

SCANDIAN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

Begin
the
Year
with



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

January 2024

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



Help Needed
Following worship on **Sunday, January 7, 2024**, all who are available are asked to stay and help take down the Christmas décor and store it until next year.
Thank you so much!



Join us
MEN'S Fellowship BREAKFAST

The **Churchmen** will meet on **Saturday, January 13 at 8:30am.**
All men of the congregation are welcome to join for a time of fellowship, food, and a brief business meeting!

SUBMIT YOUR REPORTS

Secretary & Treasure 2023 Reports
due on or by
Wednesday, January 17, 2024!
DEADLINES:

Treasurers are asked to have their 2023 Reports completed for an *internal audit* **by Wednesday, January 17, 2024.**

Secretaries are asked to submit a summary of their group's 2023 activities **by Wednesday, January 17, 2024.**

The above mentioned Treasurer & Secretary Reports will be included in the Annual Meeting Booklets.

Committees & Groups are asked to submit Schedules and Officer Information for the 2024 year **by Wednesday, January 31, 2024.** *These will be included in the updated 2024 Schedule Book.*

If you have any **updates for the 2024 Schedule Book** regarding names, addresses, emails, or phone numbers, please let Anna know **by Wednesday, January 31, 2024** at secretarysglc@gmail.com

NOTE! *Congregational Vote To Approve Updated Scandian Grove Draft Constitution*

The **Annual Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting** will be held after the church service on **Sunday, February 11, 2024.**

The agenda will include a second Congregational vote to accept the changes made to the 2010 version of the Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Constitution.

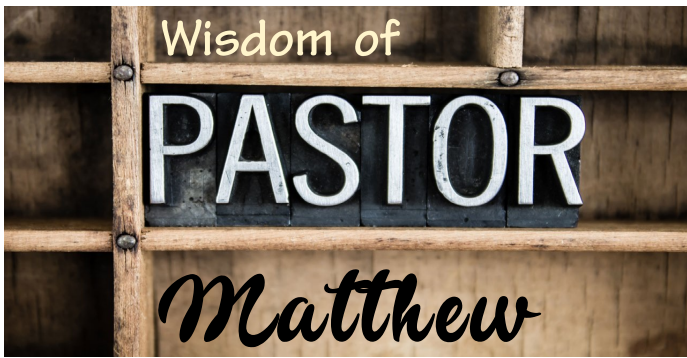
- ✦ 10 percent of Scandian Grove's voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- ✦ *Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.*
- ✦ Constitution update approval requires a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.

The first Congregational vote to approve the adoption of the updated Constitution resulted in 61 yes votes and 1 no vote. This vote was taken at the Special Congregational Meeting conducted on Sunday, December 3, 2023.

- ◆ Paper copies of the updated Draft Constitution are available in the Church Narthex.
- ◆ Committee Members can be contacted to request an electronic or hard copy version of the redlined and/or fully updated Draft 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



Embrace The New Beginnings

Dear Scandian Grove Family,

As we step into the first month of the year, there's a sense of renewal in the air that's invigorating and filled with hope. January is the time of year when we are blessed with the opportunity for new beginnings. It's a chance to start anew, to let go of the past, and to embrace the possibilities of the future. At Scandian Grove, we're excited to kick off this year with open hearts and a sense of purpose.

New Year, New Chapter in Our Spiritual Journey:

January marks the beginning of a new chapter in our spiritual journey. It's a time to reflect on our faith, our relationship with God, and our place in the world. Just as the dawn of a new day brings fresh opportunities, so does the start of a new year offer a chance to deepen our connection with our Creator and with one another.

New Resolutions for Our Spiritual Growth:

As we set personal goals for the year ahead, let's not forget to set resolutions for our spiritual growth. Consider attending our Sunday services regularly, participating in our small groups, or volunteering for community outreach programs. These are opportunities for personal and communal growth that can be deeply rewarding.

