

# *Svea Evangelical Lutheran Church*

## **DECEMBER REMINDER**

12651 15<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Svea MN 56216 320-995-6500

*O holy night the stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth*  
- O Holy Night, vs. 1

Were you aware that *O Holy Night* is not in any of our hymnals or song books? Yet, I can scarcely recall a Christmas eve service where this old melody wasn't heard. The lyrics to this song were originally written by a non-religious French poet and later translated into English who was moved to say something beautiful about the faith.

This moving and memorable piece also brings up an important distinction in the Christian practices around the Christmas holiday. The reason this beloved piece is not in the hymnal is that like many popular songs, *O Holy Night* was meant to be performed and not communally sung. It is well written for solo or small arrangement voices; but, as an assembly piece the range and movement put it out of reach for most people. The inference then being, Christmas ought be witnessed rather than practiced. Now, we know that there a great many hymns we proudly sing together as an assembly, and there are times to simply listen to the beauty being communicated in *O Holy Night*.

This important distinction in Christmas music however carries over to our lives as something to consider in the months ahead. Are our practices at Christmas time a reflection of who we are as followers of Christ? Do we live out Christ call to go out into the world baptizing, healing, teaching? Or is our witness to the faith something pretty to be observed and not practiced?

I pray you have a blessed Advent, Christmas, and New Year beloved ones as we consider together the work of Christ among us.



## **OH HOLY NIGHT!**

Pastor Erik

## Pastor's Report for November 2017

Thank You to everyone who participated in the yard clean up at the Judy Larson home. We had right around 35 people with rakes, shovels and implements of destruction.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the All Hallows Eve service on October 31. Next year the service will be held on the Saturday before All Saints Sunday.

Completed the Narrative expense and congregational stewardship letter with the assistance of the SFE committee and congregational council.

Thank You for those who assisted with the Luther League Potato Topper

An encouragement to find your neighbor on Sunday-

Thank You for allowing myself and Rachel to participate in the Minnesota Deer Hunting Season.

### Ministerial Acts:

October 29, Baptism of Cora Jean Lindblad

October 29, Matthew Gerdes and Levi Swanson received their Bibles.



### “The Christmas Shoes” by *Donna VanLiere*

Robert is a successful attorney who has everything in life—and nothing at all. Focused on professional achievement and material rewards, Robert is on the brink of losing his marriage. He has lost sight of his wife, Kate, their two daughters, and, ultimately, himself.

Eight-year old Nathan has a beloved mother, Maggie, whom he is losing to cancer. But Nathan and his family are building a simple yet full life and struggling to hold onto every moment they have together. A chance meeting on Christmas Eve brings Robert and Nathan together—he is shopping for a family he hardly knows, and Nathan is shopping for a mother he is soon to lose. In this one encounter, their lives are forever altered as Robert learns an important lesson: Sometimes the smallest things can make all the difference.

**A very good Christmas book to read. It has only 130 pages. You can check it out at our Library at Church.**

## DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

USHERS: John Christianson & Kim Gorans

ACOLYTES: Matthew Johnson (12/3 & 12/17); Ashely Behrends (12/10);  
Steven Carlson (12/24 **am** & 12/31) Jacob Flannigan (12/24 **pm**)

VISUAL ARTS: Karen Schueler & all Team Members

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ASST MINISTER</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>GREETERS &amp; OFFERING</u>
December 3	Gene Gatewood	Tucker Swanson	Holli & Doug Hopp
December 10	Mary Behrends	Dan Swenson	Teresa & Doug Johnson
December 17	Jordan Gatewood	Doug Johnson	Anne & John Christianson
Dec 24 (am)	Camy Erickson	Karen Schueler	Louise & Dan Swenson
Dec 24 (pm)	Lois Nelson	John Christianson	Trudy & Doug Gorans
December 31	Jordan Gatewood	Matthew Johnson	Mindy & Tim Swierenga

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PROJECTION</u>	<u>SOUND</u>	<u>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</u>	<u>TELLERS</u>
December 3	Brian Gorans	Jake Vlaminck		5
December 10		Scott Johnson	Tammy Garberich	6
December 17	Jake Vlaminck	Kim Gorans		1
Dec 24 (am)		Brian Gorans	Jessie Gatewood	2
Dec 24 (pm)		Jake Vlaminck	Jon Burks	2
December 31	Scott Johnson	Erin Johnson		3



*Svea Lutheran,  
Thank you for all of your prayers,  
love and support you have  
provided to our family for the*

*past five years. I am grateful to have such a  
wonderful church family. I am finding peace and  
solice in knowing Lori is not struggling anymore and  
that she is with our Lord.*

*May God Bless you and your families.*

*Love,*

*Patti, David & family*



Thank you to all who came to support Luther League at the Potato Topper on November 12. \$478 was raised to help pay expenses for Leadership Quest next summer. \$50 will be donated to Family Promise. Luther League will be selling 2018 Inspirational calenders and notepads. These items are made right here in Willmar at Maracom! Thank you all for supporting Svea Luther League!



