



Parish Newsletter

**“If we can just communicate,
Together we’ll walk thru Heaven’s Gate”**



ST. WENDELIN’S - LUXEMBURG, MN * December 31, 2023 - 647th Edition

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THANK YOU

Thank You... to our St. Wendelin students for their **awesome** performance of "The Special Gift" on Tuesday, December 19th, also to the staff and volunteers who worked with them. Truly this is a team effort that takes many people uniting their efforts to make it all happen. Smiles and warm hearts were plentiful at both performances as our young people brought home the lesson that the best gift of all is Jesus Himself. They showed us too that they also are a gift to us as each year they give wholeheartedly of themselves to bring us this one of a kind presentation. What a beautiful way to start the Christmas season!

Blessings also to all who came. Your support and encouragement keep our school alive and well. May all experience a blessing filled Christmas and new year!

Char Volkmuth

REVIVE WELCOMING COMMITTEE

The Parish Life Committee is seeking to resurrect our Welcoming/Hospitality committee to grow our parish.

Any parishioners that are interested in this ministry or have questions, please call **Tracy Dombrovski at 320-255-9354** or **Kathy Watrin at 320-333-2109**.

ATTENTION GROUP 3 MEMBERS

Group 3’s Breakfast will be on February 11th from 8:30 - noon. If any members want to donate to the raffle please call Steve and Jolene Brang at 320-293-1533 no later than January 7th. We will be serving pancakes, toppings, scrambled eggs, Pep’s pork sausage, Cold Spring bakery rolls and pastries, toast, juice & milk and fresh fruit.

WE NEED CHRIST

We need the sun that shines by day,
The moon that shines by night,
And, too, we need each breath of air,
But mostly, we need Christ.

We need the water that we drink,
The food to keep us live,
We need the clothes upon our backs,
But mostly, we need Christ.

We need some friends to share life’s path,
We need our family ties.
Although we need each one of these,
Above all, we need Christ.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

January 28, 2024

DEADLINE for News:

Monday January 22, 2024

**If you can get your items in earlier,
it would appreciated.**

Get your articles to Sheila Albers

7876 Ahles Road St. Cloud, MN

Phone 320-251-7116

Or e-mail: alberssheila@gmail.com

PRESCHOOL NEWS

The Preschoolers have spent the first few weeks of December learning how to write the numbers 0-10, and several have even progressed on to 11-20. Do you remember how many times it took to write a 3 or an 8 correctly, or all of the backward 2's and 5's made along the way?! With this project alone we've seen growth in their ability to focus and their fine motor skills.

They have also been learning that Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus by attending Advent prayer services, learning the meaning behind each candle, and assembling a toy nativity for moments of reflection and prayer, along with hearing stories from a children's bible.

Mrs. Haselkamp & Mrs. Gruenes

KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE

Like all of the students at St. Wendelin's, my class has been very busy preparing for the upcoming Christmas program, "The Special Gift." It is always so heartwarming to see all their hard work start coming together these last days before the program. It is also a time to reflect and thank God for the special gift of all the generous volunteers who donate their gifts of time and talent to make this program possible!

We recently had a visit from the Knights of Columbus and were thrilled to receive their gift of 500 dollars for our students participating in the Keep Christ in Christmas poster making event.

We have also been busy learning about the Advent season and ways to prepare our hearts for celebrating the birth of Jesus and the anticipation of Him coming again.

The children are putting the finishing touches on some beautiful Christmas gifts they are making for their parents or other loved ones.

May you all have a blessed Christmas season!

Mrs. Matchinsky

2ND & 3RD GRADE NEWS

The second and third graders had a busy month preparing for the birth of baby Jesus! The third graders were able to visit the convestival and receive penance and the second graders stayed at school to talk about the special sacraments they will be receiving in a few months!

