



PIONEER LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

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PIONEER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

December 3, 2023

After church service on December 3, 2023, all Council members and Pastor Teri met for the monthly meeting. Valerie Hicks offered devotions and opened the meeting. Secretary's report was summarized and approved with a motion by Laura Quail, second by Kevin Quail.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fellowship hall sound control: Fabric has been found, Laura and possibly Deanna will come up with a plan.
2. Maintenance Committee: gluing counter trim in kitchen, replacing toilet flush parts, and organ keys will be attended to by Kevin and Steve Hicks.
3. Outreach Committee: December 10, 2023, Christmas carolers meet at the Hall at 5:00 PM, with fellowship and food at Arlene Madsen's home following. Bible study of the minor prophets will resume January 6, 2024.

4. Council agreed to continue collecting donations for St Dymas distribution.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Pastor Teri reported she had made 4 calls, had ordered Bibles to gift for Confirmation, and she will be absent December 31, 2023.
2. Annual Budget Review: Council members went through the 2023 budget suggesting a few changes for the 2024 budget. Final changes will be done at the Jan meeting. Reports of Committees must be given to Julie by January 14, 2024, for the Annual Meeting booklet. Annual meeting will be held after church service on January 21, 2024, with a potluck meal afterwards.
3. Julie moved; Kevin seconded to send \$300.00 to help the family of little Charlotte Lykins who is going through chemo treatment. Motion passed.
4. Next meeting: January 7, 2024, after church service.

ADJOURNMENT: Kevin moved; Bill seconded to adjourn the meeting. Together, members prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Mickelson, Secretary

Pioneer Lutheran Financial Report	
NOV 30.2023	
General Fund	\$ 14,964.61
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,489.88
Fund In Checking	\$ 16,454.49
EXPENSES	
Sioux Valley Energy electricity	\$ 157.49
ITC - phone and internet	\$ 95.85
BDRW water	\$ 44.75
Teri Johnson Salary	\$ 2,225.00
Matt Petersen 3x mowing Oct	\$ 540.00
MJ Powers church calendars	\$ 27.85
Guide One Insurance	\$ 4,270.00
	\$ 7,360.94
SUNDAY OFFERINGS	
5-Nov	\$ 1,616.00
12-Nov	\$ 820.00
19-Nov	\$ 870.00
26-Nov	\$ 1,030.00
	\$ 4,336.00
MISC INCOME	
Pioneer Lutheran Cemetary	\$ 2,700.00
3/4 mowing	\$ 2,700.00



Dear Friends in Christ,

Half the fun at Christmas is waiting for its arrival. Children, and many adults, can hardly stand the tantalizing anticipation of fun and gifts. But even apart from Christmas, a lot of people spend their lives waiting. They wait for the perfect love, or the perfect job, or the perfect home, or the perfect situation. And sadly, these people are waiting for things that will never appear...because they don't exist. This is

one of life's absurdities---waiting on unrealistic hopes. In this sense, waiting is a tragic waste of time.

Other people, however, are waiting for something sure and substantial. Their hopes have a foundation. And the assurance of their hope gives them strength to carry on, sometimes in very difficult circumstances. The nation of Israel had a long tradition of waiting. We see in the Old Testament that people in every generation had set their hopes on what God would do. From Abraham to Elijah, God's people eagerly anticipated the fulfillment of all His promises.

Centuries later, in the New Testament, we find the tradition of waiting continued. In Luke 2, which tells the story of Jesus' birth and the events that followed, we find the story of two people who were waiting. One was Anna. She was looking forward to the "redemption of Jerusalem." The other was Simeon, who was waiting for the "consolation of Israel." They like their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, were eagerly waiting for God to burst into their circumstances and do what He had promised to do.

Then, when the Christ Child was born, both Anna and Simeon took Jesus in their arms and rejoiced. They saw the baby Jesus as the answer to their waiting. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

Some people spend their lives waiting, but they don't know what they're waiting for. They only know that there must be more to life. Others have had a picture of hope for centuries, and they are waiting too. The great news we share this month is that the object of our anticipation has come to us. Christmas commemorates the end of a long, long wait.

