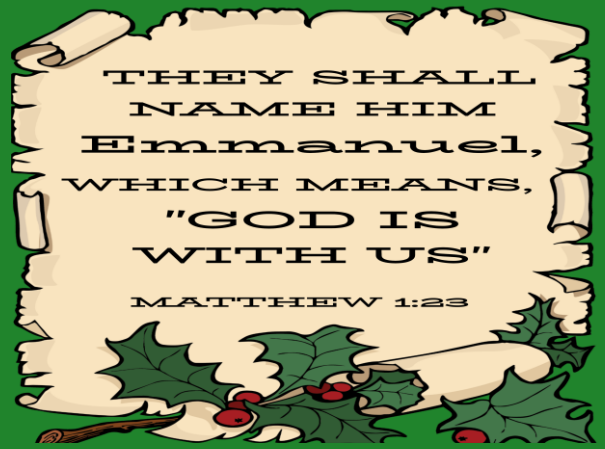


The Echo



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 601 6TH AVE., SIBLEY, IA 51249

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December '24
January '25



From the CLP/Youth Pastor

With Thanksgiving and Christmas, it gets to be a very busy time of year and before we get caught up in the holiday festivities let us pause and remember what the season is all about. The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1563 and it is a very precious catechism that we hold onto being Presbyterian. It is divided in three lines. Questions 1– 11 articulate the misery of mankind due to their sin and rebellion against God. Then in questions 12–58 it outlines man’s deliverance which is through the person and work of Christ. Lastly, questions 86–129 are all about thanksgiving. In the catechism we have guilt, grace, and gratitude. If you haven’t already, I encourage you to read through the catechism and to meditate upon it this holiday season.

Question 86 asks, “Since then we are delivered from our misery, merely of grace, through Christ, *without any merits of our own*, why must we still do good works? The answer: Because Christ, having redeemed and delivered us by His blood, also renews us by His Holy Spirit after His own image; that we may testify by the whole of our conduct, *our gratitude to God for His blessings, that He may be praised by us*” (italics emphasis mine).

Gratitude is initiated by an act of kindness, and the act of kindness that initiates our gratitude is God’s gracious blessing in the person and work of Christ. If Christ did not come to earth and if he did not die in our place, we would be without hope awaiting the very judgment of God on our last day. But since God initiated our salvation and first loved us and pursued us and bought us by His blood, we have so much to be thankful for. Our union with Christ, by faith, should cause us to be grateful every single one of our days.

In Psalm 103:1–4 the Psalmist says, “Bless the LORD, O my Soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, *who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.*” There are four blessings which we get from the Lord in this Psalm which should cause within us a heart of gratitude. The Psalmist does say that the Lord heals all of your diseases; this is not a prosperity message or a prosperity gospel, rather this is God redeeming us from the effects of sin. We might not get healed in this lifetime, but when we pass on into glory there will be no diseases and therefore, we will be healed from all of our diseases and we know we are completely saved from the disease of sin because of Christ.

Pastor Ken Jones said, “Christian gratitude is grounded in the knowledge of God’s grace toward us in Christ, and that knowledge manifests in high esteem and awe of that grace, which propels us to serve and please Him.”

So, this holiday season, be thankful of the grace we have in Christ and look upward to our spiritual realities that we have in Christ and be comforted that Christ is with you day by day, moment by moment if you are in Christ. Take comfort this year as we look to the manger knowing that Christ has come for those whom He loves and there is a day coming when He is going to make all things new. Until then let us press on with thankful hearts for what Christ has done and is doing in our lives. To God alone be the Glory!



Pastor Jordan



Welcome

It is with extreme pleasure and joy that we welcome our new pastor, the Rev. Chris Lemmon, and his family, wife Tanya, and children, Christopher (8), Joshua (7), and Abigail (4), to Sibley First Presbyterian Church. At a special congregational meeting held on Sunday, November 10, 2024, Pastor Chris accepted the position as Pastor/Head of Staff. We are excited beyond words to have Pastor Chris lead our church into the future. Pastor Chris' first Sunday in the pulpit is January 5. **Welcome to Our Church Family!**

family), and deliver them to the church kitchen by 1-1:30 p.m. on December 8. The Christian Education Committee hosts the fellowship time. (In case of bad weather, the program will move to December 15.)