When talking about the sacrament of Reconciliation we made a Gratitude List, this is what the second graders are grateful for:

Madelyn: Dogs, God, Jesus, Jake, Bennett,

Isaac: Parents

Levi: Family, God, Friends, Teacher, Mom, Dad, Grandparents

Charlie: Brothers, Mom and Dad, School, Books, Friends

Mia: Teacher, Friends, Family, God, Neighbor
Willow: Mom and Dad, Food and Water, House, School, God and Jesus, Friends, Family

Charlotte: Mom and Dad, Cats, Friends, Teacher, Books, Family & Cousins

Rowan: Life, Animals that are pets, Parents, Cousins, Friends, God, Mother Mary

Madison: Family, God, Jesus, Mother Mary, The Holy Spirit

Addison: God, Family, Friends, Pets, Jesus, Neighbor

Natalie: Clothes, Jobs, Entertainment, Comfort stuffed animals, Mom and Dad

Mrs. Rebecca Rebstock

.....

Remember that the happiest people
are not those getting more,
But those *GIVING* more.

SCHOOL NEWS

St. Wendelin's Staff and Students would like to wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas and Joyous New Year.

As we move forward as an independent Parish School, after our partnership with Catholic Community Schools, we are planning for one grade level change at St. Wendelin's School. In response to requests from families we are reestablishing the offering of 6th grade as part of our school program.

We will continue to have our curriculum inspired by the Montessori philosophy will incorporating some traditional educational strategies in the upper grades. We are excited to offer this new option!

Bonnie Massmann
Principal

4TH & 5TH GRADE NEWS

The 4th and 5th graders have been working hard on their prayer memorization, some have even completed the required prayers!

Our Gospel Weekly work gives the students a sneak peak into Sunday's gospel and opens up wonderful faith based discussions.

Some academic highlights this month have been concluding "Book Club" and presenting their tribe projects. They put in a lot of work researching their tribes and made detailed dioramas of those tribe villages.

Mrs Hules

GETTING TO KNOW YOU MAVERICK GEORGE BARTHEL

Maverick George is the son of Christopher and Holly Barthel. He was baptized at St. Wendelin on Sunday, December 17th. Congratulations to his parents and a warm welcome to Maverick!

CHURCH CLEANING JANUARY 2024 GROUP ONE

JANUARY 6

Dennis Menke
Duane & Ruth Neu
Jon & Lisa Rist
Doug & Jessica Schmitt
Ron & Holly Symanietz
Darrin Vanderwerf
Patrick & Stacey Watrin
Gary & Cynthia Zwilling

JANUARY 13

Travis & Laura Lund
Scott & Rochelle Mercer
James & Julie Nistler
Michael & Joan Schlangen
Jeffrey & Nicole Schmitz
Gene & Jane Szczech
Kevin & Mary Vanderwerf
Brian & Victoria Weisen

JANUARY 20

Lenny & Millie Brunn
Scott & Marlene Ergen
Joe & Jeanne harren
Dale & Sue Henkel
Randy & Kay Kortlever
Ron & Cheri Kraemer
Gary & Deb Marn
Mick & Rose Marsyla

JANUARY 27

Phillip & Robin Bautch
Mark & Lori Buettner
Robert & Judy Fandel
Kelly & Shannon Heisick
Jeannie Hennen
Keith Koltes
Ralph & Margaret Kremers
Michael & Jeanne Lommel

Group One Members: This listing is for Saturdays but if it works better for you to clean on Friday, please do so. There is a check off sheet posted on the bulletin board in the back of church. When a task is completed just check it off. Thanks!

MINUTES FROM ST. ANNE'S CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S MEETING

St. Anne's Christian Women met Tuesday, December 12, 2023 in Mary Hall beginning with social time at 6:00 p.m. followed by a meal, compliments of our officers, for members to enjoy. Delicious desserts followed the meal, thanks to our members for bringing them. President Karen Des Autels called a brief business meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. with opening prayer and pledge of allegiance. Eighteen members were present.

Minutes from the November 14, 2023 meeting were approved as read; also approved was the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$5,943.23 in checking and \$3,532.24 in savings for a total of \$9,475.47. Treasurer Stacey also reported that thanks to the dues reminder note in the breakfast worker's lists, dues payments have increased considerably. Since these dues are often included on a check with other fees, Pat Salzbrun offered to make a spread sheet (for accounting purposes) to make it easier to record multiple payments from one check.