### Christmas in the Barn

Please join us as we celebrate Christ's birthday.  
Christmas Service in the Barn will again be at the  
Dale Tonsfeldt farm. Services start at 9:30 am.  
Thank you Dale & Debbie for hosting!

## Happy Holidays!

### OPEN HOUSE

Pastor Erik & Rachel will be hosting an  
open house at the parsonage on Sunday,  
December 17<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.  
Refreshments will be served.

## **Svea Lutheran Church: Council -October 19, 2017**

**Present:** Pastor Erik, Tammy Garberich, Doug Johnson, Tracy Gorans, Kathy Lindblad, Lois Nelson  
**Absent:** Courtney Carlson, Matt Erickson, Jon Burks, Jessie Gatewood,

Meeting led by Doug Johnson in John Burk's absence.

### **Opening 7:00 pm**

1. **Devotions** – Pastor Erik
2. **Council meeting minutes** – September, minutes –approved by email
3. **Pastor's Report-** Pastor's Report for October-will be printed in the reminder- Highlights were Conference in Spirit Lake, Family Promise more volunteers are needed. Lead the Bible Study at Bethesda for Pastor Theresa, 1 baptism and 1 funeral, on vacation 11/5.
4. **Financial Report-** Doug Johnson read the report that will be printed in the reminder. Item to consider for the budget. Verdin Tech was out to service the bell on 10-18-17... They suggested for the church to be on an annual service plan for \$580.00. This covers 2 hours of labor and 10% off parts. The pads currently need to be replaced. However, they would be covered in full under the annual preventative maintenance plan. Will bring more info to Property and Budget Planning as received. The Bells have not worked for about 1 ½ years. COUNCIL discussion should not wait until bell is totally broken. Last maintenance was 12 years ago. The bell is good, but needs new clappers. Pastor Erik recommended every other year. We have a steel cable and it was recommended to go to a chain which would be sturdier. Was discovered the breaker was switched off, and the computer needs to be fixed for the bell. Verdi will not be back until we schedule. This will be reviewed by the Property committee and then their recommendation will be presented to the council.
  - a. *Stewardship, Finance, and Estate-*. To be printed in the reminder.
  - b. *Parish Education to meet on 10-24-17*
    - i *Adult Ed-* No meeting
  - c. *Property-* programmable thermostats that were installed are working.  
To build shelves in closet by the choir loft.  
Also discussed the handicap parking in front of church
  - d. *LMM-* Still meeting on Tuesday mornings at 6AM—Welcome to all men- please come.  
Will provide the pies for Thanksgiving eve service.
  - e. *Worship and Music-* Learning new Service liturgy, All Hallows Eve Service and looking at using incense in church. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were discussed.
    - i Visual Arts Continuing to work on slides.
    - ii *A/V committee-*
  - f. *Global Missions, Evangelism, Social Ministry, and Scholarship-* .

### Committee Meeting, October 12, 2017.

Present: Doug Hopp, Holli Hopp, Pastor Erik Rundquist, Sherman Schueler, Karen Schueler  
Matt, Erickson, Kathy Lindblad, Tammy Garberich.

We have a checking account balance of \$777.30 in our Global Missions Account.

We discussed Mission Sunday, October 15. Christina Nelson will speak about her trip to our companion Synod in South Africa last February. A special offering for Disaster Relief will be taken.

We will again promote the Kandiyohi Area Food Shelf in November with a special offering on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. Karen will put up a poster and basket for collecting food items.

(Council Minutes cont.)

After thanksgiving, we will set up a collection basket for Christmas Salvation Army Collections.

During Advent we will promote a mitten tree we will ask everyone, especially children, to bring in Mittens, gloves, hats, scarves to be donated to various local organizations.

With all of the natural disasters we have had in this country and around the world, the Lakeland Conference WELCA is emphasizing LWR personal care kits. We agreed to ask for donations for these kits, as we have a couple of times in the past, featuring one item per week during each week in Lent (starting Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>-April 1).

