



# Parish Newsletter

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



**ST. WENDELIN’S - LUXEMBURG, MN \* November 24, 2024 - 658th Edition**

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### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

#### Help Needed...

At our November Parish Life Meeting, it was decided to "resurrect" our Hospitality Committee, a group which would offer food/visits/ transportation services and possibly more to the sick and homebound.

If you enjoy reaching out and socializing with people, this may be just for you. To learn more, please contact

**Tracy Dombrovski at 255-9354**

### MARKETPLACE

Let’s talk turkey!

After you are stuffed,

Think about sewing and crafting for the MarketPlace stand.

We are THANKFUL for everyone who donates and for being in such a GIVING community!

Mary and Marla

### SAVE THE DATE

St. Wendelin Catholic School  
Christmas Play  
December 12th  
1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

### NEXT NEWSLETTER

December 29, 2024

**DEADLINE for News:**

Monday December 23, 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](mailto:alberssheila@gmail.com)



Advent Begins December 1st

# **MAINTENANCE DISCUSSION MEETING**

**Tuesday October 22, 2024**

There are plans to restore our church with fresh paint and new flooring, based on the Finance Council's long-range plan. However, there are some additional maintenance or improvement ideas that could be implemented beforehand to help extend the longevity of these projects.

Members of the Finance Council, Parish Trustees, Father Erik, as well as individuals with past experience in decorating or maintaining our church were asked to come together for discussion after Mass on Tuesday, October 22, 2024.

Present for this meeting were Father Erik Lundgren, Ron Albers, Cory Gerads, Todd & Geralyn Hurrle, Kevin Kieke, Kelly Knier, Keith Koltes, Paul Koshiol, Jeanne Lommel, Steve Torborg, and Joe & Kathy Watrin.

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Father Erik.

## **Agenda:**

The agenda of the meeting was reviewed which included reviewing current issues seen within the church building, discussion of the long-range plan budget, and conversations about next steps.

## **Review of pictures:**

Attendees reviewed pictures taken from within the church regarding several opportunities for improvement including cracking in the walls, water stains, peeling/chipping paint, and rippling in the carpet.

## **Discussion:**

There is cracking along the front walls that have been there for many years. The previous time that the church was painted, the cracks came back right away and the thought is that it would likely happen again this time unless major repairs are made. The discussion focused more on ways the cracks could be covered with wood instead of doing major repairs to prevent them before painting. The wall structure is sound and secure but the normal building shifting and settling will continue to incur the cracking. The major repairs discussed would not guarantee the cracking would be prevented, so the possible covering would tend to improve the church appearance long term.

There are water stains in the sanctuary. The belief is that there was some water damage at one point but the roof has been fixed now so stain repellent and paint should cover these spots.

The existing paint is peeling and chipping. At times, it has fallen in the pews from the ceiling. This will be solved when the church is painted. The pews will need to be removed and it would be best to replace flooring at this time. There currently is some rippling in the carpet which could be a tripping hazard.

## **Next Steps:**

The St Cloud Diocese has issued a "pause" on major projects for all parishes, so approval would be needed from the Diocese before planning or fundraising could begin for any of this maintenance and painting. If approved, a subcommittee of the Finance Council would be formed to get bids and plan out the work.

Respectfully submitted: **Kelly Knier**

## **PARISH LIFE MEETING**

Our Parish Life Committee held its bi monthly meeting on Thursday, November 14th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mary Hall entry area.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tracy Dombrovski, GERALYN HURRLE, Keith Koltes, Kathy Watrin and Char Volkmuth. Unable to attend: Virginia Meyer.

**DIOCESAN QUESTIONNAIRE...**As part of our diocese's Planning Process for our church in the years ahead, parishes in the diocese are being asked to fill out a questionnaire regarding historical and architectural aspects of their parish. In studying the report, the Committee accepted input given by Char while also suggesting items to be added. Char and GERALYN agreed to work together to finish the report which is due December 16<sup>th</sup>. To do so, they will check at the rectory for any other historical info there that may be helpful while also gathering and organizing that info to make it more accessible. After completing the form, they will share it with the group via email so all can review and offer any added suggestions before it is sent in.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**WELCOMING COMMITTEE...**Chairperson, Kathy Watrin, stated our previous welcome packet has been revised (thanks to Karen Des Autels) and will be a great asset in welcoming new members. The committee agreed with her belief and that of our Group Heads that they are the best people to make these visits (which they have been doing) as it offers the opportunity for them to meet newcomers who will be part of their group while also offering the newcomer the chance to not only learn about our parish but get to know people with whom they will be working. This initial visit can well set the tone for a new parishioner to feel wanted and desiring to become involved. Newcomers are also being sent a welcome note and their names published in our *Parish Newsletter*.

