

First Lutheran Church; Grand Rapids, MN
A member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

January

FIRST FRUITS





*Serving Christ by proclaiming Christ
crucified in the
Minnesota North District of the LCMS
Notes from the Pastor's Desk*

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ... 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? (Matthew 3:1-2; 7)

So, how'd it go with all those Christmas Cards? Did you have them all addressed with the personalized well-wishing messages tucked away in them. Deciding what to say can be quite a challenge. Of course, you want to avoid anything that might offend. With that in mind you might have even offered a message of "Happy Holidays" instead of the intrusiveness of the "Merry Christmas" greeting. We avoid ruffling any feathers and intentionally causing conflict. With that in mind why don't we spend some more time focusing on a confrontational, argumentative, and downright offensive message from John the Baptist? Now as we are getting ready to sing "Joy to The World" and the lyrics "Peace on earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King," let's reflect on a message that we most certainly wouldn't write in a greeting card.

"Repent for the Kingdom of God has come near... You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" The first statement being for all of God's people and the second for the religious leaders. What is John the Baptist thinking! Why doesn't someone stop him? Everything about what he is doing from this portion of text is abrupt. His words, his outfit, and his diet. What's stranger is that everything he is doing is working! The people come from all over the countryside to hear his words of repentance. His preaching is working because he is speaking truth. After all the well-wishing, with the religious leaders injecting the people with a spiritual neurotoxin to go on with life as business as usual, the people are struck to the core. They know the truth. They know that they are not right. They are not okay with the guilt and shame they feel. They are not okay with the decisions they have made and the way they have lived their life, and they are desperately in need of being made right. As surprising as John's words are, they are so desperately needed. They are needed then, and they are needed now as we attempt to fool ourselves into going forward in this life as business as usual. This time of the year we try to fool ourselves that the only thing that needs to change in us is the addition of a little more charity, a little more outdoor lighting, and of course, some more singing. When what is needed is a much deeper application of truth. The truth that God's Kingdom has come, that Jesus our Lord accepts

us the way we are but does not approve of what we have done with this life He has given us. We must repent, least we become a brood of vipers in this world placating our sinful selves. It would be easier to pretend that we need not forgive, deal with abuses we experience, address the disfunction, pain, and wrongs we have done. But we know the truth. The words of John are for us, “Repent for the Kingdom of God has drawn near.”

What a statement. A statement of warning and promise. Promise seen in the fact that the Kingdom HAS come, not that the Kingdom is merely coming, or might show up. The Kingdom HAS arrived, i.e., conceived by a virgin, born in a manger, raised in Nazareth and about to be experienced in a very tangible way. Jesus brought the Kingdom of Heaven to the lives of sinners, lepers, the blind, deaf and lame. He proclaimed good news to those who were lost, and even raised the dead. But His Kingdom ultimately came as He bled and died on the cross for us all and empty the tomb of all its terror as He rose from the dead Himself. This is not merely a historical event for the ages, but a very personal experience for each of us. Christmas is about remembering that as we wrestle with the truth, all the things we regret or struggle with, He was born into our lives to forgive us and encourage us. Not to leave us in our sin, to go about our life as business as usual. But to disrupt our lives with good news. The Kingdom of God HAS arrived for you!

Often, when we are pouring ourselves into writing Christmas cards we like to talk about love, peace, joy and hope. The irony is, that if we do not start with the stark abrasive comments of John the Baptist, we really don't know what we are talking about. Only after experiencing the Kingdom coming to us, in our brokenness and restoring us to himself, do we experience love. Love only God can show by sending His son to die for us. Only after we hear John's cry and examine how their truth still stings in our soul can we know peace. Peace not as the world brings but only as the Son can supply as He reconciles us to the Father through His blood. It is in the words heralding from the Jordan that we know joy and hope, that our Lord has claimed us as His own and given us a place in His kingdom despite all our wrongs. In response to all of this, we conclude that this season is not about simply adding a little more charity, outdoor lighting, or singing. It is about what feeds those actions. That our Lord sees us in our sin, moves to us and doesn't leave us there. Instead, He moves us in this life to live no longer hiding our flaws with a perfectly photoshopped family picture. Demonstrating to the world the depth of the love of God that He comes to all of us, even me. As we continue in through the Christmastide this year, I recommend remembering these words of John the Baptist. Have them remind you why we sing “Joy to The World” and the lyrics “Peace on earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King” this time of the year.