Third Sunday of Advent December 15

The Property & Finance Committee hosts the coffee hour after the service in the New Testament Hall.



Christmas Caroling to our Shut-Ins, Nursing Homes & Heartwood Heights. Carolers, all ages, please meet at the church at 4 p.m. After caroling we will meet back at the church for Pizza.



Third Sunday of Advent December 22

The Worship & Evangelism Committee will host the coffee hour after the service, serving caramel rolls and singing Christmas carols during the coffee hour.



Christmas Eve December 24

Fellowship of the Carpenter leads the **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** on Tuesday, December 24, at 6 p.m., in the church sanctuary. The Lord's Supper, by Intinction, will be celebrated, with elders Amos Kleinwolverink and Brad Jensen assisting Celebrant Pastor Jordan. Deacons responsible for the elements are Laura Hoffman (juice) and Dean Popkes (bread). The special offering will be received for OCMA. If contributing, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, jotting down on the memo line OCMA.



Poinsettia Orders

POINSETTIA order forms were included in the November 17 and 24 bulletins. Cost \$19.99 per plant. Our order will be called into Echers on Monday, December 2. Deadline to return your order forms to the church office is 8 a.m., Friday, November 29, along with payment, checks made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Persons' names, in memory/honor of, or yourself, will be printed in the next Echo.

Ruth Circle



Ruth Circle meets Monday, December 16, at 9:30 a.m., in the church meeting room. Visitors are always welcome!

'24 Advent Schedule



First Sunday of Advent December 1

Fellowship of the Carpenter serves cinnamon rolls after the service in the New Testament Hall.

Second Sunday of Advent December 8

The Presbyterian Relay for Life Team hosts the coffee hour.



The **N-8 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 8, in the sanctuary, and will also be livestreamed.

Christmas Program

A container for *Gifts for Others'* donations, for ATLAS of Osceola County, will be available on the kitchen serving counter in the New Testament Hall. Parents of children participating in the program are asked to please bring 1 dozen cookies (per



Fishes & Loaves



The **Fishes & Loaves Kitchen** monthly meal is Saturday, December 14, at 6 p.m., in the New Testament Hall. Menu: Soups, Sliders, Salads & Christmas Goodies. No Charge or Freewill Offering. Meal one week earlier due to Christmas.

Meals Delivery

Our church is scheduled to deliver meals December 16-26. Meals are delivered on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, only. Volunteers to drive and deliver meals to the door would be greatly appreciated. For those who would like to help with this outreach mission to our community, the sign-up sheet can be found on the Mission bulletin board.

The True Meaning of Christmas



December Meetings



The **Property & Financial Stewardship Committee** meets Tuesday, December 10, at 6:00 p.m., to take care of work projects, followed by the business meeting at 6:30 p.m., in the church meeting room.

The **Mission & Nurture Committee** meets Thursday, December 5, at 5:30 p.m., in the church choir room.

The **Christian Education Committee** meets Thursday, December 5, at 6 p.m., in the church meeting room.

The **Worship & Evangelism Committee** meets Sunday, December 8, at 11 a.m., in the choir room.

The **Deacons** meet Thursday, December 19, at 6:00 p.m. The **Annual Deacons/Session Joint Board Meeting** follows at 6:30 p.m., with the monthly **Session Meeting** beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the church meeting room. **DEACONS, A REPORT ON YEARLY ACTIVITIES NEEDS TO BE SUBMITTED TO SESSION AT THE JOINT BOARD MEETING.**

Men's Monday Night Bible Study meets at 7 p.m., in the meeting room.

Adult Old Testament Bible Study meets Wednesday mornings at 8:45 a.m., in the meeting room.

Solo Sisterhood meets Thursday, December 12, at 3 p.m., in the New Testament Hall.

COMMITTEES OF SESSION MINUTES are due in the church office, via email Word attachment, on Thursday, December 12, in the a.m.

Session Highlights



September 19, 2024

SESSION VOTED TO APPROVE:

Heying Endeavors' financial report of the church main accounts, month ending August 31, 2024.

