

Dekorra Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Sterling Lynk

October 2023 Newsletter

No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a clay pot. A lamp is put on a lampstand, so everyone who comes into the house can see the light.

Luke 11:33 (CEV)

Hello You,

Let's take a break from discussing some of the things the Holy Spirit is changing in the church. Instead, I want to talk about you. Specifically, I want to talk about you as a member of this Jesus community at Dekorra Lutheran Church (DLC).

Our constitution and the ELCA require our pastors, in this case, me, to review our membership records each year. I believe the hope is that if the pastoral presence at a congregation has "missed" someone who has become inactive or disengaged, then this review will catch that and the pastor will act.

This work can be a slog. It was a grind, a worthy grind but still a grind, to talk about each name in our database with the Membership Review Team and Oleg. DLC had not done this in years and it showed.

The good news is that the review is done. We identified 67 folks who either seemed to have moved to new things away from our community or I really wanted/needed to touch base with. We are doing that now and the Membership Review Team is now shifting their mission to think about member engagement and DLC's 155th anniversary next year.

One thing we noticed as we went through our membership rolls, is that our information was incomplete. For example, one member of our council was listed as not having been baptized and not having made an adult profession of faith at DLC. Well, first, a person cannot serve on our council without having done those things. Second, that individual certainly had experienced the sacramental gift of baptism AND had made an adult profession of faith here at Dekorra.

We fixed that small mistake but it turns out we don't have the information we are really supposed to have about you. We don't even have good contact information for many folks here, which means our neighbors are missing out on opportunities to experience Christ's love here at DLC. We want to fix that too.

Starting in October, you will see a survey in the announcements. The survey is also included after this column. We want each of you to complete that survey once. As you will see, it asks to update your contact information and information about your baptism and confirmation/adult profession of faith. We don't need any official documentation. It also asks a number of questions about your involvement with DLC.

You can turn those into the offering plate during worship, at the office, during regular office hours, or by mail by November 5th. Alternatively, you can complete the survey online at <http://www.dekorrallutheran.org/contact-us> and click the button to update your information. Our goal is to have 100% participation of our active members.

There is more good news! This is so important that the council has taken up a collection among themselves to purchase gift cards. Everyone who completes their information by November 1st will be entered into a random drawing to win one of those. Don't miss out!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Peace,

+Sterling

September 15, 2023

P.S. – According to Google and Oxford Languages, a “meme” is an image, video, piece of text, etc., typically humorous in nature, that is copied and spread rapidly by internet users, often with slight variations. It is also an element of a culture or system of behavior passed from one individual to another by imitation or other nongenetic means. You can also make “meme” into a verb by doing those things to a piece of media.

I only mention this because back in 2019 I made a bunch of memes on Luke 11:33 using Captain America, Yoda, myself (twice), Ryan Gosling, Xzibit, and a profoundly historically inaccurate statue of Jesus. I thought they were hilarious. If you like my kind of humor or just want an opportunity to judge me, then please find me and I'll show them to you. We can laugh together.

P.P.S. – I couldn't help myself. Here is one of those memes.



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 November 5th, 2023

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

From Your Council President:

Good Day! I mean that sincerely, I hope you are having a great day and enjoying the cool fall air and the gorgeous colors of the changing leaves. We are in that season of anticipated change where summer activities are just memories as we put the summer recreation items into storage and remove the snow shovels and warmer clothes out of storage. I'll get to more fall stuff later in my outdoor activity update portion of this article. Fall also triggers changes here at Dekorra as well. September 10 was rally Sunday and the church picnic. I really hope you were in attendance as it was an absolutely gorgeous morning. Activities included outside worship, the blessing of our young people's school backpacks, games, and lots of really good food. I especially enjoyed seeing a number of families with young children in attendance. I pray that this will be a trend that increases as the fall continues. A special thanks to all the members who brought food, set up and folded up tables/chairs, organized the games, and all of you who just attended and made the morning special. The festivities continued with the Packers beating up on the Bears later that afternoon!

Just a reminder that if you are on a committee that has a budget request, please get your dollar figures put together and bring your requests to the October "all committee" night or see to it that Lyle Hendrickson (church treasurer) receives them by Friday, October 6th. The council will be working on the 2024 budget request at its November meeting.

