



# Luck Lutheran Church Newsletter February 2024

## PONDERINGS OF THE PASTOR

*“Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”*

*--Joel 2:13b – 15*

Dear friend in Christ,

It's hard to believe that we are rapidly moving toward the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 14th this year, a shared date with Valentine's Day. What an amazing reminder that no one loves you more than God!

Our Lenten mid-week worship theme this year is 24 Hours that Changed the World, based on the book by Adam Hamilton. Our journey will take us through the last hours of Jesus' life: the Garden of Gethsemane, his condemnation by the righteous, his torture and humiliation, and ultimately his crucifixion.

So just what is “Lent?” “In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the seasons of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter. (Sundays are not included in the count.) Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ – his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection.” [www.christianity.about.com](http://www.christianity.about.com)

During the season of Lent our Sunday worship patterns change a bit. We sing the Kyrie, “Lord have mercy on us,” to remind us that we come to God on our humble knees asking for forgiveness and mercy. We eliminate the Hymn of Praise. We take away the “Alleluias” in our hymnody and add them back into worship on Easter Sunday when we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Worship has a somber tone to help us reflect on who we are as Christians and disciples of Jesus in light of Christ's death on the cross for you and for me. The scripture verse above from the Old Testament book of Joel is one of the appointed verses for our worship on Ash Wednesday. The prophet Joel reminds us of our need to turn away from all the ways that lead us to death in our lives – all our bad choices - and instead turn to God – our merciful, loving God – who wants us to live life fully and abundantly. So, we welcome the season of Lent with this challenge and promise from the prophet Joel: “Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”

In Christ,

Pastor Mary Ann

# Luck Lutheran Church Soup Sales

Soup feeds the body as well as the soul. I am looking forward to working with volunteers that would like to make soup for this year's Soup Sales project. Thank you to Mary Jo Arndt for applying and receiving a Thrivent Community Impact Card to purchase the soup groceries we will need. **Please reach out to me right away if you would be willing to cook soup this year.**

This year once again we will take pre-orders and have your soup ready for pickup on the following dates at the church. This is not necessary but some of the soups do sell out, so to guarantee you get your hands on your favorite ones this gives you the opportunity to plan ahead. If you are unable to pick your orders up on one of the following dates, please call me and we will make arrangements for delivery. Please complete the order form and place in Paula's mailbox at church or email, call or text Michelle Doolittle at [bmmmdoolittle@yahoo.com](mailto:bmmmdoolittle@yahoo.com) or 715-417-1154. Extra forms will located at church in the narthex on the bulletin board.

There will be some extra frozen containers available on the dates listed for sale in the narthex, but quantity is unknown so don't miss out and order yours in advance. Soup containers will be 2-cups each and will be Free Will Donation. All soup will be frozen at pickup/delivery. All sales will go to Luck Lutheran Church.



## Luck Lutheran Soup Sales order form

Name:

Address:

City:

Phone:

Container = 2 cups / Free will donation

Flavor                      # of containers

Chicken Wild Rice                      \_\_\_\_\_

Chili    \_\_\_\_\_

Bean and Ham                              \_\_\_\_\_

Hamburger Veg                              \_\_\_\_\_

Split Pea & Ham                              \_\_\_\_\_

White Chicken Chili                              \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre order Pickup/Soup Purchase  
(circle one)**

**Sunday Feb 18th  
Wednesday Feb 21<sup>st</sup>**



If time allows you can mail your form to  
Michelle Doolittle 2392 233<sup>rd</sup> Street Cushing WI 54006

# WALKING TOGETHER

*"I Love to Tell the Story"*

WORSHIP,  
WORKSHOPS, &  
INSPIRATION



FEBRUARY 17, 2024

9:00 - 4:00

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
RICE LAKE, WI



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## WALKING TOGETHER:

### A SYNOD-WIDE EVENT FOR CONGREGATIONS

Join us for a day of learning in Rice Lake on Saturday,  
February 17

Cost for the day including lunch: \$25

Sign up on the sheet at church so we  
know who is going and who may be  
interested in carpooling.

# Luck Lutheran Church

## REVISED '24 Spring Choir Schedule

Here is a revised schedule for the remainder of our 2024 spring choir season.