General Fund

Balance as of 7/31	\$105,170.37
Receipts for Aug.	+\$24,944.37
Interest	+\$ 9.15
Expend. for Aug.	-\$ <u>18,206.81</u>
	\$ 6,746.71
Ending balance 8/31	\$111,917.08

Mission Fund

Balance as of 7/31	\$ 16,775.27
Receipts for Aug.	+\$ 1,708.33
Expend. for Aug.	-\$ <u>2,156.57</u>
	\$ (448.24)
Ending balance 8/31	\$ 16,327.03

Property Needs Fund

Balance as of 7/31	\$ 10,566.25
Receipts for Aug.	+\$ 83.33
Expend. for Aug.	-\$ <u>0.00</u>
	\$ 83.33
Ending balance 8/31	\$ 10,649.58

Moderator's Report...No recommendations.

Clerk's Report...No recommendations.

Property & Financial Stewardship...No recommendations.

Worship & Evangelism...a. To hold the Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 27, at 7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary. Offering for our in-church outreach program, *Caring Christmas*. Leroy Eggink supplies the pulpit. b. 2024 Advent Schedule of activities/services. c. Choir directors for 2024-2025.

Christian Education...a. To approve Jessica Loeschen and Katie Vreeman as directors for 2025 VBS.

Mission & Nurture...No recommendations.

Personnel...a. To approve a 1% salary increase for Pastor Jordan and Denise for 2025. b. To accept Kelly Jacobsma's resignation as church custodian.

Deacons Report...No recommendations.

Old Business...No business presented requiring Session approval.

New Business...a. To call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of ECO, Sibley, IA, to be held in the church sanctuary on Sunday, January 19, 2025, following the Service of Worship, with alternate date of January 26, 2024, in case of inclement weather. Session provides and serves bars for the coffee hour following the meeting. b. To call for the Church Nominating Committee to begin

work in finding Nominees...3 Session/3 Deacons/2 At-Large (to represent the congregation on the 2025 Nominating Committee).

Other...None.

Session Highlights



October 17, 2024

SESSION VOTED TO APPROVE:

Heying Endeavors' financial report of the church main accounts, month ending September 30, 2024.

General Fund

Balance as of 8/31	\$111,917.08
Receipts for Sept.	+\$20,337.90
Interest	+\$ 8.74
Expend. for Sept.	-\$ <u>25,183.35</u>
	\$(4,836.71)
Ending balance 9/30	\$107,080.37

Mission Fund

Balance as of 8/31	\$ 16,327.03
Receipts for Sept.	+\$ 3,455.00
Expend. for Sept.	-\$ <u>2,428.52</u>
	\$ 1,026.48
Ending balance 9/30	\$ 17,353.51

Property Needs Fund

Balance as of 8/31	\$ 10,649.58
Receipts for Sept.	+\$ 75.00
Expend. for Sept.	-\$ <u>3,390.00</u>
	\$(3,315.00)
Ending balance 9/30	\$ 7,334.58

Moderator's Report...No recommendations.

Clerk's Report...No recommendations.

Pastor Nominating...a. To hold a Meet & Greet Open House Reception for Pastor Chris Lemmon on Saturday, November 9, from 2-4 p.m., and a RSVP Catered Dinner to follow the special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 10, for the congregation and Pastor Chris Lemmon and his family, with a freewill offering requested to help offset meal expenses. b. To approve revisions to Terms of Call.

Property & Financial Stewardship...

a. To elect Kindra Reiter as our Payroll/Bookkeeping Provider for the church main account (General/Mission/Property Needs) to replace Ginger French (Heying Endeavors), effective January 1, 2025. b. To approve Katie Vreeman for the janitorial position, effective immediately. c. To receive a special offering for the Property Needs Fund on Sunday, October 27.

Worship & Evangelism...a. To approve that our pulpit supplies be recognized on the last Sunday they are in the pulpit, and to recognize our church partners who supplied the pulpit on Sunday, December 29, all asked to stand in recognition.

Christian Education...a. To approve Candy Dash offsite activity on Thursday, October 24.

Mission & Nurture...a. To hold the Church/Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 28, at noon. b. To use Mission Fund monies if congregational donations are not enough to support meal costs, if amount needed is over \$250. c. To recommend to the congregation at the January annual meeting approval of the 2025 Proposed Mission Fund Budget.

Personnel...No recommendations.

Deacons Report...No recommendations.

Old Business...No Old Business.

New Business...a. To hold the required Deacons/Session Joint Board Meeting on Thursday, December 19, at 6:30 p.m.



CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS/MEMORIES

December 1974/January 1975

All entries taken from our 1895-1995 Centennial binder.

