

SCANDIAN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



County Road #52 • Saint Peter • MN • 56082 • 507.246.5195

December 2023

Striving to Live, Love, Serve, all for the Glory of God.

SPECIAL **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** **To Approve The Updated** **Scandian Grove Constitution**

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held after the church service on **Sunday, December 3, 2023**, to present and vote on the changes made to the 2010 version of the Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Constitution. Please reference the Special Congregational Vote Notification Announcement in the November 2023 Newsletter for details.

The first congregational vote to approve the adoption of the updated Constitution requires:

- ✦ 10 percent of Scandian Grove's voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- ✦ Constitution update approval requires a majority vote of those present and voting.

Pending the approval of the Draft Constitution at the December 3, 2023, meeting, a second congregational vote needs to be secured at the February 11, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting.

The updated Draft Constitution has been reviewed and approved by the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. The Scandian Grove Church Council voted to approve the Draft Constitution as written.

- Paper copies of the updated Draft Constitution are available in the church narthex. Please record your name on the list if you pick up a copy.
- Committee members can be contacted to request an electronic or hard copy version of the redlined and/or fully updated Draft Constitution.
- The Committee welcomes your questions or feedback as Scandian Grove moves to ratify our Congregational Constitution. The Committee members are Theresa Bjorklund, Bill & Beth Kastens, Gordy Rodning, and Beth Kinkeade.

Gary Miller

Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Council President

Theresa Bjorklund

Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Council Secretary

The women of the ELCA of Scandian Grove are invited to a Christmas meeting on **Saturday, December 2**. They will gather at the home of **Theresa Bjorklund at 9:00am**.



Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive

Nicollet Community American Legion

715 3rd Street Nicollet MN 56074

Monday, December 4, 2023

12:00pm to 6:00pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Nicollet to schedule an app.



Donors will receive a \$10 Amazon Gift Card by email. rcloud.org/Amazon

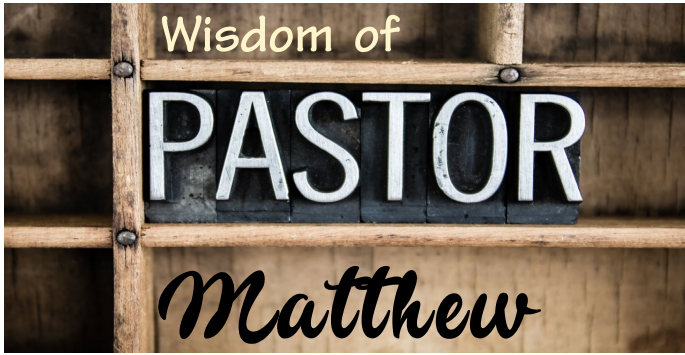


1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App
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MEN'S BREAKFAST



The **Churchmen** will meet on **Saturday, December 9 at 8:30am**. **All** men of the congregation are welcome to join for a time of fellowship, food, and a brief business meeting!



A Place Of Peace, Joy, And Eternal Love

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As we approach the winter season and the days grow shorter, we are reminded of the juxtaposition of darkness and light. This interplay between light and darkness has deep spiritual significance, revealing profound truths about our faith journey.

In the scriptures, darkness often symbolizes challenges, struggles, and moments of despair. It represents the times when we may feel lost, burdened, or uncertain about the path ahead.

However, amidst the darkness, we find solace in knowing that light will always prevail.

1. The Power of Light:

In the Gospel of John, Jesus proclaimed, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."* The light of Christ is a beacon of hope that guides us through the darkest moments of our lives, providing comfort, assurance, and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

2. Advent: A Time of Anticipation:

During this season of Advent, we await the arrival of our Savior, the ultimate Light of the world. The lighting of the Advent candles symbolizes the gradual emergence of light into the world, signifying the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings into our lives.

