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Lutheran Church*

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NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH † BINGEN

NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXV - Number 2

March 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

No tramp of soldiers' marching feet / With banners and with drums,
No sound of music's martial beat: / "The King of glory comes!"
To greet what pomp of kingly pride / No bells in triumph ring,
No city gates swing open wide: / "Behold, behold your King!"
(LSB 444; stz. 1)

This hymn, which we will sing together on Passion (Palm) Sunday in March, recognizes Jesus Christ to be the King of glory. Yet the hymn's first stanza also confesses that the world neither knows nor welcomes Him as such. "He was in the world," the fourth Gospel tells us, "and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him" (**John 1:10-11**).

And yet He comes. The children cheer; / With palms His path is strown.
With ev'ry step the cross draws near: / The King of glory's throne.
Astride a colt He passes by / As loud hosannas ring,
Or else the very stones would cry / "Behold, behold your King."
(LSB 444; stz. 2)

Those very hosannas to the King will be found on our lips on March 28, the first day of Holy Week. Indeed, throughout this season of Lent which culminates in March, we are reflecting during the Midweek Services on how Jesus answers our cries of "Hosanna!" (Hebrew for "save us now") with His blood-bought gift of Holy Absolution, the forgiveness of sins. By confessing our sins and receiving the Lord's forgiveness, we behold our King.

What fading flow'rs His road adorn; / The palms, how soon laid down!
No bloom or leaf but only thorn / The King of glory's crown.
The soldiers mock, the rabble cries, / The streets with tumult ring,
As Pilate to the mob replies, "Behold, behold your king!"
(LSB 444; stz. 3)

As noted in the Holy Week explanation included in this newsletter, March 28 is Holy (Maundy) Thursday on which day we celebrate the night when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, the very night when He was betrayed. The service both brings to completion our Lenten preparation and begins the *Triduum Sacrum* (see "Holy Week" explanation), which continues through Good Friday to Holy Saturday on March 29-30. On these sacred days, we hear and receive the benefits of our Savior's cross and empty tomb.

So does this upcoming month of March bring us to the peak of Calvary's holy mountain, the culmination of our Lenten discipline and preparation. The season of Lent reminds us that we are dust and to dust we shall return, giving us the opportunity to repent in sackcloth and ashes. The 31 days of March continue to turn our attention toward Jerusalem to look through the gallows on Golgotha. And there we see the glory of the cross enlightening an empty tomb. Thus do we give thanks for the 31st day of March, The Resurrection of Our Lord. For dust you may be and to dust you may return, ashes you may wear and in ashes you may sit. But Christ our King has taken on the dust of flesh like you. He has been reduced to ashes by the fire of God's wrath for you. He was laid to rest in a tomb whose seal was set. And that King of glory is risen again.

Now He who bore for mortals' sake / The cross and all its pains
And chose a servant's form to take, / The King of glory reigns.
Hosanna to the Savior's name / Till heaven's rafters ring,
And all the ransomed host proclaim / "Behold, behold your King!"
(LSB 444; stz. 4)

In Christ, *Pastor Brock*

2024 Lenten Service Schedule - "THE APOSTLES' CREED"

Midweek Services – 1 p.m.: Vespers; 7 p.m.: Evening Prayer

March 6: 2ND ARTICLE: *Redemption; Meaning 1*

Psalmody	Psalm 2 (ant.: v. 7)
Office Hymn	LSB 372
Readings	1st Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 2nd Reading: John 20:24-29 3rd Reading: <i>The Passion of Our Lord: III. The Palace of the High Priest</i>
Closing Hymn	LSB 539

March 13: 2ND ARTICLE: *Redemption; Meaning 2 & 3*

Psalmody	Psalm 22 (ant.: v. 24)
Office Hymn	LSB 556 (stz. 1-5)
Readings	1st Reading: 1 Peter 1:13-25 2nd Reading: Luke 24:36-53 3rd Reading: <i>The Passion of Our Lord: IV. The Praetorium</i>
Closing Hymn	LSB 556 (stz. 6-10)

March 20: 3RD ARTICLE: *Sanctification*

Psalmody	Psalm 143 (ant.: v. 10)
Office Hymn	LSB 496
Readings	1st Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 2nd Reading: John 6:60-69 3rd Reading: <i>The Passion of Our Lord: V. Calvary</i>
Closing Hymn	LSB 500

Lenten Meals – Serving time begins at 5:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Holy Week

Palm (Passion) Sunday + March 24

The Procession of Palms
The Service of the Sacrament

Holy (Maundy) Thursday + March 28

(First part of the sacred Triduum, the three-day observance of Christ's Passover)

The Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution
The Service of the Sacrament
The Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday + March 29

(Second part of the sacred Triduum, the three-day observance of Christ's Passover)

12noon-3p.m. *Tre Ore*

1 p.m. *Chief Service*
The Passion of Our Lord
The Reproaches
The Service of the Sacrament

7 p.m. *Tenebrae Vespers*
The Passion of Our Lord
The Bidding Prayer
The Reproaches (with the extinguishing of candles)
The Strepitus

Holy Saturday + March 30

(Third part of the sacred Triduum, the three-day observance of Christ's Passover)

Decatur-Circuit Easter Vigil Service @ St. John + Bingen, 8pm

The Service of Light

The Service of Readings

The Service of Holy Baptism

The Service of Prayer

The Service of the Word

The Service of the Sacrament



The Resurrection of Our Lord + March 31, 2024

6:30 a.m.: *Divine Service*

8:00 a.m.: *Easter Breakfast*

10:30 a.m.: *Divine Service*



Palm Sunday – March 24, 2024

The Procession of Palms

The Service of the Sacrament

8:00 a.m. Divine Service

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Holy Week, the culmination of this Lenten season, begins on Palm Sunday, March 24. Palm Sunday is both somber and joyful. A procession with palms and hosannas to commemorate our Lord's entry into Jerusalem begins the service, striking a victorious note as we sing *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*. We are also reminded why our Lord rode humbly into Jerusalem – there to die for the salvation of the world.