December 17, 1974...Session determined that we use Dave Feltman as a summer intern during June, July, and August 1975, at a salary of \$1,500, plus mileage at 10 cents per mile. Half of the funds to come from the Benevolent treasury and half from the general fund.

Statistical Record for 1974	
Membership 1/1/74	433
Received by Confession of Faith	16
Received by Affirmation of Faith	1
Received by Transfer of Membership	11
Membership Restored	1
Members Lost by Transfer	7
Members Lost by Death	7
Membership 1/1/75	448
Infant Baptism	3
Adult Baptism	1

No January 1975 Entries

Aaron Zylstra	12/03
Kandice Alford	12/04
Audrey Claus	12/04
Kyler Julius	12/04
Kelsey Ackerman	12/06
Rachel Poppen	12/06
Haidyn Howard	12/07
Tara Vander Plaats	12/08
Justin Heinrichs	12/08
Sara Dirks	12/09
Carley Howard	12/10
Riley Dirks	12/11
Matthew Lowe	12/12
Dackson Vazquez	12/12
Cora Rueter	12/14
Natalia Vazquez	12/14
Laura Goldhorn	12/15
Stacy Grunow	12/15
Michael Leathers	12/15
Abbey Roth	12/15
Kayla Van Stelton	12/15
Emma Patterson	12/17
Lilian Patterson	12/17
Angie Klaassen	12/18
Emily Schutte	12/18
Travis Goldhorn	12/19
Carolyn Clark	12/20
Jordan Geffre	12/20
Sara Bjerke Jansma	12/21
Dorothy Funk	12/21
Brenlee Heikes	12/21
Les Powers	12/22
Adam Alexander	12/27
Tessa Bents	12/29
Sherie Kleve	12/30
Jacob Wingert	12/30
Madison Wingert	12/30

Ron & Shari VanEngen	12/03/1989
Marshall & Shelby Eddy	12/05/2020
Jason & Cary Rueter	12/07/1996
Jack & Kristin Byers	12/08/2001
Michael & Dana Leathers	12/15/2005
Gary & Helene Handeland	12/22/1971
Jerry & Lois Vreeman	12/22/2002

Year End Tithing



To anyone who would like to give a **YEAR-END GIFT** as a tax deduction, we would be grateful and would welcome you to give to the FPC Endowment Fund, the Property Needs Fund, General Fund, or the Mission Fund, on or before December 31. **All our 3 church main accounts, as listed, would benefit very much from extra year end giving, most especially the Property Needs Fund. Thank you.**



December Schedules

Ushers

Jim Carroll & Paul Reiter

Greeters

Ralph & Jonola Witham
Les & Sharon Powers

Deacon of the Month

Lois Stofferan

Prayer Partner for December

Brad Jensen

Candlelighters

Dec. 01	Joey TenNapel & Eli Trierweiler
Dec. 08	Penelope Gemar & Sophia Krueger
Dec. 15	Coralyne Krueger & Aaliyah Loeschen
Dec. 22	Kyler Julius & Skip Kleinwolterink
Dec. 29	Berklee Buchholtz & Brevyn Doeden

Service Participation

Dec. 01	Daniel Winkowitsch (Pulpit Supply) Karey Julius (Liturgist) Connie TenNapel (Kids' Message)
Dec. 08	Chad Hayenga (Pulpit Supply) Jackie Kannegieter (Liturgist) Karey Julius (Kids' Message)
Dec. 15	Daniel Winkowitsch (Pulpit Supply) Bill Pearson (Liturgist) Tracy Van Diepen (Kids' Message)
Dec. 22	Leroy Eggink (Pulpit Supply) Tracy Van Diepen (Liturgist) Heather Kleinwolterink (Kids' Message)
Dec. 29	Pastor Peter W. Wagner (Pulpit Supply) Paul Reiter (Liturgist) Carlie Doeden (Kids' Message)

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO SUPPLIED THE PULPIT DURING THE TIME WE HAVE BEEN WITHOUT A PASTOR WILL BE RECOGNIZED, STANDING IN RECOGNITION.

