

Dekorra Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Sterling Lynk

November 2023 Newsletter

[Jesus said,] Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

- **John 15:4 (NRSVUE)**

Hello You,

Now back to the conversation about the traits of vital congregations.

As a reminder, during All Committee Nights, we engage in a little devotion, bible study, and discussion about how the Holy Spirit is changing the church-universal. By “church-universal”, I am referring to that thing in our creeds we call “the holy catholic and apostolic church”. Folks study congregations and Jesus communities and have discovered different ways to describe the healthiest, most resilient, and strongest of us. Those communities have shifted their expectations and assumptions about church, the world, and God to follow where the Spirit leads. The folks that regularly attend All Committee Nights have explored and reviewed all thirteen shifts.

In this column we have looked at six of those shifts: 1) Shifting from Seeing God Mainly Working Inside the Church to God Mainly Working Outside the Church; 2) Shifting from us Using Language About the Action of the Church (and Ourselves) to Language About the Action of God; 3) Shifting from Performance to Participation; 4) Shifting from Using Language about Development to Language about Journey; 5) Shifting from Church Membership to Discipleship; and, 6) From Speaking to Listening.

This month let’s look at another shift – **7) From Working for Others to Being with Others.**

I have a close friend who gets really annoyed with me, and often angry with me. Why? Because I often show up with things and help for her that she didn’t ask for. I am sometimes confused or hurt by her feelings. I am pretty sure she needs the things I show up with. And, I am a Jesus person and Jesus asked me to show up for people. In addition, often the Holy Spirit shows up for me with a realization that sounds something like “Oh! They need a thing and I can do that.” So, whenever that voice rings out in my head I tend to listen. But, most of all, I am just trying to help so should she just be grateful?

The truth is that the voice in my head is rarely the Holy Spirit, even the one that says I can do something.

The reality is that my friend does need a lot. This isn’t a judgment. I need a lot. I bet a lot of you do too. The thing is that my friend hates me when I assume what she needs or wants. Anticipation is a killer in this friendship. I need to confess the sin of over-anticipation. Instead, Jesus-people are called

to abide with the people around them as much as work for them. By “to abide” I mean to live with, show up for, be present with, be an accomplice with, to remain with, etc. For example, it is very different to give a person without housing food as you walk by than to sit with that person or even live life with them. Like practice #5 (moving from speaking to listening), I need to just show up better than just speaking with what I believe would be helpful. And, I need to remember how I feel is not the ultimate arbiter of what is good.

The Rev. Matthew Short of the Greater Milwaukee Synod is my source for these shifts. He notes, “We have all too often assumed we know what others need, and that our job as Christians is to work hard to provide those things. While this is a loving impulse, it does have two negative effects. First, it continues to play into the narrative that our job as Christians is to do more and work harder. Many people in our congregations are tired! They need a sabbatical from doing so to be allowed to simply be together. The second negative effect is that our work ‘for’ others often sets up a power differential in which the church sees itself as having the answers or the resources needed by others. In this script, the ‘neighbor’ is seen as having a deficit we can address. However, if we assume God is the active agent in our shared life, and God is active outside our congregation as much (or more) than inside, then we can assume we will meet God in each other and in the neighbor. We can assume God is already creating community both inside and outside the church. We can assume that ‘the gifts of God come wrapped in people’ and that a key way to experience God’s presence is to dive into a relationship with each other.”

Does this seem hard? Is abiding with each other difficult? It is so hard! It is so hard that Jesus showed up to show us how to do it, to ask us to do it, to breathe into us and feed himself into us so we can do that. And, there is the good news. There is the promise.

Peace,
+Sterling
October 24, 2023

P.S. – Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to send in the survey. Some folks have expressed some feelings about being asked for their baptismal and confirmation, especially when they experienced all of those things here at DLC. Yeah, I hear you. I am pretty sure that information is in our safe but it was never transferred to our current database. We are asking for you to remind us because we simply do not have the ministers who can do that work in time for our annual meeting and to meet the membership review expectations.

P.P.S. – If you haven’t sent in your survey, there is still time! We extended the deadline to December 1st. Everyone who turns in their survey will be entered to receive a gift from our council. There is a copy in this newsletter and we will have some copies at the usher stand in the sanctuary and you can place it on the offering plate. Finally, you can complete it online by going to our website at <http://www.dekorralutheran.org/contact-us>

DEKORRA LUTHERAN CHURCH
N3099Smith Rd, Poynette, Wisconsin 53955

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE FORM

YOUR NAME _____
YOUR PHYSICAL AND EMAIL ADDRESSES _____
BAPTISM (YEAR & PLACE) _____
CONFIRMATION OR ADULT CONFESSION OF FAITH (YEAR & PLACE) _____

please indicate which of the following applies to you, or anything else that you might wish to share:

___ I am/we are regular in our worship attendance at DLC. (Last attendance day) _____

___ I am/we are homebound in and not able to get to worship.

___ I/we would be able to attend worship if I/we had a ride.

___ I/we would like to have Holy Communion brought by a communion minister.

___ I am/we are attending another church, but do not wish to transfer my/our membership at this time. Please keep me/us on the membership roster.

___ I/we would like a Letter of Transfer sent to: _____, where we are now attending. (Please give the mailing address of the congregation you wish to transfer your membership to.)

___ I/we have joined _____ church. (If a Letter of Transfer was not necessary, that would explain why you are still on our membership roster. Please give us the date you joined your present congregation _____.)

___ I/we live away from the Lake Wisconsin area, and am/are not able to worship at DLC. Please keep me/us on the mailing list, and my/our name(s) on the membership roster.

___ I/we find that, because of conflicts in schedules, it is very difficult for me/us to worship on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. (Starting in the fall)

___ I/we do not wish to worship with the DLC congregation because:

___ I/we do not feel welcome at worship.

___ I/we do not like the style of worship that is presently used at DLC.

___ I/we do not feel comfortable in the building. (On the back of this sheet, please share with the committee what might be done to make worship better, so that you would want to worship with us.)

