



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



Baxter & Saron Church News

June / July / August 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,

With confirmation, first communion, blessing of quilts, and honoring high school graduates, spring is a wonderful time to be a pastor. When you add a baptism and preparation for several weddings, it gets even richer as I am reminded of the connections that have been formed within both congregations. It also makes the transition into summer even more jarring as attendance drops.

We are trying a couple of different things this summer. First of all, this will be the newsletter for June, July, and August. Part of the reason for this is that bulk mailing may not be feasible for us much longer as our numbers drop and the price increases. This is an opportunity for members to use the church website: <https://baxtersaron.weebly.com/>

The weekly bulletin and the newsletter are available there. Copies of my sermons and videos of the church services are also posted there. If you want to look back at a special service such as a baptism or confirmation, you can find them on the website and share them. The second different thing, our summer worship schedule, means that only two services per month will be streamed. Church will be held on alternating Sundays and alternating Wednesdays this summer. There will be communion every Sunday at

either Saron or Baxter. On Wednesdays, we will be looking at the book of Daniel. Wednesday worship will happen in the church basements or outdoors.

The primary reason for this schedule is to try to shake things up a bit. Both churches have recently updated their entryways and completed some repairs on their exteriors. Our past couple of councils have become experts on furnaces and heat pumps. With that work either complete or underway, it is time to turn our focus to the sanctuary. Worship attendance and volunteerism at Baxter are becoming an issue. Having volunteers read has worked out well, but finding ushers and people to run the livestream has become much more difficult than it should be. This might be a chicken/egg situation, but leading engaging worship in nearly empty churches is not easy. We know that this struggle is not unique to Baxter and Saron, but we need to continue to ask ourselves how we can work together to make Jesus known in our communities and beyond -- whether that means bringing more people through the doors or doing more outreach into the community. We have been empowered by God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to share the good news. Let's do all that we can to do so!

**In Christ,
Pastor Matt**



OFFICIAL ACTS – MAY



Colin John Dyshaw

was baptized on May 19, 2024 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of

Baxter. Colin was born on April 11, 2024 and is the son of Cody & Alissa Dyshaw. Colin's sponsors are Michael & Alyssa Amborn.

God's Blessings to the family!



Briggs Maher & Boden Strand

celebrated their First Communion on Sunday, May 12, 2024 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Baxter

We Welcome New Members

Saron Lutheran Church extends a warm welcome to new members, Jerel & Terri Stenersen!



PARISH NEWS

June Worship

- SUNDAY, JUNE 2 PENTECOST 2
Location: SARON Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering for the Hunger Walk
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5
Location: BAXTER Time: 7:00 pm
- SUNDAY, JUNE 9 PENTECOST 3
Location: BAXTER Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering for the Hunger Walk
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12
Location: SARON Time: 7:00 pm

- SUNDAY, JUNE 16 PENTECOST 4
Location: SARON Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19
Location: BAXTER Time: 7:00 pm
- SUNDAY, JUNE 23 PENTECOST 5
Location: BAXTER Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26
Location: SARON Time: 7:00 pm
- SUNDAY, JUNE 30 PENTECOST 6
Location: SARON Time: 9:00 am
Communion

July Worship

- WEDNESDAY, JULY 3 NO SERVICE
- SUNDAY, JULY 7 PENTECOST 7
Location: BAXTER Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering - Dawson Food Shelf
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
Location: SARON Time: 7:00 pm
- SUNDAY, JULY 14 PENTECOST 8
Location: SARON Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering for Vacation Bible School
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 17
Location: BAXTER Time: 7:00 pm
- SUNDAY, JULY 21 PENTECOST 9
Location: BAXTER Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 24
Location: SARON Time: 7:00 pm
- SUNDAY, JULY 29 PENTECOST 10
Location: SARON Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 31
Location: BAXTER Time: 7:00 pm

August Worship

- SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 PENTECOST 11**

Location: BAXTER Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering - LqP Co. Food Shelf

- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7**

Location: SARON Time: 7:00 pm

- SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 PENTECOST 12**

Location: SARON Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering for the Montevideo Area Youth Center

- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14**

Location: BAXTER Time: 7:00 pm

- SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 PENTECOST 13**

Location: BAXTER Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves

- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21**

Location: SARON Time: 7:00 pm

- SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 PENTECOST 14**

Location: SARON Time: 9:00 am
Communion & Noisy Offering for local food shelves

- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28 PENTECOST 15**

6:00 pm Joint Worship & Supper at Heritage Hill
Saron hosts - Council & Sept. Volunteers in charge

- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

No Worship Services

Please visit area churches.



