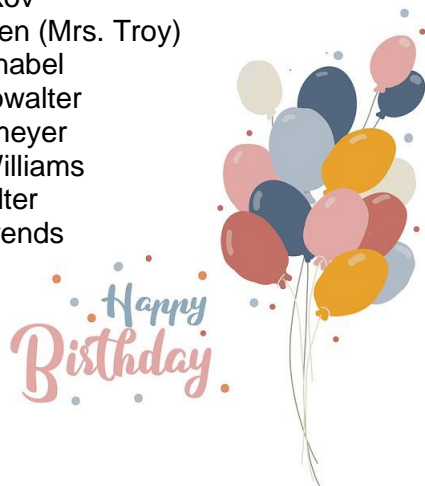


January 2023

Birthdays

- 1 – Matthew Sheppard
- 3 – Marvel Burmester
Bart Hansen
Michael Birdsell
- 4 – Gary Brinkley
Robert Kloetzer
Kari Subbert
- 5 – Jaxon Moats
- 8 – Lincoln Hansen
- 11 – Katherine Harr
- 14 – Phil Hauser
- 15 – Lynn Arends
- 16 – Cindy Koch
Kent Koch
- 18 – Pam Koenen
- 22 – Gerry Heilskov
Sarah Hansen (Mrs. Troy)
Anthony Schabel
- 23 – Charles Showalter
- 26 – Mark Rodemeyer
Jolene McWilliams
- 28 – Matt Showalter
- 31 – Cameron Arends
Noah Behn



Ushers

Jay Behn, Chair Justin Behn
Randy Grefe Jim Moats
Jaxon Moats

Greeters

Larry & Deb Behn
Michelle Giddings
Mike & Donna Spetman

Acolytes


1 – Cooper Hansen
8 – Noel Hansen
15 – Lukas Showalter
22 – Lane Haller
29 – Noah Behn

Anniversaries

- 1 – Alan & Deb Brown
Micah & Audrey Brooks
- 18 – Gary & Karen McVicker

*God's Blessings on
your marriage!*

HOLY Pastor is still offering individual/small group communion in place of the Special Needs' service. Please do not hesitate to call the church office if you would like to schedule a time to receive Holy Communion outside of the Sunday Service.



COMMUNION

Special Meetings this Month

Council Meeting:
Wednesday, January 11th at 6:00 PM

Quarterly Voters' Meeting:
Sunday, January 29th after church



Dr. Todd Peperkorn will be here on Sunday, January 15th as our Guest Pastor and Speaker during Bible Study and Sunday School.



Life Week 2023

DAILY THEMES:

- Sunday – Blessed as a Gift (Gospel-motivation)
- Monday – Blessed in Longing
- Tuesday – Blessed Together
- Wednesday – Blessed with Healing
- Thursday – Blessed with Hope
- Friday – Blessed from the Beginning
- Saturday – Blessed for Serving

Life Week 2023 is coming soon! You are personally invited to join in celebrating that you are ... "Blessed For Life!" "Blessed For Life" is the theme gathering Lutherans from across the country from Sunday, January 15, through Saturday, January 21, for Life Week 2023.

Go to <https://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023/> for daily fact and activity sheets for each "blessed" day!

Or plan to join Lutherans For Life for online components!

Online: From Sunday, January 15, through Wednesday, January 18, learn about life issues from the comfort of your home.

Log in to Zoom each evening for a Gospel-motivated presentation from the following speakers:

- January 15 – Rev. Michael Salemink – Blessed as a Gift
- January 16 – Rev. Steven and Stephanie Cholak – Blessed in Longing
- January 17 – Delores Desemone – Blessed Together
- January 18 – Deaconess Chrissie Gillet – Blessed with Healing

Zoom Meeting ID: 845 7061 0394
Passcode: 501680



Wednesday, January 4th at 2PM
Devotions/Bible Study:
Vicki Claypool
Hostess:
Mary Hadley

All ladies are invited! Please let Stephanie know if you need a copy of the Bible Study.