Nursery

Dec. 01	Stacey & Nevaeh Vander Plaats
Dec. 08	Carlie Doeden & Family
Dec. 15	Stacey & Neveah Vander Plaats
Dec. 22	Tracy Van Diepen & David Poppen
Dec. 29	Emily Zylstra & Family

Coffee Servers

Dec. 01	FOC
Dec. 08	Presbyterian Relay for Life
Dec. 15	Property & Finance
Dec. 22	Worship & Evangelism
Dec. 29	Property & Finance



December Birthdays

Pat Jansma	12/01
Alex Jurrens	12/02
Colton Howard	12/02
Kathryn Klaassen	12/03



Christmas Crackups

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? *It's Christmas, Eve!*

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed? *Cookie sheets.*

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party? *"Freeze a jolly good fellow!"*

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy? *Ornamints.*

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"? *Santa walking backward.*

Why did Rudolph get a bad report card? *Because he went down in history.*

What is an elf's favorite kind of music? *Wrap music!*

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? *Nothing. It was on the house!*

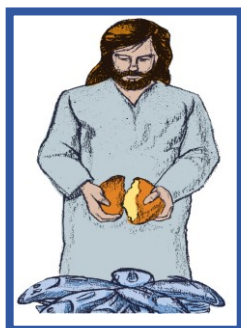
What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take? *Elfies.*



January '25

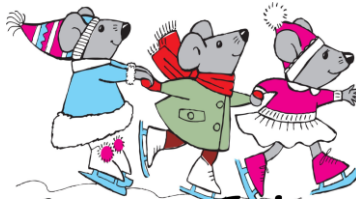


2025



The **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** will be celebrated on Sunday, January 12 (Baptism of the Lord), with elders Jason Edwards, Tom Kuiper, Dave

Jenson, Mike Milbrath, Jessica Loeschen, and Cindy Kemp serving the congregation and our shut-in, nursing home and assisted living partners and friends. Deacons responsible for the elements are Jodi Marco (juice) and Brett Doeden (bread).



Come to Fishes & Loaves

Sibley First Presbyterian Church
New Testament Hall

Saturday, January 18, at 6 P.M.

Casseroles/Dinner Rolls

Salads/Cake/Ice Cream

(Menu subject to change.)

No Charge or Freewill Offering



The Session, at its September 19, 2024, meeting, called for the **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION** of the First Presbyterian Church of ECO, Sibley, IA, to be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025, immediately following the Service of Worship in the church sanctuary, for the purpose to receive the reports, election of officers, adequacy of pastor's compensation, and any other business as stated in the call by the Session. Session will provide and serve bars, along with coffee and juice, following the meeting in the New Testament Hall. In case of bad weather, alternate meeting date is January 26, 2025.

Don't Miss the



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

REPORTS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A BANK STATEMENT ARE DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, AT 8 A.M., AND REPORTS THAT DO REQUIRE A BANK STATEMENT FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, BY 4 P.M. THIS IS A LABOR-INTENSIVE REPORT, WITH THE GOAL TO HAVE IT READY FOR PICK-UP ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING. THIS IS A TIGHT TIMELINE TO GET THE REPORT DONE, SO PLEASE DON'T BE LATE. ONE LATE REPORT HALTS THE ENTIRE REPORT. REPORTS INCLUDE:

DECEMBER 13 REPORT DEADLINE

Moderator/Youth Director
Board of Deacons
Deacons' Usher/Greeter
Appointments for 2025
Christian Education Committee
Worship & Evangelism Committee
Mission & Nurture Committee
2025 Mission Synopsis of
Mission Descriptions
Property & Financial
Stewardship Committee
Sonshine Ministry
Presbyterian Women's Mission

JANUARY 3 DEADLINE

Elected Treasurers' Reports
Memorial Fund
Helping Hand Fund
Hewing Endeavors' Reports on the General/Property
Needs/Mission Funds
Final Pastor Recruitment Fund
Other Financial
FPC Endowment Fund
Presbyterian Women's Association
Fellowship of the Carpenter
Scrip



Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle meets Monday, January 20, at 9:30 a.m., in the meeting room. Visitors are welcome!



January Meetings

The **Property & Financial Stewardship Committee** meets Tuesday, January 14, at 6:00 p.m., to take care of work projects, followed by the business meeting at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room.

The **Mission & Nurture Committee** meets **Thursday**, January 2, at 5:30 p.m., in the New Testament Hall.

The **Christian Education Committee** meets Thursday, January 2, at 6 p.m., in the meeting room.