Holy (Maundy) Thursday – March 28, 2024

1 p.m. & 7 p.m. - Divine Services

The Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution

The Service of the Sacrament

The Stripping of the Altar



Holy (Maundy) Thursday marks the first of three sacred days known as the *Triduum Sacrum* (Latin for "sacred three days"). The Triduum includes Holy (Maundy) Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. The name "Maundy Thursday" (from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment") comes from the Lord's words in John 13:34: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." To emphasize the primacy of our Savior's actions for us (as distinct from *our* actions which respond in faith to God's actions for us), the name "Holy Thursday" is commonly used, helpfully inclusive not only of the Lord's washing of the disciples' feet and commandment to love, but also of His institution of the Lord's

Supper on the night when He was betrayed. Holy (Maundy) Thursday includes the Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution, signaling the end of the Lenten preparation with the absolution and peace of Christ that stand at the center of the Triduum. The Stripping of the Altar concludes the service, demonstrating the depth of Christ's servanthood in preparation for the Church's observance of Jesus' death on Good Friday. Because the Triduum is seen as one service in three parts or days, no Benediction is spoken at the conclusion of the Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service. The Triduum continues uninterrupted with the Chief Service on Good Friday.

Good Friday – March 29, 2024

This year, we join with St. Paul, Preble (Pastors Yeager and Brege), Bethlehem, Ossian (Pastors Wirgau and Dodgers), and Zion, Friedheim (Pastor Ulmer) to observe the *Tre Ore* ("Three Hours") of darkness when our Lord hung upon the cross. Please note that these three hours will be treated as three separate services here at Bingen. As your schedule permits, you are free to stay for all three services/hours, or for any service/hour therein. Longer hymns will be sung between the services to allow for the silent entrance or exit of those who come for one or two services/hours only. Our usual 1 p.m. Chief Service remains unchanged from previous years, with the exception that sermons are preached at the 12 noon and 2 p.m. hours rather than the 1 p.m. Chief Service.

12 noon – Liturgy of the Catechumens

The Passion according to St. John (Sung)

Sermon

1 p.m. – Chief Service (Our usual Good Friday Chief Service remains unchanged)

The Passion of Our Lord (Read)

The Bidding Prayer

The Reproaches

The Service of the Sacrament

2 p.m. – Vespers

Sermon

The Great Litany

7 p.m. – Good Friday Tenebrae Vespers

The Passion of Our Lord

The Bidding Prayer

The Reproaches (with the extinguishing of candles)

The Strepitus

Good Friday stands at the heart and center of the sacred Triduum, even as Christ's death on the cross, which it commemorates and celebrates, stands at the heart and center of the Christian faith and life. The name for Good Friday may originally have been "God's Friday," but it is certainly also "good" because of the good gifts Christ won for us on this day. The services of this day are marked by the Church's deepest humility and most solemn reverence, for she gives her attention to the cross and Passion of her dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Church's sorrow and contrition do not give way to despair, however; nor does she mourn the death of Christ. Good Friday is not observed as a funeral for Jesus, and we do not seek to self-cultivate feelings of sadness or pity for our Savior as His Passion is read and/or sung. Rather, this is a day for repentance over sin and restrained joy and praise for the redemption that our Savior accomplished for us on the cross. Thus, in repentant faith the Church gives thanks for Christ's atoning sacrifice and lays hold of His redemption in the hearing of His Gospel and in the eating and drinking of His body and blood.

As noted above, this year we will observe the *Tre Ore* ("Three Hours"). Still, and per our usual practice, at 1 p.m. on Good Friday will be the Chief Service, appropriately scheduled during the hours our Savior hung upon the cross. It contains a number of ancient elements, particularly the reading of the St. John Passion, the Bidding Prayer, and the Reproaches. The 7 p.m. service of Tenebrae (meaning "darkness") consists of the extinguishing of the church lights. A more recent addition to Tenebrae, often referred to as the "strepitus" (meaning "loud noise"), occurs after the last candle is extinguished. While the action has a variety of interpretations, including the scourging of Jesus by the soldiers and the earthquake at the moment of Christ's death, its placement in our Triduum services suggests another common understanding - the closing of Christ's tomb. The return of the Light of Christ at the end of the Tenebrae Vespers ensures that the final note of the service is one of triumph as we anticipate the joys of Easter in the certain knowledge of Christ's resurrection from the dead. Because these services constitute the center part of the Triduum, the *Tre Ore* and Tenebrae Vespers have neither entrance rite nor benediction; these holy three days conclude with the Vigil of Easter.



Holy Saturday – March 30, 2024

8 p.m. - Easter Vigil

The Service of Light

The Service of Readings

The Service of Holy Baptism

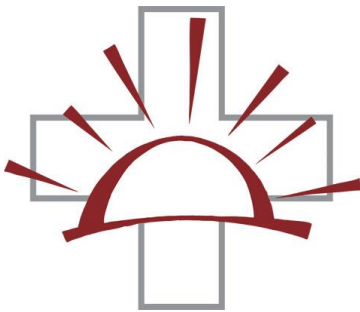
The Service of Prayer

The Service of the Word

The Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday brings the Holy Triduum to a festive completion. In much the same way as Holy (Maundy) Thursday is the completion of Lent and the beginning of the Triduum, so the Easter Vigil both completes the Triduum and ushers in the Fifty Days of Eastertide. This transition is poignantly manifested in the course of the vigil, which progresses purposefully from darkness to light. In some places throughout the early centuries of the Church's life, the people of God would hold vigil, which means "keep watch," through the night in expectation of Christ's return. As the Church gathered in vigil, she waited in hopeful expectation for the appearance of the resurrected Christ in those most recently born in Him, and, therefore, those who had prepared throughout Lent to be joined to Christ were baptized at the vigil. At the dawn of the new day at Easter sunrise, the newly baptized joined the entire Church in the chorus of alleluias at Christ's resurrection from the dead.