On a more personal note, thank you so very much for all your generosity shown to our family this year through your gifts and cards. Our family is so blessed to be a part of this family here at First Lutheran. Please know how we thank God for you all so very often.

Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy
Pastor, First Lutheran Church
735 NE 1St Ave; Grand Rapids, MN 55744
flcgr.org / 1-218-999-4101



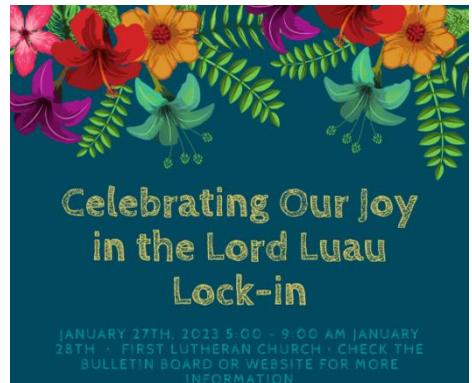
Youth News

I hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year's! The board of youth and education are planning lots for 2023! I am so excited to be able to partner with them to help provide these opportunities for you and your family to keep Christ the center of your life.

In January a Bible Study will be offered just for parents called Christ-Centered Parenting Gospel Conversations on Complex Cultural Issues. We will start on January 22nd after the second service. Lunch will be served and there will be things for the children to do. If interested in this, please sign up in the three-ring binder by January 8th. The book has resources for children of all ages.

Lock-in on January 27th!! The kids have been asking and we are providing! Celebrating Our Joy in the Lord Luau. The lock-in will start at 5:00 and end on Saturday morning at 8:00AM. Permission slips are found on the bulletin board located by the fireplace or on the website at www.flcgr.org/youth. Yes, friends are invited! As long as your child can stay overnight without incident, they are welcome to attend.

Volunteers are always needed for this evening, and you don't have to stay the entire night. Sign up in the three-ring binder if you would like to help out at this event.



Coming in June: A bus trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in Kentucky! We are in the planning stages right now, but it will be at the beginning of June. The Ark Encounter features a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high. This is a family-friendly trip and youth ages 13 and up will be able to attend without parents.

Watch for more information as it becomes available. Anyone will be able to go so start praying, saving and planning for this trip!

Starting January 15th after the second service, I will be holding a Bible Study for parents to navigate through difficult topics. Topics such as Gospel Framework, Human Dignity, Identity, Sexuality, Relationships, and Technology. This is for any parent of any age. In the guidebook there are age-appropriate questions and answers for each topic. This Bible Study will either be every other week or once a month depending on what works for you. There is a book that we will navigate through, so please sign up either in the three-ring binder or online at www.flcgr.org/youth.

Jessica Pellinen

Family Ministry Program Director

218-999-4102

jessica@flcgr.org

Youth Announcements

Sunday Morning Music Ministry: K-12th Graders will meet for music ministry every Sunday from 9:30-10:15 with Heather Angell and her music team.

The Shepherd on the Search: When the angels visited the shepherds to tell them the good news, Jeff the shepherd set off on an epic journey to find the newborn baby by himself. Jeff will be found throughout the church, each day in a new spot. With your children, help find Jeff and see what adventure he has been up to but please leave him so the others can find him too. You can also read the story located on the children's table in the library.

