



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

Baxter & Saron Church News

January 2024



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,

The confirmands and I recently spent some time unpacking the Lord's Prayer. The more that I tried to explain it, the more the students' eyes seemed to glaze over, even when I enlisted the help of Luther's Small Catechism. In the end, I wrote a skit that concluded with Jesus breaking down the parts of prayer. As I told the confirmands, following this outline can change your life. I hope that many of you will join me in making this a habit in the new year.

How Jesus taught his disciples to pray

- Find a time and place to pray.
- Remind yourself that God, the creator of everything, the most powerful force in the universe, loves you, listens to you and wants the best for you.
- Ask God to help you to think like God thinks.
- Thank God for all of the small blessings that surround us and for the giant blessing of being loved.
- Ask for forgiveness for your mistakes and incidences of poor judgment. Pray for the strength to do better.

*** **Especially** ask God to help you to forgive others so that you can be an example of God's love in the world.

- Ask God to take away all of the stuff that keeps you from being the person you are meant to be.
- Remember that all you are and all you have is God's
- Repeat regularly

**In Christ,
Pastor Matt**



OFFICIAL ACTS – DECEMBER



Paul Beito

A private burial was held for Paul Beito at Saron Lutheran Church on December 9, 2023.

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

PARISH NEWS

January Worship

WORSHIP TIMES CHANGE!!

SARON – 9:00 AM / BAXTER 11:00 AM

- **SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**
Communion

Noisy Offering for Lutheran Social Services

Saron Cemetery Association meets following worship

- **SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 EPIPHANY 2**

WORSHIP TIMES SWITCH FOR ANNUAL MEETING!!

BAXTER – 9:00 AM / SARON 11:00 AM

SARON POTLUCK & ANNUAL MEETING

Baxter WELCA meets following worship

- **SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 EPIPHANY 3**

BAXTER POTLUCK & ANNUAL MEETING

Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves

Karen Jacobson leads worship

- **SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 EPIPHANY 4**



PLEASE REMEMBER

Our worship service times will be changing on Sun. Jan. 7th. Saron will have the 9:00 am service and Baxter will have the 11:00 am service.

Attendance Figures

Baxter Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2022	Date	# Attending in 2023
11/27	35	11/26	21
12/4	58	12/3	61
12/11	114 Christmas Program	12/10	Not Available-Program
12/18	35	12/17	37

Saron Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2022	Date	# Attending in 2023
11/27	25	11/26	24
12/4	53	12/3	52
12/11	37	12/10	44
12/18	85 Christmas Program	12/17	66 Christmas Program



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

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| *Curtis Nordaune | *Dale Tufto |
| *Ardyce Thompson | *Virgil Enevoldsen |
| *Cindy Jurgenson | *Shirley Sachariason |
| *Susan Siverhus | *Chantel Deuth |
| *Sharla Kruger | *Jerry Johnson |
| *Sue Ziegler | *Darrin and Melinda Eddy |

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



Annual Meeting Dates



The Annual Meeting for **Saron** will be **Sun. Jan. 14th** and **Baxter's** will be **Sun. 21st**. On Sun. Jan. 14th we will switch worship service times to allow Saron to have a potluck dinner with Annual Meeting to follow. **Deadlines for getting reports in to the church office are 8:30 am: Saron - Tuesday morning, Jan. 9th and Baxter - Tuesday morning, Jan. 16th.**

Nominating Committees

Following are our nominating committees for this year:

- **Baxter - Berta Bjerkeset, Cody Dyshaw & Brenda Berends**
- **Saron - Jaden Schwendemann, Stan Knudson & Steve Rodeberg**

Audit Committees

Following are our audit committees for this year:

- Baxter - Cameron Jurgenson 21, 22, 23 - Larry Anderson 22, 23, 24 & Kalen Bjerkeset 23, 24, 25**
- Saron - Lauree Spletter 21, 22, 23 - Lisa Sederstrom 22, 23, 24 & Diane Dieter 23, 24, 25**

Thank you!

I want to thank both congregations for the gifts that I received for Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated and I feel very fortunate to work with so many wonderful people.

God's Blessings for a Happy New Year! Pam



*** BAXTER NEWS ***

Closing of the 2023 Books

Treasurer Gayle Staab will be closing the books for 2023 on January 8, 2024. Please make any donations for the year 2023 by that date. Thank you for your continuing support. It is greatly appreciated!

