



PIONEER LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

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PIONEER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING January 5, 2025

All members of Pioneer Lutheran Church Council met on January 5, 2025, after church service. President Val Hicks opened the meeting and offered devotions.

The secretary's report approved with a motion by Carole Hansen, second by Todd Murphy. The treasurer's report approved with a motion by Bill Powers, second by Carole.

OLD BUSINESS: fellowship hall noise control & serving counter height discussed, tabled. Outreach: caroling & Christmas meal both completed in December, Pastor Teri looking for a Bible study, Valentine creating on February 9, 2025, after service. Upcoming events: Danish meal in July to celebrate church's anniversary, Blessing of animals October 5, 2025, Two weddings: February – Kozelka, May – Holler. Member directory: Carole will organize, Valerie will print the directory

Nominating committee: Council will need 2 members for next term. Consider running for a seat.

Monthly service at White United Methodist Church: Pioneer will offer dates to join the White UMC as a group in addition to Pioneer regular service.

Prayer list: Carole agreed to form a group at the Annual Meeting

Budget: Discussed serving counter adjustment, adjustment to Harvest Table fund, cottonwood tree care fund. Council members finalized the proposed budget for 2025. The Congregation will vote to approve at the January Annual Meeting on Jan 19 or 26, 2025, depending on weather.

NEW BUSINESS

Cottonwood Tree Care: Motion by Carole, second by Bill, to split cost of trimming the tree with the Cemetery Executive Board.

Clearing snow from parking lot: Paul Holler has agreed to fulfil that job.

Next meeting: February 2, 2025.

Motion to adjourn by Carole, second by Todd. Members joined in praying the Lord's Prayer in closing.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Mickelson, secretary



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

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

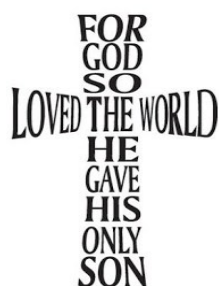
It’s that time of the year when we set about making resolutions. I begin this New Year with plans of getting to the gym more regularly and eating more fruits and vegetables. New Year’s resolutions tend to be all about will-power, self-control and trying harder. They aren’t useless, but they do seem to involve some amount of beating up on yourself as their starting point.

Resolutions often start from a negative place. As in, “you’re lazy, you must do/be better.” And most of us do have a marvelous capacity for undermining ourselves and doing those things that trigger a bout of self-shaming. Resolutions depend on grit and will-power and some resolve, which usually run out by the middle of January if not by the end of February.

But having been down that road too many times, I am trying to lean into grace when beginning the New Year. That means I ask for help. From God and other people as I make some life corrections, whether in my intake of carbs or in my behaviors toward other people and my way of being in the world. I believe deliverance is what I need over correction.

I think of grace not just as God’s mercy and forgiveness of my sins (though it definitely is that), but as power, even power that works in me when I don’t fully understand, something

Pioneer Lutheran Financial Report	
December 31,2024	
General Fund	\$ 21,738.17
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,589.88
	\$ 23,328.05
EXPENSES	
Sioux Valley Energy electricity	\$ 221.59
ITC - phone and internet	\$ 96.46
BDRW water	\$ 43.00
Guide One Insurance	\$ 4,687.00
Teri Johnson Salary	\$ 2,340.00
Val Hicks confirmation books	\$ 100.95
USPS Box rental	\$ 64.00
Pastor Jeff Backer	\$ 200.00
YAMA Julie Petersen	\$ 25.00
Flowers On Main Mj Gift	\$ 62.12
Cash Pastor xmas gift	\$ 150.00
Paul Holler snow removal	\$ 60.00
	\$ 8,050.12
Dec 1,2024	\$ 1,085.00
Dec 8,2024	\$ 940.00
Dec 15,2024	\$ 673.25
Dec 22,2024	\$ 1,045.00
Dec 29,2024	\$ 826.00
	\$ 4,569.25
MISC INCOME	
ITC Refund	\$ 503.52
Earl Michaelson Acct 1/2 interest income	\$ 550.00
	\$ 1,053.52



more than my own efforts. The phrase “God helps those who help themselves” is nowhere in the Bible. What is found in scripture is this: “For while we were still weak, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly.”

One author put it this way: “God’s grace is not simply the infinite supply of divine forgiveness upon which hopeless sinners depend.” (Though it is that.) “Grace is also the mysterious strength God lends to human beings who commit themselves to the work of transformation. To repent is both to act from that grace and ask for more of it, in order to follow Christ into the startling freedom of new life.”

So, this New Year instead of starting from a point of “I’m lazy and need to get more active,” grace says: “you, yes, you are infinitely precious and incredibly beloved. So much so that Christ died for you and has been raised for you, to destroy sin/death/fear and deliver you into a new reality. The fresh start God provides both forgives the past and sets my feet on the rock of his grace to walk into the New Year with newness of life. I love the way Paul puts it in these words, wonderfully fit for a New Year, in his letter to the Ephesians, “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

If resolutions are your thing, by all means, keep at it. But ask for help. You may be surprised.

