



NEW SCANDINAVIA LUTHERAN CHURCH JUNE NEWSLETTER 2023

NEW SCANDINAVIA LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES- MAY 9, 2023

Call to order by President Rick Broten, and Devotions led by Shelly Shipley from “Cruizin the River of Light” Decision and Peace from Proverbs 3: 5-6

Non- Council members/ Visitor Reports:

Dave Driver and Jeff Timm

M/S/C Grant/ Robert/ C To renew funds for CD’s that will double interest.

M/S/C Dawn/ Kris/ Council- To purchase O turn John Deere Mower from Cemetery Fund

Secretaries Report- Read and accepted

Treasurer’s Report- Read and accepted

Pastors Report- Report and Handouts provided to council from Northwest Synod Assembly ELCA on Justice Diversity Equality and inclusion resolution, Land Acknowledgement Resolution, Campus Ministry, and Pulpit supply guide for 2023.

An exit interview will be completed with the Executive Committee

Bishop Laurie Skow- Anderson at the annual Assembly’s message is “Matthew 6:25-34: Don’t worry... but seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness”.

Pastor Ron commented that we have moved through a pandemic, technologically innovative ministry to reach more people than ever before, moved Catechism class on Sunday morning and provided “Children’s messages” in Sunday school. We have introduced “Sunday Serenade” and now hymns on the screen to lift our voices for singing. Pastor added “It has been a joy, not a burden, to serve you as interim pastor”.

Deacons Report- Steven Midboe will sing for Sunday Serenade on May 14th. Memorial service is being planned with Patriotic hymns. 1st Sunday in June will be by Pastor Ron with potluck. Rogation Sunday will be the 2nd Sunday of June. No Sunday Serenade for June, July and August.

Trustee Ministries- Furnace is getting air in it and looking into fixing this.

Children Youth and Family- Another year of successful Sunday school and Confirmation this year and done for the summer. Will resume in the fall. There are 4 children going to Luther Park this summer.

Old Business- Update on shed- tabled until next Council meeting.

New Business- July 16 will be no services but can attend services in Prairie Farm.

Motion made M/S/C Grant/ Louise/ Council to accept contract for Pastor Sara.

Motion made M/S/C Dawn/ Michelle/ Council to agree on time of service will be 11 am starting June 1st.

Next meeting is June 13th, 2023, with Devotions led by Rick Broten.

Lord's Prayer and M/S/C Dawn/ Grant/ Council to adjourn.

Submitted Respectfully, Shelly Shipley- Church Council Secretary

Members present- Grant and Kristal Gifford, Rick and Chris Broten, Dawn and Robert Bryngelson, Pastor Ron Gerl, Marion Wigen, Shelly Shipley, Louise Driver, Deb Schieffer, Kelly Martinson, and Michelle Klefstad. Absent Members- Janelle Gordon, Tom Ebler Jr, and Eric Skoug.

WELCA OF NEW SCANDINAVIA CHURCH

WELCA met April 20, 2023

Gladys led in Devotions

Graduation for Seniors will be May 7th. Quilts will be given to each senior and cake will be served in their honor. Interviews by graduates.

May 14th Steve Midboe will be singing at church and flowers will be given to each lady attending in honor of Mother's Day.

Please sign up for serving, reading, etc. in the Fellowship Hall for May.

May 21st will be an Appreciation Party for Pastor and Mrs. Gerl. This has been **changed to June 4 with a brunch at 9:30 a.m.**

May 28th will be a Patriotic Hymn sing.

Memorial Day Celebration will be at 10:30 in our church cemetery.

June 11th is Rogation Sunday.

Marion Wigen, Acting Secretary

MISSION PROJECT

Do you have toothbrushes that you can't use? Often the dentist gives you a new one after a checkup. If you use an electric toothbrush they lay in your drawers. Can we have them please? We are making personal care kits for the mission projects and could really use them. Also, if you have extra combs, we can use them also. We will put a basket on the round table in the back of the fellowship hall to place them in. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!

PRESIDENT RICK BROTEN, Church Council

It was announced at worship on Sunday, May 14 that a contract has been signed by Pastor Sara Feld. The NSLC Council, and United of Prairie Farm Council to provide pastoral services to our congregation. This will commence on June 4 with an 11:00 a.m. worship time change in our congregation. This contract is for seven months, and it will be evaluated by the leadership to assess aspects and percentage of time for ministry spent. The current percentage is 60% at United and 40% at New Scandinavia.

