



# December

NEW SCANDINAVIA  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER 2023

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**  
**December 21 at 6:30**

*"It's the most wonderful time of the year..."*

*"It's the time of year when the world falls in love..."*

*"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, just like the ones I used to know..."*

We don't want to talk about it, but while some cheerfully hum along to these and other Christmas songs, others are quietly struggling to find a way of pushing through the holiday season- to just make it through. The truth is that the time from [the week of] Thanksgiving all the way through New Years is very difficult on those who are grieving, those who battle season depression, those who are lonely, and those who are simply sad. And when everyone around them seems chipper and festive, where can those struggling go, who may need time away and be honest with their feelings?

The idea behind the Blue Christmas service is to provide a quiet, contemplative service as an alternative to the more traditional gatherings to care for those who are sad or struggling while those around them are caught up in celebrating. It is for those who are grieving a recent loss and those who's loved one died many years ago. It is for those who are spending another Christmas single and for those who may still be married (but only on paper). It is for those who are struggling with what it means to live in a broken world, where there are mass shootings and diseases that take the lives of people who are "way too young". It is for those watching loved ones forget the simplest things, like names. It's for those who are affected by the lack of sunlight and suffer the effects of seasonal depression. It's for those who received "a diagnosis." The simplest way of putting it? It is for those who are struggling. (period!)

This service provides an opportunity for people to hear not about the baby in the manger, who can be dismissed as irrelevant, but about the God of love who comes to us in the midst of the mess and pain we know in our own everyday lives and in the lives of those around us.

If you are struggling, know that this space is for you to grieve how you need. No one here will tell you to "suck it up". No one here will tell you that "it is time to move on". No one here will judge you for your grief and how you handle it. No one will judge you because those in space are grieving as well. So, come.

Pastor Sara

# COUNCIL MINUTES FOR NEW SCANDINAVIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

## NOVEMBER 11, 2023

Call to order by President Rick Broten

**Devotions** led by Deb Schieffer "God will wipe every tear from our eyes" Revelations 7: 17

**Non- Council members/ visitors-** none

**Secretary's report-** Read and accepted.

**Treasurer's report-** Read and accepted.

**Pastors report-**

The two congregations are doing well with supporting each other.

October 15 was affirmation of baptism for 4 young adults.

1 student going to Confirmation.

November 12 was the baptism of Sadie Solie.

Children's messages and bulletins are going well in church.

Pastor has been visiting the homebound and incorporating her guitar with the visits and it is going well.

*Keeping the faith* Zoom on Oct 16-17 went well. Pastor has been gathering with the HON to connect with other ministers in monthly meetings.

Pastor will be on vacation November 17-27, Tim Jergenson will lead worship. Pastor Vicky Strup will cover any emergencies.

Parsonage Open house- December 10th from 2-4pm

Blue Christmas service- December 21 at 6:30pm

**Deacon Ministries-** November 26th, Mark Brown will be doing Sunday Serenade

Working on getting families in need for Christmas to receive gift cards to purchase gifts for their families.

Discussion was held about getting carpets cleaned and tabled.

**Trustee Ministries-** Shed is built and almost done with siding, information on new furnace decision discussed as well as budget discussed.

**Children Youth and Family Ministries-** Dec 3 is Hanging of the Greens

Christmas program for Sunday School Dec 17

Will be Decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas on Dec 1st at 10 am if anyone is interested.

**Old Business-**

Sanctuary lights- tabled

Garbage pickup- after researching different companies, will stick with Republic and Dawn able to get fee decreased.

Nominating committee- Council members (Janelle Gordon, Chris Broten), need two non- council members.

**New Business**

The Annual Meeting will be January 21st with potluck to follow.

2024 Budget was read and accepted.

Pastor Sara Contract extension was discussed.

Furnace repair/ or replace- Discussion was held and decided to go forward with replacement.

**M/S/C** Louise/ Michele. To purchase a new furnace and installation from Solutions Heating and Cooling for \$19, 930 from our fire fund.

Discussion was held about what to do with the old Cassettes and DVDs from services.

**M/S/C** Grant/ Michele. To approve budget for 2024 as presented by Trustees.

**M/S/C** Dawn/ Robert. To give the proceeds of the old shed to Tom Ebler Jr. for the work he did on building the new shed.

**M/S/C** Kris/ Grant. To give Thanksgiving offerings to World Hunger and ELCA Good Gifts for Christmas offerings.

**M/S/C** Chris/ Marion. To accept contract extension for Pastor Sara for 2024.

**M/S/C** Louise/ Dawn. To host "Blue Christmas" worship on December 21, 2023.

Next meeting- December 14, 2023

Devotions- Dawn Bryngelson

Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Shelly Shipley, NSLC Council secretary.

Present- Rick and Chris Broten, Grant and Kristal Gifford, Robert and Dawn Bryngelson, Shelly Shipley, Janelle Gordon, Kelly Martinson, Deb Schieffer, Louise Driver, Marion Wigen, Pastor Sara Feld and Michele Klefstad.

Absent- Eric Skoug, and Tom Ebler, Jr.