3. Being Bearers of Light:

As followers of Christ, we are called to be bearers of His light, bringing hope to those in the depths of despair and sharing the love that dispels darkness. Through acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity, we have the power to illuminate the lives of others and demonstrate the transformative nature of Christ's light.

4. Reflecting His Radiance:

In the words of Jesus, *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."* Let us reflect His radiance through our words, actions, and interactions with one another. May we be beacons of hope and sources of encouragement, radiating the light of Christ in our communities and beyond.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, let us remember that even in the darkest of times, His light shines brightly, guiding us through the challenges and leading us to a place of peace, joy, and eternal love.

May the light of Christ fill your hearts and homes with warmth and may you be inspired to share that light with the world.

In His Illuminating Love,
Pastor Matthew Garavalia

All are Invited to Scandian Grove for the Combined Christmas

Sunday School Program & Choir Concert

On Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 9:30am

This worship service is sure to bring back memories and peak your excitement for Christmas!

- ✦ To help with the worship service flow, there will **NOT** be any communion this Sunday. *However*, our Christmas Eve worship service will provide a second opportunity for communion in December.
- ✦ There will be coffee and cookies following the service. The Choir will take the lead on this but Sunday School families are asked to bring 1-2 dozen cookies to the kitchen prior to the service.

PLEASE NOTE! *Sunday School children will be practicing for their Christmas Program during the scheduled Sunday School times on the first & third Sundays in December.*



Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Members Present

Gary Miller, Jeff Allerson, Joni Anderson, Jay Hanson, Theresa Bjorklund, Collin Johnson, David Hermanson, Dick Kinkeade, Pam Rogich, and Pastor Matthew Garavalia

Excused Heidi Scheurer, Rhonda Hermanson

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm and lead by President Gary Miller

Devotions by Pastor Matthew - Feeding of the 5,000 - Trust in God's Generosity

Secretary's Report

Pam made a motion to accept the October Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Jay, motion passed.

Financial Secretary's Report for October

Collin reviewed the report for the group. Dick motioned to approve this report, seconded by Pam, and carried.

Savings Account Balance as of 10/31/23

Family Medical Fund Balance:	\$5,518.25
Improvement Fund Balance:	4,025.78
Memorial Fund Balance:	4,796.44
Scholarship Fund Balance:	5,856.32

Treasurers Report

Beginning Balance: (10/1/23)	\$26.56
Total Deposits:	14,286.71
<u>Total Expenses:</u>	<u>-\$13,457.13</u>
Checking Balance:	\$856.14
+Sunday School Fund:	327.81
Ending Balance: (10/31/23)	\$1,183.95

Treasurer's Report

Dave reviewed the Treasurer's report for the group. Jeff motioned to approve this report, seconded by Joni and carried.

The Council discussed the Sister Synod in South Africa and the possibility of monetary support. Pam made a motion to contribute \$500 from the General Fund to the South Africa Synod. Seconded by Dick and carried.

Committee Reports

CONSTITUTION UPDATE COMMITTEE

The Synod has recently approved the final draft of the SGLC Constitution. The Committee is following a Synod designated timeline that includes: Putting notice of the Special Congregational Meeting into the November and December Newsletters and specific bulletins; Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 3 to review and vote on the final draft of the Constitution with the Congregation. Final vote on the Constitution at the SGLC Annual Meeting on February 11, 2024.

PROPERTY

Coffee Machine timer was adjusted by Collin with the help of the Bunn Company; now seems to be working better. Reminder to congregation members to empty and clean urn(s) after use. Motion made by Theresa to have the Bunn tech come and do a tune up with funds coming from the Improvement Fund. Seconded by Joni, motion passed.

EDUCATION

First Communion Education was held for Elise W with the body and bread to be given during the Thanksgiving Eve service. Joni made the motion to have a flower arrangement purchased in honor of Elise, seconded by Dick and motion passed.

Christmas Sunday School/Choir Program will be held Sunday, December 17 during the morning service time. Emily and Maddi will be co-chairing the Sunday School Program. The Choir has accepted the invitation to have a joint Sunday School/Choir Program. Special treats after the program will be served.