A New Look at Gratitude:

In the busyness of life, it's easy to forget the power of gratitude. This year, let's resolve to be more thankful for the blessings we have. Start a gratitude journal, count your daily blessings, and remember that every day is an opportunity for a fresh start.

A Fresh Vision for Scandian Grove:

At Scandian Grove, we're excited to embark on this new year with a fresh vision. We're dedicated to strengthening our bonds, spreading love and compassion, and growing as a spiritual community. Our ministries, events, and services will reflect this vision, and we encourage your active participation in making it a reality.

Join Us on This Journey:

The path of new beginnings is a journey we all walk together. We invite you to be a part of this exciting journey at Scandian Grove. Together, we can embrace the fresh opportunities that 2024 offers and continue to be a source of light and hope in our community.

As we look ahead to this year filled with promise and potential, let's embrace the new beginnings that January brings. May our faith, our fellowship, and our love for one another continue to grow and flourish in the months to come.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful start to the year. See you at Church as we celebrate new beginnings together!

In His grace and love,
Pastor Matthew Garavalia

Happy New Year!!



Pastor Matthew will be taking some vacation time from **January 1 through January 7, 2024.**

Should the need for pastoral care arise during that time, please reach out to Gary Miller or Anna Lokensgard.



Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Friday, December 8, 2023

Members Present

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

Excused Heidi Scheurer

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm and lead by President Gary Miller

Devotions by Pastor Matthew - Gifts of the Kings, Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh. What gifts will we bring?

Secretary's Report

Rhonda made a motion to accept the November Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Joni, motion passed.

Financial Secretary's Report for November

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

Savings Account Balance as of 11/30/23

Family Medical Fund Balance:	\$5,518.25
Improvement Fund Balance:	4,616.80
Memorial Fund Balance:	4,871.44
Scholarship Fund Balance:	5,856.32

Treasurers Report

Beginning Balance: (11/1/23)	\$856.14
Total Deposits:	25,946.30
Total Expenses:	-\$22,590.48
Checking Balance:	\$4,211.96
+Sunday School Fund:	334.11
Ending Balance: (11/30/23)	\$4,546.07

Treasurer's Report

Vicki reviewed the Treasurer's report for the group. Dick motioned to approve this report, seconded by Pam and carried.

Committee Reports

CONSTITUTION UPDATE COMMITTEE

A Special Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, December 3, 2023 to review and vote on the *final draft* of the Constitution which passed with the congregational vote of 61/1. The final vote on the Constitution will be at the SGLC Annual Meeting on February 11, 2024.

PROPERTY

The Bunn Company tech will come to Scandian Grove on Monday, December 11 and do a tune up with repair costs coming from the Improvement fund.

Rhonda made a motion to pay for the replacement of the dishwasher at the parsonage out of the improvement fund. Pam seconded the motion, passed.

Carpets in the church cleaned. Kitchen and bathrooms sanitized for a total cost of \$1,580. The carpets are cleaned on a 2 year rotation.

EDUCATION

First Communion was held for Elise W with the Body and Bread given during the Thanksgiving Eve service.

Worship & Music: 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. Pam will lead putting together "Goodie Bags" for after the program. The second December communion will be served on Christmas Eve.

MISSIONS

Stewardship: Vicki created a Time & Talent Sheet; it is available in the narthex to be returned by Saturday, December 30, 2023.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Matthew reviewed the many activities and tasks he has been involved in throughout the month. From January 1 - 7 will be vacation time. Pastor Humphrey will join SGLC to preach; Pastor

Sam Mailleue will assist with pastoral care needs during that time. Contact Gary or Anna if any needs arise.

Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix during the month of July 2025. Pastor is looking for a delegate from Scandian Grove.

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 - Consider partnering with VBS again? Education Committee will have discussion and share a recommendation.

Fall Supper - Final details – good attendance (up 20%), Net Profit \$7,436.05. Committee made the recommendation that the funds be divided evenly between Good Gifts, Henderson Food Shelf, Sibley, Nicollet, and Le Sueur County Food Shelves and the Fresh Start Programs. Rhonda made motion, Dick seconded – motion passed.

