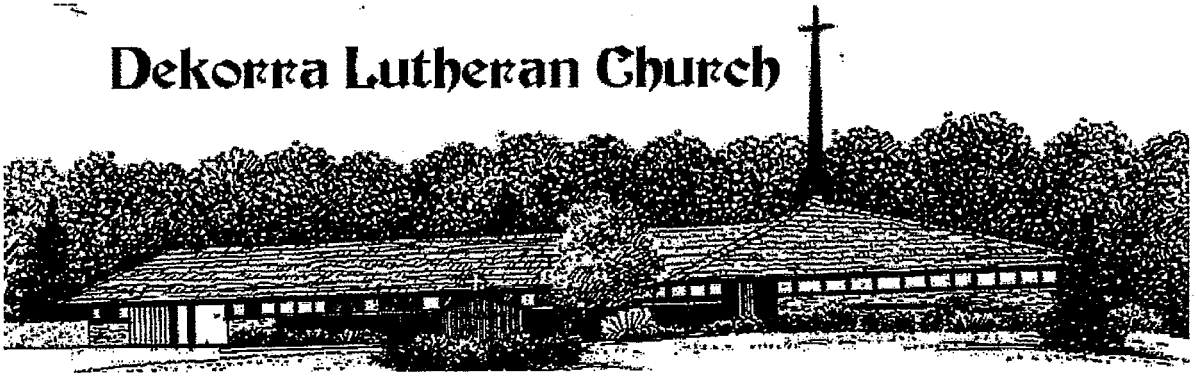


Dekorra Lutheran Church



Phone: (608) 635-7200 * E-Mail: dekorra@dekorralutheran.org
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Sterling Lynk, Pastor * E-Mail: pastorsterling@dekorralutheran.org

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 28, 2024

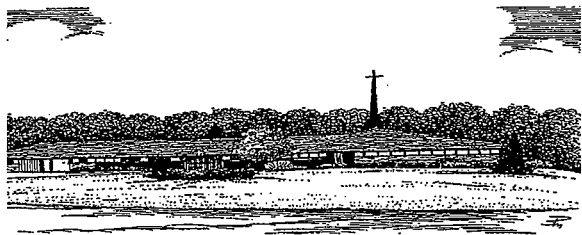
In accordance with our Constitution, the Dekorra Lutheran Church Council has set January 28, 2024, as the date for our Annual Meeting. We will begin at 10:00 am following the worship service.

We have a lot of business to complete and decisions to make, including the election of the Council Members, President, and Vice-President.

We also will need to approve a new budget for 2024. The full agenda will be part of the Annual Report that will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Please plan to participate in this important decision-making meeting for Dekorra Lutheran Church.





Dekorra Lutheran Church

N3099 Smith Road, Poynette, WI 53955

Ph: (608) 635-7200

E-Mail: dekorra@dekorralutheran.org

Pastor: Sterling Lynk

January 2024 Newsletter

While [Joseph and Mary] were [in Bethlehem], the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no place in the guest room.

- **Luke 2:6-7 (NRSVUE)**

[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd, he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

- **Luke 19:1-10 (NRSVUE)**

Hello You,

Since Advent started earlier this month, one question has taken up all of the space in my brain. That question is, "How has God made room for me?"

I cannot take credit for the question eating my brain. It shows up often in the preparation materials for the **How Does a Weary World Rejoice?** worship theme. It even shows up during worship itself in the invitation to communion. In the last few weeks, we have gotten invited to the meal with words like these:

"Jesus was born into a world that told him right away, "There's no room for you here." Mary and Joseph were turned away from every door, so Jesus was born in a stable instead of a house. He was laid in a manger instead of a crib. Friends, today you will not be turned

away, because Jesus spent the rest of his life making room. He made room for tax collectors and children. He made room for five thousand people to sit down and eat together. He made room for Samaritan women, Jews, and Gentiles. He made room for the sick, for the outcast, for the unclean. Jesus was always pulling up a seat, saving space, making room for people, and he has made room for you."

I experience this bit of liturgy with the wonder of "He has made room for me? Is that a promise? If it is, then that is definitely good news! Whoohooo!" And, it makes me think about the different ways my God and my Savior have done just that.

One of the things I like to do during our annual middle school lock-ins is to ask the young adults a God-question. The lock-in on December 15th was no different. I bet you can guess the question I asked them.

Of course, I asked them "How has God made room for you?"

They shared with me so many ways God has made a place for them, and I will share with you what they said this year at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

So, it is now time for me to ask you a God question. Our God has made room for you. That is a promise. But, can you think of ways our God has done that for you?

I do know one thing. Our God has made a lot of room for the Jesus-people here at Dekorra Lutheran Church. 155 years' worth of room, that is how much room!

And, that is a lot of room. That is a lot of people fed and housed and clothed. That is a lot of people who have had Jesus shared with them. That is a lot of fellowship and friendship. That is a lot of worship music and stewardship. That is just a lot.

I pray there is more coming. I hope there is more coming. I believe there is more coming. So, let's celebrate the room made for us as individuals and as a community. Our first part is right away on January 7th, with our first monthly birthday celebrations both during worship and after.

