

Luck Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2024

PONDERINGS OF THE PASTOR

ELW #302 "As With Gladness Men of Old" verses 1 & 4

*"As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.*

*Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide."*



Dear friends in Christ,

There are times when God shows up at unexpected times and in unexpected places. And, with God's help, adversities can turn into blessings. That's what happened for William Chatterton Dix, the writer of this hymn. He was sick in bed, and for a diversion, he read his daily devotional. The appointed scripture for the day was Matthew 2:1 – 12, the story of the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus. The result of his daily devotional reading on that day is this hymn: **"As with Gladness Men of Old."** He wrote it on January 6, 1859 – the Day of Epiphany - while he was sick in bed with much prayerful time for reflection. How ironic, that on the Day of Epiphany, he had a huge epiphany himself as he penned the beautiful words to this hymn.

"Epiphany" means "manifestation," or "ah-ha" moments, as I oftentimes say. This season is filled with images of light that break through the darkness. The biblical Epiphany points to the true Light – Jesus Christ – the one who is the way, the truth, and the life – the One in whom no darkness can ever overcome.

In this gospel story, it was the wise men from Chaldea – current day Iran – who weren't even Jewish – who found the baby Jesus by following a star at its rising for over 900 miles. After a tense encounter with the tyrannical King Herod, the wise men left Bethlehem by another route. They carried the message of the Messiah back to people in other regions or the world far beyond the walls of Jerusalem. God chose these unlikely foreigners to be the delivery agents of the good news of Jesus Christ to people who did not know anything about him.

This is what the church season of Epiphany is all about: Discovering glimpses of truth regarding what God is up to in our lives; comprehending the "ah-ha" moments that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the whole world. Jesus, this small boy-child of Mary, is the way, the truth, and the life for all people. And the wise men were God's chosen players in bringing this message of hope and promise far and wide beyond Jerusalem and the Jewish people. And in this divine journey, the wise men trusted they were being led in the right direction by a powerful force that was beyond what they could ever imagine or comprehend.

In this season of "ah-ha" moments, where is God leading you that may surprise you? Where are some places God shows up/has shown up in your life that you least expect?

Living in the light of Christ,

Pastor Mary Ann

Loaves & Fishes Monthly Report
Open Tues. & Thurs. 11 am-1:00pm
Lions Hall, 300 W. 3rd Ave. Luck, WI
P.O. Box 554 Luck, WI 54853

October 2023

# Households served	37	Luck 22
Adults:	62	Unity 15
Children:	9	
Total people:	71	

Donations: # 458 Money: \$448.32
(Includes purchased food)
Weight of food coming in: #2,479
Weight of food going out: # 1,926
Volunteer hours: 61 hours

Thank you to all who donated fresh produce!

Needs for next month: cooking oil (smaller and larger), 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

Loaves & Fishes Monthly Report
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Lions Hall, 300 W. 3rd Ave. Luck, WI
P.O. Box 554 Luck, WI 54853

November 2023

# Households served	35	Luck 22
Adults:	58	Unity 11
Children:	7	
Total people:	65	

Donations: # 2,225 Money: \$1,326.35
(Includes purchased food)
Weight of food coming in: # 2,374
Weight of food going out: # 2,192
Volunteer hours: 68 hours

Thank you to all who donated fresh produce!

Needs for next month: 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



Everett Bronx Rowe was baptized on Sunday, November 26. Everett's parents are Shantelle Clark and Austin Rowe. His Godparents are Leah Toman and Chase Rowe. Welcome to our newest little brother in Christ!



SYNOD-WIDE CREATION CARE ZOOM MEETING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH @ 11AM

Does your Church have a Green Team or is interested in starting one? Connect with other Synod Churches as they share what they have done and their ideas for the future. We are also excited to share information about our Synod Creation Care Team. Please join us!

**PLEASE SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK:
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/FY1SPP8XJS4KZTIL9](https://forms.gle/fy1spp8xjs4kztil9)**





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 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

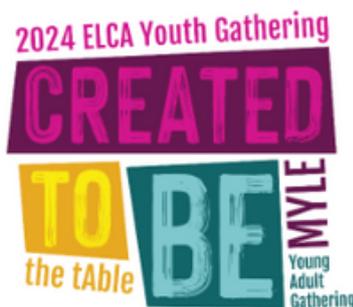
Half Week: LLCHalfWeek = \$100.00

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!



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!

