



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



Baxter & Saron Church News **May 2024**

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

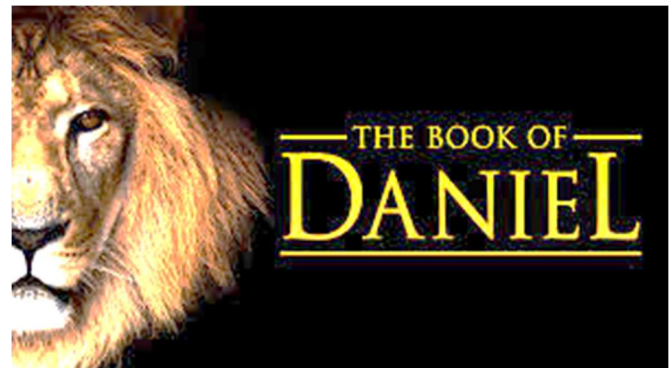


Friends in Christ,

In this newsletter you will find a schedule for the entire summer. Both councils have agreed to a summer schedule with 9 am worship at Saron or Baxter on alternating Wednesdays and 7 pm worship on Wednesdays. The Sunday morning services will be traditional communion services held in the sanctuary. The Wednesday services will be more along the lines of the Lenten Wednesday services in that they will be focused on a single text and will be held in the church basements. There are plans at Baxter for some fireside gatherings, so keep your eyes open for those. There will also likely be at least one Wednesday service at Heritage Hill during the summer. My plan is to cover the book of Daniel on Wednesdays this summer.

Both the story of Daniel and the prophecies contained in the book are important, and this is an opportunity for us to learn more about them. I hope to create engaging activities that lead to productive discussions of Daniel. I know that this is possible, because we did it during Lent, and it happens regularly at our Bible study. I appreciate the opportunity to utilize the skills that I acquired as a teacher. While I understand that summer weekends are a precious commodity, I hope to see you at church whenever you can make it.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt



OFFICIAL ACTS – APRIL



Bella Ann Knudson

was baptized on April 7, 2024 at Saron Lutheran Church. Bella was born on December 26, 2023 and is the daughter of Ryan & Brianna Knudson. Bella’s sponsors are Katherine Knudson & Christian Kanten and Connor Staton.

God’s Blessings to the family!

Affirmation of Baptism Sunday - April 21st

Saron

Ben Baldwin

Keeley Jaenisch

Chloe Sachariason

Jed Walsh

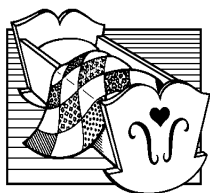


Affirmation of Baptism Sunday - April 28th

Baxter

Reese Maher

CONGRATULATIONS & BLESSINGS TO...



Colin John was born on April 11, 2024 to Cody & Alissa Dyshaw from Baxter. Colin weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and was 19” long.

Emma Ann was born on April 11, 2024 to Mike & Ashley Haff from Saron. Emma weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. and was 20” long.

God’s Blessings to the families!

PARISH NEWS

May Worship

- **SUNDAY, MAY 5** **EASTER 6**

Last day of Sunday School at Saron
 Blessing of the Quilts at Saron & Baxter
 Baxter honors Senior WELCA Members
 Communion & Noisy Offering
 Baxter - Rice Hospice
 Saron - Minnesota River Valley Cancer Connections

- **SUNDAY, MAY 12** **EASTER 7**

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

- **SUNDAY, MAY 19** **PENTECOST**

Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves
 Baptism of Colin Dyshaw at Baxter

- **WEDNESDAY, MAY 22** **HOLY TRINITY**

6:00 pm Joint Worship & POTLUCK at Heritage Hill

- **SUNDAY, MAY 26**

No Worship Services
 Please visit area churches.



Attendance Figures

Baxter Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2023	Date	# Attending in 2024
3/29	N/A Lent	3/29	35 Holy Week
4/2	64 Palm Sunday	3/31	93 Easter
4/6	32 Maundy Thursday	4/7	46
4/9	56 Easter	4/14	31
4/16	33	4/21	35
4/23	96 First Communion		

Saron Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2023	Date	# Attending in 2024
4/2	N/A Palm Sunday	3/28	46 Holy Week
4/7	N/A Good Friday	3/31	82 Easter
4/9	N/A Easter	4/7	47 Baptism
4/16	N/A	4/14	41
4/23	N/A	4/21	90 Confirmation



• Military Service Personnel & their families

*Sean Death

• Our Companion Synod in South Africa

• For Continued Healing

*Curtis Nordaune *Cindy Jurgenson

*Shirley Sachariason *Susan Siverhus

*Chantel Death *Sharla Kruger

*Jerry Johnson *Sue Ziegler

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



Congratulations to our HS Graduates!

