

THE REPORTER



Luke 2:10-11

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Grace and peace to you from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

One of my favorite moments in the year is the hour we spend in worship in Christmas Eve. We light all of the candles on the Christmas Wreath, we hear the familiar words of scripture, we gather in the darkness, out of the cold in the comfort and warmth of the sanctuary. There is something special about Christmas Eve worship. There is the excitement of being together with family, and the special foods that we get to eat, and of course the presents that we will get each other.

But my favorite moment in that evening is the end of the service when I hear that familiar tune from the organ, and we light our individual candles and turn down the lights, and then we begin to sing together that great hymn Silent Night. Silent night, holy night, all is calm all is bright... Holy Infant so tender and mild... Silent night, holy night...heavenly hosts sing alleluia, Christ the Savior is born.

The power in this classic hymn which proclaims the coming of God's Son in the flesh, washes over men in the peace that only comes through Jesus Christ. It was this hymn and the promise it proclaims that stopped the bullets and brought the men out of their trenches to celebrate with their enemy on the battle fields of France. Silent night, holy night we sing, and in our song we proclaim the promise of God's Son, the promise that in Him all is made right, the promise that the true peace of the world has come, and he has come for you and me.

In Christ,
Pr. Jared Rakness

Generosity & Missions

October Operating Fund

Actual Monthly Income: \$29,536.61

Actual Monthly Expenses: \$31,570.23

Actual YTD Income: \$341,752.65

Actual YTD Expenses: \$346,112.20

80+ Birthday

12 - Doreen Tellinghuisen

17 - Gene Haagenson

26 - Joan Eitrheim



November Funeral

28 - Marilyn Johnson

Operation Christmas Child

Big THANK YOU to all who participated in filling Operation Christmas Child boxes. We **doubled** the amount of boxes from last year! The Sunday School children were awesome in bringing gifts and received donuts as a reward. The high school youth that filled the boxes finished very quickly and some followed the instructions to follow a box they filled so they know where in the world it goes. This program does make an impact on many lives. Thank you for Sharing God's Love With All.

Horse Creek Trip

We had beautiful weather to travel out to the community and a big turnout of families came to enjoy lunch and get warm clothing and bedding.

We had drawings of names for quilts as is their tradition of Give Aways.

Everyone who put their name in received a quilt including the children. Your continued generosity is appreciated by the community. Many people came and said thank you. Please remember them with prayer. It was special to have Pastor Tom pray for everyone there as it will be the last time he will go out with us.



Annual Reports

With the year coming to a close, it is time to get in your annual reports! If you are a part of a team or organization within West Nidaros, please send your report to office@westnidaros.org by December 28. The Annual Meeting is tentatively set for January 21, 2024.

Baltic Food Bank Wish List

Coffee, Juice, Canned chicken, Tuna, Flour, Cookie Mixes, Cake Mixes, Syrup, Salad Dressing, Knorr Sides, Pop Tarts, Granola Bars, Snacks, Sugar, Oil, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Ketchup, Mustard, BBQ Sauce, Saltine Crackers, Snack Crackers, Spaghetti Sauce, Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Personal Hygiene Items

Monetary Donations are welcome – Please mail to:

PO Box 244, Baltic, SD 57003

The Baltic Food Bank is open to all residents of Baltic and Crooks. It is open the second Wednesday of every month from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., as well as the fourth Saturday of every month from 10:30-11:30 a.m., as well as by emergency appointment by calling 605-529-5032.

Book Club

We will not have book club in December, however, the January selection *Accidental Rancher* by Eliza Blue (the 2023 One Book Siouland read) should be available by December 12. So watch for it in the West Nidaros library and look for details in the January '24 newsletter.



Church bowling league

Church bowling league will be starting January 7 on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. If you are interested in forming a team of four, contact Jason Carls (605.251.9124).



Tack, Pack, Snack, & Yak

WELCA Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Women of the Evangelical Church, West Nidaros, was called to order by Sharon Hoekman on Nov 14 after a brunch. Reflections on the Beatitudes and our greatest blessings which we cannot buy were presented by Joan Eitrheim.

Sharon presented:

- Several notes of appreciation from donee organizations.
- Treasurer's report which was approved.
- Monetary donations to various charitable organizations during 2023.

-Number of kits and quilts which were sent out this last year.

Other business:

-Judi Egan reported over 80 lb of bandages were delivered to Global Health from where they will be shipped to areas of need.

-Grocery cards (Walmart and HyVee) will be sold only the third Sunday of the month AND daily in the church office.

-Dec 12 we will do a Christmas outing to Nora Store after lunch in Alcester.

-Christmas gifts for congregational homebound were discussed.

- Christmas cookie sale will be Dec 10 with setup prior to first service.

Prayer concerns included: the Quamens, Janice Haagenson, Donnie Nelson, Jim Langloss and Marilyn Johnson.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Thankoffering Sunday

Thank you to ALL for your generous support on our Thankoffering Sunday, Nov. 12th.

Congrats to Jim Zeisler for winning the quilt given by our women's TPSY group.



