



*Established 1900*

## ST. JOHNS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

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*Established 1893*

### VOLUME 1 JANUARY 2026 ISSUE 86

As we begin the new year it can be exciting. People start diets, Bible reading plans, exercise plans, projects, and many other things in tandem with the new year. Resolutions, promises to self, initiatives. A fresh start. This is not a bad thing. To use the new year as a springboard to repentance, to improvement, to better things is obviously a wonderful notion. That being said, I don't know if I've ever met someone who has said "the reason I got from here to there is because I made a New Year's resolution, it worked, and that's that". Never.

The real truth is that major changes take long term commitment with peaks, valleys, setbacks, and recommitment. Gyms fill up with new memberships in January but I would argue that the most important time is March after many of the new members have disappeared. After the "buzz" of the New Year will you press on?

While God's word does place an urgency on repentance, in general we are told that this life is about a slower change.

#### 1 John 3:2 (NRSV)

*Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.*

John is letting us know that we are moving towards a bigger shift. We won't become fully Christlike until we are reunited with him. In the meantime, it happens in degrees. Paul echoes this basic idea.

#### Philippians 1:6 (NRSV)

*I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

You are saved and are being sanctified through all of your circumstances, challenges, hurts, joys and experiences. Inch by inch. That can be painful. It can feel discouraging because we all want the New Year's Day miracle where we are changed. Change often takes the form of extended struggle followed by sudden breakthrough.

As you review 2025 and look towards 2026, be real. Celebrate the ground you've taken, even if it's small. Give yourself grace for the things that you are still trying to work on. Don't lose hope. Breakthroughs don't tend to happen on New Year's Day, they tend to happen on a random Tuesday after you think you can't fight anymore. Finally I leave you with Luther who is essentially saying trust and embrace the process:

*"This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it." LW 32:24*

Happy New Year and be kind to yourself!

Pastor Jeremy



## FARMERSBURG

### CHURCH COUNCIL

**Pres:** Bill Scherf III. (25)  
**V. Pres:** Bruce Glawe (25)  
**Sec:** Loretta Weipert (26)  
**Treas:** Linda Schoulte (26)  
**Council Members:** Ken Erickson (27),  
 Crystal Goltz (27) & Dave Hageman (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,  
 Linda Friedlein & Ethel Lenth

### MEN'S GROUP:

**Pres:** Ryan Moon  
**V. Pres:** Brad Hoth  
**Sec/Treas:** Dan Moon

### ALTAR GUILD:

**Directress:** Cheryl Bossard  
**Sec:** Heather Crogan  
**Treas:** Velma Kuehl

### ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

**Chairperson:** Linda Schoulte (26)  
**Secretary:** Vicki Baade (27)  
**Members:** Janelle Smith (25)  
 Becky Fuelling (25)  
 Aaron Smith (26)  
 Amanda Goltz (27)

### NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Cheryl Bossard & Tammy Muller

Church Website:

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

Remember to like St. John Facebook Page.

## FARMERSBURG NEWS



Pictured—Back Row: Annabelle Palmersheim & Scarlett Scherf  
 Front Row: Liam Scherf, Jameson Palmersheim, Rylan Hoth,  
 Maverick Palmersheim, Dominic Schoulte & Josiah Scherf.  
 Sunday School Students presented a Christmas Program on  
 December 14th. Thank You!

### Yearbook Update for 2026

It's almost time to prepare the 2026 yearbook! If your committee or group has scheduled meetings or activities, please share those dates with us.

If you would like to make any changes to ushers, greeters, or other committees for 2026, please contact **Tammy Muller**, **Shirley Marmann**, or **Cheryl Bossard**.

Thank you for helping us keep everything accurate and up to date!

### Known January Baptisms

1 - Vivien Ione Scherf  
 4 - Dallas Tielbar  
 18 - Diane Kluth  
 27 - Hudson Robert Radloff  
 30 - Joel Moran



### December 3rd WELCA Highlights:

32 layette kits were taken to Decorah by Linda for LWR. Because of the strict changes made for the contents of the kits, it was decided to discontinue doing the layette kits.