Pastor Sara will officially begin on Tuesday, June 6 with office hours in the morning. The WELCA will have a "Meet and Greet" luncheon at noon on that Tuesday for members to come and welcome our new pastor.

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN ELCA-Synod Assembly on April 29

Marion Wigen and Pastor Ron attended the Annual Assembly together with 300 people representing the congregations in northwest Wisconsin.

(see the report in back of newsletter)



WELCA OF THE NORTHWEST SYNOD WOMEN'S RETREAT

On June 7th and 8th at Luther Park.

Please see the registration form on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Invite a few friends & plan for a refreshing mid-week getaway!

All women are welcome!

FAREWELL BRUNCH FOR PASTOR RON

Join us on **SUNDAY, JUNE 4 AT 9:30 A.M.** for a Farewell Brunch for our Interim Pastor Ron Gerl.

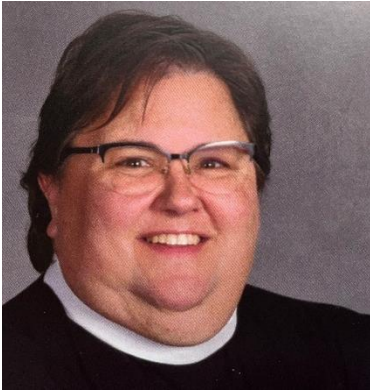
Pastor Ron has served as our Interim Pastor since November 2021 when we began as a solo congregation after partnership with Dallas Lutheran Church concluded. He has guided us in determining it would be difficult to find a pastor to serve us alone. In June we will enter into a contractual arrangement with United Lutheran Church of Prairie Farm for pastoral services.



We thank Pastor Ron for preaching the Word and providing us the Sacraments. His leadership has guided us forward to our new future. Join us to offer a blessing for his future endeavors in retirement through a morning brunch in his honor!

(We will be serving a planned egg bake and sign up at church for others to provide muffins or coffee cake.)

PASTOR SARA FELD JOINS NSLC



As I begin my time working with the people of New Scandinavia, I thought it best to introduce myself in a way that may give you a little snippet as to who I am and where I'm from.

I was born in Sturgeon Bay (WI) and raised in the southern part of Door County. I was able to enjoy living in a tourist destination while staying away from the craziness. I was baptized and confirmed at Tanum-Forest Lutheran Church, the first Norwegian church in Door County. It was there that my faith began to take form and my curiosity drove me to more questions and very few answers as to who God is and how God desires to use me in the world.

I spent the first 20 years of my adulthood working in careers that interested me but there was always this inner pull that I could never figure out. Through the help of the pastor who confirmed me so many years ago and my synod's lay school, I realized that God was actually calling me to something very different than I would have ever imagined.

I graduated with my Bachelors of Arts, majoring in psychology and religion, from the University of Dubuque (Iowa) and attended Wartburg Theological Seminary, graduating in May of 2017. During my seminary education, I completed my Clinical Pastoral Care (CPE) at Heartland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph, MO and my internship at Settlement Lutheran Church in Gowen, MI.

During my assignment process, I found out I would be receiving my first call in what the church refers to as Region 3- which is North and South Dakota and Minnesota. I interviewed and received my first call to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Highmore and Sedgwick, SD. I lived with the wonderful people for five years and while a little piece of my heart stayed in SD, my move back to WI saw the hearts of many coming with me. I pray for the people there every day and I know that they pray for me and the people I am called to serve. While I loved the people, I realized the Holy Spirit was sending me back to Wisconsin so in the summer of 2021, I accepted a call to lead the worshipping body of United Lutheran in Prairie Farm and presided over my first service on Thanksgiving Eve of 2021. Every day I take the dogs outside and thank God for the creation of this world, especially northwest Wisconsin. Living in SD for over 4 years I forgot how much I miss green grass and trees... but I didn't miss the ticks!

I am excited about the partnership we are undertaking. Working with two worshipping bodies is not foreign to me, as my first call worked similar to our relationship but also my internship site saw two church bodies working together to do God's mission in the world. Honestly, we, as the Lutheran Church are going back to the way things used to be- pastors who serve more than one congregation at a time. How "church" happens is continually changing and we as congregations need to figure out the best way to be God's hands and feet in the world and if that means sharing a pastor so our offerings can do more to serve our neighbor than maybe that is more important than keeping a pastor all to ourselves. But that's just my opinion.

