



## *Pastor's Message*

### Christmas Revealed



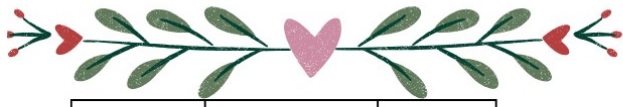
They had heard his voice for centuries. Now they heard his cries from a manger and his babbling voice from his mother's arms. God is with us. God came to dwell among us. The Great High Priest with his lowly birth in Bethlehem. The Ancient of Days on his first day as a human outside the womb. The Holy One came to eat and drink with sinners. The Word made flesh keeping his promises from of old. We have no record of the apostle John being present at the first Christmas. But even from exile on Patmos, John could say, "Immanuel. God is with us."

**Revelation 1** <sup>12</sup> I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a sash around his chest. His sash is reminiscent of a priest. Jesus was sacrificed once for all sin of all people. Since he humbled himself to death on the cross, Jesus would never run off from his churches. <sup>14</sup> The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

The seven lampstands were the churches to whom Jesus wanted letters to be written. Jesus' disciples, whether they gather in exile or in a major urban area, are the light of the world, will continue to shine their good deeds before others so that their Father in heaven may be glorified. John saw among the lampstands someone like a son of man. This was Jesus himself, God with us. Even though the rest of the apostles had already finished their race and John was not far behind in this way, he is now exalted. He appears in glory as the eternal, holy ruler. Nothing is hidden from his eyes and he is poised to exact justice on behalf of his people. All things are under his feet as he rules over heaven and earth for the good of his church. His voice, mightier than a roaring river, made light shine out of darkness and healed the lame, forgave sins and even gave life to the dead. He holds in his powerful right hand those called to speak his words and lead many people to righteousness. They will shine like stars. They wield the sword of his Word, which penetrates the soul and judges the attitudes of the heart. Jesus' face still shines like the sun, just as on the mount of transfiguration where the Father said, "Listen to him!"

Many people experience loneliness this time of year. We are never alone! God is with us: Immanuel. Many people are lost in darkness this time of year. They have light in us! Shine with the light reflected from our Savior's face. Many people use holiday celebrations as an excuse for excess and abuse. We have a sword that slices through excuses, kills our flesh and cures our hearts. Though our world promotes warm feelings this time of year, most are ignorant of the real reason for the season. We have forgiveness in our Great High Priest, Jesus! As the world looks more hostile to each other and to Christianity, we have the blazing eyes of the King of kings looking out for us. Just as he came on the first Christmas and was there on Patmos, Immanuel is here among us. God is with us!

Together with you in shining Jesus' light,  
Pastor Adam Bode



# Happy Birthday



AND GOD'S BLESSINGS!



<b>Carol</b>	Quirt	Jan 1
Marcus	<b>Brooks</b>	Jan 2
Mazey	<b>Ostermann</b>	Jan 2
<b>Diane</b>	<b>Reseburg</b>	Jan 3
Megan	<b>Rammer</b>	Jan 3
Rachel	<b>Biertzer</b>	Jan 4
<b>Kelly</b>	<b>Schirmer</b>	Jan 4
Karl	<b>Leverenz</b>	Jan 5
<b>Robert</b>	<b>Brooks</b>	Jan 5
<b>Khloe</b>	<b>Hughes</b>	Jan 6
<b>Ruth</b>	<b>Plummer</b>	Jan 7
Wallace	<b>Gierach</b>	Jan 7
Bethany	<b>Schmidt</b>	Jan 9
<b>Kenneth</b>	<b>Ditter</b>	Jan 9
<b>Thomas</b>	<b>Phelps</b>	Jan 9
Brian	<b>Grimm</b>	Jan 10
B. Jay	<b>Blattler</b>	Jan 11
Jamie	<b>Wehrmann</b>	Jan 11
<b>Kyle</b>	Heilman	Jan 13
<b>Kevin</b>	<b>Kirsch</b>	Jan 13
Joanna	<b>Bramstedt</b>	Jan 13
<b>Robert G.</b>	<b>Brooks</b>	Jan 13

