



LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEW SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

7491 Island View Dr. NE Turtle River, MN 56601

Pastor Terry Hagensen

E-Mail Address: newsalem@paulbunyan.net

Web Site: newsalemlutheran.org


Church Phone: 218-586-2262

JANUARY 2024


Monthly Events

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024!

Jan. 6


 Jan.
4, 11, 18, 25
9:30 AM Bible
Study

Jan. 8 & 12
Food Shelf
9:00am—12:15pm
12:00pm—3:15pm

Jan. 3, 17,
31
Confirmation 

Jan. 10 & 24
3:30 pm
Book Discussion

Jan. 15


Jan. 16
Teams Meet
6:00-7:00 PM
Council

 Jan. 28
Annual
Meeting
of the
Congregation



Happy New Year, do we stick to the tradition of making resolutions, declaring what we're going to change or do differently in 2024 than we did in 2023? We get excited and determined, and we declare to ourselves and others, "No this year I'm going to stick to them." Let me confess when I've made New Year's resolutions, by January 2nd, I'm admitting to myself, "There's no way I'm going to keep these, who am I trying to kid?" How many of you have done the same, or something similar?

I'm assuming we make resolutions with the hope of making much-needed changes, mostly to improve the quality of life, for ourselves and others. There's lots of good here, as we become aware of those parts of our lives needing some improvement or to be eliminated. It's good to be tuned into what is happening in and around us, and wanting things to be different.

The part of making resolutions I find difficult is the lack of grace we give ourselves, reminding ourselves change comes slowly and with great effort. We tend to be too hard on ourselves, being disappointed, feeling failure, or some level of these.

St Paul writes how God has showered God's grace on us, the grace of forgiveness, of new hope, strength, and peace, and many other forms of grace. God's grace is about recognizing our sins or failures, confessing them, and trying again. Grace is the opposite of judgment. We hear of and know in our minds about grace, yet lack it in our hearts, where faith says it's true.

It is by faith we accept and celebrate God's grace, God's freedom to be who we are, allowing us to fail and try again. I witness many people who expend a lot of energy judging themselves, focusing on their failures, while missing the Holy Spirit's whispering you're forgiven, it's expected you'll fail, it doesn't mean you're a failure, it means you're human.

One of the greatest changes in my life was when I came to believe in the true grace of God, as it grew and I accepted it more, a newfound freedom arrived in my life. The freedom to be who God created and formed me to be, to accept my humanity, and to see the world and others through the eyes of grace.

I believe once we accept and experience God's grace, we become more gracious towards others. We begin to see others and their actions through the eyes of grace, allowing them to be who God has created and formed them to be, it's practicing the same grace God gives to us with others. We begin to overlook mistakes, judge less, and love more.

So go ahead and make resolutions, but practice grace with yourself, remembering God's grace is the model to follow. Happy New Year!

Pastor Terry

*New Salem Lutheran Church is a Community of Christians having a mission to serve others through **Hospitality** and **Caregiving** and inviting all people into a life-giving relationship with Jesus through worship and discipleship.*

Meet your 2023 New Salem Council

President: Rick Bogart

Vice Pres: Jon Severson

Secretary: Eric Medberry

Treasurer: Sue Rosselet

Calli Ferdig Dave Johnson Myra Lindahl
Fred Sanford Bob Wagner

Council meets at 7:00 on the 3rd Tuesday
of each month

Join our Ministry Teams

Worship & Music Youth & Education

Building & Grounds Stewardship & Outreach

Teams meet at 6:00 on the same evening.



Confirmation

Wednesdays 5:30pm
Jan. 3, 17, 31



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Our Annual
Congregational Meeting
Will be on Sunday
January 28th
immediately after our
9:30 service



RUMMAGE
SALE

Please start
collecting items
for our annual
Rummage Sale
Scheduled for
Saturday, April 20

There will also be a Bake Sale
Stay tuned for more info!



