

# *Svea Evangelical Lutheran Church*

## **JANUARY REMINDER**

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

[www.svealutheranchurch.org](http://www.svealutheranchurch.org)

**2024**



*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. “*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

Can you believe it is 2024? Honestly when I was younger, I thought we would have flying cars by now. We do look into the future and the one thing we all have in common is that we usually get it wrong. We may not know what God has planned but God knows.

This scripture reading from the Prophet Jeremiah comes from a letter sent to the elders held captive in Babylon. God was telling them that they are captive in this foreign land and to build houses, plant gardens, and eat what you produce. Take wives and have children, give sons and daughters into marriage. Essentially God is telling them to get on with their lives and don't listen to your dreams. I think we can assume that their dreams were about going back to Judea, but God is telling that's not going to happen right now, but I do have a plan for your welfare and it's not about harm and it is a future with hope. What does this mean for us today?

We have had some loss within our ministry context, the loss of a beloved pastor, a retirement of a long pastor, to include all the changes that have occurred the last few years. With the pandemic, staff turnover, decrease in attendance and giving, it can seem that we are in captivity. God is telling us the same thing, get on with life, I have a plan for your welfare and it's not about harm and it is about a future with hope. What are we to do? Love our neighbor, feed the hungry, care for the sick, cloth the naked, that is what we do as we work toward the future. We live our lives as God intended, God will guide us to take care of the rest as we walk our journey of faith.

I pray for a blessed New Year. Happy New Year.

Pastor Dwaine Sutherland



# Family Promise–2024

## Family Promise News

**Svea’s first week for hosting this year begins Monday, January 8th,  
and goes through Sunday, January 11h.**

As a host church we are now only responsible for:

Providing the evening meal at 6:00 at the residential site on Pacific Ave. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evening of our host week. It is the meal volunteer’s option just to drop off the meal or to stay to dine and fellowship with the families during the mealtime. If you volunteer, Karen Schueler, our coordinator, will feel you in on all the other details.

Grocery shopping one time during the week for milk, juice, bread, etc. The needed items list will be provided for us.

**Sign up for volunteering on Sundays Dec. 31 or Jan. 7 or contact Karen Schueler at 320.894.4566 or email: [shkaschu@gmail.com](mailto:shkaschu@gmail.com)**

**Thanks in advance for helping families in our area who need a safe place to live!**

**Family Promise** has recently hired two part-time staff.

**Heidi** is working directly with our guest families to assist them with their needs in finding work, housing etc.

**Bram** is helping out during the evening mealtime to coordinate things between our volunteers and guest families.



### 2024 Host Week Schedule for Svea

January 8 -14  
March 25 – 31  
June 17 – 23  
September 9 -15  
December 2 - 8

**JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**Communion** will be the first and second Sundays of each month.

**Contemporary Service:** Gatewood Family, Accompanist

**Traditional Service:** Megan Gilles, Organist

**Communion Assistant:** Christy Swanson

**Visual Arts:** Karen Schueler & Lois Nelson, and all Team Members

**Ushers:** Doug Johnson and Brent Landin

	<b><u>ASSISTANT MINISTER</u></b>	<b><u>LECTORS</u></b>	<b><u>Tellers</u></b>
Dec 31	Holli Hopp	Arianna Gilles	5
Jan 7	Jordan Gatewood	Lois Nelson	6
Jan 14	Louise Swenson	Sherman Schueler	1
Jan 21	Gene Gatewood	TBD	2
Jan 28	Karen Schueler	Louise Swenson	3
	<b><u>Screen</u></b>	<b><u>Sound</u></b>	
Jan 7	Jake Vlaminc	Ben Johnson	
Jan 14		Brian Gorans	
Jan 21	Scott Johnson	Kim Gorans	
Jan 28		Jake Vlaminc	

**Pastors for January Worship**

Dec 31	Pr. Wayne Kopitzke
Jan 8	Pr. Wayne Kopitzke
Jan 15	Pr. Wayne Kopitzke
Jan 22	Pr. Dwaine Sutherland
Jan 29	Pr. Wayne Kopitzke

**The deadlines for the 2024 Annual Reports**

All Committee reports are due Monday, January 8<sup>TH</sup>. Please leave them in the church office or email the Church Office. Thank you!

