

## ST. JOHNS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

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*Established 1900*

**VOLUME 1    DECEMBER 2023    ISSUE 61**

*Established 1893*



Advent is already here. Can you believe it? Maybe you love the cold weather and maybe you don't but either way advent has a way of sneaking up on you. Advent means arrival or coming and during advent we celebrate his arrival in multiple ways. Obviously he arrived to us about two-thousand years ago in the most humble way imaginable. Son (or assumed to be) of a carpenter and born in a stable in humble Bethlehem. God became man and Immanuel (God is with us) was born. We don't have too much detail about his early life and there is a gap between age 12 and age 30 but once he began his ministry... what a powerful ministry it was and is! We celebrate his humble arrival as a babe in the manger, we celebrate his arrival as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and we wait for a time when all things are made new.

When you look at the Christmas story there are some characters in the background that make an impact, for better or for worse. The wise men of the east. Herod. Simeon. Mary. Joseph. The shepherds. The angels. Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist. Yes John the Baptist is a character in the Christmas story too. He leapt in Elizabeth's womb!

During Advent you and I will explore some of these characters and the impact that they had on the Christmas story. Most of them are relatable. As Lutherans we enjoy the journey but at the end of the day we are always focused on the cross. Our hopes and reconciliation with God can be found there and when we celebrate advent we celebrate that arrival and that Emmanuel (God with us) spirit. We want him with us all of the time and thank God that he arrived here, lived a sinless life, and then died for us so that we could have an abundant life both now and in eternity. It's truly a time to be thankful. Advent blessings to you. I leave you with the words that the angel of the Lord gave to Joseph when the blessing of Jesus was revealed to him:

20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." (Matthew 1:20-23 NRSV)

Jeremy

## FARMERSBURG NEWS

### FARMERSBURG

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

**Pres:** Tammy Muller (23)  
**V. Pres:** Bill Scherf III. (25)  
**Sec:** Loretta Weipert (23)  
**Treas:** Ryan Moon (24)  
**Council Members:** Ken Erickson (24),  
 Dave Hageman (25) & Bruce Glawe (25)

#### CHURCH SECRETARY:

Kelly Shaw

#### FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

Kelly Shaw

#### OUTSIDE JANITOR:

Loren Scherf

#### INSIDE JANITOR:

Mary Beth Tielbar

#### WELCA:

**Pres:** Shirley Marmann  
**V. Pres:** Velma Kuehl  
**Sec:** Nancy Moon  
**Treas:** Becky Fuelling  
**Mission Action:** Bev Moon,  
 Nancy Moon, Marlene Glawe

#### MEN'S GROUP:

**Pres:** Jason Klinge  
**V. Pres:** Brad Hoth  
**Sec/Treas:** Don Bossard

#### ALTAR GUILD:

**Directress:** Cheryl Bossard  
**Sec:** Loretta Weipert  
**Treas:** Velma Kuehl

#### ST. JOHNS MINISTRY YOUTH

**Pres:**  
**V. Pres:**  
**Sec:** Ashley Shaw  
**Treas:** Ethan Goltz

#### ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

**Chairperson:** Tammy Muller (24)  
**Secretary:** Vicki Baade (24)  
**Members:** Luke Steege (23)  
 Jason Klinge (23)  
 Janelle Smith (25)  
 Becky Fuelling (25)

#### NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Cheryl Bossard & Tammy Muller

Church Website:

<http://www.stjohn-farmersburg.org>

Remember to like St. John Facebook Page.



#### Secret Santa

St. John will be adopting a local family for Christmas. The family is a single mom with three young children. Gift tags are on a tree in the narthex. We are asking for the gifts to be brought back to church by Sunday, December 10. If you wrap your gift, please attach the gift tag. Because this family is a Secret Santa family, they are not eligible for the Holiday Shop.

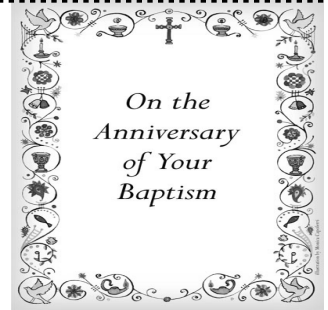


Rylan James Hoth was baptized on November 1. Chad Hoth and Brianna Seronko are his parents. Sponsors are Ben and Maegan Weiss.