**NOTE THAT THE ROUTINE PRACTICE TIME ON WEDNESDAYS WILL BE 7:15 PM!!!**

February 7<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday practice at 7:15 pm.

**February 14<sup>th</sup> – Sing at Ash Wednesday Church Service at 6:15 pm**

**February 28<sup>th</sup> – Serve Lenten Supper at 5 pm before Lenten Service**

March 13<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday practice after 6:15 pm Lenten Service

March 20<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday practice after 6:15 pm Lenten Service

March 28<sup>th</sup> – Thursday practice after 6:15 pm Maundy Thursday Service

**March 29<sup>th</sup> – Sing at Good Friday Church Service at 6:15 pm**

**March 31<sup>st</sup> – Sing at church service at 9:30 am (Easter Sunday)**

April 17<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday practice at 7:15pm

**April 21<sup>st</sup> – Sing at church service at 9:30 am**

May 1<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday practice at 7:15pm

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – Sing at church service at 9:30 am (Confirmation Sunday)**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> – Sing at church service at 9:30 am (Pentecost Sunday)**



A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our ELCA Good Gifts Challenge for our Confirmation youth!

As we studied local and global hunger and poverty, Pastor Mary Ann introduced the Confirmation class to the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog during the holiday season. Initially it was just the Confirmation youth who had the challenge to bring in a family offering

that would be used to purchase items from the catalog (our Confirmation youth are from Luck Lutheran, First in Cushing, and North Valley). That initial offering was \$470. Wow! They prayerfully and carefully discerned what to buy with those dollars and decided that a Fish Farm and Community Garden with Honey Bees, tools, and instructional materials was the way to go. Total cost: \$470. But then the concern mounted: "We need water. And water filters are \$30. How can we do this?" They decided they would each kick in \$2 the following week. And that's when it happened. Not only did the kids kick in more money the following week, other parishioners from each of the congregations started adding to the total, including free will offerings at the end of worship at each church. The result? \$1,300 was given in total for the kids and their Good Gifts Project. So with that money, and after more careful discernment, this is what they chose in addition to what they had already decided: A herd of goats (\$300), 10 Water Filters (\$300), a portion of an Irrigation Project (\$100), 2 piglets (\$60), Drought Resistant Seeds and Gardening Tools (\$50), School Supplies for a Child (\$10), and a Mosquito Net (\$10). Thank you, everyone, for teaching our youth the importance of being generous for the sake of God's mission. We have been blessed to be a blessing!

Luck Lutheran Members

To make the job of our offering counters easier we ask everyone to please use their offering envelopes. This saves them a lot of time. If you didn't receive your offering envelopes in the mail, please call or stop by the church office.

Thank you!

**PASTORAL ACTS**

*Funeral at Luck Lutheran*

Anna Maria Giller – January 20, 2024

**2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

We will not be mailing out all the end of year contribution statements. Please call the church office at 715-472-2605 if you would like one and we can get one to you either by mail, email or stop at church and get a copy.

Thank You!

**PHOTOS:** If you have any photos that were taken at church events, please email or text them to Lori Vilstrup who will be taking care of our entry way photo collage. Text: 715-566-0794 or email [tvilstru@lakeland.ws](mailto:tvilstru@lakeland.ws). Thank you.

**LENT SUPPERS**

*February 21 – Property & Generosity/Outreach Committees*

*February 28 – Choir and Music Committee*

*Thank you to Sheila Brom and Paula Hischer and members of the Generosity/Outreach Committee for providing food, preparing and delivering our monthly meals to people in our community. If you know of someone that would like to receive a monthly meal, please call the church office.*

## WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR OFFERINGS TO LUCK LUTHERAN:

Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Luck Lutheran Church!

There are several ways to send us your offering:

- You can always give cash, write a check, or use your offering envelopes.
- You can give electronically by visiting the church website [www.lucklutheran.org/donate](http://www.lucklutheran.org/donate) and follow the prompts for one-time or recurring giving.
- Give electronically by scanning our congregation's QR code
- You can contact your local bank and arrange for other options regarding direct giving.



**NOTE:** If you use your credit card for electronic giving, Luck Lutheran is charged up to 3.5% for your transaction. So, if you could have your donations linked to your checking/savings accounts, that is a better option for our congregation.