**Ladies' Bible Study**



**Ladies** will meet on January 9th at 1:30 pm. at Delphie Swenson's home. Please bring a treat to share. All ladies are welcome.

Don't forget to check out our church's website at:

**[svealutheranchurch.org](http://svealutheranchurch.org)**

The website has worship services schedules, worship streaming, monthly reminders, family promise and much more.

Thanks to our AV Team for your faithful service.

**Thank you!**

Many thank yous were received from various people that really enjoyed the Christmas Party. Thanks again for all that helped with this event.





**SVEA CHURCH'S 154th ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD  
AFTER WORSHIP SERVICES ON JANUARY 21st, 2024**

**PROPOSED 2023 SVEA CHURCH BALLOT**

**CHURCH COUNCIL (Vote for 2)**

Lauire Burks  
Josh Larson  
Chelsey Moran  
Lois Nelson

**CHURCH COUNCIL YOUTH (VOTE for 1)**

Tucker Swanson  
Write In

**CEMETERY BOARD (VOTE FOR 2)**

Matt Petersen  
Dan Swenson

**SYNOD DELEGATE (VOTE FOR ONE COUPLE)**

Doug and Holli Hopp

**HEAD USHER (VOTE FOR 1)**

1st place Head Usher  
2nd place Alternate Usher  
Dan Swenson  
Mike Lindblad

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1 YEAR TERM) (VOTE FOR TWO)**

Dianne Johnson  
Lois Nelson

**AUDITING COMMITTEE (2 YEAR TERM) VOTE FOR 1)**

2024-2025	2023-2024 standing member
Scott Johnson	Sherman Schueler

**(Must be present to vote)**

\*If the Annual meeting for January 21st is cancelled the meeting will be held the following Sunday.  
Potluck dinner will follow the meeting.

Names ending with A-M bring hotdish;  
Names ending with N-Z bring salad.  
Beverages, bread and dessert served by Council.



Bishop Dee came and spoke on Saturday, December 17th, 2023 during the Sunday School Program Service. Thank you, Bishop Dee.



The library committee has been making a few changes and updates over the year. At the beginning of the year we did some cleaning and re-arranging. We now have puzzles that can be checked out as well as adding books by new authors and new book series for all ages. Lois has also ordered books by local authors for everyone to enjoy.

The Sunday school classes have enjoyed finding something fun to read and earning a trip to the treasure chest for every 10 books they read and return. It has been fun to watch their excitement. Please come and check out our new selection of books.

## Global Missions

Starting one hour before our worship service each Sunday stop down at the fellowship hall to have a cup of coffee, a treat, and spend some time visiting.

All donations received will go to the Mission Committee for various local and worldwide Mission programs.

We need volunteers to make coffee and provide treats each week, so please take the opportunity, as you are able, to sign up to serve when you come for coffee.

Thank you so very much to everyone who has volunteered the last few months; it is very much appreciated!

## NOISY OFFERING



The Noisy Offering is one more way we can teach our children the importance of giving and serving. On one Sunday of each month, during the closing song, Sunday School children will go into the congregation with tin buckets to collect your spare change. We hope to make a lot of noise as the coins fall into the bucket! In other churches children eagerly await this Sunday and participate energetically. The noisy offering will be designated for a need determined by the Sunday School. Thank you for your participation!