#### December

10 – Tim & Connie Lessard  
 27 – John & Kathy Klinge  
 28 – Jeff & Deb Tidwell



#### Known December Baptisms

1 – Ethel Lenth  
 6 – Adam Lnenicka  
 Andrea Lnenicka  
 Amanda Goltz  
 8 – Jeff Wiedenman  
 11 – Annabelle Palmersheim  
 13 – Glenda Henkes

Happy First Day of Winter!



December 21

The following Saints were remembered on All Saints Sunday, November 5th.

Nadyne Reardon Born 6/03/1931,  
 Died 12/25/2022.  
 Grant Alvin Miller Born 10/10/1947,  
 Died 08/02/2023.  
 Dorothy Ann Jennings Born 09/22/1939,  
 Died 08/13/2023.  
 Gary Lee Pritchard Born 06/27/1948,  
 Died 08/19/2023.  
 Richard Steege Born 04/14/1937,  
 Died 08/24/2023.



Our Prayers and Sympathy to the family and friends of Joan Hertrampf Welch, who passed away October 24. A Celebration of Life was held on November 4 in Monona. A private graveside service was held.

Our Sympathy and Prayers to the family and friends of Mark William Reardon who passed away peacefully on October 31. Funeral services were held on November 4, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Guttenberg, Iowa.

# FARMERSBURG NEWS



## Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on December 10th at 10:30 am. Sunday School Practice is at 9:00 am on December 3rd and 10th. Please plan to attend.



### December

#### December Acolytes

3 10:30 am Claire Goltz  
10 10:30 am Carsen Kirby  
17 10:30 am Connor Kirby  
24 Christmas Eve 8:30 pm Brayden Hoth  
31 10:30 am Olivia Kirby

ALTAR GUILD  
Shirley Marmann  
Heather Crogan  
Cheryl Bossard

2 Randy Scherf  
3 Glenda Henkes  
Derek Radloff  
Cora Fuelling  
Cassidy Penrod  
4 Marlene Glawe  
Eugene Dreier Jr.  
5 Lisa (Howard) Pavlovec  
Jill Jennings  
8 Connie Rohde  
11 Amanda Richard  
12 Aaron Heck  
Loren (Barney) Scherf  
13 Brian Henning  
Dallas Lee Tielbar  
14 Andrew Rodas  
Kurt Hauschild  
Melvin Walleser  
15 Ethan Goltz  
16 Lori Tielbar  
Marcella (Tootie) Kessler  
18 Scott Peterson  
Briella Schmidt  
19 Derek Leuchtenmacher  
22 Cory Pritchard  
23 Amy Suhr  
Michael Klinge  
Madelyn Lnenicka  
Isabelle Kirby  
24 Matthew Scherf  
25 Alan Feldmann  
26 Randy Muller  
Robert Bossard  
29 Velma Kuehl  
31 Don Bossard

#### USHERS

December 3 December 10 & December 17  
Captain Jason Klinge Randy Wiedenman  
Bill Scherf IV. Jim Lenth  
December 24 (Christmas Eve) & December 31  
Captain John Fuelling Jeff Klinge  
Matt Radloff Martyn Geick



#### December Greeters

3 Jim & Carol Lenth  
10 Jamie Tielbar & Lindelle Scherf  
17 Zach Radloff & Autumn Schuety  
24 John & Becky Fuelling 8:30 pm  
Christmas Eve  
31 Brad & Brenda Hoth

#### DECEMBER SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Jeff Klinge & Deb Tidwell

#### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

December 3 Bruce Glawe  
December 17 Dave Hageman  
December 24 Tammy Muller  
(Christmas Eve)



Thank you to Brian & Laurie Pate for the gift of a crock pot for the church.

Thank you to Ethel Lenth for the small coffee pot and new roaster for the church.

Thank you to Nancy Moon & Ethel Lenth for their creative arrangements for our worship services.



#### December WELCA

6 12:00 Noon Unit Meeting  
1:00 pm Christmas Party Ladies from Luana & Guests  
Farmersburg ladies bring gifts and Christmas treats to share.

# FARMERSBURG NEWS

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. John Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting November 12, 2023  
(minutes printed pending official approval)

Present: Tammy Muller, Ryan Moon, Ken Erickson, Bill Scherf, Bruce Glawe, Vicar Jeremy Wolfe. Absent- Loretta Weipert and Dave Hageman.

