



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

# Baxter & Saron Church News

## February 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,

From dust you came, and to dust you will return. There are a lot of ways of looking at this truth that confronts us on Ash Wednesday. It reminds us that we are all made of the same stuff, no matter how we live our lives. It is the stuff that God spoke into being out of the formless void. It connects us with all of creation for all eternity. It shows us that we don't matter so much as individuals -- only as a small part of the greater whole. Maybe most of all, it reminds us of our mortality. We might also take it as a reminder of just how short and unpredictable the span of a human life really is. For me, that means trying to do better with living in the now. It is so easy to get wrapped up in guilt about the past and worry about the future that the present keeps getting away from me. For example, I can spend three hours fretting about typing the perfect newsletter article instead of just getting it done and then doing something that matters. I find myself playing computer games or wasting time in other ways because I don't have enough time to do anything substantial.

I picture God asking, "What are you busy with right now?" and needing to reply, "Nothing much" on a regular basis. Life has a way of slipping away from us while we are making plans. This is especially tragic because even the smallest kindness done for another can have a huge effect (maybe even bigger than the perfect newsletter article). I can't quite get hold of the exact point that I'm trying to make here, but I think I'm going to let it be and go talk to the kids downstairs at the youth club.

**In Christ,  
Pastor Matt**



Don't sleep your life away -  
get busy for Jesus!





### Installation of Councils / Officers - Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>

There will be an installation of the church council and officers on Sun. Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> during the worship services at Saron (9:00) and Baxter (11:00). Following is a list of the council members & officers for 2024:

**Saron** – Diane Sachariason, Pat Sederstrom, Gregg Birhanzi, Izzy Maus, Steve Jacobson, Paul Sachariason, Mike Knudson, Shaun Rodeberg, Janice Sachariason, Ross Sederstrom, Cathy Ervin, Steve Norman, Jean Olson & Marc Rodeberg

**Baxter** – Gayle Staab, Stacey Enevoldsen, Tera Gades, Gene Moseng, Jeff Johnson, Richard Erickson, Dave Croymans, Inez Bjerkeset, Deb Anderson, Loren Bjerkeset, Judi Eggert, Jeremy Enevoldsen, Larry Borstad, Mike Hoime, Terry Litke & Taylor Strand



- February 21<sup>st</sup> - Lenten Service - Saron
- February 28<sup>th</sup> - Lenten Service - Baxter
- March 6<sup>th</sup> - Lenten Service - Saron
- March 13<sup>th</sup> - Lenten Service - Baxter
- March 20<sup>th</sup> - Lenten Service - Saron
- March 28<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday - Saron
- March 29<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday - Baxter
- March 31<sup>st</sup> - Easter Sunday  
Saron - 7:00 am / Baxter - 9:00 am

Starting time for the Lenten Services will be 6:00 pm at both churches and supper will be served. This does not include the Maundy Thursday, or Good Friday services.

### GLLM Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for Green Lake Lutheran Ministries will be held on Tue. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> beginning with a noon meal at Green Lake Bible Camp. We thank our delegates: Pastor Matt, Cody Dyshaw from Baxter and Robin Beito, Carolyn Knudson & Pat Sederstrom from Saron



### Lac qui Parle Conference Assembly

The Lac qui Parle Conference Assembly will be held on **Sun. Feb. 18, 2024 at 2:00 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Montevideo**. Registration is at 1:30 pm, with the meeting to start at 2:00 pm. We thank our delegates for representing us!

**Pastor Matt**

**Baxter:** Norman & Mary Lou Viken, Carla Johnson & Judi Eggert

**Saron:** Joel & LaRae Sachariason and Volunteers

### **\* BAXTER NEWS \***



### Birthday Celebration

Please join Paul and Lou Strand and their family for donuts and coffee after church on Sun. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. We are celebrating Paul's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday and Lou's 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

### Baxter Cemetery Association Annual Mtg.

The Baxter Cemetery Association Annual Meeting has been scheduled for **Sun. Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>** following the 11:00 am worship service.



## Backpacks for Jacks

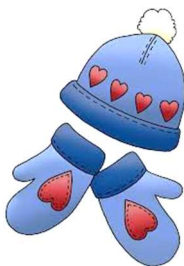
Baxter will be packing Backpacks for Jacks on **Thu. Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> & Thu. Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>** from 1:30-2:15 pm (only 45 minutes) at the Dawson/Boyd Cafeteria. Please let Carla know if you can help out.

## Baxter 2024 Volunteers

Baxter Members: Please note that we have many openings on our 2024 volunteer sheet. Sign-up sheets are still available at the church, or you may contact President Jeff Johnson if you would be willing to fill a volunteer spot.

