

# Wanamingo Lutheran Church

## March 2018 Newsletter

### January's Finances

Income	\$3,712.00
Monthly expenses	\$6,470.15
YTD TOTALS	
Year to date Income	\$13,261.00
Year to date Expenses Paid	<u>\$9,253.65</u>
Difference	\$ 4,007.35

### Pastor's Office Hours

Thursdays 1:00 – 3:00pm

At Trinity

Tuesdays 2:00 – 5:00pm

&

Wednesdays 9:00 – 11:00am

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Greetings,

It's still cold and snowy out as I write this article. Yet, I know that spring is on its way. I'm excited for spring to arrive! I'm sure you are too. We all need more sunlight and warmth. It's been a long winter. We've had many days where the temperature has been well below normal. It's high time we warmed up again and experience some relief from winter.

"Lent" is a Latin word that means "spring." During Lent we enter into the springtime of our church year. It is a time for us Christians to awake from our long, cold, spiritual slumbers and be revived by the warmth of Christ's love warming our hearts again. I know that speaking of "heart-warming

moments" is more of a Methodist tradition than it is a Lutheran one. But, that's what the season of Lent does for us. Lent is a gift of time. A time where we honestly assess our lives in the light of God's holiness. We can be honest before God, confess our sins, receive God's forgiveness and then continue on our spiritual journeys charged up again.

To do this, I encourage as many of you as possible to attend our mid-week Lenten suppers and services. Come to our Holy Week and Easter services. Shake off the cold and dreariness of winter. Be warmed by the love of Christ shining through our worship and time spent together in fellowship. Spring is coming brothers and sisters. Winter is fleeing. Come and let the light of Christ's love fill up your lives. Be refreshed. Be renewed. Let God's grace wash over you again. Join us as we enter into the springtime of our faith lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Christopher Culuris

# Wanamingo Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2018

Present: Pastor Chris Culuris, Jean Rugg, Matt Thoreson, Sue Flotterud, Gary Windhorst, Therine Gudknecht, Karissa Wood

Absent: Teresa Gullickson

Secretary's Report: Read by Karissa, Motion to approve by Therine, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary, passed 6-0

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Jean, Motion to approve by Matt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary, passed 6-0

Pastor's Report: Read by Pastor Chris

Memorial Fund: \$7,169.42

Building Fund: \$1,698.89

Mission Investment Fund: \$44,875.36

Old Business:

1. We are waiting for Jason to complete the work to take down the Chimney and repair the roof- this will be completed in the spring.
2. Shane Electric has fixed the phone in the lift; it is now in working order.

New Business:

1. 2018 Officers were chosen: President Therine Gudknecht, Vice President Matt Thoreson, Treasurer Jean Rugg and Secretary Karissa Wood.
2. Gary will speak with Curt Thoreson to see if he is still willing to be the church custodian, if not, a replacement will be needed.
3. The synod assembly is May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Mankato. Karissa will talk to the Hegseth family to see if two delegates will commit to go.
4. Lent offerings will be split between ELCA Disaster Response for hurricane relief and the youth attending the National Youth Gathering in Houston.
5. In the summer of 2019 Wanamingo Lutheran will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are looking for ideas of how we would like to celebrate.
6. Sue will check with WELCA to ensure there will be a breakfast served following the Easter service.
7. Communion Servers: Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Karissa, March 4<sup>th</sup> Gary, March 18<sup>th</sup> Matt.
8. We are looking for fundraising ideas to replenish the cemetery and building funds, as well as ideas for fellowship events.

Motion to Adjourn by Pastor Chris, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary, passed 6-0

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted by Karissa Wood



**World Day of Prayer**- everyone is invited to come to Holden Lutheran Church on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm and join the Kenyon-Wanamingo Churches for a time of prayer. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## SCHEDULE FOR LENT 2018

Feb 28<sup>th</sup>: 6pm Supper; 7pm Worship at Trinity.

March 7<sup>th</sup>: 6pm Supper; 7pm Worship at WLC.

March 14<sup>th</sup>: 6pm Supper; 7pm Worship at Trinity.

March 21<sup>st</sup>: 6pm Supper; 7pm Worship at WLC.



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

**Palm Sunday: March 25<sup>th</sup>** – Worship at 9:00am (WLC); 10:30am (Trinity)

**Maundy Thursday: March 29<sup>th</sup>** – Worship with Holy Communion- 7:00pm at Trinity.

**Good Friday: March 30<sup>th</sup>** – Worship- 7:00pm at WLC.

**Easter Sunday: April 1<sup>st</sup>** – 7:00am Worship followed by breakfast at WLC; 9-10am breakfast followed by Worship at 10:30am at Trinity.