The Education Committee gave the recommendation to defer Sunday, December 17 communion as it would be served on Christmas Eve. After discussion, Dick made a motion to defer Sunday, December 17 communion to Christmas Eve, Pam seconded, motion passed.

Pam will lead putting together "Goodie Bags" for after the program.

MISSIONS

Serving at "The Kitchen" - On Monday, October 30, 97-100 meals were served. It was a busy event, 14 attended as volunteers. Tater tot hotdish and sides were served. In the future, SGLC will not serve at the Kitchen during the week of the Fall Supper. End of January will be the next opportunity to serve at "The Kitchen." The opportunity to help with clean-up will be added to the volunteer job list.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Matthew reviewed the many activities and tasks he has been involved in throughout the month.

Old Business

Safety Committee to possibly be formed to further discuss best practices if/when emergency issues arise. Volunteer members will be sought. Tabled.

GIFT Sunday Update - Was hosted by SGLC on Sunday, October 15. Event was well received. Next Gift meeting to be held at St Paul's on Sunday, November 15, 2023. Pastor Matthew able to attend.

Fall Supper - Well received with 617 in attendance (20% increase). Report from Committee was read that included recommendations regarding topics such as: caterer, profit, response from those attending. Benefactor options considered. Decisions will be made at an upcoming meeting.

Visitation Program - Seminary student, Jill Norell, continues to attend classes and work on related projects. Pastor will attend Joint Visioning meeting and explore ways that involved congregations can be of support to this program.

Funeral Book being worked on. Tabled.

Resources - Reminders given to be conscientious about church resources by shutting off lights and fans.

New Business

Fellowship Hall Chairs - Discussion held regarding the offer of "new to us" chairs. Reviewed the pros and cons related to the decision to decline the offer. Council grateful for the offer.

Thanksgiving/Christmas - Christmas Eve service set for Sunday, December 24, 2023, at 4:30pm. No morning worship. Joni made the motion that the Thanksgiving and Christmas donations of loose and designated offerings to go toward the ELCA Good Gifts Program. Seconded by Jeff and motion passed. Church members are encouraged to make a difference by making a tax-deductible donation. More information available in the narthex. The Sunday School will also be contributing their offering toward the program.

The Yearly Church Well Water Testing was completed by Nicollet County in October. Test results showed no abnormalities.

New Member Sunday will be set at a future date. Those interested in becoming a member of Scandian Grove are encouraged to speak with Pastor Matthew.

Adjournment

Dick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm, seconded by Jay, motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting

On Friday, December 8, 2023 at 6:00pm, hosted by Joni Anderson at her home.

Communion Assistants for December are Rhonda H and Pam R.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Bjorklund, Church Council Secretary

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Gordy Rodning	11	Aubrey Scheurer
	Theresa Bjorklund		Hadlee Bjorklund
4	Wallace Larson	13	Nathan Miller
	Jill Norell		Garrett Miller
	Lora Dennis	14	Jared Morris
	Theodore Allerson	15	Pauline Wieland
	Jesse Bye	20	Lauren Johnson
6	Steve Jonason Jr.		Luke Engel
7	Spencer Dickinson		Jacob Engel
8	Mary Myhra	23	Kevin Webster
9	Cole Pankratz		Anna Leafblad
	Braxton Kurth		Helena Satterness
10	Janet Myhra	25	Dayna Jaster
	Zachary Miller	31	Sara Bye

*Christmas Eve Communion
Candlelight Worship*

*Sunday, December 24
at 4:30pm*

NOTE! *NO Sunday morning
service this day nor the
next on Christmas Day!!*



Thank You

Thanks to all who helped prepare, serve, and clean up our meal at "The Kitchen" on Monday, October 30. Also, many thanks to those who gave financially and for the food donations.
Joni and Rhonda



THANK YOU
so much!