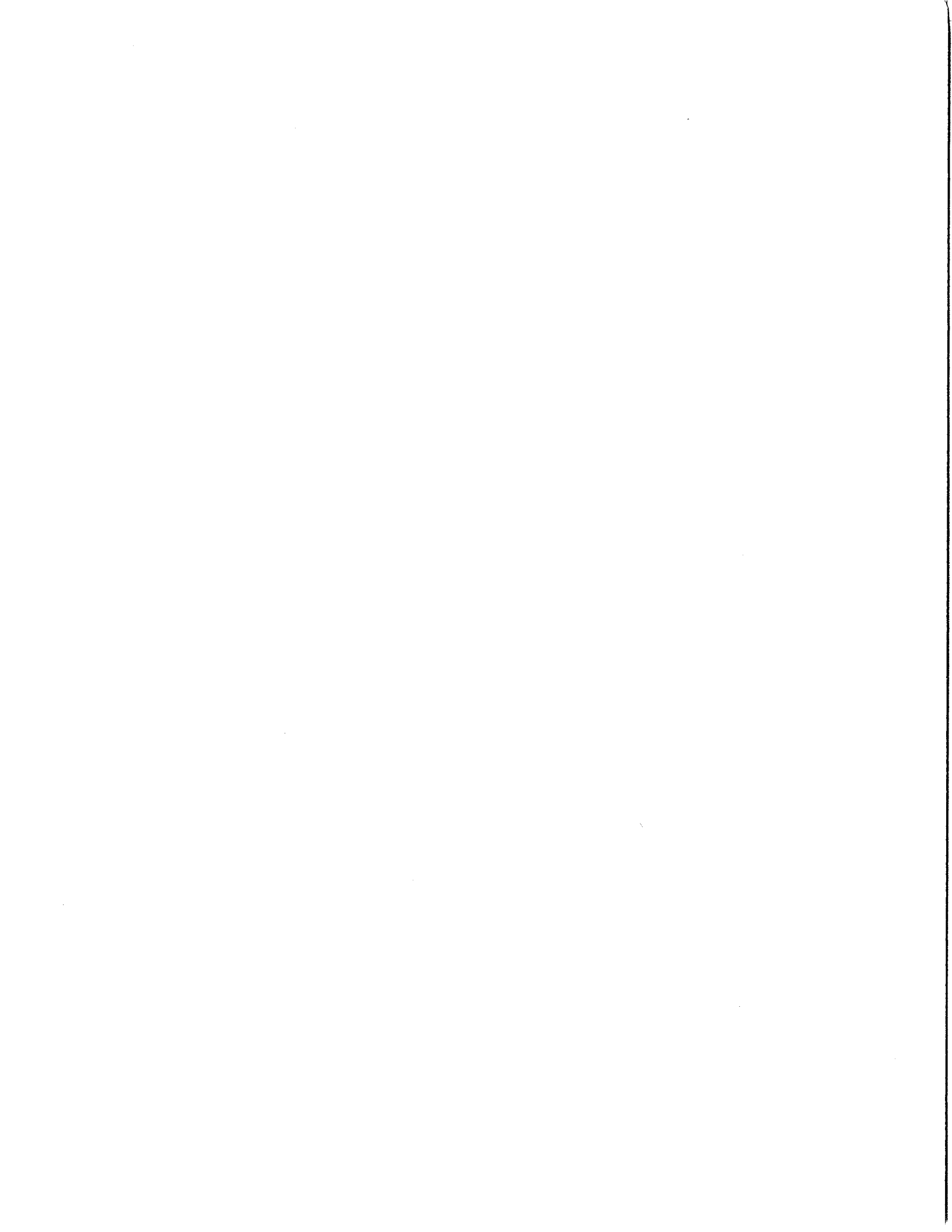
___ Being an active member of a church is not important to me/us at this time. Please remove me/us from the Active Membership List. (If you check this line, you will no longer receive church mailings.)

___ I/we have a new mailing address. Please change my/our address to the address shown above. New Phone Number _____

___ Other comments or questions (please use the other side of this sheet):

Thank you for your prompt reply by December 1st, 2023

[You may mail this form in, put it on the offering plate, or bring it to the church office.]



From Your Council President:

It's November. How did we get here so fast? It seems like just a short time ago I was talking about planting a garden. For your leadership team, Oleg, Lyle, and all the committees, it is that time of year for preparing account summaries, submitting annual reports, and of course conducting the annual meeting. At the last Council meeting, the date of **January 28, 2024**, was selected as the date for our annual meeting. If you want to have a vote at that meeting, and I pray that you do, then make sure to fill out your 2023 communion card before December 31.

There are several other events yet this fall which include the church grounds cleanup and bake sale. As of this writing a date for the church fall cleanup has not been set, so please check the weekly announcements for a date and time. We can use a lot of help that day so consider dusting off the leaf rake or blower and help out. There might even be donuts!! The bake sale is Saturday, November 4th, so stop in and support our ladies. I heard they have made a huge pile of lefsa so make sure to stock up.

I would like to thank those of you who participated in the Highway CS cleanup. I was somewhat disappointed that we only had 10 members show up on October 18th, and only 3 youth. Maybe it was just bad timing, but it would really be nice if more youth helped with this event. So to you parents of our youth, please consider helping next year so that we can continue to participate in this beneficial environmental event. There are treasures to be had as Dennis Cunningham found 2 good hammers!

Happy Thanksgiving! We all will celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday later this month. With all the conflict around the world and what seems like no one getting along, it may seem hard to be in a thankful frame of mind. However, I invite you to take an optimistic and positive attitude when looking at Thanksgiving. There is still an awful lot to be thankful for in our lives. Take time to thank our God for all the good things in this world and pray for peace.

