



#### HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY...

#### WHO WILL HAVE CONTROL OF YOUR HEART?

Join Pastor Baumgarn for Adult Bible Study as he leads the discussion on "Life at its Best—Living Wisely in an Unwise World" by Ronald and Phyllis Chewing.

Through this study you will learn that happiness, purpose and hope are not found in the empty promises of the world, but rather through Jesus Christ who has given you the ability to live life at its best .

## JANUARY WORSHIP and CLASS SCHEDULE

#### SATURDAY EVENING—6:00 pm

*The Saturday, January 28 service will not be held due to the "5th Sunday Worship" service on January 29 with only ONE service at 9:00 am.*

#### SUNDAY MORNING—8:00 and 10:30 am

#### HOLY COMMUNION—January 1 and 15

#### "5th SUNDAY WORSHIP"—January 29, 9:00 am

*More information about the "5th Sunday Worship" can be found on the next page under Fellowship Ministry.*

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## JANUARY BIBLE STUDIES and CLASSES

#### EDUCATION HOUR FOR ALL AGES

Sunday—9:15 am

Sunday, January 29—10:15 am due to "5th Sunday Worship" at 9:00 am

#### LADIES MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

January 9 at 6:30 pm. We'll discuss chapter ten from "Rediscovering Jonah" by Timothy Keller. Questions? Please contact Mindy Braun at 608-792-9238.

#### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday—9:30 am

#### CONFIRMATION

Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:30 pm

#### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH and BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday—7:30 pm

#### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursday—9:30 am

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## ONGOING MINISTRY MEETING SCHEDULE

**DEAF MINISTRY**—Interpreter for Sunday worship on the first and third Sunday of the month when communion is served. (*Verify schedule with Deaf Ministry.*)

**EDUCATION**— Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 pm

**LWML**—Monday, January 16 at 1:00 pm

**COUNCIL** — Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 pm

**FELLOWSHIP**— Thursday, January 19 at 3:30 pm

**ELDERS** — Tuesday, January 24 at 6:00 pm

*Schedules subject to change. Check the church bulletin, Facebook, Website or Weekly Update for updates.*



## IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE?

### **WE SERVE GOD BY SERVING OTHERS**

Our church ministries welcome fresh, new ideas and enthusiasm. So if you feel nudged to serve God, your church family and community, consider joining one of our church ministries, we'd love to have you on board!

### **OTHER CHURCH MINISTRIES**

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

PREPARING THE ALTAR FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Contact: Kay Wolfe at [wolfie101@charter.net](mailto:wolfie101@charter.net)

#### **ELDERS**

ADDRESSING THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Contact: Terry Ours at [terryours@gmail.com](mailto:terryours@gmail.com)

#### **EVANGELISM**

BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO ALL PEOPLE

Contact: Kevin Keeffe at [Keeffe.kevin@yahoo.com](mailto:Keeffe.kevin@yahoo.com)

#### **USHERS**

WELCOMING AND ASSISTING THOSE WHO HAVE COME TO WORSHIP WITH US

Contact:: church office at [office@sothonalaska.com](mailto:office@sothonalaska.com)

#### **KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE...**

- FACEBOOK
- CHURCH BULLETIN
- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
- NARTHEX TV MONITOR
- WEBSITE at [sothonalaska.org](http://sothonalaska.org)
- THE WEEKLY UPDATE digital copies only

## **JANUARY MINISTRY UPDATES**

### **EDUCATION MINISTRY**

CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY...

Did you know that hearing aids can now be purchased over-the-counter? Information on this topic—along with tips on how to prevent injury when playing ‘Pickleball’ - can be found in the ‘Mayo Clinic Newsletter’. And don’t forget—you may check out books, puzzles and DVDs from the library. Or grab a book, a cup of coffee and enjoy some down time in front of the Narthex fireplace.

Contact: John Gardner at [thejohngardner@charter.net](mailto:thejohngardner@charter.net)

### **FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY**

CONNECTING PEOPLE THROUGH FUN, FOOD and FELLOWSHIP

**AN ‘ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT’ REVIEW MEETING** will be held this month at a date to be determined (look for updates in the church bulletin and/or on social media). All 2022 hostesses, decorators and musicians are invited to share their thoughts and ideas. If you’re unable to attend, send comments and suggestions to Jana Underkofler at [jounder5js@gmail.com](mailto:jounder5js@gmail.com) or to Marilyn Magnuson at [magnuson52@gmail.com](mailto:magnuson52@gmail.com). Photos from the December 3, 2022 event are posted on Facebook and on the church website at [sothonalaska.org](http://sothonalaska.org).