## Easter Garden

**It will soon be time to place orders for plants for our Easter garden. Please watch the bulletins and back table for order forms. Or you may contact**

**Sherree VanDeWalker at**

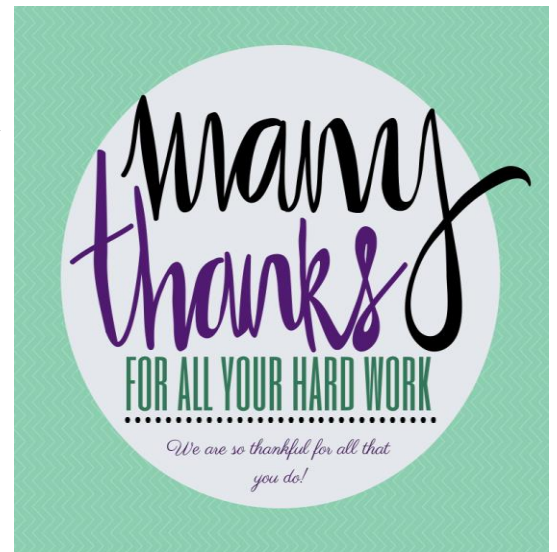
**[sherreevandewalker@gmail.com](mailto:sherreevandewalker@gmail.com) Or**

**Linda Thoreson at**

**[lthoreson@kw.k12.mn.us](mailto:lthoreson@kw.k12.mn.us)**

*We all would like to send a huge Thank You to Curt and Sharon Thoreson for their many years of hard work and dedication, serving Wanamingo Lutheran Church as our custodian! We appreciate everything you both have done through the years to keep things clean and rolling!*

WLC



**WE NEED TO FIND SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER THE CUSTODIAN JOB AT CHURCH NOW. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR, YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS, PLEASE TALK TO THERINE GUDKNECHT OR ONE OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND LET THEM KNOW.**

# WELCA

**will meet on Thursday  
March 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00pm at  
Heritage Hill. All women  
of the church are  
welcome to attend!**



**WILL MEET ON  
THURSDAY MARCH 8TH  
AT 6:30PM**

# Sunday School

will be held at 10:00am  
Sunday mornings in March.

Please come at 9:00am on  
Palm Sunday so we can  
process with palms during  
worship.

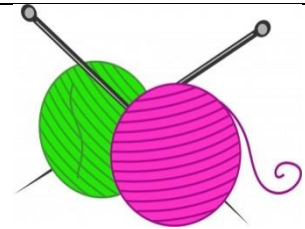
## Confirmation Class

Confirmation students are  
expected to help with the  
suppers and attend Lenten  
Services throughout the  
Lenten season in place of  
their regular classes.

## Ushers

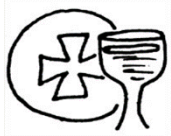
We are still in need of ushers  
for many of the months. If  
you could help, please sign  
up on the sheet hanging on  
the bulletin board.

Women are welcome to  
usher as well as men.



**The next Prayer Shawl  
Meeting will be Tuesday  
March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.**

**We will gather at  
Irene Ree's home.**



## First Holy Communion Classes

Classes will be held for all  
students in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and above  
who have not yet received their  
First Holy Communion on  
Sunday nights, at 7:00pm, in  
Trinity's basement- March 11,  
18 and 25. NOTE: a parent must  
accompany their child to these  
classes. Questions- please  
contact Pastor Chris at Trinity:  
824-2155; or at WLC: 824-2457.



*Please pray for  
Ashley Jackson  
and Reed Bartsch  
as they will be  
married at Noon on  
March 24<sup>th</sup>.*

Sunday School students  
will be collecting personal  
care kits for lent.

Items needed are:  
toothbrushes,  
sturdy comb,  
bar soap in original  
wrapping,  
metal nail clippers,  
dark lightweight towel  
(20x40 or 52x27).

Please bring items to the  
church office by Palm  
Sunday.

# BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



**Trinity and Wanamingo members: You are invited to join the members of Holden and Dale in a monthly book group. Here are our books to read for the upcoming year! All church members in High School or older are invited to join us! We will be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at Holden at 7pm.**

**March 15: *Between Heaven and the Real World* by Stephen Curtis Chapman**

**April 19: *Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**



## **Congregation Challenge from the Sunday school.**

Last year the Sunday School was challenged by a congregation member to be part of "God's Global Barnyard". We sent enough money for honey bees, chicks, goat and a pig. This helps people in need to be self-sufficient and provide jobs all around the world. This year the SS mission is to challenge the congregation to give any amount of \$\$ to go towards an animal of your choice. We have placed 4 envelopes with pictures of the animals on each and you can place your donation in whatever animal you desire by March 18<sup>th</sup>. Checks can be made out to Wanamingo Lutheran Sunday School. If you choose, you can make a check out to ELCA. Thank you for any participation.



