



# PIONEER LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2024

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### PIONEER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING DEC 1, 2024

After church service on December 1, 2024, all members of Pioneer Lutheran Church Council met and President Valerie Hicks called the meeting to order.

Devotions offered by Charlotte Mickelson  
Secretary's report approved with a motion by Julie Petersen, second by Todd Murphy.  
Treasurer's report approved with a motion by Carole Hansen, second by Bill Powers.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Blinds had been installed by Steve Hicks to aid in lowering noise level in the fellowship hall. He also repaired the soundless organ key and installed an outlet in the kitchen. Some sanctuary lights replaced. Thank you, Steve!
2. Kitchen serving counter discussion was tabled for next meeting.

Outreach: caroling December 8, 2024, meeting at 5 PM at Methodist Church in White. Potluck to follow. Christmas meal and carol sing planned for December 25, 2024, by Bill.

Events: St Dymas pastor visits December 15, 2024. Carole moved that \$200.00 be given with a second by Todd.

Christmas Eve service with communion at 4 PM. Methodist Church members invited. Hansen granddaughters volunteered to sing.

Upcoming weddings: Kozelka on Feb 15, 2025; Paul Holler and Karolynn on May 31, 2025.  
Danish meal in July 2025 to celebrate founding of the church.

Blessing of Animals October 5, 2025.

Updating membership directory may become a winter season project.

Nominating committee reminded to seek replacements for 2 council seats.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of a shared service with WUMC members, discussed a YAMA need for Carter Reed.

Pastor Teri Report: baptized Sawyer Donald Dornbusch on November 3, 2024. Confirmation class going well with the enthusiastic group. Reached out to Thallis Jensen who is now home.

Reminder: Annual Meeting may occur on January 19 or 26, 2025, depending on weather. Potluck to follow that meeting. Members reviewed the 2024 budget and suggested revisions for the 2025 budget which will be confirmed at the next meeting of January 5, 2025. Motion to adjourn by Todd, second by Carole. Council members prayed the Lord's Prayer in closing. Respectfully submitted, Charlotte Mickelson, Secretary

<b>Pioneer Lutheran Financial Report</b>	
<b>November 30, 2024</b>	
General Fund	\$ 24,135.42
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,589.88
	<b>\$ 25,725.30</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Sioux Valley Energy electricity	\$ 160.42
ITC - phone and internet	\$ 96.46
BDRW water	\$ 46.95
Rental Depot	\$ 92.34
Teri Johnson Salary	\$ 2,340.00
Matt Petersen 2x mowing + leaf bagging	\$ 460.00
Mj Powers caroling song books	\$ 42.36
Mj Powers church calendars	\$ 38.27
	<b>\$ 3,276.80</b>
<b>SUNDAY OFFERINGS</b>	
<b>Nov 3, 2024</b>	\$ 830.00
<b>Nov 10, 2024</b>	\$ 1,260.00
<b>Nov 17, 2024</b>	\$ 965.00
<b>Nov 24, 2024</b>	\$ 887.00
	<b>\$ 3,942.00</b>
<b>MISC INCOME</b>	
Pioneer Cemetery 3/4 mowing	\$ 3,450.00



**Pastor Teri's weekly sermons can be found on the church website.**

<https://www.pioneerlutheran.org/sermons/>

Dear Friends in Christ,

The holy season of Advent is upon us as we await the arrival of our savior, Jesus Christ.

For my pastor's letter this month I have decided to share a letter from one of my Advent devotionals as it touched my heart. As we begin to receive Christmas cards and letters from family and friends, what might it

look like for you to receive a special letter of your own, from the God who created you, loves you, and offers you hope for your journey? A Christmas letter to you from God:

My child, I know it's been a long year for you. It has been filled with ups and downs, like most other years. But somehow with every moment of celebration, the heartbreak and anguish you have felt has seemed harsher, more intense, and harder to bear.

I know you know this truth, but I need to reiterate it. It is not my desire for you to suffer. Hardship is not my intent for anyone. Just like it is not my intent for the world to be broken and hurting. That's what sin does. It introduces chaos, it veers the conditions of the world—and even the conditions of your life—away from my desire for humanity.

