



FROM THE PASTOR

Friends,

Happy New Year!

I pray you had a very meaningful Christmas. The beginning of the New Year is a good time to look back on what we have done during the past year. Have we made the most of our time, talent, experience and treasure? Perhaps we would like to think about and make changes with our goals and plans for the new year.

As we ponder and discuss all of our experiences in the past year; the good and the bad, the frustrating and fun times, we may share the valuable life lessons we have learned from them all. What God has shown us and how God was faithful through it all.

We do this as closure to one year and then opening to the next. Then, we can begin to look forward with hope and anticipation, wondering what life has in store for us in the days, weeks and months to come

Peace and Blessings,

Pr. Cindy



Thank You!!

There are so many “Thank You’s” as we wrap up December and move into the new year – I hope I don’t forget anyone (but I’m sure I will so I apologize up front).

- Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for the wonderful Christmas party – the food was awesome and the entertainment perfect. I know how much work goes into planning this event and it was enjoyed by all.
- Thank you to Pat Ask and Diane Pierson for putting up the “Mitten Tree” – it was so special, and I know that the Linn County Child Development Center appreciated our gifts.
- Thank you to those who decorated our Sanctuary and made it beautiful for the Christmas season.
- Thank you to everyone who brought food donations for Kenwood School that were handed out to kids before Christmas break, so they have access to an easy snack when they are not receiving a school prepared meal.
- Thank you to Sue Clapp and Dorothy Medlang for working with Kenwood School so we could make this happen.
- Thank you to our Bell Choir and their “Bell Service” on December 10th. The service was beautiful with your Special Music and hymn accompaniment!
- Thank you to our choir that is small but mighty as they shared their gifts with us twice in December.
- Thank you to Hannah, Rachael Sindelar, Sue Clapp, our Youth and everyone who participated in making the Children’s Christmas program a success on Christmas Eve morning.
- Thank you to everyone who donated a Poinsettia for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, our altar looked fabulous.
- Thank you to Pastor Cindy for delivering such a cute Children’s Sermon on Christmas Eve about the donkey that Mary rode on as her and Joseph made their way to Bethlehem.

EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOU!

A big thank you goes out to our caring and generous congregation! Your Church Council asked for the Noisy Offering collection on December 24th to be designated as a special gift for the Strottman family as they deal with the challenges of Leslie’s medical treatments. The bountiful collection was delivered to the Strottman family on December 27th and they were very appreciative of your gifts.

Thank you for your continuous thoughtfulness and care for our church family and community.

OSLC CHURCH COUNCIL

Save the date – OSLC 2023 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday, January 21st** with a snow date of Sunday, January 28th. Please make attending this meeting a priority in your busy schedule. The minimum attendance requirement is forty-five confirmed church members. While we will be having the meeting in the Sanctuary, for those that are uncomfortable or unable to come to church we will be offering the meeting on Zoom. Therese will send out the Zoom link to everyone several days before the meeting. If you do not receive the link, and plan to join us on Zoom, please contact Therese for the link.

Items for discussion will be:

- Synod Assembly
- Nominating Committee
- Budget Approval
- Audit Committee

A quick reminder to ministry chairs that board reports are due to Therese no later than January 4th. Annual Meeting books will be available for the congregation on Sunday, January 14th.

We hope everyone will be able to join us in person or on Zoom.

Because we will nominate members to attend Synod Assembly, I thought there might be some members who do not really know what Synod Assembly is and might be more interested in attending if they did. Please see below and if you have any questions feel free to reach out to Sue Clapp or Therese Plummer.

Introduction to Synod Assembly

What is a Synod Assembly?

The Synod Assembly is an annual gathering of pastors, deacons, and lay people representing the congregations that make up the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA. Those gathered in assembly, called voting members, serve as the synod's highest legislative authority.

What does the assembly do?

- receives information and reports
- elects nominees to leadership positions in the church
- reaches decisions on matters brought before the assembly
- sets priorities for the synod's ministry
- equips and educates those who attend to interpret the mission of the synod in local ministry settings

What is expected of me as a voting member?

You will find that your experience as a voting member of a synod assembly can be a spiritually enriching experience. You will also find that the degree to which this is true for you will depend on your attitude, your own sense of discipleship and commitment, and the way in which you will conduct yourself before, during, and after the assembly.

What matters will come before the assembly?

The agenda provides detail for each of the assembly's sessions. Elections, action on matters such as the adoption of the synod budget, changes the synod's constitution, and reports from synod committees and partners will make up a great part of the business.