MISSION BOX SCORE for November 2023

	<u>General Offering</u>
November 5	\$4,992.00
November 12	\$7,043.00
November 19	\$3,255.00
November 26	\$3,995.00
 Vanco/EFT	 \$2,291.93
 TOTAL NOVEMBER INCOME:	 \$21,576.93
YEAR TO DATE INCOME:	\$150,436.22
NEEDED FOR BUDGET:	\$168,000.00
NOVEMBER EXPENSES:	\$13,614.84
TOTAL EXPENSES TO DATE:	\$164,013.06
TOTAL DEBT REDUCTION SALES:	\$500.00

2023 Budget = \$185,438 = \$3,500/week needed	-	-		
(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			

HAPPY
Birthday

1 Lane Filip

3 Carol Giller

3 Eleanor Langeness

7 Austin Holdt

7 Jean Paulsen

7 Adelle Babcock

7 Britta Giller

7 Miles Stone

8 Andy Anderson

12 Zenia Moore

12 Mark Jensen

15 Gena Bugno

19 Sheila Brom

19 Nikki Carter

21 Judy Giller

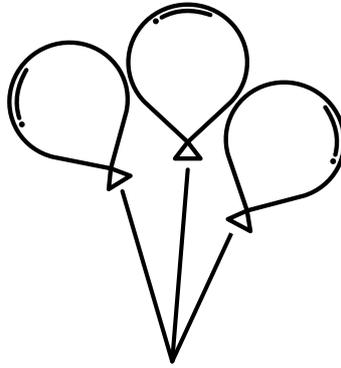
26 John Roeber

26 Mary Maiden Mueller

27 Rachelle Petersen

28 Debbie Broten

31 David Maiden Mueller



“Gather Bible Study” will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. All are welcome to join us!

LUCK LUTHERAN MEMBERS

To make the job of our offering counters easier we ask everyone to please use their offering envelopes. Again in 2024 you will be receiving your offering envelopes bi-monthly. Electronic givers will not be sent offering envelopes. If you do not get your envelopes in the mail or would like a set, please call the church office 715-472-2605 and we will get you a set. Thank you!

THANK YOU TO LUCK LUTHERAN SERVICE GROUPS

September-October: Sue Gilhoi
November-December: Kathy Deiss
January-February: Jessica Richter
March-April: Lori Vilstrup

Thank you to our Luck Lutheran Service Group leaders for their ministry. The Service Groups are vital to our congregational life and especially our worship life together. The Service Groups serve in the following capacities:

*Ushers *Lectors *Greeters *Cheer cards *Coffee Time
*Prepare Communion *Serve Communion *Funerals

If you are not presently involved in one of our Service Groups and would like to help in this way, please contact our Congregation Representative, Marcy Plomski at 715-554-3753 or email marcyplomski@hotmail.com.

LUCK LUTHERAN ANNUAL MEETING

Luck Lutheran's Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 28, 2024 immediately following the 9:30 worship service. The Luck Church Council—outgoing, present and newly elected members will meet immediately following the annual meeting to reorganize. Please note: All committees and teams should submit an article for the annual report. All articles and reports for Luck Lutheran's Annual Reports are due on January 7th . Please bring or mail to the church office. Thank you!

Pastor Mary Ann will be gone January 24th through February 9th . Pastor Maggie Isaacson will be available for pastoral care emergencies. Pastor Maggie Isaacson's phone number: 715-553-1350.



The OFJ youth went around to a few houses to sing Christmas Carols on the last Wednesday before winter break.

O.F.J.

Sign up to lead the youngest members of Luck Lutheran in their faith formation on a Wednesday evening. There is a Sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. We will be learning about Jesus's birth, the Wiseman and shepherds, Jesus blessing the children and love. Sign up for something you enjoy, cooking, games, science, crafts, or planning a fun night. Sign up with a friend and do it together. Talk to Juanita she will have all the information for you and everything you need.

GENEROSITY TREE

Are you looking for a great Christmas gift designated to a specific fund for Luck Lutheran, please see our Generosity Tree located in the narthex. We have Red envelopes that are for Luck Lutheran's Campership Fund; Pink envelopes for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund; Yellow envelopes for the Boiler Fund, Blue envelopes for MMW (Monthly Meals on Wheels) and White envelopes for 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Each envelope contains what this gift entails. If you would like to contribute to these funds, please take an envelope and put your gift in the envelope and put it in the offering plate. Thank you so much for your generosity.



Blood Drive
Luck Community
Located at
Luck Lutheran Church
Thursday, January 11, 2024
12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



Luck Lutheran Church

Council Meeting November 13, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

Present: Donna J., Sonja J., Heather P., Quinn S., Marcy P., Lori Pardun

Absent: Jason R.

Guest: Pastor Mary Ann

I. Meeting was called to order by President Donna J.

II. Devotions : Donna Johnson – “ Being thankful”

III. Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: October meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion made by Sonja J. and seconded by Quinn S. to approve the October minutes. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer’s Report : Treasurer’s report was reviewed . Motion made by Sonja J and seconded by Heather P. to approve the treasurer’s report. Motion carried.

V. Old Business

A. Call committee update: Quinn S. reported that there will be an initial interview via zoom on November 20th with a candidate for the pastoral opening at LLC. “Make the right call, not the easy call”. The discussion continued to address the housing issue for LLC since we don’t have a parsonage.

B. Fall Dinner update: The “ to go” fall dinner was a success. The profit of the event was \$2,805.00 and included the basket raffle.