- 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

*Jenny (Dieter) Lingen

Attendance Figures

Baxter Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2023	Date	# Attending in 2024
4/30	104 Confirmation	4/28	38 Confirmation
5/7	33	5/5	41
5/14	35	5/12	61 Senior Rec/1st Com
5/21	26	5/19	81 Baptism

Saron Attendance Figures			
Date	# Attending in 2023	Date	# Attending in 2024
4/30	59 Confirmation	4/28	45
5/7	27	5/5	46
5/14	51	5/12	30 Senior Rec.
5/21	29	5/19	30



Vacation Bible School at Saron

Prepare to swing into fun as we head out on

The Great Jungle Journey!

Join us August 5, 6, & 7 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. for an epic Vacation Bible School adventure from Genesis to Revelation. Amid sloths, butterflies, river dolphins, and dart frogs, children who are age three through fourth grade will sail along on a fun jungle cruise. Kids will discover how the events from the Bible shape our world and will learn to connect the Bible to their everyday life.

Contact Paula Sachariason 320-226-5003 or Karen Jacobson 320-226-1272 to sign up or donate toward the program.

Grace Christian Outreach Ministries

Grace Christian Outreach Ministries needs our help!

SARON and BAXTER are collecting items!

We are collecting **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** in **June**. Please watch the bulletins & website for the items that we will be collecting in July & August. There is a donation box in the chapel at Baxter and in the entry at Saron. Thank you for supporting this wonderful mission!



*** BAXTER NEWS ***

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.



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.

Bulletin Board to Give Away

The small bulletin board standing against the wall in the Narthex is to be given away.

Sheets to be Rolled for Bandages

Carla has collected sheets from JMHS to be used as rolled bandages for LWR. She also has rollers to use. If you would like to work on this project at home, contact Carla.

*** SARON NEWS ***

Saron Mission Action Team Update

Saron blessed the following items on Sun. May 5th during the 9:00 am worship service.

Fleece Blankets - 26 to share with area schools

Quilts - 112 to share with:

Congregational members including:
baptisms, graduations, weddings

Pastor Matt's ministries

Eagle's Nest

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

YME, MACCRAY, Monte Schools

Project Turnabout

Neighbors United Food Shelf

Prairie Five



Thanks so much to the generous group of men & women who donated their time and talents this year to create the beautiful quilts/blankets and to help package kits for Global Health Ministries & LWR. Thanks, also, to the treat makers for the delicious morning lunches. It is truly a team effort for Saron to support God's people here and beyond. Karleen & Robin



Cancer Connections Walk – June 5th

The mission of the Minnesota River Valley Cancer Connections, Inc. is to support local cancer patients in Chippewa & Yellow Medicine Counties. The organization will be having a Survivor Supper in Montevideo and holding their First Annual Cancer Connections Walk at Smith Park in Montevideo on Wed. June 5th from 5:00-9:00 pm. All funds raised at these events will stay local.



Baxter Council Minutes

Baxter Council Minutes – May 8, 2024

The Church Council meeting was called to order by President Jeff Johnson on May 8, 2024.

Council members present: Larry Borstad, Inez Bjerkeset, Dave Croymans, Jeff Johnson, Taylor Strand, Terry Litke, Judi Eggert, Deb Anderson, Pasto Matt Danielson & Treasurer Gayle Staab

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

M/S/C (Judi/Larry) to accept the April 10, 2024, Secretary’s Report as printed. It was noted that the Borstad Family donated funds for the new lights in the entryway in memory of Roger and Grace, rather than using money from the Repairs and Improvement fund.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- It was reported that the carpet in the entryway was installed and cost \$9,644.24 with WELCA covering \$6,000 of the cost.
- It was reported that the six windows in the entryway and chapel were installed.
- **M/S/C** (Judi/Terry) to pay for the sidewalk project (\$12,475) from the Memorial Fund to be completed by the Larsen Brothers.
- It was reported that the thermostat was not working. Kevin Augeson came out and made a slight adjustment and it is now working fine.
- **M/S/C** (Taylor/David) to fund the new furnace for \$5,000 from the Memorial Fund.
- The Council decided not to go with the air-to-air heat pump system at this time.
- Twelve people completed the ditch cleanup on April 21.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Cemetery cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 18 at 9:00 am.