OLD BUSINESS

November 19th Breakfast... was a phenomenal success with a profit of \$5,438.02 and serving 275 people. That figure includes the special Christmas raffle which did very well bringing in \$465.00. President Karen thanked the great turnout of workers for all their efforts to enable the breakfast to do so well, not only as a fundraiser but also as a time of fellowship and community building.

Eucharistic Revival... As a gift, each member was given the book, "Beautiful Eucharist" by Matthew Kelly. Members were asked, after reading the book, to share it with family and friends.

Christmas Gifts for our Priests... Linda Kaiser and Judy Walters shared with the members the special "pizza" gifts that were made for Father Erik and Father Don. Everyone enjoyed seeing this creative idea. The gifts will be delivered prior to Christmas Day.

NEW BUSINESS

Donations... Motion was made and approved to give our parish quilters \$250.00 and to put off any further donations until our April meeting. In the meantime, members were encouraged to consider other donation recipients and bring those suggestions to that meeting.

First Communion and Confirmation Gifts... are now taken care of through our Faith Formation program. As in the past, we'll help pay for those gifts up to \$10.00 per recipient.

Resurrection Party... There will not be one this year as, at this time, no Easter Vigil Mass is planned at St. Wendelin's.

Miscellaneous... Comments came up about the holy water fonts in church. Attempts have been made to clean the fonts to no avail and the water does not appear clear. Discussion also followed about our small votive globes being hard to clean, maybe replace with metal ones??? Char was asked to follow up on these two items.

No Commission Reports... Members were referred to our diocesan website, www.stcloudccw.org to see latest Catholic Voice Newsletter

Pro Life Note... Char reported that the extremism in our current MN abortion laws has only intensified by the establishment in our state of "Hey Jane", a telemedicine abortion company with the goal to make abortion even more accessible by offering the pill on line.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN CONTINUED FROM PAGE

Items Collected...Members brought numerous baby items to the meeting which will be given to Elevate (formerly Birthline) as well as clothing and personal care items to be given to a local shelter.

Adjournment at 7:50 pm...with closing prayer and Prayer Partner Exchange. Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9th in Mary Hall, beginning with fellowship at 6:30 p.m., followed by meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Following Closing...members enjoyed singing Christmas songs led by Virginia Meyer including a spirited version, of "The 12 Days of Christmas" with audience participation followed by an equally spirited playing of games headed by Connie Netter. Thanks to each of these ladies for providing a delightful evening of fun, laughter and seasonal entertainment; also to President Karen and helpers for the beautifully decorated Mary Hall. Because of the lateness of the hour, White Elephant gift exchange items were taken home by each member to enjoy on her own.

Respectfully Submitted,
Char Volkmuth, Secretary

RECIPE CORNER

Ron Albers

RASPBERRY TRIFLE

CHOCOLATE MARSCARPONE

6 oz. mascarpone cheese
¾ cup confectioners' sugar
2 Tbsp. cocoa powder
½ tsp. vanilla extract
1 cup heavy cream

CAKE

1 ½ cups cake flour
¼ cup cocoa powder
½ tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
½ cup unsalted butter (1 stick)
¾ cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
¾ cup buttermilk

LAYERS

½ cup raspberry jam, divided
Fresh raspberries

1. To make the CHOCOLATE MARSCARPONE: In a medium bowl, stir together the mascarpone, confectioners' sugar, cocoa powder, and vanilla. Set aside.

In a separate medium bowl with a hand mixer, whip the heavy cream until stiff peaks form, about 6 to 7 minutes.

Fold the chocolate mascarpone mixture into the whipped cream. Keep in the refrigerator until ready to use.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prep a 9x13 baking pan with parchment paper and grease with nonstick spray. Set aside.

To make the CAKE: In a large bowl, whisk together the cake flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugar for about 5 to 6 minutes, until fluffy. Stir in the eggs and vanilla. Alternate adding the buttermilk and flour mixture until just combined. Pour the batter evenly into the prepped baking pan. Bake for 20 minutes. Let cool completely.

To make the LAYERS: Cut the cake into cubes. Place half of the cake pieces into the bottom of 6 serving cups. Top each one with half the raspberry jam. Spoon on half of the chocolate mascarpone. Add the rest of the cake pieces and raspberry jam. Pipe the remaining mascarpone on top. Top each with 3 fresh raspberries.

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