WAMM
is taking a break
in January &
February.

It will restart the
first Sunday in March.

Children from pre-school through 6th
grade are welcome to participate.



All Reports for the
Annual Meeting

are due on January 3rd.



BIBLE STUDY & BRUNCH

Sundays

12-1:30pm

at the Lutheran Campus Center

See P. 4 for
more info



Readings for JANUARY:

JANUARY 7: Epiphany Sunday Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

JANUARY 14: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

JANUARY 21: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

JANUARY 28: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28





New Salem Council Minutes Meeting of December 19, 2023

Present: Pastor Terry, Rick Bogart, Jon Severson, Eric Medberry, Sue Rosselet, Calli Ferdig, Dave Johnson **Absent:** Fred Sanford, Myra Lindahl, Bob Wagner

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Rick.

Congregational Officers: President: Rick Bogart, Vice President: Jon Severson, Secretary: Eric Medberry, Treasurer: Sue Rosselet

Devotion - Sue - Next month will be Rick

Approval of the December 19th Meeting Agenda: Sue moved to approve the agenda; Calli seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the November 21st Meeting Minutes: Dave moved to approve the minutes; Jon seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Update:

- We are rocking and rolling! ○ Worship numbers continue to climb – in-person and online viewership
- It is fun to be here - going and growing!

Treasurer's Report: Sue Rosselet:

- We are on track, or very nearly on track for the year. ● There was a slight deficit in November, but we are on track to be in the black for the year ○ No real surprises this month - major expenses were Property Insurance and Worker's Comp Insurance ■ We do have a higher than usual number of sub musicians in Dec ○ Only one plowing so far this year for snow ● Discussion about benevolence to the Synod provided we remain in the black ● Discussion about our benevolence into our community and how we support it through our ministry ● Report was accepted and filed

Old Business:

- Update on the selling of land to James Adams (Eric has an update) -
○ Dave moved to recommend that we sell the parcel of land for \$10,000 to James and Natalie Adams (all expense paid by purchaser), pursuant on the approval from the congregation at the annual meeting; Calli seconded the motion. Motion carried. ○ This will need final ballot to be voted on at the annual meeting.
- Annual Meeting - January 28, 2024 - All reports are due by January 3rd
- Council Nominations for 2024 - Bob Wagner has agreed to submit his name for the 2-year term and Eric Medberry for a 3-year term. Rick Bogart has agreed to submit his name for a 3-year term. We still need one name for a 3-year term

New Business:

Team Reports - we need to get members back involved in our team meetings

○ If teams meet at other times, please send a report to the council

- **Education:** Christmas program was a success ○ Sunday School activities are on hold through at least January and February ○ We will meet and discuss the spring semester at a later date ○ Noisy Offering was discussed after the program on Sunday ■ \$1,447.56 available ■ The youth would like to donate \$500 to donate to Backpack Buddies through the United Way ● Include a service project in the future ■ The remaining funds be given to the Play and Learning for All Abilities (PLAA) Foundation for updating elementary playgrounds for students of all abilities. (See P. 4)
- **Worship and Music** ○ Did not meet this month ○ Everything is set for Christmas services
- **Stewardship and Outreach** ○ Mission partners for 2024 were presented - (see P. 6) ■ Discussion about monthly benevolences and matching that up with speakers ■ Dave moved to approve the mission partners; Sue seconded. Motion carried.
- **Buildings and Grounds** ○ Gutters cleaned, stakes installed in the driveway, and the windows are cleaned

Other New Business

- Purchasing of commercial rack to secure audio equipment ○ See attached quote - discussion ensued - too many times the equipment has been moved, changed, or altered ○ Sue moved to purchase the commercial rack through NLFX (they will install); Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Approve the 2024 Budget to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting for final approval ○ Dave moved to approve the 2024 budget; Calli seconded. Motion carried.

Next Meeting:

- Next meeting is Tuesday, January 16th at 7 pm. ○ Teams will meet at 6pm.