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE...**The Committee accepted Kathy's suggestion that a Hospitality Committee be separate from Welcoming so with that in mind, an effort will be made to establish a Hospitality Committee that would offer food/visits/ transportation and possibly more to the sick and homebound. Notices to this effect will be put into the bulletin and *Parish Newsletter*.

**COMMUNION RAIL/CHURCH UPKEEP...**Nothing new to report at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP RECORDS...**Discussion took place relative to the importance for up to date membership records especially for worker's lists for group functions. The Committee is well aware that this is a challenging task due to membership constantly changing and confidentiality issues regarding cell phone numbers and e mail addresses. A membership memo developed sometime ago that could be sent to those whose membership is not sure, was reviewed; consensus was this memo could well be a good tool to aid in this effort. Follow up will be done with Pat Salzbrun to see how best to proceed.

**EVANGELIZATION...**Discussion here included the importance of newcomers being made to feel welcome beginning with their first encounter with our parish and putting out a time/talent sheet (an earlier one will be revised by Kathy) in our bulletin and *Newsletter* in which respondents could not only indicate areas where they'd be willing to help but also express areas of need. Also suggested was a "Parish Mission" with guest speakers. Char will check for details about a recent one held at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud.

**Adjournment ...**at 8:05 p.m. with closing prayer by Tracy.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 9, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Char Volkmuth**, Recorder

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

This month in Preschool we have discussed what we are thankful for. The top things our preschoolers are thankful for are Mom & Dad, family, siblings, friends, God, and food.

In Seeds, our religion program, we have learned about ways we can show our love for God and our neighbors, who are an extension of Jesus himself.

In rosary, we have completed learning the Glorious Mysteries. They do a wonderful job of treating their rosaries respectfully, and are working hard on memorizing all the prayers.

We are progressing so quickly with learning numbers and letter sounds! Some have already moved on to spelling 3-letter words with the moveable alphabet, while others are working hard on writing letters correctly. Their focus is wonderful to witness.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

**Mrs. Haselkamp & Mrs. Gruenes**

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

One of the big highlights we have going on in our classroom is the students are transitioning from manuscript to learning cursive writing.

We just finished making our grateful hand decorations for the upcoming breakfast on November 24. It was the first time the children used their new cursive writing skills in a project, and they were very proud of this accomplishment. The introduction of cursive writing at the preschool or kindergarten age is something that differentiates the Montessori method from the traditional method. It is very joyful to see how motivated and enthusiastic young children are to learn to write in cursive!

The students were introduced to the parable of the Good Shepherd over at our Atrium. I love the message they receive that our Good Shepherd will always come find us when we get lost.

**Mrs. Matchinsky**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE NEWS

Greetings from Mrs. Rebstock's class. We sure had a busy month! From reading new books, learning new math skills, and working on our cursive handwriting, we are grateful for another month of school together. As you and your family members are gearing up for Thanksgiving, some of the first and second graders wanted you to know what they are thankful for!

**Hawkins V:** "My Dad."

**Kenzie B:** "Animals."

**Teddy G:** "A good school"

**Shay V:** "My family"

**Isaac W:** "My brothers, sister, mom and dad."

**Josie M:** "Jesus"

**Logan S:** "My Great Grandma"

**Brynnley P:** "Prayer"

**Caleb H:** "My house and family"

**Jayda L:** "God"

**Cambria E:** "My family and grandparents"

**Lincoln M:** "My dog and Great Grandma"

**Nora R:** "Reading"

**Ayla V:** "God creating the world and praying"

**Mrs. Rebstock:** "This school and the amazing kids that go here."

We hope you have an enjoyable Thanksgiving. Thank you for supporting our school!

