

WE WELCOME EVERYONE!

United Lutheran Church of Proctor

701 Third Avenue

Proctor, MN 55810

Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work: Our Hands.

Welcome to United Lutheran

Sunday worship 11:00 am

Serving our community

and the world

as we connect with one another and God.

Within this newsletter are various events hosted
by United during the month.

You are invited to all.

We look forward to seeing you.

United Lutheran Church of Proctor

www.proctorlutheran.org

office phone: 218-624-4255

office@proctorlutheran.org

pastorliz@proctorlutheran.org

council@proctorlutheran.org

Find us on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/proctorlutheran](https://www.facebook.com/proctorlutheran)

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Pastor's Drop In Hour's 9-11:00 am 10am Quilting		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am Sunday School 11am Worship			12:50 Visiting group For Lifestone 1pm 4:30 Confirmation	Pastor's Drop In Hour's 9-11:00 am 10am Quilting 1pm Bible Study		
		7pm Proctor AA				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
11am Worship			4:30 Confirmation	Pastor's Drop In Hour's 9-11:00 am 10am Quilting		
		7pm Proctor AA				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am Sunday School 11am Worship			4:30 Confirmation	Pastor's Drop In Hour's 9-11:00 am 10am Quilting 1pm Bible Study		
		7pm Proctor AA				
26	27	28	29	30	31	
11am Worship 12pm Annual mtg 5pm Mom's Group			4:30 Confirmation	Pastor's Drop In Hour's 9-11:00 am 10am Quilting		
		7pm Proctor AA				



United Lutheran Church of Proctor
Thoughts from Pastor Liz

Dear People of God,

Blessed Epiphany and happy New Year!

January 6 is Epiphany, when we remember the wise men seeking and finding Jesus. They learn about his birth through their own spiritual and scientific study. They go first to the places of political power, but soon discover that he is not there! Jesus is born among the common people.

In this season, we are invited to consider how God arrives among us. It's also important to consider how you are seeking God. The wise men traveled across nations to look for Jesus. Do we try so hard? Or at all?

Sometimes we get used to the idea that Jesus loves us. Our faith is comfortable. That's fine. We do center on God's grace, trusting that nothing we do or don't do will change God's unconditional love for us.

But sometimes comfortable can be boring, or can be taken for granted. Sometimes our faith is there, but gets folded away like a blanket during the summer. Faith is also meant to be challenging. The wise men went on a journey to discover Jesus. They were wrong about where he was and they shifted their plans to find him.

Jesus comes to us. Sometimes we miss him. Jesus comes to us again and again.

To have a transforming faith, there are practices we can adopt. Start with regular, committed church participation. Become more aware of God around you by learning who God is. Hear the stories of others so you can hear God in their lives. Sing the words of others' faith. Get involved with a small group of people, for prayer, study, service, or encouragement. Go deeper, beyond what you've shared in your Christmas cards, and discover Jesus' support through others in your community. Step outside your normal circles and learn from folks who are different from you, and discover how God is there, too.

I hope you have your own Epiphany experience and discover how God is present for you in new ways.

God is with you! - Pastor Liz

Pastor Liz's Drop In Hours

Pastor Liz has drop in office hours on Thursdays 9-11am and others by appointment. To ensure a meeting, please email her at pastorliz@proctorlutheran.org or leave a voicemail at 218-461-0933.

In Our Prayers



Bob Saarela, Dan's brother
Candy Schuh, health concerns
Alice Halvorson-Rohweder, health concerns
Blaine (Buster) Bush, Marge's brother
Cheryl Dartanyen, Jim & Betty's niece
Sabrina, John & Kathy Benson's niece
Military serving our country

We keep all our friends at United & all in need in prayer. This prayer list includes those with emergent needs. Call or email Paster Liz with any prayer requests.

Unless requested to Pr. Liz with an update, names will be removed from this immediate need list after 2 months

Visitation List:

Would you like to receive regular visits in your home or care center? Or do you know someone else who might? Email or call Pastor Liz to be included on the list.

Christ in Our Home Daily Devotional
Pick up the latest copy at church

Note from the editor:

Please send all submissions to Marty,
No later than the 20th of the month.

martjj36@gmail.com



Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
Sunday School 10am 1st & 3rd Sunday.

Confirmation Class Wednesdays 4:30-5:30

Quilting: Thursdays 10am

Winter/ Spring Bible Study: Journeys Through Revelation:
Apocalyptic Hope for Today

Thursdays at 1pm at United: 701 3rd Ave, Proctor. This month we meet: Jan 9, 23.

Order a book with Pastor Liz

"Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today" is by Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing.