Peace,

+Sterling

December 19, 2023

P.S. – Please remember, to be considered a voting member of this community at our annual meeting, you must have given a gift of record (either financial, in-kind or time/talent) and taken part in Holy Communion in 2023. Your last chance to commune in 2023 and complete communion cards will be December 24th and 31st. There are also forms to record non-financial gifts outside of the office. Our annual meeting is on January 28, 2024, during worship.

P.P.S. – Thank you to you generous folks for the Christmas cards and gifts. Never expected but always appreciated! Thank you, thank you. There are no pics of me with the gifts because I am waiting to open them with my clan during our Christmas Eve family time.

P.P.P.S. – Lent starts fairly early this year so Lenten planning starts early this year also. If you want to help our young adults with Lenten worship planning, especially for our Wednesday experiences, please show up at 6:00 pm on January 17th.

P.P.P.P.S. – This will be the last post-script this month. I just want to say thank you to those of you who purchased an angel in memory of Aubrey. When her parents surprised us a couple of weeks ago, my angels were not up yet, but Aubrey's name was there for them.

From Your Council President:

Happy New Year!!!!!!! I must admit it is a lot weird writing my January article when we haven't even gotten through the Christmas Holidays. As I reflect on 2023 one word pops to mind and that is "normal". I guess as normal as things can get, which simply means no major crises. I pray that all of our lives are getting into a more normal flow again "post covid"? I really felt that this year here at DLC seemed more "normal" and had a better flow than the last 3 years for sure. Other than a slow decrease in weekly giving, which we need to be diligent in addressing in 2024, I felt DLC was on a good roll. Your financial and time support will once again be paramount if DLC is to maintain staff, property, and the many mission projects we so graciously support. Turning 155 years old will be something to celebrate, especially in the nationwide church climate we are currently experiencing. Everyone should have received a "Tithe Pledge Form", I know I received mine recently. Please take some serious time to discern the pledge of time and money for 2024 and return the completed form. DLC members have historically been extremely generous with their financial and time commitments and I pray that continues.

Did you attend the Poynette Area Winter Festival Parade on December 2? If not, you missed the infamous DLC float! The float probably looked like a couple of rookie float builders put it together in a shed somewhere. Well, guess what? That is exactly what happened! A big thanks to Paul Knuteson who originally suggested this idea and donated his lights, recycled lumber, and the banners. Bob Acker and yours truly who masterminded the construction of the float. Thanks also to Doherty Trucking who donated the straw bales which the choir sat upon. A special thanks to those of you who walked the route handing out candy and brochures while trying to keep up with a fast-moving float! Hey, I just followed the float in front of me! Most of all thank you to the choir for bringing the sounds of the season to life on a really pleasant winter evening. We had approximately 20 members involved with this project and I believe it got DLC some well-deserved exposure in the Poynette community. Thanks again everyone for making this new project a success and perhaps a tradition.

Please come to worship on January 28 and stick around for the annual meeting. A lot of members have put a big effort in preparation for this meeting and we need you present to discuss and vote on a number of items including a new president, hint, hint! I really encourage you to read the annual report. This document contains an incredible summary of all that goes on here at DLC. As involved as I am here at DLC, I am always humbled by how much mission is accomplished annually here and the annual report sums it up beautifully. A special thanks to Oleg for all the stress he endured during December and what a fantastic job he did. Thank you, Oleg!!!!

It has become a tradition of mine that I include my outdoor report. For those who dislike this part of my article, there is good news. You only have to endure one more article and then your new president can write whatever they choose. I have enjoyed sharing my outdoor adventures with you. The sole purpose of sharing my experiences is to invite all of you to enjoy the outdoors as much as I have, and do. The more time I have spent outdoors, both working and playing, the greater my appreciation of God's creation has become. So I'll say it again. Take time to listen to the birds, smell a flower, or look across the landscape that God has placed before you. It is truly a miracle.

God Bless You Always,
Bill Buckley

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

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 17year 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).

Lorraine Knuteson is Retiring: After 44 years of dedicated service to the Altar Guild at Dekorra Lorraine is passing on the responsibilities to Dee Sachtjen as the new Altar Guild Chairman. Please stop for cake and coffee after church on Sunday, January 21st to celebrate Lorraine's retirement and thank her for service, plus you can wish her a Happy 94th Birthday which she will be celebrating on January 27th.

Dekorra Lutheran Scholarships Available Soon! The Steuer-Mitchell Perpetual Education Fund has been established at Dekorra Lutheran Church (DLC) through a generous gift by the estate of Robert E. Mitchell. Two scholarships are available this year. The amount is determined by the growth of the fund and changes every year.

The scholarship recipient(s) shall be persons who have demonstrated exemplary personal character, have been diligent in their academic studies, and have a need for this financial assistance in order to feasibly pursue a post high school course of study. We hope to award a scholarship to both a Lodi and a Poynette student. Adults returning to school may also apply.

Watch future newsletters and bulletins for more information on this great opportunity! In the meantime, if you have questions, please reach out to Karen Bender at bender4@centurytel.net.

Sunday School Sunday School will resume on Jan 7th with a regular schedule. There will not be singing time in the sanctuary on Jan 28 to accommodate the annual meeting.