Church Board and Groups:
Please have your annual reports for 2022 to the church office by Thursday, January 12th.

Also, please let the church office know about any address and/or phone number changes so that the church directory is up to date. Thank you!

From the Vicar...

One of my recent lessons for my Confirmation students was the story of Ruth. Ruth is a wonderful account of a faithful young widow and a faithful, honorable man falling in love.

The story begins when Naomi and her husband Elimelech move from Bethlehem to the land of Moab on account of a drought. They had two sons and both of their sons married Moabite women. One of the daughters-in-law was named Ruth. More tragedy struck this family when all three of the men died over the course of ten years. Naomi was left as a widow in a foreign land with two widowed daughters-in-law and no man to provide for them.

Naomi decided to move back to Bethlehem and told her daughters-in-law to go back to their families and find Moabite husbands. Loyal Ruth would not accept this. She had become a true believer in God and would not go back. She famously tells Naomi, "Wherever you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16).

Back in Bethlehem, Naomi and Ruth had to find a way to support themselves. Ruth, still relatively young, became a gleaner. When the owner of the field she was gleaning, Boaz, saw her, he asked who she was. His workers told him that she was Naomi's loyal daughter-in-law from Moab. Moved with respect and concern, he tells Ruth to always work his fields alongside his other workers, and he will make sure she is safe. Boaz also instructs his workers to let extra barley grain be left behind on purpose, so that Ruth will always have enough for herself and Naomi.

After a while, Naomi realizes that Boaz is her late husband's relative. He can act as a kinsman-redeemer, one who could legally restore the right of inheritance to her family. For this to happen, Boaz would need to marry Ruth. It probably seemed like a long-shot, but Naomi takes on the role of matchmaker and gives Ruth tips on how to win over Boaz. "Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak... do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, uncover his feet and lie down..." (Ruth 3:3-4).

Boaz was staying the night at work, sleeping on the threshing floor. Ruth came in quietly, dressed in her best clothes anointed with perfume. She was careful not to wake anyone else, or to wake Boaz suddenly and make him cry out. She pulled the

blankets off of his feet, and laid down waiting for him to wake up so they could talk privately. At midnight, he woke up and realized a woman was near him in the dark. "Who are you?" he asked.

In her response, Ruth boldly proposes to Boaz: "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer" (Ruth 3:9). Boaz is impressed. He knew that Ruth could have chased after younger men, but instead she had shown wisdom by pursuing Boaz. He was most definitely interested. He let Ruth stay near him that night. Early in the morning, he loaded her up with food and sent her home. Boaz demonstrated his love for Ruth by behaving honorably. He also protected her reputation by giving her a chore, getting food from the threshing floor, that made sense for that early hour of the day.

After establishing himself as the legal kinsman-redeemer of Elimelech, Naomi's late husband, Boaz married Ruth the Moabite believer. They had at least one son, named Obed. Through Obed, the line of Elimelech and Naomi was legally restored. God also blessed Boaz and Ruth in a very special way: their great-grandson is King David, and King David's great descendant is Jesus of Nazareth. You can read about the genealogy of Boaz and Ruth at Ruth 4:21-22, Matthew 1:5-6, and Luke 3:32.

Remember our shut-ins
with your prayers,
phone calls, visits, and cards...



- *Country View Nursing Facility:
Mavis Claypool, Jennie Dellinger, Don Fink,
Bob Heilskov, Doris Knueppel, Melba
Muhlenbruch, Tillie Nelsen, Merlin Behn
- *Apple Valley Assisted Living:
Donna Helmke, Dixie Schmitt
- *Rehabilitation Center of Hampton:
Daisy Bentrrott, Jamie Fink, Mildred Pingel
- *Keelson Harbour, Spirit Lake:
Betty Fink
- *Our members at home who may not be able to
come to church.



A special thank you to everyone who has been a greeter, usher, acolyte, helped with music, flowers, Sunday morning cookies and coffee, and taken care of the church property this past year. It is much appreciated!