The **Worship & Evangelism Committee** meets Sunday, January 12, at 11:00 a.m., in the choir room.

The **Deacons** meet Thursday, January 16, at 6:15 p.m., in the New Testament Hall.

The **Session** meets Thursday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room.

Men's Monday Night Bible Study meets Monday evenings at 7 p.m., in the church meeting room.

Adult Old Testament Bible Study meets Wednesday mornings at 8:45 a.m., in the church meeting room.

Solo Sisterhood meets the second Thursday of the month, January 9, at 3 p.m., in the New Testament Hall or meeting room.

ALL COMMITTEES OF SESSION MINUTES ARE DUE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE, VIA EMAIL (WORD DOCUMENT), ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, IN THE A.M.



January Birthdays

Janet Christians	1/01
Matthew Linquist	1/02
Marcia Zylstra	1/02
William Top	1/02
Brandi Arens	1/03
Meghan Reed	1/03
Toby Voss	1/04
Emily Zylstra	1/04
Bennett Trierweiler	1/05
Genevieve Lutterman	1/05
Carter Norgaard	1/06
Rhett Buchholtz	1/08
Jacob Wietzema	1/08
Beau Jay TenNapel	1/08
Ivy Jo Stevens	1/08
Jaime Huls	1/09
Keith Michelson	1/10
Evain Thompson	1/10
Kyliegh Wollmuth	1/10
Pam Travaille	1/11
Jeremy Voss	1/11
Jerry Vreeman	1/12
Felicia White	1/13
Kaiya Pospisil	1/13
Leon DeBoer	1/14
Denise Kuiper	1/14
Paul Reiter	1/14
Maggie Gisch	1/15
Kole Schutte	1/16
Justin Van Houten	1/16
Desmond Wollmuth	1/16
Levi Boettcher	1/17
Brett Kleve	1/18
Kolby Douma	1/19
Marilyn Poppen	1/19
Jessica Patterson	1/21
Jason Vreeman	1/21
Huxton Wallace	1/22
Stacey Vander Plaats	1/23
Caleb Mayer	1/25
Trevor Van Tilburg	1/25
Sunny Rae Juber	1/25
Deanna Kruger	1/26
Jodi Marco	1/28
Kelley Claus	1/29
Cindy Gries	1/29
Carlos Vazquez	1/29
Autumn Dake	1/30
Georgia Heimark	1/30
Trevor Gries	1/30
Matthew White	1/30
Declan Adams	1/30



January Anniversaries

Scott & Karey Julius 1/11/1990

January Schedules

Candle Lighters

Jan. 05	Kennedy Stevens & Jacey Zylstra
Jan. 12	Nevaeh Vander Plaats &

Maverick Van Engen
 Jan. 19 Bronson Bruns & Eli Trierweiler
 Jan. 26 Sophia Krueger & Joey TenNapel

Ushers

Dean Popkes/Rick Dirks

Greeters

Jeff & Connie TenNapel
 Brad & Janelle Jensen

Prayer Partner for January

Jason Edwards

Deacon of the Month

Jerry Vreeman

Nursery

Jan. 05 Shauna Geffre & Claire Vreeman
 Jan. 12 Janelle Jensen & Ben Byers
 Jan. 19 Jessica Loeschen & Family
 Jan. 26 DiDi Edwards & Mariah Dake

Service Participation Involvement

Jan. 05 Bill Pearson Liturgist & Shauna Geffre Kids' Message
 Jan. 12 Tracy Van Diepen Liturgist & Karey Julius Kids' Message
 Jan. 19 Eric Kleinwolverink Liturgist & Heather Kleinwolverink Kids' Message
 Jan. 26 Denise Kuiper Liturgist & Katie Vreeman Kids' Message

Coffee Servers

Jan. 05 FOC
 Jan. 12 Presbyterian Relay for Life
 Jan. 19 Session (Annual Meeting)
 Jan. 26 FOC



Other various donations received. Only General, Mission, & Property Needs listed.