Our next Family Promise Week is November 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. This is Thanksgiving week. We discussed serving our pie/coffee after the Wednesday Service in the Green room (quilting area) instead of in the fellowship hall.

Sarah Chambers has recently been on a mission trip to Germany and we agreed to give her \$500.00 from the Scholarship fund to help with her expenses.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
Karen Schueler, Treasurer

*g Library-* Book bag hooks are hung

5. *Memorial-* see report in reminder—Highlights were- Handicapped access to parsonage was visited about.
6. *Youth board-* Pastor reported they will be doing a Potato Topper on November 12<sup>th</sup> Council to do advertising and set up. They elected officers:  
President is Erin, Secretary/Communications is Courtney, Laura is Vice President and Diane is Treasurer.
7. **Continuing business**
  - a. Nominating committee should meet soon. Ballot should be approved on December Council Meeting. Committee members are Dave Chambers, John Burk, Jessie Gatewood and Stacey Vlamick.
8. **New Business**
  - a. A Christmas Senior Dinner suggested dates December 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>.
9. **Communion Assistants**
  - November 12, Laura Christenson
  - November 22, Lois Nelson
  - November 26, Matt Erickson
- 1 **Thank You cards** – one written
- 2 **Next meeting date:** November 16, 2017 @7:00pm
- 3 **Closing prayer** The Lord's Prayer
- 4 **Motion made 2<sup>nd</sup> and adjourned**

Submitted Lois Nelson

## Stewardship, Finance, and Estate meeting 11-9-2017

**Present:** Gene G., Peter S., Doug H., Doug J., Jake V.

**Absent:** Karen S., Jon B., and Pastor Erik R.

### **Business:**

1. Reviewed the Statement of the General Fund dated 10-31-2017
  - a. YTD balance of **Neg. (\$5,723.07)**
    - i. Including \$4,000.00 funds available carried forward from previous year's excess
  - b. Line of credit at Concorde bank now at \$13,675.00
2. Discussed the estimated funds needed to year end
  - a. \$38,000.00
    - i. Includes recouping the \$4,000.00-year end surplus
    - ii. Includes monies needed to completely pay off L.O.C. @ Concorde
3. On November 19<sup>th</sup> Jake V. will present a narrative report of our financial standings through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017
4. Began the process of creating a 2018 operating budget
  - a. Considered our options including making some cuts if need be
  - b. Will present to council our suggestions on November 16<sup>th</sup>
5. **CORRECTION to 10-12-2017 minutes- YTD balance S/B Neg. (\$6,318.56)**
  - a. Including \$4,000.00 funds available carried forward from 2016
6. Next meeting: Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ 8:00 pm.
  - a. Finalize proposed 2018 budget for presentation to Council for approval

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Johnson  
Secretary

# OCTOBER REMINDER 2017

## SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	October 31, 2017	Budgeted	Year To Date
Disbursements - Staff	\$ 75,849.00		\$ 61,185.22
Mission Support	\$ 18,000.00		\$ 14,775.00
Operation - Expenses	\$ 61,974.00		\$ 45,486.24
Total	\$ 155,823.00		\$ 121,446.46
Year to Date Receipts			\$ 116,073.39
Year to Date Receipts Less Expenses			\$ (5,373.07)
Net Designated/Transfer			\$ (350.00)
Total General Fund/Designated/Transfer			\$ (5,723.07)

### **BORROWED MONEY**

Transfer Building Fund Savings	
Loan from Bank Line of Credit	\$ 13,675.00
Total Funds needed for October	\$ (19,398.07)



### ***CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & OTHER FLOWERS***

If you would like to place a plant in the church for Christmas, please have it delivered on/or before Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. You are responsible for arranging your own delivery. You may pick up the plant after December 31. We would like to acknowledge your flower in the Christmas bulletin. Please fill out this form and leave it in the offering or office.

Your  
name: \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettia or Other (please indicate which)

In memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Plants may be placed simply as a gift or in memory of loved ones)



## Family Promise News

**Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered to help during Thanksgiving week and thank you especially for being flexible with all the changes.** We were prepared for the whole week, but because our guest families were invited to spend time with their own families over Thanksgiving, we only had guests Sunday evening through Thursday morning. I was up at the day center Sunday afternoon to greet our guests as they returned and they all were so happy to have been able to relax and enjoy time with their extended families.

