

"The Fisher" December 2025

A newsletter for the members and friends of
Bone Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)
1101 255th Ave Luck WI 54853

BISHOP HALOM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: WHEN GOD SHOWS UP

As we approach the season of Christmas that so many of us adore, I'd like to address a few churchy words that theologians like to use and sound impressive when using them. The first word is *incarnation* and the second is *Emmanuel*.

If your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), you will again hear the passage from the first chapter of John on Christmas Day. The passage famously concludes in verse 14 with the words, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." This verse speaks directly to the concept of incarnation. In other words, it speaks to a God who literally takes on human flesh and enters this world in the form of baby Jesus. It's in stark contrast to what some believe and experience - a God who exists far away, only to look down on us from God's heavenly throne. Instead, the incarnate God speaks to a God who is willing to take on the human experience with all the joys and sorrows that come with it. One can readily see that Jesus did indeed make his way through the human experience. He felt joy. He felt pain. His eyes teared up. And even if I can't recall a story when he laughed, I gotta believe that he really did!

Another passage found in the Christmas season comes from the gospel of Matthew, which references Isaiah 7:14: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" One of the most important lessons I ever learned in seminary was in a pastoral care class. I had hoped to learn what to say, especially to someone hurting or grieving. What I learned was much more important. Instead of learning what to say, I was taught to show up - to be present. As time passes, few will remember what I say, but will remember that I was there. That's precisely why the name *Emmanuel* means so much to me. It's a constant reminder that God is always with us. Consider the final words in the gospel of Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Presence matters because God embodies it and teaches it.

Christmas is known for its gift giving nature. We share gifts with one another to reveal our love for them. This year, I hope that regardless of the quantity or quality of the wrapped presents that lay under the tree, you will recognize the gift of presence. Not only the presence of your loved ones, but particularly the presence of God. So many of you will grieve as you experience the lack of presence from a loved one due to death or distance. My heart grieves with you. My hope lies in a God who provides and will gift you all with someone who will be present with you in some way at some time. If nothing else, remember God's presence as you receive the body and blood of Christ in the worship services that you attend, for that's yet another way in which God shows up. Fellow disciples, Merry Christmas to you all and may the presence of God incarnate, Emmanuel, embrace you in such a way that brings warmth to your heart!

Thanksgiving 2025



Our Annual Thanksgiving dinner was a huge success again this year. We served almost 170 dinners, could have served even more and hope to next year. We raised over \$1800 to be divided between Loaves and fishes, the food shelf in Luck and World Hunger, plus we collect non perishable food donations for Loaves and Fishes the day of the dinner. We would love to say a big huge thank you to those who donated their time to help the day of Thanksgiving or the folks who cooked the turkeys or came and helped peel potatoes or donated pies and food, we could not do this without you all!!!

This wonderful mission of ours started back in 1987 by a couple women who saw a need and it has and has grown over the years. Lets pray that we can continue this and we are able to serve more and more people every year.

Thank you all for your continued support year after year.

Denise Nelson

**Bone Lake Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
November 12, 2025 5:30 p.m.**

Present: Leora Dueholm, Shahla Brown, Nikki Grey, Gloria Rolstad, Randy Kelly, Deacon Jodi, Lori Peterson, remotely, Denise Nelson

Called to order: President Shahla Brown called meeting to order at 5:35pm

Prayer/Devotional: Deacon Jodi did a devotional and prayer

Approve Agenda: Gloria made a motion to accept the agenda, Randy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Lori Peterson/Gloria

Randy made a motion to move to Web-based church windows from what we currently have which only allows one user at a time and all documents are stored at the church. With this, everything would be on the Cloud and could be accessed from home if needed. Gloria seconded the motion. Motion carried

October Meeting Minutes: Minutes were submitted online, Gloria made a motion to accept the minutes (10/14/25) and Shahla seconded the motion (10/15/25), Motion carried (10/16/25)

Property Report: Thank you to all congregational members who have been helping around the church and parsonage to complete all the jobs that need completing. Reminder that more jobs have been added to the board that need completing. Shahla and Randy will clean the church sign November 14. Jon Erickson is going to fix the door handle in the adult study room.

Deacon's Report: Deacon Jodi updated council on what she has been doing.

Randy made a motion to accept the property, Deacon's and treasurer's reports and Nikki seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Worship Assistants - Denise gave update
- Custodial issues- Shahla updated job description
- Constitution changes -Shahla working on this
- Email change- Email change-we will be changing from Lakeland email to gmail for the church

New Business:

- Nov/Dec events/calendar - Craft Fair 11/22, Thanksgiving 11/27, Sat 12/6 Teigen's, Sat 12/13 4-H cloverbuds, 11/25 cooking of the turkeys. 12/21 Christmas program and Christmas cookie potluck.
- Set deadlines/dates for budget, etc... 1/11/26 budget review for congregation 1/25/26 will be the annual meeting. Reports due in to Luann before the end of the year.
- Purchase of additional laptop for office staff. Denise made motion to spend up to \$500 for another laptop for office staff and Gloria seconded. Motion carried
- Nominating committee- Leora and Denise going off in 2026

Counters for Nov/Dec:

- Nov. 16 - Gloria and Shahla
- Nov. 23 - Randy and Leora
- Nov. 30 - Nikki and Denise
- Dec. 7 - Gloria and Leora
- Dec. 14- Nikki and Denise

Next meeting: 12/8/25 @ 5:30

Adjournment: Gloria made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adjourned at 7:25pm

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted 11/19/25

Council Secretary Denise Nelson



The Lead team has been continuing to meet with our community resources and neighbors. We've enjoyed learning more about our neighborhood and getting to know some of our neighbors. Our next step will be to take the information we've learned and explore how we at Bone Lake Lutheran can be good neighbors. We'll be meeting once in December and then take a bit of a break until the new year. If you have ideas about neighbors or community resources we should learn more about or if you're interested in helping us please contact one of us, Brenda Buck, Barb Walmstrom, Shahla Brown, Nancy Beduhn or Deacon Jodi.

NORTHWOODS HOMELESS SHELTERS OF POLK COUNTY SAY "THANK YOU!"

Thank you to our Confirmation youth, their families, and their congregations for the collection of \$525.00 and many supplies for Northwoods Homeless Shelters of Polk County. When shelter director, Virginia Ormsby, was our guest speaker at Confirmation class on November 12, she had no idea she was going home with all these gifts. Surprise!



FOOD DRIVE!

On November 5, our Confirmation youth joined forces with other church youth from our Apple River Conference. They went on a food drive throughout Amery collecting non-perishables for the Amery Area Food Bank.



Well done, good and faithful servants!

Our Confirmation youth represent the congregations of North Valley, Bone Lake, West Denmark, and Luck Lutheran.

Sunday School Schedule for remainder of 2025



- Sunday, Nov 23 9:15
- Sunday, Nov 30 9:15
- Sunday, Dec 7 9:15
- Saturday, Dec 13 5:00 - 7:00
Bell ringing at Waynes Foods in Luck
- Sunday, Dec 14 9:15
(with Deacon Jodi)
- Sunday, Dec 21 9:15
*Optional if you want to participate
in program during worship
- Sunday, Dec 28 — NO SUNDAY
SCHOOL!

Merry Christmas!!!

December Baptismal Anniversaries	
Name	Date
Caleb Nick	12/05/2004
Raymond Dueholm	12/07/2014
Sabrina Dueholm	12/07/2014
Peter Dueholm	12/07/1975
Aubre Witthoft	12/08/1985
Kamdyn Witthoft	12/08/2013
Susan Buck	12/08/1963
Lisa Fjorden	12/16/1984
Kendra Mosay-Buck	12/18/2005
Benjamin Buck	12/24/1967
David Buck	12/24/1967
Riley Runnels	12/23/2001
Judy Randall	12/25/1938
Wedding Anniversaries	
Tom & Nancy Bradwell	12/21
Todd & Christina Strusz	12/21

December Birthdays	
Name	Date
Justin Strusz	12/03
Tiffany Brown	12/04
Mike Boland	12/05
Melissa Rock	12/05
Shahla Brown	12/08
Kim Erickson	12/08
Susan Gregorash	12/08
Nick Kuechenmeister	12/08
Mason Brown	12/09
Rhonda Bazey	12/11
Noah Schommer	12-Dec
LeRoy Buck	12/14
John Denny	12/17
Lynn Albee	12/20
Katie Musial	12/27
Alayna Witthoft	12/28
Linda Hostrup	12/29

December Worship Assistants

12/7/25

Ushers: Todd & Jill Route
Greeter: Lori Johnson
Reader: Jil Route
Counters: Gloris & Leora
Coffee &: Schommer Family & Johnson Family

12/14/25

Usher: Schommer Family
Greeter: Schommer Family
Reader: Jill Route
Communion: Todd & Jill Route
Counter: Nikki & Denise
Coffee &: Todd & Jill Route

12/21/25

Ushers: Jeremiah Johnson
Greeters: Lori Johnson
Reader: Nikki Gray
Counter: ?
Coffee &: **Cookie Exchange**

12/24/25 Christmas Eve Service & 12/28/25 Sunday Service

Bade Family listed for all assistants

November Special Offerings:

Noisy Can collected \$126.97
Thanksgiving Dinner collected \$1,873
This will be donated to the local food shelf and World Hunger.

December Alter Guild:

- Sue and Leroy Buck
- Susan & Lynn Gregorash

December 2025

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Private Party
7 Last Advent Study with Deacon 9:15	8	9	10 Prayer Shawl – 9 AM	11	12	13 – 4H Cloverbud Day 9 - 1
14	15 Naomi Circle Bible Study 9:30	16	17	18	19	20
21 “What’s that Noise” Skit 10:30 Am SERVICE	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service with Communion 6:30 PM	25	26	27
28 – Deacon out of office	29	30	31	1	2	3

Office News:

The church has a new email: bonelakeoffice@gmail.com

The office is opened Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 AM to 1 PM except for inclement weather days.

From January 21st thru February 3, LuAnn will be on vacation and out of the country. During this time, Deacon will be in the office on Wednesday, January 21, Tuesday January 27 and Wednesday January 28. However, if there is an emergency, it will not be opened.