



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



Baxter & Saron Church News

March 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,

As we make our way through Lent, I would like to share the Mission and Vision statement of the ELCA.

Mission & Vision

Vision

A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

Purpose

Activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.

Goal

Share the story of Jesus and the ELCA by engaging with 1 million new people as we grow the church together.

Values

Our values are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and practices our faith, and they will guide how we journey forward in Christ as church together.

Forgiveness and reconciliation – We are reconciled to God by God's forgiving mercy. Forgiveness and reconciliation flow from what God has made us to be in Jesus Christ and what God is doing with us in the world. As a people of God, we embody forgiveness in speech, action and relationships, and our ministry in reconciliation is foundational.

Dignity, compassion and justice – Each person is created in God's image. We respect this God-given right to dignity and, inspired by the life of Jesus, show love and compassion for all people. Through proclamation of the gospel, through worship and as servants of God working for healing and justice in the world, we uphold and seek to protect the dignity and human rights of all people.

Inclusion and diversity – As Christ's church, we value the richness of God's creation and offer a radical welcome to all people, appreciating our common humanity and our differences. We are a church that does not view diversity as a barrier to unity. We recognize and will challenge dynamics of power and privilege that create barriers to participation and equity in this church and society – for women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, people who are marginalized or living in poverty, and the LGBTQ community.

Courage and openness to change – Because we trust in God's promise and understand faith to be a living, daring confidence in God's grace, we are emboldened to embrace learning and change in our spiritual and institutional journey as church. This means we are open to new ways and willing to take risks to discover God's plan for this church.

Faithful stewardship of God's creation and gifts – As church together, faithful stewardship is about holding to God's purpose and ensuring the responsibilities and resources that God has entrusted to us are used with great care and with accountability to God, to each other and those served by this church.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

OFFICIAL ACTS – FEBRUARY



Leni Marie Maher

was baptized on February 18, 2024 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Baxter. Leni was born on November 16, 2023 and is the daughter of Brandon & Tracy Maher. Leni's sponsors are Samantha Maher, Reese Maher & Briggs Maher.

Sayler Faye Stavne

was baptized on February 24, 2024 during a private service at Saron Lutheran Church. Sayler was born on June 8, 2023 and is the daughter of Shane & Paige Stavne. Sayler's sponsors are Kelsey Bourne & Christal Stavne.

God's Blessings to the families!

PARISH NEWS

March Worship

- SUNDAY, MARCH 3** **LENT 3**

Communion

Noisy Offering Baxter - Backpacks for Jacks

Saron - Rice Hospice

- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6** **LENTEN SERVICE**

Location: SARON at 6:00 pm

- SUNDAY, MARCH 10** **LENT 4**

- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13** **LENTEN SERVICE**

Location: BAXTER at 6:00 pm

Joint & Individual Councils meet following

- SUNDAY, MARCH 17** **LENT 5**

Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves

- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20** **LENTEN SERVICE**

Location: SARON at 6:00 pm

- SUNDAY, MARCH 24** **PALM SUNDAY**

Process in with palms

Saron Sunday School sings

Baxter Fun Day Sunday

- THURSDAY, MARCH 28** **HOLY WEEK SERVICE**

Location: SARON at 7:00 pm

- FRIDAY, MARCH 29** **HOLY WEEK SERVICE**

Location: BAXTER at 7:00 pm

- SUNDAY, MARCH 31** **EASTER SUNDAY**

Saron 7:00 am / Baxter 9:00 am

Easter Breakfast 8:00 am at both churches

Communion / NO Sunday School

Attendance Figures

Baxter Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2023	Date	# Attending in 2024
1/29	28	1/28	Not Available
2/5	69	2/4	102 - Anniversary
2/12	40	2/11	55
2/19	29	2/14	Cancelled - Ash Wed.
		2/18	54 - Baptism

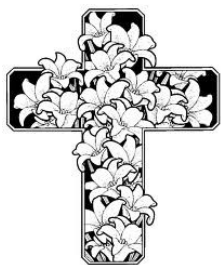
Saron Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2023	Date	# Attending in 2024
1/29	38	1/28	39
2/5	23	2/4	34
2/12	40	2/11	33
2/19	37	2/14	30 Ash Wednesday
		2/18	34



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

- *Curtis Nordaune
- *Cindy Jurgenson
- *Susan Siverhus
- *Sharla Kruger
- *Sue Ziegler
- *Virgil Enevoldsen
- *Shirley Sachariason
- *Chantel Deuth
- *Jerry Johnson

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



Easter Flowers

If you wish to participate in the Memorial Easter Flower Garden, please let Pam know **BEFORE Fri. March 29th** to get it included in the announcements. Thank you!



- March 6th - Lenten Supper Church - Saron
- March 13th - Lenten Supper Church - Baxter
- March 20th - Lenten Supper Church - Saron
- March 28th - Holy Week Service - Saron - 7:00 pm
- March 29th - Holy Week Service - Baxter - 7:00 pm
- March 31st - Easter Sunday
Saron - 7:00 am / Baxter - 9:00 am
Easter Breakfast at both churches - 8:00 am

Starting time for the Lenten Supper Church will be 6:00 pm at both churches and supper will be served. Supper will not be served at the Holy Week services.

