

Parish The Thought

Volume 57 Issue 1 January 2024

BALTIC AND EAST NIDAROS LUTHERAN PARISH Two Churches - One Parish - Centered on the Cross



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Mon Jan 1 | HAPPY NEW YEAR!! 2024 |
| Wed Jan 3 | Quilting at East 8:30 am 5:30pm 6th Grade Intro to Confirmation @ BLC 6:30pm 8th grade Confirmation @ BLC 7:30pm 7th grade Confirmation @ BLC |
| Thu Jan 4 | Quilting at East 8:30 am |
| Mon Jan 8 | ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE 6:30pm Bible Study at Baltic |
| Tue Jan 9 | 2:30pm PQ @ DNRC Worship 6:30pm Baltic Council Meeting |
| Wed Jan 10 | 6:30 pm 8th grade Confirmation @ BLC 7:30 pm 7th grade Confirmation @ BLC 6:30-7:30pm Food Bank Open |
| Mon Jan 15 | 6:30pm Bible Study at Baltic |
| Wed Jan 17 | NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30 pm 8th grade Confirmation @ BLC 7:30 pm 7th grade Confirmation @ BLC |
| Sun Jan 21 | Baltic Lutheran Annual Meeting following service |
| Sun Jan 21 | East Nidaros Annual Meeting following service |
| Mon Jan 22 | 6:30 pm Bible Study at Baltic |
| Wed Jan 24 | 6:30 pm 8th grade Confirmation @ BLC 7:30 pm 7th grade Confirmation @ BLC |
| Thu Jan 25 | 9am Newsletter Assembly |
| Sat Jan 27 | 10:30-11:30am Food Bank Open |
| Mon Jan 29 | 6:30 pm Bible Study at Baltic |
| Wed Jan 31 | 6:30 pm 8th grade Confirmation @ BLC 7:30pm 7th grade Confirmation @ BLC |

January 2024 Pulpit Post

“Anticipation, Incarnation, Revelation”

For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:11-12

The words anticipation, incarnation, and revelation describe the three short seasons of the church year that we quickly pass through as December ends and January begins. **Advent-Christmas-Epiphany** In the season of Advent, the first season of the church year, we anticipate the birth of Jesus and we also anticipate and declare that Jesus we come again to reign over the new heaven and the new earth. Even though we no longer are waiting for Jesus to arrive anymore, we still anticipate hearing wonderful Sunday School Christmas programs each year from our youth as they tell the story of the birth of the Savior of the world. Incarnation describes how Jesus comes to us at Christmas. As the hymn declares, “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”. Jesus who is truly Divine is sent down to earth in human flesh and becomes truly human too. The gospel of John describes the incarnation of Jesus as the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us. This is the dual nature of God. Jesus is both fully God and fully human at the same time. Incarnation is more than a churchy word. For you and I, it means that Jesus came down to earth in human flesh to understand our temptations and sufferings. Even though Jesus is no longer walking among us in the flesh, Jesus has not abandoned us. Jesus abides with us. After the 12 days of the season of Christmas, on January 6, Jesus begins revealing himself in the season of Epiphany. The book of Hebrews declares how the revelation of Jesus Christ is now different after the birth of Jesus. “Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.” Before Jesus was only talked about by the prophets, but now Jesus is revealed to us by his Word and through his Sacraments. Jesus reveals his favor for his chosen in the waters of baptism. Jesus reveals his forgiveness to each of us when we receive his body and blood in the Lord’s Supper. Jesus reveals himself by the words that he has given his preachers to speak. As Paul makes clear from the beginning to his letter to the Galatians, the words that he spoke were never his own nor were they taught to him. They were received directly by a revelation of Jesus Christ. Let this be the focus in all we do in this new year! Let us proclaim Jesus who came down from heaven and who lived among us, suffered for our sake, died so that we might never die, and rose again so that we can live with him eternally. Blessing to you in this new year as we continue to spread this good news!

Pastor Randall J. Questad

Thank you!

On behalf of East Nidaros Church, the Church Council would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your gifts of talent, time and treasure in 2023. Without the support of congregants and friends like you, our church wouldn't be able to spread God's word and touch the lives of so many in our community. Gifts from those who are named and those who give anonymously or work behind the scenes, support our weekly worship service and community outreach, maintain our church facility, provide materials for Sunday School, and so much more are greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for your kindness and impact on our community. Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas.