My personal life is pretty simple or maybe not. I was married for 20 years and while we are divorced, I still have a good relationship with my former husband. I have two stepchildren who are married and have children of their own. My mother died of cancer back in 1998, my eldest brother died of cancer last October (2022) and my father died March of this year. While they have passed, I have two other siblings: Julie and her significant live in Green Bay. Julie retired last year but is still working part-time. My brother Tom is married and lives in Green Bay. Two years ago, he opened a distillery in Green Bay, so if you are ever in the area, look up Paradise North Distillery, just down the road from Bay Beach.

I live in the parsonage in Prairie Farm with my two dogs: Grace is a 7-year-old, South Dakota rez dog, which means she is a mutt who had a very difficult beginning. Through DNA testing, I

discovered she is a little over ½ Australian Cattle Dog, meaning Grace is aware of EVERYTHING and needs to be very busy. Elliot is about 3 ½ years old and is a rescue from Texas. He was found after having been attacked by other dogs and was in such horrible condition that, while they were able to save his front right leg, the left front had to be amputated. Peoples’ first words when they see him is “Awww, poor Elliot.” Then they see him run and it is no longer “poor” anything. I didn’t know Elliot prior to the amputation but I can’t imagine he is any slower with three legs than he was with four. DNA testing shows he is 46% American Pit, which surprises almost everyone who meets him as he doesn’t look anything like a Pit. If you stop by church on Tuesdays, you might just meet him as I’m trying to socialize him as much as possible and honestly, he LOVES church.

Well, there it is. A little information to tide you over as to who the crazy pastor is that you have leading worship. I am honored to be in this contract with you all and look forward to our time serving God through our hands, feet, and voices.

MEET AND GREET PASTOR SARA!

Join us for lunch at New Scandinavia on Tuesday, June 6 when Pastor Sara Feld is here for her first day at church. Let’s give her nice welcome as our new pastor! Introduce yourself as she gets acquainted with us!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Richard Ebler	12-Jun
Evelyn Plock	13-Jun
Richard Broten	13-Jun
Jackalyn Sandve	15-Jun
Bruce Klefstad	19-Jun
Kent Wicken	19-Jun
Jerome Bakken	20-Jun
Kyle Steele	20-Jun
Austin Bitney	21-Jun
Jo Ann Lystig	24-Jun
Dorothy Larson	27-Jun

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

May 29 at 10:45 a.m.
New Scandinavia Cemetery





DONATION OF BOOK TO LIBRARY

Thank you for the gift of a book for our church library. The name of the book is "The Next Place" Written by Warren Hanson.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

from 9:30 A.M.

To

11:00 A.M. BEGINNING

JUNE 4, 2023

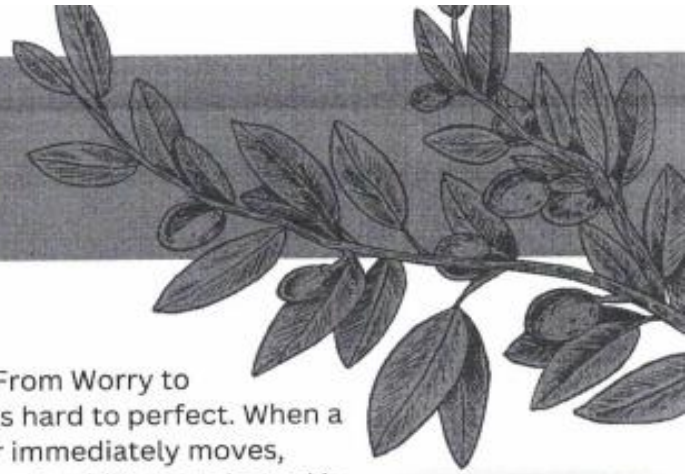
ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

DATE	ATTEND	OFFERING
4/23	52	1191.72
4/30	42	704.28
5/7	56	1618.00
5/14	54	821.00
5/21	39	662.00



Synod Assembly

Rebound: From Worry to Wonder
Bishop's Report



Part 1 Introduction

The theme for our 2023 Synod Assembly is Rebound: From Worry to Wonder. Rebounding is a skill a basketball player works hard to perfect. When a player misses a shot, it bounces off the rim, the player immediately moves, jumps to recover the ball and take another shot. A player's ability to rebound is as important as their ability to take a shot. Today we talk about rebounding as the ability to bounce back from adversity. As churches, many are still in the process of rebounding from COVID. The slow rebound has some worried. The worry and anxiety can actually slow down the ability to make decisions that will lead to a rebound.