Adjournment/Lord's Prayer: ● Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Eric Medberry, recording



Sponsor a Meal!



& SUPPORT LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY!

WHY SPONSOR A MEAL?

BEGINNING SPRING 2024 WE ARE HOSTING WEEKLY SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY/WORSHIP! FOR THIS WEEKEND GATHERING WE WANT TO PROVIDE FREE LUNCH TO STUDENTS.

WE ARE INVITING MINISTRY PARTNERS TO HELP US WITH THIS MEAL!

CONTACT:

PR. EMILY

218-751-5326 / 218-766-3554

LUTHERANCAMPUSBEMIDJI@GMAIL.COM



WHAT SHOULD WE BRING?

YOU BRING THE MAIN DISH(ES), SIDES, AND DESSERT.

SOME OF OUR PARTNERS PREFER TO CATER (JIMMY JOHNS, QDOBA, FOZZIES BBQ, PIZZA), SOME FOLKS LIKE TO COOK EVERYTHING FROM SCRATCH (HOT DISHES, PASTA, SOUPS), AND SOME DO A MIX OF BOTH. OUR STUDENTS EAT MOST ANYTHING.

WE REQUEST NO PORK FOR OUR INTERFAITH STUDENTS AND THAT YOU LABEL ANYTHING WITH NUTS!

HOW MANY STUDENTS?

WE ANTICIPATE BETWEEN 10 AND 15 STUDENTS.

ERRING ON THE SIDE OF MORE FOOD IS BETTER THAN NOT ENOUGH FOOD... NOTHING GOES TO WASTE! WE ENJOY LEFTOVERS DURING THE WEEK.

WHAT DOES LCM PROVIDE?

WE PROVIDE PLATES, CUPS, BOWLS, UTENSILS, NAPKINS, AND DRINKS. IF YOU GIVE US A HEADS UP WE CAN PROVIDE ANYTHING ELSE YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GET.

MEAL DROP OFF:

11:45AM AT THE LUTHERAN CAMPUS CENTER!
1221 BIRCHMONT DR NE
BEMIDJI, MN 56601

**SIGN
UP
HERE!**



CAN WE DONATE MONEY INSTEAD?

ABSOLUTELY! MINISTRY PARTNERS MAY SIMPLY GIVE \$75 - \$100 FOR A MEAL FOR OUR STUDENTS AND WE TAKE CARE OF ORDERING EVERYTHING AND TRANSPORTING IT!



Thank You
To everyone who donated to the
Noisy Offerings
that our kids collected each month.
Together, we raised over \$1,440.00

Our kids decided to use these funds to help other kids in our community.

They donated \$500 to Backpack Buddies which is coordinated by the United Way of Bemidji.

The Backpack Buddies program was developed to help ensure that children in the Bemidji school district have access to nutritious, non-perishable and easy-to-prepare food at times when other resources are not available, such as weekends and school vacations.

The rest was donated to PLAA (Play and Learn for All Abilities) to help make Bemidji's elementary school playgrounds accessible for all children.

"Children with mobility challenges need accessible playgrounds so they can enjoy both the social and emotional benefits of playing with their peers and the health benefits of using balance skills, working their large muscles and improving coordination." PLAA's mission is to make Bemidji Area School District's elementary playgrounds more accessible by replacing surfaces and some equipment and they will be starting with Solway Elementary School in spring. For more information about this program see: <https://www.bemidjipioneer.com/community/united-way-awards-community-response-grant-to-plaa-for-accessible-playgrounds>

Or Lakeland News: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fo8_SpZefn0



We ask that you prayerfully
consider volunteering even once
for one of these ministries on
Sunday morning.



**Volunteers Enhance the Worship Experience
for Everyone!**

**Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex or
sign-up online by using this QR code.**





HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thank you to everyone who stocked shelves, donated, assembled birthday bags, and helped clients shop last year. Your service makes a difference in the lives of a record number of clients and it's my hope that you also feel blessed.