While making a vigil through the night may not be common today, Christians nonetheless gather on Holy Saturday to wait in expectation for the news of Christ's resurrection and for His second coming. As a service of watching that ushers in the resurrection, the Vigil of Easter is traditionally comprised of six parts: 1) the Service of Light; 2) the Service of Readings; 3) the Service of Holy Baptism; 4) the Service of Prayer; 5) the Service of the Word; 6) the Service of the Sacrament. Because the Vigil of Easter marks the final day in the sacred Triduum and ushers in our celebration of the Resurrection, the service ends with the Benediction (which has not been heard since the beginning of the Triduum) and the Easter Acclamation: Christ is risen!

✠ The Resurrection of Our Lord ✠ (Easter Day)



March 31, 2024

6:30 a.m. Divine Service

8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Divine Service

The celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead hardly needs introduction. Having faithfully prepared throughout the Lenten season to keep the Feast of Easter in spirit and in truth, focusing our attention particularly closely on Christ's Passion during Holy Week, our Alleluias ring out joyfully as we hear the blessed news: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" Because Lent (and Holy Week particularly) has served as an extended preparation for the feast of Easter, even including the Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution on Holy (Maundy) Thursday, no rites of preparation (that is, Confession and Absolution) are necessary to this evangelical and festive Divine Service on Easter Day. Thus, the Service moves immediately to the altar during the Processional Hymn and proceeds with the Introit, the formal beginning of the Service of the Word.

I pray that the Lord blesses your Lenten pilgrimage, bringing you faithfully to the Feast of Easter, even that great Feast of Victory which has no end! In Christ, Pastor Brock

✠ CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP ✠

Lent is a season of repentance. Repentance is turning away from sin, while we turn toward God for the forgiveness of sins. During Lent, we hear the Word of God and consider our lives in light of it. We confess our failures, and receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, and then commit ourselves to do better.

What does God say about giving to the Church? The Bible tells us. Our giving should be first fruits giving (Genesis 4:4; Proverbs 3:9). Our giving should be regular, on the first day of week, which has the Divine Service in mind (1 Corinthians 6:1–2). Our giving should be proportional: according to our income (1 Corinthians 16:1–2), according to what we have been given (2 Corinthians 8:12; Luke 12:48), our giving should be given with a spirit of eagerness and enthusiasm (2 Corinthians 9:2), generosity and liberality (2 Corinthians 8:20), cheerfully without compulsion (2 Corinthians 9:7). Our giving should be directed to those who teach us (Galatians 6:6–7) because a laborer is worthy of his hire (Luke 10:7; 1 Timothy 5:18).

Now consider your own giving in light of the Bible's teaching. 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? Are you giving with eagerness and enthusiasm? Are you giving to your congregation, sharing all good things with the one who teaches you? If your answer to any of these is "No," then repent. Turn away from your sin and toward God for forgiveness. Confess your failure. Receive absolution. And commit to do better. We know that the Spirit is willing but our flesh is weak. We believe, and we pray that God, through Word and Sacrament, would help our unbelief, our lack of trust in His ability to provide.

And this is precisely what God promises. This is what St. Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth: "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 made up his mind, 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 of all will both supply and increase what you need to give to the church for its work in and for the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. Everyone benefits. We will be blessed in our giving, and it will produce thanksgiving to God in those who receive it.

Giving to the church is not a burden, just like all of God's teaching (1 John 5:2–4). They are not a burden because of He who gives it: the God who loves us and gave His only Son to die so that we may live. He loved us in that He sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons. . . . So we are no longer slaves, but sons, and if a son, then an heir through God (Galatians 4:4–5, 7). We are heirs. We receive the full rights of sons, a status that Christ our Lord achieved for us by His death, resurrection, and ascension.

So we strive to do what He asks because we are His children. And when we don't, we repent. We confess our sins. We receive absolution. We desire to do better, praying that God would work in us both to will and to do according to His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

Lenten Collections support: St. John Family Assistance Fund

March & April Youth Events

Middle School Youth Event

March 31; Easter Day – Easter Breakfast

Each congregation customarily has a youth-sponsored Easter breakfast. Details will be provided by your church if applicable. Please take advantage of this opportunity to serve.

Sunday, April 14; 2-6 p.m. – Bowling & More at Georgetown Entertainment

We will meet in the Bingen parking lot at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 14 to carpool to Georgetown Entertainment. There we shall bowl. We shall also enjoy the 4D Dark Ride Theater (whatever that is) and the Augmented Rock Wall and the Spin-Zone Bumper Cars. Oh, and there will be food. All of it will be included for \$10 per youth. We plan to be back at Bingen by 6 p.m. Parents, as always, we need drivers, who get to play and eat for free. Please let Pastor Brock know if you're willing.