Bridal Shower for Alyssa Formo



Please join us for a bridal shower honoring Alyssa Formo on Saturday, April 27th @ 1:00 pm at the Maynard Event Center. Please RSVP to Pam Walter @ 320-582-0171 by April 8th.

Joint Ministry Board Minutes

January 11, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Members present: Lori Formo, Michelle May, David Lipps.
Members Absent: Lyndsae Dack, Dustin Johnson, Lyndsae Dack, Judi Eggert, Heidi Lipps. Also present: Pastor Matt Danielson

The Committee discussed feedback on the contemporary music played during communion at Saron and acknowledged receiving positive feedback and talking about playing more music when Joann and Heidi aren't available. The Committee talked about how to create playlists for service.

Pastor Matt presented a concept called Dinner Church which is a more interactive experience and way to gather, discuss the scripture, prayers, and liturgy while typically sharing a meal and involving everyone in the discussion. And the idea of trying this concept during Lent.

The Committee also talked about summer service during Wednesday and Sunday at one church and flip flop each week. On Wednesdays, Pastor Matt would share the readings and provide background before coming to service on Sunday.

These interactive Church experiences require a little more effort; someone to take care of the meal, people to coordinate activities with the kids, and people to decorate for the theme of each service.

The reason to consider these alternatives is to try something different considering the poor attendance during summer months.

The proposed Lent schedule is the following:

Saron- February 21, March 6, March 20
Baxter- February 28, March 13

The order of service would be Prayer, Meal, Discussion/Service.

For Summer, we talked about approximately 6 Wednesdays in the Summer and the custodians and lay readers splitting the Wednesdays and Sundays.

The Committee talked further about Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services; specifically, about how to improve those.

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 18th at 7pm at the Church Office.



Grace Christian Outreach Ministries

Grace Christian Outreach Ministries needs our help!

SARON and BAXTER are collecting items!

We are collecting **HYGIENE ITEMS** in **March & April**. There is a donation box in the chapel at Baxter and in the entry at Saron. Thank you for supporting this wonderful mission!

Lutheran World Relief Pick-up Date

Lutheran World Relief has scheduled a pick-up date for May 4, 2024 at Our Savior's in Montevideo. We will accept items earlier if that day does not work for you. Please go to their website to see what your church can make and prepare for others in need. Thanks for everyone who participated last year.

*** BAXTER NEWS ***



Baxter Fun Day Sunday - March 24th, Palm Sunday

On March 24th, Palm Sunday, Baxter will be having a Fun Day Sunday! Join us in celebrating Spring and Easter. There will be Lunch, Fellowship, an Easter Egg Hunt and Games for Everyone! Please join us for all of the Fun!

Baxter Bible Camp Scholarships

The council for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Baxter has agreed to pay 75% of the cost toward Bible Camp / Agape / Mission Trips. Contact a council member if you are interested or have questions.



Baxter Cemetery Association-Annual Mtg.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Baxter Township Cemetery Association Annual Meeting was held on February 11, 2024, at the church following the church service. The meeting was called to order by President Dustin Johnson.

The minutes of the February 12, 2023, Annual Meeting were approved.

The 2023 Treasurer's report was approved. Motion made by Terry Litke and second by Larry Borstad. Thank you to Jeff Johnson and Larry Borstad for doing the audit.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A written lease was established with Brad Evans
- The cemetery clean-up was held this past year with trees removed and grass planted. Thank you to Wayne Erickson for bringing his equipment to help with the tree removal.
- A few unmarked graves were identified and marked. Thank you to Carol and Terry Litke for doing this.

NEW BUSINESS:

- New trees can be planted as memorials. Guidelines need to be established.
- The steel benches in the entryway may be moved to the cemetery.
- It was suggested a plaque be put on the Cemetery Directory indicating the donation from Harold Illaug.
- A unanimous ballot was cast for Dustin Johnson and Berta Bjerkeset to each serve a second term on the Cemetery Board. The motion was made by Gene Moseng and second by Carol Litke. The motion passed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jeff Johnson and second by Cody Dyshaw.

Wayne Erickson, Secretary

Baxter Quilting

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





WELCA News & Notes

- The LqP Conference WELCA is having a Gathering on Tuesday, April 16, 9:00 am at Garfield Lutheran Church. The program is Kim Derich sharing her experience / mission work in Guatemala. ALL are welcome (yep, including the men).
- Saturday, May 4 SW MN WELCA will be having their convention in Redwood Falls.
- Painting and new carpeting will be happening in the entry way. Pictures will come down. If you have information for cleaning any of them, please visit with Carla. The three of concern are the Jesus picture, Lord's Supper and then the Lord's Prayer which is above piano in basement. If you have the eye for décor and would like to suggest rearrangement, please visit with Carla.