<b>Jethro</b>	<b>Coaker</b>	Jan 14
<b>Rachel</b>	<b>Rabe</b>	Jan 14
<b>Dale</b>	<b>Bramstedt</b>	Jan 14
Jonathan	<b>Pieper</b>	Jan 14
<b>David</b>	<b>Probst</b>	Jan 14
<b>Rachel</b>	<b>Mayer</b>	Jan 14
William	<b>Maass</b>	Jan 15
<b>Sheila</b>	<b>Edler</b>	Jan 16
<b>Colt</b>	<b>Truttschel</b>	Jan 17
<b>Lisa</b>	<b>Goedeke</b>	Jan 17
Jacob	<b>Eagan</b>	Jan 17
<b>Tim</b>	<b>Doro</b>	Jan 17
Maddie	<b>Rabe</b>	Jan 18
<b>Darin</b>	<b>Reinemann</b>	Jan 19
<b>Debra</b>	<b>Kirsch</b>	Jan 19
<b>Karlene</b>	<b>Ditter</b>	Jan 19

<b>Eden</b>	<b>Mikkelson</b>	Jan 20
Andrea	<b>Fischer</b>	Jan 23
<b>Tim</b>	Bull	Jan 23
<b>Sara</b>	<b>Kleinhaus</b>	Jan 23
William	<b>Kolberg</b>	Jan 24
Allison	<b>Nasgovitz</b>	Jan 24
<b>Donald</b>	<b>Schroeder</b>	Jan 25
Andrew	<b>Dais</b>	Jan 25
<b>Lynn</b>	<b>Trochta</b>	Jan 26
<b>Lori</b>	<b>Wehrmann</b>	Jan 26
<b>Ryan</b>	<b>Kolosovsky</b>	Jan 26
<b>Diann</b>	<b>Horness</b>	Jan 27
<b>Harper</b>	<b>Holzward</b>	Jan 27
Albrecht	<b>Bode</b>	Jan 28
<b>Cassandra</b>	<b>Reichardt</b>	Jan 28
<b>Brittnee</b>	<b>Truttschel</b>	Jan 28
<b>Thomas</b>	Quirt	Jan 29
<b>Brooke</b>	<b>Schuenemann</b>	Jan 29
<b>Ashley</b>	<b>Radue</b>	Jan 29
<b>Nick</b>	<b>Schmidt</b>	Jan 31
<b>Carol</b>	<b>Reinemann</b>	Jan 31



# Happy Anniversary!



<b>Mike &amp; Ann</b>	<b>Austreng</b>	Jan 3
<b>Thomas &amp; Debra</b>	<b>Ehrenberg</b>	Jan 19
<b>Darin &amp; Wendy</b>	<b>Reinemann</b>	Jan 21
<b>Garrett &amp; Amber</b>	<b>Barber</b>	Jan 23

"Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." ~Mark 10:9

# Council Meeting Minutes

## December 6, 2023

Chairman: Eric Eickhoff  
Vice President: Todd Marten  
Elder Chairman: Eric Vant Hul Activities:  
Elder: David Wehrmann  
School Board: Zach Theobald  
Treasurer: Jim Van Alstine  
Financial Secretary: Jim Eick

Recording Secretary: Eric Specht  
Evangelism:  
Staff Minister Luther Curia  
Trustees: Trevor Wehrmann  
Principal Mike Wieting  
Pastor Adam Bode  
Pastor Aaron Mueller

The meeting was called to order by President Eric Eickhoff.  
Pastor Bode opened the meeting with a devotion followed by prayer.  
The Secretary's minutes from the November 1, Council Meeting were approved.