We will be honoring our high school graduates **on Sun. May 12th**. Baxter & Saron have four students that will graduate from high school this year and we have asked our honored graduates to share their future plans with us.

• **LUKE SACHARIASON** **Saron**

Luke will be graduating from Montevideo High School and plans to attend Lake Area Technical College in Watertown for Precision Ag.

Open House: Sat. May 25th from 5:00-8:00 pm at the CCM Wellness Center in Montevideo

• **KALEN BJERKESET** **Baxter**

Kalen will be graduating from Montevideo High School and plans to attend Mitchell Technical College for Power Line Construction & Maintenance.

Open House: Sat. May 25th from 1:00-4:00 pm at Mill's Creek Gun Range (2070 - 60th Ave. SW Montevideo). Clay Target Shooting from 3:00-4:00 pm – Bring your own ammo & gun.

• **TYLER ENEVOLDSEN** **Baxter**

Tyler will be graduating from Montevideo High School and plans to attend Mankato State University.

Open House: Sat. May 25th from 3:00-6:00 pm at "The Shop" 1864 - 435th Ave. Montevideo

• **TYLER GADES** **Baxter**

Tyler will be graduating from Dawson/Boyd High School and plans to attend Lake Area Technical College's Aviation Mechanic program.

Open House: Sat. May 25th from 4:00-7:00 pm at his home (4050 - 210th Street Montevideo).

Joint Worship Date

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Takes the place of this service: **Sun. May 26th**

Church in charge: **Baxter**

Volunteers in charge: **May**

This service will be held at Heritage Hill and there will be a **potluck meal** following. Just bring a dish to share; everything else will be provided.

Time: 6:00 pm

Grace Christian Outreach Ministries

Grace Christian Outreach Ministries needs our help!

SARON and BAXTER are collecting items!

We are collecting **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** in **May & June**. There is a donation box in the chapel at Baxter and in the entry at Saron. Thank you for supporting this wonderful mission!



Joint Ministry Board Minutes

Joint Ministry Board Minutes

Saron Lutheran & Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Baxter

April 18, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Church Office in Montevideo

Members present: Diane Sachariason, David Lipps, Dustin Johnson, Michelle May, Lori Formo, Tera Gades

Also present: Pastor Matt Danielson

Pastor Matt opened the meeting asking for feedback on the Wednesday night Lenten Supper services. The group discussed the strong attendance (50+ each night) which included a wide range of ages. People were more engaged than regular service and the food helped. Pastor Matt expressed his thanks to those who helped with the meals.

The first service seemed to have good discussion at the small tables, but not in the larger group. The Committee discussed the dynamics how people say they know nothing in group-settings, but then open up and get comfortable. How do we extend that comfort to the larger group discussion? The Committee discussed the attendance of the confirmation kids and how their participation at separate tables was good. It helped other members of the church to get to know them.

Pastor Matt explained the changes of the Holy Week service and asked for feedback. Members commented they liked the services because if you missed a day, then you still got the full service. There was discussion on pieces that were not done such as stripping the altar. Pastor Matt talked about doing that differently next time to get more effect on why we are doing it. Perhaps doing less may help to highlight the transition from before the altar is stripped to after.

The Baxter members talked about being more intentional around meals and the Saron members commented on the lack of their own planning and coordination for the Easter Sunday Meal. How is it decided who plans the meals. The Committee talked about planning ahead better and discussing it early enough for future Easters. At times, someone just needs to be asked to coordinate the Easter breakfast. The Worship Committee could help plan ahead and coordinate that, but it should also include coordination with Church councils, confirmation kids and others.

Pastor Matt talked about the upcoming Confirmation and how he had provided the kids with a short assessment about what was discussed during the confirmation classes to see what the kids learned and retained. Pastor Matt explained the process of earning points and how the kids ended the Confirmation sessions with a wide range of

points. The Committee talked about the challenge of making the teachings stick and helping the kids understand the fundamentals.

Next, the Committee talked about summer services which will be held on Wednesday and Sunday every other week which will be clearly communicated and documented on the church's website, bulletins, newsletter, etc. Communion will be done on Sundays. There will be no altar guild or organists on Wednesdays. At least one Wednesday service will be held at Heritage Hill for each Saron and Baxter, as well as possibly an outside service for Baxter. Wednesday service can provide flexibility for location, and the communication must be flexible to tell people about locations or how to plan for the type of service (i.e. bring lawn chairs, outside attire, etc.) The Committee talked about how the style of church may impact who attends.