C. January/February Service Group vacancy: This vacancy still needs to be filled.

D. Boiler system Update: Several more quotes were received and reviewed for the repair or replace of the boilers. The council voted to accept a quote from Comfort Systems to repair the system that is in place. The cost of approximately \$3,825.00 will replace the existing B&G circulating pump with a new Grundfos ECM circulating pump with “Auto Adapt” technology. This pump is very smart in regard to the systems needs. LLC’s systems appears to have multiple zones throughout the building that are controlled by electric zone valves. This pump will sense when one of those zone valves opens and only deliver the amount of flow required for that specific zone, or zones that are calling for heat. This pump also runs on very little electricity which will help save on electrical cost over time.

E. Nominating Committee Meeting, November 14th at 6:00 p.m.

F. Prayer Chain contact emails are on the church office computer

VI. New Business

A. Review 2024 Budget, approving wage adjustment recommendations from the Budget Committee: Motion was made by Sonja J. and seconded by Marcy P. to increase the wage secretary Paula H. as well as the custodian position to \$20.00/hr. The worship accompanists wage will receive a 3% increase. Motion carried.

B. Final roof invoice of \$108,977.70; Insurance checks: \$135,852.86; Balance in Roof Repair Fund: \$26,875.16.

VII. Committee Reports

A. OFJ/Education/Youth-Quinn: The OFJ is currently working on the Christmas program. We continue to have new families enrolling. There is a concern for the need of more volunteers and the need is critical.

B. Generosity/Outreach – Sonja/Lori P.: The Fall Harvest dinner went well.

C. Property – Donna reported on the boiler issues. A member of our congregation donated a valve that was the immediate concern. Comfort Systems will replace the circulating pump.

D. Worship/Music – Marcy/Heather: The Group Leader Service leader for January/February position is still open.

VIII. Pastor's Report

LUCK LUTHERAN PASTOR'S REPORT 10/9/2023 – 11/13/2023

Apple River Conference and Synod-wide events/news

• Both pastors attended the October 12 conference meeting. Bishop Laurie was there and spoke about the new procedure for electing the bishop in 2024. Lori Morris also spoke about her new taxi service.

• There will be a Bible study on the gospel of Mark presented by retired Luther Seminary professor Mark Fredrickson on Thursday, November 9 at Luther Park in Chetek. Pastor Mary Ann will attend.

• Retired Bishop Bob Berg died in October. His service was held in Chetek on Oct. 28

• Pastoral Acts None to report

• Visitation Pastor Maggie wrapped up pastoral visits in October. The new schedule will be to visit people every 6 weeks. There are currently 10 on the visitation list. Sheila Brom and Paula Hischer continue to cook and deliver monthly meals to older members.

Confirmation

• A field trip to St. Paul on October 26 was fantastic with 32 youth and adults attending. We went to the Feed My Starving Children headquarters in Eagen where we packed enough meals to serve 64 Guatemalan children one meal a day for one year! Lunch was at Cossetta's in St. Paul, and then we had a private tour of the Cathedral in St. Paul.

• Luck Lutheran confirmation students participated in Trunk or Treat festivities on October 25. They each took home a pumpkin to carve and deliver along with a card to an assigned elder of the congregation.

• The students learned about hunger globally and locally on November 1 and then visited Loaves and Fishes food pantry with food they had collected. The students and their families donated \$90 in cash and 109 pounds of food to our local pantry. Thank you!

Worship Notes

- We bid farewell to Pastor Maggie on October 29 with a reception following the service.
- November 5 was All Saint's Sunday where we recognized the saints who died between November 1, 2022 – October 31, 2023, including Nancy Berg, Bernice Hutton, Jerry Horky, Robert Helman, Robert Kreutzian, Sue Larson, Rick Tricker, and Laurie Swerkstrom.

Stewardship/Finance A letter to the congregation was sent by the pastors along with a quarterly congregational giving statement.

IX. Next Council Meeting: December 11, 6:00PM - Devotions: Sonja J.

X. Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Marcy P., seconded by Sonja J., motion carried.

XI. Lord's Prayer

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



ALTAR FLOWERS

If there is a particular Sunday you want to remember someone or in honor of someone, please sign up on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. The flowers will be \$18.00. Please make your check out to Luck Lutheran Church and we will get them ordered for you. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office at 715-472-2605.

Flowers can also be ordered by calling 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 and follow the prompts for one-time or recurring giving.
- Give electronically by scanning our congregations'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 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.



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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 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

<u>Flavor</u>	<u># of containers</u>
---------------	------------------------

Chicken Wild Rice	_____
-------------------	-------

Chili	_____
-------	-------

Bean and Ham	_____
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Hamburger Veg	_____
---------------	-------

Split Pea & Ham	_____
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White Chicken Chili	_____
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Pre order Pickup/Soup Purchase
(circle one)

Sunday Feb 18th
Wednesday Feb 21st



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

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

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