Have you made a New Year's resolution yet? How about volunteering at the food shelf this year? Our teams serve just three hours per month and the benefits are awesome! You won't find a more rewarding gig around. Bring a friend and join us! If you're willing to be added to the sub list for last minute shifts, that's helpful, too. Simply contact me to give it a try – no pressure or commitment.

Final numbers are not yet in, but take a look at the huge impact our food shelf has had through Nov:

- 34,075 people served
- 10,831 Households fed
- 679,935 lbs. of food distributed
- \$1,217,000 value



As always, donations of cash, food, personal care items, grocery bags, as well as Our Family UPC labels, and books (especially children's) are welcome. Just drop donations at the Food Shelf M-W and F between 8:30-3:00, or at church anytime. Look for the baskets near the credenza when you enter.

January Shifts:

Monday, Jan. 8 from 9:00 – 12:15

Monday, Jan. 8 from 12:00 – 3:15

Friday, Jan. 12 from 9:00 – 12:15

Contact me at 612.940.7312 or ksnortland5@gmail.com to join the fun and fulfilling ministry!

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can play a role in this meaningful ministry. We are all called to serve!

With much hope for the New Year,

Karin Snortland Council of Churches Representative

Join our Adult Discussion Group Every other Wednesday

@ 3:30pm January 10th & 24th

We are discussing the book "Braiding Sweetgrass"

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

You are welcome even if you can't attend every week.

Listen to a short presentation by Ms. Kimmerer on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhloVJHycvk>





New Salem Service Group Meeting

December 11, 2023 6:30 PM

Attendees: Karyn Lutz, president, Linda Wolden, Karin Snortland, Donna Zelinsky, Sue and Stu Rosselet, Vivian Krause; B Olson; Julie Souder; Nora Olson

Opening **devotions** were led by Sue focusing on Advent. Karyn will lead devotions in February.

Minutes to the 10/9/2023 meeting were reviewed, and Sue moved to approve with a second from B, motion carried.

The **treasurer's report** was presented and distributed by Karin Snortland.

Old Business

Prayer Shawls: Karin's mother and B have been working on shawls. More help is needed.

Service Group Leadership: Krista Bogart will begin as president for the group at the February meeting. Sue Rosselet has agreed to be in charge of funerals but is gone February through April so someone else is being sought to handle them during those months. Janet Tiegen has agreed to head up the BACM luncheon and Karyn will oversee the Fall Bazaar. Still need a lead person for the spring Rummage/Bake sale.

Christmas Bags for youth: Hailey Mack is taking care of this – thank you!

New Business

Rummage/Bake Sale: Date of Saturday, April 20 was chosen. We will begin getting word out for collection of gently used goods.

Birthday Bags: Collection will begin again in January with distribution to the BAFS in late February.

Donations: Donations were decided on with \$200 to be given to Churches United; NW Battered Womens' Shelter; Evergreen; Village of Hope; Hospice; and the Nameless Coalition. The motion was made by Sue and seconded by B.

The next Service Group meeting will be held in February.

Adjournment was moved by Stu with second from Karin.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Reported by Karyn Lutz

The **New Salem Stewardship and Outreach Team** recommended the following schedule for benevolences for 2024 and this schedule was approved by the Council at the December meeting:

Churches United (January)

Peoples Church (March)

Evergreen Youth & Family Services (May)

Hope House (July)

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Bemidji (September)

Northwoods Caregivers (November)

Bemidji Community Food Shelf (February)

Village of Hope (April)

Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area (June)

Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter (August)

Habitat for Humanity (October)

ELCA World Hunger (Good Gifts) (December)

A new benevolence partner has been added, Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter. To make room for it in the annual benevolence schedule, Lutheran Disaster Response was removed from the monthly list but should a plea from Lutheran Disaster Response be made, as was the case with the Maui fires and the current situation in Gaza, New Salem would also make a special appeal to the New Salem community via temple talks, email blasts, and/or its newsletter for support for Lutheran Disaster Response.



