

THE REPORTER



Hebrews 13: 8 says “Jesus Christ is the Same yesterday, today, and forever. “

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

And just like that another year has come and gone. There’s a Luke Bryant song that has a line that goes like this, “I believe that days go slow and years go fast. And every breath’s a gift, the first one to the last”. The older I get, the better I understand this line.

For me this past year has gone by in the blink of an eye. There were longer days for sure, but it seems like we were just getting ready for 2023 and now we are in 2024. As I reflect on this past year I feel that it has been a year of getting back to normal while working to plan for the future. Elise and the Membership Team have been working hard on getting our Family Life groups up and running again. This year we’ve tried a new thing with our One Worship services followed by a potluck meal. Due to the size of our confirmation classes we’ve had to make some changes to better accommodate everyone. We said goodbye to Pr. Adam. We voted to fix the west and east sides of our basement walls. All this while doing the day to day ministry we share at West.

I’m not sure what this new year has in store for us, but I know this one important thing. I know that this year, like last year, and the year before that and the year before that, etc..... is being held by our Lord Jesus Christ. Who, as we read in Hebrews 13:8 “is the same yesterday, today, and forever”.

I pray that you all have a great new year, knowing that no matter what this year holds for us, we know the one who holds us through it all, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Pr. Jared Rakness

Generosity & Missions

November Operating Fund

Actual Monthly Income: \$25,917.24
Actual Monthly Expenses: \$33,841.54
Actual YTD Income: \$367,669.89
Actual YTD Expenses: \$379,850.42

80+ Birthday

- 1 - Arlis Fritz
- 6 - Jim Langloss
- 14 - Mary Brendtro
- 27 - Robert Hafstad
- 31 - Mickey Otterby



December Baptisms

- 10 - Levi John Mann

Parents: Spencer Mann & Brittany Hazel

- 17 - Theodora Rose Vosburg

Parents: Trace & Sidney Vosburg



Annual Reports

With the end of 2023, it is time to get in your annual reports! If you are a part of a team or organization within West Nidaros and have not done so already, please send your report to office@westnidaros.org.



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.

Stamp Ministry

With the holiday season upon us, that means lots of Christmas/Holiday cards that will be coming in the mail. Don't forget to tear off the cancelled postage stamps from your mail, enclose them in an envelope or baggie and bring them to church!



There is a bin for them in the shelves just to the left of the main entrance in the Narthex. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

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).

It's the SOUPer Bowl of Caring and We ALL are Sharing!

Join our Mission and Outreach committee as we team up with churches across the country on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, to battle hunger. That day will be a ONE worship Sunday in the FLC at 9:30. In addition to a festive worship service (wear your favorite jersey or team apparel!), all of our Sunday School kids will sing. Our Sunday school kids will also participate in the SOUPer Bowl of Caring with a FOOD COLLECTION competition between classes. That competition will kick off on Sunday, January 7.



After worship, please join us for a soup and dessert potluck. Mission and Outreach will provide buns, crackers, and drinks; and we need all team members (THAT'S YOU!) to bring soup or dessert. But wait, there's more! We invite all soup chefs to participate in a SOUP COOK-OFF competition. We'll taste a sample from the participating pots and drop \$\$ in the collection box of our favorite(s). The winner will get a trophy and bragging rights! All proceeds from the food collection and soup cook-off will go to Feeding South Dakota and to the Baltic Food Bank. Stay tuned for more details! Go TEAM!!

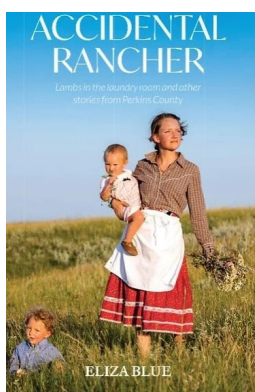
Tack, Pack, Snack, & Yak



The West Nidaros Tpsy group plus some guests enjoyed lunch together at the clubhouse Grill in Alcester on Tuesday, December 12, before heading to the Nora Store Christmas. Our group of 22 were treated to an old-fashioned Christmas filled with stories, memories, and music! Mike Peterson's enthusiastic Carols on his rebuilt pipe organ & piano were heartwarming.

Book Club

We will be reading *Accidental Rancher* by Eliza Blue. When Eliza Blue first moved to northwestern South Dakota, she didn't plan on staying long. After all, the singer/songwriter had spent most of her adulthood hopping from place to place. But then she fell in love with a Perkins County rancher — and the land, the wind, the livestock and the giant blue expanse of a West River sky.



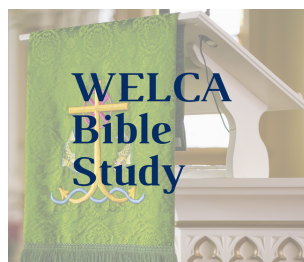
Now the former urbanite tackles her daily duties on the ranch — bottle-feeding bum lambs, milking her dairy cow, Rita, and wrangling two young children — while somehow finding time to contemplate and write about life on the high plains. In *Accidental Rancher*, Blue shares a collection of these writings, bringing a new voice and a musician's grace to the culture of rural America.

Pick up your copy in the WN library, black bag on north wall shelf. We will be meeting Monday, January 22 at 4 p.m. All are welcome!

Women of West Nidaros Happenings



- 2 - Projects
- 9 - Brunch & Projects
- 16- Projects
- 23 - Projects
- 30 - Projects



24 - 1:30 p.m.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Cookie/Candy Sale on December 17. Just over \$1,000 was raised for camperships!