Although brimming with mysterious symbolism, Revelation is a book of hope that has sustained the oppressed through the ages. In the nine lessons of Journeys Through Revelation, Barbara Rossing leads us to a renewed creation in which God comes to live with us on earth. This brilliantly hope-filled vision speaks to us in the midst of the urgent crises of our day. In a time when all creation stands at a turning point, Revelation can help guide the choices we make as we seek to live into the renewal that God promises for the world. Whether you are a seasoned student of the Bible or new to its study, gain a deeper understanding of this often misunderstood but ultimately reassuring text. Generous Together

Annual Meeting January 26 at noon

Women Raising Kids/ Moms' Group meets Sunday Jan 26, 5-6:30.
Come and build your supportive faith community!

Would you like to be a part of a team leading our congregation in exploring generosity in all aspects of our lives? Contact Pastor Liz TODAY! Opening retreat is January 11.



Youth Decorating our beautiful tree & caroling.



Women's Christmas Luncheon Saturday Dec 7th.

Thank you to all who put on the Ladies' Christmas Luncheon and to those who participated!

Entertainment by Steve Solkela



Thank you to all our council members, committee members, treasurer, those who assist in worship, we have many different roles, including assisting minister, reader, usher/greeter, acolytes, & altar guild. Thank you to all who have contributed to our congregation, you have all been a Blessing to our congregation in 2024.



Thank you to our amazing Christmas Program participants and to Lisa for leading them!



Let's Help Keep Everyone Warm This Winter

During January we will be collecting warm clothing for The Duluth Harbor Rescue Mission. We will be supporting the wonderful work the mission does to help the homeless and those living in poverty. They really need jackets, warm hats, scarves, gloves or mittens, wool socks, blankets and boots. Watch the store sales for good deals. Also any clean, gently used items would be welcome. All donations can be dropped in the containers in the entryway of the church at Sunday service. By caring for those in need we are loving our neighbors as Jesus taught. This project is sponsored by the Evangelism/Outreach Committee at United Lutheran.

Please, if you are able, join our little group, the first Wednesday of every month to visit Lifestone nursing home. We gather at the church at about 12:50 before going to Lifestone at 1pm. We spend about one hour visiting there. Our January visit will be the 2nd Wednesday because the 1st Wednesday is New Year's Day. If you are interested, please talk to any one of our little group members, Neoma Stahl, Janis Anderson, Susan Johnson, Candy Schuh, or Dan Saarela.



**United Lutheran Church of Proctor Northeastern Minnesota
Synod – ELCA Congregation Council Meeting Minutes Sunday,
November 10, 2024**

Present: Audrey Berglund, Janis Anderson, Dan Saarela, Lisa Larson, Deb Vanneste, Dennis Palm, Gwen Nelson, Marcy Kimball

Absent: Pr. Liz Davis, Gordy Westendorf, Mark Linne

Came to Order: 12:29pm

Devotions

Approval of Minutes: M. Janis, S. Audrey – Approved with amendment to Treasurer’s report.

Treasurer’s Report/Finance Committee

- Audrey and Finance Committee seeking approval of the budget recommendations for 2025.
 - Council discussed the recommended budget and agreed it looked good. M. Janis, S. Dennis – Approved.
 - Council had open discussion on how to save money.
 - Deb offered to create a list of toiletries, kitchen items, cleaning supplies that congregants can donate to the church. Donate back sheets will be included with the sign-up sheet, so congregants can fill them out and place in the Treasurer’s mailbox.
 - Council discussed possible fundraisers – gift basket silent auction, spaghetti dinner
 - Audrey will be gone December 3rd-15th. Chris Pasek will be in charge of the checks.

Approval of Treasurers Report: M. Janis, S. Dennis – Approved.

Pastor’s Report

- New Advent series Words for the Beginning
- Christmas Eve worship will be 4:00pm Our Savior’s; 6:00pm United
- Pr. Taryn will preach on November 17 with a theme of the Generosity Project at both OSELC and United; this will be a melded worship and experiential learning event
- Thank you to those who have been speaking at church regarding generosity- Chris and Audrey
- Mom’s & Women Parenting Group launched October 27, 5-6:30 with theme “I’m Board”- We had a good group of ladies and really enjoyed time together
- Women Parenting Group meets next on November 17, 5:00pm at United
- 2 funerals in October- Betty Rowe from United; Steve Olcott from OSELC
- Visitations continue, frequent ICU visits this month
- Election Day Prayer Stations at OSELC for everyone
- Thanksgiving service project November 16 9:00am-noon at Asbury in Duluth and worship with West Duluth Churches at Elim November 26 at 6:00pm, choir 5:30 (I will be on vacation for Thanksgiving and leading Young Adult retreat earlier in Nov)
- Caroling - perhaps with ACT or just with confirmands and our congregation- tentatively December 11 at 4:30-5:30 for walkable locations.
- Presentation of Bibles October 6; I still have a few to present and will connect with those families
- Confirmation began October 2, 5 regular students
- Create candles of remembrance October 23- well attended with confirmands as well as other adults
- Fall: Grief Lectionary, 1:00pm Thursdays, started in October, November 7, 14, and finishing December 5
- Celebrating Advent learning and crafting opportunities November 13, for all ages
- Young Adult Discernment Cohort is wrapping up with me leading a retreat November 15-16
- Winter study on Revelation
- Execs met to agree on compensation for congregational budget
- Calendar: Vacation/ Continuing Ed/ Events
 - November 10 - Sunday off (realized I had a few more Sundays of vacation and this was the only Sunday I could find coverage)
 - Region 3 Retreat “A Time to Restore” Continuing Ed during which I will be available by phone and email November 18-20
 - Vacation and Thanksgiving Holiday Nov 21-week of Thanksgiving. Pr. Cheryl Fleckenstein will be presiding at church November 24, Pr. Kim Sturtz of French River will be emergency contact.

