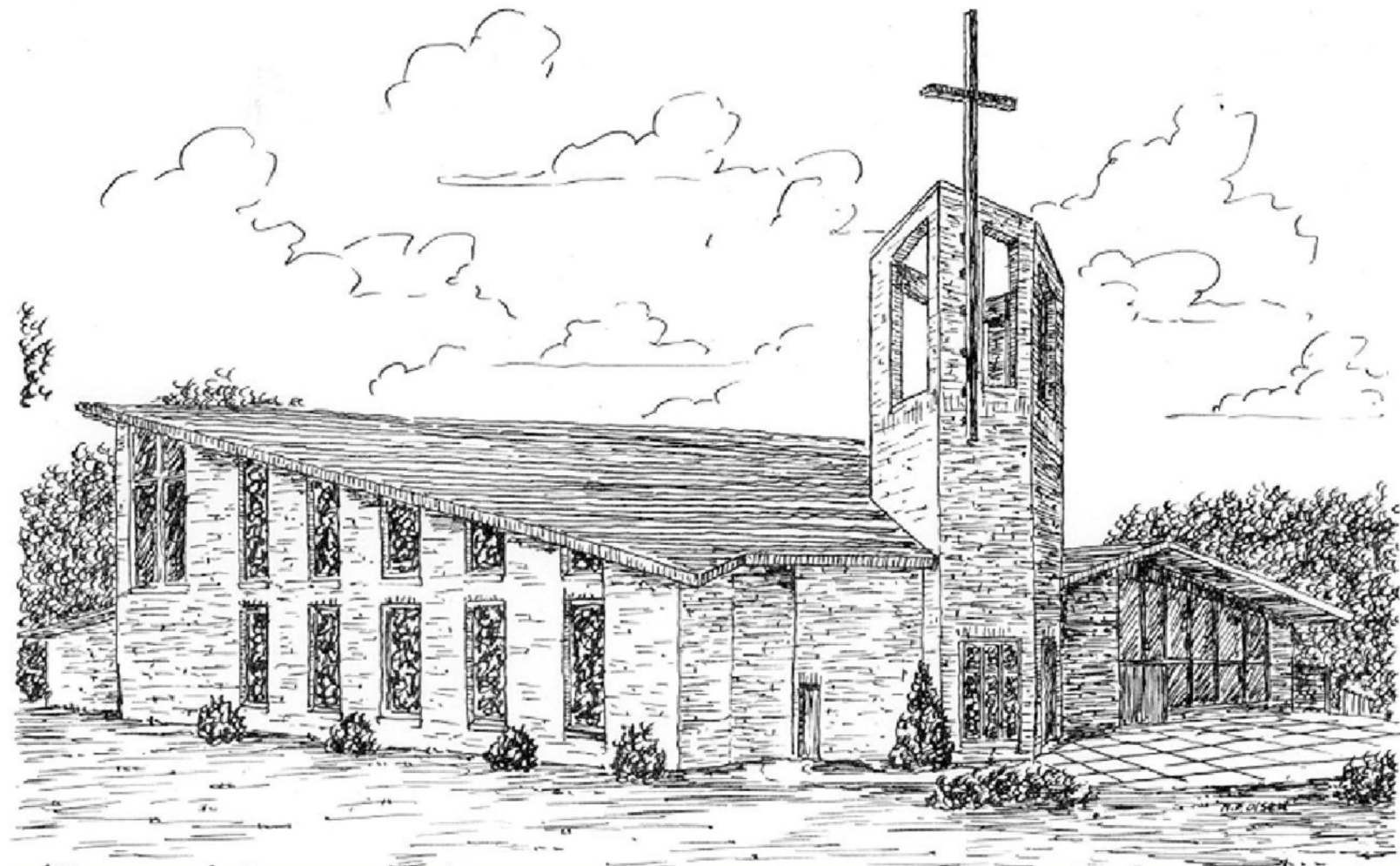


# GOOD NEWS AT MEMORIAL

Memorial Lutheran Church Newsletter  
January/February 2024



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## PASTOR'S PAGE

As I sit down to compose this message for our January/February newsletter, we have not yet celebrated Christmas. Yet, as things work in the church, leadership has to start focusing on the next big events on the church calendar even before the current big event has been celebrated. Those upcoming celebrations just happen to be the seasons of Epiphany and Lent. So, that means that those of us responsible for planning are already looking ahead to these important seasons.