Just a little heads up. The nominating committee will be looking very soon for members to step into positions on the Executive Committee, Council, Audit Committee, Endowment Fund Committee, 2024 Synod Assembly reps, and 2024 nominating committee. So please, seriously consider saying **yes** when approached by the nominating reps. or better yet, seek them out and volunteer to be put on the annual meeting ballots. All church committees are also looking to add members in 2024. This is your chance to get more involved in your church. Most of the positions do not require lots of hours of your time but are crucial for the function and ministries here at Dekorra. If you are considering the council president position please feel free to contact me and I will happily explain to you how easy this job is! No prior experience is needed. Seriously!

Now for the outdoor report. Last month I admitted that the hot weather was suppressing my excitement for fall hunting seasons. Well, that has changed and I am in full fall get-to-woods mode! The garden is about done, and the squash and Grandpa's pumpkin patch are about all that is left to harvest. Craziest year yet if you are a gardener. Hot, extremely dry, and somehow I ended up with an abundance of beautiful produce. Don't figure! I harvested a nice tom turkey on the opening weekend of the season and have 11 deer stands ready to be sat in. Why so many stands you might ask and my response is "I have no idea"! I guess it allows me to have a change of scenery and allows me to mess up on a stand (and it will happen), and still have a spot that the deer may not know about. I have a bear tag so I may be headed up north, but I'm not really confident of success with that. The South Dakota duck hunt is all booked, so looking forward to that trip again this fall. If you don't hunt then I am sure you are bored by all this, so I'll close for this month. Regardless if you hunt or not, I encourage you to get outside and take in all that God's creation has to offer. It truly is an awesome time of the year!

God Bless You Always,
Bill Buckley

Isajah 41:10

Fear not; for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God: I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

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 Schmudlach 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

October 18th - ***Ordinary Grace*** by William Kent Krueger

New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson's Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum, it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder. Told from Frank's perspective forty years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

Upcoming - November 15th - ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee

October 18 - *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger

November 15 - *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

December 27 - *The Deal of a Lifetime* by Fredrik Backman

Coming Soon . . . **DLC Book Club choices for 2024!**

DLC Library Loft We have had a number of books donated recently. We will share some titles and brief descriptions each month.

"The Uprising", a set of 2 books by Erwin McManus

McManus invites readers to join a revolution of the soul.

Find your true purpose and destiny in the pursuit of the passion and character of God.

"Hope Springs", by Valery Bodden, Part of a series of Christian romance novels.

"You Are Never Alone" by Max Lucado, Full of encouragement and hope, Max Lucado shows us how to relate and apply Scripture to daily events.

Youth and Family Activities: Please bring a pair of gloves on Wednesday evening, October 11 to help pick up trash with our Confirmation students along Cty Hwy CS starting at 4:30 PM. It goes quickly if we get a good turnout. Sometimes we find some pretty cool things in the ditch. Finders, keepers! All ages able to safely navigate the ditches are welcome. Bags and yellow vests were provided. See you all there! :)

Sunday School News The Sunday school will sing during the church service at 9 a.m. on October 8.

Halloween fun: Crafts, Costumes Games, and Treats on Oct 29.

Coffee Hour Oct. 8th Join us for coffee hour to celebrate Ken Becker's 100th birthday and wish him well.

OWLS will meet on Friday, October 20 at noon. We will have a potluck luncheon followed by a program at 1:00. Trevor Johnson, Head Flight Nurse, for Med Flight will present the program. If you are unable to come for lunch you are welcome to come for the program. Hope to see you there.

Social Ministry Tom and Kathy Pederson assembled 21 Personal Care Kits and 114 School Kits for Lutheran World Relief! The Kits were sent out on September 16th along with the quilts. Each Kit cost between \$12-\$15. Thanks go out to Irene Anderson, Robin and Dave Kinnunen, Margo Holzman, and Rose Holerud for their support of this project and others who have donated items and money! Margo and Pete Holzman delivered them to the Madison Railroad Car.

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!