## GCO Ministries

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



## WELCA Meeting – Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

The meeting was called to order by President Carla Johnson at 10:00.

Present; Carla, Judi, Inez, Deb, Mary Lou, Bernice, Lyndsa, Alyssa, Lorie, Gayle, Diane, Sara.

**M/S/A** -to accept the minutes from the October 22, 2023 meeting.

**M/S/A** -to accept the treasurer's report as presented. This is with a small change to the income from the church supper. The amount is now \$3,791,57. Total amount in the Treasury is \$11,543.87.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- The carpet was cleaned.
- Electricity was investigated. We will not upgrade at this time.

- **M/S/A** -Carla will purchase a commercial can opener.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Gary catering will return to serve the church supper.
- The date for the supper has been set for September 11, 2024.

- Carla has gotten quotes from the Home Store for new carpeting, labor, removal of the old carpet.

New carpet in the basement would cost- \$8,293,70

New carpet for the entry way and connecting hallway \$5,155.36

New carpet for the stairs \$3,467.28

New carpet for the chapel \$2,962.08.

Countertop quote \$5,666.67 laminate from Building First. No labor included.

Carla did not look into painting prices but did point out that YES, paneling can be painted. But should be done by a professional painter. Kitchen border would have to come down. And the VCR cabinet should be removed first.

The name of Marc Schwartz of Clarkfield was mentioned.

- Deb Anderson came to the meeting with a case of Folgers decaffeinated coffee. It was given to her by Jill Burdorf Cook. She had ordered coffee from Amazon, they sent decaf instead of regular and instead of having it returned to them they told her to donate it which she did. A Thank You will be sent.

- The choice of using a vinyl laminate floor was brought up but we decided against it because carpet absorbs more noise.

- The decision was made to donate \$6,000.00 to the council towards a new carpet in the entryway, connecting hallway, chapel, up the stairs and to look into the replacement of windows in the chapel and entry. This was brought up by Carla at the annual meeting which was held after our meeting adjourned.

**M/S/A** to adjourn our meeting, the church service followed with a pot luck dinner and the annual meeting after.

Secretary, Carol Litke

**\* SARON NEWS \***

Saron Quilting

Saron Quilters meet on Monday mornings at 9:00 am. Everyone is welcome to come and help out!

Attention - Saron Members

Saron received an annuity withdrawal check from Thrivent Financial that indicated no name. This was **NOT** Choice dollars. The check was issued in December. If this check is from you and you would like credit, please call or text Diane Sachariason at 320-226-3124.

Saron "Good Gifts" Totals

Pigs	6	180.00
Honeybees	5	100.00
Soup Kitchen	2	40.00
Goats	2	100.00
Chicks	3	30.00
Fruit Tree Seedling	2	20.00
Bible	1	12.00
Rooster	1	15.00
Clinic Visit	2	20.00
Mosquito Net	2	20.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>537.00</b>

Your gifts reflect God's love, making a difference in people's lives around the world. Your donations support long-term sustainable solutions that ensure that these good gifts last for more than a couple days or weeks. They keep on giving for years to come.

*Thank you!*



Saron Council Minutes

**Saron Council Meeting Minutes – December 27, 2023**

Members Present Were: Ross, Steve R., Shaun, Diane, Stan, Mike, Heidi, Paul & Pastor Matt

Vice-President Steve Rodeberg called the meeting to order. Pastor Matt opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Secretary's Report was approved as printed.

The Treasurer's Report was approved after some questions. At the last meeting we approved to budget a total of \$1500 for Southwestern Minnesota's budget and zero dollars for the missionary. The reason is because we have had lots of expense this year. Also, a missionary was at our church recently and the offering at that service was given to the missionary.

The Office Account was approved after Diane went over a few things. We did approve for Diane to purchase the hardware for the computer.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- The budget was approved after the Treasure's Report was discussed.
- The remodeling fundraising project was discussed. Nothing was accomplished on this subject.
- The phone in the elevator was discussed. No one knows the number for that phone.
- We discussed the heating system and how to set the thermostat. Janitors need to be aware of what needs to be done for this problem.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- JoAnn and Heidi are going to be gone one Sunday in the future. They want to know how to handle this problem. Out computer experts told us that by using a computer and the Apple software, this problem can be solved. Pastor Matt and Lori will work on this.
- The council is in charge of the Annual Meeting. Diane will order the supplies that are needed for this meeting. Being no other business, we adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Saron Annual Meeting Minutes

**Saron Annual Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2024**

Meeting called to order by President Steve Jacobson at 12:35 pm. It was determined that a quorum was present

- Pastor Matt gave his report and reported how thankful he was that everyone at Saron could get along with few squabbles. Motion David/second Mike to approve Pastor's report. Motion passed