Faith Bible Study is canceled on December 20th. We will resume on January 17th at 9:30 am.

WELCA NEWS

****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!

Annual Meeting In accordance with our Constitution, the Dekorra Lutheran Church Council has set January 28, 2024, is the date for our Annual Meeting. We will begin at 10:00 am following the worship service.

DLC Book Club

Discussing + Listening + Contemplating

DLC Book Club – Wednesday, January 17th at 1:00pm

The DLC Book Club is excited to begin its eighth year of discussion and fellowship! Please join us to discuss our first selection of the year, *Abide With Me*, by Elizabeth Strout. In prose incandescent and artful, Elizabeth Strout draws readers into the details of ordinary life in a way that makes it extraordinary. All is considered life, love, God, and community within these pages, and all is made new by this writer's boundless compassion and graceful prose.

In the small town of West Annett, Maine, a minister struggles to regain his calling, his family, and his happiness in the wake of profound loss. At the same time, the community he has served so charismatically must come to terms with its own strengths and failings, faith and hypocrisy, loyalty and abandonment when a dark secret is revealed. Tyler Caskey has come to love West Annett, "just up the road" from where he was born. The short, brilliant summers and the sharp, piercing winters fill him with awe as does his congregation, full of good people who seek his guidance and listen earnestly as he preaches. But after suffering a terrible loss, Tyler finds it hard to return to himself as he once was. He hasn't had The Feeling that God is all around him, in the beauty of the world for quite some time. He struggles to find the right words in his sermons and in his conversations with those facing crises of their own and to bring his five-year-old daughter, Katherine, out of the silence she has observed in the wake of the family's tragedy. A congregation that had once been patient and kind during Tyler's grief now questions his leadership and propriety. In the kitchens, classrooms, offices, and stores of the village, anger, and gossip have started to swirl. And in Tyler's darkest hour, a startling discovery will test his congregation's humanity and his own will to endure the kinds of trials that sooner or later test us all.

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

BRUNCH AND A MOVIE

Who: Everyone is invited!

What: Brunch and watching *To Kill a Mockingbird*

(November's book club choice)

When: Sunday, January 21st after church

Where: Fellowship Hall

Why: Great food and great fellowship!

ATTENTION OWLS We will **not** be gathering in January but you are encouraged to attend the Chile Supper on Sunday, Jan. 14 from 4:00 – 7:00 and the Brunch on Jan. 21st.

A great big thank you from Hope House for all your donations. They were most grateful.

See you on February 16, 2024.

Dekorra Lutheran Church

December 2023 Committee Reports

Christian Education

Our next scheduled meeting will be Dec 28 at 9 AM

Committee Attendance: Julie Clark, Ardyce Piehl, Ellen Woodward, Ruth Kohlmeyer, Sheila Gempeler.

DLC Book Club/Library

- ✓ Plan for Movie and Brunch, Book Club activity for Celebrate 155.
 - Date: Jan 21, Time: after church Movie: *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
 - Food: French toast, Judy. Egg/hashbrown casseroles, Julie and Sheila. Egg/bread casseroles, Sheila. Fruit, Ruth. Coffee Cake, Ardyce
- ✓ We chose selections for 2024!!
 - January 17, *Abide with Me*, Elizabeth Strout, copies arriving soon
 - February 21, *Plain Truth* copies in the library
 - 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
 - There is a corresponding movie available
 - November 20, *Kitchen Front*, Jennifer Ryan
 - December 11, *A Redbird Christmas*, Fannie Flagg
- ✓ Book Club 2023 continues to meet at 1 PM on the following days.
 - December 27, *The Deal of a Lifetime*.
 -

Sunday School - 4K-5th grades.

- ✓ Continue collecting funds for new water wells.
- ✓ Curriculum: Beginning work on the January 2024 curriculum. Mandy has chosen to teach the 10 commandments from Luther's Small Catechism for Kids. The younger classes will study Bible stories from the New Testament.
- ✓ Merry Seng is working on the Christmas skit for Dec 17, 2023.
 - We currently have Dave and Robin K, and Mandy and Kyle Paskey as skit participants. We will be recruiting 2 confirmation students also.
- ✓ New items or plans for 2024 on theme **Year 155 Celebration**

Middle and High School.

- ✓ Quilt Raffle tickets continue to be sold.
- ✓ Lock-In, Christmas caroling activity on Dec. 15th
- ✓ The raffle drawing was moved to Dec 17 after the program.
- ✓ Looking forward to the Youth Convention in New Orleans – in July 2024!

Adult Education

- ✓ **OWLS** will have Christmas lunch out.
- ✓ Chosen DVD -- Dates to be determined.

Women's Retreat set for April 20, 2024, Christian Ed Activity for Celebrate 155

- ✓ Garden theme based on the devotional, "Playing in the Dirt" and utilizing *God's Word* for Gardeners Bible.
 - Ellen will contact possible devotion/bible study speaker
 - Ellen working on ideas to decorate the cover as an activity during the retreat.
 - Ardyce presented ideas for the "Mighty Micro Greens" activity.
- ✓ **Continue Brainstorming notes:** activities, decorations, and timeline.
 - Time, 9 AM -2PM, beginning with coffee, treat, and greet.
 - Discussed cost to participants—want to stay around \$20.
 - Lunch Menu: Salad Bar w/microgreen selection, soup, and dessert.
 - Morning coffee: pastry selections
- ✓ Garden theme decorations? Thoughts on speakers, music, centering prayer.
- ✓ Discuss Communication for Retreat?
 - Facebook, posters, newsletter, registration by email with fee by mail or paid to one of the committee members.