### Transfer In

- Don & Judy Becker

### Death

- Dexter Porter
- Sharlene Mueller

### Profession of Faith

- Vicki Brown
- Kirby Post
- Joan Goetsch

### Baptism

- Amelia Eileen Altman

### Current membership:

Communicants =	667
Children/Other =	<u>161</u>
Total =	828

Motion to Approve the Membership Action Motion Carried

### Staff Minister Mr. Curia:

Christmas at St. Paul's is 12/17 @ 8:00 (1st - 8th Gr.) & 10:30 (3K - 8th Gr.)  
The next area one-night WELS teen quarterly rally will be on January 13.  
Pickleball is done for now.

### Pastor Bode:

- Pioneers
  - Wrapped up a fishing unit in November.
  - Thanks to Jim Van Alstine for coordinating the Christmas wreaths to support the Pioneer activities. 30 wreaths were sold for \$25 each.
  - Running a board game unit on Thursdays in December.
- Worship
  - December 10 -- MLHS Sunday with the Lancer Singers
    - Pastor Kock will preach
    - A free-will offering will be gathered for MLHS / Lancer Singers.
  - Afternoon Teachers aide is stepping back for personal reasons. Also down a lunch Person and an Afternoon aide as well. (Kindergarten really needs help in the afternoon).

# Council Meeting Minutes

## December 6, 2023

### Pastor Mueller

- Attending a Business Class that runs through August.
- Helping with some counseling items, keep everyone in your prayers.
- Deliberating the divine call to Mount Olive in Delano, Minnesota.
- Please keep Pastor Mueller and his family in your prayers.
- Silent Auction planning has begun for the event on October 5, 2024.
- Helped write the study for the Advent Tea, setup for it, and helped behind the scenes for it.
- Went to Froedtert with Debbie to see Tom Ehrenberg after his fall.
- CCCW meeting on Nov. 11
- Attended Dave and Patti Wehrmann 50th anniversary party Nov. 25.
- Prospect visit 11/29
- Planned out Bible studies for 2024.

### Elder's Report

Continue to work through the Delinquent list. Will B. and the group have been meeting and are getting close to having some policies in place. The goal was for December but will take a little longer.

### Principal's Report

- Mr. Panzer continues to hold the call to Northland Lutheran. We will continue to keep him in our prayers.
- Mr. Dais continues to hold the call to Hortonville. We will continue to keep him in our prayers.
- The faculty has begun work on the Ministerial Development Plan.
- 85 veterans and guests attended. This event was very well received and everyone is very thankful that we offer that service.

### School Board Report

- Voted to compensate teachers additional wages for the hours they are doing teachers aide work
- Capacities were set for 3k-K
  - 3K is 18 children
  - 4k is 20 children
  - K is 20 children
- All 3 require 2 adults and we need 2 adults for wrap around care 11:30am-3:30pm
- New tuition rates approved for 3k and 4k as follows
  - 5 days a week, full days \$5000 for year ½ days \$2500
  - 4 days a week, full days \$4000 for year ½ days \$2000
  - 3 days a week full days \$3000 for year ½ days \$1500
  - 2 days a week ½ days only \$1000 for year
- Pre K enrollment for members will begin December 10th. There is a 3 ½ year waiting list.

# Council Meeting Minutes

## December 6, 2023

### Treasurer Report

#### Financial Results to Budget

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##### Revenue

Offerings for the month of November (4 Sundays & Thanksgiving) totaled \$65,200 (averaging \$16,300 per week) up from October (5 Sundays), totaled \$91,400 (averaging \$18,300 per week and compared to last year November-2022 (4 Sundays) totaled \$57,600.

\$18,900 in tuition was received in November. \$8,000 of K-8 tuition, \$9,000 K3 & K4 tuition and Support form our sister congregations \$1,500 from St John/ St. Peter-Cleveland and \$417 monthly from Calvary-Sheboygan. A second of four quarterly School Choice payments for \$71,900 was received this month.