Sept. 22	122	General	\$3,835.00
		Mission	\$ 500.00
Sept. 29	102	General	\$6,890.00
		Mission	\$1,080.00
		Property	\$ 75.00
Oct. 06	114	General	\$2,816.00
		Mission	\$ 450.00
Oct. 13	129	General	\$5,608.00
Oct. 20	133	General	\$7,644.00
		Mission	\$ 850.00
Oct. 27	139	General	\$3,749.34
		Mission	\$ 800.00
		Property	\$ 875.00
Nov. 03	134	General	\$4,316.00
		Mission	\$ 150.00
Nov. 10	197	General	\$5,922.00
		Mission	\$ 300.00

THANK YOU FOR GIVING



January Deadlines

FEBRUARY & MARCH '25 ECHO The deadline is 8 a.m., Tuesday, January 7.

SUNDAY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS The deadline is Thursday at 4:00 p.m. **BULLETIN PICK-UP...**To ensure the doors are not locked on Fridays, for those who pick up a bulletin early, please come between 12 and 1 p.m. Thank you.

CHURCH OPEN...Public office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, including the noon hour. On occasion, the church doors may be locked before 4 p.m., on Friday, if Denise leaves early to use up some of her vacation time she cannot take in full days.

Address Changes

To keep our rolls accurate, please be sure to contact the church office if you have a change of address, or with your cell phone number, especially if you no longer have a landline. (Postal letter pick-ups have risen to 90 cents per letter/Echo return.)



With joy, we announce the birth of Lincoln Cole Van Diepen, son of Collin & Alexis Van Diepen, who was born on October 11, weighing 7 pounds 14 ounces and 21¼ inches long. Lincoln has one brother, Teddy, to welcome him

home. John & Tracy Van Diepen are the proud grandparents.

With joy, we announce the birth of Hadleigh Kay Langdeaux, daughter of Mike & Suzie Langdeaux, who was born on October 16, weighing 8 pounds 8 ounces and 20½ inches long. From our church family, proud grandparents are John & Darla Linquist and great-grandparents are Les & Sharon Powers. Hadleigh has one big sister, Luxleigh, to welcome her home.

With joy, we announce the birth of Beau Thomas Dagel, son of Parker & Alexa Dagel, who was born on October 24, weighing 7 pounds 14 ounces and 21½ inches long. From our congregation, proud grandparents are Scott & Karey Julius and great-parents are Audrey Julius and Bill & Jan Pearson. Beau has one big sister, Marleigh, to welcome him home.



Our deepest condolences are extended to the families of Sarah Benz, 43, especially her parents, Jerry & Teresa Pomrenke and Kenny & Sheila Benz, and from our congregation, her aunts Gina (husband Brian) Marco and Linda Julius, and their families, upon her sudden death on September 18. Her memorial service was held at the First Lutheran Church, Milford, on September 26.

Our Christian sympathy is given to Les & Sharon Powers and their family, upon the death of Sharon's brother, Bob Dreke, 72, of Rock Rapids, IA, who passed away on October 14. His funeral service was held at the First Reformed Church, Rock Rapids, on October 19.

Our deepest condolences are given to the Dave & Sandra Jenson family, upon the unexpected death of Sandra's brother, Brian Pederson, 57, of Spring Hill, TN, on October 21, at his home. His funeral service was held at Concordia Lutheran Church in Fertile, MN, on November 2.

Our heartfelt sympathy is given to the families of Marvella Schaa, especially to a member of our church family, her sister-in-law, Berdeen Ackerman, upon her death at Good Samaritan Society, George, on October 3, at the age of 105. Her funeral service was held at our church on October 11.

Marvella Mae (Ackerman) Schaa was born May 23, 1919, the daughter of Ed and Tena (Grave) Ackerman. She grew up on the family farm near Ashton, Iowa, was baptized and confirmed at the Zoar Presbyterian Church George, Iowa. She attended country school through the 8th grade. In her teenage years she assisted on the family farm and also worked for other neighboring farm families. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church Ashton and upon moving off the farm transferred her membership to the First Presbyterian Church in Sibley. Marvella married Gordon Frederick Schaa on February 7, 1939, at Zoar Presbyterian Church of rural George, Iowa. Following their marriage Gordon and Marvella settled on their farm 3 1/2 miles south of Little Rock, Iowa, where they raised their three children, Sandra, Frederick and Gloria. Marvella took pride in her responsibilities as a wife and mother. She maintained her family's home, helped with outdoor chores and over the years worked several jobs outside the home. She enjoyed gardening, baking, and providing for and serving others. She especially enjoyed the time spent together with all of her children and grandchildren and loved to entertain