The outdoor report could consume this entire article this month! October/November is the GO time for hunting in Wisconsin and other states as well. I made it up north to the Sayner/Star Lake area for a week of bear hunting and on the last hour of the last day, I harvested a really nice 300 lb. bear! I must admit I was less than optimistic that this would happen, but sometimes the stars line up and preparation meets opportunity, and the hunt is a success. Also found a fair number of ruffed grouse to chase around, but trying to hit one is another issue. Man, they are fast flyers!!! The fall colors were at their peak so it was absolutely gorgeous. Lots of deer activity now with rubs and scrapes really showing up and the rut will be full-blown by the time you read this. It's a fun time to tree sit as every creature in the woods is in this winter panic mode. Flocks of migrating birds of all flavors can be seen moving through the woods on their annual march to warmer places. I'm writing this month's article a few days early so I'm ready for the trip to South Dakota to hunt waterfowl. You never know just what to expect and the weather can definitely be a game changer. The current forecast looks like lots of rain and that is not good for the hunter! Well, the ducks won't care, so I'll have to deal with it. I hope whatever activity takes you outdoors this time of year you find it enjoyable. Please take the time to just stop, look around, and appreciate God's creation. Our church parking lot has an extraordinary view this time of year. Come worship and enjoy the view!

God Bless You Always,
Bill Buckley

Psalm 107:1 Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; his love endurances forever.

Please remember in your prayers... Diane Kamps (sister-in-law of Tom & Kathy Pederson), Donna Schwoch, Nancy Salenius, Hunter Joseph (infant grandson of Harry & Peggy Benson), Judy Buchanan, Ken Schmidt, Joan Ayers, Janet Hungerford, Craig Lorimer (brother-in-law of Ellen & Mike Keller and Darryl & Sherri Knuteson); Ayers family; Sharon Zeimet; Judy Schultz; Joanna Hall (daughter of Mary Dibble); Angie Satter (daughter of Bill & Jill Emmons), Carson Schudlach 17-year old who is battling cancer, 20-year-old Connor Martinson who is suffering from a stroke and a glioblastoma.

Prayers for those serving our country in the military... Nicholas Paske (great-nephew of June Fiske); Bill Warren (son of Cheryl Lytle); Quinten Case (great-nephew of June Fiske); Moira McCormack (granddaughter of Renate Lokotz).

DLC Book Club

Discussing + Listening + Contemplating

Join us on November 15th at 1:00 in the church library to discuss *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. One of the most cherished stories of all time, this book has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than forty million copies worldwide, served as the basis for an enormously popular motion picture, and was voted one of the best novels of the twentieth century by librarians across the country. A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father—a crusading local lawyer—risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.

The DLC Book Club is excited to begin its eighth year of discussion and fellowship with the following selections:

January 17 - *Abide With Me* by Elizabeth Strout

February 21 - *Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult

March 20 - *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel

May 15 - Personal Picks Book Share

September 18 - *Inside the O'Briens* by Lisa Genova

October 16 - *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards

November 20 - *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan

December 11 - *A Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg

DLC Library Loft

More books have been added to the library through donations. It's easy to check out books. Just sign your name on the card in the book, and put the card in the blue flowered box on the small shelf.

"Mark of the Lion" - a 3 book collection. Author Francine Rivers. A best-selling trilogy chronicles a tale of persecution and perseverance of 1st-century Christians in hedonistic Rome.

"Daughters and Dads" by Chap and Dee Clark. This book is filled with practical help that will nurture your relationship with your daughter as she grows up.

Youth/Family Activities:

Please watch for Dekorra's youth selling quilt raffle tickets to help fund attending the ELCA 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Ticket sales start November 4 in conjunction with the ladies' bake/lefse sale, and will continue selling into early December. A generous quilt donation made this raffle possible. It's a fun way to support our youth. HOPE YOU WIN! :)

Christmas Angels Social Ministry Committee will be displaying Christmas Angels in honor or in memory of loved ones. Suggested donation will be \$5.00 per Angel and monies will be sent to support a local and a global charity to be determined. The order forms can be left in the basket at the back of the Sanctuary or in the Church Office. *Forms will be due by December 3rd.* Matching funds will be requested from Thrivent Fund. Thanks!

Poinsettia Order The Altar Committee will take orders for Poinsettias. **Please Order Early!!!** The ordering form is at the back of the Bulletin. *The due date is on December 3rd.* Thank you!

Thank You for a wonderful party, all the gifts, cards, and warm wishes!!! Your thoughtfulness is a gift I will always treasure. Ken Becker.

Thankoffering: The Thankoffering Worship will be on November 12th. Please come and support the Women of Dekorra!

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be collected for delivery the week of November 10th. If you would like to donate items or pack a box some ideas are...balls, dolls, stuffed animals, toy cars, jump ropes, yo-yos, and musical toys. Health items include toothbrushes, a bar of soap wrapped in a washcloth in a sandwich bag, comb/brush. School supplies, coloring books, books, sunglasses, flip flops, hair accessories, and small flashlights with batteries. Drop them off at Church or wrap a box and fill it. It is a fun project to do with your kids or as a family. Any questions, call Kathy Pederson at (608) 445-5175

HELP WANTED It is time for the Worship Committee to update our list of people who serve during our worship service. We have not reached out for helpers since the sanctuary was reopened after Covid. We are looking for additional people to help during our weekly service as:

Assistant Minister, Reading Minister, Communion Minister, Greeter, Usher (both Sanctuary & Parking Lot), Video Minister – training will be provided if necessary.

If you would be interested in joining the “Worship Minister” at Dekorra in any or several of the above positions or have questions, contact **Sharon Kampen** at kampensg@yahoo.com or 608-635-4745. You can also contact any of the other Worship Committee members: Judy Brownrigg, Diane Buckley, Kathy Burhop, Ann Carncross, and Kathy Statz.

If you are already serving in any of the above positions also let Sharon know if you want to continue as a “Worship Minister” or be removed from the list.

