



## Pastor's Message—Pastor Ale Tulu

### Precious memories

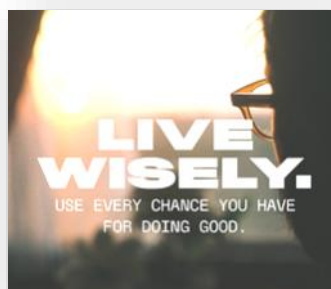
*"I think of days gone by, and remember the years of long ago."  
Psalm 77:5*

Dear friends in Christ,

Here we are about to say good-bye to the old and hello to the New Year. As the year comes and goes, our lives change for better or worse. Of course, it is not just ours but the lives of all those around us. As I was thinking about all this, I thought of sharing this poem with you which is written by unknown author.

My son grows up  
My hands were busy through the day,  
I didn't have much time to play  
The little games you asked me to.  
But when you'd bring your teddy bear  
And ask me please to share your fun,  
I'd say "a little later, son."  
I'd tuck you in all safe at night  
And hear your prayers, turn out the light,  
Then tiptoe softly to the door...  
I wish I'd stayed a minute more.  
For life is short, the years rush past...  
A little boy grows up so fast.  
No longer is he at your side,  
His precious secrets to confide.  
The teddy bears are put away,  
There are no longer games to play,  
No good night kiss, no prayers to hear...  
That all belongs to yesterday.  
My hands, once busy, now are still  
The days are long and hard to fill  
I wish I could go back and do  
The little things you asked me to.

None of us can reverse the flow of time. That is beyond our power. But, what we can do is to use each day of our lives wisely. I believe that sharing our time and lives with people around us is the best way to treasure time. If we miss those opportunities, we may wake up one day and wonder how our years have gone by without being noticed and sing the blues like the man who wrote the above poem. But if we use our time to touch other lives in a positive way, we will enrich our memories and fill our hearts with songs of joy. May this coming year bring you closer to God and those around you. Have a happy new year.



## Church Events

- Sundays—9:30 am Worship  
10:30 am Fellowship
- Tuesdays & Fridays at 9:30 am—Coffee with the Staff
- Wednesdays  
5:30 pm Meal  
6:15 pm Worship  
6:30 pm Wednesday School  
6:45 pm Confirmation  
7:00 pm Handbell Practice
- Thursdays at 7:00 am—Men's Breakfast at the Fry' Pan
- Jan 8 at 10:30 am—10th Grade Confirmands & Mentor Mtg
- Jan 10 at 1:00 pm—Prayer Shawl
- Jan 10 at 7:00 pm—Council Meeting
- Jan 12  
1:30 pm—Abigail Circle  
7:00 pm—Rebekah Circle
- Jan 16 at 7:00 pm—Book Club
- Jan 17 at 6:00 pm—Evening Quilting
- Jan 18 at 9:00 am—Quilting
- Jan 19 at 6:30 pm—LYO Meeting
- Jan 21 3-7 pm—Smelt Fry
- Jan 23—Newsletter Articles Due
- Jan 29 at 10:30 am—Annual Meeting

## Contact Information

301 6th St N  
Breckenridge, MN  
218-643-4892

Office email:  
officebrecklutheran@gmail.com

Pastor's email:  
pastorbrecklutheran@gmail.com

Office Hours:  
9:00-3:00 Mon-Thur

## YOU MUST CONTACT THE OFFICE TO REQUEST ENVELOPES FOR 2023.



**BLC**  
Breadsteeple  
Lutheran Church  
302 W. 12th St. | Breckinridge, MO 64503

*My Offering*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

General     Other \_\_\_\_\_

2 Cor 9:7 ... for God loves a cheerful giver.

Give online at [brecklutheran.org](http://brecklutheran.org) | Text to give: 844-771-1333

## 2023 Offering Envelopes

In an effort to reduce waste & cost, we will not be ordering pre-printed offering envelopes for 2023. Options for next year: 1) Use the generic envelopes available in church, 2) request the office to print envelopes with your personalized information, 3) checks may be put in the offering plate, 4) use any of the electronic options available: bill pay from your bank, give online, text-to-give, or set up automatic debit (Simply Giving) with the office. (Please note: Your envelope number will remain the same.)

*happy new year* 2023

## Stewardship—Orrin Ausen

### 2023: Your year for GENEROSITY

*“You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity!” -2 Corinthians 9:11*



**BUILDING A GIVING CHURCH**

As you make resolutions and set goals for the New Year, be sure to include this one: “I will be more generous in 2023.” It will bless you – and your community and neighbor!

The Bible makes clear that generosity leads to a more abundant life. Generous people experience one of those paradoxes of the Kingdom of God, where the last are first, the greatest is servant to all, and whoever loses her life for Christ will gain it.

The paradox? Generous people get back far more than they give.

First, a clarification: The paradox is NOT a financial strategy to maximize return on investment. That would be missing the point. Besides, there are more important things to give than money, such as time, service, kindness, forgiveness, compassion, love, and joy. And what we get back may not be quantifiable.

