

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Sun Dec 3 | BALTIC WELCA meeting following service. |
| Tue Dec 5 | 2:30pm PQ at DNRC |
| Wed Dec 6 | 6:30pm 8th grade Confirmation @ EN
7:30pm 7th grade Confirmation @ EN |
| Tue Dec 12 | 6:30pm Baltic Council Meeting
7pm East Council Meeting |
| Wed Dec 13 | 6:30 pm 8th grade Confirmation @ EN
7:30 pm 7th grade Confirmation @ EN
6:30-7:30pm Food Bank Open |
| Sun Dec 17 | 9am Sunday School Christmas Program @ Baltic
10:30am Sunday School Christmas Program @ East |
| Mon Dec 18 | NEWSLETTER DEADLINE |
| Wed Dec 20 | NO CONFIRMATION |
| Sun Dec 24 | 10am Joint Christmas Eve Worship at East Nidaros
3:30pm Candlelight Worship Service at Baltic
5:30pm Candlelight Worship Service at East |
| Mon Dec 25 | HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS! |
| Wed Dec 27 | NO CONFIRMATION |
| Thu Dec 28 | 9am Newsletter Assembly |
| Sat Dec 30 | 10:30-11:30am Food Bank Open |

*Merry
Christmas*

December 2023 Pulpit Post “Light Has Dawned”

“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Matthew 4:16-17

The bible is full of images of light overcoming darkness. This is the first image given from the very beginning of God’s word as the creation story unfolds when God speaks into the darkness and says, “Let there be light” and there was light. This light allows us to see where we are going without finding our own light so we don’t stumble in the darkness.

Later in scripture, the Psalmist declares “Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” God’s word is the light that guided his chosen people in the past and it continues to be our source to see through the darkness of our world today.

As Christmas approaches we are reminded of the prophecy from Isaiah 9:2 that the true light of the world is not found in words on a page, but is found in the person of Jesus Christ who has come into the world in the flesh. The gospel of John proclaims, “And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

Our parish and community provides several opportunities to hear this wonderful story of how the light of the world has dawned. The words that Jesus is coming near is no longer a prophecy but it is a truth and reality. The waiting is over and Jesus is here. The story of Jesus’ birth quickly jumps from the manger to how he becomes and is our light and our salvation. Like the Christmas story that we look forward to hearing year after year, we also never get tired of Jesus calling us to repentance so we can hear his unconditional words of forgiveness.

During this Christmas season, remember that Jesus, the light of the world, Jesus, the Word made flesh has come near to you.

Pastor Randall J. Questad

Thank you!

Thank you for serving on October 11. Your group helped serve supper to 271 adults and 10 children. The guests of the Banquet are grateful for your ongoing support. God Bless! The Banquet

Baltic Lutheran Church, Thank you for your donation to the SD Veterans Cemetery. We are honored for your support. Thank you, Erin.

East Quilting Group would like to thank everyone who helped make quilts or donated supplies for quilts. All the quilts have been distributed to local charities and Lutheran World Relief. We can always use donated supplies: mattress pads, material, thread, etc. Happy Holidays to all.

SAVE THE DATE



Live Nativity at East Nidaros Church

Please join us at our outside nativity on Sunday, December 10, 2023, from, 5 – 7 pm. There will be caroling and fellowship as we gather to celebrate Christmas and Jesus' birth. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall.



Super Heroes Baby Jesus

Yes – there is a new superhero who was born on Christmas Day!

Please join us on December 17, 2023, at 10:30 am for “**A Super Christmas**”. There will be a lunch served after our Christmas program.

It is also the Sunday School's annual **Bake Sale**. Volunteers are needed to bring individually wrapped baked goods for the Bake Sale. Please bring on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Prices will be marked at the church.



BALTIC COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 2023

This monthly meeting of the Baltic Lutheran Church Council was held at Baltic Lutheran Church on October 5, 2023. Council members present were: Al Van Eck, Bryce Witzel, Kelly LaValliere, Rick Fiala, Brett Teveldal, Dick Berg, Terry Snow, and Pastor Randall Questad. Also present were Lisa Skelly and Diana Nohava. Not present were Wayne Gunderson, Jeff Boldt.

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

Motion to approve meeting minutes from August 8, 2023, by Al Van Eck. Second by Rick Fiala. Motion carried.

Diana Nohava joined this month to update the council on the Baltic Lutheran Church Constitution. Diana explained the parts of the Baltic Lutheran Church Constitution that must match specific wording from the ELCA Synod Constitution, no exceptions.

Brett made motion to change wording to bylaw C8.05.10 in Baltic Lutheran Church Constitution specifying active versus inactive member to include “and/or” and “may”. Second by Al VanEck. Motion carried.

Motion made to approve changes by Constitution Committee by Al Van Eck. Second by Brett Teveldal. Motion carried.

A congregational meeting will be set for Sunday, November 19, 2023, to present the constitution with changes to the congregation for approval. Lisa to mail postcard and constitution copies to active voting members of the congregation the week of October 8-13.