The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, June 19 following worship at Baxter.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer and adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Secretary, David Croymans

Baxter General Fund Balance

March 31, 2024	\$12,129.73
April 30, 2024	\$6,213.59

Baxter June Birthdays

Hadley Jurgenson	6/2
Katlyn DuVall	6/3
Bernice Moseng	6/4
Reagan Bossert	6/6
Cooper Nordaune	6/7
Tasha Enevoldsen	6/8
Paul Olson	6/11
Tera Gades	6/12
Lance Bjerkeset	6/12
David Willand	6/15
Aliyah Donahue	6/16
Levi Enevoldsen	6/18
Ruth Strand	6/21
Taylor Strand	6/22
Blair Berends	6/22
Jason Estling	6/23
Jordan Staab	6/26
Lyndsey Moe	6/27
Ramona Erickson	6/27
Carla Estling	6/30

Saron June Birthdays

Waylon Erickson	6/3
Denise Peterson	6/5
Pat Sederstrom	6/6
Sayler Stavne	6/8
Luke Sachariason	6/9
Dara Walsh	6/11
Patrick Walsh	6/11
Kaisa Jaenisch	6/12
Kashton Sletten	6/13
Trent Rodeberg	6/13
Ashley Haff	6/14
Kjersti Jaenisch	6/16
Doug Teichert	6/17
Sawyer Sachariason	6/18
Carter Haff	6/21
Ryan Sachariason	6/21
Alli Sachariason	6/22
Carolyn Knudson	6/23
Susan Siverhus	6/23
Ajay Gaddam	6/24
Shirley Sachariason	6/24
Kolson Rodeberg	6/30

Baxter July Birthdays

Brayden Stone	7/4
Terry Litke	7/9
Jaidyn Nelson	7/11
Charlotte Kwilinski	7/12
Clay Brown	7/13
Richard Erickson	7/13
Joshua Staab	7/14
Ross Bjerkeset	7/14
Mark Brown	7/17
Deb Anderson	7/18
Lorie Fitcher	7/18
Ardyce Berg	7/20
Brenda Strand	7/23
Kiri McCarty	7/23
Kimberly Olson	7/23
Jeremy Enevoldsen	7/23
Lynette Peterson	7/24
Mary Lou Viken	7/25
Jessica Olson	7/27
Lori Larson	7/28
Kamryn Bjerkeset	7/30
Sara Croymans	7/30
Brenda Berends	7/30
Brekken Strand	7/31

Saron July Birthdays

Holly Schwendemann	7/1
Cathy Ervin	7/2
Wayne Formo	7/4
Taylor Olson	7/5
Charlie Knudson	7/6
Tyler Sachariason	7/7
Israel Maus	7/13
Dale Lietzau	7/18
Scott Olson	7/18
JoAnn Teichert	7/18
Doug Olson	7/18
Jeff Sachariason	7/18
Diane Dieter	7/21
Shay Walsh	7/22
Molly Jacobson	7/22
Joe Norman	7/24
Carolyn Zempel	7/25
Skyler Schwendemann	7/26
Shalesha Sumner	7/28
Scott Sachariason	7/30

Baxter August Birthdays

Allen Gades	8/2
Loren Bjerkeset	8/5
Jane Paige	8/6
Evan Gades	8/6
Roy Anderson	8/6
Duane Kruger	8/9
Megan Anderson	8/9
Keith Moseng	8/11
Nellie Eslick-Coats	8/12
Reese Maher	8/13
Colby Deuth	8/13
Gary Strand	8/17
Lynette Norman	8/18
Kristen Eslick-Coats	8/18
Dennis Melde	8/20
Vance Berghuis	8/21
Ariel Stone	8/23
Ernie Eggert	8/26
David Bornus	8/27
Carlton Staab	8/28
Kaiden Berends	8/28
Kylen Olson	8/30

**Saron August Birthdays**

Jim Walsh	8/1
Luke Walsh	8/1
Amy Stewart	8/5
Joel Sachariason	8/9
Adelynn Olson	8/10
Roda Walsh	8/10
MaKayla Spletter	8/16
Brad Hudson	8/21
Kevin Jaenisch	8/21
Elsie Sumner	8/24
Mary Birhanzi	8/24
Ashley Bauman	8/25
Ella Olson	8/26
Emelia Olson	8/27
Laura Sletten	8/29