- President Steve reported on council activities. He mentioned that we need to replace funds that were spent for narthex improvements, furnaces, storm damage, etc. Steve also thanked Pastor Matt and Tami, Izzy Maus for his work on the building, and everyone who brought food for the potluck. He mentioned that attendance for council meetings has been great.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AS FOLLOWS:**

- Youth and Family - have not met
- Ministry - reported that Saron exclusively might possibly try meeting Wednesday nights during summers. Lenten services will be Wednesday nights. Also, special music was discussed and thank you to Lori for playing downloaded music during communion. She will also take requests. Should there be a Sunday when neither organist can be there, hymns could be downloaded and played via I-Phone.
- Memorial - \$4500 was given from the Dean Rodeberg family toward the Narthex project.'
- Action- No report given
- Luther Haven - Fine Lunch - they have a new manager/director originally from Marshall area that just started in December
- Gustavus- No report given
- Auditing - Lisa/Diane reported all in order. Lauree looked also and reported all was fine
- Cemetery- reported that 1/2 of the mowing is paid from here - some cash will be moved into a CD to earn more interest - church was the benefactor of Alice Kvanli Holland donation of 10K. She was involved with Sons of Norway. After using Google by Karen J, it was pieced together that this person is a sister to Arlen Kvanli and her grandfather is buried here - maybe in the future concrete will be poured with stones being placed on top so it could alleviate straightening of stones - presently are continuing with straightening of stones using 2K each year from funds
- Treasurer's Report - page 11-12 and thank you to Diane for all her work. Motion by David, second by Scott, report approved
- Nominating- Mike/Karen to cast unanimous ballot and approved.

- Dave, Diane volunteered for Brookside
- Budget- Some notes from Diane were that she gets reimbursed for the payroll software, we pay 1/2 of mowing, the Pastor's salary, etc. increased as well as Pam's. No Green Lake Bible Camp money was given nor additional money given to the missionary due to large expenses this year. Stan made motion, second by Jaden, budget approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Izzy Maus was gone so there wasn't an update for the projects

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- How does the word get out to people not on Facebook, nor listening to the radio, nor looking at the church website of a church cancellation not related to weather? Ideas came up, but it was decided to have the council put it on their agenda.
- The church has a mice infestation so discussion was held about what to do. Again, this was decided to have the council figure out a plan. Pastor Matt expressed an appreciation to Pam for all the work she does and that we should not take her for granted. After a hearty applause, Ron was also recognized for all his help and assistance. Motion to adjourn by Diane, second by Wayne, unanimous approval followed by the Lord's Prayer. Heidi Lipps, Notetaker

### Saron Council Re-Organizational Minutes

#### **Saron Council Re-Organizational Minutes - Jan. 14, 2024**

Members present- Steve Jacobson, Steve Norman, Cathy Ervin, Jean Olson, Ross Sederstrom, Shaun Rodeberg, Diane Sachariason, Mike Knudson, Pastor Matt and Pam Schultz

Call to Order by President Steve Jacobson

Election of Officers- President- Steve Jacobson

Vice- President- Mike Knudson

Secretary- Jean Olson

Treasurer- Diane Sachariason

Appointments to the Youth and Family Board – Shaun Rodeberg, Ministry Board- Diane Sachariason

Pastor Matt's Report- in Annual Report was approved motion by Steve N, Seconded by -Mike K

Secretary's Report- approved Motion by Steve N, Seconded by Shaun R.

Treasurer's Report – in Annual Report was approved, motion by Mike K, seconded by Steve N

Office Account Report- Printed -Pastor Matt explained it

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Pam S collected cell phone #s for new Council members.

- Complete Janitor List for 2024-

March- Scott & Jody Sachariason / Diane & Jason Sachariason

Sept- check with Jim Walsh to do it with Ed & Janice Sachariason

Dec- Ryan Knudson / Ross Sederstrom

- Installation of Councils and Officers will be Sun. Feb 11<sup>th</sup> during the 9:00 am Worship Service

- Rodent Problem- Ross S. will call EcoLab, clean up after we will contact Sunbright Cleaners

Next meeting -Wed Feb 21<sup>st</sup> following the Lenten Service  
Motion to Adjourn made by Mike K, seconded by Diane S

## Baxter Annual Meeting Minutes

### **Baxter Annual Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2024**

Council President Cody Dyshaw called the meeting to order. It was determined a quorum was present.

Cody thanked Pastor Matt, Dick Olson, Kristen Eslick-Coats and Council members for everything done this past year.

**M/S/C** (D. Erickson/K. Norman) to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2023 annual meeting.

Cody provided a brief Council Report.