Christmas Choir & Musicians

Thank you to everyone who gave use of their voice or instrument during the Christmas season to make a joyful noise!

Did you notice our new Advent paraments in the sanctuary in December? These were purchased thanks to a Horizon Grant!



 WEST NIDAROS
children, youth & family
ministry

January Happenings

- 3 - iFaith, Confirmation, High school Ministry
- 7 - Sunday School, 3 y/o
- 10 - iFaith, Confirmation, Colorado trip meeting, High school Ministry
- 14 - Sunday School
- 13 - iFaith, Confirmation, High school Ministry
- 21 - GIFT
- 24 - iFaith, Confirmation, High school Ministry
- 28 - Sunday School
- 31 - iFaith, Confirmation, High school Ministry

Colorado Trip Meeting

There will be meeting for those who are heading to Rainbow Trail next summer on Wednesday, January 10 at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room. Parents are encouraged to attend!

GIFT Sunday

Rodney Hammerstrom will be our guest for GIFT Sunday, January 21.

Rodney has a powerful message to share about his recovery from a traumatic brain injury. Rodney was injured in a horseback riding accident in 2003, that resulted in a disabling brain injury.

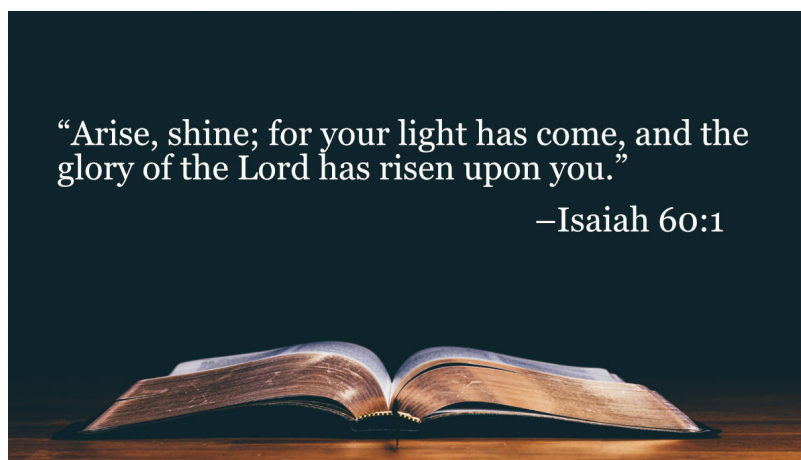
Through the power of prayer and God's grace, he has regained the ability to walk. Everyone is welcome. We will be collecting an offering for Rodney's ministry.

Thanks to Lavonne Burns and the Health Ministry team for inviting Rodney to West Nidaros.



"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

—Isaiah 60:1



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.

- New Business:
 1. Budget 2024: Motion to approve 2024 budget to present to congregation by Jared Q, second by Sheryl E- approved
 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.
 3. Approve Horizon Grants: \$26,290 in grants were requested, see attached pic below. Motion to approve presented grants by Jennie C, second by Theresa L- approved
 4. Nominating Committee/replace Council Members: Mike Bemboom and Theresa Lien have served two three-year terms on council and reached their limit. Chris Langloss and Jennie Criddle have agreed to a second three-year term.
- Next meeting: Annual meeting January 21

JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 WEST NIDAROS LUTHERAN CHURCH	1 Office Closed Happy New Year!	2 9am-4pm Office Open 9-11:30am Growing Place 9am TPSY 11:30am Stretch & Pray 5:45pm Taekwondo	3 9am-4pm Office Open 4pm iFaith 6pm Confirmation 7pm High School Ministry 7pm Ministry Team Meeting	4 9am-2:30pm Office Open 9-11:30am Growing Place 3pm Stretch & Pray 5pm Exercise Class 5:45pm Pickle Ball	5 Office Closed	6
7 <i>Communion</i> 8:30am Worship 9:35am SS/Bible Study 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Exercise Class 3:00pm Pickle Ball	8 9am-4pm Office Open 6pm BSA Troop 57 6:30pm Bible Study	9 9am-4pm Office Open 9-11:30am Growing Place 9am TPSY Brunch 11:30am Stretch & Pray 5:45pm Taekwondo	10 9am-4pm Office Open 4pm iFaith 6pm Confirmation 6pm Colorado Trip Meeting 7pm High School Ministry	11 9am-2:30pm Office Open 9-11:30am Growing Place 3pm Stretch & Pray 5pm Exercise Class 5:45pm Pickle Ball	12 Office Closed	13
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21 8:30am Worship 9:35am GIFT/Bible Study 10:30am Worship 11:45am Annual Meeting 2:00pm Exercise Class 3:00pm Pickle Ball	22 9am-4pm Office Open 4pm Book Club 6pm BSA Troop 57 6:30pm Bible Study	23 9am-4pm Office Open 9-11:30am Growing Place 9am TPSY 11:30am Stretch & Pray 5:45pm Taekwondo	24 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 9am-4pm Office Open 1:30pm WELCA Bible Study 4pm iFaith 6pm Confirmation 7pm High School Ministry	25 9am-2:30pm Office Open 9-11:30am Growing Place 3pm Stretch & Pray 5pm Exercise Class 5:45pm Pickle Ball	26 Office Closed	27
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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



Sharing Christ's Love with All!

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