*Quilting do days will be January 5, 6, 7, and February 2, 3, and 4th. All are invited and encouraged to come and be apart of this.*

*Food is provided and the fellowship helps with the long winter days.*

*We need anyone who can tie a knot. Many hands make light work (and more quilts)!*

We donated cash to the Food Shelf.



### November Worship Attendance

2	43
9	31
16	24
23	21

# FARMERSBURG NEWS

## 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 2025 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 14, 2026

Pastor's Report	Jeremy Wolfe
President's Report	Bill Scherf III.
Treasurer's Report	Kelly Shaw/Linda Schoulte
Auditing Committee	Becky Fuelling/Michelle Scherf/Lisa Berns
Nominating Committee	Bill Scherf III./Bruce Glawe. Dave Hageman, Becky Fuelling, Michelle Scherf & John Fuelling
Budget Committee	Bill Scherf III./Bruce Glawe/Loretta Weipert/ Linda Schoulte/Heather Crogan
Congregational Statistical Report	Kelly Shaw/Jeremy Wolfe
Stewardship Committee	Crystal Goltz
Evangelism Committee/Caring Spirits	Bill Scherf III.
Worship Committee	Crystal Goltz
Property Committee	Ken Erickson
Memorial Committee	Lindelle Scherf/Linda Schoulte/Deb Tidwell
Parish Education Committee	Loretta Weipert
St. John Ministry Team	Linda Schoulte/Becky Fuelling/Amanda Goltz
Women of the ELCA	Shirley Marmann/Becky Fuelling
Men of St. John	Brad Hoth/Dan Moon
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	Jeremy & Mellissa Wolfe
EWALU Ambassadors	Shirley Marmann/Ethel Lenth
Interchurch Council	Linda Friedlein/Lindelle Scherf/Clark Wikner
Northeast Iowa Synod Assembly	Becky Fuelling/Deb Tidwell
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.

# FARMERSBURG NEWS

## HONORING 2025 BAPTISMS

On January 11 (celebration of Jesus' Baptism) we will honor our 2025 Baptisms: February 23<sup>rd</sup> Jackson Dean Glawe son of Wyatt & Olivia Glawe and June 1st Bodie James Forsythe son of Danny and Lizzy Forsythe. Parents will be lighting a candle.

*If I forgot someone please let Cheryl Bossard know.*

## USHERS

January 4 & January 11  
Captain Rod Stagman      Gilbert Brainard  
Ken Erickson                  Derek Radloff

January 18 & January 25  
Captain Lyn Tielbar      Brian Glawe  
Don Bossard                  Jeff Klinge

## JANUARY ACOLYTES

4 Connor Kirby  
11 Scarlett Scherf  
18 Carsen Kirby  
25 Rylan Hoth  
Installation is January 4th.

## COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

January 4 Bill Scherf III.  
January 18 Linda Schoulte

## SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Cheryl & Don Bossard

## GREETERS 2026

January  
4 Shirley Marmann & Tracey Phillips  
11 Steve & Lisa Pavlovec  
18 Kelly, Ashley & Autumn Shaw

## ALTAR GUILD

Heather Crogan  
Marlene Glawe  
*Meeting: January 10*

" Sunday December 7, 2025 after worship 4 council members and pastor met to discuss details in his absence starting December 14th. It was agreed upon to cancel the December council meeting being there was no pressing items that needed to be discussed. Discussed youth programs for Wednesday December 17, Keith managing PEEPS and Loretta Weipert managing confirmation. Loretta reported that she will contact new acolyte parents and worship committee to schedule a date for installation of acolytes then update everyone."



I want to thank everyone for the Cards, gifts and phone calls that I received for my 90th birthday. It made my day.

*Beu Moon*

Thank you to the good people of St. John for another year remembering me with the newsletter, Sunshine committee, devotional booklet, cards and letters, items from the 125th anniversary and a visit. All of these are so much appreciated. God bless you and St. John in 2026.  
Thank you, Dorothy Kluth

## Thank You For Sharing Poinsettias

The White Poinsettias are in memory of Don Marmann & Loved Ones given by Shirley Marmann  
In memory of Brad Lenth & Loved Ones given by Ethel Lenth  
In memory of Larry, Dale & Isabel Kurth & Loved Ones given by Julie Kurth & family  
In memory of Verdine Glawe & Loved Ones given by Marlene Glawe  
In memory of Brad Wikner & Loved Ones given by Clark & Kris Wikner & family  
In memory of Ruth and Stanton Klinge and in memory of Olga and James Tidwell given by Jeff Klinge & Deb Tidwell.  
In memory of Brook Scherf & Loved Ones given by Bill & Michelle Scherf III. & family  
In memory of Loved Ones given by Kenny & Velma Kuehl