- Reviewed reports from Youth & Family board, Ministry board, Memorial fund, Madison Lutheran Home, Luther Haven, Brookside, Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, Gustavus, Auditing, WELCA, Cemetery, Benevolence, Investment Committee, Sunday school, and Livestream & Luther League.

- Cemetery Committee will meet Sun., Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>

- Livestream volunteers-Cody, Dustin, Tera & Brenda. Kristen Eslick-Coats expressed interest in helping out also.

- No updates were provided regarding the LQP Conference.

- Treasurer's Report for 2023 was reviewed. **M/S/C** (L. Bjerkeset/T. Litke) to approve the Treasurer's Report.

We were \$12,000 short for the year. Decision was made to take money from investment fund to pay \$12,000. **M/S/C** (N. Viken/ J. Eggert) approved using money from investment fund.

- The Nominating Committee Report was reviewed. **M/S/C** (J. Johnson/G. Moseng) for nominations to cease and to accept a unanimous ballot of candidates as printed.

- Discussed the 2024 Budget. Clergy salary and benefits were increased according to synod recommendations. Budget similar to 2023. **M/S/C** (N. Viken/L. Bjerkeset) to approve 2024 budget.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Investment Committee

Funds were invested with Pickup and Associates. As of 12/31/23 there was a gain of \$34,000 which is 10%.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Church Renovations/Updates-

#1 priority would be to replace furnace which would be approx. \$5,000.

#2 priority would be to replace concrete in front of the church which would be approx. \$12,000-\$14,000.

#3 priority would be to update front entry, stairs & chapel with new carpet which is approx. \$20,000.

These above are all estimates and would have to get firm quotes for each.

WELCA would be willing to use \$6,000 from WELCA account to go towards these updates above.

**M/S/C** (C. Litke/C. Johnson) approved to use funds from WELCA.

Another suggestion was to use money from the Memorial Fund to help with expenses above. Council can review and make decision.

**M/S/C** (J. Johnson/G. Moseng) to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Secretary, Brenda Berends

## Baxter Council Re-Organizational Minutes

### **Baxter Council Re-Organizational Minutes – January 21, 2024**

The Church Council held a reorganizational meeting on January 21, 2024, following the Annual Meeting.

Present: Larry Borstad, Deb Anderson, Mike Hoime, Loren Bjerkeset, Terry Litke, Judi Eggert, Inez Bjerkeset, Richard Erickson, Dave Croymans, Jeff Johnson

Not Present: Taylor Strand, Jeremy Enevoldsen

The Pastor's Report was accepted as printed.

The Secretary's Report was accepted as printed.

**M/S/C** (Terry/Richard) to accept the Treasurer's Report was accepted as printed.

The Office Account Report was accepted as printed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A Family Fun Day is being planned for February 11 for all adults and kids and will include board games, cards, bingo, and much more.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Appointed as Council Officers: Jeff Johnson as President, Richard Erickson as Vice President, and Dave Croymans as Secretary
- 2024 Volunteer List: the sign-up sheets will be posted in the church and also passed around during Sunday services due to the lack of volunteers
- Grace Christian Outreach Ministries is looking for hat and mitten donations.
- The Litke Family will be using the church basement on Saturday, June 8, 2024, for a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- The 2023 Financial Status was discussed at the annual meeting.
- Dustin Johnson is part of a brass band and would like to use the church basement on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday nights for practice. The council thought this was fine.
- Updating front of the church: Richard Erickson will contact Cody Dyshaw to collect the bids that the church has already received. Jeff Johnson will collect the flooring bids that WELCA has received.

Secretary, David Croymans

## **Baxter February Birthdays**

Jordan Skogrand	2/1
Michael Borstad	2/1
Robert Berends	2/2
Paul Strand	2/3
Lynnae Enevoldsen	2/5
Adam Larson	2/6
Glenn Carlson	2/7
Kane McCarty	2/10
Sara Erickson	2/10
Shane Fitcher	2/13
Lori Erickson	2/14
Dustin Stone	2/14
David Estling	2/16
Luella Strand	2/16
Alissa Dyshaw	2/18
Jeff Johnson	2/18
Froya Olson	2/21
Tyler Enevoldsen	2/21
Gayle Staab	2/23
Thea Dack	2/25
Lyndsae Dack	2/25
Watson Kosbab	2/26
Tammy Louwagie	2/27



## **Saron February Birthdays**

Chris Haugen	2/1
Steve Sederstrom	2/2
Dave Dieter	2/2
Emma Schwendemann	2/4
Lisa Sederstrom	2/7
Jeff Nyheim	2/8
Kevin Siverhus	2/17
Paula Sachariason	2/17
Jack Jacobson	2/19
Lauree Spletter	2/19
Carol Lietzau	2/20
Bandon Peterson	2/22
Tracy Sherod	2/23
Rowan Olson	2/24