*friends and family for coffee or meals. Over the years Gordon and Marvella also enjoyed playing cards with neighbors and friends. In their golden years Gordon and Marvella traveled to Germany, Hawaii, Branson, MO and wherever they could drive in the United States. After Gordon's passing in 1998, Marvella remained on the family farm until age 90. She then moved to Sibley and resided in her twin home until age 100, when she moved into the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in George. Marvella passed away peacefully on Thursday morning, October 3, 2024, age of 105. Those left to cherish her memory are her daughters, Sandra (Vernon) Freese, of Worthington, Minnesota, and Gloria (Orvis) Terhark of Blue Earth, Minnesota, seven grandchildren, Lisa (Glenn) Burnham, Lori (Jim) Schutte, Kathy (Dean) Oberloh, Jodi (Jim) Olson, Shane (Jennifer) Freese, Tyson (Kelly) Terhark, Marnie (Rob) Norman, 21 great grandchildren and 17 great-great grandchildren, sister-in-law Berdeen Ackerman, many nieces and nephews and a host of friends. Marvella was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon; son, Frederick Schaa; daughter-in-law, Mary (Snuttjer) Schaa; granddaughter, Valerie Dawn Freese; her parents, Ed and Tena Ackerman; two brothers, Harvey and Marlyn Ackerman and two sisters, Verna (Ackerman) Bruns and Nellie (Ackerman) Bruns. **Blessed be her memory!***

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the Bob & Marie Godfredsen family upon the death of Marie's brother, Norman Rasmussen, age 85, of Ringstead, IA, on November 9. His funeral service was held on November 16, at the United Lutheran Church, Ringstead.



Our great thanks to the congregation for your financial giving towards the sanctuary

storm windows' expense. In all, we received \$8,157.10 in donations. So much appreciation for your tremendous generosity. The Property & Financial Stewardship Committee

Thank you to all who suggested hymns and songs for Favorite Song Sunday. Since it wasn't possible to use all of the thirty-plus hymns that were submitted, they will be saved for the next Favorite Song Sunday. A big thank you to all the readers, worship leaders, and Denise Kuiper, for their help with the service. The Worship & Evangelism Committee

We would like to express our great and sincere thanks to Kelly Jacobsma for his years of service as our church custodian. Kelly decided to step down from this position due to an already heavy workload as the S-O High School Band Director. We are grateful for the time he was with us.

The Property & Finance Committee, Session, Church Staff

Thank you so much for your kind words, your cards, gifts, and reception for Pastor Appreciation on Sunday, October 13. Shauna and I are truly blessed to be able to serve here and we are very thankful for this wonderful church family. Jordan & Shauna

Special thanks for allowing us to use your kitchen and fellowship hall for our funeral lunches while our church hall is being rebuilt after sustaining major flood damage. We are forever grateful and appreciate that we may use your facilities until our hall is functional again. A special thank you to Denise, Dean, Sue, and Lois for showing us around and making us comfortable. It means a lot! Lila Hatting, Lay Director, St. Andrew Church

Thank you for sharing our grief at the death of Marvella Schaa, and thank you for the flowers. The family of Marvella Schaa

Our appreciation and thanks are given to the Mission & Nurture Committee, the Session, and all others, for their work in preparing and setting up for the Meet & Greet Reception and the Catered Dinner on November 9 and 10, along with the clean-up afterwards. Thank you for making these events a special time for all in attendance and for the wonderful opportunity it gave the congregation to get acquainted with Pastor Chris Lemmon and his family. We are blessed to have the Lemmon family joining our church family, and so blessed for the many helping hands. Thank you, as well, to everyone who contributed so generously to the meal costs. It was greatly appreciated! The PNC

Many, many thanks to everyone who took part in the Cherish House Baby Bottle Campaign and Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry, including those who contributed to the shoebox shipping fee expense. Unwed pregnant teen mothers, and underprivileged children around the world, will benefit from your generosity. It is a wonderful gift to have the opportunity to make people feel that they are important and special. Thank you, partners, youth, and friends, for doing just that through your giving hearts! The Mission & Nurture Committee

Our great thanks to everyone who shopped at our Heavenly Harvest Table this year. Freewill offerings totaled \$274.20. All proceeds will be given to the Upper Des Moines Food Pantry in Sibley.