East Nidaros Church Council 2023

East Nidaros, Your gift has already made an impact..... In the past month, we have been able to serve over 145 local children at THE CLOSET. Thank you for your generous gift of \$102.99 to The Foster Network in November. We would love to schedule a tour for you to see our new space! Please reach out to us to schedule a time. With deep appreciation, Holly C. Director at The Foster Network

Thank you for another great year serving the Baltic and East Nidaros Lutheran Parish. A special thank you for all the many Christmas cards, gifts, and kind words that we also received. We thank the Baltic WELCA and East Nidaros Church for the generous and very much appreciated Christmas gifts. Pastor Randall and Kim Questad

I would like to express my appreciation for the very thoughtful Christmas gifts I received from Baltic WELCA, East Nidaros Council, and Karen & John Sinding. I was very touched. May you all be blessed in the new year. It is a joy to work with all of you! Lisa Skelly, Church Secretary



BALTIC COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2023

This monthly meeting of the Baltic Lutheran Church Council was held at East Nidaros Lutheran Church on November 14, 2023. Council members present were: Al Van Eck, Bryce Witzel, Kelly LaValliere, Rick Fiala, Brett Teveldal, Dick Berg, Terry Snow, Wayne Gunderson, Jeff Boldt, and Pastor Randall Questad. Also present were Lisa Skelly and Myron Nohava.

Rick Fiala called the meeting to order, and the meeting opened in prayer.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from October 5, 2023, by Brett Teveldal. Second by Al VanEck. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa Skelly reviewed October financial report. Accounts balanced this month.

Lisa asked the council to decide on Christmas offering charity for this year.

Council discussed Payroll Budget recommendations for 2024. Myron Nohava discussed having a council member serve on the personnel committee. Al VanEck volunteered.

Motion to approve October financial report by Al VanEck. Second by Jeff Boldt.

Trustees' Report

Jeff Boldt reported he will need to fix paneling down the back stairwell. Tony Lee agreed to provide snow removal since Myron Nohava will not be available for removal after January 1, 2024.

Terry Snow purchased shelving materials and trim for closet and will be donating the laminate shelving product.

Terry priced out 8 lights for the south end of the church. Total cost for \$120+ tax.

Will first see if changing lightbulb types might increase light output before we change lighting fixture.

Deacons' Report

Deferred.

Old Business

Council discussed options for technology grant through Alliance. Brett

Baltic November Council Minutes (continued)

Teveldal to find out grant process and if approved, what dollar amount is given through this grant.

Al VanEck will follow up with Brookings Methodist Church regarding QR code for offering and will report back next meeting.

New Business

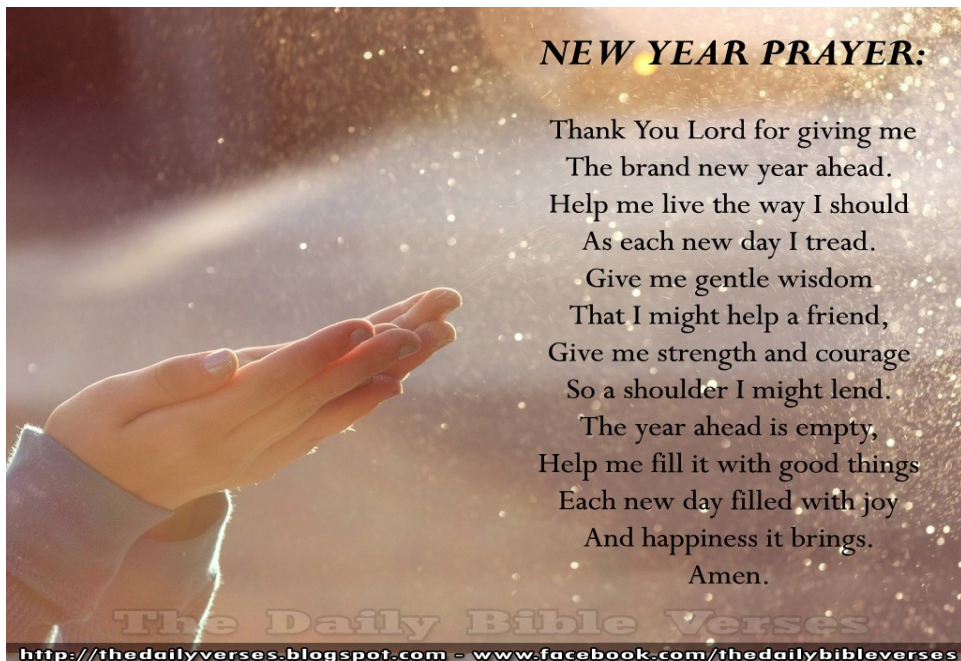
Wick in the baptismal candle does not stay lit. Al VanEck will investigate new wick options for all candles.

The council discussed Christmas offering charity options. Motion to donate Christmas offering to Baltic Food Bank by Brett Teveldal. Second by Al VanEck. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Deferred to joint council meeting following Baltic Lutheran Church council meeting.

