



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

Baxter & Saron Church News

November 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 spoke briefly and incorrectly about the history of infant baptism recently. The following is based on some internet research and some of my own thoughts. It is not meant to be a complete, scholarly treatment, but an introduction to the topic. The articles that I read agreed that there is no explicit endorsement of or condemnation of the practice of infant baptism. There is evidence that infants were being baptized as early as the first century and that it had become common practice by the third century. By the time of the Protestant Reformation, infant baptism was the norm.

We cannot be sure of what, exactly, was meant when the apostles baptized "whole households." All of the baptisms recorded in scripture are of adult converts or are unclear about whether children were included. Without explicit Biblical direction, experts turn to church history and how different faith traditions understand baptism. Even if we agree that baptism is a rite of initiation into the church, there are multiple ways of understanding what that means. Can parents who are themselves baptized members of the church speak for their children, bringing them into the church as well, or is baptism reserved for those who can "credibly and consciously profess their belief in Christ?" Either way, it can be said that the church and family work toward the goal of bringing up the child so that they reach that point.

Another factor in the debate is the understanding of sin and redemption. Supporters of infant baptism often use the idea of original sin -- the sinfulness that has been pervasive in humanity ever since Adam and Eve tasted the apple -- and the need for even infants to be cleansed. On the other hand, there is historical evidence that some people put off baptism as long as possible so that they could continue to sin. My understanding is that neither side in this debate currently believes that baptism is the "end of the road" as far as our relationship with God. Yes, our sins are forgiven, but we will continue to be in need of forgiveness as we are bound to continue to sin.

Beyond a history lesson, there are some things that I would like to share as we rapidly move closer to Advent. As a matter of fact, we are going to hurry Advent along this year. Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, we will not have a morning worship that day. That means that we lose the fourth Sunday of Advent. In order to avoid that, we will begin observing Advent a week early this year. Several of the confirmands, a number of adult volunteers and I "retreated" to the Abbey of the Hills over MEA weekend. We enjoyed the perfect fall weather, the beauty of the Abbey and grounds, and our time together. Thank you to the churches for supporting our youth in this way. Speaking of youth, it is wonderful that groups at both churches stepped up to host a "Sunday Fun Day" on Halloween weekend. We will again be worshiping with Trinity of Montevideo and Salem on Thanksgiving Eve. It is encouraging to watch this relationship grow as we establish some new traditions.

In Christ, Pastor Matt

OFFICIAL ACTS – SEPT. / OCT.



Jessica Donner and Samuel Isfeld were united in marriage on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at the

Green Lake Bible Camp Chapel with Pastor Matt officiating.

Congratulations to the happy couple!



Vance Evan Berghuis was baptized on October 8, 2023 at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church of Baxter. Vance was born on August 21st and is the son of Cody & Dakota Berghuis. Vance’s sponsors are Tyler Berghuis, Greg & Leah Skerik, and Kolten & Kylie Weber.

Congratulations to the family!



David Tofte Pastor Matt officiated at the funeral service for David Tofte at Zion Lutheran Church in Appleton on October 9, 2023.

Robert Dieken

Pastor Matt officiated at the funeral service for Robert Dieken at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Clara City on October 24, 2023.

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

We Welcome New Members

Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church of Baxter extends a warm welcome to new members: Cody, Dakota & Haven Berghuis



PARISH NEWS

November Worship

- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**
Communion & Noisy Offering for ELCA World Hunger
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 PENTECOST 24**
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 CHRIST THE KING**
Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves
Baxter WELCA Thankoffering Sunday
- **WED. NOVEMBER 22 THANKSGIVING EVE**
6:30 pm Joint Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Montevideo
7:00 pm Dawson Area Ecumenical Service at Lac qui Parle Lutheran Church
- **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 ADVENT 1**
No Sunday School - Thanksgiving Break

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.**

Attendance Figures

| Baxter Attendance Figures | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|
| Date | # Attending in 2022 | Date | # Attending in 2023 |
| 9/25 | 43 | 9/24 | 48 |
| 10/2 | 50 | 10/1 | 57 |
| 10/9 | 75 | 10/8 | 70 Baptism |
| 10/16 | 58 | 10/15 | 55 |
| 10/23 | 38 | 10/22 | 22 |

| Saron Attendance Figures | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|
| Date | # Attending in 2022 | Date | # Attending in 2023 |
| 9/25 | 42 | 9/24 | 53 |
| 10/2 | 26 | 10/1 | 36 |
| 10/9 | 28 | 10/8 | 38 |
| 10/16 | 31 | 10/15 | 55 |
| 10/23 | 26 | 10/22 | 26 |



Sunday School Notes

There will be NO Sunday School on Nov. 26th for the Thanksgiving weekend.

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

- *Ardyce Thompson *Virgil Enevoldsen
- *Cindy Jurgenson *Shirley Sachariason
- *Susan Siverhus *Chantel Deuth
- *Sharla Kruger *Jerry Johnson
- *Henryk Kuehn (Bridget Bossert's nephew)

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



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Baxter & Saron have two opportunities for Thanksgiving Eve Worship.