A poem entitled "God of Perfect Timing" by Jill Briscoe:

*"God of perfect timing, Word of wisdom rare,
Eternal God, incredible to see you sleeping
there. How can it be, dear Lord of life, You
came to tell us all, our only hope of Heaven lay
within that cattle stall.*

*Many ways to Jesus, seekers take to find, many
people looking for a Savior for mankind.*

*Many different wonderings, for many want to
know, just who was born at Bethlehem a long
time ago.*

*Was he just a good man, a teacher kind and
true? Or was it God who came to Earth to save
a chosen few? Was it all a story, improbable
and wild, or God that day, in bed of hay, a tiny
human child?*

*What do I know of Jesus and His changing,
saving grace? What difference is there in my
life, has Christmas taken place? How dare I
live a selfish life when God gave His for me.
The choice is mine, and now's the time to let
Him set me free!*

*So Christmas now this season could be a
different thing, this year I could accept Him,
and hear the angels sing. So as I bow, right
here, right now, and call upon His name, my
world, because of Christmas, will never be the
same."*

May this Advent and Christmas Season be a spiritual time of waiting, Pastor Teri



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."

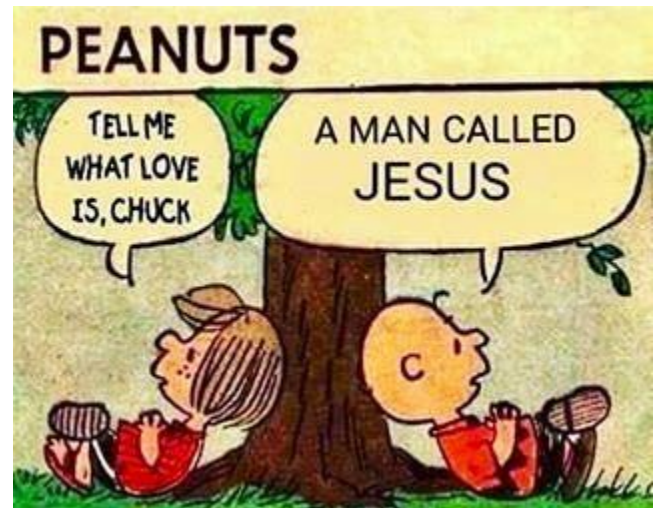


Sunday, December 10 at 5pm. Meet at McKnight Hall for caroling. Following caroling Arlene Madsen has invited us to enjoy a potluck lunch. Hope to see you all there. You are welcome to come even if you don't carol.



December 24th Worship

With Christmas Eve falling on Sunday this year, Church council decided not to have morning worship on December 24th. We will have our candlelight/communion worship service that evening at 5:00 pm.



The Pioneer Cemetery Association will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2024. This meeting will take place at Pioneer Lutheran Church, 20180 474th Ave., White, SD. The meeting will follow the church annual meeting that begins at 11:00 AM, following church services. There will be a potluck dinner following the meetings. We will be voting on proposed changes to our constitution and bylaws. Copies of the current constitution and bylaws and the proposed new changes will be available at the church or by contacting a member of the Executive Board.

Arlene Madsen
Pioneer Cemetery Association
605-695-0559



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

6-Jan	Hosea	Review
6-Jan	Joel	The Day of the Lord
20-Jan	Amos	The Country Prophet
3-Feb	Obadiah	Unbrotherly Love
17-Feb	Jonah	The Runaway Prophet
2-Mar	Micah	Valuable Servant

For more information contact Laura Quail (605) 690-9104 or Charlotte Mickelson (870) 416-4208

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 The Service will be a Hymn Sing with the hymns being picked by the congregation

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.

It has been decided to be an ongoing donation. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the church council or Arlene Madsen.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dec 10 Christmas Caroling
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service
5pm
- December 31 Congregation picks the hymns for service
- Jan 1 Newsletter articles to Julie jmpete@itctel.com
- Jan 6 Bible Study resumes
- Jan 20 Annual meeting potluck to follow
- Jan 27 back up date for Annual meeting
- 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





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**FROM PIONEER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL**



DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
READER: DEC-LAURA JAN-DANA	CLEANERS: DEC-DANA JAN-LAURA				1	2
3 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM WORSHIP/HOLY COMMUNION CHURCH COUNCIL	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 5PM CAROLING	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM Praise WORSHIP LITS after worship	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 5 PM CANDLELIGHT/ COMMUNION SERVICE	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE	1 	2	3	4	5	6 9:30-11 MINOR PROPHETS BIBLE STUDY

**PIONEER LUTHERAN CHURCH
BOX 6
WHITE, SD 57276**