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday December 12, 2023, starting at 6:30 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Al VanEck. Second by Terry Snow. Motion carried.



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.

The Daily Bible Verses

<http://thedailyverses.blogspot.com> - www.facebook.com/thedailybibleverses

Baltic Lutheran and East Nidaros Joint Council Meeting

The Joint Council meeting of Baltic Lutheran Church and East Nidaros Lutheran Church was held at East Nidaros Church on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. Council members present were Rosalie Riswold-Brende, Mark Brobjorg, Debra Larson, Lori Kappler, Alvina Harvey, Rob Krogstad, Dick Berg, Kelly LaValliere, Al Van Eck, Rick Fiala, Brett Teveldal, Bryce Witzel, Wayne Gunderson, Jeff Boldt and Pastor Randall.

Motion to approve the August 2023 Joint Council Meeting minutes was made by Brett Teveldal and seconded by Al Van Eck. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Randall and 13 Confirmation students attended the Okoboji Recharge camp on November 10th -12th – enjoyed by all and went well. Pastor

Randall will be absent on November 26, 2023, for a Grandson's First Communion – Pastor Renee Splichal-Laron will lead worship services. On December 24th, (Christmas Eve) Joint Regular Worship service for East Nidaros and Baltic Lutheran will be held at East Nidaros Lutheran Church at 10am. Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be held at Baltic Lutheran Church at 3:30pm and at East Nidaros Lutheran Church at 5:30pm.

Old Business: Connie Karl will call Unique Church solutions regarding Church Directory.

New Business: Discussed Joint Church Budget for 2024. Decision to continue the same church split as last year – 60% for Baltic Lutheran and 40% for East Nidaros. Discussed at length – Current salaries of Pastor Randall and Lisa Skelly (Church Secretary) and possible salary increases for 2024 Church year. Brett Teveldal made the motion/proposed a 4% annual pay increase for Pastor Randall and a 3% annual pay increase for Lisa Skelly (Church Secretary.) Al Van Eck seconded the motion/proposal. Motion carried.

Next Joint Council Meeting will be in February 2024. Date/Time/Location to be determined.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dick Berg and seconded by Brett Teveldal. Motion carried.

Lord's Prayer.



East Nidaros Council Minutes November 14, 2023

The monthly meeting of the East Nidaros Council was held on November 14, 2023, at East Nidaros Church. Attendance: Connie Karl, Rosalie Riswold-Brende, Alvina Harvey, Deb Larson, Lori Kappler, Rob Krogstad, Mark Brobjorg, Pastor Randall. Not Present: Jim Vollan, David Dyce
Call to Order: Connie Karl called the meeting to order. Pastor Randall opened the meeting in Prayer.

Sunday School Report: Nicole Voeltz presented future Sunday School events. There will be a Live Nativity on December 10th starting at 5pm – the Church will be open for refreshments and singing carols. The Sunday School Christmas program will be on December 17th during worship service.

Pastor Report: Report given at Joint Council meeting.

Secretary Report: Motion by Rob Krogstad to approve the October meeting minutes and Alvina Harvey seconded, Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Printed Financial Report given to Council members. Proposed Budget Report for 2024 given to Council members. Bank CD will be rolled over again. The interest made on the Bank CD will assist in paying for Fuel/Propane. QuickBooks software has increased to \$121 per month. Offerings/Donations to the Church have been good. Donations from the soup supper were \$2540. East Nidaros pledged to give the synod 2% of our general weekly offering for the 2023 church year – However; per the Council minutes in February 2023 a Council vote was taken to give the Synod 1% for the 2023 church year –

Decision was made to go with the 1% as voted on in February 2023. Motion by Mark Brobjorg to accept the Treasurer's Report and Rob Krogstad seconded. Motion Carried.

Deacon's Report: Nothing new to report.

Trustee's Report: DLRS Properties (Doug Tinklenberg) came out to look at the Church roof – shingles are worn with hail damage. Suggested we talk to the Church Insurance company. Doug will take measurements and give an estimate for shingle replacement. Rob Krogstad replaced thermostat and fixed the flapper on the basement toilet.

New Business: Budget planning for 2024.

Noisy Can Offerings December: Shetek

Thanksgiving Offering: McCrossan's Boys Ranch

January 2024: Sigh Socks Christmas Offering: Shetek

Next Council Meeting will be held on December 12th at 7pm

Motion to adjourn was made by Rob Krogstad and seconded by Deb Larson. Motion Carried.

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Baltic

Bonnie & Orill Johnson—from Family

Jarvis Brende—from Family

Jim Park & Dorothy McFarland—from Todd & Tammy Park

Kenny & Shirley Gunderson—from children and grandchildren

Don & Dolores Kangley and George Nohava—from Myron & Diana Nohava

Blake Olsen - from Trista Bohlen

Arnold & Annette Qualseth, Gloria Christensen & Eugene Carnicle—from David Qualseth family in celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Wendell & Evelyn Questad & Don & Donna Koopman—from Pastor and Kim Questad.