- Baxter and Saron will be joining with Trinity Lutheran Church and Salem Lutheran Church in a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on Wed. Nov. 22nd at Trinity Lutheran Church in Montevideo. The service will begin at 6:30 pm and there will be a "Pie Potluck" to follow. You are invited to bring a pie to share, if you would like.
- There will be a Dawson Area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on Wed. Nov. 22nd beginning at 7:00 pm at Lac qui Parle Lutheran Church.

ELCA World Hunger Appeal

We will be focusing on the ELCA World Hunger Appeal during the month of November. There will be offering envelopes available at both churches and the envelopes may be put into the offering plates with your regular offering. Please make your check out to Baxter or Saron and indicate that it is for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. The treasurers will send one check from the church. We will also have a Noisy Offering on Sun. Nov. 5th for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.



*** 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!

Baxter Packs Backpacks for Jacks

Baxter will be packing Backpacks for Jacks on Thu. Nov. 16th and Tue. Nov. 21st at 1:30 pm. Please let Carla Johnson know if you can help out.

Baxter WELCA Thankofferings

Baxter WELCA will be collecting Thankofferings during the worship service on Sun. Nov. 19th.

Baxter WELCA Meeting Minutes

Baxter WELCA Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2023

Present: Lynette Norman, Caroline Nordaune, Margaret Kruger, Bernice Moseng, Alissa Dyshaw, Carla Johnson, Gayle Staab, Diane Olson & Sara Croymans

President Carla Johnson called the meeting to order following the 9:00 a.m. church service.

M/S/P to accept the minutes of the July 30, 2023, meeting were approved (Sara/Bernice) with corrections that the church supper dues remained \$10 rather than the approved \$5 change and that the old church dishes were not sold at the turkey supper as discussed, but were available for taking with a donation.

M/S/P to approve the Treasurer's Report (Alissa/Margaret). It was noted on the Turkey Supper financial report that three Thrivent cards were used to offset expenses. We had a profit of \$3,890.38. A pork feed was held on the same date that provided competition for our dinner.

- The new 2024 budget was provided. **M/S/P** to replace Heifer International donation with LSS MN Cherish All Children (Carolyn/Lynette) and **M/S/P** to replace Current for Curran with Katie's Fund (Bernice/Alissa).

- A thank you potluck meal for Dick Olson, retired janitor, was discussed, possibly scheduled for the second weekend of November. It was assumed the Council would provide a cake, so the potluck would be advertised that desserts are covered.

- Electrical candles for the altar were discussed, given the Council wants to replace the wax candles. Carla has been searching for alternatives. WELCA suggests that perhaps the cost of new candles be covered by memorial funds.

- Carpet cleaning was discussed, including what we want to clean (basement, entry-level, sanctuary, stairs). Carla was going to secure a quote, possibly from Mike Torgerson or Sun Bright. There was also discussion about how old the carpet is and if replacing the carpet would be an option. There was also discussion on what costs WELCA should cover and what the Church should cover.

- A potential kitchen remodel was discussed. No plans have been received from the individual identified at the

April meeting. Carla will contact Kayla at Builder's First Source. There was a discussion on what we want to be done in the kitchen – perhaps a stainless-steel countertop on the middle counter, do something with the walls, leave the cabinets, update electrical, etc.

- WELCA will provide sweet treats after the Sunday School Christmas Program on December 10.

- A thank you note was received from Carol & Scott Brunner from Wisconsin who had relatives who belonged to Baxter after visiting the church.

M/S/P to adjourn the meeting (Carolyn/Lynette).

Acting Secretary, Sara Croymans

*** SARON NEWS ***

Thank you!

- We thank Steve & Vicki Norman for the beautiful fall decorations at the entrance of the church. It's a wonderful welcome for all of us entering the building!

- We thank Izzy Maus and crew for the outstanding work on the repairs to the outside of the church building. It looks great and we appreciate all of the dedication and hard work!



Saron Janitors

There is a sign-up sheet for 2024 up on the bulletin board. Hurry and sign up now for the month of your choice! The council will be assigning people for open months after the Annual Meeting in January.



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Coat Drive



We are once again collecting coats that will be distributed at the Montevideo Library on November 2, 3 and 4. Coats and other warm clothing items of all sizes can be dropped off at Baxter or at the church office.

Meatball Supper

Big Bend Lutheran Church- Wednesday, November 1st

Big Bend Lutheran Church will be serving their Meatball Supper on Wed. Nov. 1st from 4:00 -7:00 pm. The menu includes Meatballs, Corn, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Dinner Roll, Lefse, Creamy Coleslaw & Apple Crisp. The cost is \$14 per plate. Enjoy basement seating or a take-out order. Call 320-793-6621 to place a take-out order on the day of the supper, only. There will be no advance orders.