Worship

December 2023 Meeting Minutes Met on November 24, 2023

In attendance: Judy Brownrigg, Sharon Kampen, Diane Buckley, Dee Sachtjen, Ann Carncross, Sue Poznanski

Absent: Kathy Statz, Kathy Burhop, Marj Weingandt

Diane reported on the last All Committee meeting. Their main concerns were ideas for the celebration of our church's 155th Anniversary. They also discussed the church's budget - the money we have and the best usage of that money. It was also suggested that we have a coffee hour each month to celebrate parishioners whose birthdays are that month.

Sharon will speak with Mary Thompson and Ellen Keller to determine which date would best be used to honor Lorraine's years of service to the Altar Guild. The two dates under discussion are January 7 and January 21. We will finalize plans for her retirement at our next meeting. We discussed the possibility of honoring Margo Holzman's 55 years of quilting here at Dekorra.

Pastor Sterling would like the youth to be more involved in Wednesday's Lenten services. Our recommendation is that the confirmands, their coordinators, and their mentors take charge of the planning and implementation of those Wednesday night services. Judy will take this recommendation to the next Council meeting. In addition to the work Merry Seng does with the children on Sunday mornings, she will also be playing for Wednesday evening services.

Since Christmas Eve falls on the 4th Sunday in Advent this year, the focus of the service will be on Advent in the morning service and the celebration of Christmas in the evening. Pastor Sterling will pick the songs for the morning service and the choir will sing for the evening service.

Sharon is still looking for a few volunteers for Blue Christmas and Christmas Day services. Christmas Day service will be a hymn singing of Christmas songs. We believe Pastor Sterling is going to select the songs to be sung. Ann will check with him to be sure

Sharon spoke with Lyle about music licensing and he said that the money for that comes out of another place in the church budget, not Worship. Sharon did have our budget increased to \$300 since everything has gone up in price. We have begun using battery-operated candles with each service and the cost of batteries has also impacted the budget. There is a choir fund for replacement

December 2023

of the choir robes but since we no longer use choir robes, we decided to keep the money set aside for future purposes.

Dee will be gone from the end of December until March or April to help her son and his family. She has taken notes on everything that she has been taught by Lorraine and intends to write it all down, step by step. That record will be kept in the sacristy for future use.

The altar legs are looking a little shabby. This should be looked at and attended to by the Property Committee.

At our next meeting, we will review the All Saints and Thankoffering services. We will also discuss the yearly calendar. We would like to have a blessing of the bikes. We might want to consider having a bicycle ride and motorcycle ride as part of the event. We would also like to consider having a special day for the blessing of the pets. We need to determine if these blessings should be incorporated into existing services or if they should be held as separate events. We hope to hold 2 hymn songs next year - one in spring and one in fall. We will discuss this more next month.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, December 29th at 9:00 AM.

Hospitality

1. We met on Tuesday, December 5, at 9:30. Ruth led us in a short devotion.
2. Assembled Christmas gift bags for the people we visit and receive communion.
3. Nine people were visited and received communion in November.
4. Christmas gift bags were also given to Oleg and Pastor Sterling in appreciation for all they do.

Membership Review Team

Meeting Date/Time: December 7, 2023, 2:00 pm

Completed Project List:

- ✓ Update the Official Membership List and Look into Individuals Identified by Team (Sterling)
- ✓ See Who on Council and Team Has Connections to the 46 Individuals w/No communion or Giving Record in More Than Three Years.
- ✓ Letters Sent and Calls Made to Inactive Members
- ✓ Contact has attempted to be made to all members made inactive.
- ✓ Reach Out to Members in Database to Update and Collecting Missing Information. Launch "The Lost Sheep Project".

Current Project List:

• Phase 1 Projects

- ✓ Change to Database Practices: Create Different Classes of "Active" People in Data (i.e. Newsletter "Active", Envelope "Active", etc.). (Oleg)
 - **8/29 Update:** We met to begin the review of policies, practices, and procedures. I just got my hands on what we have and church-wide expectations. Will schedule a follow-up to outline changes, hopefully before the next council meeting. Anything, Oleg and I create probably should get looked at by the full executive committee.
- ✓ Change to Database Practices: Moved Children in Household Records to Their Own Records at Confirmation or Age 18, Whichever Happens First (Oleg)
 - **8/29 Update:** We met to begin the review of policies, practices, and procedures. I just got my hands on what we have and church-wide expectations. Will schedule a follow-up to outline changes, hopefully before the next council meeting. Anything, Oleg and I create probably should get looked at by the full executive committee.