The children attending **F.L.Y. Club** have been having a blast so far! It takes several adults to make F.L.Y. Club a success and we are so blessed for those that have been helping every week. On the last Wednesday of the month we do a big project and can always use more adults from

4-5:30. Children can register anytime for F.L.Y. Club, for more information or to register go to www.flcgr.org/youth

Adults and Youth Partnering in Christ: Are you wanting to make a difference in a young person's life just by being a supportive and caring adult? We have a unique opportunity for you to be able to do just that. Did you know that it takes at least five supporting adults in a young person's life so they can develop as a disciple of Jesus Christ for life? Having five adults that they can rely on and help them grow as a young person, molds and shapes them into having a resilient identity in Christ. You can find more information on this study in the LCMS Young Adult Research found at www.esource.com.

We are looking for adults that would like to partner with a young person in our afterschool F.L.Y. Club Ministry. Your commitment to the young person would be the last Wednesday of every month from 4:00-5:30 by attending F.L.Y. Club to meet and help direct and guide the young person in the daily activities. If you are interested in being a champion for the youth, talk to Loretta Persig or Jessica Pellinen.

New Year's & Epiphany Services

New Year's Eve Service (December 31st @ 6:30pm With Communion)

1st Sunday of Christmas January 1st. "What's In a Name?"

Epiphany Family Ice Cream Social Service (January 6th, 2023 @ 6:30)

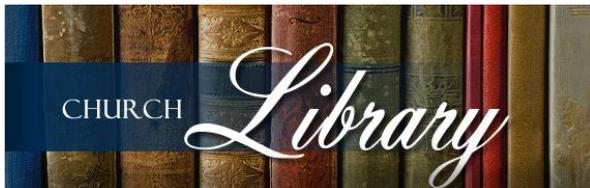
This service focuses on how the news of Jesus' birth was good news for the whole world. Singing some of our favorite hymns, we will gather in the fellowship hall to celebrate the arrival of the Magi to Bethlehem.



Ruby's Pantry last distribution was on December 19th. Many volunteers showed up to help distribute the food to our community. Thank you volunteers for your time and patience!

The next Ruby's Pantry will be January 16th.

To participate and purchase a share, the cost is \$25 per share, and you will line up on 2nd Avenue NE and enter the Grand Rapids Armory from the parking lot. No checks or credit cards will be accepted, only cash. Unsold shares have been distributed within the community to Grace House, Hope House, National Guard, and households that cannot afford the \$25 fee. First Lutheran keeps 10% of the receipts and Ruby's Pantry collects 90% to cover their overhead (driver wages, gas and truck maintenance, storage, etc.). We depend on volunteers to make this program a success. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer either monthly or periodically, please contact Judy Peterson or Ricci Peterman.



**LIBRARY CORNER FOR
January 2023
LIBRARY CORNER FOR
JANUARY 2023**

Happy New Year's greetings to our gentle First readers!

Once again, we've been blessed with new books. When they are processed, they'll be placed on the end book shelf labeled 2023 books. More will be written about them in future newsletters. A first installment about the donated *The People's Bible* series is included at the end of this Library Corner article. In the meantime, please note that we have books 1-3 of Tracie Peterson's series Brides of Gallatin County. Feel free to check out all three if they're on the shelf and return them together – it's nice to read them in order...*Your faithful library volunteers – Janie, Darlene and Shela.*

Kindness is like snow – it beautifies everything it covers. – Kahlil Gibran

PROMISE TO BELIEVE IN, A by Tracie Peterson, 813.54 Pet, Book 1 of Brides of Gallatin County. Taken from the back cover: “After years spent following their father in his wanderlust, the three Gallatin sisters begin to fashion a life for themselves in the Montana wilds, operating a roadhouse at the crossroads of two stage lines. When their father is accidentally killed, however, the oldest sister, Gwen, reasons that she's cursed. Death seems to haunt her every step. As the sisters work to maintain the roadhouse, an unexpected visitor arrives, sending Gwen into turmoil. Is he who he claims to be? And can she hope that love might again be hers?”