Dekorra is also looking for people to join one of the many Committees that serve our congregation. If you would be interested in joining one of the following contact the chairperson for more information:

Altar Guild – Dee Sachtjen – dsachtjen4@gmail.com or 608-573-0345

Education - Sheila Gempeler – sdgemp1949@gmail.com or 608-592-6902

Endowment – Al Bilse – bilse2@gmail.com or 608-592-4076

Finance – Lyle Hendrickson – lwhendrick3@gmail.com or 608-592-5890

Hospitality – Mary Thompson – mathompson124@gmail.com or 608-592-4209

Human Resources – Karen Bender – bender4@centurytel.net or 608-575-1860

Memorial – Donna Schwoch – donnaschwoch@aol.com or 608-635-4111

Mission of Hope - Bill Schleichert – williamschleichert@gmail.com – 608-697-4434

Property – Dennis Cunningham – d.cunninghamcom@yahoo.com or 608-843-8203

Quilters – Margo Holzman – mitesag@yahoo.com or 608-635-7772

Scholarship – Bill Schleichert – williamschleichert@gmail.com – 608-697-4434

Social Ministry – Natalie Westegard – natntut@hotmail.com or 608-284-0832

Stewardship – Sharon Kampen – kampensg@yahoo.com or 608-635-4745 - Our team is looking for 2 people to help count the Sunday offering.

Thrivent Choice - Bill Schleichert – williamschleichert@gmail.com – 608-697-4434

Worship – Sharon Kampen - kampensg@yahoo.com or 608-635-4745

Youth and Family – Brad Simplot – simplot@chater.net or 608-592-5167

OWLS will meet on Friday, November 17 at noon. The theme for the potluck luncheon will be centered on Thanksgiving foods. So you can expect candied yams, turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, and green bean casserole to name a few. **We ask that you sign up if you plan to attend by Nov. 12th. The sign-up sheet is located on the kitchen bulletin board.** Our program will be a representative from Hope House in Baraboo who will bring us up to date on their mission and many services. This is a time for not only a lunch but also fellowship with folks. We hope to see you there.

WELCA NEWS

****LEFSE BAKE SALE***

Nov. 4th is our annual Lefse/Bake sale from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. We are also going to offer the opportunity for a piece of pie and coffee for \$5.00! (There will be a variety to choose from) and of course, all the baked goods to take home!

****QUILTERS***

We are in need of Quilters. Dekorra has been a contributor to this Lutheran project for many years but if we are to continue, now we are in need of help at our church. We meet every Thursday afternoon but that day is not set in stone. Tying quilts is easy and a wonderful fellowship. Please consider helping with this project.

****COFFEE HOUR SIGNUP***

We have begun serving coffee on the first Sunday of the month after the "Covid break". We are keeping it simple! There is a signup sheet on the kitchen bulletin board. Many servers are merely purchasing doughnuts from Kwik Trip or the Mobile Station (and reimbursed by donations) or you can make a batch of cookies if you prefer to do that.

****CHILI SUPPER***

In an effort to raise needed funds for our church, WELCA is planning a Chili Supper! The date we picked is Sunday, January 14, 2024! We will serve from 4:00-7:00 PM. A time for fellowship and an opportunity to raise some dollars for our church. More information to follow!

Serving our Lord November 2023

Date	Time	Assistant Minister	Reading Minister	Communion Minister	Greeters	Sanctuary Ushers	Parking Lot Ushers	Acolytes	Video Minister
11/1	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED							
11/5	9:00 AM	Barb Beyer	Sue Pozhanski	Florence Schmuclach	Bob & Joyce Tomczak	Bill & Kathy Statz	None	NEED HELP	Bill Buckley
11/8	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED							
11/12	9:00 AM	Barb Verbitsky Thank Offering Sunday	Judy Brownrigg	At Altar Rail	Karen & Kristine Millard	Peggy Benson & Karen Bender	None	NEED HELP	Shelley Roelke
11/15	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED							
11/19	9:00 AM	Merry Seng	Rose Holerud	Dee Sachtjen	Dean & Ardyce Piehl	Sharon Kampen Diane Buckley	None	NEED HELP	Jerry Carncross
11/22	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED - THANKSGIVING SERVICE							
11/26	9:00 AM	Kistime Millard	Natalie Westegard	Shelia Gempeler & Sharon Kampen	Dick & Carol Johnston	Darryl & Sherri Knuteson	None	NEED HELP	Bill Schleichert
11/29	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED							
12/3	9:00 AM	Bill Schleichert	Dave Kinnunen	Karen Bender	Phil & Vicki Nugier	Mike & Ellen Keller	None	NEED HELP	Paul Knuteson
12/6	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED							
Cantor/Music:		11/1 Merry Seng; 11/5 Kyle Knuteson; 11/8 Merry Seng; 11/12 Merry Seng; 11/19 Barb Verbitsky; 11/22 To Be Scheduled; 11/26 Bill Emmons; 11/29 Merry Seng; 12/3 To Be Scheduled; 12/6 Merry Seng							
Stewardship:		11/1 None; 11/5 Sherri Knuteson & Sheri Bichler; 11/8 None; 11/12 Phil & Vicki Nugier; 11/19 Sharon Kampen & Holly Priske; 11/22 To Be Scheduled; 11/26 Sherri Knuteson & Sheri Birchler; 11/29 None; 12/3 Phil & Vick Nugier; 12/6 None							