- Phase 2 Projects

- ✓ Explore Why 67 Individuals on the Contact List are Not Coming to DLC Right Now (Sterling)
 - **11/8 Update:** Finished reaching out to folks made inactive. Have not gotten a hold of anyone since September. Had some quality conversations with many on the “pastoral attention” list, and am still working through that.
- ✓ Reach Out to Members in Database to Update and Collecting Missing Information. Launch “The Lost Sheep Project”. (Sterling)
 - **12/6 Update:** This is done and the drawing for gift cards was on Sunday. One technical task for the 12/7/23 meeting is looking over the information forms.

- Phase 3 Projects

- ✓ Stewardship Program to Support the Spiritual Practices of Giving (Time, Talent, Treasure) and Support the Finance Team in Creating a Budget (Ellen)
 - **12/6 Update:** Pledge forms have been sent with a January 21st deadline. Less of a program that supports a spiritual practice and more of an “oh-no-we-have-been-in-negative-cashflow-for-too-long” thing. If this team stays together as the official stewardship committee, then it can take up something more programmatic.
- ✓ Launch Monthly “Birthday Sundays” Where We Have Cake, and Celebrate Birthdays and Other Significant Events (Anniversaries, etc.) in the Lives of Our Members Both During and After Worship. Why? Because we Turn 155 This Year. (Unassigned)
 - **12/6 Update:** A technical task for the 12/7/23 meeting is finalizing the invitation postcard, setting the mailing schedule, and communicating that to Oleg and the ministers implementing the birthday months.
 - Also, please see an email about expanding this to ministries.

Phase 4 Projects

- ✓ Create Special Categories for People in the Database and Ministries/Programs Around Those (i.e. a deceased members list “Saints of DLC”, a “Friends of DLC” program for non-members/former members, etc.). (Unassigned)

Next Meeting:

Notes:

Dekorra Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Joen Bilse to approve the agenda, seconded by Bill Priske. Motion carried.

Approval of November 30, 2023, Council Minutes: Motion by Bill Buckley to approve the minutes, seconded by Paul Knuteson. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: (Sterling Lynk)

1. Pastor Sterling reported that there will be two different sermons on December 24. The 9:00 service will have a sermon for Advent. The 4:00 Christmas Eve Service will have a sermon on the nativity.

President's Report:

1. Bill has been working on the Annual Report and Agenda for the Annual Meeting. He will send the agenda to the executive committee for their okay.
2. DLC has again received the Poynette Community Church for 2023. The church will end up in the Poynette Business Hall of Fame. Bill ordered a plaque for DLC to display and he has graciously paid for it.

Treasurer's Report:

1. The checkbook balance on November 30, 2023, was \$3,364.46.
2. On December 1, \$5,000 was borrowed from the contingency fund to pay our salaries and bills.
3. Last Sunday Lyle made a plea in church regarding our low offerings. He will put a paragraph in next Sunday's bulletin as well.
4. Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Bill Priske, seconded by Paul Knuteson. Motion carried.

All Committee Reports:

1. Stewardship. Treasurer Lyle suggested bringing back the cardboard Lenten Folders. Motion made to order 200 \$40 Lenter Folders by Pastor Sterling, seconded by Joen Bilse. These will be sent out with the February Newsletter and available on a table in the church sanctuary.

Old Business:

1. Positive Membership Team Update. There was a good return response to the questionnaire that was sent out. The drawing was held in the church.
2. The Worship Team wants to celebrate ministries in 2024.
3. Ellen is looking for volunteers to lead the birthday celebrations planned for the first Sunday of each month. Oleg has sent out invites for January birthdays.
4. Bill Buckley reported that the Caring for Creation Project was sent to the Synod. Seyla Lynk will attend our January meeting and Bill will send a copy of the project to council members via email.

New Business:

1. The council discussed and reviewed sections 515.001-580.001 of the 2024 church budget. The cash flow problem of monthly synod giving was discussed. We will continue as in the past and if changes need to be made, they will be dealt with at that time. Motion made to present the DLC 2024 budget to the congregation at the annual meeting by Bill Priske, seconded by Ellen Keller. Motion passed. We have a responsible budget to present to the congregation.

Lyle Hendrickson moved to adjourn at 7:30, seconded by Joen Bilse. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

The next meeting will be January 11, 2024

Respectfully submitted, Joen Bilse

Dekorra Lutheran Church - Poynette WI
Summary of Cash Activity for 11/01/2023 thru 11/30/2023

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Page 1 of 1

Asset Account: 100.001 - Gen checking - Bank First

Cash Balance as of 11/01/2023(at the beginning of the day)	\$7,372.67
Add Transactions From:	
Income	\$0.00
Donations	\$15,690.00
Transfers (debit)	\$0.00
Journal Entries (debit)	\$0.00
AR Collections (debit)	\$0.00
Total Additions	\$15,690.00
Subtract Transactions From:	
Payments	\$5,674.85
Payroll	\$11,376.10
Transfers (credit)	\$2,640.00
Journal Entries (credit)	\$7.27
Total Subtractions	\$19,698.22
Cash Balance as of 11/30/2023(at the end of the day)	\$3,364.45

Note from the Treasurer: I have very awesome news to share about the Youth & Family Account and the recent fundraising events that have put the fund over their \$15,000 goal. It is truly remarkable that the funds have been raised and it will take the pressure off the team of dedicated people who have worked very hard to reach this goal. Congratulations on all your work.