LOVE TO LAST FOREVER, A by Tracie Peterson, 813.54, Book 2 of Brides of Gallatin County. Taken from the back cover: “Beth Gallatin has always wanted to settle down in one town, with one man, and raise a family. But with her father's roaming ways, she found solace in reading romances instead. The passing of her father, however, means that Beth and her sisters can, for the first time, dare to claim the rugged Montana frontier as their home. Nick Lassiter has loved Beth since she first came to town, but she's always seemed to think of him more as a brother. Just when he finally gets Beth to consider him, an unexpected arrival from Nick's complicated past threatens the affection growing between them.”

DREAM TO CALL MY OWN, A by Tracie Peterson, 813.54, Book 3 of Brides of Gallatin County. Taken from the back cover: “Lacy Gallatin, the youngest of the Gallatin

sisters, is a woman on with a mission: to find her father’s killer. Haunted by the belief that she’s failed her pa, Lacy also battles a desire to have something more than just revenge, something she can’t quite figure out. Enter Dave Shepard, deputy sheriff for Gallatin Crossing, Montana. Dave is close to figuring out who killed George Gallatin, but he always feels inadequate when it comes to the beautiful Lacy.”

THE PEOPLE’S BIBLE series is a series of Bible commentaries for everyone to be able to read and understand. They will be shelved in the Conference Room next to the library. The authors of the series have served as parish pastors, college teachers, or seminary professors, many in more than one role. Each author began with the original Hebrew or Greek text and then worked to bring the message of God’s Word to Christians who face the stress and temptations of everyday life. Two important truths guide all the commentaries: First, the Bible is God’s inspired Word and is therefore true and reliable. Second, the central message of the entire Bible is Jesus Christ.

GENESIS: The first of the five books of Moses, it unfolds God’s work through the biographies of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and others. Starting with the words “In the beginning...,” it presents the beginnings, or origins, of the universe, the human race, sin, death, and God’s gracious work of bringing fallen humanity back to Himself.” – *(Taken from the back of the Genesis book.) –I liked the way these books are written. For instance, “The Hebrew verb (The Lord God FORMED... ” describes the activity of a potter. Its use here emphasizes the personal interest and care that the Creator demonstrated in fashioning this highest of His creatures.” Each book is lightweight and 400 pages or less, and the print is very readable. Please give them a try!*
– Darlene Baltus

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Newsletter Article – October 2022

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year’s is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it’s over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year’s celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us

of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of

your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

Missionary – Hayden Rensner, Serving the Lord in the Czech Republic

Hayden serves the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the Czech Republic. In this role, Hayden tutors students from the Luther Academy in Riga, Latvia, in English and works with the Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession and their mission organization, EC M.I.S.E. (which translated into English means Evangelization Center Mobilization, Integration, Fellowship, Evangelizing), to provide outreach opportunities in English in the Czech Republic. During the summer months, she also helps coordinate summer volunteer opportunities throughout the Eurasia region. To follow her and her missionary work check on her website - http://www.lcms.org_rensner

A NOTE TO FAITHFUL STEWARDS: (from Pastor Bill Zeige)

Can you think of any more meaningful words than to ultimately hear Jesus say to you: “Well done, good and faithful servant.”? The Bible uses servant and steward in much the same way. Both are accountable to a master. Our faithful management of the gifts, talents, and abilities is what brings us into the “joy” of God – our Master.

Every last one of us who call on the name of Jesus is a steward of God's grace. It is standard procedure – not optional choice. Serving Jesus is a high privilege, not an obligation or burden, and certainly not a choice we afford ourselves. Ideally at First Lutheran every woman is a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) and every man is a member of the men's group. Go to any meeting and you will soon see that most men and women choose not to participate. Should be treat our stewardship the same way?

Let each of us recognize and appreciate our gracious gifts from God and gladly and freely use them to glorify our Lord. It's what a good and faithful servant/steward would do.



Grief Support

NEW IN 2023

FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY

@ 5:30PM

First Lutheran Church

735 NE 1st Ave
GRAND RAPIDS MN
218.999.4101
WWW.FLCGR.ORG



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod



The First Lutheran Recipe Box

Give thanks for the food God has provided!

