiving, and for economic stability. I can’t think of a better Christmas gift than to help be part of the answer to some of these prayers.

The nice thing about the Reverse Advent Calendar is that it can be used even when it is not the Advent season. After Christmas, you can repeat the process each month. It still works the same way for the pantry, its clients and for you.

I want to thank all of the people who in any way participated in the Pantry Ministry this year. This includes all those who volunteered for *any* of the activities, those who contributed food or funds, and for those who prayed for the pantry mission and the clients who use the pantry. We also thank God for making all of this possible.

May God bless you and your family this Holiday season and always.

Larry Peterson and the entire Pantry crew.

Reverse

Advent Calendar

Each day add an item to a box or bag and pray for those who need and use food pantries. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, donate the contents to the pantry.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| December | 1 |  | Can of Chicken soup |
| December | 2 |  | Can of Spaghetti O's |
| December | 3 |  | Cookies |
| December | 4 |  | Tooth brush |
| December | 5 |  | Tooth paste |
| December | 6 |  | Deodorant |
| December | 7 |  | Can of Tomato Soup |
| December | 8 |  | Can of Baked Beans |
| December | 9 |  | Boxed Side dish (scalloped potatoes or rice dish) |
| December | 10 |  | Dish soap |
| December | 11 |  | Bar soap |
| December | 12 |  | Cereal  |
| December | 13 |  | Jell-O |
| December | 14 |  | Pudding  |
| December | 15 |  | Can of Baked Beans |
| December | 16 |  | Can of Chicken soup |
| December | 17 |  | tooth brush |
| December | 18 |  | Oatmeal |
| December | 19 |  | Gravy |
| December | 20 |  | Soup starter or bouillon |
| December | 21 |  | Laundry soap |
| December | 22 |  | Boxed cake mix |
| December | 23 |  | Frosting in a can |
| December | 24 |  | Bag of Candy |

Thank You. You may be part of the answer to a Christmas Prayer of someone in need!

**Resurrection Lutheran Food Pantry, 1024 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay 54303**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  **Council Meeting**  |  | **Date: November 20, 2023 Time: 6:30**  |
| **Council Members: (Bold indicates attendance at the meeting)** |
|

|  |
| --- |
| **Larry Peterson –President****Bill Hartung- Vice President****Jodi Koch – Secretary****Melissa Pagel- Vicar** |
| \*Chris Peterson- Financial Secretary |
| **Debbie La Plante- Treasurer** |

 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Carol Borremans** |
|  Christina Marcin  |
|  **Jim Gatske** Craig Marcin  |

 |  |
| \*non- voting members attendance optional |
|  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Discussion** | **Action** |
| **Devotion/ prayer call to Order** | Larry Peterson called the meeting to order at 06:30 pm. Debbie provided a devotion.  |  |
| **Approval of Reports** | **President’s Report**- see Lifeline **Vice Presidents Report**- no report **Treasurer- Financial Secretary**- Pg2 of report Office equipment maintenance is off by $.10 Total expenses for Oct should be 7605.72**Secretary** – no changes **Vicar’s Report -** Visits- 6 member 1 nonmember, 18 care calls to members- Bible Study planned for January. Updating FB posts weekly, Planning a multi-generational Communion Class, Added large print, bulletin.  | Motion made to accept officers reports by Carol Seconded JimMotion Carried Motion made to accept Vicars report by Carol Seconded JimMotion Carried  |
| **Committee reports**  |
|  | **Resource and Finance-** Met Nov 7th, went over pledges, We have 22 pledges, totaling 123, 820. Endowments went to Wellspring and NEW shelter $300 each. Developed budget for 2024. **Celebration -**.Dec 10th potluck/chili dump and crafts**Support-** Roof patched, AED pads replaced, gutters cleaned on house, file cabinets available –will post in bulletin. Recommended getting new roof, will get another estimate first estimate was for $28,000. Another boiler will need to be replaced. Will look into getting a loan or mission investment loan. WPS coming to trim branches that are on the wires.**Education-** Bible studyplanned to start in January**Worship and Choir-** meeting next month **Call Committee-** need to meet with Asher meetings to start meeting in January. Debbie, and Jim are going to co-chair. **Personnel Committee-**  Pastor duties/ functions are listed **Outreach/ Weiner Wednesday- There** will be two outreach families again this year. The newest one from last year and an additional family. Melissa is working on getting the additional family from a local school. Wiener Wednesday- serving about 64 Hot dogs a week to kids/ families from the neighboring schools. **Pantry**- 281 families served in Oct including 58 new families. Pantry will be closed on Thanksgiving. The pantry will need help with packing bags as the current helpers will be out of town for the next 3 months.  | Motion made by Jim to get rid of the kneelersSeconded by DebbieMotion Carried. Motion made to accept committee reports by Carol Seconded DebbieMotion carried.  |
| **Old Business** |
|  |  **Council retreat**- tabled until next year. **Charity of the Month**- this month is outreach families next month Heifer International. **Council meeting for December** will be December 12th at5:30 we are meeting at the Rite Place, Let Larry know if you are attending by Dec 1st.  |  |
| **New Business**  |
|  | **2024 Budget/spending plan Reviewed****New Council Members** – reminder to recruit new council members – notice will be in bulletin. Current by-laws regarding number of members and length / amount of consecutive terms discussed.  **New members -**Ernie Walters would like to join the church  | Motion made by Carol to accept the budget as written. Seconded by Jodi Motion carried Motion made to accept Ernie Walters made by Carol Seconded JimMotion Carried.  |
| **Communications:** none |  |
|  |  | Motion made to adjourn by Jodi Seconded JimMotion carried |
|  **Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 0745 pm** |  |
| **Next Meeting: December 12th 05:30Pm at the Rite Place**  **Melissa will provide a devotion /prayer.**  |  |

Submitted by,

Signed: \_\_\_\_Jodi Koch \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Church Requests

If you have an activity or event scheduled, please notify the church office and we can put it on the calendar in the hallway.