President Tammy Muller called the meeting to order at 11:30AM, Devotions led by Jeremy.  
Motion by Bill/second by Bruce to approve agenda as amended. Motion Carried.  
Motion by Ken/Second by Bill to approve February secretary minutes. Motion Carried.  
*No treasurer report presented.*

### **Vicar report**

Jeremy has been keeping busy with services, and visits. Internship is about half completed.

### **Unfinished business**

Photo directory will be printed soon

Harvest meal went well-**Thank you to all who helped in any way!!**

### **New business**

Ken will contact Brad to see if he is willing to plow the snow again this year.

We will put up the Christmas tree on November 26 after worship and decorate it on December 3 after worship.

Nominating and budget committees need to meet soon-Annual meeting February 5

**Ministry Teem**-Met November 2-Schedule for Christmas Eve December 24-

8:30 AM Worship in Luana (NO MORNING WORSHIP IN FARMERSBURG)

7 PM Candle light worship Luana 8:30 PM Candle light worship Farmersburg

December 31 Worship at 10:30 AM in Farmersburg (NO WORSHIP IN LUANA)

Will be having a combined game day and potluck following Farmersburg annual meeting February 5. Also discussed lent schedule, possible joint services, Jeremy's salary.

### **Evangelism**-none

**Parish Education**-Need to present Bible's and Catechisms to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders

Christmas program is December 10; First Communion-postponed until after new years.

**Property**-No news on the schoolhouse

**Stewardship**-We have adopted a family in need for Christmas-will have a tree in the Narthex with tags for people to take and bring back a gift.

**Worship**-none- see schedule above

**Youth**- none

**Men**-none

**WELCA**- Thankoffering is November 19

**Memorial**-none

Next Meeting will be December 10 after Worship.

Motion to adjourn by Ken/Second by Bruce. Meeting Adjourned at 12:30PM

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Ryan Moon



### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

October

1 - 22

8 - 35

15 - 39

22 - 30 Harvest Meal

29 - 36



## ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

THANK YOU to everyone who has cooperated each year in getting these reports ready for the Annual meeting. The following is a list of committees and groups that were active this past year and from whom we would like to receive a report. Any other committee or group that would like to submit a report and inform us of 2023 happenings, please feel free to turn in a written report. All reports can be emailed to the church office ([stjohn87@neitel.net](mailto:stjohn87@neitel.net)) or given to Kelly Shaw.

### DEADLINE FOR THE REPORTS IS JANUARY 7, 2024

Pastor's Report	Jeremy Wolfe
President's Report	Tammy Muller
Treasurer's Report	Kelly Shaw/Ryan Moon
Auditing Committee	Bill Scherf III./Nancy Moon/Becky Fuelling
Nominating Committee	Tammy Muller/Loretta Weipert/Linda Schoulte/ Brad Hoth/Kenny Kuehl
Budget Committee	Kelly Shaw/Tammy Muller/Ryan Moon/ Brad Hoth
Congregational Statistical Report	Kelly Shaw/Jeremy Wolfe
Stewardship Committee	Tammy Muller
Evangelism Committee/Caring Spirits	Bill Scherf III.
Worship Committee	Ryan Moon/Tammy Muller
Property Committee	Ken Erickson
Memorial Committee	Loretta Weipert/Tracey Phillips/Lindelle Scherf
Parish Education Committee	Loretta Weipert
St. John Ministry Team	Tammy Muller/Jason Klinge/Becky Fuelling
Women of the ELCA	Shirley Marmann/Becky Fuelling
Men of St. John	Jason Klinge/Don Bossard
Youth	Ashley Shaw/Ethan Goltz
Altar Guild	Cheryl Bossard/Velma Kuehl
Fascher Scholarship Fund	Tammy Muller/Kelly Shaw
Probert Scholarship Committee	Tammy Muller/Kelly Shaw
Schoenfeldt Scholarship	Tammy Muller/Kelly Shaw
Banner Committee	Marlene Glawe
Strawberry Point Lutheran Home	Loretta Weipert/Velma Kuehl
EWALU Ambassadors	Shirley Marmann/Ethel Lenth
Interchurch Council	Becky Fuelling/Linda Schoulte/Linda Friedlein
Prayer Shawl Project	Marlene Glawe
Shepherd of the Hills	Heather Hageman
Clayton County Food Shelf	Utonia Ruff

#### Chapter 9 Bylaws

B9.01 All committees and organizations handling funds within the congregation shall include as a part of their annual report to the congregation a financial report in writing which shall be included in the congregation's written annual report.