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

Serving our Lord October 2023

Date	Time	Assistant Minister	Reading Minister	Communion Minister	Greeters	Sanctuary Ushers	Parking Lot Ushers	Acolytes	Video Minister	
10/1	9:00 AM	Merry Seng	Dave Kinnunen	Dee Sachtjen	Phil & Vicki Nugler	Harry & Peggy Benson	None	Need Help	Brad Simplot	
10/4		TO BE SCHEDULED								
10/8	9:00 AM	Barb Verbitsky	Natalie Westegard	At Altar Rail	Ken & Sharon Kuyper	Larry & Sheila Gempeler	None	Need Help	Paul Knuteson	
10/11		TO BE SCHEDULED								
10/15	9:00 AM	OUTDOOR SERVICE	Ellen Keller	None	None	None	Dennis Cunningham & Larry Johnson	Need Help	Jerry Carncross	
10/18		TO BE SCHEDULED								
10/22	9:00 AM	Al Bilse	Marj Weingandt	Kristine Millard & Sara Simplot	Bev Trygstad & Rose Holerud	Bill & Diane Buckley	None	Need Help	Shelley Roelke	
10/25		TO BE SCHEDULED								
10/29	9:00 AM	Kristine Millard	Dennis Cunningham	Judy Brownrigg	Florence Schmudlach Thomas, Tiffany & Lizzi	Jery Carncross & Paul Knuteson	None	Need Help	Bill Schleichert	
11/1		TO BE SCHEDULED								
11/5	9:00 AM	Sue Poznanski	Bill Buckley	Florence Schmudlach	Bob & Joyce Tomczak	Bill & Kathy Statz	None	Need Help	Bill Buckley	
11/8		TO BE SCHEDULED								
Cantor/Music:		10/1 Bill Emmons; 10/4 TBS; 10/8 Kyle Knuteson; 10/11 TBS; 10/15 Merry Seng; 10/18 TBS; 10/22 Barb Verbitsky; 10/25 TBS; 10/29 Bill Emmons; 11/1 TBS; 11/5 TBS; 11/8 TBS;								
Stewardship:		10/1 Phil & Vick Nugler; 10/8 Sharon Kampen & Holly Priske; 10/15 Sherri Knuteson & Sheri Birchler; 10/22 Phil & Vicki Nugler; 10/29 Sharon Kampen & Holly Priske; 11/5 Sherri Knuteson & Sheri Birchler								

Please Note: If there is a schedule conflict, PLEASE try to find your own replacement. If you are unable to find a replacement, THEN give Sharon Kampen a call at 608-635-4745. PLEASE notify the church office of any change to this schedule.

Thank you for your dedication and service. Your help in ministry is very important!

Dekorra Lutheran Church

September 2023 Committee Reports

Christian Education

Our next scheduled meeting will be Sept 28 at 9 AM

Committee Attendance: Ardyce Piehl, Ellen Woodward, Cheryl Pendleton, Sheila Gempeler, Ruth Kohlmeyer

Shoulder to Shoulder, Dan Reiland – discussing some excerpts from this book on ways to support a Pastor: Your Pastor needs you and you need your Pastor. God designed this relationship to be a partnership. Instead of thinking that a Pastor is supposed to support us, try thinking about how we can support our Pastor.

Sunday school 4K-5th grades and 6th-grade pre-confirmation.

Setting service goal to collect water through Heifer International.

- A new solar well is \$750.
- Thrivent funds will be available.
- Teachers returning are Florence Schmudlach, Morgan Loewenhagen, & Mandy Paskey.
- 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.
 - ✓ Downstairs opening will include the Creed
- Invitation cards are being sent to possible 4K students.
- Mery Seng is writing our Christmas program for 2023.

VBS

- VBS theme God's Living Water – Covered in Jesus' Grace, was a fun week. See the report elsewhere in the Aug. newsletter.

School Middle and High.

- Youth are planning Rally Day activities.
- Kick-off for 6th - 8th grade students and parents will be Weds Sept 13 from 6 PM-8 PM
- Will send emails to possible 6th-grade students.
- Looking forward to Youth Convention in New Orleans – July 2024!

Adult Education.

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

DLC Book Club/Library.