**Mrs. Rebstock**

### 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS

It was an exciting month in religion for the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus and St. Anne's Christian Women of St. Wendelin each students received their very own Bible. We have been learning to navigate the books, look up passages, and how to use them to prepare for Mass. The habit forming and learning has just begun.

As I get further along in my Montessori training, we are able to use more and more of the materials. The students love the hands-on math lessons and are developing their skills every day. In science students are studying force and experimenting with magnets, paperclips and water.

We have spent some time reflecting on all that we have to be thankful for. The student's hearts seem to be filled with gratitude.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

**Mrs. Deering**

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#### **OUR PRAYER OF THANKS**

We humbly bow before You, Lord  
On this Thanksgiving Day,  
To lift our prayers of gratitude  
For all Your caring ways.  
As You have blessed our harvest, Lord,  
Let us remember, too,  
That we should share with those in need  
As You would have us do.  
Around this festive board today  
Are those we hold most dear,  
And in our midst Your presence, Lord,  
Seems so very near.  
We're thankful for this land we love,  
For sod and sky and tree,  
For Pilgrims who braved unknown seas  
That all may worship free.  
We're thankful for each blessing, Lord,  
You send along our way;  
But may our greater 'thanks' be shown  
In serving You each day.

### 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE NEWS

My name is Seth Walls and I'm the new fifth and sixth grade teacher, and I work with the 3rd/4th grade class in the area of language arts. My background includes working for 4-H, for many years, serving as their Summer Coordinator, where I planned Summer Camps, Day Camps, and the County Fair for youth and serving as a counselor. I attended the University of Minnesota Crookston, while there I worked as a Residential Advisor, International Student Affairs Administration, and as a Peer Tutor. I'm excited to be working at St. Wendelin and to serve for God.

This past week, the fifth and sixth graders have been working on grammar units, book club readings, IXL practice and creating a school newspaper by providing three articles each with their own specific requirements.

For science, we've worked on plant observations, stem and liquid movement lab and report and photosynthesis diagrams and posters.

For social studies, we've worked on our Native American Tribe dioramas, election "study of positions", and continued work on the Fur Trade.

For third and fourth graders, I've had them continue grammar units, book club readings, handwriting practice and something I did for both grades was have them create a poster about themselves so I can get to know a little more about each individual.

Thank you and blessings!

**Seth Walls**

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#### **4-H OPPORTUNITY**

A 4-H information night will be held soon for families interested in learning about 4-H. We will plan a Christmas themed service project and maybe continue as a club in Luxemburg.

4-H is for urban or rural families with children in grades Kindergarten and up. Info about Luxemburg 4-H Info Night: Please call

**Jason 320-428-8625**

## SCHOOL NEWS

Our second annual Capital Campaign for the School began last week and will run until the end of December. Our goal for the campaign is \$21,500. Please remember that tuition only covers approximately 40% of the actual per student cost at St. Wendelin's. Parish support and Fundraising events cover the balance of the cost. Supporting this campaign helps minimize increases to tuition and parish support. If you know of someone that might be interested in contributing to the annual School capital campaign, please let us know and we will send them a flyer.

Bishop Neary recently requested all Catholic schools in the diocese to work toward becoming accredited with the Western Catholic Educational Association. WCEA is a private educational accrediting agency that promotes quality Catholic education in member elementary and secondary schools. Its mission is to ensure faith formation and educational excellence through an accrediting process. After a lengthy meeting with Father Erik, Mrs. Massmann and our teachers, WCEA accredited St. Wendelin School, with the expectation that we will be completing a school plan and the site visit over the next two years.

St. Wendelin School will be hosting its Annual Christmas Make & Take for Youth in Luxemburg and surrounding areas Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. The event will include Christmas games, craft projects, cookie decorating, and an opportunity for a picture with Santa. Children of all ages will enjoy this event!

Be sure to mark your calendars for the St. Wendelin School Christmas program on December 12th. Two performances will be offered at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. with a reception in Mary Hall following the evening performance.