The word worry comes from the Old English word, *wyrgan* which means "to strangle, choke, seize by the neck, wring neck, harass." I have seen church councils strangled by worry, choked on fear, wringing the joy, life and energy out of a meeting. I'm certain that many of us have felt a time or two when worry and anxiety about the future has kept us stuck and unable to move forward in God's mission. My hope and prayer is that we can all move from worry about what is or

WORRY: Definition
anxiety, uncertainty over actual or potential problems; cause for concern
ORIGIN Old English-*wyrgan*, strangle, seize by the throat, wring neck, choke, harass, cause anxiety to

what was to wonder and seek God's will for what could be; to move from worry to wonder about what God is doing and be curious about how we can join in God's mission. For us to move from worry to wonder we need to simply TRUST, trust that God is God and follow where God leads us in faith. Our biblical base for the 2023 assembly is from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6 Do not worry... but seek first God's kingdom and righteousness.

I believe the great cause for worry in the church today is that things are not rebounding back to the way they were before COVID. So compounding that worry is grief. We are grieving what was lost in COVID. We want to go back but we can only go forward. I challenge us all to move forward trusting God with Wonder not Worry. Together let's wonder and ask God questions. We will not rebound, bounce back to the way things were, but we can bounce back better, bounce back changed. We will rebound by asking the God questions like: What is God's will for our future? How can we use what we have to make a difference in the world for God's sake? What can we do so that the next generation comes to know and love Jesus? What new way is God calling us to be the church in the future? What can we do to be in relationship and love our neighbors? Rebound: From Worry to Wonder-Jesus said, Do not worry...but seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness.

Part 2 Resolutions

Our work as a synod is to help congregations to wonder and ask God questions. How do we work together so that the next generation comes to know and love Jesus and all generations experience God's grace and forgiveness in their lives? How do we love God and our neighbors? Over the last three years our synod assembly has passed several resolutions that asked those questions. The intent is that they will become teaching resolutions. That congregations and groups within the synod use these to engage in meaningful conversation and impactful action. We have been measuring the impact by using the annual report to the bishop as a measure of how pastors, deacons and SAMs are using these teaching resolutions. I am happy to report that they do seem to be moving the needle.

More congregations are engaging in conversations around these topics after the resolutions were passed. The synod council continues to monitor the impact of these resolutions. The effectiveness is dependent on the willingness of the pastors, deacons, SAMs and lay leaders in the congregation to engage them on a congregational level. I know that this is a big ASK of rostered ministers and SAMs. They are very busy and they have heavy weekly ministry demands. My prayer is that passionate lay people would step up and offer to use their gifts to engage their congregation in meaningful conversation and impactful action around these resolutions in the years to come. I am grateful for the work of the synod justice teams and synod ministers Pastor Sara Bishop, Deacon Lidixe Montoya, and I especially appreciate Deacon Laura Ramlow's work editing the synod's *Just Act, Just Love* newsletter. Here's the link to the latest edition. [March 2023 Newsletter](#).

Teaching Resolution Questions from annual report to the bishop 2022	Percentage "YES" 2022	Percentage "YES" 2021
Does your Congregation have a green team?	30%	9%
Do you have members who might be interested in green team?		39%
Are you thinking about starting a green team this year?(36% said it wasn't a priority)	33%	
Are you RIC, did you or will you have a conversation in the next 6 months about providing a WIDER WELCOME TO LGBTQIA COMMUNITY	49%	37%
Would you like help getting started in the RIC process/conversation?	21%	
Did you take RACIAL JUSTICE TRAINING like IDI in last year or plan to take it in 2023 (2022)?	46%	(57%)
Did you have a conversation about racial justice or use the resources on the synod website about racial justice? Did you have conversation about loving BIPOC neighbors and the Racial Equity Statement for at least 1 hours	76%	26%
Does your congregation have a land acknowledgement?Note: 10% indicated that they have used one or are working on it.	5% YES 88% No	