Here is the current Youth & Family fund balance with the money raised:

Youth Account	\$2,461.57	
Youth & Family Account	\$9,840.81	
Quilt Raffle	\$802.00	
Basket/Prize Fundraiser	\$960.00	
Christmas Angels	\$800.00	
Thrivent Matching Funds (Angels)	\$800.00	Total: \$15,664.38
Expense for food for Lock-In	\$132.68	Total: \$15,531.70

During the next few days, the Youth Account and Youth & Family Account will be merged to create one Youth & Family Account. Now our fundraising efforts need to focus on our general fund which needs everyone's attention. I can't stress enough the importance of supporting Dekorra Lutheran Church with your weekly giving towards our general fund. Although we have seen some increase on the first two Sundays of December this past Sunday's offering didn't meet our goal. We now need to focus our fundraising efforts on our church operations. If you have any ideas, please feel free to contact me or any other church council member. Thank you for your continued support and have a very Merry Christmas!

Lyle Hendrickson, Treasurer

Dekorra Lutheran Church - Poyette WI
Balance Sheet as of November 30, 2023

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
Assets		
<i>Church Operating Funds</i>		
100.001	Gen checking - Bank First	3,364.45
100.002	Money Market Savings-BOP(Restricted Asset)	71,194.04
	Total Check & Savings Assets	\$74,558.49
<i>Organization Funds</i>		
100.010	Dekorra Mission Endowment Fund(Restricted Asset)	85,826.86
100.040	Dekorra Men For Christ (Restricted Asset)	6,541.10
100.090	Mitchell Scholarship Fund (Restricted)	48,652.98
100.100	Dekorra Lutheran Youth Group(Restricted Asset)	2,461.57
115.080	Memorial Fund (Restricted Asset)	16,833.03
	Total Organization Accounts	\$160,315.54
	Total Assets	\$234,874.03
<i>Liabilities</i>		
200.010	<i>Accounts Payable/Vendors</i>	(41,174.60)
210.001	941 Taxes Payable	2,204.94
210.002	State Taxes Payable	225.65
210.003	Miscellaneous Deductions	214.42
210.005	Pastor's Portico deductions	490.44
	Total Liabilities	(\$38,039.15)
<i>Fund Balances</i>		
300.001	General Balance	81,222.50
300.002	Missions Balance	(30,844.70)
	General Operating Funds	\$50,377.80
320.001	Capital Improvement Balance(Restricted)	10,269.68
320.002	General Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	3,115.60
320.003	Building/Grounds Balance(Restricted)	7,917.05
320.004	Lowenhagen Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	1,243.58
320.005	Choir Balance(Restricted)	3,826.07
320.006	Thrivent Choice Dollars Balance(Restricted)	4,754.31
320.007	Misc. Contingency Balance(Partial Restriction)	13,061.99
332.011	Church Screens Fund Balance	1,885.36
332.013	Seminary Appeal Balance	20.24
	Money Market Funds	\$46,093.88
300.010	Dekorra Mission Endowment Fund Balance(Restricted)	85,826.86
300.040	Dekorra Men For Christ Balance(Restricted)	6,541.10
300.060	Dekorra Women of the ELCA Balance(Restricted)	3,871.86
300.070	Mission of Hope Balance	3,098.29
300.090	Mitchell Scholarship Fund Balance	48,652.98
305.001	Youth Fund Balance(Restricted)	2,461.57
305.015	Youth & Family Fund Balance	9,210.81
315.001	Memorial Fund Balance(Restricted)	16,778.03
	Total Fund Balances	\$272,913.18
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$234,874.03

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

Tuesday, December 12, 2023						Page 1 of 1
Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
300.010	Dekorra Mission Endowment Fund Balance(Restricted)	85,826.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	85,826.86
300.040	Dekorra Men For Christ Balance (Restricted)	6,541.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,541.10
300.060	Dekorra Women of the ELCA Balance (Restricted)	3,871.86	54.00	0.00	0.00	3,925.86
300.070	Mission of Hope Balance	3,098.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,098.29
300.090	Mitchell Scholarship Fund Balance	48,652.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	48,652.98
305.001	Youth Fund Balance(Restricted)	2,461.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,461.57
305.015	Youth & Family Fund Balance	9,210.81	500.00	0.00	0.00	9,710.81
315.001	Memorial Fund Balance(Restricted)	16,778.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,778.03
320.001	Capital Improvement Balance(Restricted)	10,269.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,269.68
320.002	General Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	3,115.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,115.60
320.003	Building/Grounds Balance(Restricted)	7,917.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,917.05
320.004	Lowenhagen Scholarship Balance (Restricted)	1,243.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,243.58
320.005	Choir Balance(Restricted)	3,826.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,826.07
320.006	Thrivent Choice Dollars Balance (Restricted)	4,754.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,754.31
320.007	Misc. Contingency Balance(Partial Restriction)	13,061.99	0.00	0.00	(5,000.00)	8,061.99
332.011	Church Screens Fund Balance	1,885.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,885.36
332.013	Seminary Appeal Balance	20.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.24
	Total	\$222,535.38	\$554.00	\$0.00	(\$5,000.00)	\$218,089.38