**Bonnie Massmann**

## **CHURCH CLEANING**

**DECEMBER 2024**

**GROUP ONE**

**8:30 A.M.**

**OUR GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HELPING WITH THE CHRISTMAS DECORATING WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT 6:30 P.M.**

### DECEMBER 7

Al & Mary Bloch  
Vic & Ann Eldred  
James & Michelle Groinus  
Tony & Kelly Knier  
Jeff Koshiol  
Richard & Kasha Linn  
Greg & Doreen Mackedanz

### DECEMBER 14

Hannah Elinger  
Roger & Terri Jochim  
Lisa Mullen  
Jerry & Sandra Paul  
Alan & Barb Stang  
Joe & Sue Tschida  
Lee & Julie Wenz  
Adam & Michelle Zoller

### DECEMBER 21

Keith & Erin Lommel  
Mary Neidermeier  
David & Karen Preusser  
Robert & Jane Stang  
John & Terese VanderEyck  
Mel & Shirley Walz  
Richard Wilson & Amanda Eizenhoefer

### DECEMBER 28

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

**Group One Members:** This listing is for Saturdays, but if it works better for you to clean on a Friday, please feel free to do so.

# RECIPE CORNER

Ron Albers

## APPLE-CRANBERRY STREUSEL PIE

### DOUGH

1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour, plus some for dusting  
1 tsp. sugar  
1/2 tsp kosher salt  
1/2 cup cold unsalted butter, cubed  
3 to 4 Tbsp. cold whole buttermilk

In the work bowl of a food processor, pulse flour, sugar, and salt. Add cold butter, and pulse until mixture is crumbly. With processor running, gradually add 3 Tbsp. buttermilk until a dough forms; add remaining 1 Tbsp. buttermilk if needed.

Turn out dough onto a lightly floured surface, and shape into a disk. Wrap in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes or up to 3 days. Let dough stand at room temperature for 15 minutes before rolling.

### FILLING

4 cups fresh or thawed frozen cranberries  
4 cups sliced peeled apples  
1 3/4 cup granulated sugar  
1/4 cup cornstarch  
2 tsp. ground ginger  
3/4 cup old-fashioned oats  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting  
1/4 cup firmly packed light brown sugar  
1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

1. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/8 inch thickness. Transfer to a 10 inch pie plate pressing into bottom and up sides. Fold edges under, and crimp as desired.
2. In a large saucepan, stir together cranberries, apples, granulated sugar, cornstarch and ginger. Cook over medium heat stirring frequently, until thickened and bubbly. Spoon into prepared crust.
3. In a small bowl, stir together oats, flour, brown sugar, and melted butter. Sprinkle onto fruit mixture.
4. Bake until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly, 45 to 50 minutes. Let cool on a wire rack for at least 1 hour before serving.

## SPICED PUMPKIN BREAD

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 Tbsp. plus 2 tsp. Pumpkin pie spice  
2 tsp. baking powder  
2 tsp. kosher salt  
1/2 tsp. ground black pepper

1 (15 oz) can pumpkin  
1 cup granulated sugar  
2/3 cup oil, plus more for scoring  
1/2 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar  
2 large eggs, room temperature  
2 tsp. vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Spray an 8 1/2 x 4 1/2 inch loaf pan with baking spray with flour. Line pan with parchment paper, letting excess extend over all sides of pan.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, pie spice, baking powder, salt and pepper.

In a medium bowl, whisk together pumpkin, granulated sugar, oil, brown sugar, eggs, and vanilla until smooth. Fold pumpkin mixture into flour mixture until smooth. Spread batter into prepared pan. Firmly tap on a kitchen towel-lined counter to settle batter. Using an offset spatula dipped in oil, score a line down center of batter, leaving about a 1 inch border on short sides of pan.

Bake until wooden pick inserted in center comes out with a few moist crumbs, 1 1/2 hours to 1 hour and 40 minutes. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes. Using excess parchment as handles, remove from pan, and let cool completely on a wire rack. Store in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

## **GROUP 2/5 BREAKFAST THANK YOU**

A big thank you to all the great people of Group 2/5! You are all great to work with and it makes for a successful breakfast! We served over 200 breakfasts and had many compliments on the food. We welcomed two new families to our group, Jason Ziebarth and his daughter and Corey and Chelsea Gerards family and we were so glad to have them there.

A big thank you to Dale Hanson of the Luxemburg Feed Mill for donating our delicious sausage and Erin Lommel of Dombrovski Meats in Foley for the donation of the chopped ham. Your donations help our breakfast so much and your generosity is very appreciated. Thank you to all the people who generously donated towards the breakfast raffle. The prizes were very nice and appreciated by all.