Sunday service may focus on the more traditional gospel and Pastor Matt talked about the Book of Daniel for summer services. The Book of Daniel contains 12 Chapters which would fit nicely into the summer schedule. The Wednesday service will be a lead in to Sunday. The Memorial Day week service for Baxter will be at Heritage Hill. The group talked about possibly a Saron service at Heritage Hill in July. Typically, a meal is served at Heritage Hill and meals can also be done on an ad hoc basis.

The Senior Recognition will be on Mother's Day Sunday. And the group thought it would be good to have the Vacation Bible School kids sing their songs at a Wednesday night service the week of or after Vacation Bible School. Communication with those responsible for VBS will need to occur for coordination.

The Committee discussed ideas on how to communicate with the members. Due to rising postal rates and declining membership, the mailed newsletter may be too costly. The group talked about examples from other churches who email the Newsletter or have it printed and provided at Church. The group talked about other mediums too including Facebook, email, radio, and newspaper.

The Worship Committee will meet again on August 15th at 7:00 pm at the Church Office.

* BAXTER NEWS *

Backpacks for Jacks

Baxter will be packing Backpacks for Jacks on **Thu. May 2nd** from 1:30-2:15 pm (only 45 minutes) at the Dawson/Boyd Cafeteria. Please let Carla know if you can help out.



Baxter Cemetery Clean-up – May 18th

Baxter Cemetery clean-up day will be on **Sat. May 18th** at 9:00 am. All help is greatly appreciated!

Baxter WELCA Meeting – June 23rd

The church supper will be on **Wed. Sept. 11th**. Let's get started planning after church on **Sun. June 23rd**. Please let Carla know of any other items you would like to share at the WELCA meeting and we can get it on the agenda.

Baxter WELCA Honors Senior Members

On **Sun. May 5th** we will be recognizing senior members of WELCA and blessing the quilts. There will be coffee & treats before the service.



Baxter Blesses the Quilts on May 5th

The quilts made this year by the Baxter Quilters will be blessed on **Sun. May 5th**. Members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Baxter made a total of approximately 40 quilts. Following will be the recipients of our handiwork:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| High School Graduates | Baptisms |
| Prairie Five | Santa Anonymous |
| Dawson Prom | Montevideo Prom |
| Project Turnabout | Local Emergencies |
| Montevideo Ambulance | Veteran's Home |

Planning Ahead – June, July & August

Each church will have 2 Sundays each month with services at 9:00 am. Let's try potluck coffee treats...no sign up, just bring something to share. Coffee can be started before church and will be ready after church.



Baxter Members – Please Note

We just want to remind everyone that if you use the kitchen at Baxter, you are responsible for washing the dish towels and dish rags. Thank you!

* SARON NEWS *

Old Mailboxes at Baxter

If you would like the old mailboxes from Baxter, let Jeff Johnson know by **May 10th**.

Blessing of the Quilts at Saron

Saron will be blessing the quilts that have been made this year on **Sun. May 5th** during the 9:00 am worship service. The quilts that are displayed at church will be available for sale with a \$50 donation and they can be picked up after the quilt dedication.



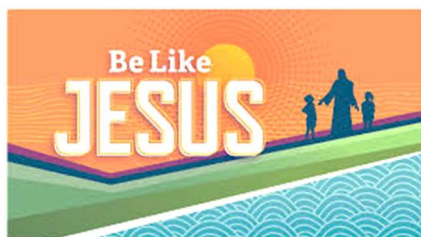
No Time to Complain

First, I want to apologize for the lack of health articles so far this year. I have a ton of excuses, but the truth is that I just couldn't wrap my brain around writing. As many of you know, my mother-in-law passed away on March 6th. Marlene was a very special lady. She was kind, she was smart, she was resilient, she was all the things that most people wish they could be. And even though she faced a terminal cancer diagnosis, she never complained. She always saw the blessings in her life. Marlene always reminded me that "God is good". I wonder how much of our outlook on life affects our health? With my experience as a nurse, I feel like our attitude greatly affects our health.

I recently read this, "Never once did our Lord have a path free from trouble. When He went into the wilderness, He was tempted of the devil. When He tried to rest, the multitudes followed Him. When He taught in the synagogue, the hearers became angry and sought to throw him off the brow of the hill. When He gave others rest for their souls, He had no place to lay His head. When He sought peace in the garden, they came with swords and staves and led Him away to the halls of judgment. When He did His best to be kind and loving in face of mockery, they took Him as a sheep to the slaughter and drenched Calvary with His precious blood. And yet, despite it all, He never grumbled about His burden. Jesus did not complain at all! He just went about doing good."

Let us be like Him! The busiest are the happiest. Cheerful, active labor is a blessing. The busy, the active, the happy, and the cheerful don't have time to complain. So, while I am very sad to have lost Marlene, I miss her daily. I must focus on the fact that I was the lucky one, I got to be on the journey with Marlene and I will forever be grateful for what she taught me about my faith.