Visitation Program - Seminary student, Jill Norell and the group continue to meet and discuss options to care for our parishioners.

Funeral Guide Book being worked on and is ready to be reviewed.

New Business

Equipping Congregations - Maria L, Laurie W, Louise F, and Alyssa D attended. Will present a short update at the January meeting on ways SGLC can possibly utilize lessons learned moving into the new year.

Annual Meeting Prep/Ballot - Nominating Committee working to fill the ballot.

Thanksgiving/Christmas - Christmas Eve service is set for Sunday, December 24 at 4:30pm with no morning worship service. The Thanksgiving and Christmas donations of loose and designated offerings and Sunday School offerings to go toward the ELCA Good Gifts Program.

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

Adjournment

Dick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58pm, seconded by Pam, motion carried.

Next Monthly Meeting

On Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:30pm, hosted by Rhonda.

Communion Assistants for January 2024 are Dave and Gary.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Bjorklund, Church Council Secretary

A NEW BEGINNING . . .

Your Journey Has Just Begun



	<u>January 2024</u>	<u>February 2024</u>
ALTAR GUILD	Heidi Scheurer	Kelly Norell
READERS	Kathryn Germscheid	Tim Lokensgard
USHERS	Tim and Seth Lokensgard	Dave Hermanson, Red Bushman
COUNCIL COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Dave Hermanson Gary Miller	Jay Hanson Collin Johnson
COUNCIL HOST	Rhonda Hermanson	Jay Hanson



A Community Bible Study will be starting on **February 5, 2024**, in Mankato.

The study will be of **Ephesians** and will meet on Monday evenings through April 29 (off on April 1) from 7:00 to 8:30pm.

Cost is \$15

If you've never been a part of a Bible Study before, *this is a very comfortable format.*

Talk to Anna for more information.

You are welcome to just come for one night for free to check it out and decide if it is for you or not.

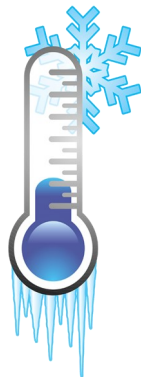


WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

In the event that weather impacts SGLC happenings, an email will go out on the Announcement List and Prayer Chain call list.



KNUJ New Ulm and KTOE Mankato *may* also be informed.



If in doubt, call a Council Member before setting out. If you don't feel comfortable driving in the weather, we encourage you to stay home.

Safety First!



Volunteers Needed!

Scandian Grove is serving once again at **"The Kitchen"** on **Monday, January 29, 2024**

Our proposed menu is:

- ♥ Pulled Pork Sandwiches
- ♥ Salad
- ♥ Baked Beans
- ♥ Chips
- ♥ Dessert
- ♥ Milk & Coffee



Please consider volunteering your time to help prep, serve, and/or clean up. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex.