Through your donations, raffle prizes and everyone working together, our group's breakfast netted \$3,234.71 for our church! We appreciate your faithfulness and commitment!

God Bless you,  
**Joe & Kathy Watrin**

### **RAFFLE WINNERS**

#### **DONATED BY:**

1. \$50.00 Dan & Lucy Garding
2. Quilt Rowe Quilting Group
3. \$25.00 Jeanne Schable
4. \$25.00 Luxemburg Knights of Columbus
5. \$25.00 Joan Bechtold
6. \$25.00 Joan Bechtold
7. \$25.00 Deloris Heid
8. \$25.00 John Ludwig Insurance
9. \$25.00 John Ludwig Insurance
10. \$25.00 Granite Pest Control
11. \$25.00 Hayloft Certificate and Sweatshirt Pat Notch
12. \$20.00 Ron & Sharon Spanier
13. \$20.00 Ron & Sharon Spanier
14. Child's gift Anonymous
15. Box of Groceries
16. Box of Groceries

#### **WINNERS**

Glenn Winer  
Eileen Hanson  
Karen Bechtold  
Lori Winter  
Gabriel Ley  
Sue Reinert  
Julie Frank  
Julie O'Mara  
Wayne Albers  
Dale Albers  
Nick Lieser  
Lisa & Dan Lichte  
Bryce Reiter  
Wayne Albers  
Lori Winter  
Dave Klema



## **MINUTES FROM ST ANNE'S CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S MEETING - 11/12/2024**

St. Anne's Christian Women met Tuesday, November 12, 2024 in Mary Hall beginning with fellowship and refreshments at 6:30 p.m. followed by President Karen DesAutels calling the business meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. with opening prayer and pledge of allegiance. Twenty-one members were present.

Minutes from the October 8, 2024 meeting were read, motion to approve was made, motion seconded and passed; also read was the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$ 3,544.29 in savings and \$757.23 in checking for a total of \$4,301.52. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report, motion was seconded and passed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Remembrance Mass - November 3, 2024**

Karen reported 70 people attended the reception. Nine tables were filled with family and friends of the deceased parishioners being remembered. Donuts, coffee and juice were provided, along with the addition of sweet breads provided by our members. The donuts were provided by a new vendor, Casey's of St. Augusta. Casey's did an amazing job and the 7 dozen donuts were less expensive than the previous vendor. The total spent by Christian Women for this wonderful celebration of former parishioners equaled \$123.46.

#### **November Breakfast – November 24, 2024**

Worker's list/Raffle ticket envelopes were in back of church this last weekend for pickup. The basket of those remaining was passed around for those in attendance to look through for neighbors/friends that could be hand delivered to save money on postage. It was noted and acknowledged that some members are no longer able/wanting to be on worker's list due to health or moving. The basket of remaining envelopes with worker's list and raffle tickets, will be returned to the back of church for the upcoming weekend in hopes more will be picked up. The advertising for the breakfast has all been completed and is in place and the decorations are currently being made by the St. Wendelin's students. CW members were informed that Judy Walters will order, pick up and deliver the ham. Judy will also pick up the rolls for the event. Vicki Kohorst gave a precise list of what had been ordered for rolls in the past (27 dozen, totaling \$194.93). It was decided the order will be repeated but it was acknowledged to expect a price increase. Lisa Lichte has remaining food items ordered, set for delivery and pickup. Christian Women members were also informed that Sue Koshiol will purchase and prep the fruit for the breakfast. Char and Jolene came to the conclusion of 120 lbs. of Peps Pork was needed for the breakfast. Jolene will pickup and deliver it for the breakfast. Set up will be 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 23. Set up shouldn't take long as tables and chairs will already be setup from the Luxemburg Lion's Thanksgiving Bingo the night before.

#### **Eucharist Revival - The Year of the Mission - Pillar #3 -Eucharistic Life**

Recalling we are currently in the third year of the Eucharistic Revival and this year is focused on MISSION. In the "Mission" Year there are four pillars, President Karen shared a take home sheet on Pillar #3 stating "this pillar encourages us to integrate our love for Christ in every aspect of our lives." On the take home sheet is a flow chart of love and action to help remind each of us what Christ's love can do. Comments were made on how beautiful the Eucharistic Revival Prayer is, and in the secretary's opinion how praying it often can bring hope and peace.