DEKORRA LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN OF THE ELCA

QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA – 10-14-2023

- † Call to Order: Judy Brownrigg
- † Devotion was read by Diane Buckley, an excerpt from the book Ordinary Grace.
- † Attendance: Margo Holzman, Diane Buckley, Judy Brownrigg, Kathy Burhop, Sheila Gempeler, Michelle Fitzgerald.
- † Reports
 - Secretary – Sheila Gempeler shared copies of July meeting minutes. Judy made a motion to approve, and Diane seconded.
 - Treasurer – Kathy Burhop provided copies of the treasurer's report which shows a balance on hand of \$1,940.35. Margo made a motion to approve, and Sheila seconded the motion.
 - Discipleship – Kathy Burhop reported that the plans are underway for the Thank Offering Sunday on Nov 12. She has obtained a video that details how the LWR quilts are used throughout the world.
 - Stewardship – Margo indicated that the quilt group made a total of 89 quilts this year. 79 were sent to Lutheran World Relief and 10 were presented to Habitat for Humanity families. Many kits were assembled and shipping costs for quilts, and other LWR kits were paid by the Pedersons.
 - Margo indicated that the quilt mission will not be able to continue this winter as helpers are needed to tie quilts, and/or sew tops. Dekorra members are encouraged to gather on Thursday afternoons and help with this worthwhile mission. Anyone can be taught to tie quilts – yes even the fellows!
 - Margo Holzman and Dee Sachtjen attended the Biennial convention on the first Saturday in Nov.
 - Funerals – Sheila reported that the funeral committee held luncheons for 3 funerals this quarter. Eugene Klawitter, Esther Dibble, and Margaret Jamieson
- † Other assignments
 - Newsletter – Judy Brownrigg will add 4 items to the newsletter this month.
- † Old Business
 - Coffee hour will resume this fall. Participants are needed to serve coffee.
 - Revisit Cookbook – we will continue to collect recipes with the hope of completing the cookbook by the 155th anniversary in August 2024
 - Fall Bake Sale is scheduled for November 4 from 9AM to noon. Baked items are needed as this is our only fundraiser for the year. 140 bags of Lefse were made in Oct. Cost of the Lefse is \$7 for a bag of three sheets, or three bags for \$20. It was decided to try selling a slice of pie and coffee for \$5 to the shoppers. Sheila and Judy will bake some pies for this purpose.

DEKORRA LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN OF THE ELCA

QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA – 10-14-2023

- The Youth are conducting a quilt raffle and will be selling tickets at the Bake Sale. The drawing will take place at the lock-in on Dec 15.
- † New business
 - It was decided to hold a **Chili Supper** fundraiser with proceeds to benefit the General Fund which has seen a decrease in donations this year. The Chili supper will take place on January 14 from 4-7PM.
- † Charitable donations for this quarter
 - Christmas gifts to staff, \$50 to Oleg and Ann and \$100 to Pastor Sterling
 - \$300 to the synod WELCA
 - \$300 to Lutheran World Relief
 - In the future we may want to look at **goodgifts.elca.org**, a synod fund raiser similar to Heifer Intl. with gifts of items like chicks, goats, water, etc

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Dekorra Lutheran Church

October 2023 Committee Reports

Christian Education

Our next scheduled meeting will be Nov 2 at 9 AM

Committee Attendance: Julie Clark, Ardyce Piehl, Judy Brownrigg, Ellen Woodward, Ruth Kohlmeyer, Sheila Gempeler, Cheryl Pendleton.

DLC Book Club/Library

- ✓ We chose selections for 2024!!
 - January 17, Abide with Me, Elizabeth Strout
 - February 21, Plain Truth
 - March 20, Book of Lost Names
 - May 15, Personal Picks book share
 - September 18, Inside the O'Briens, Lisa Genova
 - October 16, The Memory Keepers Daughter, Kim Edwards
 - November 20, Kitchen Front, Jennifer Ryan
 - December 11, A Redbird Christmas, Fannie Flagg
- ✓ Book Club 2023 continues to meet at 1 p.m. on the following days with new book selections.
 - October 18, Ordinary Grace
 - November 15, To Kill a Mockingbird.
 - Set up a date for a movie.
 - December 27, The Deal of a Lifetime.
- ✓ Discussion on how to encourage men to attend – perhaps movies, authors, and or books that would appeal to them, and different meeting times. Suggestion to include “Figure Eight, A Northern Lake Mystery” by Jeff Nania a local author. We will research possibly having him speak.

Shoulder to Shoulder, Dan Reiland – *our committee is holding discussions on some excerpts from this book on ways to support a Pastor: Do you know your Pastors' strengths? This is essential to be an effective supporter. Know his strengths and give him permission to be himself.*

Sharing an excerpt of pastoral humor from the book – but is it?

“After hundreds of years of study and research, a model pastor has been found to suit everyone. He preaches exactly 20 minutes and follows it with an invitation in which everyone is convicted but no one is offended. He works from 7 AM to 10 PM in every type of work from counseling to custodial service. He is twenty-seven years old and has been preaching for thirty years. He is tall and short, thin and heavy set, handsome but not overpowering. He has one brown eye and one blue. His hair is parted in the middle. The left side is dark and straight. The right side is brown and waving with a balding spot on the top revealing his maturity. He has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spends all of his time with the older folk. He smiles constantly with a straight and sober face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously at his work. He invests 25 hours a week in sermon preparation, 20 hrs. in counseling, 10 hours in meetings, 5 hours in emergencies, 20 hours in visitations and evangelism, 6 hours in weddings and funerals, 30 hours in prayer and meditation, 12 hours in letter writing and administration, and 10 hrs. in creative thinking. He spends five evenings at home with his family, plus a day off, and always stops for interruptions. He’s a seminary graduate but only uses one and two-syllable words. He makes 15 calls a day, spends all his time evangelizing the unchurched, attends all retreats, goes to all youth events, and is always available in his office. His kids are perfect, his mother is rich. His house is large, his bank account small, and his car is in the shop. He’s paid too much, too little and he gives it all away. He’s talented, gifted, scholarly, practical, popular, compassionate, understanding, patient, levelheaded, dependable, loving, caring, neat, organized, cheerful, and above all humble.” Makes you think!!!

October 2023

Sunday School - 4K-5th grades.

- ✓ Setting service goal to collect for water through Heifer International.
 - A new solar well is \$750.
 - Thrivent funds will be available.
- ✓ Teachers returning are Florence Schudlach, Morgan Loewenhagen, & Mandy Paskey, and singing with Merry Seng.
- ✓ Curriculum: younger classes will review Creation and other Old Testament Bible stories. Classes 3rd - 5th will begin the year concentrating on certain bible verses with activities that help them to remember and apply the Scriptures.
- ✓ Song time will conclude with The Lord's Prayer.
- ✓ Currently practicing a song for Oct 8 children sing at 9 AM
- ✓ Downstairs opening will include the Creed
- ✓ Merry Seng is working on the Christmas skit for Dec 17, 2023.
 - Merry and Sheila are collaborating with Pastor, Ann Carncross and the worship committee.