East Nidaros

Earl & Ella Riswold—from Rosalie, Ryne, Shalece, Dylan & Chantel

Ordell Krogstad - from Family

Richard Baker—from Zach Hefty & Faith Miller

Loyle & Selma Larson—from Deb Larson

Bob & Marcella Hembd—from Tom & Becky Siemonsma

Gerard & Anastasia Siemonsma, Gerald, Chad & Paula—from Tom & Becky Siemonsma

Tanya Vollan—from Tanya's Family

Wendell & Evelyn Questad & Don & Donna Koopman—from Pastor and Kim Questad.

Jonathan Paulsness—from Stuart & Michelle Paulsness



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

NOVEMBER PARISH RECORD CHANGES

BALTIC

New Members: *No Changes*
 Transfers Out: *No Changes*
 Baptisms: *No Changes*
 Weddings: *No Changes*
 Deaths: *No Changes*

EAST

New Members: *No Changes*
 Transfers Out: *No Changes*
 Baptisms: *No Changes*
 Weddings: *No Changes*
 Deaths: *No Changes*

Fellowship Coffee and Treats

Baltic

Jan 7 Karen Sinding
 & 14 Rona & Ryan Sinding

East Nidaros

TBD

Baltic

Jan 21 Paula & Wayne Gunderson
 & 28 Joan & Jeff Boldt

East Nidaros

TBD

JANUARY NOISY CAN

Baltic: Adam Thompson Foundation

East: Sigh Socks

BALTIC NOVEMBER NOISY CAN:

\$158.55 ANGEL TREE

EAST NOVEMBER NOISY CAN:

\$102.47 ANGEL TREE

The Following Gifts Have Been Given As Memorials:

Baltic: In Memory of

Dorothy Sittig \$400.00 Baltic WELCA Fund

Dorothy Sittig \$200.00 Undesignated general Fund

James Park \$500.00 Honor Flight Fund

East: In Memory of

Jean Hetlet \$825 Undesignated general Fund

Jean Hetlet \$2485.00 Undesignated general Fund

MEMBERS

Betty Jean Benjamin

Donna Lee Boyd - Rhoda Wold

Kelly LaValliere

Dale Thompson— Gary Kocmick

Harry Laue

FRIENDS & FAMILY OF OUR MEMBERS



Dennis Riswold—Friend of the Community

Jay Vogt— Friend of the Community

Keith Fawcett—Kyla Fawcett's (Nesheim) father-in-law

Anita (Ana) Reategui—Friend of Jeff and Joan Boldt

Carolyn Koopman—Aunt of Kim Questad

James Langloss—Kim Questad's Uncle

Mattias Warne—Friend of the Community

Carol, Billy, Nicole, Chad, Dane, Noah, Brian & Lisa—Family of Eric & Lindsey Comes

Becky Berg—Sister-in-law of Dick Berg

Family of Bud Skancke

MAIL BOX REMINDER

Please remember to check your church mailbox when attending service as we place things in your mailboxes periodically. Thank you.



FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED

Monetary Donations always Welcome!

Donations can be mailed to:

PO Box 244 Baltic SD 57003

- White Sugar
- Brown Sugar
- Ramen Noodles
- Boxed Potatoes
- Knorr Sides
(Pasta & Rice)
- Canned Pasta
- Boxed Pasta
- Spices
- Breakfast Bars
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pudding
- Jelly
- Taco Seasoning
- Jello
- Canned Fruit
- Mac N Cheese
- Stuffing
- Juice
- Coffee
- Flour
- Oil
- Sloppy Joe
- Brownie Mix
- Pancake Mix
- Kleenex
- Laundry Soap
- Dish soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Toilet Paper

**NO OPENED,
PARTIALLY USED
OR
OUTDATED ITEMS
PLEASE**

Items may be dropped off at
City, Hall, Baltic School
District in the red box in the
Commons or in the Baltic
Narthex or
East Nidaros Fellowship Hall.

2024 Church Envelopes

With the New Year just around the corner, if you are interested in having 2024 Weekly Giving Envelopes, please contact Alvina for East Nidaros at dunaharv@alliancecom.net Or (605) 529-5328. Contact Lisa for Baltic at nidaros@alliancecom.net or call (605) 529-5471.

East Nidaros will be looking to fill several positions on the council for 2024. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact any current council member. Thank you.

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**BALTIC LUTHERAN CHURCH
&
EAST NIDAROS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Permit# 4
Baltic, SD

January