## **CHRISTIAN WOMEN MINUTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9**

### **Faith Formation**

St. Anne's Christian Women will serve the Faith Formation meal on April 9, 2025. President Karen connected with Cindy Walls, coordinator of Faith Formation kitchen, to share this information. Karen has the names of the 6-8 members who offered to volunteer for this. She will keep in contact with them when the time is near.

### **Cassie Deering (St. Wendelin's Teacher)**

Cassie offered an update on bible choice and shared what has been purchased with the help of multiple donations, including \$276.25 from St. Anne's Christian Women. With the donations she was able to purchase the count that was asked for, along with the quantity needed for next year's 2nd graders. It was shared the students brought their bibles to Mass last Thursday to have them blessed by Father Erik. It was an inspiring moment to watch the joy and pride in their faces and actions as they held their bibles high!

### **Sharing Tree**

As previously reported by Kelly Knier, due to changes within the Catholic Charities organization, Catholic Charities will no longer sponsor the annual Sharing Tree project. So this year we will be helping a combination of families from our ACC along with A Place of Hope by offering a very similar process of past sharing trees. Tags will be placed on the tree with items needed. It is currently planned to have the tree ready the weekend before Thanksgiving. All gifts will need to be returned to the tree by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **West Central Deanery Board Gathering**

President Karen attended the DCCW meeting in Paynesville. At that meeting, the DCCW Officers shared the rotation of future meetings. The Christian Women from our Holy Saints ACC are responsible for hosting the West Central General Gathering in May 2025. Karen will contact the other Christian Women presidents in our ACC for the planning of this event. Father Erik will be asked as to where he would like to celebrate the Mass and that would determine where the rest of the gathering will take place. Basically, that evening starts with a Mass which is followed by a light supper and then the meeting begins. More information will be shared at a later date.

### **Christian Women Christmas Celebration**

Discussion ensued on games, food, music, gifts... President Karen will provide decorations. Julie Kraemer, Lisa Lichte, & Bonnie Edelbrock will coordinate games for the evening, for which Jean Schabel will supply the prizes. It was decided to stick with sloppy jo's, which Pat Salzbrun volunteered to make. Stacy Watrin will supply buns, the rest of the officers will provide salads, and the Christian Women members will provide Christmas goodies. Ginia was volunteered for entertaining and guiding the group with her musical talents. Each member is asked to bring a gift to support causes we believe in, such as Elevate, Food Shelf, and Place of Hope. Gifts suggested were toiletries, outerwear, and socks for the Place of Hope, unwrapped baby items for Elevate, food for the food shelf. Members were also asked to bring a White Elephant gift for what is certain to be a fun gift exchanging time!

### **Christmas Gifts for Our Priests**

A motion was made, passed and seconded on the amount to spend per officiant. Linda Kaiser and Judy Walters will be creating a fun gift holder for each of the gifts.

## **CHRISTIAN WOMEN MINUTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10**

### **Christian Women Outreach To Inbound Christian Women Members**

Mary Nedermeier brought to the groups awareness of the many Christian Women members and parishioners that are inbound at nursing homes. She, as a leader with the choir, has in the past organized choir outings to entertain and bring joy to them. She would like to see Christian Women volunteers get together to send or deliver cards, as the Holidays can be such a lonely time.

Multiple persons volunteered to undertake this program and proceed in organizing efforts to it. President Karen had contacted Tracy Dombrovski from the Parish Life Committee and explained what we wanted to do and Tracy assured her that it would be great if our group took on this ministry. It was decided to start doing this for both Christmas and Easter. Mary then suggested a note be placed in the bulletin asking parishioners of loved ones' names and addresses that would like a greeting card sent to them. Cassie Deering offered up St. Wendelin's kids' school artwork to be placed in cards for additional enjoyment. Christmas cards will be written out by Sharon Spanier, Mary Neidermeier, Sandy Leach, Bonnie Edelbrock and Karen DesAutels.