## LUANA

### CHURCH SECRETARY & FINANCIAL TREAS.:

Karla Schrader

### CHURCH COUNCIL:

**President:** Jim Meyer (23)

**V. Pres:** Duaine Davis (23)

**Sec:** Mel Lenth (24)

**Cur. Treas:** Diane Kraus (24)

**Bene. Treas:** Sherri Johnson (24)

**Financial Counters:** Council

### DEACONS:

Doug Schrader (23)

Neil Landt (24)

Stan Dull (25)

### TRUSTEES:

Duaine Davis (23)

Jim Meyer (23)

Sherri Johnson (24)

Mel Lenth (24)

Diane Kraus (25)

Aaron Smith (25)

### WELCA:

#### Leaders:

January—March Vicky Baade

April—June Lisa Meyer

July—September Mel Lenth

Oct.—December Karla Schrader

### ALTAR GUILD:

**Pres:** Sherri Johnson (23)

**Sec:** Darci Engelhardt (23)

#### Banners/Linens/Candles:

Mary Schroeder (24)

Lisa Meyer (25)

#### Special Services/Flowers:

Betty Handke (24)

Diane Kraus (25)

#### Bapt./Comm.:

Sherri Johnson

Darci Engelhardt

#### Seasonal Banners:

Altar Guild

### ST. JOHNS MINISTRY YOUTH:

#### Pres:

**V. Pres:**

**Sec:** Ashley Shaw

**Treas:** Ethan Goltz

### ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

**Chairperson:** Tammy Muller(24)

**Secretary:** Vicki Baade (24)

**Members:** Luke Steege (23)

Jason Klinge (23)

Janelle Smith (25)

Becky Fuelling (25)

St. John's Luana website

[www.stjohn-luana.org](http://www.stjohn-luana.org)

## LUANA NEWS

### THANK YOU volunteers

**Thank you** so much to our greeters and ushers who have served so faithfully. It was suggested that we provide a sign-up sheet so volunteers could choose a month that is preferable to them for 2024. There will be a schedule on table in entry or contact Linda Davis. If you have not been asked to serve in this capacity, please sign up.

### DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Doug & Connie Schlein

Read Lessons & Prayers:	Dec. 3	- Jerry Schroeder
	Dec. 10	- Luke Steege
	Dec. 17	- Linda Davis
	Dec. 24	- Mel Lenth
	Dec. 31	- No Services in Luana

Acolyte: Dec. 3	- Tyce Wikner	If a Sunday doesn't work please switch with someone and let me know.
Dec. 10	- Karsten Steege	
Dec. 17	- Josh Schierholz	
Dec. 24	- Emme Wikner	

Candlelight Service 7:00 pm Dec. 24 - Dayne Anderson

Communion Servers:	Dec. 3	- Jim Meyer & Diane Kraus
	Dec. 17	- Neil Landt & Stan
	Dec. 24	- Doug Schrader & Aaron Smith

Altar Guild: Sherri Johnson

Flowers: Linda Davis



Please let Karla know who is donating Poinsettia's  
In Memory of and/or In Honor of for the month of  
December.



9- Neil & Cindy Landt  
31 -Reggie & Sara Freilinger  
Josh & Keisha Formanek



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 - Paul Miller  
9 - Mona Schultz  
11 - LaRee Berger  
13 - Stephanie Wikner  
15 - Robert Handke  
17 - Diane Doerring - 80  
18 - Carol Goettler  
Kimberly Kraus  
19 - Burke Schrader  
26 - Darin Schlein  
29 - Becky Harnack

## LUANA NEWS

All Women of St. John Luana are invited to the WELCA Christmas Party on December 6th at 1:00 pm at St. John Farmersburg for fun and fellowship.

### St. John/Luana Church Council Minutes November 12, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Jim Meyer @ 7:34am.

**Present:** Melanie Lenth, Sherri Johnson, Diane Kraus, Stan Dull, Neil Landt, Vicar Jeremy Wolfe, Jim Meyer, Duaine Davis and Aaron Smith.

Absent Doug Schrader.

Also, in attendance Karla Schrader, Church Secretary.

**Devotions:** Led by Vicar Jeremy, Matthew 121.

Minutes read by Melanie. Correction to last month minutes to read: Interchurch Council met in Giard, not Garnavillo. Motion made by Stan & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sherri to accept all the minutes. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Thrivent balance was discussed and if there are options for a CD. Motion by Diane and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherri to accept report. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Sidewalk work is completed and waiting for a bill from Bacon Concrete.