Middle and High School.

- ✓ Youth are planning an ALIVE event in Edgerton on Oct 11.
- ✓ Possible Quilt Raffle on Nov 4th (with WELCA bake sale).
- ✓ Looking forward to the Youth Convention in New Orleans – July 2024!

Adult Education

- ✓ We have acquired the DVD for the Chosen season 3 and the Chosen Christmas special CD. Plans are to hold group viewing and discussions in the fall. Dates to be determined.

Women's Retreat set for April 20, 2024

- ✓ Garden theme based on the devotional, "Playing in the Dirt" and utilizing God's Word for Gardeners Bible.
 - 15 copies of Playing in the Dirt have been obtained at half price thanks to Melissa Lederhaus.
 - Ardyce obtained notebooks to use as journals. Possibly decorate the cover as an activity during the retreat.
- ✓ **Continue Brainstorming notes:** activities, decorations, and timeline.
 - Time, 9 AM -2 PM, beginning with coffee, treat, and greet.
 - Possible speaker?
- ✓ Garden theme decorations, wheelbarrow?? Edible gardens take home planter activity. Thoughts on speakers, music, centering prayer.
- ✓ Discuss Communication for Retreat?
 - Facebook, posters, newsletter

Worship

Attendees: Diane Buckley, Kathy Burhop, Ann Carncross, Sharon Kampen, Dee Sachtjen, Kathy Statz

Absent: Judy Brownrigg, Sue Poznanski, Marj Weingandt

We spent a lot of time reviewing and updating the "Worship Committee Monthly Planning Calendar" that Ann put together for us.

Sharon reported that Pastor Sterling sent her an email for a date to be added for 2024. Dekorra will be celebrating its 155 years of ministry on August 24, 2024.

Some additional dates to remember coming soon are:

October 29 - Reformation Sunday

November 5 – All Saints Day

November 12 - Women of Dekorra Thank Offering Sunday

Wednesday, November 22 - Thanksgiving Service

December 3 – 24 – Advent

December 17 – Sunday School Christmas Pageant – Service will be at 10:00 a.m.

Kathy Statz will contact Brenda Schumann to see if she would be available to speak on Thank Offering Sunday. Sharon will put together an article for the Sunday announcements for "Reformation Sunday and All Saints Day".

Sharon will talk to the Pastor about a "Blue Christmas Service" and if he has determined times for Christmas Eve Services at the October all committee night.

Our next committee meeting is Friday, October 27, at 9:00 a.m. and we will decorate for Reformation Sunday after the meeting.

Submitted by: Sharon KampenIn

Hospitality

Hospitality Committee met Oct. 3, 2023

1. Visitor Gift bags were replenished with updated devotion books.
2. Reported that home communion had been taken to 7 people.
3. Mary Thompson will do Sunday, November 5 coffee hour, and Joen Bilse will do Sunday, December 3 coffee hour.
4. We were asked to be involved in the 155-anniversary projects and will take January for the birthday coffee hour.
5. The program for the November 17th OWLS will be a speaker from Hope House.

Dekorra Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Call to Order: President Bill Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Bill opened the meeting with a short devotion on Matthew Chapter 5, Verse 7--the blessings of mercy.

Present: Al Bilse, Joen Bilse, Judy Brownrigg, Bill Buckley, Lyle Hendrickson, Ellen Keller, Paul Knuteson.

Absent: Larry Johnson, Paul Loewenhagen, Pastor Sterling Lynk, Bill Priske, Brad Simplot, and Bill Schleichert.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Judy Brownrigg to approve the agenda, seconded by Al Bilse. Motion carried.

Approval of September 14, 2023, Council Minutes: Motion by Judy Brownrigg to approve the minutes, seconded by Al Bilse. Motion carried.

President's Report:

1. Bill is working on Dekorra's CRs (Committee Resolutions) to make them all consistent.
2. Bill reported that the snow plow agreement is complete for this winter.

Treasurer's Report:

1. The checkbook balance on September 30, 2023, was \$6,960.95. Please note our balance continues to decline.
2. Oleg continues to pay bills as they come into the office. So far, no funds have been borrowed from the contingency fund.
3. Lyle is working on the budget.
4. Motion by Judy Brownrigg to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Joen Bilse. Motion carried.

All Committee Reports:

1. PROPERTY: The timer in the parking lot has been set back to 6:30 p.m. A new faucet has been installed in the kitchen.

Old Business:

1. The Positive Membership Team is urging members to please fill out the Membership Update Form by November 4. There will be birthday celebrations on the first Sunday of each month starting in January 2024 for members who have birthdays that month. Church committees will each take a month to host.
2. Caring for Creation Project has nothing new to report.
3. DLC wedding fee structure was tabled until the November 2023 council meeting.

New Business:

1. Motion by Judy Brownrigg to set January 28, 2024, as the annual meeting date for Dekorra. Seconded by Al Bilse. Motion carries.
2. DLC Anniversary Celebration was tabled until the November 2023 council meeting.
3. Bill Buckley has been working on updating Dekorra's Committee Resolutions.
 - a. Motion made by Al Bilse to approve the Property Committee resolutions as per the minor changes. Seconded by Joen Bilse. Motion carried.
 - b. Motion made by Lyle Hendrickson to approve minor changes to the Education Committee resolutions. Seconded by Ellen Keller. Motion carried.
 - c. Motion made by Ellen Keller to approve minor changes to the Personnel Committee resolutions. Seconded by Judy Brownrigg. Motion carried.
 - d. Motion made by Judy Brownrigg to approve minor changes to the Social Ministry Committee resolutions. Seconded by Ellen Keller. Motion carried.
 - e. Bill Buckley will continue working on CRs. The work will be finished by the end of his term as president.
 - f. Five committees (Executive, Nominating, Audit, Mutual Ministry, and Call) were approved at the last annual meeting.
4. The next council meeting will be on November 16, 2023.