Serving our Lord January 2024

Date	Time	Assistant Minister	Reading Minister	Communion Minister	Greeters	Sanctuary Ushers	Parking Lot Ushers	Acolytes	Video Minister
1/3	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED							
1/7	9:00 AM	Barb Verbitsky	Ellen Keller	Sharon Kampen	Dick & Carol	Larry & Sheila	None	Need Help	Bill Schleichert
1/10	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED							
1/14	9:00 AM	Merry Seng	Judy Brownrigg	At Altar Rail	Karen & Kristine	Bill Priske &	None	Need Help	Shelley Roelke
1/17	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED							
1/21	9:00 AM	Kristine Millard	Rose Holerud	Robin Kinnunen	Florence Schmuclach	Brad & Sara	None	Need Help	Bill Buckley
1/24	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED							
1/28	9:00 AM	Bill Schleichert	Sheila Gempeler	Karen Bender & Diane Buckley	Sharon Kampen & Bev Trygstad	Harry & Peggy Benson	None	Need Help	Paul Knuteson
1/31	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED							
2/4	9:00 AM	Sue Poznanski	Bill Buckley	Kristine Millard	Ruth Kohlmeyer & Mary Thompson	Mike & Ellen Keller	None	Need Help	Jerry Carncross
2/7	6:00 PM	TO BE SCHEDULED							

Cantor/Music: 1/3 Merry Seng; 1/7 Kyle Knuteson; 1/10 Merry Seng; 1/14 Barb Verbitsky; 1/17 Merry Seng; 1/21 Merry Seng; 1/28 Kyle Knuteson; 1/31 Merry Seng; 2/4 TBS; 2/7 Merry Seng

Stewardship: 1/3 None; 1/7 Sharon Kampen & Holly Priske; 1/10 None; 1/14 Sherri Knuteson & Sheri Birchler; 1/17 None; 1/21 Phil & Vicki Nugier; 1/24 None; 1/28 Sharon Kampen & Holly Priske; 1/31 None; 2/4 Sherri Knuteson & Sheri Birchler; 2/7 None;

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

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

In Honor Of

Oleg Rudnytsky Family
Our Grandchildren: Samantha, Summer, Kristopher, Joshua,
Isaiah & Hunter
Caden & Taya Welling-Grandchildren

Given By

Randy & Rose Ann McNicol
Grandma & Papa Benson
Asta Blanchar

In Loving Memory Of

My Husband Don
My loved ones who have passed
Merlin Holerud (My Husband)
Ken & Delila Knuteson
Our Mother/Grandmother Helen Bober-Keller
Our Parents / Grandparents Gilbert & Alice Knuteson

Andrew and Michael Westegard
Our Parents
Delores Small
Gary & Scott Schumann
My Husband Mike
John Weingandt

Given By

Lorraine Knuteson
Dolores Sachtjen
Rose Holerud
Paul Knuteson
Mike & Ellen Keller Family
Mike & Ellen Keller Family,
Darryl & Sherri Lynn Knuteson Family
Natalie and Terry Westegard
Al & Joen Bilse
Don Small
Glenna Schumann
Sue Poznanski
Marj Weingandt

Christmas Angels

In Honor of...

Dekorra Leadership Team
Our Special Mothers Lois & Madeline
Diane Gedatus, Brenda Scherado, Vicky Womack –Goddaughters
Sierra Hirsch, Kira Hirsch, Katie Charlebois
Our Children': Jenny & Tim, Jeff & Jenny and Jaime
Our Grandchildren: Zona, Brooklyn, Minnie & Liam
Our Grandchildren: Torin, Margaret Ruth & Jack Hanson
Our Aunt Beverly Liston
Our Sister, Brother's, and In-Laws
My Former Secret Sisters: Kathy, Jody, Sheri, Mary, Kim, Janet,
Tricia & Lyndsay
The Stewardship Committee: Phil, Vicki, Holly, Jeff, Sherri K.,
Paul K., Danyelle, Judy & Mary, Sheri B.
Cashton, Ron Nelson, Terry Westegard, Holly Clanton
Our United States Veterans
Faith Circle: Lois Buckley, Lorraine Van Etten, Diane Buckley, Kathy Burhop,
Carol Johnston
Music: Ann Carncross, Oleg R., Sasha R., Merry Seng and Choir Members.
Pastor Sterling
Altar Guild: Dee Sachtjen and Members.
Quilters: Karen Millard, Dee Sachtjen, Bev Acker, Donna Schwoch, Rose Holerud,
Michelle Fitzgerald, Jan Haupt, Kathy Burhop, Ann Carncross.
Social Ministry: Natalie Westegard, Ellen Keller, Kathy Pederson, Bev Trygstad.
Lorraine Van Etten
Howard & Dorothy Schleichert, Chap & Margaret Chaplin
Sela & Soren Lynk

In Memory of...