<b>NOVEMBER REMINDER 2023</b>			
<b>SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT</b>			
	<b>November 30, 2023</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
<b>Disbursements - Staff</b>	\$ 70,622.00		\$ 46,498.30
<b>Mission Support</b>	\$ 12,400.00		\$ 9,682.45
<b>Operation - Expenses</b>	\$ 52,723.00		\$ 64,704.95
<b>Transfers</b>			\$ 209,391.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 135,745.00</b>		<b>\$ 330,277.60</b>
<b>Year to Date Receipts and Transfers</b>			<b>\$ 336,106.66</b>
<b>Year to Date Receipts Less Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 5,829.06</b>
<b>Year End Carry-over from 2022</b>			<b>\$ 7,480.00</b>
<b>Total General Fund/Designated/Transfer</b>			<b>\$ 13,309.06</b>
<b>Total Funds available after November 2023 expenses</b>			<b>\$ 13,309.06</b>

<b>DECEMBER REMINDER 2023</b>			
<b>SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT</b>			
	<b>December 31, 2023</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Year To Date</b>
<b>Disbursements - Staff</b>	\$ 70,622.00		\$ 50,770.42
<b>Mission Support</b>	\$ 12,400.00		\$ 9,682.45
<b>Mission Support to Year End</b>			\$ 2,717.55
<b>Operation - Expenses</b>	\$ 52,723.00		\$ 72,423.39
<b>Transfers</b>			\$ 214,829.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 135,745.00</b>		<b>\$ 350,423.42</b>
<b>Year to Date Receipts and Transfers</b>			<b>\$ 365,307.71</b>
<b>Year to Date Receipts Less Expenses</b>			<b>\$ 14,884.29</b>
<b>Year End Carry-over from 2022</b>			<b>\$ 7,480.00</b>
<b>Total General Fund/Designated/Transfer</b>			<b>\$ 22,364.29</b>
<b>Total Funds available after December 2023 expenses</b>			<b>\$ 22,364.29</b>

# REPORT



Svea Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes: 12/21/23  
Reported by: Kristi Gatewood

Present: Josh Larson, Brent Landin, Andy Lindblad, Kristi Gatewood, Jake Vlaminck, Christy Swanson

Absent: Ty Larson, Carter Christopher, Darla Sowers

- Mary Jo D. from Calvary stopped in to present the proposed partnership contract with Calvary. Council reviewed and discussed the contract. Josh proposed that the council members each take some time to consider the contract and reconvene with a response at a later date.
- - The 2024 budget was presented by SFE. The overall budget did not change from the current year to the next. There were changes in costs such as insurance, utilities, etc. Jake made a motion to approve the 2024 budget. Christy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
  - A list of council nominees for the annual meeting ballot was brought forward. Council members plan to reach out to a few more nominees to potentially add to the ballot.
  - Teresa Johnson will be rotating off of the Personnel Committee. The council nominated Kristi Gatewood to fill this position. Kristi Accepted.
  - The Svea Annual Meeting will be held after 11am service on January 21st with a pot-luck to follow.
- 

The next council meeting is scheduled for January 25th at 7:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

Meeting adjourned



## The Board Meeting

“There will be a meeting of the Church Board immediately after the service,” announced the pastor. After the close of the service, the Church Board gathered at the back of the sanctuary for the announced meeting. But a stranger was in their midst — a visitor who had never attended their church.

“My friend,” said the pastor, “Didn’t you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?”

“Yes,” said the visitor, “and after today’s sermon, I suppose I’m just about as bored as anyone else

Scenes from the Children's Christmas play

# The Wonder



Don't you see the wonder,  
Papa?



Is there any  
room for us?



Do you hear something?

Angels sent us here.

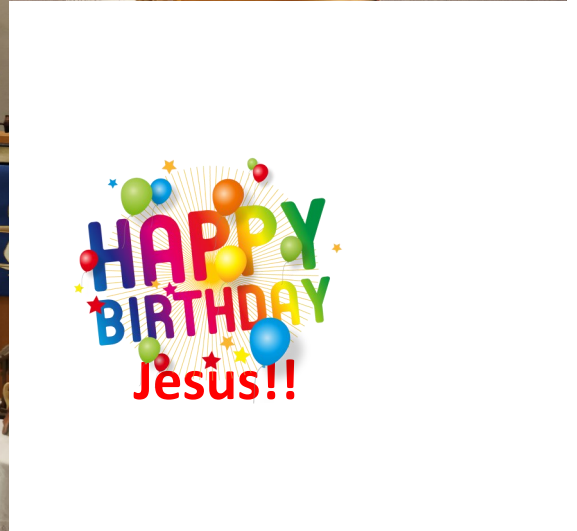




# Scenes from the Children's Christmas play—"The Wonder"



The "Angels" appeared



All the Kiddos –taking a bow!