High School Youth Activities

Sunday, March 3; 3-8:30 p.m. – Prepare Meal for Ronald McDonald House

We will meet in the Bingen parking lot at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 3 to carpool to the Ronald McDonald House where we will prepare and serve a meal. The Ronald McDonald House, located inside Parkview Regional Medical Center, gives families with a hospitalized child a home base. A comfortable bed with fresh sheets, pizza night, a special secret playhouse for young siblings, a hot cup of coffee, and lots of space to be together. Ronald McDonald House volunteers and staff become the care team for a family during their stay, offering support services and encouragement throughout their journey.

March 24 (Palm/Passion Sunday); 5-8:30 p.m. – *The Passion of the Christ*

Chris and Tina Caston will again host a movie night at their home (1988 E. 900 N.; Decatur, IN 46733). In connection with the start of Holy Week on that day, Palm/Passion Sunday, we will be viewing *The Passion of the Christ*. Parents and youth please note: This film contains extended, frightening, and intense scenes of graphic violence and gore, and has been rated R by the MPAA for such sequences. The pastors will be in attendance to answer any questions and lead discussion following the film. **Please note the start time of 5 p.m.**

March 31; Easter Day – Easter Breakfast

See details above.

Sunday, April 7; 6:30-8:30 p.m. – Wyneken Service Night

Sunday, April 14; 2-6 p.m. – Bowling & More at Georgetown Entertainment

See details above.

Daylight Saving Time Begins – Reminder to Spring forward on March 10th.

Altar Guild Polishing Day is Saturday, March 16th, in the Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Bingen's Fish and Tenderloin Dinner – Sunday March 17, 2024; 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. At Wyneken cafetorium. Adults: \$14.00; Children (6-12) \$10.00; 5 and under Free. *Drive thru available. Proceeds go to Family Assistance Fund. All welcome- All you can eat. Fried by Dan's Fish Fry Service of Huntington.

Bake Sale by the Ladies Guild

The Ladles Guild will be sponsoring a free-will offering bake sale at the Men's Fish Fry on March 17th. Donations of baked goods may be dropped off in Wyneken's cafetorium on Sunday the 17th. All are welcomed to donate.

Cancer Pad Stitching Next sewing date: Tuesday, March 19th from 9 – 11 a.m. Contact person is Marilyn Kiess.

Ladies Guild - All ladies of our congregation are welcome to join us the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

LWML Prayer Service Grace, Mercy, and Peace. March 2 at Immanuel-Union. 8:45 AM. Free-will offering for Mites. Brunch to follow.

March Baptismal Birthdays

Martin Aumann
Lydia Barnett
Jacques Beaulieu
Robert Bergman
Sylvia Berning
Allison Bixler
Brock Bixler
Kristin Bixler
Gavin Blackburn
Royce Bradbury
Jeffrey Bultemeier
Ronald Bultemeier
Bonnie Caston
Jorden DeBolt
Amanda Emenhiser
Marissa Feipel
Ian Fifer
Paul (Colton) Fuelling
Mark Gallmeyer
Clara Gavrun

Bruce Gilreath
Lonnie Graft
Gregory Hardesty
Stephanie Hartman
Loren Heckman
Amanda Hirschy
Parker Hoffman
Lora Hormann
Braden Huff
Andrew James
Cade Johnson
Jett Johnson
Kelly Johnson
Jeffery Kiess
Linda Knowlden
Jason Lautzenheiser
Kyle Lawson
Sarah Lee
Ryan Lehrman
Jordan Lepper

Kayden Lepper
Zayden Lepper
Greg Louis
Elijah Mann
Ryan Messman
Cassandra Moore
Daniel Sauer
Mark Scheumann
Nicholas Scheumann
Roger Scheumann
Garrett Schieferstein
Lucas Schlemmer
Jeffrey Schroeder
Jordan Schroeder
Nathaniel Selking
Nathan Shelton
Jean Uffelman
Phillip Wilder

March Wedding Anniversaries

3/1/2014 *Nicholas & Jennifer Rohlf*
3/3/2007 *Donald & Hope Dressler*
3/3/2018 *Jon & Nikki Zwick*
3/5/1982 *Scott & Betty Schroeder*
3/6/1999 *Nathaniel & Joy Selking*
3/8/2008 *Jason & Glenna Groce*
3/8/1997 *Jeffery & Jacelyn Livensparger*

3/9/1990 *Chris & Tammy Hoffman*
3/9/2013 *Jonathan & Julie Snyder*
3/12/2000 *Daniel & Karen James*
3/16/1996 *Mark & Jennifer Schieferstein*
3/17/1990 *Dale & Roxana Boenker*
3/18/1972 *Lynn & Sandra Selking*
3/28/2020 *Daniel & Jani Thieme*

We celebrate with those who have their Baptismal Birthday or Wedding Anniversary this month. If we have left you out, please know it was not intentional, but that our membership records do not reflect your special dates. We invite you to forward your dates to us so that we may recognize you and yours in the future. As the office continually reviews our membership household information, we will make requests of this type of info so that we don't leave you out in the coming year. Please feel free to e-mail churchoffice@stjohnbingen.com or contact the church office (639-6178) with your dates. Thank You!

Minutes of St. John Lutheran Church + Bingen Voters Assembly Meeting

Date and Time: January 29th, 2024 8:00 p.m.

Called to Order by: Chairman Chris Hoffman

Devotions: Pastor Peter Brock opened with the Early Evening Prayer from page 297 in the LSB. Hymn #394 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" was sung. Danelle Westrick played piano. The reading was from Psalm 111, followed by prayer.