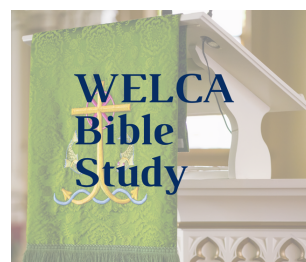
Christmas Caroling

The Women of West Nidaros have a trip planned to the Nora Store (near Alcester) on Tuesday, Dec. 12. Carpool will meet from the church parking lot at 10:30 a.m., have lunch in Alcester, and then go to the Nora Store before 1:30 p.m. Join us if you can--bring a friend! Please contact Sharon Hoekman or Jolene Wehde to sign up or if you have questions.

Women of West Nidaros Happenings



- 5 - Projects
- 12 - Outing to Nora Store
- 19 - Projects



27 - 1:30 p.m. (potluck)



This is also a fundraiser for camperships. If you'd like to donate any Christmas cookies/candy, please bring your donations to the FLC before 9 a.m. that morning.

Have a blessed Christmas with your family and friends!!
From TPSY women of West Nidaros.



 WEST NIDAROS
children, youth & family
ministry

December Happenings

- 3 - Sunday School, 3 y/o
- 6 - iFaith, Confirmation, High school Ministry
- 10 - Sunday School - Christmas Program!
- 13 - iFaith, Confirmation, High school Ministry
- 17 - GIFT
- 20, 24, 27 - No Programming

GIFT Sunday

Join us on December 17 starting at 9:35 a.m. in the Family Life Center for ornament painting and decorating cookies! All are welcome to join!



WEST NIDAROS SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTS

“Simply Christmas”

Written by Cathy Skogen-Soldner

Sunday, December 10
10:30 a.m. Worship

Hot chocolate & apple cider
to follow worship



High School Summer Trip 2024

WHAT: Compass Point Adventure Trip
WHERE: Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Colorado
WHEN: July 6-13, 2024
HOW: Register by December 6 with non-refundable \$100 deposit.
Questions? Check in with Pr. Jared, Jessi, or Elise.



Council Meeting Minutes

Full document of the meeting minutes can be found by the church council bulletin board in the hallway by the church library.

- Report of Property Manager: Possible custodial change, cleaning crew is averaging about 4 hrs per week. Everything is still clean. Possibly look at using the dollars from allotted cleaning hours for a per month deep cleaning? Will update next month
- Unfinished business:
 1. Discussed group or organization fundraiser sales and thought it best if they do it on an individual basis and not set up in the entrance of the church. No action taken
- New Business:
 1. Budget discussion: Figuring a 5% raise for staff. January 21 is first choice for Annual Congregational meeting with January 28th as a backup
 2. Basement wall project funding: Discussed mentioning a fund raising drive in the next few services and will have a target of raising \$75,000 as a congregation by the time the project starts. Council has already made the down payment and may be able to secure funds to assist in the fundraising.
- Next meeting: December 17 at 11:45 a.m.

25403 471st Ave
Crooks, SD 57020
605.543.5215
office@westnidaros.org

December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Office Closed</i>	2
3 8:30am Worship 9:35am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Exercise Class 3:00pm Pickle Ball	4 9am-4pm Office Open 6pm BSA Troop 57 6:30pm Bible Study	5 9am-4pm Office Open 9-11am Growing Place 9am TPSY 11:30am Stretch & Pray 5:45pm Taekwondo	6 9am-4pm Office Open 4pm iFaith 6 pm Confirmation 7pm HS Ministry	7 9am-2:30pm Office Open 9-11am Growing Place 3:00pm Stretch & Pray 5:00pm Exercise Class	8 <i>Office Closed</i>	9
10 8:30am Worship 9:35am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Exercise Class 3:00pm Pickle Ball	11 9am-4pm Office Open 6pm BSA Troop 57 6:30pm Bible Study	12 9am-4pm Office Open 9-11am Growing Place 10:30am WELCA Christmas outing 5:45pm Taekwondo	13 9am-4pm Office Open 4pm iFaith 6 pm Confirmation 7pm HS Ministry	14 9am-2:30pm Office Open 9-11am Growing Place 3:00pm Stretch & Pray 5:00pm Exercise Class	15 <i>Office Closed</i>	16
17 8:30am Worship 9:35am GIFT/Bible Study 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Exercise Class 3:00pm Pickle Ball	18 9am-4pm Office Open 6pm BSA Troop 57 6:30pm Bible Study	19 9am-4pm Office Open 9-11am Growing Place 9am TPSY 11:30am Stretch & Pray 5:45pm Taekwondo	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 9am-4pm Office Open	21 9am-2:30pm Office Open 9-11am Growing Place 3:00pm Stretch & Pray 5:00pm Exercise Class	22 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Gerrets Christmas Party set up</i>	23 <i>Gerrets Christmas Party</i>
24 9:30am Worship 4pm Christmas Eve Worship 7pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 <i>Office Closed</i>	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 9am-4pm Office Open 1:30pm WELCA Bible Study	28 9am-2:30pm Office Open	29 <i>Office Closed</i>	30
31 9:30am Worship						

Connect with us!

Website: westnidaros.org

Facebook: @WestNidarosLutheranChurch



Instagram @westnidaros



Worship:

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Livestream at 10:30 a.m.



Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Fridays: Closed

WEST NIDAROS STAFF

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Sharing Christ's Love with All!



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