Questions? Please contact Paula Hischer, Luck Lutheran's administrative assistant at 715.472.2605 and she will answer any questions you may have.

## Loaves & Fishes Monthly Report

Open Tues. & Thurs. 11 am-1:00pm

Lions Hall, 300 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Luck, WI

P.O. Box 554 Luck, WI 54853

December 2023

# Households served	40	Luck 30
Adults:	68	Unity 11
Children:	20	
Total people:	88	

Donations: Money: \$5,007

(Below includes TEFAP, purchased food, donations)

Weight of food coming in: # 2,680

Weight of food going out: # 2,432.50

Volunteer hours: 66 hours

Needs for next month: milk, mayonnaise, sugar 4# size, bar soap, dish

And laundry soap. Personal products, men & women.

**We are currently operating with two interim food shelf coordinators. We would like to get a Full time coordinator. We will train people who are interested. We can always use more volunteer workers.**

**If interested, please contact Pam Girtz 320-232-7541 email: [girtzp@gmail.com](mailto:girtzp@gmail.com)**

# 2024 LENTEN SERIES

based on the book

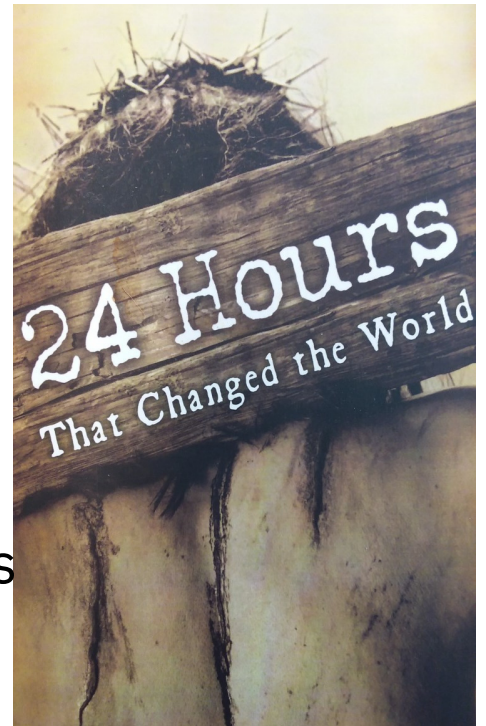
24 Hours That Changed the World

by Adam Hamilton

## Ash Wednesday

February 14 at 6:15 p.m.

Worship with imposition of ashes  
& Holy Communion  
(no supper on this night)



Mid-Week Wednesday Night Lenten Supper & Worship

Supper is served from 5:30—6:15 p.m.

Worship is 6:15—7:00 p.m.

February 21 : The Garden of Gethsemane

February 28 : Condemned by the Righteous

March 6: Jesus, Barabbas, & Pilate

March 13: The Torture & Humiliation of the King

March 20: The Crucifixion

Luck Lutheran Church 510 East Foster Ave. Luck, WI 715.472.2605

# thank you

Thank you so much for your kind and generous donation of \$250 to the Community Referral Agency. This contribution is greatly appreciated by our clients, volunteers, and staff. Your support makes our work possible.

Thank You! - CRA

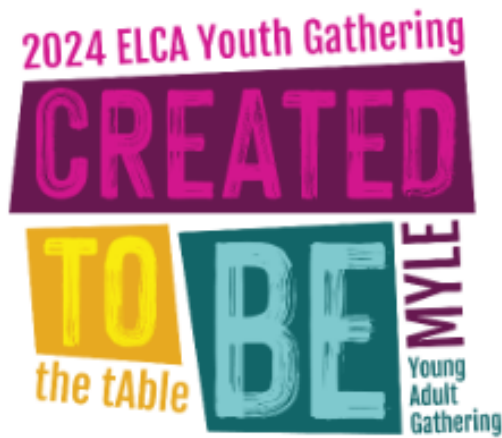
Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$150 to the Lutheran World Relief's quilt and kit shipping fund! The kindness and love you show your neighbors in Christ is truly transformational. Quilts and kits are both practical and comforting. Wherever they are in the world and whatever challenges they face, the families who receive them can truly feel the love and care that quilters and kit makers put into them. I am so grateful for the love you are bestowing on our neighbors around the world.