**New Business:** Vicar Jeremy will perform the funeral service for Elaine Gehring on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Jeremy is continuing to work on the directories. If any church member wishes to make any changes to their phone number or email address they should contact him either by text or email.

**\*\*Baccalaureate service** will be held on May 15, 2024 @7:00pm either in Luana or Farmersburg (TBD) with fellowship beforehand.

**\*\*Christmas Eve/December 24th** is on a Sunday this year. A combined worship service will be held in Luana @8:30am. No morning service at Farmersburg.

Christmas Eve **Evening** worship in Luana @7:00pm. Farmersburg @8:30pm

**No** Christmas Day service at either church.

**\*\*Sunday/December 31<sup>st</sup>** combined worship service in Farmersburg @10:30am. No morning service at Luana.

**\*\*Church council nominating committee** will consist of Janelle Smith, Erv Bugenhagen & Mary Schroeder. Council members who completed their term are Jim Meyer, Duaine Davis and Doug Schrader.

**\*\*Church Budget** will be on the agenda at the next month's meeting.

**\*\*Annual meeting** will be held on Sunday/January 14, 2024. Followed with the regular church council meeting.

**\*\*The proposed 2024 Lenten Schedule** will be discussed next month, along with possible Joint Worship Services in 2024.

Next meeting: December 10, 2023 @7:30am.

Adjournment @8:25am by Diane and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherri. Approved. Concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie, council secretary.

# LUANA NEWS

## OCTOBER REPORT

### EXPENSES

Black Hills Utilities –Nat. Gas	37.75
Alliant - Electricity	296.80
Karla Schrader –Secretary	423.26
Cindy Landt – Custodian	400.18
NEITEL	119.35
Jeremy Wolfe- salary	1,102.59
IRS	439.81
Jeremy Wolfe – directories	40.00
Jeremy Wolfe -Aug & Sept mileage	<u>656.50</u>
	3,516.24

### SPECIAL FUNDS

Ruby Breitsprecher CD	5,413.79
St John Scholarship Fund CD	40,086.73
Willard & Anne Kamin CD	4,316.50

### CURRENT FUND

	Envelopes	Plate	Total
Oct. 1	1,260.00	36.00	1,296.00
Oct. 8	617.00	10.00	627.00
Oct. 15	927.00		927.00
Oct. 22	467.00	30.00	497.00
Oct. 29	<u>802.00</u>	<u>90.00</u>	<u>892.00</u>
	4,073.00	166.00	4,239.00

### BENEVOLENCE REPORT

#### INCOME

Oct. 1	Offering	106.00
	Food Shelf	50.00
	Operating	50.00
Oct. 8	Offering	50.00
	Food Shelf	50.00
Oct. 15	Offering	8.00
	Food Shelf	20.00
	Operating	50.00
Oct. 22	Offering	8.00
	Food Shelf	10.00
	Operating	50.00
Oct. 29	Offering	95.00
	Food Shelf	<u>100.00</u>
		552.00

### INCOME

Oct. 1	1,296.00
Oct. 8	627.00
Oct. 15	927.00
Oct. 22	497.00
Oct. 29	892.00
	4,239.00
Church Directories	60.00
From IMMA	<u>1,500.00</u>
	5,799.00

Bal. 9-30-23	938.09
Income	<u>5,799.00</u>
	6,737.09
Less Expenses	<u>3,516.24</u>
Bal. 10-31-23	3,220.85

### RENT/REPAIR FUND

Bal. 9-30-23	\$ 39,542.66
Rent 10-13	1,000.00
Rent 10-31	500.00
Interest	<u>87.46</u>
To current fund	<u>1,500.00</u>
Bal. 10-31-23	\$ 39,630.12

### THRIVENT BALANCE

Bal. Sept. 30, 2023	\$261,699.76
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#### EXPENSES

SOTH	280.00
Food Shelf	230.00
Synod	<u>42.00</u>
	552.00



Submitted by Karla Schrader



December Known  
Baptisms  
9 - Lonnie Baade  
17 - Marjorie Schrader  
26 - Oswald Goettler

### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Att.	Comm
Oct. 22	32	
Oct. 29	30	
Nov. 5	37	37
Nov. 12	<u>37</u>	<u>37</u>
	136	37



Our Sympathy to the family and friends of Elaine Mae Gehring who passed away November 9. Funeral Services were held on November 15, at St. John Lutheran Church in Luana.



