



PIONEER LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

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PIONEER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING November 5, 2023

Pioneer Lutheran Church Council met November 5, 2023, after church service. Julie Petersen absent. Val Hicks called the meeting to order. Laura Quail offered devotions.

Secretary's report was summarized with one correction: the Bunn coffee maker was taken by the Petersen's and will be given away. Laura moved, Kevin Quail seconded, motion passed to approve report.

Treasurer's report was approved with a motion by Bill Powers, second by Kevin.

OLD BUSINESS

Kevin and maintenance committee: glue counter laminate strip, upgrade toilet flush mechanisms.

Outreach committee: May Fellowship in 2024, Bible study to resume January 6, 2024, Christmas caroling to occur Dec 10, 2023, with food/fellowship afterwards at Arlene Madsen's home.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on collecting items to distribute to St Dymas for prisoners: toiletries, socks, towels, etc

Report by Bill on LCMC annual meeting

Report by Pastor Teri: 8 calls, confirmation gifts for Preston and Sunny, Christmas Eve service at 5:00 PM approved with motion by Kevin, second by Charlotte; Lent and Easter early in 2024 – Ash Wed is Feb 14, soup suppers begin Feb 21, Easter is March 31.

Next meeting: Dec 3 after church service. Adjournment by motion from Kevin, second by Bill.

Council prayed the Lord's Prayer in closing. Respectfully submitted,
 Secretary Charlotte Mickelson

Pioneer Lutheran Financial Report	
OCT 31, 2023	
General Fund	\$ 15,289.55
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,489.88
Fund In Checking	\$ 16,779.43
EXPENSES	
Sioux Valley Energy electricity	\$ 145.46
ITC - phone and internet	\$ 95.61
BDRW water	\$ 41.00
Teri Johnson Salary	\$ 2,225.00
Matt Petersen 4x mowing Sept	\$ 360.00
Christmas Cop & Kids	\$ 200.00
Julie Petersen pastor appreciation	\$ 15.90
Hendricks Bakery confirmation cake	\$ 55.00
	\$ 3,137.97

SUNDAY OFFERINGS	
1-Oct	\$ 1,010.00
8-Oct	\$ 740.00
15-Oct	\$ 681.00
22-Oct	\$ 996.00
29-Oct	\$ 820.00
	\$ 4,247.00
MISC INCOME	
Earl Michealson 1/2 interest 2022	\$ 420.00
	\$ 420.00



Friends in Christ,

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and I've been thinking about gratitude a lot lately. What is it? When should we show it? What does God say about it?

Paul wrote the Thessalonians, "Give thanks in all circumstances." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Most of us read that verse and think it's nice and we slap a little coat of thanksgiving on our life and go about our day. Continuous thought of God in a thankful manner is difficult. How do we bless God with grateful hearts while listening to the continuous doom, gloom, adversity, and trouble of any kind? The psalmist cries out to God to be delivered from all trouble, as though God can take away dark and gloom. That does not happen. What we know to be true is that God can give us what we need to live with the dark and gloom, the adversity and trouble. When we can learn to live with those things, we are blessed, and the Lord is in fact saving us and caring for us.

Notice Paul's words does not command us to *feel* thankful in all circumstances. Instead it commands us to "give thanks in all circumstances." When I begin to praise God in a difficult situation, even if I don't feel like it, many times the scales fall from my eyes and I begin to see glimpses of His glory sprinkled throughout the situation. Often we don't feel grateful in the hard times, but we can still praise God because we know He is there.

Gratitude changes the lens through which we see the circumstances in our lives. Thanksgiving changes our perspective despite broken dreams, broken relationships, and tumultuous circumstances. As we praise God for who He is and thank Him for what He's done, our perspective of Him grows larger and our problems grow smaller. We will experience a deeper sense of intimacy with God as the emotional gap between what we know to be true and how we feel at the moment closes.

God does not take our troubles away, but God gives us an option for how we live with our troubles. We can either turn our troubles into fears, or we can move them to our hearts and offer them the same compassion and love that God offers us in times of trouble.

This month may we make it a point to praise God and trust that His plans for our lives are good.
Pastor Teri

OCTOBER WAS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH



Thank You

Thank you to the congregation for the beautiful bouquet of flowers in honor of pastor appreciation month. I am deeply blessed and grateful to be with serving with and amongst you.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a tradition that marks the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western Christian Church. It has its origins in the Lutheran tradition, but has come to be used by many other Christian denominations as well. The first Sunday of Advent this year is December 3rd.