Joen Bilse moved to adjourn, seconded by Ellen Keller. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Joen Bilse

Dekorra Lutheran Church - Poynette WI
Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2023

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
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Assets

Church Operating Funds

100.001	Gen checking - Bank First	6,960.95
100.002	Money Market Savings-BOP(Restricted Asset)	68,700.13
Total Check & Savings Assets		\$75,661.08

Organization Funds

100.010	Dekorra Mission Endowment Fund(Restricted Asset)	91,376.89
100.040	Dekorra Men For Christ (Restricted Asset)	6,539.58
100.090	Mitchell Scholarship Fund (Restricted)	47,863.83
100.100	Dekorra Lutheran Youth Group(Restricted Asset)	2,461.57
115.080	Memorial Fund (Restricted Asset)	17,579.38
Total Organization Accounts		\$165,821.25
Total Assets		\$241,482.33

Liabilities

200.010	Accounts Payable/Vendors	(41,174.60)
210.001	941 Taxes Payable	1,784.76
210.002	State Taxes Payable	272.78
210.003	Miscellaneous Deductions	214.42
210.005	Pastor's Portico deductions	490.44
Total Liabilities		(\$38,412.20)

Fund Balances

300.001	General Balance	86,374.44
300.002	Missions Balance	(32,027.09)
General Operating Funds		\$54,347.35
320.001	Capital Improvement Balance(Restricted)	10,265.56
320.002	General Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	3,114.39
320.003	Building/Grounds Balance(Restricted)	7,914.03
320.004	Lowenhagen Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	493.10
320.005	Choir Balance(Restricted)	3,824.69
320.006	Thrivent Choice Dollars Balance(Restricted)	4,752.33
320.007	Misc. Contingency Balance(Partial Restriction)	13,057.43
332.011	Church Screens Fund Balance	1,869.76
332.013	Seminary Appeal Balance	20.19
Money Market Funds		\$45,311.48
300.010	Dekorra Mission Endowment Fund Balance(Restricted)	91,376.89
300.040	Dekorra Men For Christ Balance(Restricted)	6,539.58
300.060	Dekorra Women of the ELCA Balance(Restricted)	1,940.35
300.070	Misssion of Hope Balance	3,098.29
300.090	Mitchell Scholarship Fund Balance	47,863.83
305.001	Youth Fund Balance(Restricted)	2,461.57
305.015	Youth & Family Fund Balance	9,430.81
315.001	Memorial Fund Balance(Restricted)	17,524.38
Total Fund Balances		\$279,894.53
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances		\$241,482.33

Dekorra Lutheran Church - F Olette WI
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for September 2023

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
300.010	Dekorra Mission Endowment Fund Balance(Restricted)	91,376.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	91,376.89
300.040	Dekorra Men For Christ Balance (Restricted)	6,539.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,539.58
300.060	Dekorra Women of the ELCA Balance (Restricted)	2,209.08	75.00	343.73	0.00	1,940.35
300.070	Mission of Hope Balance	3,098.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,098.29
300.090	Mitchell Scholarship Fund Balance	47,863.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,863.83
305.001	Youth Fund Balance(Restricted)	2,461.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,461.57
305.015	Youth & Family Fund Balance	9,410.81	20.00	0.00	0.00	9,430.81
315.001	Memorial Fund Balance(Restricted)	17,674.38	0.00	150.00	0.00	17,524.38
320.001	Capital Improvement Balance(Restricted)	10,263.60	1.96	0.00	0.00	10,265.56
320.002	General Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	3,113.78	0.61	0.00	0.00	3,114.39
320.003	Building/Grounds Balance(Restricted)	7,912.67	1.36	0.00	0.00	7,914.03
320.004	Lowenhagen Scholarship Balance (Restricted)	492.96	0.14	0.00	0.00	493.10
320.005	Choir Balance(Restricted)	3,824.09	0.60	0.00	0.00	3,824.69
320.006	Thrivent Choice Dollars Balance (Restricted)	4,751.32	1.01	0.00	0.00	4,752.33
320.007	Misc. Contingency Balance(Partial Restriction)	13,005.25	52.18	0.00	0.00	13,057.43
332.011	Church Screens Fund Balance	1,864.45	5.31	0.00	0.00	1,869.76
332.013	Seminary Appeal Balance	20.16	0.03	0.00	0.00	20.19
	Total	\$225,882.71	\$158.20	\$493.73	\$0.00	\$225,547.18

Dekorra Lutheran Church - Poynette WI
Summary of Cash Activity for 09/01/2023 thru 09/30/2023

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Page 1 of 1

Asset Account: 100.001 - Gen checking - Bank First

Cash Balance as of 09/01/2023(at the beginning of the day) \$9,461.53

Add Transactions From:

Income	\$0.00
Donations	\$12,703.00
Transfers (debit)	\$343.73
Journal Entries (debit)	\$92.00
AR Collections (debit)	\$0.00

Total Additions	\$13,138.73
------------------------	--------------------

Subtract Transactions From:

Payments	\$6,233.22
Payroll	\$9,251.20
Transfers (credit)	\$150.00
Journal Entries (credit)	\$4.89

Total Subtractions	\$15,639.31
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Cash Balance as of 09/30/2023(at the end of the day) \$6,960.95

