



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

Baxter & Saron Church News

October 2023



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

Pastor Matt Danielson cell: 320-226-5845 email: pr.d7033@gmail.com
Church Office 320-269-8260 baxtersaron@msn.com
Church Office Mailing Address: PO Box 43 Montevideo, MN 56265 baxtersaron.weebly.com
Church Office Physical Address: 802 N. 2nd St. Montevideo, MN 56265



Friends in Christ,

The best part of the turkey supper this year was watching the kids in the dining room. Several of the youngest girls carried pie to the tables and offered boxes for leftovers. Their smiles added immeasurably to the experience for the diners. There was also a group of older girls who were mostly bussing tables. Maybe I've seen too many movies about teenagers, but I sort of expected them to be self-absorbed and surly. Much to my surprise and delight, they too were smiling, cheerful, and efficient. They were attentive to the diners and provided lots of eye contact and smiles. The positive comments on the kids were only surpassed by the compliments for the delicious meal. It is such a pleasure to watch all of the people who come together to make the supper a success year after year.

Speaking of kids, Sunday School is underway at both churches, and there are plans at Baxter for several "Sunday Fun Days." In case I didn't mention it, VBS at Saron was a roaring success again this year. I am looking forward to having the young families back in the building, and I hope that many more of you find your way back to the pews as well. If you have ideas that will bring us together -- whether to worship, to work, or to play, please don't hesitate to share them with me or a member of the church council. Like the events above, most of the best things that happen at church are led by members of the congregation.

In Christ, Pastor Matt

OFFICIAL ACTS - SEPTEMBER



Donna Moe

Pastor Matt officiated at the funeral service for Donna Moe at Salem Lutheran Church on September 8, 2023.

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

CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO...



Molly Jacobson received her third grade Bible from Saron Lutheran Church on September 24, 2023



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

*Cindy Jurgenson *Shirley Sachariason
*Susan Siverhus *Chantel Death
*Sharla Kruger *Jerry Johnson

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

PARISH NEWS

October Worship

- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1** **PENTECOST 18**
Communion & Noisy Offering
Baxter - Chippewa County Food Shelf
Saron - Rice Hospice
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8** **PENTECOST 19**
Baptism of Vance Evan Berghuis at Baxter
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15** **PENTECOST 20**
Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves
Saron Sunday School sings during worship
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22** **PENTECOST 21**
No Sunday School - MEA weekend
Baxter WELCA meets following worship
- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29** **REFORMATION**
Fun Day Sunday at Baxter

Attendance Figures

Baxter Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2022	Date	# Attending in 2023
8/28	34	8/27	11
8/31	52 Joint	8/30	45 Joint
9/11	35	9/10	62
9/18	48	9/17	45

Saron Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2022	Date	# Attending in 2023
8/28	32	8/27	27
8/31	52 Joint	8/30	45 Joint
9/11	27	9/10	37
9/18	90 Baptism	9/17	47

All Saints Sunday – November 5th



On November 5th we will celebrate All Saints Sunday. On this day we remember all of those who have gone before us in the Christian faith. We will have a Service of Remembrance during worship that day. If you have a loved one whom you would like remembered at this service, please call or email the church office **BY NOON ON WED. NOV. 1st.**



WELCA Fall Gathering – Tue. Oct. 17th at Granite Falls Lutheran Church

Everyone is welcome to come for coffee and enjoy a program of song by The Building Bridges Choir. Men are welcome, neighbors, friends, make it a full car. Pre-Registration helps with number to plan for; phone call to Carla Johnson, 752-4674. Cost is \$5

The Granite Falls Living At Home Block Nurse program started the choir, Jan Lerohl is director. The choir brings joy, well-being, purpose and support to people with Alzheimer's, recovering from a stroke or accident and their partners. Singing music helps people unlock memories because music activates the part of the brain last to be affected by memory loss.



Sunday School Notes

- Saron Sunday School will be singing during the 10:30 am worship service on Sun. Oct. 15th.
- There will be No Sunday School on Oct. 22nd for the MEA weekend.

*** BAXTER NEWS ***

Grace Christian Outreach Ministries

Grace Christian Outreach Ministries needs our help! We are collecting **Blankets, Pillows & Sheets** in **October & November**. 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!

Dick Olson Retirement as Custodian

Dick is planning on retiring from his custodial duties at Baxter the end of September. As a congregation we want to say **THANK YOU** to Dick for all the work him and his family have done for the church through the years. He has spent countless hours at the church making sure the church is clean ahead of all the church services and events. We truly appreciate the service through the years. Thank you, Dick. Baxter is looking for volunteers to take on these responsibilities. There is binder at the church which walks through the job responsibilities. If you are interested in taking this role on, please reach out to a Council Member to discuss.

(Note- We will do a celebration for Dick after church sometime this fall or at least before the end of the year, this is TBD for a date yet.)

Baxter Turkey Dinner

S U C C E S S

Once again, OSL of Baxter enjoyed community, serving community with a wonderful church supper. From the decorated front door to the rear of the church with busy takeouts the public was greeted and served with smiling faces. We served 662 ticketed meals and many more to those who worked that night. WOW!! A thank you might not be enough; so hoping you all feel God's work is happening through you.