## **NEW SCANDINAVIA CHURCH WELCA November 14, 2023**

WELCA met November 14th, 2023.

We sang "Count Your Blessings."

Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read.

Old Business: No old Business

New Business: Discussed the Christmas Luncheon, which will be held December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Cards were signed for Judy Olson Carol Drost.

Thank Offering was taken,

We had Bible Study Holy Places.

Offering was taken.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is Christmas Luncheon December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come.

*Chris Broten Secretary.*

## **CHILDREN'S CHAPEL**

Hello NS Families!

We are going to have Pre-K and K together. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades will be together 4,5,6<sup>th</sup> grades will be together, and 7<sup>th</sup> will be alone and grades 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades will be student/volunteer helping the Pre-K thru 6th grades. We will be using "**Spark Lectionary Curriculum**" this year. **Each Sunday will have a craft or a gift to take home** – so please make sure that your kiddo is able to come. There will be **fun music and the Bible Story of the week**. If you are not able to make it – **check out New Scandinavia Lutheran Church Group on Facebook** – I will always post the lesson, there. We also have an option to **give an offering online at our Facebook page** – so check that out – it is safe and secure!!!!

Confirmation will be led by Pastor Sara. Pastor Sara will be contacting Confirmation Families and letting them know the details.

We encourage those in 5<sup>th</sup> grade to take part in our First Communion Classes. Which will be offered in February or March.

**LOTS OF NEAT WORSHIP EVENTS COMING UP:**

- \*Hanging of the Greens Sunday: December 3, 2023  
\*Annual Children's Christmas Program: December 17, 2023  
\*Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 2023 (No Sunday Morning Worship)

**THIS IS OUR CORE CURRICULUM BEFORE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM:**

Pre-K and K: 2 or 3 table prayers and or bedtime prayer, The Lord's Prayer and church manners.

1st and 2nd Grade: The Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd The Commandments.

3rd and 4th Grade: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostle's Creed, The Commandments 1-10, Bible usage (looking up verses).

5th and 6th Grade: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostle's Creed, The Commandments 1-10, Psalm 23, John 3:16, Matthew 22:37-39, John 14:6, Matthew 7:7, Matthew 7:12, The Beatitudes Matthew 5:3-12, Isaiah 40:3,5, Matthew 7:1-2, Matthew 5:43-44, 1 John 1:7, Matthew 28:19-20.

7th and 8th Grade: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostle's Creed, The Commandments 1-10, Psalm 23, The Beatitudes Matthew 5:3-12, Ephesians 2:8-9, Matthew 18:20, John 11:25-26, Matthew 25:40, Matthew 6:19-21, Mark 9:23b, Psalm 100, Roman 3:28, John 8:31b, 32, 1 Corinthians 10:13, John 20:23 and Matthew 18:18.

High School: Be a leader and good role model, volunteer at Sunday School with the younger kiddos, open your Bible and devotion books 3-4 times a week or daily;), read any of the above Bible verses, The Lord's Prayer, The Apostle's Creed, The Commandments 1-10, Psalm 23. Make homemade cards for our shut-in members. Smile often and sing –Hugs to you all!

*Kristal Gifford Superintendent~ Board of Education and Family Ministry- Kelly Martinson, Janelle Gordon and Michelle Klefstad*

**NOISY OFFERING DECEMBER**

**NOISY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER** will be Hygiene Kits for school districts.

**THE NOVEMBER OFFERING** will be used for Christmas items for persons in need. We do it earlier so the families do not get it at the last minute. Please help us help these families. Also please turn in any names that you might have that could use a little help at Christmas time. You can leave them in a sealed envelope in the offering plate or call Louise Driver at 715-764-2072 to keep them confidential.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Natelee Dahlberg	03-Dec
Jennie Skoug	11-Dec
Brayton Kangas	12-Dec
Cameron Wigen	14-Dec
Xander Rihn	18-Dec
Dawson Wicken	20-Dec
Lincoln Peterson	26-Dec
Jason Dau	31-Dec



### **The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign!**

Last year our bell ringers in Polk and Barron Counties helped us to raise \$147,000 for the Red Kettle Campaign. This year, we would like to increase that number to \$150,000 or more. We will need many ringers to help us reach our goal, so be sure to invite your friends, family members and fellow congregants to join you!

### **WILL YOU HELP US BLESS THE Local Community by RINGING THE BELL THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON?**

Proceeds from bell ringing allow The Salvation Army to feed and shelter residents at The Family House, prevent homelessness with emergency rent and utility assistance, and offer transportation support for Polk and Barron County residents who are starting a new job.

This year, bell ringing will take place November 16th- December 23rd. To reserve your preferred spot, **REGISTER NOW** at [www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com) or call Patty Gallaty at **715-554-4928**.



Please note we have a special need for ringers the week of Thanksgiving.

Thank you for prayerfully considering this important call to service,

Your Friends at The Family House, Salvation Army of Polk and Barron Counties.