**BUNCO, MOVIE NIGHT and a MUSICAL REVIEW** are in the works for 2023! Stay tuned for more information.

**“5th SUNDAY WORSHIP” FELLOWSHIP MEAL** will include chili provided by the Elders. Contributions of side dishes and desserts are needed. Please sign up “The Welcome and Opportunity Center” if you plan on bringing a dish to pass. Contact: Jana Underkofler at [jounder5js@gmail.com](mailto:jounder5js@gmail.com)

### **HUMAN CARE MINISTRY**

SERVING THE NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND OUR COMMUNITY

**PRAYER CHAIN:** to submit a request (or to join the prayer chain) please contact Sharon Ryan at [sryan6731@gmail.com](mailto:sryan6731@gmail.com) or 608-526-6731, or the church office.

**ONALASKA FOOD PANTRY:** January request—Canned Pork ‘n Beans/Baked Beans. Donations may be placed on the shelves located across from ‘The Welcome and Opportunity’ Center.

**THE PIECE MAKERS** will not meet during the month of January but will resume on February 9 and 23 at 9:30 am. For more information, contact Lorraine Koch at 936-242-9941.

Contact: Sue Mravik at [suemravik@gmail.com](mailto:suemravik@gmail.com)

### **LWML**

SUPPORT MISSIONS AND SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

**THANK YOU TO ALL** who helped make the Christmas Giving Tree a great success. The recipients received the gifts with gratitude and humbleness.

Contact: Kay Conzemius at [bkconz@aol.com](mailto:bkconz@aol.com)

### **MUSIC**

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

**Chimes**—Wednesday at 6:00 pm | **Choir**—Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Everyone of all abilities is welcome to join in!

FYI: We welcome ‘The Coulee Gospel Choir’ as they rehearse in the sanctuary each Sunday from Jan. 22—March 19 from 1:15—4:00 pm.

Contact: Kay Conzemius at [bkconz@aol.com](mailto:bkconz@aol.com)

## **STEWARSHIP MINISTRY**

SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

### **YOUR PAST DOES NOT DEFINE YOUR FUTURE**

From the LCMS Stewardship Ministry

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.

Contact: John Berg at [johnjberg@outlook.com](mailto:johnjberg@outlook.com)

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*A huge and heartfelt "Thank You" to the many families that contributed generous amounts at December worship, Advent and Christmas services. Special offerings were received to support the Endowment Fund, Shepherd's Flock Preschool, Education, Mission, Debt Reduction and the General Fund.*



## **TRUSTEE MINISTRY**

MAINTAINING OUR CHURCH CAMPUS TO ENHANCE  
OUR MINISTRIES...

Over the past year many project ideas for our building and campus have been suggested by members. They are expressing their desires for various projects to be researched and implemented.

Looking at each suggestion/project and determining the priorities of these suggestions/projects can be challenging. Everyone thinks their project is the most important. This is in addition to the regular tasks required of the Trustees to maintain our facilities and campus.

As the Trustees listen to all of these ideas and suggestions we may not seem to be listening, but we do. Sometimes it takes a while for an idea to be processed. Lots of ideas are discussed at our meetings and we look at the pros, cons and necessity of each idea. We ask if these ideas support our vision statement. We talk to the various ministries that may benefit or be impacted in any way by the project. Many times these ideas morph into something that's even better or bigger or smaller than originally suggested. From there the Trustees do research, talk to professionals and other members of SOTH to determine the best solution or end product for the original idea.

Once the idea is processed, researched and developed it goes to Council and then if required, to the Voters.

At the presentation to these groups we explain how we evaluate and prioritize projects based on the needs of the congregation, the needs of the various Ministries and the impact these projects will have on guests/visitors.

This is the process we have gone through this past year for the following three projects. They are:

- Administrative Office Furniture
- Narthex Lighting and Sanctuary Ceiling Fans
- Interior Signage

All three of these project proposals were presented to Council. Council prioritized them as listed above. Council suggested we ask members of the congregation to support these projects through personal donations. We are asking members of the congregation to prayerfully consider each of these projects. If you find it in your heart to donate funds to support any or all three of these projects it will be greatly appreciated.

There is a box outside of the Office (to the right of the door) with envelopes. You can place your donations in that box, but please be specific about where your donation goes. Once a project is fully funded, the project can then be implemented.

Three detailed Information Boards are located in the Fellowship Hall showing the designs, color swatches and info for the offices, signage proposal and lighting enhancement project. Please read and study them carefully.

If you have any questions about these projects, please contact Marilyn Magnuson or Kyle Janzen.