**Our next Host week is January 21- 28.** Sign up for volunteers will begin December 31<sup>st</sup>. Remember you can sign up to volunteer at church on Sundays, on our website at [svealutheranchurch.org](http://svealutheranchurch.org), or by calling Karen Schueler at 995-6568. We have volunteer opportunities for set up and take down, driving the FP van, cooking and serving evening meals, cooking and serving Sat. breakfast, evening hosts from 5:15 to 8:15, overnight hosts, and laundering of bedding.

Svea is hosting these dates in 2018:

January 21 – January 28

April 8 – April 15

June 24 – July 1

September 16 – September 23

November 4 – November 1

Please mark them on your calendars.

Thank you so very much for any help you can give.

Karen Schueler, FP coordinator

Vision  
Mission  
Values

## Opportunities for Missions

### **Coffee Hour**

We all love our coffee and treats Sunday mornings and we are looking for volunteers to help make the coffee and to also bring treats. Please sign up to serve on the list in the fellowship hall where you get your coffee. This is an easy way to help with missions. **So far this year coffee donations have raised over \$1100.00 for missions!**

### **Salvation Army**

There is a box in the narthex to collect toys and personal items (hair dryers, curling irons, etc.) for the Salvation Army Christmas Drive. Please have your donated items to church by December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**All donated items will be brought to the Salvation Army on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!!**

### **Food Shelf**

Thank you to everyone who donated money and food items to the Kandiyohi County Food shelf. As of Nov. 27 our donations totaled \$1005.00 and 10# food! Many local people will benefit from these gifts!



## *Times Gone By—1960*



Can you identify these lovely girls?  
This was in 1960 when Svea  
celebrated St. Lucia Festival at  
Church.

Left to right:  
Judy Christianson  
Gloria Paananen  
Marilyn Johnson.

St. Lucia's Day is Thursday, Dec. 13, and the one part of the world where that day is widely celebrated is Scandinavia, particularly Sweden. St. Lucia's Day is an old Christian holiday that just happens to correspond to the time of the year of the old pagan midwinter festival, particularly Yule. Many other elements of St. Lucia's are also strikingly similar to the Yule festivals.

The modern festival's customs of girls dressed in white dresses and candles in their hair and of star boys with cone-shaped hats probably evolved during the 18th century. Celebrations in the home often include the oldest daughter dressing as Lucia and bringing coffee and saffron rolls to the rest of the family. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America also commemorates St. Lucia's Day with a procession, but nowhere are the processions as plentiful and massive as in Stockholm, and nowhere outside of Sweden is the selection of local and regional Lucia's so prevalent, leading to the selection of one Swedish Lucia on national television.

The St. Lucia festival of lights may be more than just symbolic. At this time of year, the number of hours of daylight is dwindling down to close to six hours in Stockholm.



# After the media leaves, Lutherans stay

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) has a reputation for serving communities even when other agencies have packed up. Working mostly behind the scenes, our church is able to respond readily through an extensive worldwide network.

That network includes partners, social ministry organizations and synods, for which the ministry provides training, consultation, assistance and funding. LDR also works globally with The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Church World Service (CWS) and companion churches.

Michael Stadie, program director, LDR-U.S., attributes the program's resiliency and sustainability to the ELCA's strong partnerships around the world. In the United States, he said, the social ministry organizations affiliated with LDR know who the local coordinators are, making it easier to facilitate help on the ground.

## HURRICANE MATTHEW

Florida, North Carolina and Georgia were hit hard by flooding when Hurricane Matthew dumped rain in September and October 2016. Nearly a year later, LDR is still working with Lutheran Services Carolinas after the agency was awarded the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster case management contract.

Sharei Green, LDR program communicator, said the work mostly involves guiding people through the assistance process to get their homes rebuilt. "It's assessing whether people have insurance, asking if they had flood insurance, and helping them sort through the paperwork associated with getting FEMA assistance," she said.

The disaster work actually started early—as the hurricane was forming in the Atlantic Ocean. "Social ministry organizations and synods started working together via phone calls before the hurricane even hit," she said.

## HURRICANE SANDY

Five years after Hurricane Sandy hit the Northeast, volunteers are still working through Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey to help rebuild homes. New Jersey was especially hard-hit, Stadie said, and many people lost their homes on or near the shore. "Our affiliate is doing volunteer management in rebuilding," he added. "Believe it or not, there are people who are just now getting their homes rebuilt."