Your friend in Christ,
Tera Gades, RN
Parish Nurse



Baxter Council Minutes

Baxter Council Minutes - April 10, 2024

The Church Council meeting was called to order by President Jeff Johnson on April 10, 2024, by President Jeff Johnson.

Council members present: Larry Borstad, Inez Bjerkeset, Dave Croymans, Richard Erickson, Jeff Johnson, Jeremy Enevoldsen, Mike Hoime, Taylor Strand, Terry Litke, Judi Eggert

M/S/C (Jeremy/Terry) to accept the Pastor's report as printed.

M/S/C (Larry/Mike) to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2024, Secretary's Report as printed.

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

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

Old Business:

- The painting project in the entryway and adjacent areas was completed for \$8,409.89.
- Lights in the entryway were replaced for \$346.75 with installation labor of \$495.00. **M/S/C** (Larry/Dick) to pay this out of the repairs and improvements fund.
- It is anticipated that the carpet replacement will begin the week of April 15.
- The six windows in the entryway and chapel will be installed at approximately the same time.
- The council expressed gratitude for Gary and Brenda Strand's efforts to fix the roof vents to prevent leaking.
- Sidewalks will be replaced by Larsons. No timeline was noted.
- Jeremy secured a bid of \$7,000 for a furnace heat. The council decided to table a decision until the landscaping was completed.
- **M/S/C** (Terry/Judi) to accept a bid of \$2,000 from MAAC to re-landscape a problem area at the back of the church near the air conditioner to prevent water issues. Tyler Strand will contact Kevin Augeson to get a price to disconnect and reconnect the air conditioning while the work is being done.

- French Glass will be replacing weather stripping on the church entry doors.
- Thank you, Loren, for addressing the issues with the wireless microphone, which is now working.
- Discussion on ideas for Memorial was tabled.
- The Council requests that Pam order more candles for the altar. A search for an electric candelabra has been unsuccessful, although single ones are available.
- The old member mailbox will be replaced. Anyone who wants the old one should notify Jeff Johnson.

New Business:

- The Council was informed of a non-member wedding on June 15 (Fox/Garcia). Cost is based on the Church policy of \$200 for the church and \$50 for the custodian.
- The Joint Service on Wednesday, May 22 will be held at Heritage Hill @ 6:00 pm with a potluck to follow. The Baxter Council is responsible for paper products and beverages. Judy and Pastor Matt volunteered.
- Summer Services: For the summer Wednesday services there is no need for an organist or alter guild. The Baxter/Saron 2024 Summer Worship Schedule will be printed in the newsletter and posted at the church. Note: Communion will only be offered at the Sunday services.
- M/S/C (Judi/Jeremy) to publish only one church newsletter for the summer (June/July/August)
- Confirmation information was shared. Reese Maher will be confirmed on April 28. The first-year students are Reagan Bossert and Levi Enevoldsen. Beginning Confirmation next year will be Lola Stone, London Strand, and Kane McCarty.
- Ditch clean-up was scheduled for April 21 following the church service.
- M/S/C (Dick/Inez) to move the management duties of our Edward Jones account to Shelly Bedner. The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, May 8 at 7:00 pm. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 9:45 pm.
Secretary,
David Croymans

Baxter General Fund Balance

February 29, 2024	\$15,658.31
March 31, 2024	\$12,129.73

Baxter May Birthdays

Alroy Anderson	5/3
Shelly Anderson	5/6
Lindee Olson	5/8
Lane Dyshaw	5/10
Cody Dyshaw	5/10
Tyler Nordaune	5/10
Aaron Erickson	5/11
Curtis Nordaune	5/12
Kennedy Jurgenson	5/16
Merlin Willand	5/17
Devin Enevoldsen	5/23
Wendy Tufto	5/25
Caroline Nordaune	5/26
Mike Hoime	5/26
Donald Ochs	5/26
Dennis Larson	5/27
Norman Viken	5/28
Oliver Bjerkeset	5/31

Saron May Birthdays

LaRae Sachariason	5/2
Sophia Sachariason	5/3
Trey Teichert	5/6
Karleen Williamson	5/7
Keith Beito	5/8
Perry Sachariason	5/9
Linda Pfenning	5/11
Addison Anspach	5/12
Candy Peterson	5/12
Paul Sachariason	5/19
Stan Knudson	5/20
Alex Formo	5/20
Kenzley Rodeberg	5/21
Ross Sederstrom	5/22
Linda Schaefer	5/26
Kalvin Sletten	5/26
Jed Walsh	5/30