Baxter Financial Status

As of November 2023, Baxter currently remains negative approximately \$22,000 year to date. We have continued to be \$12,000 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 are now at year end, please prayerfully consider giving what you are able to help get our budget back on track in order to start the new year without carrying over debt from 2023. Thank you for your consideration and support in this!

Updating Baxter Records

Carol Litke is working on updating Baxter confirmation pictures. The last confirmation picture that we have is from 2017. If the families of confirmed members have a confirmation photo from 2018 - 2023, please get Carol Litke an 8x10 printout, or send the picture to her by e-mail and she will get it copied. If it was a very small class and no one took a class picture, or if you can't locate yours, just send her a graduation picture, preferably 5x7 or 8x10. We just want to be sure everyone is covered and put in our display. Carol's email: tnclitke@farmerstel.net

Grace Christian Outreach Ministries

Grace Christian Outreach Ministries needs our help! We are collecting **Hats, Mittens & Gloves** in **January**. 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!



*** SARON NEWS ***



Saron Family Work Group Leaders

Please note that the Saron Family Work Group Leaders will change on January 1st for 2024. Following are the new leaders:

Work Group # 1 Leaders - Dave & Diane Dieter

Work Group # 2 Leaders - Keith & Robin Beito

The leaders of the work groups rotate and continue as leaders for one year.

WELCA Meeting – Sunday, January 14th

Baxter WELCA will meet following the 9:00 am worship service on Sun. Jan. 14th. Items for discussion include:

- 1) large can opener in kitchen
- 2) candles on altar
- 3) updating the church; using WELCA funds and church funds

Closing of the 2023 Books

Treasurer Diane Sachariason will be closing the books for 2023 on Jan. 3, 2024. Please make any donations for the year 2023 by that date. Thank you for your continuing support. It is greatly appreciated!



Saron Cemetery Assoc. Annual Meeting

The Saron Lutheran Church Cemetery Association will hold their Annual Meeting on Sun. Jan. 7th following the 9:00 am worship service.

Baxter Altar Guild 2024

Month	Name	Land Line	Cell Phone
Jan.	Carol Litke	320-855-2404	
Feb.	Bridget Bossert		320-226-0898
March	Deb Anderson		320-226-4557
	Diane Olson	320-855-2370	320-226-5298
April	Brenda Berends		320-226-2360
	Tracy Maher		507-226-6000
May	Lori Erickson	320-752-4731	320-226-4548
June	Karen Borstad	320-769-4622	
July	Carla Johnson	320-752-4647	
Aug.	Lori Larson	320-269-8472	320-226-1733
Sept.	Sara Erickson		320-226-4081
Oct.	Gayle Staab		320-361-0297
Nov.	Caroline Nordaune	320-769-2684	320-226-4503
Dec.	Tera Gades		320-226-8452

Saron Quilting

Saron Quilting will begin on Mon. Jan. 8th at 9:00 am. Everyone is welcome to come and help out!



Banners will be changed by Karen & Larry Borstad



Start 2024 HEALTHY!

The new year is a great time for a fresh start on being a HEALTHIER you! Did you know that as little as 100 extra calories a day can cause weight gain? Did you know that you can burn approximately 100 calories on a 30-minute walk? When I think about being healthy, I like to think of it as a check and balance system. I make sure that I am putting healthy foods into my body every day (fruits, veggies, lean meats, water) and I make sure that I raise my heart rate every day (intentional exercise or just working around the house!). Here are some tips to help you make good choices to be HEALTHY in 2024!

1. Avoid the "Great White Hazards" which are the highly refined foods such as white flour products, white rice, white potatoes, and sugar/sweets. These foods commonly elevate blood sugar and promote fat storage. The elevation in blood sugar also causes a sudden drop which signals the "appetite command center" to eat more.
2. Fill up on fiber because it quiets the appetite and feeds the "good" bacteria in the gut. Good sources of fiber are beans, whole fruit, veggies, and whole grains.
3. Limit your intake of fructose. Fructose is sugar found in sweet foods and beverages, desserts and most cereals. Processed foods are often high in fructose so limit foods such as fat free dressings, flavored yogurt, etc.
4. Get your protein every day! Protein provides appetite control and helps decrease loss of muscle mass. Good choices include fish, poultry, peanut/nut butter, seeds, low fat dairy, eggs, and beans.
5. Get your beauty sleep! Shoot for 7-8 hours of sleep every night. Research shows that a lack of sleep can cause you to eat more in turn causing weight gain.
6. Exercise to help burn calories and help control your appetite. Make it a goal to get some form of exercise in every day, like walking, swimming, riding bike, etc.