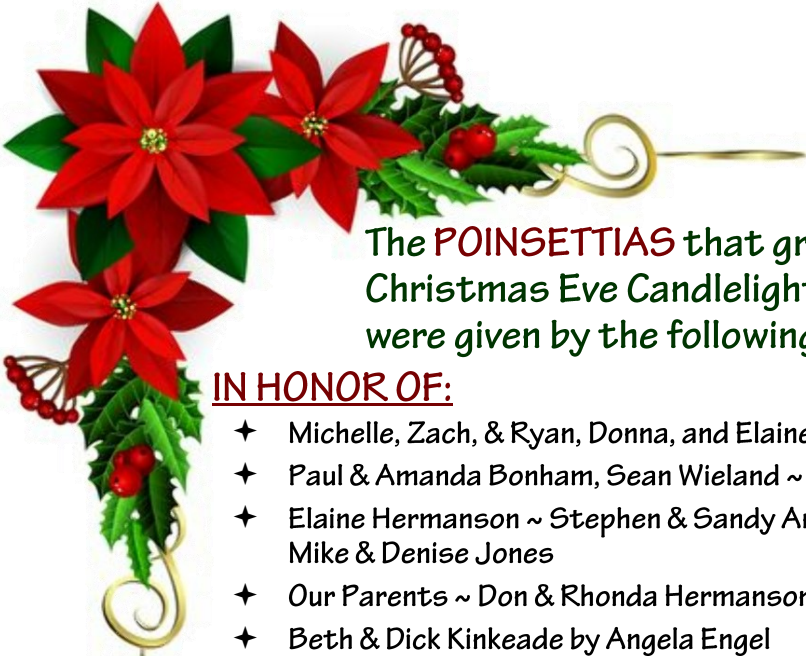
We are looking for cash donations to cover the cost of food. Please make checks out to Scandian Grove with *"The kitchen"* in the memo line. If you choose to donate cash, please give to Rhonda Hermanson or Neal Anderson.

Thanks in advance!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Mary Rodning	18	Isaac Rodning
2	Beth Kastens	20	Taylor Wilking
4	Anthony Beckius	21	Henry Hokenson
5	Daniel Schultz	22	Pam Rogich
6	Jeremy Jonason	23	Douglas Schultz
8	Donna Widdifield		Norman Wolf
	Heidi Rodning	24	Scott Rieger
	Patti Kelly		Morgan Bye
9	Dale Bjorklund		Darin Schultz
	Rhonda Hermanson		MacKenzie Dickinson
14	Brody Rodning	25	Brooklyn Swenson
	Kris Fredrickson	28	Bruce Norell
	Jessica Hanson	29	Janae Moe
17	Vicki Hermanson		Harold Nesbitt

Merry Christmas



The **POINSETTIAS** that graced our sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship Service were given by the following individuals:

IN HONOR OF:

- ✦ Michelle, Zach, & Ryan, Donna, and Elaine ~ Dave & Vicki Hermanson
- ✦ Paul & Amanda Bonham, Sean Wieland ~ Jay & Pauline Wieland
- ✦ Elaine Hermanson ~ Stephen & Sandy Anenson, Matthew & Sharon Amdahl, and Mike & Denise Jones
- ✦ Our Parents ~ Don & Rhonda Hermanson
- ✦ Beth & Dick Kinkeade by Angela Engel

IN MEMORY OF:

- ✦ Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Rodning ~ by The Rodning Family
- ✦ Carroll Hermanson ~ by Elaine Hermanson
- ✦ Michael, Micah, Robert, and Carroll ~ by Dave & Vicki Hermanson
- ✦ Maurice & Margaret Norell, George & Delaine Wolf ~ by Norm & Joanne Wolf
- ✦ Laddie C. & Zora Z. Dosedel ~ by Laddie Dosedel
- ✦ Joe Pankratz ~ The Family
- ✦ Rev. Johannes & Sophie Randahl ~ Great Grandson Marlin Peterson
- ✦ Hubert & Frankie Anderson and Dean Anderson ~ by Jay & Pauline Wieland
- ✦ Gene & Joan Wieland and Joy ~ by Jay & Pauline Anderson
- Willis, Linnea, David, Don Lind and Denny Nygard ~ by Marian Nygard, Margaret & Tom Blackburn, Marlene Lind
- ✦ Steven Jonason and Gracie ~ by Jeremy Jonason and Nicole & Heather Jonason
- ✦ Jeri & Erwood Jonason, Joy & George Rogich ~ by Pam & George Rogich and Family
- ✦ Ernst & Francis Jonason, Ed & Retta Arthur ~ by Pam & George Rogich and Family
- ✦ Steven Jonason, Glen & Marjorie Jonason ~ by Pam & George Rogich and Family
- ✦ Tom & Mary Jane Wendelschafer and Ryan ~ by Pam Rogich
- ✦ Jerry & Hazel Johnson ~ by their Family
- ✦ Tammy Johnson and Craig ~ by Collin, Lauran, Eric & Ally
- ✦ Elroy & Laura Webster ~ by Bernie & Beatrice Roscoe
- ✦ Elroy, Douglas, Robert, and Carolyn Webster ~ by Bernie & Beatrice Roscoe
- ✦ Robert & Corinne Johnson ~ by Beth & Dick Kinkeade
- ✦ Annika Kjerstin Talitha Langr ~ by Solveig Olsen
- ✦ Julian Olsen ~ by Solveig Olsen
- ✦ Our Parents ~ by Don & Rhonda Hermanson
- ✦ Sue Engel, Christine Seely, Lynn Engel, Butch & Babe Engel ~ by the Engel Family
- ✦ Melissa Thalman and Cindy Stegemann ~ by the Engel Family
- ✦ Marlin & Florence Peterson ~ by Louis & Diane Birr