**The wreaths on the church doors** are given in memory of Sonya Stagman and Loved Ones from Rod Stagman and In memory of John & Dorothy Bossard, Arlyn & MaryAnn Gray from Don & Cheryl Bossard & family



January 1 Emily Peterson  
Heith Kessler  
Samantha (Howard) Kirby  
6 Jeff Klinge  
7 Katie (Feldmann) Vaske  
8 Chad Hoth  
11 Hudson Robert Radloff  
13 Tammy Muller  
14 Scott Henkes  
15 Lisa (Tielbar) Geick  
Tracey Phillips  
16 Diana Miller  
22 Valerie Kurth  
Scarlett Joy Scherf  
Skylar Kessler  
25 Cody Radloff  
Tait Wilker  
27 Brenda Hoth  
Makenzie Corlett  
28 Maycale Trumblee  
29 Heather Hageman  
30 Jason Klinge  
Andy Suhr  
31 Brian Glawe  
Bruce Glawe



January 26  
Gilbert & Barb Brainard

## LUANA NEWS

### LUANA

#### CHURCH SECRETARY & FINANCIAL TREAS.:

Karla Schrader

#### CHURCH COUNCIL:

**President:** Jerry Schroeder (26)

**V. Pres:** Aaron Smith (25)

**Sec:** Vicky Baade (27)

**Cur. Treas:** Diane Kraus (25)

**Bene. Treas:** Stan Dull (26)

**Financial Counters:** Council

#### DEACONS:

Jerry Schroeder (26)

Tim Donlon (26)

Loren Lenth (27)

#### TRUSTEES:

Diane Kraus (25)

Aaron Smith (25)

Heath Landt (26)

Vicky Baade (27)

Luke Steege (27)

#### WELCA:

##### Leaders:

January—March: Lisa Meyer

April—June: Vicky Baade

July—September: Karla Schrader

October—December: Mel Lenth

#### ALTAR GUILD:

**Pres:** Sherri Johnson (26)

**Sec:** Darci Engelhardt (26)

##### Banners/Linens/Candles:

Lisa Meyer (25)

Mary Schroeder (27)

##### Special Services/Flowers:

Diane Kraus (25)

Betty Handke (27)

##### Bapt./Comm.:

Sherri Johnson

Darci Engelhardt

##### Seasonal Banners:

Mary Schroeder

#### ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

**Chairperson:** Linda Schoulte (26)

**Secretary:** Vicki Baade (27)

**Members:** Janelle Smith (25)

Becky Fuelling (25)

Aaron Smith (26)

Amanda Goltz (27)

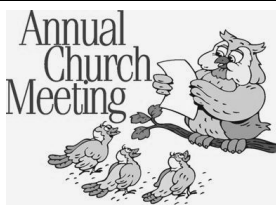
St. John's Luana website

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



Carol Goetter played the organ in Luana for the last time as organist on December 7, 2025.

Following worship a reception was held in Carol's honor.



Annual Meeting will be held Jan. 18.

Plan to attend.

#### JANUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

10 – Megan Johnson

Kim Kraus

13 – Paul Miller

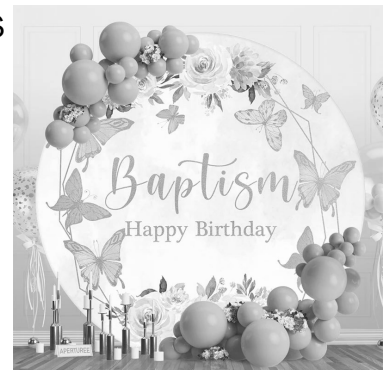
15 – Burke Schrader

27 – Holley Smith

28 - Lisa Meyer

29 – Carol Goettler

31 – Adam Smith



20– Duaine and Linda Davis

31 - Dwain and Jean Wolter

## LUANA NEWS

### **St. John Council Minutes December 14, 2025**

Present were: Pastor Jeremy, Jerry Schroeder, Diane Kraus, Loren Lenth, Stan Dull, Tim Donlon, Aaron Smith and Vicky Baade. Heath Landt, Luke Steege were absent. Church secretary, Karla Schrader was also in attendance. Meeting was called to order by President, Jerry Schroeder.