Part 3 Reflections on the Synod: Holy Fork in the Road Conversations

What is our next most faithful step? That's the question I've been encouraging congregations to ask for the last three years. It is a Holy Fork in the Road question. Which path will we take? Where is God leading us? For many of our congregations this holy fork in the road conversation is about the things that most worry today's congregations. In the Annual Report to the Bishop, pastors, deacons and SAMs indicated they were most worried about:



- Membership aging, declining, worship attendance
 - Leadership, volunteers, burn out, low energy
 - Next pastor, interim pastor, staff
 - Money
 - Lack of youth and young families in worship, SS, confirmation
- And of all the surveys completed this is how they described their congregations:
- Thriving/Growing-25%,
 - Stable 61%,
 - Declining/Dying 20%

As congregations face these issues they come to a serious fork in the road. They can decide if their next most faithful step is to grow to be a more sustainable, stable, thriving, outpost for mission. Do they have the energy and resources to take the hard road toward congregational vitality or do they need to take a different path and finish the work that God has given them to do and move toward closing their congregation?

Congregations that have the energy to move toward more vitality may choose to engage in a period of spiritual renewal, prayer, Bible study, dwelling in the word, listening to their neighbors, and intentionally asking God questions. A season of intentional focus on spiritual renewal and attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit is the only thing that truly revitalizes a congregation. After a season of prayer and listening to God a congregation at the fork in the road may choose to do many things. Congregations may look at options like these when imagining their next most faithful steps. I am grateful for the work that Liz Bartsch, Pastor Randy Olson and Pastor Diane House are doing to help congregations imagine their next most faithful steps. Pastor Diane House invites your congregation to have conversation with her about Faithful Innovations, a process that guides congregations in spiritual renewal. You will notice that at the very bottom of the list, the last option is to Close.[1] It is there because it is an option, and for some of our congregations it is the next most faithful step. If your congregation is at that place and has decided that it will take the path toward closure, please contact me and I will meet with you church council to discuss how best to take that step. It is an emotional and difficult path to take and does take energy and resources to close a congregation. It is best to make this fork in the road decision when the members and leaders still have the energy and strength to do the hard work of closing. As Jesus hung on the cross he said, "It is finished." That is tetelestai Τετέλεσται in Greek. Tetelestai means finish, completed, fulfilled, mature, accomplished, perfected. It doesn't mean failed. If your congregation closes it hasn't failed but rather it has brought to completion-accomplished all God had given it to do- finished and fulfilled its purpose.

Part 4 Pastors, Interims, SAMs, Seminary Students

The clergy shortage has become more noticeable in the last two years. In the NW Synod of Wisconsin, fewer pastors are available for settled calls or to serve as interims. At the moment there are 30 congregations without pastors and of those 30 congregations there are some that don't have interims, some being served by administrative interims, and some that are finding their own pulpit supply. In addition we have 25 congregations that are served by Synodically Authorized lay Ministers or SAMs. I am grateful for those who are serving as interims, especially those retired pastors who have stepped back into ministry and those who are serving as short term bridge pastors. I am very grateful for the ministry of our SAMs and those who are supporting them, specifically the Synod SAM Support Team, Pastors Randy Olson, Bob Giese, Greg Kaufmann and the synod's lay school of ministry. I am also grateful for the work of three seminary students who are serving as SAMs in congregations and attending seminary at the same time!

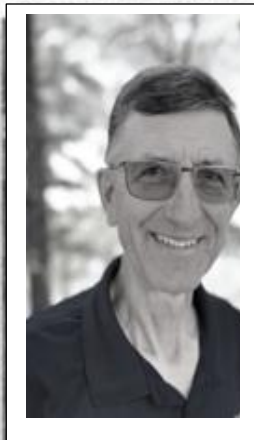
Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAMs)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| • Alex Aakre | • August Hohl |
| • John Addison | • Michael Isaacson |
| • Todd Ahneman | • Bruce Metcalf |
| • Steve Aldach | • John Nedden Durst |
| • Heidi Bragger Kadinger | • Luke Pederson |
| • John Brunclik | • Tom Potterton |
| • Scott Burns | • Lyle Roe |
| • Jennifer Carey | • Travis Rogers |
| • Tiffany Chipman | • Andrea Rubesch |
| • Darrel Diers | • Jane Snowden |
| • Matt Dietsche | • Loren Teig |
| • Jill Fries | • Janelle Thompson |
| • Sara Gunderson | |

[1] Here is a link to our EPIC video Holy Closure: Leaving a Legacy. <https://vimeo.com/692167467> To be clear, I'm not suggesting any congregation close. I do not want your congregation to close. However if you feel it is time to finish this resource may be helpful.