"Two pair ain't gonna cut it, Joseph. I've got Three Kings."

Lead From God's Pencil by the Editor



As I write this column, I'm anticipating the 2024 New Year and all it will hold for me as a person, wife, and mother. I also can't help but think of some of the past new year's and how I celebrated them and with whom. One that will forever be the most funny and memorable was back in the 70's. It was the norm back then for the Luther League to have a party on New Year's Eve for the congregation and their families. This event didn't get much attendance except for the Luther League kids, their parents, and a lot of their siblings, and of course the supervisors/chaperones.

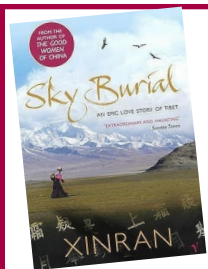
We were all gathered in the old church basement that New Year's Eve night. The chairs for the audience were in rows facing the East wall. The guys came in from the *door* to the bathrooms and the steps that went upstairs to the back of church or outside. I'm a little foggy as to who all the guys were but I do remember Don H., Wayne B., and Lee F. being some of the guys who took part in this entertaining skit. I think there were five guys altogether, but here's where it is foggy for me as to who the others were. If anyone remembers this night and remembers who the others were, please let me know!

So, the five guys came in from *that door* and stood in a line, up in front of the altar. Lee was first to come in and then came the others behind him. The last guy, I believe, was Don. Each guy brought with them a toothbrush and Don also carried a tube of toothpaste and a little glass of water which he set down on the chair in front of him. Don proceeds to quietly open the tube of toothpaste and squeezes a good line on his toothbrush and then passes the tub on to the next guy who squeezes toothpaste on his toothbrush too. On down the line of guys the toothpaste is passed until they all have toothpaste on their brushes. Next Don dips his toothbrush in the water and proceeds to brush his teeth, then takes a drink of the water, rinses his mouth, and spits the sudsy water back in the glass and then to my horror, he passes the glass to the guy next to him and he in turn does the same actions! Down the line the glass is passed, and each guy follows suit by spitting their sudsy water back into the glass after rinsing! When the last guy gets the glass, he dips this brush in the glass and proceeds to brush his teeth too. **WARNING!** Here's where it gets gross.....This last guy doesn't rinse his mouth out but drinks all the liquid in the glass and then stands there just grinning at the audience who are laughing, groaning, or gaging. Without a word all the guys turn and quietly file out the door. I was never so stunned as to how their skit ended. So, you see why this is a memory I've not forgotten?

Now I think it would have been fun to be a fly on the wall, once the door closed behind them to see what those guys did next. My mind can only imagine one thing! Also, who was the brains behind this skit? I guess this could be called good "*clean*" fun! Pun intended! Ha!

Anyway, happy New Year & may 2024 hold abundant blessings for you to hold dear in your memories!

Wishing everyone God's Peace & Joy! Bonnie Page 7



SGLC Book Club
invites you to discuss. . .