Recording Secretary's Report: Ryan Scherer stated The December 4th voters assembly minutes were distributed last week in the February newsletter. No corrections were received for the minutes. No corrections or concerns were announced by the voters. Motion to accept the minutes. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Don Gresley briefed the council on the Statement of Financial Position (attached in the meeting minutes binder). The church checking account, as of December 31st, was \$18,064.10. The 12000-other (amount we are borrowing from ourselves), is at \$19,978.30. Total Liabilities and Equity was \$1,013,429.23. Account #41000 for Salaries and Maintenance receipts we were underbudget at \$48,963.04. We were overbudget for the pastors in accounts 52160 and 52260. The mileage rate was higher than predicted. Account #54000 for Wyneken was overbudget, but we had Dana Match and SGO credit to keep it about \$10,000 under our budget. Youth Program was \$2,000 overbudget, but there was a special donation that covered it. We were overbudget on account #55123 since we voted early in the 2023 year on software upgrades. In Net Income, our deficit for the year is \$28,927.44. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries.

Financial Secretary's Report: Delin Kleine briefed the report for the 4th quarter (attached in the meeting minutes binder). Envelopes were \$265,108.53. Hall Rental was \$100. Memorials were \$7,105.44. Reimbursements were \$942.85. Sunday plate collections were \$9,254.91. Sunday School was \$54.09. Thrivent Choice was \$119. Total for Salary and Maintenance for the quarter was \$282,684.82. We had \$5,185 in envelopes for Synod. Lutheran World Relief was \$371. Mission I Tanzania Mission was \$270. Mission II Worship Anew was \$750. St. John Family Assistance Fund was \$5,550. Advent plate collections were \$411. Christmas Eve Candlelight/Day was \$985.45. Fish Fry proceeds were \$481.02. That was for reimbursement of supplies. Tanzania Mission Offering was \$26,161.05. Non-budget receipts total \$34,979.52. New Church Building Fund envelopes were \$20.00. Grain Sales were \$15,818.08. Cemetery Endowment Fund Envelopes were \$5,200. Total receipts for the quarter were \$343,887.42. Year to date it is \$877,058.87. Motion to accept the Financial Secretary's Report. Motion carries.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brock reported that the membership report for the January 29th voters meeting, as of December 4th, 928 souls and 696 communicants. We had two baptisms, Eloise Marlis Wagner on January 14th and Maren Machele Hall on January 24th. Which will bring our membership as of today to 930 souls and 696 communicants. This does not require the action of voters. Pastor Brock said that this year's Ash Wednesday is on February 14th. We will have our normal services at 1pm and 7pm that day. The Wyneken students will still have their normal chapel services that morning. After that week, we will begin our Lenten midweek services with vespers at 1pm and evening prayer at 7pm on Wednesdays. The Wyneken students will join us for those 1pm vespers. Our theme this year is the Apostle's Creed. We are in a 7-year rotation. Last year was the 10 Commandments. Next year will be the Lord's Prayer, followed by Baptism, Confession and Absolution, the Lord's Supper, and the seventh year is the Words of our Lord. Preble and Friedheim are on the same pattern. We continue to be thankful for good participation from all three congregations in recent youth events. We have over 30 signed up for the skiing event at Bittersweet. After morning prayer at Wyneken this morning, Michael Scheumann stood up and publicly thanked Principal Gavrun, Mrs. Gavrun, and our wonderful cooks for their assistance with the 8th grade fundraiser. They have been selling meat the last two Sundays. They are also thankful for everyone that supported them by purchasing meat. They have already profited over \$2,500, and will hopefully reach \$3,000. St. Paul Preble and St. John Bingen have already supported last year's youth activities. You will see in the annual report that we have not received a contribution from Zion Friedheim for 2023. We have received support from them in January, so it may still come.

Elder's Report: No report

Deacon's Report: Jon Fuhrman reported that the AED is up and running. We applied for an additional one through a grant with Adams Memorial Hospital. That one will come with free training for the deacons and the pastors as well.

Trustee's Report: No report

St. John's Board of Education: No report

Wyneken School Board: Brad Melcher reported that the middle school had 3 interviews for the Language Arts position. We are no longer allowed to burn waste at the school so the burn cage is gone. Trash services have changed. A shed will be built to house the cardboard and keep it dry for free pick-up. There are 24 furnaces that were installed in the year 2000. The plan is to put this in the budget to replace at least 2 per year. The ones replaced will be used for parts on the other furnaces. Things are going better for child care. They have 21 active employees. They are operating in the black. Brad has a copy of what the Build Learn Grow grant was spent on if anyone is interested to see it.

Board of Stewardship: Greg Bultemeier reported that letters were sent out to all members of St. John regarding the budget shortfall. Updates will be in the Sunday bulletin. There was over \$16,000 counted tonight for the shortfall, so we are off to a good start.

Board of Evangelism: No report

Board of Planning: Tim Grover reported on the parking lot and sub-committee status (attached in the meeting minutes binder). Tim covered the 3 phases and 2 options (option #1 surface milling and option #2 full milling). Nothing changed from the coring. The committee met and is recommending the full grind option #2. This will eliminate larger existing cracks and allow for the base to be leveled. Also, by reducing the height, we anticipate the ability to have 2 additional overlays without having to do a grind in the future. API is the contractor recommended by the committee for this work. The option #1 price for 2026 is \$153,644 and the option #2 price is \$82,000 more at \$235,878. That will go to the association to be managed. The Bingen portion for the church lot and cemetery lot is \$72,000 and \$41,000. There is opportunity for a matching grant for this. If we do not get the grant, then we can reconvene and discuss what we want to do. The board wants the voters to vote on whether we want to move forward with option #1 or option #2. Jon Fuhrman mentioned creating a pledge drive like what was done for the parish hall. A committee will need to be established for the financial aspect. The vote for option 1 or 2 will commit the church to one of the other regardless of what the association decides. Motion to recommend the acceptance of option #2, a complete grind, as presented. Motion carries.