Lent starts this year on another holiday, although it is one that is a little more secular than sacred. Ash Wednesday in 2024 happens to fall on St. Valentine's Day, February 14. Therefore, two big events will be happening on the same day. Over the last few years, we have been using the Lenten season to gather together on Wednesday evenings to share a light meal of soup and sides at 5:00 p.m. Then we share a brief worship service together from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. each of those Wednesdays. I am planning to do the same in 2024.

So, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, we will gather for worship at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. That service will be the traditional Ash Wednesday service that includes the imposition of ashes and the celebration of Holy Communion. We will not have a meal on the evening of Ash Wednesday. We will only have the worship service on that night.

Then, beginning on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, and continuing through Wednesday, March 20, 2024, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m. for a light meal of soup and sides. I will be posting a sheet where you can sign up to volunteer to contribute part of the meal, if you so choose. Look for that to appear sometime in mid-January. Following the meal, we will gather at 6:00 p.m. for a brief worship service in the Fellowship Hall. The theme for this year is one that has been suggested by the editors of the ELCA worship resource called *Sundays and Seasons*. It will focus on the concept of "Holy Lament." Lament is often connected with the idea of a passionate response to grief or loss. It's one of the traditional themes in any Lenten season. But I know that I have never really focused on this particular theme in the past. So, it seemed interesting and appropriate this Lent to take the editors up on their suggestion and spend some time considering how and why the word of God calls us to respond in times of sorrow. I hope you will join me as you are able for these upcoming meals and services as we reflect on the cross, Christ's sacrifices for us and for the world, and our response to that sacrifice.

And, finally, before we get started with the next big season in the church year, I want to say thank you for joining me on the Advent journey that we just finished. I want to say a special thank you to those of you who stuck through the entirety of the Advent Devotional booklet that I wrote, *I Still Wonder So I Still Wander*. I know that it was a lot to get through, and I really appreciate the time you spent reading those thoughts and reflecting on those questions in

## PASTOR'S PAGE, CONTINUED

your own way. It was a joy and privilege to work on this second volume for you and for my family and friends beyond Memorial. I especially appreciated all of the connections that many of you made to your own faith journeys. That was one of my goals, and it was nice to see that happening. As I look way ahead to the end of 2024, I am hoping to put together a third (and final) volume to share with you for the next Advent season. The plan right now is to title the booklet ***We Wonder So We Wander***. The idea is that this time I will function primarily as the editor, and I will invite spiritual leaders from my past and present to reflect on a tough question from scripture and a sacred space from their lives where they have found connections to the question. I thought it might be fun for you (and for me) to hear what others who have influenced me spiritually think about such things. We will see if God's Spirit will move others into such a project. As some of you learned in this year's devotion, sometimes I have a plan and God has a different plan. God always wins. So, we will see what the final project (if any) will look like. I will keep you posted as the year progresses.

I hope that everyone has a blessed 2024. I look forward to the new that God will do in and through each of us individually and in and through our congregation as well.

In Christ,

Pastor Lester Spies

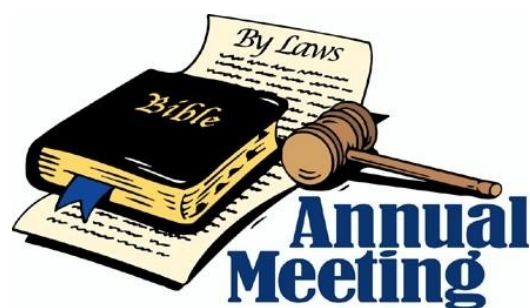
## ANNUAL MEETING

### Annual Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024

Our annual meeting for 2024 is scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024 following worship. We will also have a potluck recognizing all the volunteers that have helped for the many years of service with the meal program.

We plan to start the meeting at 10:10 a.m. The main topics of discussion will be receiving individual, committee, and ministry reports (including financial) from 2023, approving a budget for 2024, and electing church council members.

Greater details will be available in the 2023 Annual Report that will be published prior to the meeting and available to pick up at the January 21, 2024 worship service so that you can have a week to consider all of the important topics. In order to help make that happen, please submit any annual reports that you may be responsible for no later than Monday, January 8, 2024 to Nicolle Grassl at [memoriallutheran@sbcglobal.net](mailto:memoriallutheran@sbcglobal.net). Thank you!