*The Trustees thank you for your input, ideas and support. We do appreciate your thoughts and suggestions. We wish you all a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

*Marilyn, Jim, Kyle and Dick*

## **OFFICE HOURS and COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE**

**Kira's hours through Friday, January 13**

**Monday—Thursday**

9:00 am—2:30 pm

**Friday**

8:30 am—12:30 pm

**Kira's hours beginning Monday, January 16**

**Monday and Wednesday**

9:00 am—12:00 pm

**Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

9:00 am—2:30 pm

**Please submit ALL bulletin and powerpoint entries by noon on Tuesday. Items received later than noon will not be included. February newsletter submissions must be received by noon on Monday, January 23.**

## **CONTACT US**

**Kira Peters—Admin. Asst./Church**

608-783-0330

office@sothonalaska.com

**Rev. David H. Baumgarn**

507-227-5646

david.baumgarn@sothonalaska.com

**Terry Ours—Head Elder**

608-780-1422

terryours@gmail.com

**Shepherd's Flock Preschool**

608-781-9445

shepherdsflockonalaska@gmail.com

**Martha Keeffe—Communications**

608-783-0330

martha.keeffe@sothonalaska.com

# JANUARY

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**Our Mission Statement:** To make disciples for Christ beginning in our congregation and continuing in our community, our country, and the world.

**Vision Statement:** Rooted in God's Word, by trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us, members will be equipped to be Disciples of Jesus Christ, to reach and compassionately serve the needs of our community.

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Treasurer Mark Wrolstad at 6:30pm.

**PRESENT:** Pastor Baumgarn, Carolyn Bey, Mark Wrolstad, John and Karen Gardner, Terry Ours, Kevin Keeffe, Jana Underkofer, Kay Conzemius, Linda Trautmann, John Berg, Marilyn Magnuson and Martha Keeffe. Also present were Kyle Jansen, and for a brief presentation---Jim Magnuson.

**ABSENT:** Shawn Mahoney—Excused, Warren Bey---Excused, and Sue Mravik

**OPENING DEVOTION AND PRAYER:** Pastor Baumgarn read from Leviticus 19 v.16-17. Verse 16 spoke against spreading slander. We help the devil if we do spread slander. The Bible forbids it. Verse 17 speaks to censure someone committing a sin to their face, rather than talking about it behind their back. A kind warning might turn that person from their sin.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING:** The minutes were approved following a spelling correction.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mark reported a cash flow deficit of \$8,000. It would have been worse except for not having an associate pastor as yet, plus many people who bought something for the church, threw away the receipt and generously paid for the purchase themselves. The Current Mortgage Loan Balance=\$359,965. Congregational Notes Payable = \$150,000. Total Congregational Long Term Debt=\$509,965. Total Ministry Support received Year to Date is \$406,632. Total Ministry Expense is \$380,713. Total Ministry support received/Budget is 94%. Total Ministry Expense/Budget is 80%.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**PASTOR CALL UPDATE:** John G. and Mark---Documents to be sent in seem to be completed, they will be run by Kira to print out, the committee will meet on January 5<sup>th</sup>, If it is ready by then they hope to send it out within a week. A discussion ensued as to who needs to review it before sending to the Synod.

**BYLAWS UPDATE:** John B.---No Report.

### MINISTRY REPORTS: ATTACHED.

**ELDERS:** Terry ---attached

**MUSIC:** Kay reported that on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, the day of our Blood Drive, a child coming to preschool mentioned to his grandma that a man in a car in the parking lot was acting strangely. Shortly after, the man from the car, came in to the building and motioned to a man inside to come out. It was noticed that the both of them were smirking as they left. When the grandma went out to her car, her purse, which she left in the car, was gone. The police were notified, and this means we all need to watch out for strangers not acting right. We also need to be careful to always lock our car in the parking lot, and not leave purses inside the car, unattended!

**TRUSTEES:** Marilyn worked with the Coulee Region Gospel Choir for them to practice in our Sanctuary Sunday afternoons plus having one soup supper in the fellowship hall one Sunday. She made sure this would not interfere with Fellowship plans and Jana assured her it would work out fine. Marilyn asked if this plan was approved by the council and was assured it was.

Marilyn mentioned that at the last council meeting, her three current projects were prioritized: 1. Office Furniture, 2. Signage, 3. Narthex Lighting/Sanctuary Ceiling Fans. She thinks all 3 of these projects should be presented to the voters, noting the council recommendation. Marilyn feels that by doing this she may find a donor or donors for one or all three projects. She will make information boards to display information about the projects for voters to see ahead of time. Concern was expressed that if too much was asked for at one meeting, plus trying to pass the budget for 2023, the budget might not pass. It was decided to get the budget passed before Marilyn brings up the 3 projects. It was felt that this would give voters opportunities for generous giving outside the budget.