- Discussed box of 72 vintage periodicals from 1908. Will bring these to the attention of Bill Buckley - council, to determine what to do with them.
- Cheryl and Sheila shelved books donated by Bill Schleichert and other anonymous givers. Thanks, Bill and others. Watch the newsletter for some selections available.
- Book Club 2023 continues to meet at 1 p.m. on the following days with new book selections.

- In October we will choose our selections for 2024!
 - ✓ October 18, *Ordinary Grace*
 - ✓ November 15, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
 - ✓ December 27, *The Deal of a Lifetime*.

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

In Attendance: Sharon Kampen, Diane Buckley, Dee Sachtjen, Kathy Burhop, Ann Carncross, Sue Poznanski
 Absent: Kathy Statz, Judy Brownrigg

We had much discussion on the upcoming "Church Picnic/Sunday School Rally Day/Youth Event" to take place on September 10th. This will be an Outdoor Service starting at 10:30 a.m. The picnic meal will be our communion and the youth will provide activities after the meal. People can bring lawn chairs to sit on during the service and we will also bring chairs out from the Fellowship Hall for people if they want to sit outside of their car. Tables and chairs will also be available outside for anyone who wants to eat their meal outside. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to pass. Pastor Sterling will also have a "Blessing of Backpacks" during the service.

The installation of the Sunday school teachers will take place on Sunday, September 17th which is also the first day of Sunday school. Because we have so many activities planned for September, we have moved Holy Cross Sunday to September 24th. We will bring the large cross up and have it near the railing in the sanctuary so congregants can bring up their sins and nail them to the cross.

Confirmation classes will begin on Wednesday, September 13. Pastor Sterling is still determining the timing of the order of the service and the class.

Dee Sachtjen is ordering additional two-part communion cups as we are running low. We have enough for the August outdoor service but will definitely need more for future events. The possibility of doing communion by intinction for Wednesday night service was suggested instead of filling individual cups not knowing how many to plan for.

Sue will speak to Marj Weingandt to see if she can locate the master for the calendar that she received from Claudine when she became our committee leader. Ann will work on updating the calendar for additional event planning time and bring it to our next meeting for discussion.

Reformation Sunday is on October 29. Reverend Smalls will be officiating at this service. The sanctuary will be decorated for Reformation.

All Saints Day will be celebrated on November 5. Thank offering Sunday will be November 12 or 19. Several suggestions were made for speakers on that Sunday including Jim or Penny Schmiedlin from Reach Out Lodi, someone from Hope House, or Brenda Schumann, a missionary from Honduras.

Pastor Sterling has suggested using "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" through Advent. Ann talked to Pastor Sterling about also using music from Marty Haugen during Advent.

Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year. It is also the 4th Sunday in Advent. One of the suggestions made was to hold a morning service emphasizing the 4th Sunday in Advent and afternoon or evening services celebrating Christmas Eve. We will discuss this further next meeting.

Our next worship meeting is Friday, September 22, at 9:00 a.m.

Hospitality

1. Visitor Bags were brought up to date.
2. Spent the remained of time collecting supplies for the picnic on Sunday, September 10th.
3. 8 dozen buns were ordered for the meal on Sunday.
4. Will need to set up tables for the picnic at 9:30 on Sunday.
5. Communion was taken to 6 people in the month of August.
6. Programs for OWLS have been arranged through December.

Endowment

9/5/23 Committee Attendance: Al Bilse, Kathy Burhop, Lyle Hendrickson, Jerry Carncross, Barb Johnson
Discussion was held on where we should spend endowment money this year. Al Bilse suggested giving some to the students going to New Orleans for the Youth Gathering. Lyle Hendrickson brought up the fact that we give to the food pantry all year long with yellow bags. Kathy Burhop questioned where else the free clinic gets funds from. Jerry Carncross would like to see more given to the free clinic. Barb Johnson suggested Blessings in a Backpack. Lyle stated that Lodi has 55 families that benefit from this program.

We are giving \$2000 this year. It was suggested that we give as follows:

- a. \$500 to the free clinic
- b. \$250 each to Lodi and Poynette Blessings in a Backpack
- c. \$500 to the Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- d. \$250 to Hope House
- e. \$250 to River Haven

The motion was made by Barb Johnson that we give to the above groups. Seconded by Al Bilse. Motion carried.