Sky Burial:

An Epic Love Story of Tibet
By Xue Xinran

Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 4:00pm

at the home of Maria Lokensgard
with discussion Leader Solveig Olsen

*It was 1994 when author, Xinran, a journalist and the internationally acclaimed author of *The Good Women of China*, received a telephone call asking her to travel four hours to meet a woman who had just crossed the border from Tibet into China.*

*Xinran made the trip and met a woman, Shu Wen, who recounted the story of her thirty-year odyssey in the vast landscape of Tibet. In *Sky Burial*, Xinran has recreated Shu Wen's journey, painting an extraordinary portrait of a woman and a land, each at the mercy of fate and politics. It is an unforgettable, uplifting tale of love, loss, loyalty, and survival.* Amazon

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

Bel Conto

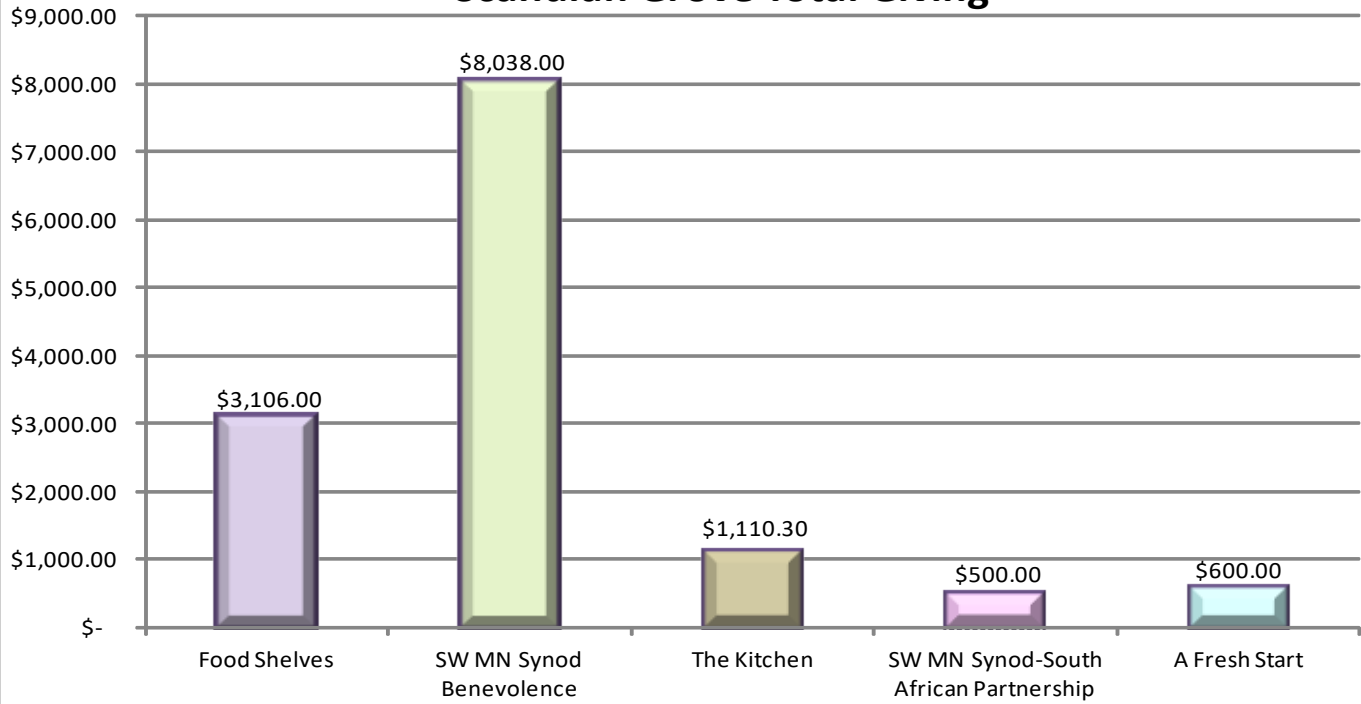
By Ann Patchett

Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Calendar

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day Pastor on Vacation 6:30pm NO Lay Ministry Care Team Mtg	2 Pastor on Vacation	3 Pastor on Vacation 7:00pm Choir practice Frost Benco Annual Mtg	4 Pastor on Vacation 9:00am Quilting	5 Pastor's Day Off Pastor on Vacation	6 Epiphany Pastor on Vacation
7 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30am Worship Service w/Holy Communion Take down Xmas decorations following the worship service! 10:00am KNUJ "A New Day" Pastor on Vacation	8	9 6:30pm Church Council Mtg	10 7:00pm Choir practice	11 9:00am Quilting	12 Pastor's Day Off	13 8:30am Men's Breakfast
14 9:30am Worship Service 10:00am KNUJ "A New Day" 3:00pm Norseland 4-H Mtg	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6:30pm Lay Ministry Care Team Mtg Newsletter Deadline <i>Don't Miss the</i> 	16	17 7:00pm Choir practice 2023 Secretary & Treasure Reports Due	18 9:00am Quilting	19 Pastor's Day Off	20
21 Food Shelf Sunday 8:30am Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30am Worship Service w/Holy Communion 10:00am KNUJ "A New Day" 4:00pm Book Club at Maria Lokensgard's Home	22	23	24 7:00pm Choir practice	25 9:00am Quilting	26 Pastor's Day Off	27