CROCK-POT POTATO SOUP

Lynne Rahm

**2 lbs. frozen hash browns
(cubed)**
2 (14 ½-oz.) cans chicken broth
**1 (10 ½-oz.) can cream of
chicken soup**
½ c. chopped onion

⅓ tsp. ground black pepper
**1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese,
softened**
**Garnish with Cheddar cheese
and crisp bacon**

Combine hash browns, chicken broth, cream of chicken soup, onion and pepper in crockpot. Cook on low for 5 to 6 hours. Stir in cream cheese and cook 30 minutes more, stirring occasionally.

Men's Club January Event Schedule

Sunday, January 8th – Cinnamon Roll Sunday

Monday, January 9thth – Regular Meeting at 6:30pm





new beginnings

pregnancy + family support

New Beginnings December 2022 Newsletter

Wow, there is an abundance of beauty everywhere as we come to the end of 2022. We are so very thankful for all your support and for what we have been able to offer through your generous giving this year! We were excited about the generous response to our request for diapers. Several churches and individuals brought them in at the end of 2022. We can't say thank you enough! It was such a blessing to be able to hand out the much-needed diapers again! Thank you!!!

In November, New Beginnings was able to come alongside **48** different individuals and their families, **15** of which were new. We were able to provide **408** services, some of which included **295** Earn While You Learn lessons through Bright Course, **2** ultrasounds and **30** boutique visits. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program we added went very well this year and we were happy to help several mothers with an infant keep their present location.

RSVP for our Puzzle Palooza jigsaw puzzle competition that will be held on January 26th at Grace Bible Chapel at 5:30 for teams of 4. Call 218-326-0404 or email:

events@newbeginningspregnancy.com.

Pictured is a team called "The Puzzled Moosers" that came in matching team-supportive buffalo print shirts in 2022. This coming January we will

be giving out a prize for the best dressed team. 😊

We plan to have a team at the Northwoods Pond Hockey Competition on **Saturday, February 11**. Come watch the fun if you can!

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." **Isaiah 9:6 KJV**

With wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at
New Beginnings!!!

Amanda Jo Grovenburg and Trudy Hasbargen Grand Rapids - 218-326-0404 - Deer River - 218-246-2010

www.newbeginningspregnancy.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus”

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – UNAPPROVED

December 13, 2022

Present: Tom Lattimore, Dick Buech, Mary Buech, Greg Taylor, Pam Clairmont, Les Flem, Jennifer Flem, Jessica Pellinen, Doug Carlson, Pastor Lovejoy, Linda Urevig

Call to order: Tom L. called the meeting to order at 5:30PM

Opening devotion and prayer: Pastor opened with prayer and devotion from 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes

*****Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Consent Agenda with additions to New Business (3. Audio/Video Needs; 4. ALICE & First Aid Training; 5. Strategic Planning; 6. Contribution in the amount of \$50,000; 7. Thanksgiving Offering; 8. Christmas Program Offering on 12/21)**

Oral Reports of Boards and Committees

1. Boards of Christian Education & Youth: Report in Packet/Pam C.
2. Board of Elders: Les F. stated that the meeting was held and included Pastor’s Performance Review
3. Boards of Human Care & Missions: No Meeting/Mary B.
4. Board of Stewardship: Report in Packet/Doug C. stated that the 2023 offering envelopes had been put in mail boxes with directions on how to use them.
5. Board of Trustees: Greg T. stated that the room where the wall had been removed is done and they are looking at putting a rangehood over the two gas stoves in the kitchen.
6. AV Ministry Committee: Report in Packet/Tom L. stressed the importance of communicating AV needs for special services to the AV team.
7. Revolving Trust Fund Committee: No Meeting/Greg T. stated they will meet in January
8. Wiebe Grant Committee: No Requests
9. Direction and Planning Committee: No Meeting/Greg T. stated they will meet in January

Family Ministry Program Director’s Report: Report in Packet/ Jessica P. stated that she is working on a bus trip that would be open to the congregation.