Pastor led devotions.

Vicky read the minutes of the November 9 meeting. Stan moved to accept the minutes, Diane seconded, approved.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Vicky moved to accept the reports, Tim seconded, approved.

Church insurance – A decision will be made at the Annual Meeting. Congregation will receive the options ahead of time.

The abstract will take 2-3 more weeks. Jerry will ask the current renter if he is interested in purchasing the parsonage. The decision to sell or not sell the parsonage will be made at the Annual Meeting.

The furnace has been repaired.

Christmas Eve worship has traditionally been 7pm at Luana and 8:30pm at Farmersburg each year – not alternating between congregations like Easter and Lent. We will follow this schedule this year, also.

A separate account for the Christmas Day meal funds was discussed. Aaron moved that the Ministry Team open the account with one Ministry Team member from each congregation as authorized signers. The money from the 2024 Christmas dinner will be transferred from the Rent/Repair Fund to the new account. The money will not be owned by either congregation; it will be jointly owned under the name of the Ministry Team. Diane seconded. Approved.

Council will meet Sunday, January 4 at 7:30 to work on the budget.

Jerry adjourned the meeting. Members prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Next regular meeting will be January 18, 2026 after the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Baade, Council Secretary





## LUANA NEWS



**Thank you for sharing Poinsettias**

**Joy David Family**  
**Lonnie & Vicky Baade**  
**Diane Kraus**  
**Loren & Mel Lenth**  
**Doug & Connie Schlein**  
**Doug & Karla Schrader**

**In Memory of Joy**  
**In Memory of Loved Ones**  
**In Memory of Loved Ones**  
**In Memory of Loved Ones**  
**In Memory of Loved Ones**  
**In Memory of Loved Ones**

### **JANUARY VOLUNTEERS**

**Greeters:** Loren & Mel Lenth

**Read Lessons & Prayers:** Jan. 4 - Vicky Baade  
 Jan. 11 - Duaine Davis  
 Jan. 18 - Loren Lenth  
 Jan. 25 - Jerry Schroeder

**Acolyte:** Jan. 4 - Josh Schierholz  
 Jan. 11 - Emme Wikner  
 Jan. 18 - Livia Steege  
 Jan. 25 - Ty Wikner

**Communion Servers:** Jan. 4 - Jerry Schroeder & Stan Dull  
 Jan. 18 - Loren Lenth & Aaron Smith

**Altar Guild:** Darci Engelhardt

**Flowers:** Stephanie Steele

**There is always room to join in reading the lessons and prayers for 2026. Let Karla know if you are interested.**



There will be a Luana WELCA Meeting on January 22 at 5:30 pm. All Women of the church are invited to attend.

Happy Birthday  
 January

1 - Lisa Meyer  
 8 - Stacy DeSotel  
     Brynleigh McHaney  
 13 - Julia Mohs  
 15 - Darci Engelhardt  
 19 - Jeanne Miller  
 21 - Adam Smith  
 22 - Loren Lenth  
     Stephanie Steele  
 24 - Wyatt Landt  
 27 - Erma Swenson  
 28 - Linda Davis  
 29 - Amber Moeller



### **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

	Att.	Comm
Nov. 23	42	
Nov. 30	No Church	
Dec. 7	29	26
Dec. 14	<u>20</u>	
	91	

# LUANA NEWS

## November REPORT

### EXPENSES

Black Hills Utilities –Nat. Gas	47.52
Alliant - Electricity	132.46
Karla Schrader –Secretary	500.24
Cindy Landt – Custodian	461.50
NEITEL	119.87
Jeremy Wolfe- salary	2,636.46
Jeremy Wolfe – housing	707.58
Jeremy Wolfe – mileage	490.70
IRS	159.37
Church Mutual – Prop. Ins.	944.26
City of Luana – Oct w/s/g.	119.54
Portico – Oct & Nov	1,405.50
Plunketts	<u>57.25</u>
	7,782.15