Special Committees: No report

Grounds Committee: Verlin Bulmahn stated that the crops from the tiling and drainage project looked good this past year.

Cemetery Committee: Norm Berning said that they will be coming to the council to see how to proceed with some concerns.

Old Business: No report

New Business: Verlin Bulmahn said that the SGO money received by the 3 congregations that Zion Friedheim contributed \$121,000, Preble contributed \$113,000, and Bingen contributed \$23,000. Verlin encouraged members to consider the SGO program and its tax benefits. Troy Palacios said for the next association meeting is asking not to appoint or elect school board members that are spouses or current employees of Wyneken. Delin said that statements were sent out, so please check them for errors. Chris Hoffman reported on appointed positions. For Sunday School Superintendent Matt Allmandinger, for Bible Class Superintendent Don Westrick, for Board of Planning Tim Scheumann, for Investment Committee Jeff Schroeder, for Grounds Committee Verlin Bulmahn, for Cemetery Committee Fred Sauer, for LLL Lutheran Hour Thom DeBolt, for Activities Committee Brad and Chris Melcher, for Auditing Committee Verlin Bulmahn, Angie Smock, and Jani Thieme, for Men's Activity Committee Nate Selking, and for Lutheran Foundation Nathan Shelton. Motion to ratify these appointments. Motion carries.

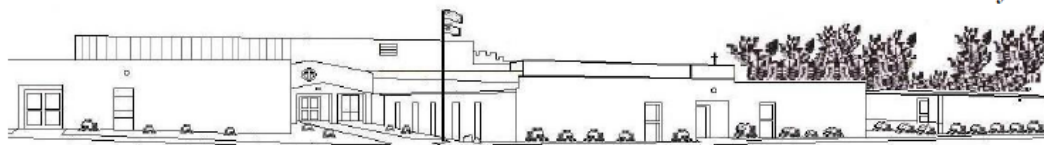
M/S/C To adjourn 9:10 p.m.

Pastor Brock closed with the Lord's Prayer in unison and the Benediction.

Members Present: 40

Others Present: 0

Respectfully Submitted
Ryan M. Scherer



REACH, TEACH, SEND IN CHRIST

Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School

11565 North U.S. 27

Decatur, IN 46733

Phone (260) 639-6177

Fax (260) 639-3050

Principal – Andrew Gavrun

March 2024

The Lord continues to bless the ministry at Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School with HIS never-ending love. He has provided us with three supportive congregations, dedicated pastors, loving teachers, wonderful staff members, terrific students, and an outstanding facility!

It is the mission of Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School to **reach** children with the love of Christ, **teach** them of God's Word and world, and **send** them out as faithful stewards in HIS kingdom. As a result, we are privileged to attend chapel and Morning Prayer each week while maintaining a curriculum that includes all major areas of study. In addition, Wyneken is pleased to be able to provide a variety of extracurricular activities which include band, chorus, athletics, STEAM, & chimes.

As we look forward toward the next school year, all of our families are encouraged to submit early registration paperwork. This information should be arriving soon. Receiving early registration in advance assists our school board and staff in making adequate preparations for the approaching academic term.

If you have questions or know of a family that may be interested in receiving enrollment information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or speak to me at 260-639-6177 or email at principal@wyneken.org.

Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School was recognized by the Indiana State Department of Education on February 15 as a top performer on IREAD3. We rejoice in the excellent education our students receive at Wyneken and the outstanding teaching that our educators provide on a daily basis! We also celebrate the work and dedication of our parents as they train their children and prepare them to grow academically.

As we approach tax season, you may wish to consider a tax deductible gift to the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) for Wyneken. These scholarships are used to help provide financial assistance to students at our school and are eligible for tax credits. Please visit <https://www.lutheransgo.org> or contact the school office if you have interest or questions regarding this.

We appreciate your continued prayers, support, and partnership!

In HIS service,

Mr. Andrew Gavrun
Principal

Through Jesus Christ, it is the mission of Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School to REACH children with the love of Christ, TEACH them of God's Word and world, and SEND them out as faithful stewards in God's Kingdom.

Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School

March 2024 Newsletter

This month we introduce to you our Preschool & Prekindergarten classes. Teachers are Mrs. Nicole Putteet (Preschool) Mrs. Karrie Fuhrmann (Pre-K).

PRESCHOOL – Mrs. Putteet

<u>Students</u>	<u>Parent(s)</u>	<u>Cong.</u>
Leroy Bulmahn	Corey/Alisha Bulmahn	(P)
Emmet Chard	Kyle/Rachel Chard	(O)
Bowen Cress	Tyler/Kylie Cress	(B)
Oakley Elwer	Travis/Karmen Elwer	(P)
Emilia Fuhrmann	James/Karrie Fuhrmann	(F)
Brody Fullenkamp	Heath/Katie Fullenkamp	(B)
Ronan Lengerich	Tyrell/Elizabeth Lengerich	(F)
Claire Lichtle	Alex/Ashley Lichtle	(F)
Carter McBride	Shane/Erika McBride	(B)
Peter Melcher	Karl/Alexa Melcher	(P)
Walter Stoppenhagen	Jake/Nicole Stoppenhagen	(F)
Ronin Witte	Colton/Tiffany Witte	(B)

Greetings from the Preschool Classroom

The beginning of the year started, and we started out learning about the Letter A and apples. Next was Pumpkins, B, spiders. Then we focused on family and healthy foods. We had such a BLAST learning about Rockets for the Letter R and for the Letter S! Fast forward to now, we are doing science experiments (Baking Soda & Vinegar and Applesauce Ooble) learning about how God made different kinds of matter. Next month we will be exploring the World of Art & Music. We also be learning about the weather and weather safety. So many fun things are happening here at Preschool. Mrs. Putteet