### **Advent Activities**

President Karen prepared take home sheets with "Ten Suggested Advent Activities" to help all prepare for the birth of Christ. The sheet is filled with great, simple, meaningful ideas and ways to enlighten each with the joy of the upcoming season.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS**

Char gave an update on the ending of this year's campaign for "Forty Days For Life," how positive this year went in so many ways and how so many lives were affected by this ministry. She shared how grateful everyone is to have MCCL's support in the project. Char also shared receiving a thank you from MCCL for the Christian Womens' contribution to their ongoing support of life. For other updates and information, members are encouraged to check out: [www.stcloudccw.org](http://www.stcloudccw.org) and click on Our Catholic Voice Newsletter.

### **HALO**

This month's Halo is dedicated to the Poor Souls in Purgatory. Take a moment in your daily activities to bring to mind the poor souls in Purgatory and pray St. Gertrude The Great's prayer found on the distributed activity sheet.

Prayer Partners were exchanged and the door prize was won by Tracy Dombrovski.

### **St. Wendelin's School Pageant**

Stacy shared the St. Wendelin's school pageant will be held on Thursday, December 12th, with a 1:00 p.m. and a 6:30 p.m. performance.

Next Meeting will be brief on December 10th, with Christmas Celebration to follow.

Closing Prayer was completed, and motion to adjourn meeting followed at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Cyntia Lommel**, Secretary

**PRAYERS CAN'T BE ANSWERED  
UNLESS THEY ARE PRAYED**

Life without purpose  
is barren indeed—  
There can't be a harvest  
unless you plant seed,  
There can't be attainment  
unless there's a goal,  
And man's but a robot  
unless there's a soul...  
If we send no ships out,  
no ships will come in,  
And unless there's a contest  
nobody can win...  
For games can't be won  
unless they are played,  
And prayers can't be answered  
unless they re prayed...  
So whatever is wrong  
with your life today,  
You'll find a solution  
if you kneel down and pray  
Not just for pleasure,  
enjoyment and health,  
Not just for purpose  
to make life worth living,  
And pray for the joy  
of unselfish giving,  
For great is your gladness  
and rich your reward  
When you make your life's purpose  
the choice of the Lord.

Helen Steiner Rice

**IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT**

It only takes a moment  
To whisper words of praise,  
To thank God for the blessings  
That decorate your days.

It only takes a moment  
To lift someone in prayer  
Who needs to be encouraged  
And know that God is there.

It only takes a moment  
To share a little love  
With someone who is lonely  
And lift their soul above.

It only takes a moment  
To be a friend in need,  
To spread a little sunshine  
While doing that good deed.

Life can be so complicated  
That we forget to see  
That it only takes a moment  
To be the best that we can be!

On life's busy thoroughfares  
We meet with angels unawares  
So, Father, make us kind and wise  
So we may always recognize  
The blessings that are our to take,  
The friendships that are ours to make,  
If we but open our heart's door wide  
To let the sunshine of love inside.

# Our Catholic Liturgical Year



*Advent*- four weeks of preparation before the celebration of Jesus' birth

*Christmas*- recalling the Nativity of Jesus Christ and his manifestation to the peoples of the world

*Lent*- a six-week period of penance before Easter

*Sacred Paschal Triduum*- the holiest "Three Days" of the Church's year, where the Christian people recall the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus

*Easter*- 50 days of joyful celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and His sending forth of the Holy Spirit

*Ordinary Time*- divided into two sections (one span of 4-8 weeks after Christmas Time and another lasting about six months after Easter Time), wherein the faithful consider the fullness of Jesus' teachings and works among his people

The mystery of Christ, unfolded through the cycle of the year, calls us to live his mystery in our own lives. This call is best illustrated in the lives of Mary and the saints, celebrated by the Church throughout the year. There is no tension between the mystery of Christ and the celebration of the saints, but rather a marvelous harmony.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son, and the feasts of all the Saints proclaim the wonderful works of Christ in his servants and offer the faithful fitting examples for their imitation.

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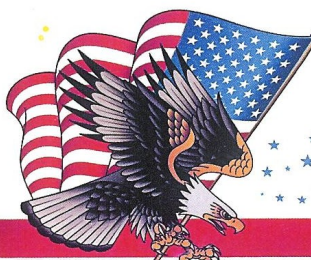
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