Thank you! - Lutheran World Relief

Thank you for your gift of \$250! YOU help make the season bright by blessing others! Thank you for opening your heart and making this holiday season even brighter for those in need in our community, Pastor and Members!

-Interfaith Caregivers of Polk County





Luck Lutheran Church will be sending 15 youth and 4 chaperones to New Orleans, Louisiana from July 16-20, 2024, to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering. Over the course of four days, we will participate in worship, Bible study, interactive learning, service, and fellowship.

Throughout the next several months, our youth will be hard at work fundraising for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Our current fundraising campaign is going on now in the narthex at Luck Lutheran Church. The youth have created a poster of Louisiana and attached envelopes labeled \$1 through \$150. If you are able to help offset the costs associated with the gathering, please choose an envelope that corresponds with your donation, and place it in the offering plate or in Paula's mailbox.

If you would like to mail in a donation, please send to Luck Lutheran Church, 510 E Foster Avenue, Luck, WI 54853 and note in the memo line "ELCA Youth Gathering".

Thank you for your continued support!

The Northwoods Homeless Shelter would like to thank you for your support of our shelter program through your generous donation of \$250.00. Our non-profit organization depends on donations for a large part of the funding of the shelter and services we provide to the area's homeless population. We appreciate your support as we continue our effort to stabilize the homeless families with whom we work and move them into permanent housing.

# Luck Lutheran Church

## Council Meeting Minutes

### December 11, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

**Present:** Donna J., Heather P., Lori P., Sonja J., and Jason R.

**Absent:** Quinn S., Marcy P.

**Guest:** Pastor Mary Ann

- I. Call to order by Council President, Donna J.
- II. Devotions lead by Pastor Mary Ann
- III. Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes- motion to approve made by Lori P. and seconded by Jason R. motion carried.
- IV. Treasurer's Report - reviewed and motion to approve made by Jason R. and seconded by Lori P. motion carried.
- V. Old Business
  - A. **Call committee update-** no new update
  - B. **Fall Dinner profit recommendations from G/O Committee-** reviewed November 4, 2023 fall dinner fundraiser income and what was donated to missions.
  - C. **January/February Service Group Leader** – Thank you to Jessica Richter
  - D. **Boiler system Update-** Comfort System will be installing a smart pump soon.
  - E. **Nominating Committee Update-** Committee meeting held and names from the membership list were picked by each committee member. There have been a couple of “maybe” responses. Nominating committee will continue to call LLC members to be on the ballot.
- VI. New Business
  - A. **2024 Grand Marshall's Reception use of church, Feb. 10, 4:00-5:30 p.m. (50-75 people; cake and lemonade)-** motion to approve made by Jason R. seconded by Heather P. Motion carried.
  - B. **Participate in the upcoming election of our synod Bishop. Apple River Conference Assembly is February 8, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Bone Lake Lutheran-** Delegates will be chosen at the Annual meeting to attend.
  - C. **Universal Church Directory – January & February Special (last directory 2015)-** Reviewed and they are having a special during

these dates 12/26-2/29. Council agreed to collect more information before deciding.

D. **Date and time of Luck Lutheran's Annual Meeting-** Will be January 28, 2024 immediately following worship, in the Sanctuary.

E. **Cardiac Defibrillator-** Family would like to donate AED to LLC. Acceptance of this gift has been approved pending recommendations and acceptance by the property committee. Jason R. will email property committee with AED gift details. Motion to approve made by Lori P. and seconded by Sonja J. motion carried.

VII. Committee Reports

A. **OFJ/Education/Youth-** Pastor Mary Ann met with Education and OFJ teams. They are working on clarifying and identifying duties of these groups. Help is still needed.

B. **Generosity/Outreach** – Sonja/Lori P.- donations of fall fundraiser reviewed.

C. **Property** - Jason- boiler pump will be replaced soon.

D. **Worship/Music** – Marcy/Heather- Worship committee met and discussed the upcoming Lent season. Lent service will be the same times as last year. Confirmation congregations will also be invited.