## Both Churches News



Christmas Eve/December 24th is on Sunday this year. A combined worship service will be held in Luana @ 8:30 am.  
No morning service at Farmersburg.  
Christmas Eve **Evening** worship in Luana @ 7:00 pm.  
Farmersburg Candlelight Communion Service @ 8:30 pm.  
**No** Christmas Day service at either church.  
**\*\*Sunday/December 31<sup>st</sup>** combined worship service in Farmersburg @ 10:30 am.  
No morning service at Luana.

Lutheran World Relief Fall - In- Gathering Donations from 42 churches.

• 941 boxes collected.

Donation totals:

Quilts	1805	Personal Care Kits	571
School kits	1811	Baby Car kits	615
Fabric kits	53	Blankets	33

• May 4, 2024 next date for Lutheran World Relief Spring -In - Gathering.

Thank you

• Betty H.



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Tom Meuleman, Mary Zittergruen, Lisa Seitz, Linda Bacon, Linda Hughes, Larry Doerring, Missy Adams, Julie Mohs, Ryne Landt, Charlie Post, Lonnie Baade, Joy David, Rick Conley, Keith Lee, *Dallas Tielbar, Shelby Preston, Shirley Wagner, Bram Byroade, Robert Pate, Melody Pate, Ron Tayek, Jim Fuelling, Kailee Thomae, John Suhr, Lee Zurcher*

**MILITARY:** Avrey Smith, Ali (Crogan) Moran, Andrew Rodas & Beth Rodas

**ELKADER CARE CENTER:** LuNida Landt, Grace Doerring

**GARDEN VIEW PLACE:** Juanita Mohs, Darlene Moon

**STRAWBERRY POINT LUTHERAN HOME:** Shirley Henkes

**TOWER LIVING CENTER:** Lendall Schievelbein

**ASSISTED LIVING ROCHESTER, MN 55901:** Dorothy Kluth

**KENSINGTON ASSISTED LIVING:** Mary Russett

**HOMEBOUND:** JoAnn Meyer, Glenda Henkes, Lee Klinkenberg, Jeanette Krambeer, Jim Fuelling



### December 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

#### **Merry Christmas from LSI!**

At LSI, we recognize that the holiday season can be a challenging time for many, especially for the populations we serve throughout the year.

We know parents who feel hopeless, with few resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know immigrants and refugees working to become U.S. citizens, with little community support or help along the way. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, fearing they will never have a forever home.

In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season.

As we reflect on the past year, we thank you — our generous supporters and community partners — for stepping up to give and help the people LSI is privileged to serve. We are grateful for your contribution in bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these essential services.

LSI wishes you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at

[Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

# Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

## NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2023

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“It’s a wonderful time of year!”

Christmas for Kids is scheduled for December 13-14, 2023. We are looking for donations of toys and or monetary donations for this event. If your church or business would like to do a collection drive, please let me know. All donations can be brought to the office at SOTH or to the auditorium by appointment. We will be setting up in the auditorium on December 7, 8 and 11<sup>th</sup>, so if you would like to bring your items without an appointment, we will be open those days. If you would like to volunteer for set-up days or the shopping days, please let me know. This is a huge event for our area. We could not do this without the help and generosity of our community, churches, businesses and the hard-working volunteers. I would like to thank everyone for showing the kindness and support to those in need, especially to the children.

Coats for Kids is also happening now through the winter months. If you know a child in need of a warm coat for the winter, please let me know.

### Clothing center updates

We have a great selection of winter clothing out for sale. Most of our items are only \$1.00. All donations **MUST** have an appointment to be accepted. No large items (Furniture, appliances, beds etc.) accepted.

### Please note the following CLOSED DATES:

**November 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving) and December 13 & 14 (Holiday Shop)  
December 25-31 (Christmas Break)**

### Shepherd Conference News

Nothing new to report this month.

#### **Shepherd of the Hill’s Needs:**

The **Operating Fund** pays the utilities, insurance on the building, supplies, salaries and Lawn/Snow Care.

The **Crisis Fund** is used to help families with emergency rent or utilities and our sponsored events throughout the year

Please utilize the **MEMO LINE** on your check to specify **Crisis** or **Operating** Fund!

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

***Christmas for Kids:  
Dec 13-14, 2023***

***Conference Assembly  
February 2024***

***St. John’s- Guttenberg  
(Date to be announced soon)***

**\*Any event may be subject to**

#### **Shepherd of the Hills**

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