Thank you so much for the many birthday greetings. Your presence and good wishes helped to make my 95th Birthday very special and they are appreciated.
Elaine Hermanson




We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Marci (Bruce) Norell whose mother **Janice E. Manzey** passed away on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, in Plymouth, MN. The funeral service was held at Saint Peter Lutheran Church on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 10:30am with her interment at the cemetery in Sherburn, MN.



Marci and family, we share in your grief and sorrow at the passing of your Mother!

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." *Matthew 5:4*

Remember in prayer...

We pray for those who are having difficulties in their relationships, the lonely, neglected, hungry, and those financially strained, those fighting anxiety and depression, recuperation from illness and surgeries, those grieving the loss of a loved one, and those serving in the military along with their families still at home. Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.

	December 2023	January 2024
ALTAR GUILD	Joanne Wolf	Heidi Scheurer
READERS	Vicki Hermanson	Kathryn Germscheid
USHERS	Doug & Judy Schultz Bill & Beth Kastens	Time and Seth Lokensgard
COUNCIL COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Rhonda Hermanson Pam Rogich	Dave Hermanson Gary Miller
COUNCIL HOST	Joni Anderson	Rhonda Hermanson



A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who stayed to help decorate, organized the potluck, brought a dish to share, and/or stayed to clean-up on Sunday, November 26, 2023 after the service!

Congratulations

to *Elise Wilker*



who completed First Communion Classes. Elise took her First Communion on Wednesday evening at our Thanksgiving Eve table. We pray that her faith will continue to grow as she experiences God's grace and forgiveness through this sacrament in the years to come.

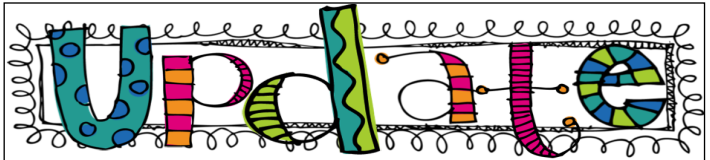
Acts of Kindness Advent Calendars

Our Sunday School families received an Advent Calendar to use beginning Friday, December 1, 2023. These beautiful calendars are done in a Scandinavian theme and revolve around Acts of Kindness.

Starting Friday, December 1, the Congregation will receive a daily email that will contain the same message that our children are getting. This is a great way for us to be intergenerationally connected. You are invited to use these daily reminders to advance your own personal faith journey and preparation of your hearts for Jesus' second coming.



Sometimes the **magic** of Christmas is found in the *simple things.*



Pastor Matthew is no longer holding set office hours but is available to talk by phone at **651-283-0434** or by setting up an in person meeting that is convenient to your preferred schedule and location.
Pastor Matthew Garavalia
Scandian Grove Lutheran Church
Norseland, MN

Children's "Busy Bags" Available

SGLC loves to have our young people in church! To help out parents and grandparents, we now have some **Busy Bags** to keep these hands and minds occupied during the service. You will find them hanging on the coat hooks at each entrance.

They are designed to be age appropriate and are marked for specific age groups. This is an evolving project. We encourage our young people to help themselves prior to worship.

Our only "ask" is:

1. Take any works of art with you but leave all other items in the bag for another day.
2. If necessary, please wipe down any materials with the Clorox wipes found on the coat rack prior to leaving.
3. Return the Busy Bag to the hook you got it from.



**Children's
Busy
Bag**

Equipping Congregations Day!

Come gather together as we enter the season of Advent with learning opportunities to Equip Congregations as we **"live the Word today."**

Saturday, December 2, 2023

8:30am - 3:00pm

Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar

ALL ARE WELCOME!

- Congregation Members
- Council Officers
- Christian Educators
- Worship & Youth Leaders
- Pastors... **Everyone!**

Childcare is available!

Contact Pastor if interested in attending!