Part 5 Gratitude and Opportunity

I am grateful for your partnership in ministry, all 196 congregations of the NWSWI together we are doing good work for the sake of God's mission in the world. I am particularly grateful for the amazingly talented synod ministers with whom I work each and every day. Please thank them when you see them! Synod Minister for Administration, Elizabeth Bartsch; Synod Advocate for Right Relationships, Pastor Sara Bishop; Pastor and Director for Evangelical Mission, Diane House; Deacon and Mission developer for Neighbor-to-Nighbor Lidix Montoya, Synod Minister for Leadership, Call Process, Candidacy, Pastor Randy Olson; Communications, Companion Synod Coordinator, First third of Life, Deacon Laura Ramlow.



With mixed emotions I need to announce that Pastor Greg Kaufmann, Assistant to the Bishop/Synod Minister for over 20 years is retiring on June 1! To celebrate his long faithful ministry in the synod, there will be a retirement party at Luther Park Bible Camp on Saturday, August 26 from 1-4 p.m.[1] He is currently the longest serving assistant to the bishop in the ELCA. Greg is a gifted teacher and energetic leader. He has been a wonderful ministry partner. I have learned so much from him. He will continue to teach and support lay school as well as volunteer with ministry teams. He has already volunteered to serve on the bishop's election committee for 2024! Pastor Sara Bishop who had been serving as Synod Advocate for Right Relationships with a non-stipendiary call will continue in that call but as a synod minister at .25 time.

Opportunities for Travel

Mark Twain, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrowmindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of people and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

Join me on one of these trips to see for yourself if there is any truth to this Mark Twain quote!

- July 17-20, 2023 Rostered Minister's Gathering Phoenix AZ <https://www.elca.org/Rostered-Ministers-Gathering/Registration>
- July 24-27, 2023 Journey, Tri-Synod Sr. Hi Youth Gathering UWRF <https://nswi.org/home/calendar>
- August 4-19 Malawi Companion Synod Trip
- November 1-5, 2023 Civil Rights Pilgrimage to AL
- January 8-17, 2024 Synod Trip to the Holy Land (12 spots left) <https://www.eliaastours.com/tours/northwest-synod-of-wisconsin-holy-land-trip-with-bishop-laurie-skow-anderson>

[1] Save the Date! Greg Kaufmann's retirement party, Saturday August 26 1-4 pm at Luther Park Bible Camp.



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

JUNE 2023

New Scandinavia Lutheran Church

JUNE 2023
11:00 a.m. Worship & FACEBOOK
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
Pastor Sara Feld

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11:00 a.m. Worship with communion with Pastor Ron Pastor Appreciation potluck brunch at 9:30 a.m. before morning worship.		9-2:00 office open 12:00 lunch "Meet & Greet" w/ Pastor Sara.	WELCA Retreat at Luther Park	WELCA Retreat at Luther Park		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
11:00 a.m. Worship with Pastor Sara (WELCOME PASTOR SARA) ROGATION SUNDAY		9-2:00 office open 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting No Quilting		Newsletter Deadline No Quilting 1:30 p.m. WELCA & Bible Study		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
11:00 a.m. Worship with communion with Pastor Sara		9-2 office open				
25	26	27	28	29	30	
11:00 a.m. Worship with Pastor Sara		9-2 office open				

New Scandinavia Lutheran Church
652 17 ½ Street (County Road O)
P. O. Box 128
Dallas, WI 54733
***Return Service Request**

“In Christ, we reach, teach and celebrate God's Word.”

Pastor Sara Feld
Office phone at Prairie Farm 715-455-1045
Cell phone 1-605-870-0057 (please identify yourself with text or message)
Pastor@ULCPrairiefarm.org
New Scandinavia secretary: Rhonda Candler Office: 715-837-1041
nsic@chibardun.net
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