IX. Next Council Meeting: January 8th at 6PM - Devotions: Sonja J.

X. Motion to Adjourn made by Sonja J. and seconded by Lori P. motion carried.

XI. We closed with the Lord's Prayer

**Frandsen Bank & Trust Endowment Fund Balance: \$11,419.70**

# **BASKETS of PROMISE**

**On Easter, we celebrate the joy and hope of Christ's resurrection. Yet around the world "the least of these" – those Christ calls us to serve – continue to suffer.**

**Luck Lutheran will be reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need by joining LWR's "Baskets of Promise" Lenten Appeal.**

## **Donate items for Lutheran World Relief Kits to help people in need**

Each week in Lent, we'll collect items to form LWR Personal Care Kits that help impoverished people stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Please place your items in the basket in the narthex.

Check the bulletin each week for the collection schedule. Please see below what items we will be collecting on Wednesday's & Sunday's during Lent.

**February 14 & 18:** Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)

**February 21 & 25:** Bath Towels (light-weight, 20" x 40" to 52" x 27", dark color recommended)

**February 28 & March 3:** Metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

**March 6 & 10:** Combs (no pick or fine toothed combs)

**March 13 & 17:** Toothbrushes in original package or put in a white envelope

**March 20 & 24:** Bath Towels (see above)

**OUR GOAL IS TO ASSEMBLE 100 LWR PERSONAL CARE KITS DURING LENT. THANK YOU.**

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Hischer, 715-554-2212 or [secretarypaula@lakeland.ws](mailto:secretarypaula@lakeland.ws).

## **Time to order flowers for Easter!!!**

**If you wish to order flowers for Easter, your order must be at the church by February 19. We will be ordering Lilies from Endeavors in Milltown.**

**White Lily: \$15.95 each - 6" pot with 5 blooms**

**Oriental Lily: \$17.95/each**

**White Lily: # of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_**

**Oriental Lily (which is pink) #of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please make checks payable to Luck Lutheran Church.**

**(or) I will be bringing a plant of my own (with name on it) \_\_\_\_\_**

**In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_**

**In Honor of or to the Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_**

**From \_\_\_\_\_**

**(Please attach cost of each plant ordered - Thank you!)**

## MISSION BOX SCORE for December 2023

	<u>General Offering</u>
December 3	\$2,675.36
December 10	\$1,400.11
December 17	\$2,023.00
December 24 (9:30 worship)	\$4,264.00
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	\$2,585.50
December 31	\$892.00
 Vanco/EFT	 \$2,524.53
 TOTAL DECEMBER INCOME:	 \$16,364.50
 YEAR TO DATE INCOME:	 \$166,800.72
 NEEDED FOR BUDGET:	 \$185,500.00
 DECEMBER EXPENSES:	 \$13,228.38
 TOTAL EXPENSES TO DATE:	 \$175,431.93
 TOTAL DEBT REDUCTION SALES:	 \$500.00

<u>2023 Budget = \$185,438 = \$3,500/week needed</u>	-	-		
(weeks)	<u>Off. Needed</u>	<u>Month Off.</u>	<u>Monthly Differ.</u>	<u>Year Balance</u>
January (5)	\$17,500.00	\$13,217.55	\$4,282.45	\$4,282.45
February (4)	\$14,000.00	\$11,653.13	\$2,346.87	\$6,629.32
March (4)	\$14,000.00	\$10,727.10	\$3,272.90	\$9,902.22
April (5)	\$17,500.00	\$15,457.97	\$2,042.03	\$11,944.25
May (4)	\$14,000.00	\$13,419.05	\$580.95	\$12,525.20
June (4)	\$14,000.00	\$10,929.44	\$3,070.56	\$15,595.76
July (5)	\$17,500.00	\$15,099.93	\$2,400.07	\$18,191.19
August (4)	\$14,000.00	\$9,831.93	\$4,168.07	\$22,359.26
September (4)	\$14,000.00	\$14,182.72	+\$182.72	\$22,176.54
October (5)	\$17,500.00	\$14,340.47	\$3,159.53	\$25,336.07
November (4)	\$14,000.00	\$21,576.93	+\$7,576.93	\$17,759.14
December (5)	\$14,000.00	\$16,364.50	+\$2,364.50	\$15,394.64



## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR SUMMER CAMP!

WHAT A GREAT PRESENT  
FOR A CHILD IN YOUR FAMILY!