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

The 2023 SGLC Mission Project

The Sunday School Children and the Congregation are invited to collaborate in an effort to support the ELCA Good Gifts Program. A special offering was taken during our Thanksgiving Eve service and the collection continues through Christmas!

**CONSIDER GIVING IN HONOR OR
IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE SPECIAL TO YOU.**

*A display and more information
is available in the narthex.*



DATES TO REMEMBER

In preparation for year-end reporting and the Annual Meeting, Treasurers should have their books ready for audit by January 17th. Secretaries should also send a summary of their year to Anna by this date for inclusion in the Annual Report. *Thank you very much!*



12-5
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By
and
JEFF
KEANE

**“Putting Baby Jesus in swaddling
clothes was the first Christmas
present wrapping.”**



Zion Lutheran Church in Arlington will hold a Community Christmas Program on **Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30pm**. See the poster on the bulletin board for more information.



Scandian Grove Lutheran Church

WILLING TO SERVE

Please consider your Time & Talents to share with our church and others. Write your name beside the areas you are interested in & drop off at church in the basket or email it to the church treasurer at scandiantreas@gmail.com by **December 31, 2023**

STEWARDSHIP

We are gifted, We are called to share!



COMMITTEES:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Christian Education _____ | Lutefisk _____ |
| Church Property _____ | Mission _____ |
| Evangelism _____ | Mutual Ministry _____ |
| Finance _____ | Stewardship _____ |
| Funeral _____ | Social Ministry _____ |
| Historical _____ | Technology _____ |
| Worship & Music _____ | |

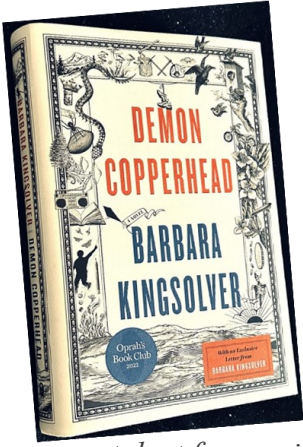


OPPORTUNITIES:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Altar Guild _____ | Green Lake Delegate _____ |
| Auditor _____ | Reader _____ |
| Cemetery Board _____ | Special Music _____ |
| Choir _____ | Sunday School Teacher _____ |
| Church Council _____ | Synod Assembly Delegate _____ |
| Food Shelf Driver _____ | Usher _____ |
| GAC Delegate _____ | Other _____ |

OUTSIDE STEWARDSHIP: There are many other little things that members can quietly do.....and many of you already do! We thank you for your willingness to share your talents for our benefit. **Thank you** for your Time & Talent! **The Stewardship Committee**





SGLC Book Club invites you to discuss...

Demon Copperhead

By Barbara Kingsolver



December 17, 2023 at 4:00pm

with Christmas Potluck to follow at the home of Wallace and Kazuko Larson in Saint Peter

*Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, **Demon Copperhead** is a story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Demon shares his perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.*

You are invited to join your SGLC Book Club in discussing this book before we eat our potluck Christmas dinner at the Larson home! Come relax and learn with us, as we enjoy an early evening with other readers.

In **January**, we will be reading & discussing...

Sky Burial: An Epic Love Story of Tibet

By XINRAN



It's time to consider **Poinsettia Orders**. The altar will be adorned with these beautiful flowers for our Christmas Eve worship service. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please complete this order form and return it to the church office. Each plant costs \$11.75 and will be delivered to the church. Following the Christmas Eve worship service, you are invited to take it home with you to continue sharing the joy of the season.

HOWEVER, your order form(s) *must* be received in the church office on or **by December 3rd**. **This is a FIRM DEADLINE.** Also, a few order forms can be found in the narthex for your convenience.

The cost is \$11.75 per plant.