Pastor’s Report: Report in Packet

Financial Secretary's Report:

YTD income 2022: \$368,551.31 YTD income 2021: \$276,596.71

Treasurer's Report: Report in Packet/Jennifer F.

As of: November 30, 2022

General Fund Chkg: \$60,533.49

Building Fund Chkg: \$168,163.21

Mortgage loan balance: \$183,290.38

Revolving trust fund Chkg: \$65,975.83

*****Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the oral and written Board and Committee Reports.**

Correspondence - None

Unfinished Business

1. Picture Directory Update – Pam C. stated that the directory has been proofed, corrections made and sent back. Should receive the finished directories in February.
2. Ruby's Pantry Update – Will still order 372 shares. Leftover food was distributed to Grace House, etc.
3. Daycare Update – Pastor Lovejoy stated that they have met with the Fire Marshall and he will be looking at what ages and how many children would be appropriate for our space.
4. Education Wing Remodel Update – Greg T. stated that they are looking at egress windows for the Day Care area and the room that the school district is using. They would be installed in February.
5. Board Directional Goals – Completed
6. Home School Group – The group has dissolved and will not be needing to use our facility.
7. Congregation Consulting Services Update – Jennifer F. stated that we will receive \$50,946.69 from Employee Retention Credit because no one was laid off during Covid. The cost was \$3,500.00.

*****Motion was made, seconded and approved to pay the Congregation Consulting Services in the amount of \$3,500.00 from the General Fund.**

New Business

1. Fellowship Hall Doors – Greg T. stated that the Trustees discussed replacing the six old brown doors in the Fellowship Hall with new six-panel pine doors at a cost of \$2,500.00.

*****Motion was made, seconded and approved to recommend that the Trustees go ahead with the purchase of the six doors in the amount of \$2,500.00 to be paid out of the loan proceeds.**

2. Date for January Annual Voters' Meeting – The for the meeting was set for January 29, 2023 and a possible Thrivent card for food was discussed.
3. Audio/Video Needs – Tom L. stated that there a number of updates needed in our current system including:
 - A. Fellowship Hall – Wireless option to correct projector feed issues which would include wireless transmitter, HDMI Splitter, Decimeter SDI/HDMI converter, and new DVD/Blue Ray player; Camera with permanent wiring, determine location, cost to run wires, small sound board to allow for properly inputting sound to the camera and permanent roof microphones.
 - B. Praise Team needs microphones (5-Standard Dynamic & 2-Wide range Condenser), 5 Microphone stands, 5 Music stands and Cables.
 - C. Sanctuary Sound Booth – Headphone controller for Power Point Operator, Permanent DVD/Blue Ray player, 4 Headphones and 1 Wireless Presenter Remote Clicker.

D. Nursery TV – Possibly move it to the lower Narthex

*****Motion was made, seconded and approved to do the upgrade in the amount of \$8,000.00 with money from various designated and undesignated funds.**

4. ALICE & First Aid Training – The date was set for January 28, 2023 at 9AM. It is primarily for Elders and Ushers but will be open to all congregation members.
5. Strategic Planning – Date was set for Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 8:30 to Noon.
6. Contribution in the amount of \$50,000.00 – It was decided to leave it in the General Fund for now.
7. Thanksgiving Offering – There were issues with the disbursement. It should be an in & out transaction for disbursement. The amount given to Second Harvest Was \$1,034.00.
8. Christmas Program Offering on 12/21

*****Motion was made, seconded and approved to give the offering to Foster Love Closet Itasca County (located at 204 NW 1st Ave, Suite 2 in Grand Rapids. They have baby and children's clothing and miscellaneous items for any member of the community and foster families free of charge)**

Caring and Sharing

The meeting was adjourned

Pastor closed with prayer

Respectfully submitted, Linda Urevig, Recording Secretary

COMING EVENTS

January 3rd – Board Meetings 6:30PM or as decided by each board

January 10th – Council Meeting 5:30 PM