THANK You ! Thanks to all!

Those that worked behind the scenes, those that were serving, parkers, take outs, other positions, and those that cleaned up and let us not forget all the bakers who got pies there.

Baxter WELCA Meeting

There will be a WELCA Meeting following the 9:00 am worship service on Sun. Oct. 22nd. Following are the items that will be discussed:

- Review church dinner
- Discussion how to disburse raised funds
- Possible discussion on carpet cleaning, kitchen
- Review of budget

Baxter Financial Status as of 9/6/23

As of September 6th, Baxter is currently negative approximately \$20,000 year to date. We have gone \$10,000 into our line of credit at the bank and have also loaned ourselves \$10,000 from our investment accounts to cover this shortfall. As we enter the fall season, please prayerfully consider giving what you are able to help get our budget back on track to finish the year. Thank you for your consideration and support in this!

*** SARON NEWS ***

LWR School Kits

Saron is collecting supplies for Lutheran World Relief school kits. Each kit contains the following items:

- 4 - Notebooks (with 70 sheets)
- 1 - Ruler (30 centimeters)
- 1 - Pencil Sharpener
- 1 - Pair of Blunt Scissors
- 5 - #2 Pencils with Erasers
- 5 - Blue or Black Ballpoint Pens
- 1 - Box of 16 or 24 Crayons
- 1 - Eraser – 2 ½ "



Fall Festival & Turkey Dinner

St. James Catholic Church **Sunday, October 1st**
 St. James Catholic Church in Dawson will be holding their Fall Festival & Turkey Dinner on Sun. Oct. 1st, serving from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Take outs are available (adults only). The menu includes: Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Corn, Cranberry Salad, Roll, Beverage & Pie. Ticket prices are: Adults - \$15, Children - \$7.50 (ages 4-12) (ages 3 & under are free). Also available will be Raffle Tickets, Cake Walk, Country Store & Games for all ages.

'Tis the Season

Stress and anxiety are all very familiar to us these days. There are many people who have never experienced it as much as they have before, thanks to



much uneasiness in our world these days. On top of that, add the upcoming season change. While the Fall brings beautiful weather and gorgeous colors of landscape, it can also bring feelings of sadness, anxiousness and nervousness. The sun is setting earlier in the evening, mornings are cooler letting us know that snow is on its way, runny noses, itchy watery eyes, sore throats, that could be allergies or is it something more? Here are some tips to help you cope with what many of us are feeling:

- **Exercise** is one of the best ways to manage stress. Just 30 minutes a day can make you feel better mentally and physically and reduce stress.
- Find a new **Devotional Book** or join a Bible Study group.
- **Set priorities**; decide what you can do and what you are unable to do. Say no when asked to take on another task if it will add too much stress to your life.
- Stay in touch with those who provide your **support network**, whether it's family, friends, church associates or community organizations. Ask for help if needed to relieve stress from family obligations such as caring for an elderly parent.
- If you cannot cope with all the stress in your life, **seek help** from your family physician or a qualified mental health professional, particularly if you are using alcohol or drugs to cope.
- If work is your biggest stressor, instead of a "coffee break," take a **short walk**; go out to lunch and avoid talking about work; try to make a clean break from work at night and on the weekends.
- If you have a health problem or condition, don't ignore it as the stress in your life may make it worse. Make sure that you get enough **sleep**.
- Make sure your **diet** is a healthy, nutritious one. Avoid stress eating.

- Make time for **relaxation** and schedule **activities that you enjoy**.
- Reach out to a good friend and **talk about the stress in your life**. Sometimes just sharing your worries and concerns with someone you know and trust can help relieve some of the stress and increase your ability to deal with it all.

Your Friend in Christ,
Tera Gades, RN
Parish Nurse



Baxter Council Meeting Minutes

Baxter Council Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Cody Dyshaw
Members present included: Inez Bjerkeset, Judi Eggert, Jeff Johnson, Brenda Berends, Dick Erickson, Deb Anderson, Dave Croymans, Loren Bjerkeset & Kalen Bjerkeset
Staff present: Pastor Matt Danielson, Gayle Staab
M/S/C (Judi/Deb) to accept the Pastor's Report as printed.
M/S/C (Jeff/Dick) to accept the Secretary's as printed.
M/S/C (Judi/Loren) to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed.
M/S/C (Dave/Dick) to accept the Office Account Report as printed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Front Sidewalk-Received quote from FB Installation LLC and awaiting Chris Hansen quote
-Probably will go into spring before a decision is made.
-Signs need to be moved out some for ease of snow removal in the winter.
- Thermostat Updates – getting quotes from Olsen Plumbing & Kevin Augeson – In process yet.
- Furnace Replacement – getting quotes from Olsen Plumbing & Kevin Augeson – In process yet.
-Downstairs furnace to be looked at first.

- Financial Update – Right now we have \$3,800 available. We need \$6,300 by 9/15/23 for various bills.