* SARON NEWS *

Saron Quilting

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



Saron Mowing Bids

The Saron Council is accepting bids on the church grounds lawn mowing for the 2024 season. Please submit bids to Steve Jacobson. **Please note that the bidder must have a certificate of insurance and the bids should be for each time of mowing, not for the season. The deadline for bids is Tue. April 23rd.**



Baxter Council Minutes

Baxter Council Minutes – February 18, 2024

The Church council meeting was called to order by President Jeff Johnson at 10:00 am on Feb. 18, 2024 prior to church. The meeting resumed after church.

All council members were present: Larry Borstad, Mike Hoime, Terry Litke, Inez Bjerkeset, Dave Croymans, Taylor Strand, Jeremy Enevoldsen, Deb Anderson, Loren Bjerkeset, Judi Eggert, Richard Erickson, Jeff Johnson.

The Pastor's Report was accepted as printed.

M/S/C (Dick/Deb) to accept the Jan. 21, 2024 Secretary's Report as printed.

M/S/C (Larry/Deb) to accept the Treasurer's Report was accepted as printed.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- Downstairs bathroom:

M/S/C (Dick/Jeremy) to approve the expense of \$762 to have Freeman Plumbing install a raised toilet and two grab bars in the backroom/downstairs bathroom.

M/S/C (Inez/Dick) to have these funds come from the memorial fund.

- Carpeting/Painting/Windows:

M/S/C (Judi/Inez) to:

Replace the carpeting for \$9,700 from the Home Store in the entryway, chapel, stairs/landing, as well as the hallway by the bathrooms.

Paint the entryway and hallway walls and ceilings, as well as the ceiling in the chapel for \$8,409 from Clare Paints.

Replace 6 windows in the entryway and chapel for \$6,000.

M/S/C (Dick/Judy) that \$18,000 will come from the memorial fund. WELCA will cover the remaining \$6,000.

- Picture Cleaning: **M/S/C** (Dick/Terry) to allocate up to \$1,000 to clean 3 pictures (the Last Supper and Jesus pictures in the entry and the Lord's Prayer located downstairs).

- Furnace: Jeremy Enevoldsen will get an estimate for a heat pump from REC to possibly replace the furnace downstairs to increase efficiency.
- Sidewalk: Dick is soliciting up-to-date bids to replace the sidewalk (above and below the steps) in front of the church.
- Landscaping: the topic of landscaping in the back of the church where water was coming in was tabled for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Loan Authorization: **M/S/C** (Larry/Terry) to authorize the Treasurer to obtain a loan of up to \$15,000 as needed for 2024.
- Sponsorship for Bible Camp/Agape/Mission Trips: will remain the same in 2024 at it was in 2023 and covers 75% of the fees.
- Noisy Offerings: Recipients for 2024 will be the same as 2023. (January & February - LSS; March - Backpacks for Jacks; April & July - Dawson Food Shelf; May - Rice Hospice; June - Hunger Walk; August - LqP County Food Shelf; September - LqP Walk of Hope; October - Chippewa County Food Shelf; November - ELCA World Hunger; and December - Santa Anonymous)
- Grace Christian Outreach Ministries: Options were discussed to continue participating in this program.
- Easter Service: Baxter's Easter service will be held at 9:00 am with breakfast before the service at 8:00 am. Loren is coordinating the breakfast.
- Summer Schedule: **M/S/C** (Inez/Larry) that in June, July, and August we will have church every other Sunday at 9:00 am and every other Wednesday evening. This alternating schedule needs to be coordinated with Saron.
- Possible Opportunity: The council discussed the possibility of selling Pastoral time to area churches, due to lack of clergy. No decisions were made.

M/S/C (Jeremy/Judi) to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 pm.
Secretary, David Croymans

Baxter Financial Update

General Ledger as of 1/1/24 \$11,484
General Ledger as of 1/31/24 \$11,917

Baxter March Birthdays

Terry Holen	3/1
Bradley Lokken	3/9
Larry Anderson	3/9
Dustin Deuth	3/9
Mikaela Erickson	3/10
London Strand	3/10
Irene Breberg	3/11
Nicole Stand	3/13
Alan Tufto	3/13
Amber Stanley	3/14
Easton Skogrand	3/16
Ryan Bjerkeset	3/17
Blake Maher	3/18
Kasey Tufto	3/22
Susan Bornus	3/25
Lief Peterson	3/25
Echo Nguyen	3/27
Cole Kosbab	3/29
Eloise Tufto	3/29
Bridget Bossert	3/31



Saron March Birthdays

Daisy Sachariason	3/2
Terrance Siverhus	3/5
Jessie Carlson	3/6
Tanya Schroeder	3/9
David Lipps	3/9
Tova Huwe	3/12
Ben Baldwin	3/17
Weston Siverhus	3/19
Lori Formo	3/25
Jason Sachariason	3/28
Vicki Norman	3/29