Jim Magnuson spoke to the council regarding progress made in contacting other area churches about joining SOTH in establishing another Christian School, in the Holmen area or north. Three churches expressed a positive interest in this endeavor. They, as well as SOTH voters would have to vote on this decision. Our council proposed a motion to recommend approving SOTH's participation in the Genesis Study to determine the feasibility of this project. The cost would be \$500 fee for the study, plus other costs perhaps totaling \$2000. If the study found the project feasible, a steering committee would be formed. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> and approval of the motion to go to the

voters with this and recommend going forward with this. Mark said with this being a new ministry, the New Ministry Opportunity Fund could help with the cost of the study. Marilyn and Kyle explained the change in Marilyn's role in the Trustees going forward. Kyle would be head trustee dealing with the day to day responsibilities, and Marilyn would be project manager along with Jim M. Kyle took several moments to recognize all the good work Marilyn has done thus far as a trustee.

**EDUCATION:** John and Karen announced they have a possible Education Coordinator to take over for the next several years. If this works out, both would remain on the Education Committee for another 2 years.

**PRESCHOOL:** Linda announced the enrollment of two new, additional students for the next semester. Their fund raiser spaghetti dinner will be scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in February.

**EVANGELISM:** Kevin mentioned the need for additional funding for supplies for the plans he has to reach out.

**YOUTH:** No report other than we still need someone to work with our youth.

**STEWARSHIP:** John B. presented us all with a list of possible mission choices, some local and some out of the area. There was a brief discussion after John said he would like council guidance at the January meeting for which missions to present at the voter's meeting, scheduled for the last Sunday in January.

**FELLOWSHIP:** Jana asked for ministries to sign up on the sign-up sheet to serve suppers on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Terry said the Elders have signed up for the first supper.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** No Report

**DEAF MINISTRY & LWML:** No Report.

**HUMAN CARE:** No Report

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**2023 Budget:** Mark handed out copies of the 2023 proposed church budget and a discussion followed. John Berg and Mark mentioned there were not enough pledges to make up a potential shortfall. There is a drop in the number of firm commitments by members for 2023. The number of pledges from 2022 were 41, pledging \$254,000, while pledges for 2023 were 36, pledging \$203,000. That is about \$50,000 less pledged for 2023. Pledges seem to average about 50% of what comes in unpledged. The projected shortfall for 2023 is \$149,914. It seems that giving is going down while expenses are going up. Inflation was discussed as the likely problem for both lower giving and higher expenses. The Budget will be presented at the January Voters Meeting for voter's approval.

**SET DATE FOR JANUARY VOTERS MEETING:** January 29<sup>th</sup> was set for the voter's meeting since there is only 1 service that day at 9am. A lunch will be planned before the meeting.

**ALTAR STAINED GLASS WINDOWS:** Mentioned in attached report. Not brought up at meeting.

**MISSION GIVING FOR 2023:** Details under Stewardship report.

**INFORMATIONAL VOTERS MEETING REQUEST:** Marilyn will give information on her information boards.

**OFFICER NOMINATIONS 2023:** There is a potential Education Director, Kyle will take on the chair of the Trustees, the rest of the chair and officer positions will remain in their positions. We still need someone for Youth. Warren has not been able to do any calling.

**OFFICE NOTES:** See notes at the end of attached reports.

**CHRISTIAN SCHOOL:** see report by Jim M. in the Trustees Minutes

**CLOSING PRAYER:** The Doxology

**ADJOURN:** 8:30pm

*Respectively submitted by Carolyn Bey Council Secretary*

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

#### **Birthdays**

- 1—Isaac Fladhammer, Dawn Heiden
- 2—Elliott Cunningham, Micah Mravik, Duane Vetsch
- 3—Robert Campbell, Lorna Ernst
- 4—Leslie Zibrowski
- 6—Carolyn Knobloch, Angie Torgerud
- 7—John Berg
- 8—Polly Howe
- 10—Dawn Gilhausen, Shawn Mahoney, Chris Robertson
- 11—Melise Baumgarn, Charles Matthew
- 13—Heidi de la Rosa, Rick Paulson
- 14—Cindy Stetzer

- 15—Grady Burns
- 17—Dieter Antoni
- 18—Debbie Berg
- 19—Eric Heiden
- 24—Tami Mueller
- 25—Jerry Goldblatt
- 26—Joe Underkofler
- 27—Lily Cunningham, Lynda Knobloch
- 28—Nathaniel Baumgarn, Heather Eckert

#### **Anniversaries**

- 4—Ken and Rogene Hinz
- 28—Leon and Kay Wolfe