**Christmas Program
&
Cantata
December 17th**

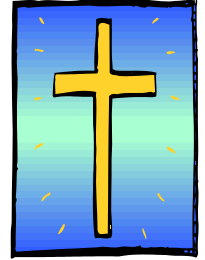




New Salem's Highlighted Mission Partner — January 2024

Churches United

"Welcoming the stranger as Jesus."



Churches United is a collaboration of Bemidji area churches led by the Spirit of Christ, organized to serve and meet the needs of homeless, persistently poor, and impoverished individuals and families in the Bemidji area by providing individuals and families financial assistance and referrals in an empowering manner. One of more than 20 Bemidji area churches led by the Spirit of Christ to work together to meet the emergency needs of homeless and low-income people in a prayerful way, New Salem Lutheran Church has supported the work of *Churches United* for many years.

Through the various services it provides, *Churches United* assists impoverished people and people experiencing homelessness. There are three specific areas in which ***you can help Churches United*** transform the lives of those *Churches United* serves.

1. Financial Support: *Churches United* relies upon financial contributions from its participant churches to provide these diverse services but contributions from individuals are also quite important. *Churches United* accepts donations year round (cash or check). Note: All donations are tax deductible.
2. Volunteering: Churches United is open and continuing to follow COVID 19 protocols. We ask for just four (4) hours of your time per month. We have a job for you, no matter what your skill set is. If you like helping people, greeting people, filing paperwork, data entry, or just organizing the office; we have a job for you.
3. Donations: Churches United is taking donations of hygiene products, quilts, clean blankets, towels, etc. Please call ahead to be sure the office is staffed. All donations are quarantined for 72 hours prior to being inventoried and distributed. They are currently in need of the following items to help serve its clients:

- ☐ Women's Winter Gloves/ Mittens
- ☐ Men's Winter Gloves/Mittens
- ☐ Children's Gloves/Mittens
- ☐ Winter socks for all ages
- ☐ Handwarmers / Footwarmers
- ☐ Travel size lotions, shampoo, conditioner

- ☐ Gift cards to area grocery stores (Aldi, Lueken's Marketplace Foods, Target, and Walmart)
- ☐ Laundry detergent (single packs are preferred, for example, Tide Pods)
- ☐ Hair cut gift cards
- ☐ Dish detergent
- ☐ Pocket-sized Bibles

Winter is here, please help us provide for the needs of our homeless neighbors.

Please call 218-444-1380 to be sure that we are open, before coming to our office.

God's Work, Our Treasure—January 2024

This month New Salem is lifting up the work of a mission partner, **Churches United**, and urges you to consider the various ways you might support this valuable ministry.

You can send your check to New Salem and indicate it is for the work of **Churches United**

And we will forward your gift to them.

Please prayerfully consider how you might support the work of this important ministry.

Over the past months, a group of New Salem people have been engaged in learning about the history and culture of our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We have read and continue to read and discuss books and articles. There is much to learn.

We've taken a few small steps. In May, some of us walked with our Indigenous people in honoring and remembering Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW); in June, in keeping with the ELCA's request that congregations dedicate a Sunday service to MMIW, we had a special service; on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we integrated a Thanksgiving Address that many native cultures use and which gives thanks to Mother Earth and all that the Creator has given and entrusted to us.

A natural next step, as we continue to learn, is to consider having a Land Acknowledgement statement for New Salem. There are many examples of such statements and a few relevant ones are given here. The topic raises many questions and we welcome yours and your input. At a minimum, such a statement should be read, printed, and displayed at New Salem on a regular basis to remind us to honor and show appreciation to our Indigenous neighbors. Materials are available on the table in the narthex. Please read them and join the discussion.

National Museum of the American Indian Land Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today.

Bemidji State University Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Bemidji State University is located on land and water that is the current and ancestral homeland of the Ojibwe and Dakota. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide, forced assimilation and efforts to alienate the Indigenous inhabitants from their territory here. We honor and respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land, retained tribal sovereignty, treaty rights and cultural resilience. Indigenous people are spiritual and physical caretakers of this land to which we all belong. Bemidji State University respects these sacred lands, stands with the community members from these Nations and will fight injustice in all its forms.

What is a Land Acknowledgement?

A Land Acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

Why is Land Acknowledgement Important?

A land acknowledgment is a formal way to recognize the Indigenous peoples who have come before you, and who were removed — often violently — from their land due to colonization.

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory you reside on, and a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

Minnesota is centered within Dakota creation stories and is an important place in traditional Ojibwe history. Along with the **Dakota and Ojibwe, the Ho-Chunk, Cheyenne, Oto, Iowa, and the Sac & Fox tribes** also acknowledge Minnesota as important to their tribal histories.

NWMN Synod's Land Acknowledgement

The Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA is located within the traditional lands of the Indigenous People of Turtle Island (North America), the first Americans. These are the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe, Assiniboine, and Dakota people. Today we are called to follow Jesus alongside of our neighbors of the sovereign federally recognized tribes of the Red Lake and White Earth bands of the Ojibwa people. In affirming this land as the homeland of our indigenous neighbors, we recognize the legacies of violence and cultural genocide that occurred alongside the displacement of their communities, as well as the responsibility we all share to not let these truths be buried any longer.

Luther Seminary Land Acknowledgement

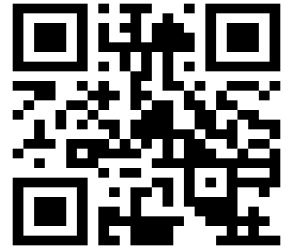
Luther Seminary is on Mini Sota Makh6che, the homelands of the Dakh6ta Oyate. The Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk, Cheyenne, Oto, Iowa, and the Sac & Fox also inhabited Minnesota land. We recognize that God calls all to be in right relationship with their neighbors, that the tribes are sovereign nations, that there is a history of broken treaties and broken trust, and that there is much reconciling work to be done. As Christians, we also recognize that in Christ there is new life, forgiveness, and hope for mending what is broken. We pray the Holy Spirit will lead us in this work.

Do you know that you can support the mission of New Salem electronically?

Yes, collection plates are still be passed during service!

You can use your phone to scan this QR code.

It'll take you to a secure Vanco page where you can quickly and easily make your donation. This can be a regularly scheduled or a one time donation.



Or, if you're at your computer, you can simply click on (or copy & paste) this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z88A> (ctrl-click) to get to the same Vanco site.



General Fund

Support the general operations of our congregation.

Donate

The General Fund supports the everyday operations of our church. It pays salaries, the mortgage, the utilities, the routine costs of operation as we share the Good Word with our neighbors.



Mission Partners

Donation for Mission Partners. Help causes such as hunger, homelessness, and other needs in our community and society.

Donate

Each month, our Stewardship Team designates a Mission Partner to support with our "second mile" giving. These are organizations that help our neighbors within our community or help ELCA efforts like disaster relief.



Building Fund

Even a house of God sometimes needs repairs!

Donate

The Building Fund supports the repair and maintenance of our church building, which was completed in January of 2005. Just like our own homes, regular upkeep is essential.



New Salem Service Group

Women and men of New Salem united in their efforts to serve the needs of our church and our community.

Donate

This dedicated group sponsors events like an annual rummage sale and an annual craft sale. They also serve at funerals. Funds raised are dispersed back into the community.



to all of you who are currently using Vanco to make donations to the mission of New Salem. Your support is much appreciated.

Life is busy for all of us and giving electronically can help simplify that. Whether you join us in-person or online, YOU are Welcome and part of our New Salem family. Vanco makes it safe and easy to support our mission.