You may not entirely attribute what you've gone through to the sins of the world. But I have seen this from the beginning, since your ancestors made less than ideal choices; sin has consequences, and it hurts.

But here's what I want you to remember. I am more powerful than the brokenness of the world, the hurt in your life, and the sin in the human condition. That is why I sent my Son, Jesus. Through him, I have overcome the sin in the world. His arrival, his work, his very existence ushered in a new hope for everyone, including and especially for you. Because I have such a wide-angle view of eternity, I can assure you of this: the sin in this world and the struggles of this life, are nothing compared to the glory to come.

And I'm not just talking about heaven. I mean the steady, sure, and sometimes subtle way I am working to transform you and the rest of this world back to the way I intend things to

be. All of this is possible because of my Son, who entered the world to show you a glimpse of my power, still at work, all these thousands of years later.

Yes, I know life has been hard and your suffering is real. But take heart, my child. My grace and forgiveness are greater than sin and hardship. And it is here for you.

God.

May the gift of the Christ child be reawakened in your heart and life this season,

Pastor Teri



**Looking Christmas Eve worship will be at 4:00 pm on December 24th. White UMC will be joining us for worship.**

The Nominating Committee is looking for nominees to be on the council. We meet the first Sunday of the month after service. If interested talk with committee member: Bill Powers, Mike Thompson or Jim Hansen.



### All Church Christmas Caroling

Everyone is invited to an evening of Christmas caroling and fellowship. Pioneer Lutheran and White United Methodist will meet Sunday evening, December 8th, at 5:00 pm at the White United Methodist church. We will carol and then gather back at the church for a potluck meal and fellowship. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.



### Christmas Day Meal

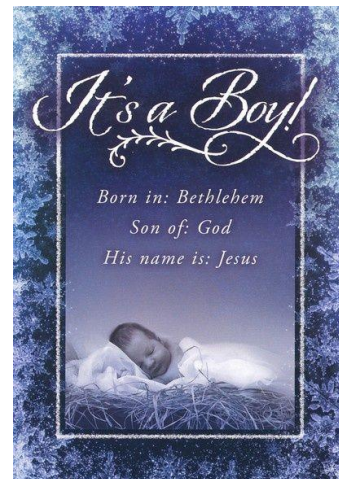
There will be a Christmas meal Christmas day, December 25 at noon at the church and everyone is invited. If you find yourself alone on Christmas day and want to gather with your church family please come for a warm meal and fellowship,

**ANNUAL REPORTS WILL BE NEEDED NEXT MONTH BE PLANNING TO GET THESE TURNED IN!!!!**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dec 8 LITS following service.
- Dec 8 5 pm Christmas Caroling
- Dec 15 St Dysmas Pastor Jeff will be here
- Dec 24 4pm Christmas Eve Worship
- Dec 25 Christmas Day noon meal
- Jan 1 Newsletter articles to Julie [jmpete@itctel.com](mailto:jmpete@itctel.com)
- Jan 5 Church Council following service.
- Jan 19 Annual Meeting/potluck following.
- We need Monthly Cleaners, Readers, and coffee servers
- We continue to collect Hy-Vee receipts, so remember to bring yours.
- Please remember to bring your donations for the Brookings Food Pantry. Your contributions are a blessing to others



# DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM WORSHIP/HOLY COMMUNION CHURCH COUNCIL	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>8</b> 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LITS MEETS CAROLING	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>15</b> 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM PRAISE WORSHIP ST DYMAS PASTOR	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>22</b> 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE	23	<b>24</b> 4 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	<b>25</b> 12 PM CHRISTMAS DINNER	26	27	28
<b>29</b> 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE	30	31	<b>1</b> NEW YEARS DAY	2	3	4
<b>5</b> 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM WORSHIP/HOLY COMMUNION CHURCH COUNCIL			READERS: DEC-KAREN JAN-	CLEANERS: DEC- DANA JAN-		

**PIONEER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BOX 6  
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