Your friend in Christ,
Tera Gades, RN
Parish Nurse



Baxter Council Meeting Minutes

Baxter Council Meeting Minutes - December 13, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Cody Dyshaw
Members present included: Inez Bjerkeset, Deb Anderson, Jeremy Enevoldsen, Dave Croymans, Brenda Berends, Dick Erickson

Staff present: Pastor Matt Danielson, Gayle Staab

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

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

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

M/S/C (Dick/Jeremy) to accept the Office Account Report as printed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Financial Status Update-year end planning
-Right now we have \$12,000 loan at the bank and \$10,000 loan from our investment account. We have taken a total of \$17,000 from our investment account. It has gone up a total of \$30,000 since we started. At the end of the year we will see where we are at & use the investment account to pay in full so we start out the New Year not in the hole.

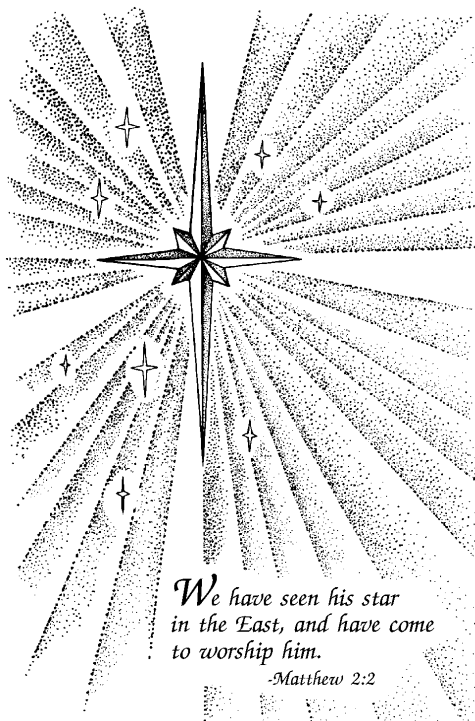
- Candles on the altar
-Able to get candles as needed so no further action is required at this time.
-Check springs in holders and possibly replace them.
-Check to see if Kristen will check and replace candles as needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Paul & Lou Strand will be using the church basement on Sun., Feb. 4th. They will be serving coffee for the congregation following worship and will use the basement for their family in the afternoon.
 - Mailboxes-Updates needed at Baxter.
 - Joe Sachariason will possibly be making new ones. Money will be used from Don Sheldon estate.
 - WELCA-church updates
 - Carla presented some updates that are needed inside/outside the church building.
 - Furnace/Front sidewalk/Wall cabinet/painting basement & kitchen/countertops/basement carpeting/entry carpeting
 - Council decided furnace/front sidewalk/front entry to be looked at and possibly done first.
 - Annual Meeting-prep topics
 - Investment Account update
 - Possible updates to the church
 - Green Lake options for summer
 - Green Lake Ministries-\$250 was donated for 2023. The Annual Meeting & Potluck will be held on Sun., Jan. 21st. Council will meet following to re-organize. Lord's Prayer / Adjourn (Dave/Deb)
- Brenda Berends, Secretary

Baxter January Birthdays

Amber Borstad	1/2
Steven Bornus	1/2
Sonja Norman	1/3
Virgil Enevoldsen	1/4
Susan Lokken	1/5
Andrew Skogrand	1/6
Cameron Jurgenson	1/8
Roger Gruchow	1/8
Lynn Lokken	1/9
Landon Coil	1/9
Karen Borstad	1/10
Jerrad Perkins	1/13
Brent Moseng	1/14
Luke Eslick-Coats	1/16
Jesse Croymans	1/18
Embry Bossert	1/25
Sharla Kruger	1/25
Augusta Yackley	1/27



Saron January Birthdays

Marilyn Rodeberg	1/3
Alicia Ervin	1/4
Joe Schularick	1/6
Steve Jacobson	1/8
Arnold Zempel	1/13
Claire Stewart	1/15
Brent Ervin	1/20
Jean Olson	1/22
Shaun Rodeberg	1/25
Wayne Nyheim	1/27
Reyna Sachariason	1/29
Randy Peterson	1/31
Tom Jacobson	1/31