My Husband Joe Delfosse, My Parents Gilbert & Delores Knuteson
Grandpa Benesh
Ken & Delila Knuteson
Grandpa & Grandma Uecker
Parents, Grandparents of the Knuteson-Keller Families &
All the Others Saints in Heaven
Clayton & Flora Amidon
Our Parents
Bob Hamann
Our Parents
Richard Sachtjen, Scott Sachtjen, Jordyn Sachtjen
Parents- Alfred & Marie Langeland
Dottie Schleichert, Paul Schleichert
Dan Van Etten, Alma Van Etten, Steve Dewey, Florence Dewey,
Lewis Dewey, Marie Fabrizius, and all the victims of mass shootings
Parents: Lawrence & Gertie Holzman, Esther Dibble, Aubrey Johnson,
Siblings: Harold, Joan, Wally, Sandra, Bob. Ervin & Margaret Schutz.
Andrew and Michael Westegard
The Braun Family and Leander Family
Our Parents: Hilbert & Lois Buchholz, Rodney & Joanne Kampen
Our Godparents & Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles
Sharon's Sister Ruth Ann Jones & Our Cousin Edward Kampen
Former Stewardship Committee Member: Aubrey Johnson
My Former Secret Sisters: June Fisk & Loretta Hoversten
Aubrey Johnson
John Weingandt

Given By...

Bill & Diane Buckley
Rose Holerud
Grandma Poznanski
Mom & Dad Benson
Bill & Kathy Statz
Lynn & Claudine Hanson

Sharon & Gene Kampen

Sharon Kampen

Sharon Kampen
Natalie Westegard
The Brauns

Peter & Margo Holzman
Laurie & Ron Fabrizius
William Schleichert
Sterling Lynk

Given By...

Nancy Delfosse
Abby Simplot & Garret Schreiber
Paul Knuteson
Ben Simplot

Mike & Ellen Keller
Janice & Bill Haupt
Monte & Mary Thompson
Sheryl, Richie, Chelsea, Karsyn, Lucie
Al & Joen Bilse
Dolores Sachtjen
Asta Blanchar
William Schleichert

Laurie & Ron Fabrizius

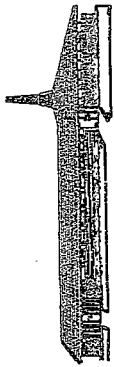
Peter & Margo Holzman
Natalie Westegard
Rich & Doris Braun

Sharon & Gene Kampen

Sharon Kampen
Sterling Lynk
Marj Weingandt



Kris Koch	01/01	Gordy Beyer	01/16
Patricia Geeslin	01/04	Brad Simplot	01/17
Mary Priem-Hanko	01/04	Jane Manke	01/17
Alex Seng	01/06	Tommy Lund	01/17
Mary Johnson	01/07	Bev Trygstad	01/18
Buck Bender	01/10	Roger Quam	01/18
Dan Hungerford	01/10	Diane Funk	01/20
Hunter Loewenhagen	01/12	Merry Seng	01/21
Barb Kalan	01/12	Joyce Tomczak	01/24
Sherri Lynn Knuteson	01/12	Trevor Zellmer	01/25
Zachery Tetiva-Zantow	01/13	Lynn Lund	01/26
Claudine Hanson	01/14	Lorraine Knuteson	01/27
Griffin Lintl	01/14	Holly Priske	01/28
Paula Dorn	01/15	Emily Piehl	01/29
		David Knuteson	01/29



January 2024

Dekorra Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 Office Closed 9:30am Hospitality Committee Mtg	3 6:00pm Worship & Community Time	4 1:00pm Quilting	5 NO Pastoral Office Hours	6 9:00am WELCA Quarterly Mtg
7 9:00am Worship & January BDay Celebration 10:00am Sunday School	8 Pastor's Day Off	9 6:30pm All Committee Mtg 1:00pm Joy Circle	10 6:00pm Worship & Community Time	11 1:00pm Quilting 6:30pm Council Mtg	12 8:00pm AA 10:00am Pastoral Office Hours	13
14 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 4:00pm Women of DLC Chili Supper	15 Pastor's Day Off	16 10:30am Mutual Ministry Committee Mtg	17 9:30am Faith Bible Study 1:00am Book Club 6:00pm Worship & Lenten Worship Planning	18 1:00pm Quilting	19 10:00am Pastoral Office Hours 8:00pm AA	20
21 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Brunch & Lorraine Retirement 11:00am Movie	22 Pastor's Day Off <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Deadline</u>	23	24 6:00pm Worship & Community Time	25 10:30am 155 th Anniversary Committee Mtg 1:00pm Quilting	26 9:30am Worship Committee Mtg 10:00am Pastoral Office Hours 8:00pm AA	27
28 Annual Mtg 9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School	29 Pastor's Day Off <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Mailing</u>	30	31 6:00pm Worship & Community Time	1 <u>Office Closed</u> 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

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Jan 1	6:30pm	All Committee Meeting
Jan 2	6:00pm	Worship & Community Time
Jan 3	9:00am	Worship & January BDay Celebration
Jan 7	6:00pm	Worship & Community Time
Jan 10	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Jan 11	9:00am	Worship
Jan 14	4:00pm	Women of DLC Chili Supper
Jan 17	6:00pm	Worship & Lenten Worship Planning
Jan 21	9:00am	Worship, Brunch & Lorraine Retirement, Movie
Jan 24	6:00pm	Worship & Community Time
Jan 28	9:00am	Worship & Annual Meeting
Jan 29	6:00pm	Newsletter Mailing
Jan 31	6:00pm	Worship & Community Time