Kathy Burhop will be going off the Endowment Fund next year.

Kathy Burhop made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Barb Johnson. Motion carried.

The next Meeting is December 5, 2023 at 9:00.

Submitted by Barb Johnson

Dekorra Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Call to Order: President Bill Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Pastor Sterling opened the meeting with prayer.

Present: Al Bilse, Joen Bilse, Bill Buckley, Lyle Hendrickson, Larry Johnson, Ellen Keller, Bill Schleichert, Brad Simplot, and Pastor Sterling Lynk. **Absent:** Judy Brownrigg, Paul Knuteson, Paul Loewenhagen, Bill Priske

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

Approval of July 13, 2023, Council Minutes: Motion by Bill Schleichert to approve the minutes, seconded by Al Bilse. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: (Sterling Lynk)

1. 0 Funerals, 0 Baptisms, 0 Confirmations, 0 New Members, and the Joliene Lindholm/Marlow Bakken Wedding
2. Pastor Sterling gave an update on the Positive Membership Team. Several inactive members who were contacted wish to remain active.
3. Pastor Sterling has been selected by our synod to participate in the Siebert Foundation Pastoral Leadership Development Conference November 14-17 in Carefree, AZ. The Seibert Foundation is a Lutheran foundation out of Milwaukee. One of the primary outcomes is to equip Pastors to LIVE and LEAD WELL. The Foundation is covering all but \$500 to \$1000 of the cost so it fits in the range of Dekorra's budget for continuing education. Motion by Bill Schleichert to move \$250 from Dekorra's 2023 synod assembly account to continuing education and to increase the 2024 continuing education account from \$500 to \$750. Al Bilse seconds. Motion carried.

President's Report:

1. Bill thanked all for attending the August Council Picnic held at his home.
2. Bill gave an update on the church picnic. We had nice weather, good food, and a nice turnout.
3. Bill is continuing to work with Sela Lynk on Dekorra's "Care of Creation Plan". Sela has put together a booklet as a presentation. Everything so far is very general. The next step is taking those general ideas and making them applicable to DLC. When finished the Synod would like DLC to submit a one-page document on this project.

Treasurer's Report:

1. The checkbook balance on July 31, 2023 was \$11,315.62.
2. The checkbook balance on August 31, 2023 was \$8,371.53.
3. Lyle again expressed concern about the low general fund balance. However, we did not need to borrow from the contingency fund even though we continued to take in less money. Oleg is holding bills until their final due date.
4. Dekorra received a \$1400 donation from an estate. The donation has been placed in the general funds.
5. Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Bill Schleichert, seconded by Brad Simplot. Motion carried.

All Committee Reports:

1. At the September All Committee Night Bill Buckley handed out committee budgets for this year. Lyle needs all 2024 committee budgets to be submitted by October's All Committee Night, October 2.
2. The property committee reported that Wednesday, October 11, at 4:30 will be highway cleanup. Bill Buckley will be here to help get things set up.
3. Bill Buckley expects that we will have a Mutual Ministry Committee set up by the end of his presidency. The council president and the church pastor appointed this team of three persons. This committee serves as pastoral care for the church pastor.
4. Ellen reported from the Social Ministry that school, personal care kits, and quilts are completed and will be sent out. A new bulletin board is in the works. Donations from Christmas Angels will be used to help fund the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Old Business:

1. Pastor Sterling and Ellen Keller gave an update on the Positive Membership Team.
 - a. Inactive members are being contacted to see if they have a desire to continue membership. Several have been moved back to active membership. The team is meeting again next week and more information can be found in the October newsletter.
 - b. The Positive Membership Team's second phase will be updating Dekorra's database
 - c. Dekorra will be 155 years old next year and a new initiative called Project 155 is being created. More information will be forthcoming.
2. Bill Buckley updated the council on the Caring for Creation Project. Bill sent Seyla Lynk's document back to her with a recommendation to get more specific to Dekorra including possible dollar amounts.