**Advent, Christmas and Epiphany blessings to you from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson,**  
Synod Ministers, Elizabeth Bartsch, Sara Villarreal  
Bishop, Diane House, Lidix Montoya, Randy Olson,  
Laura Ramlow

### **Mary the Brave: Mary the God Bearer**

As a young pastor and working mom, I struggled with the challenges of balancing work and home life, often while carrying a child in my womb, arms, on my hip, in a front or back baby pack, or car seat. Now my children are adults, and I have the joy of watching them carry my grandchildren. They do it differently than I did, their car seats are much nicer than the ones we had, but like us, they carry their children with much love.<sup>1</sup> I still carry my adult children and grandchildren and will always carry them, in my heart with much love. This Advent and Christmas season I'm reflecting on Mary, the God bearer. (In Greek it's Theotokos<sup>2</sup>.) Mary carried Jesus. Like all parents she carried her child with love, but she is also the God bearer. It was a brave thing Mary did to bear God into the world.

To love is a brave thing. It is a brave thing to become a parent. Mothers put their own lives at risk bearing a child in their womb and giving birth. It requires a measure of bravery for parents to bring a child into this world filled with the bad news of climate disasters, gun violence, war, political upheaval, racism, food/water insecurity, and escalating health and higher education costs.

History has painted Mary to be quiet, meek and mild, submissive to God's will, but a closer read shows us that Mary was brave. Mary was neither meek nor superhuman.<sup>3</sup> She had grit. She was faithful, courageous, strong and brave. Most of all, she was human. Her encounter with the angel Gabriel, the messenger of God made her brave. She knew that her pregnancy was dangerous and she could die giving birth. She also knew that as an unmarried teenaged mother it would cause upheaval in her family and community. She would give birth to Jesus during Roman occupation, a time of political unrest. Mary was *brave*. Her encounter with the living God made her brave

Her encounter with God gave her bravery and the faith to see that if God was calling her God would also protect her. It revealed to her that God chooses the people on the margins, those overlooked and underestimated. Bearing God in the world was to bring good news and hope to those oppressed. May Mary, the God Bearer, inspire us all to be brave!

This Advent and Christmas season, I invite you to be Theotokos, God Bearers. I invite you to carry the good news of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection to all those we meet on this journey of life and the love of Jesus in your hearts always.

*Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson*

*Luke 1: 26ff In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you..." "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, ... the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God... For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

<sup>1</sup> Robert Munsch, *I'll Love You Forever*, Firefly Books (September 1, 1995)

<sup>2</sup> Since the 3rd century, Christians had referred to Mary as theotokos, "God-bearer." The first documented usage of the term is in the writings of Origen of Alexandria in AD 230. [Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God | uCatholic](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Mary the Brave: Neither Meek nor Superhuman - CBE International](#)

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

DATE	ATTEND	OFFERING
10/22/23	39	1994.39
10/29/23	57	1008.74
11/5/23	50	945.00
11/12/23	58	1559.00
11/19/23	29	1677.00



**ONLINE GIVING**

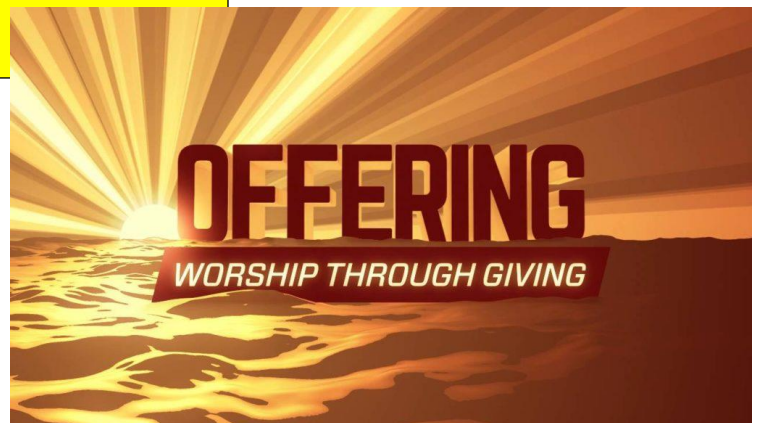
DOWNLOAD APP

VANCO MOBILE

VANCO SERVICES, LLC

<https://www.newscandinaviachurch.org/>

Click on Giving tab



# DECEMBER 2023

*New Scandinavia Lutheran Church*  
 11:00 a.m. Worship & FACEBOOK  
 9:45 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School  
*Pastor Sara Feld*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
No Quilting in December					10:00 a.m. Decorate Sanctuary	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11:00 a.m. Worship with communion "Hanging of the Greens"						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11:00 a.m. Worship w/ <b>NOISY OFFERING</b> 10:00 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship		6:30 p.m. Council Meeting		11:00 a.m. WELCA Christmas Luncheon		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11:00 a.m. Worship "Christmas Program"				6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas service		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> No morning service. <b>6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> No service today					
31						
11:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship						



**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

[nslc@chibardun.net](mailto:nslc@chibardun.net)

New Scandinavia [www.newscandinaviachurch.org](http://www.newscandinaviachurch.org)

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

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\*Return Service Request