## CHURCH COUNCIL

### The Church's Financial Position

	Receipts	Expenditures	Other revenues	Excess/Deficit
November	\$26,780.39	\$31,732.03		(\$4,951.64)
Year to date	\$227,713.04	\$343,582.09	\$29,176.00	(\$86,703.05)

*The Council decided that it was worthwhile to publish the above information in our newsletter.*

### Explanation

The deficit of \$86,703 is a large amount, but it is partly explained by the Air Conditioner unit for the sanctuary purchased this year. \$25,000 of that \$50,000 expenditure was financed by a loan from the Endowment Fund. Hopefully yearend contributions will reduce that deficit. Fortunately, the cash position remains very strong. Large capital expenditures have been relatively uncommon; therefore, perhaps this large deficit will not occur again.

**As the calendar year comes to a close it's always a good time to reflect on all that was accomplished within the church. Here is a list of some of the major achievements (but certainly not all that was done within the church):**

- A new air conditioner for the sanctuary was purchased and installed
- Two furnaces out of the seven in the church were replaced
- The old choir room was repainted and items no longer used were removed while other items were relocated
- In an effort to modernize and use our people resources effectively, the Christmas Basket program was changed; the Meal Program providing casseroles and jello was discontinued
- We weathered the loss of our dear organist, Fred Bach
- After many, many months of transition and temporary musicians, we have been able to secure a regular organist for the coming year
- A new lease for the North Shore Pre-School was successfully negotiated and implemented
- A new free breakfast ministry began being offered for anyone in the community
- The Easter Breakfast continued its long tradition
- God's Work Our Hands collection of baby items for Hephatha's baby ministry was well received and fruitful
- We were grateful that we were able to successfully transfer treasurer responsibilities to Laura Jeske
- Pastor began a weekly Instagram posting in an effort to reach non-members

Of course our work for furthering Christ in our world is never done; but the following verse from **John 17:4** comes to mind:

*I glorified you on the earth. I have accomplished the work which you have given me to do.*

## FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

The “Free Community Breakfast” on December 9th was a beautiful morning of great food and Christmas cheer. The tables were decorated in red and green and each guest received a special Christmas favor at their place setting—made by our own Kathy. Ian Elfe played guitar and his young daughters Avery and Ginny sang with him! They were the hit of the morning! Our 40 guests stayed and listened and ate along with our fifteen volunteers!



Denise Elfe’s son, Ian, is playing the guitar and singing with his daughters.

What a wonderful beginning to the Advent season for us and our guests!

Please take note of our breakfast dates in 2024! May 11, September 14 and December 14

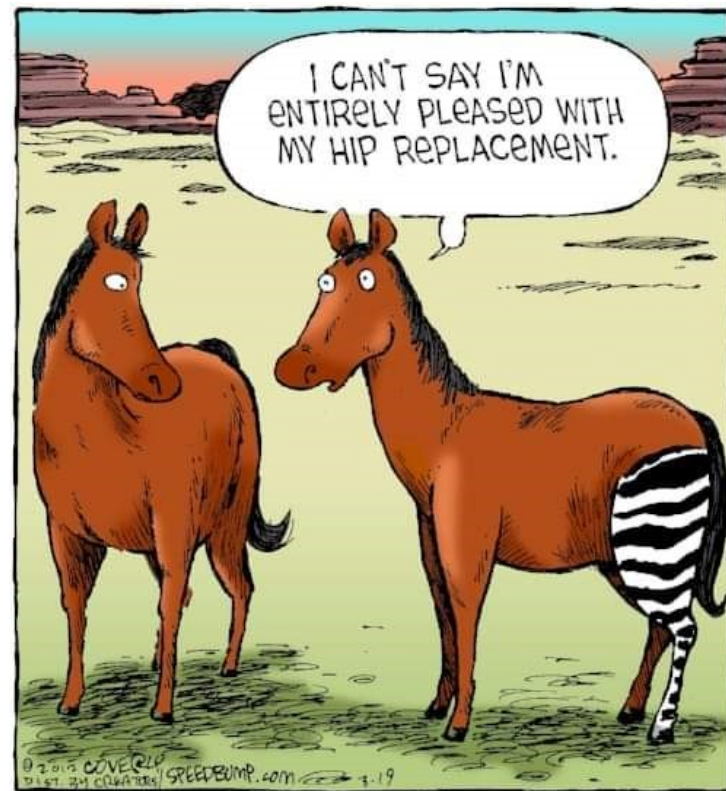
## THANK YOU



A big thank you to Buzz for the many years of taking care of the DePaul meal program, for Gary Hiller for the hundreds and hundreds of boxes of jello he purchased over the years and Laura Jeske for always stepping up to the plate to help wherever needed.