PREKINDERGARTEN – Mrs. Fuhrmann

<u>Students</u>	<u>Parent(s)</u>	<u>Cong</u>
Allison Bixler	John/Kristin Bixler	(B)
Lillie Brite	Adam/Lindsey Brite	(B)
Griffin Buuck	Michael/Elizabeth Buuck	(F)
Merritt Conrad	Sam/Jennifer Conrad	(F)
Conner Cress	Tyler/Kylie Cress	(B)
Oakley Everett	James/Taylor Everett	(F)
Vivienne Fuelling	Blake/Kacey Fuelling	(P)
Winston Grillot	Tyler/Kelsey Grillot	(B)
Hunter Herman	Andrea Herman	(O)
Parker Hoffman	Nate/Chloe Hoffman	(B)
Nolan Hurst	Brandon/Kimmy Hurst	(F)
Cade Johnson	John Johnson/Candace Johnson	(B)
Jordan Klinker	John/Kara Klinker	(O)
Kayden Lepper	Lucas/Taylor Lepper	(B)
Wyatt Lewandowski	Zach/Abby Lewandowski	(O)
John Nidlinger	John/Casey Nidlinger	(F)
Evelyn Shaffer-Todd	CJ Schaffer/Alexandria Todd	(P)
Macy Sorg	Brian/Krystal Sorg	(F)
Garrett Strome	Samuel/Breanna Strome	(P)
Aria Trombley	Pastor Michael/Kimberly Trombley	(O)
Josiah Trombley	Pastor Michael/Kimberly Trombley	(O)
Emric Young	Jeff/Cassandra Young	(O)

Greetings from the Pre-Kindergarten Classroom

The first part of 2024 has been filled with many fun pre-k activities! We started off with noodle making while learning the letter N. We were fortunate enough to have some expert noodle makers from St. Peter Preble come into the classroom and teach the students the art of noodle making. We followed that fun week with a beach inside the classroom while learning about the ocean and the letter O. We took an in-school field trip to the science lab with Mrs. Gavrun and learned about the different robots we are lucky enough to have at Wyneken. This month, we focused on the solar system and planets God so amazingly designed for us to enjoy. Next month, we will start learning about weather and weather safety. We are very excited about our special guest speaker, Meteorologist Camryn Leatherman from News Channel 15, who will help us understand more about her job and the weather we experience in Indiana. Mrs. Fuhrmann

Birthday Greetings-March

Happy Birthday and God's blessings to our Wyneken family members celebrating birthdays in March: *Students:* Vivienne Fuelling, Jacques Beaulieu, Harper Chard, Michael Scheumann, Adalie Voshell, Chevelle Oetting, Chase Baker, Brooklyn Muldoon, Lillian Chard, Kathleen Furhmann, Mary Yeager, Marshall Lengerich, Clara Gavrun, Lillie Brite, Braelle Brune, Wesley Ennis, Lillie Brite, Emeric Young, Oscar Selking, Olivia Palacios.

Havana Nights Gala & Silent Auction hosted by the Wyneken PTL, will be Saturday, March 9th from 5-10 p.m. at the Mirage in Decatur. Tickets are \$75 per person and \$450 for a table of 6. Presale tickets only and reply by February 15th. For ticket information, please contact Janine Conrad at 260 402-3481 or wynekenptl@gmail.com. We will also be doing a Wine & Spirits Pull. We are seeking donations of types of wine & spirits.

Spring Enrollment for 2024-2025 - Enrollment forms for the 2024-2025 school year are being updated and will be mailed very soon to all currently enrolled families and new families who attended the open house in January. If you know of a family who was not able to attend the open house and would be interested in receiving information, please have them call the school office at 260-639-6177. *Our Preschool Program (3-years old) has a maximum class size of 12; Pre-Kindergarten Program (4-years old) has a maximum class size of 14 per morning/afternoon session. These sessions fill up quickly; do not delay in returning an enrollment form.*

School Tuition Payments are to be paid in full by April 1. If you need to make other arrangements, please contact Cheryl Reinking (business assistant) at 260-639-6177 or by email at creinking@wyneken.org. She is available to speak with Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-1:00pm and Friday, 8:00-11:00am

Middle School Youth Event March 31; Easter Day – Easter Breakfast. Each congregation customarily has a youth-sponsored Easter breakfast. Details will be provided by your church if applicable. Please take advantage of this opportunity to serve.

Wyneken Memorial Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration or its educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

Wyneken School Board Minutes

January 11, 2024 School Board Meeting

Approved 02/08/2024

Members present: Pastor Yeager, Andrew Gavrun, Joey Gorman, Zack Brune, Brett Conrad, Sam Strome, Kasey Adams, Brad Melcher and Sam Conrad

Members absent: Nate Hoffman, Andy Sauer

Guests: Julie Smith, Tricia Day, and Chad Baumann

I. **OPENING DEVOTIONS:**

- a. Meeting opened with prayer at 7:05 PM.

II. **Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes.**

- a. MSC - approve corrected minutes.

III. **Treasurer's Report**

- a. Recommended we move the SGO into a high yield savings account to take advantage of a 4.5% interest rate as long as there no penalties for an early withdraw.
- b. Current interest is 0.005% interest.
MSC to move the SGO into a high yield savings account to take advantage of a 4.5% interest rate as long as there no penalties for an early withdraw.
MSC - Approve Treasurer's Report.