President’s Report – Dan suggested that each Council member read a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) before our next meeting in December. The members who read one of the Gospels can report on what stood out to them at our December meeting. This is not a requirement.

Committee Report

- **Worship and Music:**
 - Choir singing on November 17th, practice on Saturday, November 16th at 9am
 - Still getting the Worship and Music Committee together, will have four meetings a year
- **Christian Education:**
 - Sunday School going good.
 - Meeting twice a month, typically 1st and 3rd Sundays

- **Fellowship:**
 - Deb thanked Dan for getting Thrivent card to buy apples to make apple pies. They had a good group of women who made the pies.
 - Selling tickets to the Women’s Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 7th. Tickets are \$17.00. They will be decorating the day before, Friday, December 6th.
 - Flyers being put up at Hillside Gardens and Railview
- **Evangelism and Service to Others:**
 - Next project will be in December
 - Selling ornaments – Good Gifts for World Hunger
- **Property:**
 - Church elevator was having trouble with the elevator door not staying closed. Reg Southerton contacted Arrow Lift to come and check on the elevator. The door sensor was not working, so they re-set it. Our annual service contract with Arrow Lift had expired last spring, so we were billed for \$310 for the repairs done on Thursday October 24th. We have received a bill for a new Elevator Service Contract for 12 months, costing \$994.
 - Deb suggested that we have Mark’s phone number laminated in the elevator to report any problems with the elevator.
 - The door to the maintenance closet by the top of the stairs near the office was locked closed and nobody had a key for it. Mark Linné was able to open it, and has a new non-locking door knob to install.
 - The lawn mower from the shed was maintained: it’s now ready to use again in the spring.
 - The door by the sanctuary exit to the office area will be trimmed, so the electrical cords on the floor do not prevent the door from closing.
 - The Proposal for Snowplowing 2024-2025 was advertised and we awarded the job to Grant Forsyth who was the low bidder.
 - Pastor’s designated parking area sign has been pulled out and will be mounted on a movable stand so that the sidewalk can be plowed.

Staff Reports

Unfinished Business

New Business

Ideas/Requests from Congregation

Announcements and Correspondence

Calendar

Next meeting: **Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 12:00pm after church**

End Meeting: 1:37pm

Adjournment: M. Janis, S. Deb – Approved.

Minutes submitted: Marcy Kimball

Treasurer’s Report Narrative for 11/30/2024.

Receipts for November were \$6,692.86 for the General Fund and \$180 for Special Funds, \$100 for the Memorial Fund in memory of Betty Merling’s niece, brother and sister and \$80 to Women’s Christmas Luncheon.

Expenses paid in November were \$9,240.09 from the General Fund and \$1,464.43 from the Special Funds, with \$100 the Irving Youth Fund for VLM, \$1,180 to Duluth Harbor Mission from donations collected in October, and \$184.43 for advertising and supplies for the Women’s Christmas Luncheon.

That puts us under YTD budget for revenues by \$12,419 and under YTD budget for expenses by \$5,155, for a net loss of (\$7,264). The main reason for this net loss continues to be the cost of property insurance. We will be over budget for property insurance by \$6,398 by the end of 2024. Additionally, we are not only under YTD budget for revenues but we also have received approximately \$12,187 less in revenues for the months January through November as compared to those same months in 2023. Please also note our receipts for general fund expenses in November were \$1,407 less in November than the amount estimated when we prepared our budget for 2025.

The balance in special funds is \$30,135.47, due to having to transfer from the Reserve Fund to the checking account to pay the bills due in early December. Our CD at Mission Investment Fund is valued at \$203,017.58, with interest of \$2,481.31 added on November 29, 2024, our next accrued interest will be posted at the end of February. Please note that neither the principal nor interest in this CD is available for spending at this time.

Audrey L. Berglund

General Fund	Nov 2024 Budget	Nov 2024 Actual	YTD 2024 Budget	YTD 2024 Actual
Income	\$8,233	\$6,693	\$90,563	\$78,144
Expenses	\$8,233	\$9,240	\$90,563	\$85,386
Net Income (Loss)		(\$2,547)		(\$ 7,242)