Treasurer’s Report

Lisa Skelly reviewed August and September financial report.

Lisa made recommendation for 2024 budget to budget only expenses as budget for income is difficult to estimate.

Motion to approve August financial report by Rick Fiala. Second by Brett Teveldal.

Motion to approve September financial report by Rick Fiala. Second by Brett Teveldal.

Trustees’ Report

Dick Berg noted the thermostat was manually put to 68 degrees which overrode the programed temperature. He reminded council that if anyone is trying to anticipate a crowd church or needs to change the church temperature temporarily, they should leave it on the program and just change the temperature. This way, on the next cycle, it will go back to its programmed temperature. Dick suggested some spray foam to insulate cracks by the kitchen door. Framing needs to be finished on the new closet door. Terry will

finish putting polyurethane on the trim and can put that up once the door is done. Jeff Boldt noticed some paneling is coming loose on the back stairs. He said he will fix.

Deacons' Report

Al Van Eck continues to need volunteers for ushering and communion. Brett Teveldal mentioned that the church has not applied for the Alliance Communication technology grant in some time. Corynne Teveldal would be willing to write the grant if the council can come up with ideas for technology needed in the church. Discussed need for security cameras and if that would qualify for this grant.

Old Business

Motion to approve Al Van Eck as Vice President by Kelly LaValliere.

Second by Brett Teveldal. Motion carried.

Building insurance update from Brett Teveldal. Quote from State Farm includes 10% discount. It does not include coverage for sexual misconduct. This can be outsourced for \$400/year if council feels this is necessary. Total cost for policy would be \$11,313/year or \$942.75/month. The council will bring State Farm Insurance option to congregation at annual meeting for discussion.

The council will continue to fill the treasurer position on the council.

New Business

The electronic sign by the fire station is showing some problems with the lighting. Al Van Eck will call Daktronics to see if someone can come look at it. The council discussed using the remaining money in the closet fund to replace lighting in the closet wing of the church. Al Van Eck will investigate if current lighting was donated at the time of the new addition. Council members will also price out lighting options to bring to next meeting.

The council discussed what to do about the old tube TVs in the sanctuary. Brett Teveldal made motion to dispose of old televisions.

Second by Kelly LaValliere. Motion carried.

Al Van Eck brought up discussion of the old refrigerator in the kitchen and if the church can justify the cost for running it.

Al Van Eck suggested the church use a QR code for online giving and place cards in the pews with this code. He will check into how the church may be able to use this.

Pastor's Report

Confirmation has started. Overall going well and moving meeting location to tables in the basement has worked well. Pastor Randall is going to try to take 7th and 8th confirmation kids to Okoboji on November 11 and 12. The cost is \$109 per student. Families did pay this on their own last year so will plan that this year as well. Pastor Randall will possibly take 6th graders to Shetek on November 3, 2023. Upcoming baptism for Farland on 10/27. Family will also join. Dykes will also be joining and have a baptism on 11/5.

Baltic October Council Minutes (continued)

Northern Rim continues to discuss what next year's trip will include. Some churches may do a servant trip and not go to National Youth Convention in New Orleans.

Pastor Randall will be gone November 26, 2023, for a family event.

Our pianist, Grace, will have her last Sunday with us on October 8, 2023. We still have many options for rotating pianists. Kappler's will not be doing VBS next year, so we will need to start finding someone to take this over for summer of 2024. The Baltic Lutheran Facebook page is not working well.

Pastor Randall will add Angie Aspaas as administrator for the church's Facebook page to update Sunday School information.

Next Council Meeting will be during Joint Council meeting at East Nidaros Lutheran Church on Tuesday November 14, 2023, starting at 6:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn made by Bryce Witzel. Second by Brett Teveldal.

Motion carried.

BLC WELCA MEETING

WELCA met Sunday, November 19, 2023 following worship service. The meeting was brought to order by President Joann.

We discussed again the selling of the extra round tables that never get used. It was determined to keep some of the them upstairs for overflow when we have a large funeral. We will discuss further at our next meeting.

A list of shut-ins is needed so we can put together Christmas gift bags. Joann will contact Lisa for a list of names. Sue volunteered to deliver bags to the Sioux Falls residents.

We revisited the thoughts of not having Fellowship in the summer months. Some feel we should continue as long as people are coming down for coffee.

Joann is stepping down as President after this year. Kaye will take her place in January 2024 and Pat will take over the secretary position.

If you are on a committee and would like to be removed, please contact a WELCA officer.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 3rd following worship service. We will discuss the budget for 2024 and work on the WELCA booklet for 2024.

The meeting was adjourned. Kaye Snow, Secretary



East Nidaros Council Minutes October 10, 2023

The monthly meeting of the East Nidaros Council was held on October 10, 2023, at East Nidaros Church. In Attendance: Connie Karl, Mark Brobjorg, Rob Krogstad, Deb Larson, Alvina Harvey, Lori Kappler, Pastor Randall. Not Present: Rosalie Riswold-Brende, David Dyce, Jim Vollan. Ann Thompson gave an AED training/demonstration to the Council members. AED batteries should be good for 2-3 years.