New Business:

1. Annual meeting election review: Bill Buckley has called everybody whose term is ending at the end of the year. Three members of the executive committee now come up for election at the same time. Bill researched why that happened and the treasurer stayed on for one more year as no one else came forward. Motion made by Pastor Sterling for Lyle Hendrickson to fill the treasurer's office for 2023. Seconded by Ellen Keller. Motion carried. Motion by Pastor Sterling to appoint Lyle Hendrickson treasurer's term to run from 2023 through December 2025. Seconded by Al Bilse. Motion carried.
2. Motion by Pastor Sterling to make the secretary's position the fourth signature on the church checks. Seconded by Brad Simplot. Motion carried.
3. The Dekorra Lutheran Church wedding fee structure will be discussed at the October meeting. It has not been updated since 2017.

Larry Johnson moved to adjourn at 8:35, seconded by Ellen Keller. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

The next meeting will be on October 12, 2023 at church

Respectfully submitted, Joen Bilse

Dekorra Lutheran Church - Poynette WI
Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2023

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Page 1 of 1

Account # Account Name

YTD Balance

Assets

Church Operating Funds

100.001	Gen checking - Bank First	8,371.53
100.002	Money Market Savings-BOP(Restricted Asset)	68,885.66
Total Check & Savings Assets		\$77,257.19

Organization Funds

100.010	Dekorra Mission Endowment Fund(Restricted Asset)	91,376.89
100.040	Dekorra Men For Christ (Restricted Asset)	6,588.36
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		\$165,870.03
Total Assets		\$243,127.22

Liabilities

200.010	Accounts Payable/Vendors	(40,524.60)
210.001	941 Taxes Payable	1,784.76
210.002	State Taxes Payable	178.52
210.003	Miscellaneous Deductions	214.42
210.005	Pastor's Portico deductions	490.44
Total Liabilities		(\$37,856.46)

Fund Balances

300.001	General Balance	88,249.28
300.002	Missions Balance	(33,197.09)
General Operating Funds		\$55,052.19
320.001	Capital Improvement Balance(Restricted)	10,263.60
320.002	General Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	3,113.78
320.003	Building/Grounds Balance(Restricted)	7,912.67
320.004	Lowenhagen Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	492.96
320.005	Choir Balance(Restricted)	3,824.09
320.006	Thrivent Choice Dollars Balance(Restricted)	4,751.32
320.007	Misc. Contingency Balance(Partial Restriction)	13,005.25
332.011	Church Screens Fund Balance	1,864.45
332.013	Seminary Appeal Balance	20.16
Money Market Funds		\$45,248.28
300.010	Dekorra Mission Endowment Fund Balance(Restricted)	91,376.89
300.040	Dekorra Men For Christ Balance(Restricted)	6,588.36
300.060	Dekorra Women of the ELCA Balance(Restricted)	2,209.08
300.070	Mission 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	9,410.81
315.001	Memorial Fund Balance(Restricted)	17,674.38
Total Fund Balances		\$280,983.68
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances		\$243,127.22

Dekorra Lutheran Church - Poynette WI
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for August 2023

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE'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)	6,588.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,588.36
300.060	Dekorra Women of the ELCA Balance (Restricted)	2,200.93	437.02	428.87	0.00	2,209.08
300.070	Mission of Hope Balance	3,048.29	50.00	0.00	0.00	3,098.29
300.090	Mitchell Scholarship Fund Balance	50,052.78	0.00	0.00	(2,188.95)	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	5,736.31	555.00	0.00	3,119.50	9,410.81
315.001	Memorial Fund Balance(Restricted)	17,524.38	150.00	0.00	0.00	17,674.38
320.001	Capital Improvement Balance(Restricted)	10,261.44	2.16	0.00	0.00	10,263.60
320.002	General Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	3,113.17	0.61	0.00	0.00	3,113.78
320.003	Building/Grounds Balance(Restricted)	7,911.27	1.40	0.00	0.00	7,912.67
320.004	Lowenhagen Scholarship Balance (Restricted)	442.82	50.14	0.00	0.00	492.96
320.005	Choir Balance(Restricted)	3,823.49	0.60	0.00	0.00	3,824.09
320.006	Thrivent Choice Dollars Balance (Restricted)	4,750.31	1.01	0.00	0.00	4,751.32
320.007	Misc. Contingency Balance(Partial Restriction)	13,002.87	2.38	0.00	0.00	13,005.25
332.011	Church Screens Fund Balance	1,864.14	0.31	0.00	0.00	1,864.45
332.013	Seminary Appeal Balance	20.13	0.03	0.00	0.00	20.16
	Total	\$224,179.15	\$1,250.66	\$428.87	\$930.55	\$225,931.49