Also the council members leaving after their terms....Sue Biondich, Jana Jones, Ruth Ann Wood. Please consider offering to serve in this important role of the church.

## A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR



## GOOD NEWS IN ACTION

Thank you to those who contributed to the Franciscan Peacemakers for October, November and December. They were featured in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel paper on December 11, 2023 for their work with street people and trafficking of women. We are sending well over \$600 to them since our collection is matched by the endowment committee.

Our first quarter mission will be Reformation Lutheran Church located on about 38th and Lisbon where they rent space in a store front. They have been there for almost ten years now. They have been so thankful to Memorial with our gifts to them for the Summer Work Program which we do, along with helping to supply Hephatha for the same thing. Reformation is an inner-city church which helps the community with church services and activities during the week and services to the many very needy people in the neighborhood. They are one of the most needy churches in the city helping people in their neighborhood.

Sometime in January or February we will attend services at Hephatha Lutheran Church located on 18th and Locust and then serve a meal to those attending afterwards. The exact date has not been set as yet, but we will let you know as soon as we find out. You may want to attend and help out, too.



Jenni Ceasar and Laura Jeske are making gnomes for the Annual Mary Martha Circle Craft Sale.



Laura Jeske (right) and Mary Martha Kanass (center) are seated with a single mom who has adopted 11 children over the past 20 years and is a recipient of our Christmas “baskets”.



Sandra Wilson (pictured center) who we have given baskets to for over 25 years, always shares her basket with neighbors and has done great work with the congregation at Hephatha. She teaches dance to young people, gives away so many gifts and has been an example of great Christian gift giving to the whole

## MEMORIAL LUTHERAN QUILT GROUP



The wonderful quilt people have been very busy! Ten beautiful quilts were delivered on December 18<sup>th</sup> to MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary and were so well received because the 53206 neighborhood is so much in need. Ten others were delivered to Hephatha Lutheran Church and received with so many thanks. Thank you wonderful quilters. You are making many people very thankful.

## A NOTE FROM DEACON DENNIS

Deacon Dennis wishes all a Happy New Year! Please be on the look out for information about Epiphany in January.

## BIBLE STUDY THIS WINTER

Marlene Kapustanczek is offering a Bible study this winter on St. Peter's Letters 2. The first study will take place on January 21, 2024 following worship. Participants will gather in the choir room. The group will also meet on February 18 and March 17, 2024 following worship. All you need to bring is your Bible

(we also have some at the church, if you forget), some paper/notebook, and a pen/pencil. You can also bring your own beverage into the study. We have water bottles in the refrigerator at the church that are available for your use as well. Please see Marlene or Pastor Spies if you have any questions.

## NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

10 - Char Hiller  
11 - Bill Geier  
16 - Karen Nowak  
23 - Debby Blaha  
24 - Sarah Dobbe  
26 - Andrew Pavlik  
31 - Judy Schulz



### JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

1/30 - Gary and Char Hiller

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Cyndi Schulz  
3 - Nicolle Grassl  
8 - Bob Meilander  
9 - Connie Rudolph  
12 - Deacon Dennis Schultz  
15 - Adela Ceasar  
16 - Sean Grassl  
17 - Florence Schuenemann  
18 - Rick Nowak  
21 - Diane Marx  
21 - Phyllis Mittelstadt



### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/9 - John & Deborah Blaha

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### DATED MATERIAL

### Worship

Sunday: 9:00am

## MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH · GLENDALE, WI JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024 GOOD NEWS AT MEMORIAL

### JANUARY

Sun, 1/7 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion  
Mon, 1/8 Annual reports due  
Sun, 1/14 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion  
Sun, 1/21 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion  
St. Peter's Letters Bible Study  
Sun, 1/28 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion  
Annual Meeting

### FEBRUARY

Sun, 2/4 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion  
Sun, 2/11 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion  
Wed, 2/14 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion  
Sun, 2/18 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion  
St. Peter's Letters Bible Study  
Wed, 2/21 5:00 Lenten Meal  
6:00 Lenten Worship  
Sun, 2/25 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion

*The Memorial Lutheran Quilters Group meets every Wednesday morning 9-11:30.*