## **"Christian's Hooked with Love"**

prayer shawl ministries have been getting together for 10 ½ years and have just recently given out their **200<sup>th</sup>** prayer shawl. In addition to this we have made numerous hand cozies, toe cozies, burial buntings and chemo caps to the Mayo hospitals and many mini shawls to be included in human trafficking kits.

A big thank you all who have shared their time and talents to this ministry. We always welcome new members and will teach knitting or crocheting if needed. We meet at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of each month except in the summer. Thank you again! Irene Ree

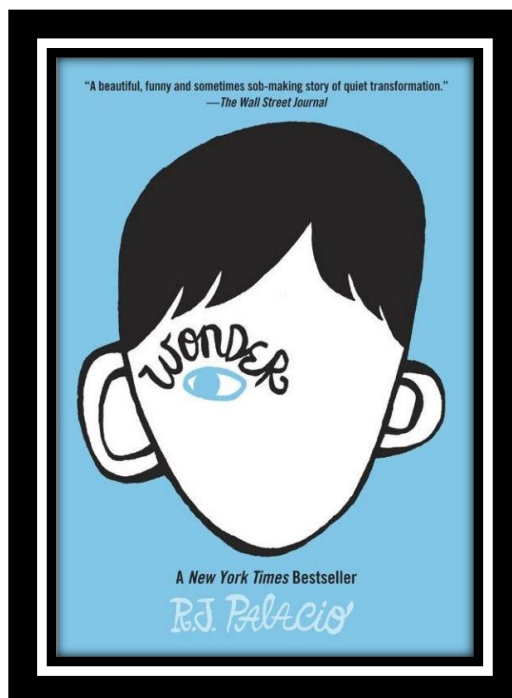


**You're Invited to Movie Night  
at Trinity Lutheran in Wanamingo**

**Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**7 o'clock in the evening**

**Popcorn and Treats will be served. Families and people of all ages are welcome. Showing the 2017 hit movie Wonder based on the New York Times best seller.**



**Kids are invited to bring blankets and pillows!**

**Please RSVP to Pastor Heather Culuris 824-2410  
or [heatherculuris@yahoo.com](mailto:heatherculuris@yahoo.com)**



# THE BRIDGE

*A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod*



## **An Interview with Jodie Archer, Secretary of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod**

Jodie Archer, a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Spring Valley, has served two terms as the secretary of the synod. Her tenure will be completed this spring, and a new secretary of the synod will be elected at the Synod Assembly in May. Archer recently took time to reflect on the ministry and leadership lessons she's learned over these years.

### **How did you first feel the Spirit nudging you to be open to this possibility of serving as synod secretary?**

The first time I felt the Spirit nudging me was when the then current Vice President, Shirley Gangstad, was sitting on my couch and sharing with me information on a sheet of paper she had with her that had the "specifics" of what the synod secretary's responsibilities were. When I asked her why she was sharing this with me, she smiled and said, "We have been watching you and we think you would be a good fit for this." I thought about it, I pondered it, I prayed about it. I couldn't come up with a reason to say no.

### **What have you learned about the wider church through this position?**

The wider church isn't scary or something to be feared. That group of people wants the same things that we in a congregation want. We are not a top-down organization. We are side-by-side working together to spread the word and do the work of Jesus Christ. We each have our part in this journey and benefit from the other.

### **What have you learned about yourself through serving as secretary?**

If you know me, you will appreciate this – I have learned that I can go for several hours without speaking a word. I have learned about my style of leadership and how my gifts can serve a group. Everyone is not the same and that is very intentional. It's a God thing and it is most definitely a GOOD thing. We all bring something to the table,

something of value and of purpose. If we are not at the table, we will never fully know the potential or possibility of what could be.

### **What might surprise someone about council?**

We have had meaningful and difficult conversations in a respectful manner. It still surprises me that all of the people around the table are normal, regular people. We all share the same faith and we all believe that God is truly at work. We ask questions and we listen. The council is an eclectic or diverse group of people that changes every two years and yet at a specific moment, the gifts that are needed are around that table. We are not a rubber stamp council. We question things, we research things, we disagree; we pray for guidance and direction.

### **What is a positive memory you'll take with you from this experience?**

The most positive memory that I will take with me is of the people I have been privileged to meet. I have new friends in the congregations I have visited. I have met people from other countries and other walks of life and I was honored to listen to their story. I am humbled by whom I have met and how blessed I continue to be because of this opportunity.

### **What is your advice to someone considering serving in this way?**

Go for it! What have you got to lose? You won't regret it and you will be amazed at what you learn. Being able to see things outside the four walls of your congregation brings new insight. There is not a specific requirement for serving – there is not a mold that you are expected to fit in to. If I can do it, anyone can do it. You will be blessed beyond measure. Your experience will be more than you could ever imagine it to be. You'll never know what you will know if you say no.