If you would like to add an article to the newsletter, please email rlutheranchurch@yahoo.com

Articles are due by the 20**th** of each month for the Newsletter.

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**December Birthdays**

**12-03 Kerena Wood 12-16 Mikaela Van Den Elzen**

**12-05 Karigann Wood 12-21 Logan Hoida**

**12-07 Tyra Wennesheimer 12-23 Bob Bishoff**

**12-07 Griffen Horkman 12-23 Beth Koch**

**12-10 Lois Roggow 12-25 Bill Hartung**

**12-13 Joanie Swigert 12-26 Melissa Smith**

**12-14 Sean La Plante 12-27 Cole Marcin**

**12-15 Faye McKay**

**12-15 Sierra Lardinois**

**12-16 Tracy North**

**Church Council Members**

Vicar: Melissa Pagel

Council President: Larry Peterson Secretary: Jean Kaster

Vice President: Bill Hartung Organist: Adria Cary

Secretary: Jodi Koch Choir Director: Beth Krepline

Treasurer: Debbie LaPlante Financial Secretary: Chris Peterson

Resource & Finance: Jim Gatske

Education: Debbie LaPlante

Worship: Carol Borremans

Food Pantry: Larry Peterson

Outreach: Jodi Koch

Church Support & Property: Bill Hartung

**Assisting for December Worship Schedule**

**December 3rd**

Usher: Gary McFarlane

Communion Deacon: Debbie La Plante

Counters: Debbie La Plante & Larry Nelson

Lector: Jim Gatske

**December 10th**

Usher: Gary McFarlane

Communion Deacon: Larry Peterson

Counters: Debbie La Plante & Larry Nelson

Lector: Caleb Marcin

**December 17th**

Usher: Gary McFarlane

Communion Deacon: Bill Hartung

Counters: Debbie La Plante & Larry Nelson

Lector: Cole Marcin

**December 24th**

Usher: Gary McFarlane

Communion Deacon: Jodi Koch

Counters: Debbie La Plante & Larry Nelson

Lector: **Needed**

**December 31st**

Usher: Gary McFarlane

Communion Deacon: Jim Gatske

Counters: Debbie La Plante & Larry Nelson

Lector: **Needed**

 **DECEMBER **

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  |  Thursday | Friday  | Saturday  |
|  |  |  |  |    |  1 | 2 |
| 3  9:30 AM Worship | 4 | 59:00 AMQuilters | 65:30 PM Choir | 79:00 AM-11:00AM Pantry   | 8 | 9 |
| 109:30 AM WorshipChili dump | 11 | 129:00 AMQuiltersCouncil Mtg 5:30 pm | 13 | 149:00AM-11:00AMPantry6:00 PM Choir | 15 | 16 |
| 179:30 AM Worship | 182:00 pm R&F mtg | 199:00 AMQuilters | 205:30 PM Choir | 219:00//AM- 11:00AMPantry | 22 | 23 |
| 249:30 AM Worship31 9:30 AMWorship | 25Merry Christmas | 269:00 AMQuilters | 276:00 PM Choir | 285:30 PM-7:30PM Pantry | 29 | 30 |

**Noisy Offering Schedule for 2023**

January- NEW Shelter- $68.73

February- Feeding America Eastern WI -$71.63

March- Outreach Family- $114.78

April- Crossways-$102.14

May- Salvation Army-$85.50

June- St Johns-$77.26

July- St Vincent dePaul-$52.76

August- Outreach Family-$115.12

September- Campus Ministry-$101.10

October- Feed My Children-$90.19

November- Outreach Family $

December- Heifer International

**Altar Guild 2024**

 Month Volunteer Phone

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  **January**  | Debbie La Plante | 920-321-4261 |
|  **February** | Carol Borremans  | 920-227-8226920-498-2475 |
|  **March** | Sandy KrakowJean Halloran | 920-606-9385920-494-5977 |
|  **April** | Jan Hansen | 920-405-0236 |
|  **May** | Jodi KochJoanie Swigert | 920-0619-4283920-497-4923 |
|  **June** | Kris Hartung | 920-494-7722 |
|  **July** | Linda BertrandJudy Gatske | 920-544-8051920-468-1409 |
|  **August** | Val Nelson | 920-499-5481 |
|  **September** | Kari Wood | 920-865-3227 |
|  **October** | Jan Hansen | 920-405-0236 |
|  **November** | Sandy Krakow | 920-606-9385 |
|  **December** | Carol, Kris, Linda,  |  |

Jean Halloran 494-5977

If you need a sub for a week or need to change with someone, please call for your own sub.

If your phone # has changed or you know someone willing to help with Altar Guild please let Carol know.

Any Questions call Carol Borremans(498-2475)