### SPECIAL FUNDS

St John Scholarship Fund CD	43,249.01
Willard & Anne Kamin CD	4,788.07
Ruby Breitsprecher CD	5,676.58
St John CD	125,000.00

### CURRENT FUND

	Envelopes	Plate	Total
Oct. 6	1,200.00	5.00	1,205.00
Oct. 13	932.00		932.00
Oct. 20	817.00	36.00	853.00
Oct. 27	<u>1,667.00</u>	<u>22.00</u>	<u>1,657.00</u>
	<b>4,616.00</b>	<b>63.00</b>	<b>4,679.00</b>

### BENEVOLENCE REPORT

#### INCOME

Nov. 2	Offering	60.00
	Food Shelf	50.00
	Operating	100.00
	Xmas 4 Kids	175.00
Nov. 9	Offering	175.00
	Food Shelf	10.00
	Operating	50.00
Nov. 16	Offering	35.00
	Food Shelf	50.00
	Soth Oper	50.00
	Xmas 4 Kids	100.00
Nov. 23	Offering	20.00
	Food Shelf	10.00
	Soth Oper	50.00
	Thanksgiving	<u>100.00</u>
		1,035.00

### INCOME

Nov. 2	1,649.00
Nov. 9	1,512.00
Nov. 16	727.00
Nov. 23	<u>952.00</u>
	4,800.00
Trfr Repair Fund	2,050.00
St. John Fmbg	<u>702.76</u>
	7,592.76
Bal. Oct. 31, 2025	481.71
Income	<u>7,592.76</u>
	8,074.47
Less Expenses	<u>7,782.15</u>
Bal. Nov. 30, 2025	292.22

### RENT/REPAIR FUND

Bal. 10-31-25	32,929.91
11-4-25 Dep.	700.00
CD Int.	<u>60.71</u>
	33,690.62
To current	<u>2,050.00</u>
Bal. 11-30-25	31,640.62

### THRIVENT BALANCE

Bal. Sept. 30, 2025	\$137,159.91
Income Oct. & Nov	641.66
Change in Value	1,718.87
Fees	- <u>398.10</u>
Bal. Nov. 30, 2025	\$139,112.34

SOTH	130.00
Food Shelf	120.00
Xmas for Kids	275.00
SOTH Oper	250.00
Synod	160.00
Thanksgiving F/S	<u>100.00</u>
	1,035.00



## Both Churches News



All St. John (Farmersburg and Luana) kids welcome! P.E.E.P.S., Confirmation, and Sunday School are combining for a fun night at the pool! On **January 2nd** we will meet at **St. John Luana at 3:30 PM** and then head to the pool at Country Inn & Suites in Prairie (aka the Waterpark). There will be a lifeguard on duty. Afterward we'll go to the Pizza Ranch and be back to church by 8 PM. Please reach out to Pastor Jeremy with questions or if you are interested.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS :** Roger Landt, Stacy DeSotel, Julie Mohs, Charlie Post, *Dallas Tielbar, Shelby Preston, Bram Byroade, Melody Pate, Jim Fuelling, Mike Reardon, Ron Tayek, Cheryl Bossard, Beth Bries, Alan Feldmann, Pastor Bob Edwards*