Alex Elefante, disaster recovery coordinator for Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, said that over the past five years more than 4,400 volunteers have worked tirelessly to renovate and rebuild homes. While Elefante estimated that the volunteers have worked on 354 houses, another 27,000 still await repair.

"We're making progress, but it's slowly happening" and wouldn't be possible without the volunteers, he said.

## LOUISIANA FLOODING

The ELCA happened to be meeting for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans when devastating rainfall flooded Louisiana. "We were actually there when it happened in the Baton Rouge/Lafayette area, and a member of the assembly stood up and asked if we could pray for those who lost their homes," Stadie said.

LDR did more than pray, helping assess the situation and working with Upbring (formerly Lutheran Social Services of the South) to provide aid. More than 150,000 applications have been filed with FEMA for assistance.





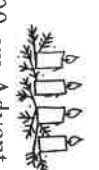
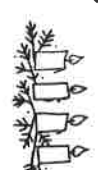

## DAKOTA TORNADOES AND FLOODING

Two years later, LDR is still working with Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota to help American Indians recover from tornadoes that caused flooding on reservations in 2015. This was the first time that tribal lands got a federal declaration apart from that of the state, Stadie said, adding, "LDR is in conversation with our local partners on long-term recovery."

All LDR staff agree that helping those in need is what Lutherans are called to do. "Because Lutherans are at work in communities and in the congregations, we walk with people every day through their lives," Stadie said. "LDR is just another way for us to walk with people. Our disaster response is a natural outreach of being the church. We were there before the disaster, and we'll be there after."

As you read this, LDR is working with local affiliates to respond to the devastation caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in the Caribbean and the southern United States. This work, too, will continue for years to come. **To support these efforts, visit [ELCA.org/disaster](http://ELCA.org/disaster).**

# DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Dec. 31</b> <b>NO SCS</b> 9:45 am Coffee/Fellowship 10:45 Praise Service					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 12:30 pm Senior Christmas Dinner 
<b>3</b> 9:30 am SCS 9:45 Coffee/ fellowship 10:45 am Praise Worship 12:00 pm Confirmation	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:00 am LMM/Bible <b>Study/Breakfast;</b> 2:00 pm Peace Circle at church; 7:30 pm Worship/Music Mtg	<b>6</b>  7:00 pm Advent Services	<b>7</b> 1:30 pm Patience Circle at Marlene Erickson's	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30am-10:30 am <b>"I Love Coffee"</b> with Rachel at the Parsonage. Welcome! 
<b>10</b> 9:30 am SCS 9:45 Coffee/ fellowship 10:45 am WOV/Communion 12:00 pm Confirmation	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:00 am LMM/Prayer	<b>13</b>  7:00 pm Advent Services	<b>14</b> <b>BUDGET            REQUEST DUE</b> 6:30 pm Mission Mtg 8:00 pm SHE Mtg	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 am SCS 9:45 am Coffee 10:45 am Praise/ Worship & SCS <b>x-mas program</b> 12:00 Confirmation <b>Open House at            Parsonage 12-4 pm</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:00 am LMM/ Prayer	<b>20</b>  7:00 pm Advent Services	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm Church Council	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:45 am Coffee/Fellowship 10:45 am LBW/ Worship/Communion <b>5:00 pm            Traditional            Christmas Eve            Service</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30 am Christmas in the Barn 	<b>26</b> 6:00 am LMM/Bible Study/ Breakfast	<b>27</b> <b>Reminder Articles            Due</b> <b>NO Confirmation</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Reminder            Published</b>	<b>30</b>

**December 2017 REMINDER  
SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH  
12651 15<sup>TH</sup> ST SE  
SVEA MN 56216**



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |    |                 |     |                    |
|----|-----------------|-----|--------------------|
| 1. | Laurie Burks    | 12. | Mark Rew           |
| 3. | Donna Anderson  |     | Crystal Moran      |
|    | Phyllis Gorans  | 13. | Marny Behrends     |
| 5. | Tony Swenson    | 14. | Paulette Ascherman |
| 7. | Ellie Bowen     | 16. | Todd DeGraw        |
|    | Tammy Garberich | 18. | Dennis Feifarek    |
|    | Brian Solbrack  | 19. | Rita Schoeppler    |
| 8. | Justin Solbrack | 23. | Jean Feifarek      |
| 9. | Jadi Hopp       |     | Joel Swenson       |
|    |                 | 24. | Brent Landin       |
|    |                 | 26. | Katie Mott         |
|    |                 | 31. | Taylor Sowers      |