BAKE SALE PRICES 2023

BARS	\$3.00 FOR 6; \$6 FOR 12 OR .50 EACH
HOMEMADE BREAD	\$4.00 LARGE; \$3.00 SMALL
BANANA BREAD, ETC	\$4.00 LARGE; \$3.00 MEDIUM; \$2.00 SMALL
CAKES	\$7.00 FROSTED LAYER; BUNDT OR 9X13 PAN
ANGEL FOOD CAKE	\$8.00 PLAIN OR FROSTED
COFFEE CAKE	\$8.00 9X13 PAN \$4.00 8X8 OR 9X9
CHEESECAKE	\$7.00
FUDGE/CANDY	\$.60 LRG PIECE; \$.30 SMALL
LEFSE	\$7.00 FOR PKG OF 3 ROUNDS OR \$20 FOR 3 PKGS
KRUMKAKE	\$4.00 FOR 6; OR \$.50 EACH
ROSETTES	\$4.00 FOR 6; OR \$.50 EACH
COOKIES	\$2.00 FOR 6; \$4.00 DOZ OR \$.50 EACH
CUPCAKES	\$4.00 FOR 6; \$7.00 DOZ OR \$.50 EACH
CINAMON ROLLS -LRG	\$2.00 EACH
DONUTS	\$4.00 FOR 6; \$7.00 DOZ OR \$.50 EACH
MUFFINS	\$4.00 FOR 6; \$7.00 DOZ OR \$.50 EACH
Mini MUFFINS	\$5.00 DOZ
PIES	\$3.00 INDIVIDUAL; \$6.00 SMALL; \$8.00 REGULAR \$10.00 LARGE OR \$12.00 PECAN
SOUP MIX	\$2.00
PUPPY CHOW OR CHEX MIX	\$2.00 FOR SANDWICH BAGGIE SIZE
Slice of pie with coffee	\$5

PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF ANY MISC.
ITEMS AND WHAT WAS CHARGED.



Christmas Angels

The beautiful angels on the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary are symbols of love, caring, and sharing during this Christmas season.

Angels are \$5.00 each. Complete this form along with your check made payable to Dekorra Lutheran Church.
Due by December 3rd.

Name _____

My Christmas gift is \$ _____

I would like the bulletin and Angel to read:

In Loving Memory of

OR

In Honor of

Given by _____



Poinsettia Order Form

The Altar Committee will take orders for Poinsettias through **Sunday, December 3rd. PLACE ORDERS EARLY!** The poinsettia plants will cost \$18.00 each. Please complete the form below if you wish to provide flowers for the worship area. Make your check payable to Dekorra Lutheran Church. The flowers may be picked up after the Christmas morning worship service.

Name _____

I will provide _____ Poinsettia plant(s)

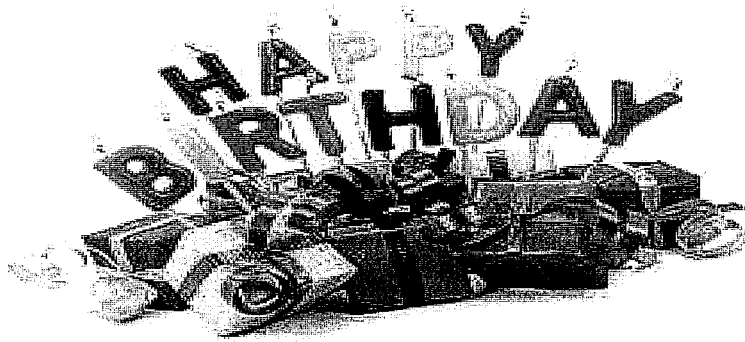
I would like the bulletin to read:

In Loving Memory of

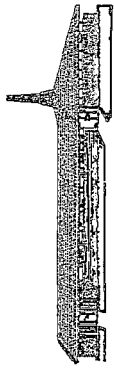
OR

In Honor of

Given by _____



Sondra Quam	11/02
Erick Tomlinson	11/05
Peter Clark	11/06
Ruth Hillestad	11/06
Rona Erdahl	11/07
Rachel Schmudlach	11/07
Tom Pederson	11/09
Marj Weingandt	11/12
Lauren Furniss	11/12
Gary Wilson	11/12
Tim Rake	11/14
Abby Raedel	11/15
Pete Taylor	11/15
Doris Braun	11/17
Sheri Birchler	11/23
Anthony Johnson	11/23
Bill Statz	11/24
Sarah Zellmer	11/24
Daniel Knuteson	11/25
Jayne Krueger	11/26
David Schroeder	11/28



November 2023

Dekorra Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ALL SAINTS DAY 6:00pm Worship & Community Time	2 9:00am Christian Ed Mtg 1:00pm Quilting	3 10:00am Pastoral Office Hours 8:00pm AA	4 9:00am Bake Sale & Youth Ruffle Tickets Sale
5 9:00am All Saints Day Worship 10:00am Sunday School	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 9:30am Hospitality Committee Mtg 6:30pm All Committee Mtg	8 6:00pm Worship & Community Time	9 11:30am Stewardship & Membership Mtg 1:00pm Quilting	10 10:00am Pastoral Office Hours 8:00pm AA	11
12 9:00am Thankoffering Worship 10:00am Sunday School	13 1:00pm Lutheran World Relief Mtg	14 1:00pm Joy Circle	15 9:30am Faith Bible Study 1:00pm Book Club 6:00pm Worship & Community Time	16 1:00pm Quilting 6:30pm Council Mtg	17 NO Pastoral Office Hours 8:00pm AA	18
19 9:00am First Stewardship Worship 10:00am Sunday School	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	22 6:00pm Thanksgiving Worship	23 THANKSGIVING	24 9:00am Worship Committee Mtg 10:00am Pastoral Office Hours 8:00pm AA	25
26 9:00am Second Stewardship Worship NO Sunday School	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 <u>Newsletter Mailing</u>	29 6:00pm Worship & Community Time	30 9:00am Christian Ed Mtg 1:00pm Quilting		

Dekorra Lutheran Church
N3099 Smith Road
Poynette, WI 53955-9435

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
POYNETTE, WI 53955
PERMIT #5

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Nov 1	6:00pm	Worship & Community Time
Nov 4	9:00am	Bake Sale & Youth Raffle Tickets Sale
Nov 5	9:00am	All Saints Day Worship & Sunday School
Nov 7	6:30pm	All Committee Meeting
Nov 8	6:00pm	Worship & Community Time
Nov 12	9:00am	Thankoffering Worship & Sunday School
Nov 15	6:00pm	Worship & Community Time
Nov 16	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Nov 19	9:00am	Worship & Sunday School
Nov 22	6:00pm	Thanksgiving Worship
Nov 23		THANKSGIVING
Nov 26	9:00am	Worship, NO Sunday School
Nov 29	6:00pm	Worship & Community Time