- How to get the most out attending a Synod Assembly
- Prepare – study and be familiar with all assembly materials, rules, and online processes.
- Pray – ask to be open constantly to the Lord’s presence and guidance and seek the prayers of the people you represent.
- Listen – for the God’s work in and amongst the communities in our synod, through reports, conversation, and proposed business.
- Attend – share fully in the assembly’s work in sessions
- Act – serve the whole body by your participation.

What can I do after the Assembly?

Following the assembly, you can continue the work of the synod by reporting about the assembly to the members and leaders of your congregation. Your faithful and positive witness will help your those in your congregation see where they fit in the synod and greater ELCA churchwide organization. Some ways voting members have shared with their congregations:

- A verbal report to those gathered for worship
- An adult education forum
- A bulletin article or insert
- Write a newsletter article for your congregational newsletter

Hopefully you will participate in other assemblies and gatherings of the church in the future. Do consider making yourself available for leadership positions beyond the local congregation.

Readers

January 7 – Nancy Greer
January 14 – Therese Plummer
January 21 – Ardy Erickson
January 28 – Nichole Flockhart

*****Readers can pick up their reading in the
“Reader” mailbox located between the offices
in the back hallway***

Assisting Ministers

January 7 – Nancy Greer
January 14 – Jeremiah Miller
January 21 – Hannah Plummer
January 28 – Nancy Greer
February 4 – Jeremiah Miller

Ushers/Greeters

January 7 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson
January 14 – Strottman’s
January 21 – Fiester’s
January 28 – Mark & Suzanne Schmitt,
Ann Larson

Acolytes

January 7 – Natalie Fiester
January 14 – Hailey Clapp
January 21 – Evy Fiester
January 28 – Eric Strottman

Prayer for Pastor

January 7 – Natalie Fiester
January 14 – Nancy Greer
January 21 – Laurene Case
January 28 – Nancy Trout
February 4 – Dave Case

Serving Our Congregation

Cindy McKenzie – Interim Pastor
Sue Clapp– Congregation President
David Sampson – Treasurer
Therese Plummer – Parish/Financial Secretary
Forrest Green – Music Director
Terri Hodge – Bell Choir Director
Hannah Plummer – Children & Youth Ministries
Director

Phil and Andy's Pantry – SOUPER BOWL!!

We are going to get started celebrating the big football game or the NFL Super Bowl.



We will **collect cans of soup** for the months of January and February. The big game is played on February 11, 2024. Soup is a great meal for families now that the cold winter months are coming. For us it is better known as the Souper Bowl! Please let Dorothy know if you have questions.

Fellowship Time After Service

Please sign up for Fellowship Hour after service on Sunday. Pat Ask has graciously offered to make coffee, so we just need treats. This is an awesome time enjoyed by many to catch up with your Christian Family, Sign-up sheet is on our fabulous bulletin board across from Therese's office.

Chili Cook-Off

Mark your calendars – the date has been set for OSLC Annual Chili Cook-off. Sunday, February 4th right after 10:00- service. This is a fundraiser for the Youth Gathering that is being held in New Orleans this summer. We need as much participation as possible so plan on staying after church to eat and vote for your favorite chili. Hannah will have more details in the coming weeks along with a sign-up sheet. Thank you!



More wine? Yes please!

Our wine supply is low. If you would like to contribute funds to be used for the purchase of wine it would be greatly appreciated. Please note "wine fund" on your check and include with your offering. Or, you can leave your donation at the church office. Thank you!

Adult Forum

Pastor Cindy is leading Adult Forum starting at 8:45 am. Forum will run till 9:30ish so those who need to go to choir practice can do so and won't need to leave early.

OSLC Book Club



Book club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 after Bible Study in the IMC. Books are chosen from the Cedar Rapids, Marion or Hiawatha Library "Book Club Kit". Please feel free to join us for casual conversation – everyone is welcome. Please contact Lori Hayes if you have questions.

Have you checked out our new website?

Please take time to log-in to this website often as the more “clicks” it receives the more popular it becomes for others searching church websites. Tell your friends to check it out, too!! You should be able to log-in to the website from Facebook or use this search address - crsaviors.org

We hope you enjoy the new website. If you ever see things you wish were changed, we would appreciate your input. Also, if you have information that should be added to this site, send your information to any of our core team members. We will gladly add or change content and information as we hope to keep the website updated often!

A Big Thanks to the Website Team – Mark Schmitt, Nancy Trout, Sue Clapp, Hannah Plummer, Therese Plummer and Pastor Cindy McKenzie!

Images from December 24th Morning Service



Images from December 24th Candlelight Service



Images from December 3rd Christmas Party