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

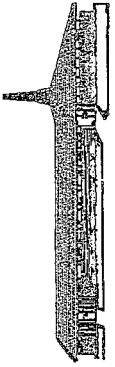
OR

In Honor of

Given by _____



Asta Blanchar	10/01	Sandy Ollhoff	10/17
Fayth Hesselberg	10/01	Paige Doherty	10/18
Kyle Knuteson	10/01	Noah Davis	10/19
Linda Malenke	10/04	Parker Olson	10/19
Soren Lynk	10/04	John Nelson	10/20
Josh Priske	10/04	Pam Cunningham	10/21
Dolores Sachtjen	10/04	Callie Kowald	10/21
Collin West	10/04	Adam Ray	10/21
Hailey West	10/04	Don Harmon	10/22
Brandon Hesselberg	10/05	Lyle Hendrickson	10/22
Nancy Delfosse	10/06	Sandy Holl	10/22
Sue Furniss	10/06	Linda Neuberger	10/22
Dawn Wendt	10/08	Sarah Rice	10/25
Nate Bahe	10/09	David Zitzner	10/25
Ted Koch	10/11	Christine Hendrickson	10/26
Charlie Schwoch	10/12	Ryli Theis	10/28
Cricket Hesselberg	10/14	Derek Wipperfurth	10/28
Hope Hesselberg	10/14	Barb Johnson	10/30
Vince Loniello	10/14	Brianna Strander	10/30
Zander Raedel	10/14	Morgan Erdahl	10/31
Sharon Zeimet	10/14		
Isabelle Morey	10/15		
Ken Becker	10/17		



October 2023

Dekorra Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School	2 Pastor's Day Off	3 9:30am Hospitality Committee Mtg 6:30pm All Committee Mtg	4 6:00pm Worship & Community Time	5 1:00pm Quilting	6 10:00am Pastoral Office Hours 8:00pm AA	7
8 9:00am Worship with Sunday School Singing 10:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Sunday School	9 <u>COLUMBUS DAY</u> Office Closed	10 Office Closed 1:00pm Joy Circle	11 Office Closed NO Worship "ALIVE" Youth Gathering Event	12 Office Closed 1:00pm Quilting 6:30pm Council Mtg	13 Office Closed NO Pastoral Office Hours 8:00pm AA	14 9:00am WELCA Quarterly Mtg
15 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School	16 Pastor at the SYNOD Fall Summit	17 Ken Becker's 100 Birth Day!!	18 9:30am Faith Bible Study 1:00pm Book Club 6:00pm Worship & Community Time	19 1:00pm Quilting	20 NO Pastoral Office Hours 12:00pm OWLS 8:00pm AA	21
22 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School	23 Pastor's Day Off <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	24	25 6:00pm Worship & Community Time	26 1:00pm Quilting	27 9:30am Worship Committee Mtg 10:00am Pastoral Office Hours 8:00pm AA	28
29 Reformation Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School (Halloween Event)	30 Pastor's Day Off <u>Newsletter Mailing</u>	31 <u>HALLOWEEN</u>	1	2 9:00am Christian Ed Mtg	3	4 WELCA Bake Sale & Youth Quilt Raffle

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

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

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Oct 1	9:00am	Worship & Sunday School
Oct 3	6:30pm	All Committee Meeting
Oct 4	6:00pm	Worship & Community Time
Oct 8	9:00am	Worship, Coffee Hour & Sunday School
Oct 9		COLUMBUS DAY
Oct 11		NO Worship "ALIVE" Youth Gathering
Oct 12	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Oct 15	9:00am	Worship & Sunday School
Oct 17		Ken Becker's 100 th Birth Day!
Oct 18	6:00pm	Worship & Community Time
Oct 22	9:00am	Worship & Sunday School
Oct 25	6:00pm	Worship & Community Time
Oct 29	9:00am	REFORMATION SUNDAY Worship & Sunday School
Oct 30		Newsletter Mailing
Oct 31		HALLOWEEN