Santa's Sleigh 2023

Yellow Medicine County residents, with children who need our help this Christmas, will need to complete an enrollment form for the Santa's Sleigh program. Please call YMC Family Services @ 320-564-2211 and request that an application be mailed. They may also send an email to loriformo@co.ym.mn.gov. The deadline for applications is Thu. Nov. 30th.



Equipping Congregations Day

"Living the Word Today"

The Equipping Congregations Day will be held on Sat. Dec. 2nd from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm at Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar. The keynote speaker will be Rolf A. Jacobson, Luther Seminary Dean of the Faculty, Professor of Old Testament and The Alvin N. Rogness Chair of Scripture, Theology and Ministry.

Workshops include:

- Welcoming Refugees
- Church Responding to a World in Need
- Companion Synod Visitor Exchange
- Grants
- Rural Mental Health,
- Trauma Informed Care
- Congregational Hospitality
- Generosity

Please let Pastor Matt know if you are interested in attending.



Baxter Council Meeting Minutes

Baxter Council Meeting Minutes – October 11, 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 (Dick/Jeff) to accept the Secretary's as printed.

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

M/S/C (Inez/Dave) to accept the Office Account Report as printed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Furnace & Thermostat Updates -Have a quote from Kevin Augeson and waiting for one from Olsen Plumbing. Need to compare and make a decision. -Once quotes are in decision was made to go ahead with thermostat **M/S/C** (Judi/Jeff).

- Salem Lutheran Church-Pastoral needs update -They want 2 Sundays/month so no action will be taken.

- Financial Update – status - Right now we have loans from Investment fund for \$10,000 and \$10,000 from bank. We have another \$5,000 available from the bank if needed.
- Signs in front of the church -Need to be moved out for snow removal. Will check with Larson on how far they need to be moved out.
- Candles on the altar-have supply for a while. Possibly go to electric. Need to run by WELCA also to get their thoughts. Still in process.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Custodian-Kristin Eslick-Coats has accepted the position which started 10/9/23.
- Dick Olson Retirement Celebration -Tentative date after church-Nov. 19th -Will check with Dick to see if this date works. If not, we will decide on another date in Dec.
- Thanksgiving Service - Wed., Nov. 22 -Service at Trinity in Monte and there are also services at Dawson churches as options.
- Joint Council in November -Date is set for Nov. 15th at Saron at 8:00 -Baxter will meet at 7:00 before joint meeting
- Estate of Pastor Robert Esse -OSL Church of Baxter was named as a beneficiary in the estate of Pastor Esse. The amount is \$1,000 which will be distributed in approximately 6 months.
- The Synod Assembly increased the rates for both lay and ordained pulpit supply. The new rate is \$175 plus IRS mileage for one service.
- December 24th services - One in the morning and the Christmas Eve Service in the evening? -Decided on having only the Christmas Eve service in the evening.
- Evergreen tree needs to be removed near the church. Decision was made to go ahead and have cut down. - Decision will have to be made if church or cemetery will pay for it.
- Pastor Matt wants same insurance for next year. The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, November 15th at 7:00 PM before joint meeting at Saron.
Lord's Prayer / Adjourn (Loren/Dick)
Brenda Berends, Secretary

Saron Council Meeting

Saron Council did not meet in September.

Baxter November Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Dalton Donahue | 11/1 |
| Benji Bjerkeset | 11/2 |
| Brittney Larson | 11/4 |
| Calvin Anderson | 11/5 |
| Tracy Maher | 11/8 |
| Randy Strand | 11/9 |
| Doug Nordaune | 11/12 |
| Richard Olson | 11/13 |
| Trey Enevoldsen | 11/15 |
| Russell Johnsrud | 11/17 |
| Hunter Struebing | 11/17 |
| Hunter Nelson | 11/19 |
| Luke Dyshaw | 11/22 |
| Troy Estling | 11/22 |
| Larry Flaa | 11/23 |
| Brennan Moe | 11/24 |
| Emma Erickson | 11/24 |
| Carol Kurtzbein | 11/25 |
| Randy Bjerkeset | 11/26 |
| Caelum Skogrand | 11/28 |

Saron November Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Derrick Walsh | 11/1 |
| Keeley Jaenisch | 11/4 |
| Kayla Knudson | 11/5 |
| Liesl Doll | 11/5 |
| Ben Nygaard | 11/6 |
| Cayden Jacobson | 11/8 |
| Ryan Stewart | 11/8 |
| Ed Sachariason | 11/9 |
| Marc Rodeberg | 11/10 |
| Ron Siverhus | 11/11 |
| Melanie Ast | 11/12 |
| Randy Rodeberg | 11/12 |
| Cannon Sachariason | 11/12 |
| Patsy Olson | 11/12 |
| Eva Sachariason | 11/14 |
| Cody Sumner | 11/16 |
| Mason Jacobson | 11/27 |
| Kelly Sachariason | 11/30 |