"Forming Faith Pointing to Christ"

**Calling all parents, aunties, uncles, and grandparents! Are you looking for a great gift for a child that can have a lasting effect for years to come?** How about gifting a week of Bible Camp at Luther Point in Grantsburg, WI?

All our youth completing grades 1 through 12 are encouraged to attend a session of camp this summer. *Choose a week that best fits your family schedule.* Outdoor camping ministry is a great way for your child to grow in their faith and learn more about how God is at work in their lives. For most kids, a week at Bible camp is a life-changing experience. Please visit the camp's website at [lutherpoint.org](http://lutherpoint.org) for more information.

Through the generosity of our congregation, camperships are available to help defray the cost of your child's camping experience. We firmly believe that any child who would like to go to camp will be able to attend, regardless of their family's financial situation.

**Paying for Camp: Early Bird, Member Church, and Sibling/Invite discounts are available when you register.** In addition, please use these codes below to apply your campership gift from our congregation:

**Full Week:** LLCFullWeek = \$200.00

**Half Week:** LLCHalfWeek = \$100.00

**Overnight:** LLCOvernight = \$50

If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Mary Ann at church, or call Luther Point directly at (715) 689-2347. Thank you!

Our Campership Fund could use a boost! If you would like to contribute to this fund, please designate your gift to the Luck Lutheran Campership Fund.

Thank you so much for your generosity!

On behalf of The Salvation Army and the families who will benefit from our services at our Family House Shelter Serving Polk and Barron County, we want to thank you for your \$250.00 donation. We want you to know your gift will make a real and tangible difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate in your community.

# Happy Birthday

**5 Devlyn Ellefson**  
**5 Lois Johansen**  
**7 Kyle Holdt**  
**8 Jean Giller**  
**11 Jeff Brenizer**  
**11 Judy McBrayer**  
**13 Dana Paulsen**  
**14 Tom Hutton**  
**15 Sutton Swenson**  
**17 Ashlyn Mortel**  
**17 Ron Thoreson**  
**18 Hilary Giller**  
**18 Matilda McCargo**  
**19 Jason Evenson**  
**19 Canton Langeness**  
**21 Kyle Johansen**  
**22 Lisa Nick**  
**26 Marty Swerkstrom**  
**28 Laurie Nelson**

Mission Action  
God's Work Our Hands

Luck Lutheran's quilting community continues to meet at 8:30 am, the first and third Wednesdays each month, braving very cold and windy mornings, to gather at the church. These are truly dedicated women who love what they do. We start with coffee and conversation before working. Friendships are nurtured and these conversations continue as they pick up needle and thread and head to the tables where the quilts lie ready for tying. I've learned that how you begin matters.

The quilts that have been produced over the years, yes years, symbolize their love for each other, their community and for people around the world they will never meet. It also shows their love for God who called them together to share the gifts of their hands and their hearts in fabric and faithfulness. Come and join these amazing women to share that love.

# Luck Lutheran Church

## Congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Contact Us:

510 Foster Avenue East, Luck, WI 54853

(715)472-2605; Fax (715)472-8300

secretarypaula@lakeland.ws,

LuckLutheranNewsletter@gmail.com

VISIT US: [www.lucklutheran.org](http://www.lucklutheran.org)

OUR STAFF/COUNCIL

Pastor Mary Ann Bowman, Interim Pastor.....	(715)554-0789
Donna Johnson, President.....	(715)554-0964
Jason Richter, Treasurer/Property.....	(715)491-6451/(715)431-0036
Sonja Jensen, Generosity/Outreach.....	(715)566-2660
Quinn Stone, Vice President/OFJ/Education/Youth.....	(760)573-3614
Marcy Plomski, Worship/Secretary.....	(715)554-3753
Lori Pardun, Generosity/Outreach.....	(651)395-1738
Heather Pouliot, Worship.....	(715)553-1591
Paula Hischer, Office Secretary.....	(715)472-2605
Brianna Stone, Communications.....	(715)566-1455
Lori Johnson, Custodian.....	(715)566-1987
Margie Nelson, Organist.....	(715)472-2828
Janet Holdt, Organist.....	(715)472-8491
Mark Nelson, Choir Director.....	(715)483-3152