IV. **New Items**

a. **Childcare Report**

- A. Thanks for Board support.
- B. Jen read from written report that will be inserted into the minutes here and enclosed below.
- C. Discussion of the priority of reaching out to various populations to invite returning children.
- D. Outstanding checks are checks written that have yet to be cashed.

b. **Teaching Position**

- A. We will begin advertising our open ELA teaching position in the church bulletins.
- B. Mr. Gavrun has been in contact with the Concordia University System concerning possible new graduates and has already been working to actively search for candidates. He does also have a lead on a synodically trained individual who is currently teaching ELA in the area who may have interest.

c. **SGO - Pre-K**

- A. Last year the state opened the SGO program to include 4 year olds, if enrolled in a Pre-K program. This happened just as we were already accepting applications for the new school year.
 - 1. At Wyneken, our requirements are and have been consistent with state requirements.
 - 2. Should SGOs be opened to Pre-K students moving forward?
 - 3. Discussion of whether the family realizes a benefit and how much of the SGO scholarship will be.
 - 4. We will look at this again at the next meeting.

V. **Updated Items**

- a. Strategic Planning Commission - Continuing to work on
- b. 600 Accounts TBD.

- c. 2024-2025 salaries, tuition and registration - Concordia Tool should be out in February.
- d. 2024-2025 calendar – Mr. Gavrun updated per the request of the board.
 - A. **MSC** to adopt calendar as presented.
- e. Open House - Reminder it is on January 21 from 12 - 3 PM.
- f. Trash Removal - Signed contract with Green for Life, paid to terminate Waste Management contract. Still looking for building to hold cardboard.

VI. **REPORTS**

- a. Principal Report
 - A. Starting second round of NWEA MAP testing this week to gauge academic progress.
 - B. Second quarter offering for LSSI Christmas Families, and Third quarter offering will be for the Hope Clinic. Will be collecting diapers for the Hope Clinic.
 - C. Congratulations to Kara Smith who is our Spelling Bee Champion. Also congratulations to runner-up Connor Sielschott.
 - D. LBI scheduled from 1/23 to 2/27.
 - E. Midterm for 3rd Quarter is February 1.
 - F. PTL meeting on 2/12/2024 at 6:30 PM.
 - G. 8th Graders are doing a smoked meat pulled pork and briquet fundraiser for their Confirmation retreat. They will sell for \$10 a bag for frozen pork and \$15 for frozen brisket on the January 21 and 28.
 - H. North Adams had a bomb threat. Adams county public schools closed their schools. Mr. Gavrun communicated to families that Wyneken was not impacted, but bus services were delayed.
 - I. Mr. Gavrun attended Adams County Schools Safety Commission meeting.
- b. Teacher's Report
 - A. Thank you for the continued support and prayers.
 - B. Preparing for Lutheran School's Week coming up. We will have a diaper drive. Some of the activities being planned include an animal show, prayer partner activities, a talent show, and a pep session.

Hot Lunch Report

 - A. Nothing to report.
- c. Maintenance Report
 - A. Maintenance committee did a walk around of the building of pertinent items. Did a top to bottom issue review of the building.
 - B. Items Reported by Chad Baumann:
 - 1. Furnaces. We have roughly 24 furnaces. They were all put in around 2003. They are all the same age. Suggestion is to replace a couple of them per year. As of April 2023, the 5 ton units, the library was replaced last year, they ran between \$7,000 and \$8,500 plus labor to replace. 2.5 tons run \$6,500 to \$7,500 plus labor to replace. Installation depends on labor costs and equipment price change.
 - a. Discussion of adding to maintenance committee budgeting to replace several furnaces per year.
 - 2. Roof. K-2 wing has issues we are working to address. Tuesday of this week we had wet snow. Water backed up and we had 6-8 leaks in that hall. We developed 3-4 additional leak due broke ridge caps on the roof and weather. Pitting and rust on the roof. CMS Roofing looked at it on April 2023 and submitted a bid. Ohio and Indiana Roofing submitted proposals. CMS quoted around \$83K to fix K-2 wing. Ohio and Indiana Roofing quoted \$70-73K for the products, \$82,825 as of November 2023.

Spoutings are also rusting and sagging. We had a leak in the mechanical room in the 5-8 wing this week. Warranty on CMS new roof is 15 years, non-prorated materials and labor. Ohio and Indiana 2-year workmanship and 20 year labor material. Suggested order of replacement was to replace the K-2 Wing, and then the main gym roof because of the value of the gym floor.

3. Childcare Bathroom. Toilet remains to be an issue. Discussed possible options.
 - a. **MSC** to remove the toilet from that room.
 4. Resource Room Floor. The flooring does not appear to have moved since we began observing it.
 5. It would be nice at some point to have an out building to have a work bench, sink, maybe a bathroom, and maybe some space to house equipment for lawn care. This would be a long-term planning idea.
 6. Sheds. Still researching a possible shed for cardboard at the school. The burn cage needs to be removed.
- C. Notify the church councils that the K-2 wing roof needs to be replaced within the next couple of years.
- D. Build maintenance budget to accommodate replacing a couple furnaces a year.
- d. Budget and Policy
- A. **MSC** - to change drop in policy to verbiage that Jen recommended.
- e. Personnel Committee
- A. Looking for ELA Teacher candidates.
- f. Salary Committee
- A. Waiting for Concordia tool to be released.
- g. Public Relations Committee
- A. Put together Facebook ad concerning Open House. Had over 2000 impressions and only half way through ad dollars.
- h. Other Reports – Nothing to Report.

VII. **Closed Session:** Motion to go into closed session at 9:37 PM.
Exited closed session at 10:08 PM.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:**

- a. **MSC** to adjourn at 10:09 PM.
- b. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Conrad