-We will have to go up to \$15,000 at the bank on current loan. Need to keep an eye on it in the near future.

- Candles on the altar – we have supply to get by for a while. Will need a backup plan in the future. Possibly go to electric. Need to run by WELCA also to get their thoughts.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Grace Christian Outreach Ministries

-October/November donations - Blankets/Pillows/Sheets

-Truck will go down to Mexico in the next few weeks with donations

- GCOM Update – GCOM purchased a used van for their ministry in part from Baxter's donation.

- Salem Lutheran Church – Pastoral needs

-A partnership through mid-May in which Salem will provide pulpit supply for Saron and Baxter one Sunday per month so that Pastor Matt can lead worship at Salem and administer the sacraments. Pastor Matt will be available for baptisms, weddings, funerals, confirmation service and hospice care for Salem. Pastor Matt is already serving as emergency pastor for Salem. As it stands, Pastor Matt will switch with someone provided by Salem about ten times. It was suggested that the switch happen on the second Sunday of each month for ease of scheduling.

- **M/S/C** (Dick/Inez) - Same as Saron. This will be presented to Salem for them to approve or not.

- Mission Investment Fund – Maturity of current investment on 10/12/2023

-Current rate for 1 year is 1.35% and new rate is 4.85%

-\$25,000 will roll over with new rate - **M/S/C** (Loren/Dave).

- Donation to Heritage Hill for holding summer services there

-Decided to give \$50 from Baxter.

- Custodian – Dick Olson plans on being done with custodial duties at Baxter the end of September.

-We will need to find a replacement. Info will be put into bulletin and newsletter. Duties will be posted on bulletin board at entrance of the church.

- Sunday Fun Day in October. Possibly on the 5th Sunday. Youth and Family board to setup & organize.

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, October 11th at 8:00 PM at the church.

Lord's Prayer / Adjourn (Loren/Jeff)

Brenda Berends, Secretary

Saron Council Meeting

Saron Council Minutes – August 23, 2023

Members present were Mike, Izzy, Paul, Heidi, Shaun, Janice, Steve J., Steve R., Diane, Stan and Pastor Matt.

The meeting was called to order by Steve.

Pastor Matt had the opening prayer.

The pastor's written report was unanimously approved.

Secretary's report was approved.

Diane went over the treasurer's report. A discussion was held on several items such as Izzy's bill, borrowed money motion approval, insurance spending, etc. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

The office report was also approved as presented.

The last two items discussed were the confirmation retreat and the joint congregation worship and supper. Saron is in charge.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The remodeling fund raising was discussed. We will wait and see how it goes.

- Izzy will start doing the storm damage work sometime soon.

- The phone in the elevator was discussed and Steve will take care of it.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Robin will be repainting the floor vents in the church.

- After much discussion the following motion was passed: (see highlighted report)

A partnership through mid-May in which:

Salem will provide pulpit supply for Saron and Baxter one Sunday per month so that Matt can lead worship at Salem and administer the sacraments.

Pastor Matt will be available for baptisms, weddings, funerals, confirmation service, and hospice care for Salem.

Pastor Matt is already serving as emergency pastor for Salem, which includes most of the above services.

It was felt that anything more than once per month would require a congregational vote. As it stands, Pastor Matt will switch with someone provided by Salem about ten times. It was suggested that the switch happen on the second Sunday of each month for ease of scheduling.

It is understood that this agreement does not include special services such as Christmas Eve and Easter.

The main concern expressed was that Pr. Matt might be prone to “burnout” if he stretches himself too thin. *This wasn’t discussed, but this arrangement shouldn’t result in extra work for the church secretaries. We will need to figure out how to get information to the preachers, lay readers, organists, etc. so that it is clear.*

BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER.



Saron October Birthdays

Tyson Olson	10/1
Karen Jacobson	10/3
Katherine Knudson	10/5
Scott Jacobson	10/5
Peter Sachariason	10/7
Collene Jacobson	10/12
Aydon Maus	10/14
Gregg Birhanzl	10/15
Tesa Siverhus-Maus	10/19
Paige Jacobson	10/20
Heidi Lipps	10/20
Beth Rodeberg	10/24
Steve Rodeberg	10/26
Don Siverhus	10/27
Ryan Knudson	10/29
Scott Schultz	10/29
Steve Norman	10/30
Shirley Formo	10/30
Betty Rodeberg	10/30
David Olson	10/31

Baxter October Birthdays

Dustin Johnson	10/1
Becky Brown	10/4
Gene Moseng	10/4
Chantel Deuth	10/8
Cindy Jurgenson	10/13
Abigail Enevoldsen	10/15
Linda Wasmund	10/15
Carla Johnson	10/16
LuCinda Anderson	10/16
Case Maher	10/17
Rodney Johnson	10/21
Joel Erickson	10/23
Brent Tufto	10/24
Diane Olson	10/24
Brady Moe	10/25
Stacey Enevoldsen	10/25
Wayne Erickson	10/26
David Croymans	10/29
LuWanda Enevoldsen	10/29
Karen Erickson	10/30
Cecily Erickson	10/30
Margaret Kruger	10/31