An evergreen wreath is placed horizontally on a flat surface or a stand, with four candles. On each Sunday in Advent, a new candle is lit, to mark the weeks leading up to Christmas. Each of the candles is used to describe one of the corresponding Advent themes. Often, the lighting of each candle is accompanied by a Bible reading, a song, and prayers.

A fifth, white Christ Candle is often placed at the center of the wreath, representing Christ as the center of the season. The tradition of the Advent wreath can serve as a reminder to prepare our hearts to receive the coming Messiah, that we may all join in saying: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

Learn More About the Minor Prophet

Bible study on the minor prophets will resume Saturday, January 6, at 9:30 am at Pioneer Lutheran. We will review Hosea and begin with Joel. Please plan to join us in the new year 2024

Preston Reed confirmation October 29, 2023

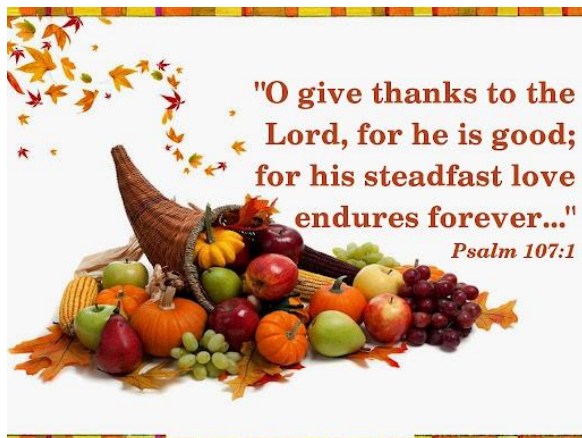


St. Dysmas Visit

On October 25, 6 members and 2 friends of Pioneer attended worship at St Dysmas within the walls of the South Dakota State Prison in Sioux Falls, SD. We had an extraordinary experience with the men as we worshiped and were able to witness as one of the men was baptized. Pastor Jeff said they have had several baptisms this year as the men reach out to him and want to become a child of God, forgiven and renewed in Christ.

After worship we gathered with the pastor and his staff for lunch and were able to ask questions and receive information on how we can continue to help them in their work at the prison.

Pray about joining our group as we will be planning another visit to St. Dysmas in the spring. It is an experience you won't regret.



Pioneer Church Council initiates drive for St Dysmas Re-Entry program.

When a man is granted parole or has served his full sentence at the South Dakota State Prison it is a huge lifestyle change for him. The Re-Entry program helps the men to make a successful reentry into the community. They hold classes on how to maintain finances and have all their important ID documents ready on day one of being released. They help them prepare for job interviews and many more things.

Transitioning out, especially after a long sentence can be very hard and many of the men have no family support. At Pioneer we want to be able to help with this transition and have asked what we could do to further their efforts. Of the things we were told that we could provide are towels, socks, backpacks, coats (large sizes XL, XXL) or monetary donations so they can buy them clothes so they are ready to interview and go to work.

If you would like to help with this mission, please bring you donations to church and we will make sure that St. Dysmas receives them. Your gifts could be a great Christmas gift to someone you don't know--think about that.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the church council or Arlene Madsen.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Nov 26 Thanksgiving Service
- Dec 1 Newsletter articles to Julie jmpete@itctel.com
- Dec 3 Church council following service
- Dec 10 Christmas Caroling
- We need Monthly Cleaners, Readers, and coffee servers
- We continue to collect Hy-Vee receipts, so remember to bring yours.
- Please remember to bring your donations for the Brookings Food Pantry. Your contributions are a blessing to others



NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
READER: NOV-DANA DEC	CLEANERS: NOV-VAL DEC		1	2	3	4
5 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM WORSHIP/HOLY COMMUNION CHURCH COUNCIL	6	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day
12 9AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP Confirmation	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM Praise WORSHIP LITS after worship	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM CONTEMPORARY/ THANKSGIVING WORSHIP	27	28	29	30	1	2 
3 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM WORSHIP/HOLY COMMUNION CHURCH COUNCIL	4	5	6	7	8	9

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