Special donations received in November were:

- We received an additional \$22,300 for Growing Forward.
- \$550 for Faith for the Future.
- \$250 for the School Fund
- \$251 for the Church directory

##### Expenses

Church Expenses are under budget as medical expenses and music/worship supplies are running under budget.

School expenses for medical insurance is also under budget. This is being offset by more hours and higher wages for School Aides and extra Hot Lunch Helper. We are seeing higher expenses for textbooks and supplies with the startup of school. \$8,760.65 of PTF funds have been assigned to offset some of the textbook expenses. The first two School Choice Audits were completed and billed so far this year resulting in higher cost than budget.

Property / shared expenses: With the added school space, custodian wages are running higher than budget.

We are still seeing lower utility costs so far. With a new electrical connection, we are on a different billing rate than last year.

Missions: Monthly payments to WELS and MLHS were made to budgeted amounts.

Two month's Interest expense on the Oostburg Bank loan has being charged to the operating budget as the project is completed. The original budget has 5 months planned.

The Net Results of the operating (Budgeted) funds is a slight profit of \$676, compared to a planned (\$12,871) loss.

##### Building Expansion:

A final construction bill of \$47,341 will be paid in December as all construction issues are settled. Construction borrowing remains at \$2,989,531.

At the end of November, outstanding pledges for Growing Forward stand at \$247,900.



# Council Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2023

## Trustee's Report

The big stainless refrigerator in the kitchen is having issues. We are working through them. Hopefully with the installation of a new thermostat we can have it running well again. With that we are reaching out for quotes for a new one. We know that this refrigerator is important for serving lunches and are trying to move things along as fast as possible.

We are having issues with losing water in the new fire pump water tank underground. We have been in contact with Quasius, Korf Plumbing, and Complete Fire Service. Complete Fire Service will be out to do some work on it and then we will need to do some further monitoring to be sure we do not have a leak in the tank. More to come.

If there is anyone that has any bigger project ideas, please bring them forward to one of the Trustee's. We are keeping a list of future budget needs and are always open to any new idea's members may have.

## Evangelism Report

Nothing to report at this time.

## Activities Report

Nothing to Report at this time.

## Officer's Report

Continue working through the Facility Use Policy.

Long Range Planning update - Dave Probst agreed to serve. Looking to schedule the first meeting.

Prepared health insurance proposal for new business.

## WELS Report

Conference of Presidents meeting 2023

The Conference of Presidents (COP) held its fall meeting on October 3-5. Here is a summary of the matters discussed and decided:

- The COP has begun to carry out a [resolution](#) of the synod convention asking for a pastoral brief on the subject of critical theories and justice, issues that are confronting pastors and members in our society today. A pastoral brief is a statement that will provide information and guidance on a specific subject. It is "pastoral" not because it is intended only for pastors, but because the guidance it provides is biblical, evangelical, and pastoral.
- The COP was informed that a task force to address the called worker shortage will be appointed in the coming weeks, as directed by the [synod convention](#). The task force will craft recommendations for a synod wide effort to increase the number of candidates for the public ministry.
- The COP approved a proposal to extend and encourage WELS teaching ministry certification for all early childhood teachers, whether called or hired. The COP also approved a proposal that makes a distinction between synod wide early childhood teacher certification (meaning that such certified teachers are able to be called anywhere) and local teacher certification, which certifies early childhood teachers for service in their own local congregation only.
- The COP is asking the Synodical Council's Compensation Review Committee to propose an appropriate manner of compensating directors and teachers for increased time commitments and responsibilities involved in early childhood education.