Thank You, Kristi, Lois,  
Gretchen, Chelsey &  
Jacki for helping make  
the magic happen!



## Friends In Faith

Hey, Hey!!

It's time to be warm inside and out. On February 18th, 2024. Friends in Faith we will meet for a light lunch of Bar-B-Ques, Chips and Salad. All are invited to share the Faith and have some fun!!

# Winter Word Search

F S N O W M A N Y P V W R U E  
X I U E I L I G O F I A R H T  
U C R C T U O L D N G K L I A  
C S E E G I A Z T S O R F B R  
C N O N P R H E O M H Q C E G  
H M E P B L R W C Y P K M R I  
I P O E E K A L F W O N S N M  
L O A G T O Q C I Z U C P A U  
L R Z A K O C P E I J J D T Z  
Y T H O T C H O C O L A T E J



chilly  
fireplace  
frost  
hibernate  
hot chocolate  
migrate

penguin  
polar bear  
snowflake  
snowman  
white  
winter

# SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR

# JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>10:00am</b> Coffee <b>11:00am</b> ELW Worship	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>1pm</b> Quilting  <b>6:30 pm</b> Confirma-	<b>4</b> <b>6:30 am LMM</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 9:45</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Coffee <b>11:00am</b> Praise <b>12 pm</b> SFE	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Ladies Bible Study	<b>10 ALL</b> <b>Committee</b> <b>reports are</b> <b>due!!</b>  <b>6:30pm</b> Confirmation	<b>11</b> <b>6:30am LMM</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>9:45am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Coffee <b>11:00am</b> ELW Worship	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>6:30 pm</b> Confirma- tion	<b>18</b> <b>6:30 am LMM</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 9:45 am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00</b> Coffee <b>11:00am</b> Praise <b>Annual</b> <b>Meeting</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>7:30</b> Tentative Worship & Music Meeting	<b>24 6:30 pm</b> Confirma- tion  <b>Reminder</b> <b>articles due</b>	<b>25</b> <b>6:30 am LMM</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> Church Coun- cil & Tentative Worship & Music	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>9:45am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Coffee <b>11:00am</b> ELW Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>6:30 pm</b> Confirma- tion			

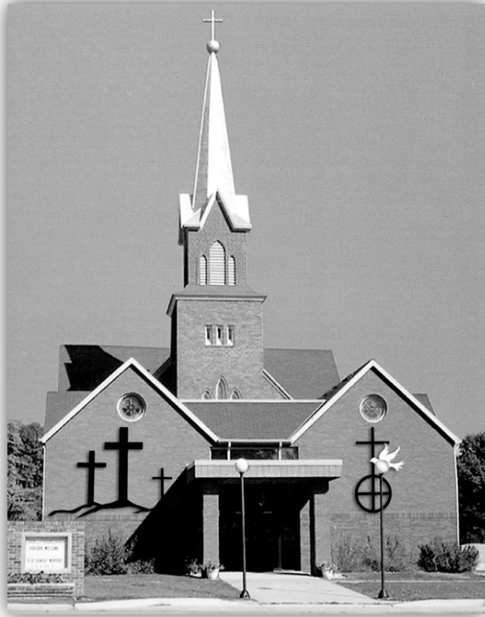
**REMIINDER**

**JANUARY 2024**

**SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**12651 15<sup>TH</sup> ST SE**

**SVEA MN 56216**



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2. Jeremy Negen

Troy Erickson

3. Pamela Moran

5. Alicia Oslund

7. Rodney Lothert

8. Louise Swenson

9. Ed Keys

10. Teresa Johnson

Drake Vlaminck

13. Sara Freed

15. Troy Bjerkness

Douglas Peterson

16. Doreen Cox

17. Aubri Beverly Lindblad

18. Courtney Carlson

19. Daniel Garberich

Colton Swenson

21. Jerry Negen

26. Sadie Vlaminck

27. Laura Christianson

28. Kurt Garberich