Poinsettia Orders

Due on or by December 3, 2023

(Circle correct option below)

Given In memory of / In honor of

Quantity Ordered _____
X \$11.75 each

Total Cost = \$ _____

Paid by
Check / Cash

Given by: _____

Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Calendar

December 2023

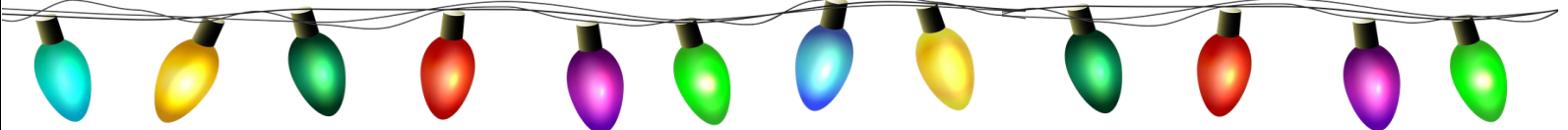
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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DECEMBER

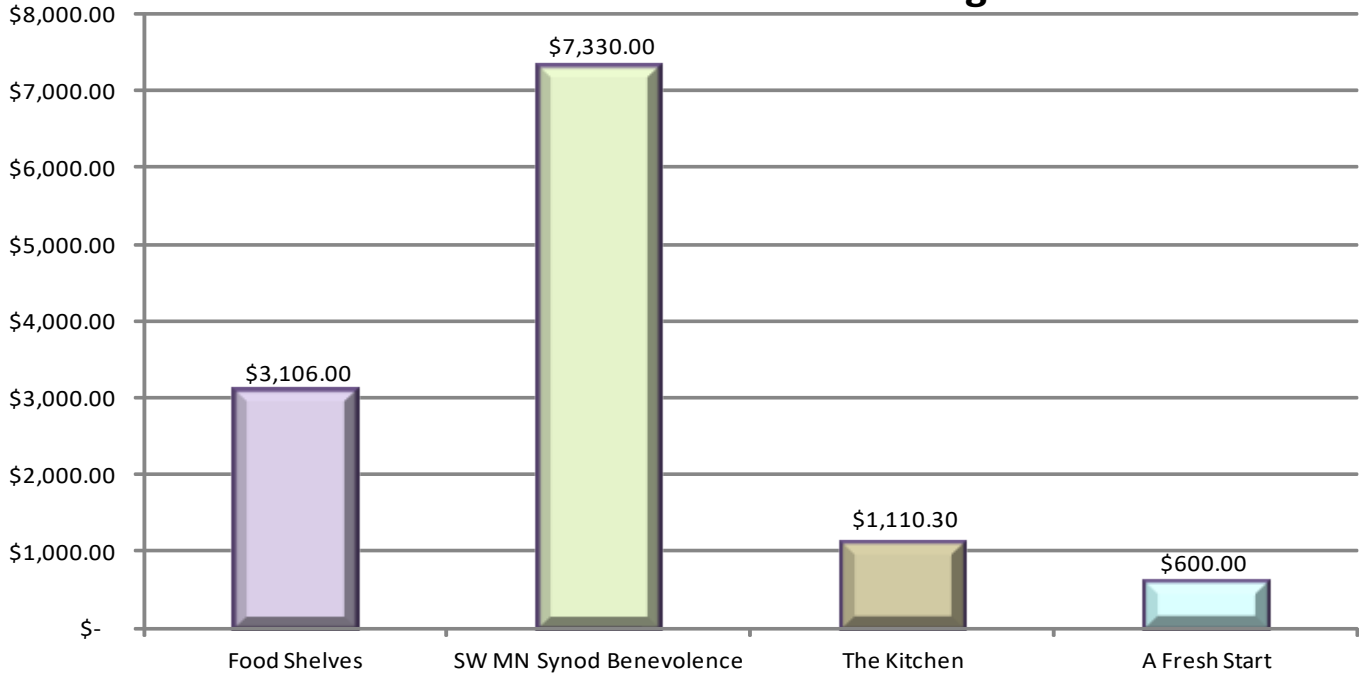


<p>3</p> <p>8:30am Sunday School Xmas Program Practice and Adult Forum</p> <p>9:30am Worship Service w/Holy Communion Special Congregational mtg after worship</p> <p>10:00am KNUJ "A New Day" Poinsettia Orders Due!</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:00 to 6:00pm Blood Drive at Nicollet Legion</p> <p>6:30pm Lay Ministry Care Team Mtg</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30pm Community Christmas Program, at Zion Lutheran Church, Arlington</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00pm Choir practice</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00am WELCA Xmas Meeting at Theresa B</p> <p>8:30 to 3:00pm Equipping Congregations</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:30am Worship Service</p> <p>10:00am KNUJ "A New Day"</p> <p>3:00pm Norseland 4-H Mtg</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00pm Choir practice</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Deadline <i>Don't Miss the DEADLINE!</i></p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 Food Shelf Sunday</p> <p>8:30am Sunday School Xmas Program Practice and Adult Forum</p> <p>9:30am Combined Sunday School Christmas Program & Choir Concert NO Holy Communion</p> <p>10:00am KNUJ "A New Day"</p> <p>4:00pm Book Club Christmas Gathering at Wallace & Kazuko's</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30pm Lay Ministry Care Team Mtg</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00pm NO Choir practice</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>9:30am NO Morning Worship Service</p> <p>10:00am KNUJ "A New Day"</p> <p>4:30pm Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00pm NO Choir practice</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>30</p>

<p>31 New Year's Eve</p> <p>9:30am Worship Service</p> <p>10:00am KNUJ "A New Day"</p> <p>Time & Talent Sheets Due!</p>



Scandian Grove Total Giving



Total benevolence giving thru October 31, 2023--\$12,146.30

Financial Report-October 2023

Fund	General Checking Fund Beginning Balance Less Historical/Choir Music/ Keyboard	Deposits/Transfers/ Increases	Expenditures/Transfers/ Decreases	General Checking Fund Ending Balance Less Historical/ Choir Music/Keyboard
General/Checking Fund-26.56	(1,001.13)	14,286.71	13,457.13	(171.55)
Checking/Pastor's Stole	100.00	-	-	100.00
Checking/Keyboard	158.57	-	-	158.57
Checking/Sunday School Funds	597.50	-	269.69	327.81
Checking/Historical Bldg. Upkeep	769.12	-	-	769.12
TOTAL CHECKING/SUNDAY SCHOOL	624.06	14,286.71	15,337.77	1,183.95
Credit Line	300.00	-	300.00	-
Family Medical Savings Account	5,378.08	140.17	-	5,518.25
Improvement Savings Account	3,530.78	495.00	-	4,025.78
Memorial Savings Account	4,796.44	-	-	4,796.44
Scholarship Savings Account	6,556.32	-	700.00	5,856.32
Mission Investment Fund	80,611.00	-	-	80,611.00
LPL Fund-Chgd. to Quarterly Reporting	38,900.15	76.95	1,081.95	37,895.15

THANK-YOU!! Your gifts are "making a difference" in the congregation, community, and throughout God's World.



SCANDIAN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 42869 COUNTY ROAD #52
 SAINT PETER MN 56082
<http://scandiangrovelutheranchurch.org>

STAMP

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, October 29	55
Sunday, November 5	79
Sunday, November 12	65
Sunday, November 19	77
Wednesday, November 22 Thanksgiving	55
Sunday, November 26	73



Find us on
Facebook



Like

Scandian Grove Lutheran Church

Website: <http://scandiangrovelutheranchurch.org/>

WARNING!
DUE DATES
ARE CLOSER
THAN THEY
APPEAR

Newsletter
Deadline

December 15



A New Year's Prayer

DEAR LORD

As a new year begins, We come to You and ask for Your blessing.

We pray that you would give us joy to fill our days, peace to fill our hearts, and love to fill our lives.

Thank You for the plans You have for us in this new year.

We wait in anticipation to see all You will do!

Thanking God for you and praying your new year is blessed in every way.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

AMEN