# Council Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2023

## WELS Report

- The Early Childhood Ministry Support Task Force is producing a document as a resource for early childhood education (ECE) leaders, boards, district coordinators, and district presidents to build awareness and give strategies on how to efficiently operate an ECE program while meeting the needs of ECE staff, parents, and children.
- The COP continues to look at ways to improve the guidelines and procedures dealing with the call system.
- The COP extended a call to Rev. Michael Hatzung to serve as a Christian giving counselor in a half-time retirement call. In view of the pastoral shortage, the COP also considered filling a full-time vacant Christian giving counselor position and determined that this call, if possible, should be extended to a qualified layman rather than to a pastor. A notice for [nominations for this position](#) was issued last week.
- The COP received reports from the Ministry of Christian Giving, the Commission on Congregational Services, and Communication Services, and was updated on the processes for gathering congregational statistics and Congregation Mission Offering subscriptions.
- The COP is continuing its work on finalizing the restatement of the synod's doctrinal position on male-female roles and relationships.

## MLHS Report

- Calls
  - Pastor Jason Hacker is transitioning into his role as MLHS President.
  - Pastor Brett Krause from Denver, CO, declined the call on November 29 to teach theology at MLHS. MLHS is hoping to call again on December 5.
  - Matthew Meitner from LaCrosse, WI was called on November 13 to teach English, ESL, and be assistant international coordinator.
  - Carrie Ungemach, who currently serves at First German in Manitowoc, was called on November 13 to teach art, foods, and photography. She has accepted that call.

## Old Business

### Nomination Updates

- Nominees have accepted their nomination. We have a full slate of candidates.

## New Business:

- Called Worker Housing Allowance Declaration for 2024.
  - Motion to approve the housing allowances as presented, Motion carries.
- Health Insurance Update
  - Motion to approve recommendation to Switch Insurance from United Healthcare to WELS VEBA, Motion Carries.
- Set Date for Annual Meeting and deadline for reports Jan. 21st, Reports to Erin by Jan 10.
- The School Board recommends a permanent call for Mrs Panzer. Need Council approval
  - Motion to Approve Mrs. Panzer to a permanent call, Motion Carries.
- Looking for approval of new tuition rates
  - After some discussion we decided to table this until the next meeting, needs more clarification.
- School Board asking for additional member
  - Motion to approve 1 additional member, Motion Carries.

# Council Meeting Minutes

## December 6, 2023

### New Business:

- Increase Pastor Mueller parsonage allowance for 2023
  - Motion to approve the parsonage allowance, motion carried.
- Building Committee looking to turn the new early childhood addition over to trustees and council.
  - Motion to disband our Building Committee with great thanks, motion carries.
- Question about insurance for driving kids to field trips or other school events. Also driving other parents Children. There will be more information on this in the future.
- Tiling for the Fields and playground area estimate was \$3991.

Motion to close the meeting, motion carried

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Eric Specht



# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NO SCHOOL No 6pm Worship Service	2 NO SCHOOL	3 SCHOOL RESUMES 6:30pm Church Council	4 6pm Silent Auction Mtg	5	6
7 8am Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Worship	8 6pm Worship 9:30am Pastor Circuit @ St. Paul's in Harvest Rm	9	10 9am Bible Study 4:15pm Public School Cate 6:30pm Evangelism	11 1:30pm Ladies Aide	12	13 6pm WELS Youth Night
14 8am Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Worship	15 Pastors Conference 6pm Worship 7pm Adult Choir Practice	16 Pastors Conference	17 9am Bible Study 4:15pm Public School Cate 6:30pm School Board 6:30pm Officers	18 7pm Biblical Hospitality Presentation in Harvest Room	19 Axe Bar Event	20
21 5th-8th Sing Both Services 8am Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Worship 11:30am Annual Voters Mtg	22 4:30pm Trustees 6pm Worship 7pm Adult Choir Practice	23	24 9am Bible Study 4:15pm Public School Cate	25	26 NO SCHOOL	27
28 2nd-4th Sing Both Services 8am Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Worship	29 6pm Worship 7pm Adult Choir Practice	30	31 9am Bible Study 4:15pm Public School Cate 6:30pm Elders			