Call to order: Connie Karl called the meeting to order.

Pastor Randall opened the meeting with Prayer.

Pastor's Report: No Confirmation on October 11th – confirmation students will be serving at the Banquet. Pastor Randall suggested future serving of the Banquet and to continue serving the 2nd Wednesday in October. Confirmation has been divided up by student grade and is going well. 7th grade meets from 7:30pm – 8:30pm and 8th grade meets from 6:30pm – 7:30pm. The 6th grade Pre-Confirmation class will potentially be attending a Shetek Camp on November 3rd and 4th. The 7th and 8th grade Confirmation students will be attending the Okoboji Re-Charge camp November 10th through the 12th. A Youth Choir from First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls will be coming to sing at Baltic Lutheran and East Nidaros Churches during worship services on Nov. 19th. Pastor Randall will be attending his Grandson's First Communion on November 26th – Pastor Renea Spickle Larson will be leading worship services. The Northern Rim Youth Group will meet at Zion Lutheran in Hartford on October 29th – Churches are still deciding if they will be attending the National Youth Gathering in the summer of 2024.

Secretary Report: Motion by Deb Larson to approve the September meeting minutes and Mark Brobjorg seconded, Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Printed Financial Report given to Council members. Received the Fuel Contract and the price has decreased this year.

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: Rob Krogstad continues to check on estimates for Church Roof/Bell Tower repair. Rob Krogstad checked out the church furnace – the furnace is working but needs a new thermostat. Toilet flapper not working in the North Basement Bathroom – Mark Brobjorg and Rob Krogstad will check it out.

Old Business: Ongoing Church Roof/Bell Tower in need of repairs. The Fall Soup Supper will be held on November 5th.

New Business: Budget planning in November. Will need a Nominating Committee for open Church Council positions.

Noisy Can Offerings

October: Banquet

November: Angel Tree

December: Shetek

Thanksgiving Offering: McCrossan's Boys Ranch

Christmas Offering: Shetek

January 2024: Sigh Socks

Next Council Meeting: November 14th at East Nidaros Church.

Individual meetings at 6pm and Joint meeting with Baltic Lutheran at 7pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Deb Larson and seconded by Rob Krogstad. Motion Carried.

Poinsettia Memorials

Anyone wishing to place a poinsettia plant at the church in memory of a loved one is welcome to do so during the Christmas season. Please call or email the office and let Lisa know who the memorial is for so we can post this information.

OCTOBER PARISH RECORD CHANGES

BALTIC

New Members:

Wade & Amanda Farland Family

Jason & Jessica Dykes Family

Transfers Out:

Thomas & Joanna Baatz Family

Baptisms:

Kenlee Rae Farland

Tate Michael Tidemann

Jason, Jaxson & Henry Dykes

Weddings: *No Changes*

Deaths: *Dorothy Marie Sittig*

EAST

New Members:

Jerry & Jean Hetlet

Transfers Out:

Adam & Cooper Wilson

Miranda Sheridan

Miranda Skanke

Baptisms: *No Changes*

Weddings: *No Changes*

Deaths:

Ella Lenora Riswold

Jean Carol Hetlet

Fellowship Coffee and Treats

Baltic

Dec 3 & 10th

WELCA OFFICERS

East Nidaros

Dec 3 David & Melissa Daugaard
Jodee Westurbur

East Nidaros

Dec 17 December Birthdays

Dec 24 Keith & Paula Harvey

& 31 Rob & Katie Siemonsma

DECEMBER NOISY CAN

Baltic: Honor Flight

East: Shetek

BALTIC OCTOBER NOISY CAN:
\$265.06 SD Veterans Cemetery

EAST OCTOBER NOISY CAN:
\$428.52 The Banquet

The Following Gifts Have Been Given As Memorials:

Baltic: In Memory of

Dorothy Sittig \$1275.00 Undesignated General Fund

Dorothy Sittig \$425.00 Baltic WELCA

Dorothy Sittig \$50.00 Building Fund

John G. Moe \$425.00 Undesignated General Fund

Norman Nielsen \$20.00 Undesignated General Fund

East: In Memory of

Norman Nielsen \$630.00 Undesignated General Fund

Ella Riswold \$50.00 Undesignated General Fund

Jonathan S. Paulsness \$550.00 East Nidaros Cemetery Fund

Clare Vollan \$400.00 East Nidaros Cemetery Fund

Norman Nielsen \$160.00 East Nidaros Cemetery Fund

John G. Moe \$235.00 East Nidaros Cemetery Fund

Dorothy Sittig \$875.00 East Nidaros Cemetery Fund

MEMBERS

Betty Jean Benjamin

Donna Lee Boyd - Rhoda Wold

Jimmie Vollan—Nathan Vrchota

Kelly LaValliere—Heather Petersen

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 Ruby Hanson

Family of Marilyn Johnson





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.

Parish the Thought

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BALTIC LUTHERAN CHURCH & EAST NIDAROS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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DECEMBER