28 9:30am Worship Service w/ Hymn Sing 10:00am KNUJ "A New Day" Annual Reports tentatively Available	29 5:30pm SGLC Serving the Meal at "The Kitchen" at Trinity Church in Saint Peter	30	31 7:00pm Choir practice 2024 Officer, Schedules, and all updates for the Schedule Book are DUE!			

Scandian Grove Total Giving



Total benevolence giving thru November 30, 2023--\$13,354.30

Financial Report-November 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-856.14	(171.55)	25,946.30	22,590.48	3,184.27
Checking/Pastor's Stole	100.00	-	-	100.00
Checking/Keyboard	158.57	-	-	158.57
Checking/Sunday School Funds	327.81	6.30	-	334.11
Checking/Historical Bldg. Upkeep	769.12	-	-	769.12
TOTAL CHECKING/SUNDAY SCHOOL	1,183.95	25,952.60	24,201.43	4,546.07
Credit Line	-	-	-	-
Family Medical Savings Account	5,518.25	-	-	5,518.25
Improvement Savings Account	4,025.78	591.02	-	4,616.80
Memorial Savings Account	4,796.44	75.00	-	4,871.44
Scholarship Savings Account	5,856.32	-	-	5,856.32
Mission Investment Fund	80,611.00	-	-	80,611.00
LPL Fund-Chgd. to Quarterly Reporting	37,895.15	-	-	37,895.15

THANK-YOU!! You are the Light in God's world with sharing your gifts in the congregation, community, and throughout the World.



SCANDIAN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

42869 COUNTY ROAD #52

SAINT PETER MN 56082

<http://scandiangurovelutheranchurch.org>

STAMP

ATTENDANCE

Sunday, December 3	76
Sunday, December 10	62
Sunday, December 17 SS Program	116
Sunday, December 24 Candlelight	157
Sunday, December 31	??



Scandian Grove Lutheran Church

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

**Newsletter
Deadline**

January 15



**NOTICE
THANK YOU
FOR NOTICING
THIS NOTICE**

Hope for a New Year

Gracious God,
 As a new year begins, we place our trust in you.
 May the time to come bring us closer to recognizing our need to love and cherish one another.
 May those in power understand the importance of cultivating peace and bringing an end to war.
 May those who struggle with disease, loss, poverty, and despair find light in the midst of their struggles and suffering.
 And may we grow stronger in our desire to imitate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ, your Son, in whom our hope abides.
 Amen.

www.WeBelieveAndShare.com Copyright ©2013 William H Sadler, Inc. All rights reserved.