**MILITARY:** Avrey Smith, Andrew Rodas & Beth Rodas, Will Schrandt

**ELKADER CARE CENTER:** Grace Doerring,

**GARDEN VIEW PLACE:** Juanita Mohs, Darlene Moon, Harold & Jeanette Vogt

**TOWER LIVING CENTER:** Lendall Schievelbein

**SAMARITAN BETHANY ROCHESTER, MN 55901:** Dorothy Kluth

**KENSINGTON ASSISTED LIVING:** Mary Russett

**WAUKON GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER:** Rita Pritchard

**HOMEBOUND:** Glenda Henkes, Jim Fuelling, Shirley Wagner, Jeanette Krambeer in Des Moines



C	F	W	E	G	I	C	I	C	L	E	L	A	W	X	N	R	A
L	R	S	C	E	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	S	C	A	R	F
C	O	B	S	M	C	Y	Y	D	R	C	Q	R	E	M	M	R	
C	S	R	R	G	W	I	I	E	J	K	L	A	Y	H	W	H	O
T	T	A	A	C	I	R	G	O	O	F	R	W	D	L	O	C	Z
V	Y	R	A	U	N	A	J	N	W	A	E	K	X	T	N	A	E
B	O	B	T	E	T	S	P	M	R	N	N	E	C	B	S	Y	N
O	T	R	S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G	N	O	F	I	N	K	E
O	E	M	A	I	R	T	E	Y	P	R	C	X	J	O	O	F	Y
T	G	L	O	V	E	S	G	G	W	O	F	D	R	E	W	M	P
S	W	X	H	G	I	P	B	N	A	R	E	H	E	N	F	L	E
G	R	E	K	L	A	F	X	S	N	O	W	B	A	L	L	S	C
D	J	T	E	D	R	K	A	O	S	F	F	U	M	R	A	E	S
Y	D	R	C	E	Q	R	S	U	M	I	C	E	L	C	K	R	R
I	E	J	E	L	A	S	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R	G
H	E	Z	C	I	R	R	O	Q	L	I	E	J	K	L	A	N	H
E	E	I	U	D	S	T	W	A	A	C	A	S	G	O	I	F	R
I	T	Y	R	E	P	P	I	L	S	W	T	A	P	I	Q	J	N
W	A	E	K	X	V	E	N	C	S	G	E	L	K	B	T	E	R
C	H	I	L	L	Y	E	G	B	O	Y	K	S	N	O	O	T	R

BOOTS  
 CELEBRATE  
 CHILLY  
 COLD  
 EARMUFFS  
 FREEZE  
 FROSTY  
 FROZEN  
 GLOVES  
 HAT  
 HOT COCOA  
 ICE  
 ICICLE  
 JANUARY  
 NEW YEAR  
 RESOLUTIONS  
 SCARF  
 SKIING  
 SLEDDING  
 SLIPPERY  
 SNOWBALL  
 SNOWFLAKE  
 SNOWING  
 SNOWMAN  
 WINTER

# Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

## NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2026



*WOW... We are truly blessed. Our Christmas for Kids event was amazing. We had 466 children registered which equates to 173 families. Thank you to all who donated toys, financial support, their time or just a prayer to get through this busy time.*

*As we navigate from one event, we jump into another one. Our conference assembly is scheduled for February 15 at 2:00 pm. The hosting church is Zion Lutheran Church in Oelwein. As we prepare for our meeting, our churches are focusing on their own church assembly's. We ask that you consider a monthly donation to Shepherd of the Hills. Our mission to help those in need has expanded immensely. Our need in the surrounding areas is heart-breaking but we as a conference **ARE** making a difference. Your donations are so important and needed as we navigate through tough times. We are unique as we are the only conference that is offering the events, crisis help and thrift store support in the state. That is something to be proud of. We can make a difference if we support one another. **TOGETHER!***

*Happy Holidays and stay safe and healthy.*

### **Clothing Center Updates:**

*Our thrift store is FULL. Many nice things to select from. After the new year, we will have a half off sale. Please continue to follow our social media for the dates of our sales. Remember, most of our items are only \$1.00 and our sales in turn make our items \$.50*

*We will be **closed** from December 24 through January 4, 2026. This gives me some time to recover from Christmas for Kids and start the new year out re-energized.*

### **Shepherd Conference News:**

*Pastor Gary Hatcher (St. Paul Garnavillo, First Lutheran McGregor) will be retiring at the end of 2025. We will miss him and wish him well on the next chapter of his life.*

*We would like to also recognize Pastor Mike Ashman (St. Paul and St. John Guttenberg) on the anniversary of his ordination on 01/03/1993.*

*Please say a prayer for all of dedicated Pastors in our conference and for the churches that are in-between Pastors at this time. We are very blessed to have them and cherish the work that they do.*

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!

Please indicate what church you are from as well to provide better bookkeeping.

### **IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:**

*Shepherd will be **CLOSED** De-  
cember 24-January 4*

*Conference Assembly:  
February 15, 2026 @ 2:00 pm  
Zion Lutheran, Oelwein*

*\*Any event may be subject to change*

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

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E-mail: [shephill@neitel.net](mailto:shephill@neitel.net)

**Business Hours: Monday-  
Friday**

**9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm**