



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Baxter & Saron Church News

July / August 2023

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Baxter & Saron Lutheran Church
Serving together to make Jesus known in our communities and beyond

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Friends in Christ,



I did something this week that I had thought about for years; I got a tattoo. I knew that if I got one it would be on the back of my right hand so that people would see it when I gave them communion or when I shook their hands. I had always imagined that I would get a small cross, but I decided to get a semicolon instead. In one sense, this is an ironic choice; the semicolon is my least-favorite mark of punctuation. It seems wishy-washy. Besides, most people use it improperly. On the other hand (pun very much intended), the semicolon has taken on a meaning that is very near to my heart.

I'm sure that there are multiple stories on how this happened, but I was directed to Project Semicolon by a former student who had a semicolon tattooed on her wrist. Their website states:

In April 2013, Amy Bleuel took to social media with an idea. Anyone who had ever struggled with a mental illness would draw a semicolon on their wrist and post a photo. A semicolon symbolized that a sentence wasn't over yet, and neither was their life.

The semicolon is a reminder to get help -- to fight through our struggles instead of giving up. This strange combination of a comma and a period (which we should all call by its British name -- a full stop) shows others that we have persevered, that there is hope, and that those who see it and respond to it are not alone.

I have been overwhelmed by the support that so many of you have given me in person and through phone calls, texts, and notes. You may have noticed that I am not great at taking you up on your offers to talk about it. That is part of the process that I am still learning. It is hard to know how to talk about mental health, even when you know that people are genuinely concerned and willing to listen. Also, how I feel varies widely depending on the situation. It is difficult to find the balance between "I'm fine" and pulling up a couch and unloading on someone.

My hope is that by sharing my struggles and working through them in a semi-public way, I can empower others to share. This experience should also be invaluable as I work with others who struggle with mental health.

**In Christ,
Pastor Matt**

Your story isn't over yet.



OFFICIAL ACTS – JUNE



Amanda Willand and LaVar Burton were united in marriage on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Baxter with Pastor Matt officiating.

Congratulations to the happy couple!



Elsie Holtan

Pastor Matt officiated at the funeral service for Elsie Holtan at Lac qui Parle Lutheran Church on June 12, 2023.

We extend sympathy to the family at this time of loss.

We Welcome New Members

Saron Lutheran Church extends a warm welcome to new members, **Doug & Cindy Ommodt!**



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Baxter extends a warm welcome to new members, **Cole Kosbab, Danielle Moseng, Watson Kosbab & Wilder Kosbab!**



Transfer

Lauren Albertson, a member at Saron, has been commended to the care of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Montevideo.

PARISH NEWS

July & August Worship

- **SUNDAY, JULY 2** **PENTECOST 5**
Communion & Noisy Offering
Baxter - Dawson Food Shelf
Saron - Granite Falls Food Shelf
- **SUNDAY, JULY 9** **PENTECOST 6**
- **SUNDAY, JULY 16** **PENTECOST 7**
Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves
- **SUNDAY, JULY 23** **PENTECOST 8**
- **SUNDAY, JULY 30** **PENTECOST 9**
- **SUNDAY, AUGUST 6** **PENTECOST 10**
Communion & Noisy Offering
Baxter - LqP Food Shelf
Saron - Montevideo Area Youth Center
- **SUNDAY, AUGUST 13** **PENTECOST 11**
- **SUNDAY, AUGUST 20** **PENTECOST 12**
Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves
- **SUNDAY, AUGUST 27** **PENTECOST 13**
- **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30** **PENTECOST 14**
6:00 pm Joint Worship / Picnic Supper at Heritage Hill
Saron Council & Saron September Volunteers are in charge.

Attendance Figures

Baxter Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2022	Date	# Attending in 2023
5/25	25 Joint	5/24	44 Joint
6/5	42	6/4	17
6/12	Not Available	6/11	15
6/19	Not Available	6/18	27

Saron Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2022	Date	# Attending in 2023
5/25	25 Joint	5/24	44 Joint
6/5	20	6/4	20
6/12	25	6/11	36
6/19	28	6/18	21



Synod Convention GAC June 9,10 2023

Embody the Word

Do I dare say it was an “easy” convention?! There weren’t any outstanding motions to discuss or vote on. Sad to say, voting for positions to fill council was lacking; diversity and term limits does cause problems. We do have people willing to serve in major role positions.

I attended two workshops on Friday; Kids are People too and Coaching for Positive Change. The opening service in Christ Chapel is always enlightening.

There was no discussion on budget; Zoom mtgs ahead of time are good to get questions asked. There is a pie chart of the budget on bulletin board (Baxter) 41% Ministry Beyond: National and Global 31% People Resources 12.5% Equip and Lead 9% Local Ministry Partners 6.5% General Administration. For detail info go to SWMNELCA.org/mission-support; look for “narrative budget”

The Keynote speaker was Matt Bloom, Wellbeing at Work Program. You can find plenty of information at wellbeing.nd.edu. One good point was mapping out your ecosystems, who you interact with and how this effects your well-being. Yes, we know the well wise being practices of getting enough sleep, but also important is some daily contemplative practice to settle you mind and body. Also, a hobby is important for you to meet with people that share your interest as a restorative niche.

There will be a 2024 Summer Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Thank you for including the registration fee in the annual budget. I enjoyed the experience. Carla Johnson

- Military Service Personnel & their families
- Our Companion Synod in South Africa
- For Continued Healing

- *Shirley Sachariason *Susan Siverhus
- *Delores Ochs *Chantel Death
- *Sharla Kruger *Rick Odden
- *Jerry Johnson

Please contact the church office for a specific prayer request or if a home or hospital visit is needed.

Joint Worship Date

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30th

Takes the place of this service: **Sun. Sept. 3rd**

Church that hosts: **Saron - Council is in charge**

Volunteers in charge: **September**

This service will be held at the **Heritage Hill**.

Time: 6:00 pm - A picnic supper will be provided.

*** BAXTER NEWS ***

Grace Christian Outreach Ministries

Grace Christian Outreach Ministries needs our help! We are collecting **hygiene items** in **July**. There is a donation box in the Chapel. Any questions, please contact Cody Dyshaw or a Council member. Thank you for supporting this wonderful mission!

Baxter Turkey Dinner – Wed. Sept. 13

Reminder that the date of the Turkey Dinner will be **Wednesday, September 13th** this year. Planning meetings will be scheduled in August – stay tuned!

*** SARON NEWS ***

Thank You!

Thank you to Steve & Vicki Norman for providing the beautiful planters in front of the church. They provide a warm welcome as we enter the building!



TIPS FOR A HEALTHY SUMMER

School's out... Warm weather... Sunshine! Everything just seems better in the summer, from being outside to the fresh fruit options, the choices are endless! Here are some budget-friendly summer wellness tips!

- **Stay Hydrated:** It doesn't take long for us to get dehydrated, especially as we get older. Avoid sugary beverages and caffeine. Make sure you always have water with you when you are outdoors. You can add a slice of lemon, lime or berries to enhance the flavor!
- **Snack Healthy:** Fresh fruits and vegetables are so much more available in the summer. If you are craving something sweet, try fruit instead of candy. Add a new vegetable to your menu every week. Check out the local farmer's market for the best fresh goodies!
- **Plan Get Togethers:** Invite your friends to meet at the local park for a picnic. Plan a group of friends to get together for a nice walk on the bike path. Invite people over for a campfire and make s'mores. Keep it simple, easy and low-cost!
- **Greet the Sunrise:** Make a point to get up early and watch the sunrise to help invigorate you for the day. When the day is supposed to be hot, mornings are the best time to get your outside chores done.
- **Protect Your Skin:** Make sure that you re-apply your sunscreen when you are outside for long periods of time. Don't forget your face and the tips of your ears. Use lip balm with sunscreen in it to protect your lips. You don't need to use expensive sunscreen and SPF 50 is adequate. Relax and enjoy the season! Before we know it, the cool Fall weather will roll in and we will wish that we could feel the warmth of the Summer sun again.

Your Friend in Christ,

Tera Gades, RN - Parish Nurse

Baxter Council Meeting Minutes

Baxter Council Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Cody Dyshaw. Members present included: Inez Bjerkeset, Judi Eggert, Jeremy Enevoldsen, Jeff Johnson, Brenda Berends
Staff present: Pastor Matt Danielson, Gayle Staab
M/S/C (Jeff/Judi) to accept the Pastor's Report as printed.

M/S/C (Jeremy/Jeff) to accept the Secretary's as printed.

M/S/C (Inez/Jeremy) to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed.

M/S/C (Jeff/Judi) to accept the Office Account Report as printed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Replace cement in front of church-still need to get quotes and make decision in the near future.
 - 1) Sidewalk from parking lot up to the church minus 3 sections in front of the doors.
 - 2) Continue from sidewalk down to the service road in front of the church. It would curve around and serve as a ramp.
 - 3) Section below the steps.
- Church Siding on Bell Tower-there are approx. 8 pieces that are loose that need to be reattached to church. Cody checked with Matt Olson and he should be able to get done by end of month for approx. \$800-\$1,000 unless they run into more issues.
- Update Edward Jones Authorized Personnel for Parsonage Account
- Removing Paul Olson & Paul Strand, adding Cody Dyshaw, Jeff Johnson & Dick Erickson. Gayle Staab will remain on it. Will be setup with Steve Grages at Edward Jones.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Front door-talked with French glass to get process started. Jason from French Glass will meet with Dick O. to review what needs to be fixed and give us a quote.
 - Reviewed current status from investment committee.
 - Transfer of Cole Kosbab, Danielle Moseng, Watson Kosbab & Wilder Kosbab from Crossroads Lutheran Church in Dawson to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Baxter.
 - Request from Pastor Kevin Rosendahl on behalf of Grace Christian Outreach Ministries for donations for them to purchase a newer ministry van.
 - Grace Christian Outreach Ministries-a donation of \$2,000 will be given out of the Investment Committee Funds. (Judi/Jeff) & council approved.
 - Quote to seal coat asphalt was received from Jeremy Ostersaas for \$4,410. Possibly do in the near future.
 - Adapter/phone sound system equipment was purchased for the church. Funds were used from a donation from Steve and Terri Myhre (Tera's G. parents) and the technology fund.
- The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, July 12th at 7:00 PM at the church.
Lord's Prayer / Adjourn (Jeff/Jeremy)
Brenda Berends, Secretary

Baxter July Birthdays

Brayden Stone	7/4
Terry Litke	7/9
Jaidyn Nelson	7/11
Charlotte Kwilinski	7/12
Clay Brown	7/13
Richard Erickson	7/13
Joshua Staab	7/14
Ross Bjerkeset	7/14
Mark Brown	7/17
Deb Anderson	7/18
Lorie Fitcher	7/18
Ardyce Berg	7/20
Brenda Strand	7/23
Kiri McCarty	7/23
Kimberly Olson	7/23
Jeremy Enevoldsen	7/23
Lynette Peterson	7/24
Mary Lou Viken	7/25
Jessica Olson	7/27
Lori Larson	7/28
Kamryn Bjerkeset	7/30
Sara Croymans	7/30
Brenda Berends	7/30
Brekken Strand	7/31

Saron July Birthdays

Holly Schwendemann	7/1
Cathy Ervin	7/2
Wayne Formo	7/4
Taylor Olson	7/5
Charlie Knudson	7/6
Tyler Sachariason	7/7
Izzy Maus	7/13
Dale Lietzau	7/18
Scott Olson	7/18
JoAnn Teichet	7/18
Doug Olson	7/18
Jeff Sachariason	7/18
Diane Dieter	7/21
Shay Walsh	7/22
Molly Jacobson	7/22
Joe Norman	7/24
Carolyn Zempel	7/25
Skyler Schwendemann	7/26
Shalesha Sumner	7/28
Scott Sachariason	7/30

Baxter August Birthdays

Allen Gades	8/2
Loren Bjerkeset	8/5
Jane Paige	8/6
Evan Gades	8/6
Roy Anderson	8/6
Duane Kruger	8/9
Megan Anderson	8/9
Keith Moseng	8/11
Nellie Eslick-Coats	8/12
Reese Maher	8/13
Colby Deuth	8/13
Gary Strand	8/17
Lynette Norman	8/18
Kristen Eslick-Coats	8/18
Dennis Melde	8/20
Ariel Stone	8/23
Ernest Eggert	8/26
David Bornus	8/27
Carlton Staab	8/28
Kaiden Berends	8/28
Kylen Olson	8/30

**Saron August Birthdays**

Jim Walsh	8/1
Lucas Walsh	8/1
Amy Stewart	8/5
Joel Sachariason	8/9
Adelynn Olson	8/10
Roda Walsh	8/10
MaKayla Spletter	8/16
Kevin Jaenisch	8/21
Elsie Sumner	8/24
Mary Birhanzl	8/24
Ashley Bauman	8/25
Ella Olson	8/26
Emelia Olson	8/27
Laura Sletten	8/29