Sharing in Ministry,

Teri

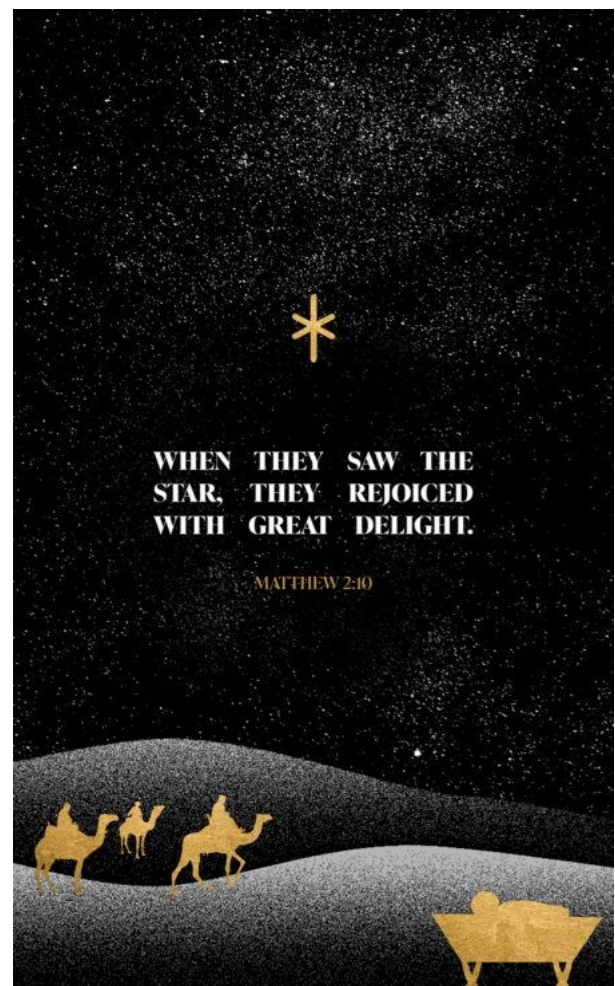
Thallis Jensen, age 101 has moved into the Estelline Care Center and her two sons, Allen & Roland and some cousins have been helping her clean out her apartment in Brookings. Thallis is getting to know many of the residents and enjoys many activities including BINGO!!

She has her own room phone at **605-873-8087**.

Her address is:

Thallis Jensen
Estelline Nursing Home
205 Fjerestad Ave. E.
Estelline, SD 57234

Any cards or letters would be appreciated as she is getting used to her new lifestyle. Good thing she still has a good attitude about life. Roland



**Pioneer Lutheran & United Methodist
Churches served
Christmas Day meal December 25,
2024**



**ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 19
FOLLOWING SERVICE POTLUCK TO
FOLLOW**

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.

December 25, 2024, Pioneer Lutheran and United Methodist church volunteers served 34 guests and provided 2 takeout meals for a noon meal at Pioneer Lutheran. Seven volunteers prepared the meal consisting of turkey, ham, mashed and sweet potatoes, stuffing, squash, corn, carrots, dinner rolls, cranberry sauce, celery and sweet/dill pickles. For dessert, peach, apple and lemon pies as well as apple crisp, cinnamon rolls and cranberry bread were provided. A \$250 Thrivent grant provided all the food except for the squash and dessert items. Christmas Day morning, meal preparations were finalized and an additional three volunteers helped with the cleanup. Our first joint Christmas Day meal was a success due to the ten volunteers and Thrivent grant. Many guests commented on the wonderful meal and how much they enjoyed the fellowship. We were a blessing to many!

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Quail



The Pioneer Cemetery Association of White, SD will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2025. This meeting will take place at Pioneer Lutheran Church, 20180 474th Ave., White, SD. The meeting will follow the church annual meeting that begins at 11:00 AM, following church services. There will be a potluck dinner following the meetings.

Election will be held for one new board member for a 3-year term.

Arlene Madsen, President

Pioneer Cemetery Association

605-695-0559

HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **Jan 5 Church Council following service.**
- **Jan 12 LITS meets after service**
- **Jan 12 & 26 Confirmation**
- **Jan 19 Annual Meeting/potluck following.**
- **Feb 1 Newsletter articles to Julie jmpete@itctel.com**
- **Feb 2 Council Meeting following service**
- **Feb 9 Valentine making following service**

- **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**



JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>READERS: JAN- STEVE & VAL FEB-CHARLOTTE</p>	<p>CLEANERS: JAN-LAURA FEB- CHARLOTTE</p>		1	2	3	4
<p>5 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM WORSHIP/HOLY COMMUNION CHURCH COUNCIL</p>	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>12 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP Lits meets</p>	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>19 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM PRAISE WORSHIP ANNUAL MTG.</p>	<p>20 Martin Luther King Day</p>	21	22	23	24	25
<p>26 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE CONFIRMATION</p>	27	28	29	30	31	1
<p>2 9 AM ADULT FORUM 10 AM WORSHIP/HOLY COMMUNION CHURCH COUNCIL</p>	3	4	5	6	7	8

**PIONEER LUTHERAN CHURCH
BOX 6
WHITE, SD 57276**