How do you measure wellbeing and happiness?

Generosity’s real “payback” is what and who we become when we cultivate a habit of giving. Giving transforms us into generous-hearted people, and generous-hearted people tend to experience a real abundance of joy, peace, love, and security.

The old saying is most certainly true: ***The open palm holds more than the closed fist.***

For 2023, set a goal to be more generous. Start by increasing your charitable giving above last year’s offering, but also aim to give away your time, to serve your neighbor, to be lavish in compassion, extravagant in love.

Pray that God will guide you and help you experience the paradox: ***Givers get back more than they give away.***



**BUILDING A GIVING CHURCH**

## President's Message—Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss

Dear BLC friends,

My two-year term as council president will be coming to an end at the end of January. And I wanted to make sure that I thanked all of you for the feeling of support and friendship I felt over the course of those two years. I admittedly took the job as president reluctantly, worried about stretching myself too thin. But being in a position where I was relied upon to lead, where I learned how incredibly interesting and complex churches are, and where I worked with a very special group of people who committed themselves to progress, has been one of the best experiences I've had. It absolutely warms my heart to know I had the honor of being president here for two years.

The past two years have been busy for both council and committees. Everyone had a lot on their plates. We dealt with the unknowns about Covid and how to return to church, increased our pastor's salary to ensure we had a chance at hiring the right pastor, hired Pastor Ale, started the weekly Wednesday meal/worship/education program, started E-mail news communications, said goodbye to our dear Laurie as church secretary, rejoiced when God placed Lois Fenske and Deb Berndt in front of us to share their incredible gifts, worked through the elevator problems, and then worked through elevator problems again. Those are just some of the things that stand out to me, but there are many others.

Being new to this town, you gave me a place where I now really felt at home. While we aren't an incredibly diverse community, I very much believe in our synod's ideals of inclusiveness and acceptance. That men and women can both lead. That it matters to our synod that who you are and who you love is accepted. All are welcome in our church. And I really like that I'm a part of a church like that.

Thanks again for all the supportive words, gestures of kindness no matter how small, and for welcoming me and my family into your church.

Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss



## From the Office—Lois Fenske

Effective January 1, 2023, Breckenridge Lutheran will be converting our church's electronic record management system to IconCMO. IconCMO is a database that keeps the records for our church. It allows staff and church members to utilize our church's database for communication, membership information, print your own contribution statements, send individual or group tests and emails, and so much more.

After conversion is complete, you will have the opportunity to request member log-in access. Once approved, you will be able to edit and view your own information (you will not be able to edit anyone else's information); view and communicate with other church members (an online church directory); and view or print out your donation statement at any time. **The IconCMO Church Directory can ONLY be viewed by Breckenridge Lutheran Members/Staff and is password protected.**

Our church members will also have access to the church directory via mobile apps (both Android and Apple versions are available). **You must have a valid email address for access.**

### Response Requested

We are in the process of updating the current database and ask that you verify your address, phone number(s) and email address(es). Please contact the office at [officebrecklutheran@gmail.com](mailto:officebrecklutheran@gmail.com) or 218-643-4892.



## Financial Summary (as of November 30, 2022)

October Financial Summary		Weekly Giving—November 2022	
General Account Income in November 2022	\$18,692	November 6	\$4,102
General Account Expenditures in November 2022	\$18,529.61	November 13	\$6,138
Cash Income for the month	\$162.39	November 20	\$2,393
		November 27	\$2,519
		Total	\$15,152

Year to Date Income	Year to Date Expenses	Year to Date Net Loss	Monthly Budget	Weekly Budget
\$210,360.09	\$222,309.99	(\$11,949.90)	\$24,680	\$5,696

## Mission Report—Connie Jensen

The outreach achieved through Breckenridge Lutheran Missions was outstanding for the year 2022! Thank you to everyone who participated in one way or another! Clearly, God’s blessings continue to flow through our congregation so that the lives of others are touched by the power of His love. The following is a Mission summary of “God’s Work, Our Hands” for 2022:

January	ELCA World Hunger	\$750	July	Valley Lake Boys Home	\$400
February	Salvation Army	\$193	August	Churches United (Diaper Drive)	Diapers, Wipes & Towels
March	Richland Wilkin Food Pantry	\$677	September	Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch	\$340
April	ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response	\$370	October	Circle of Nations	\$410
May	Feed My Starving Children	\$220	November	Operation Christmas Child	\$541
June	LSS-Teenage Homelessness	\$225	December	Wilkin County Gift Card Blizzard	\$1,180

For the year 2023, we hope to design our yearly calendar a little differently and also bring in more speakers to tell their program’s story.

In January and February, we will focus on Someplace Safe. Someplace Safe is a nonprofit agency offering a myriad of services to victims and survivors of crime, families, and communities in a nine-county region in West Central Minnesota. Nearly 4,000 unduplicated local victims of crime are provided services each year through ten Advocacy Offices, five Parenting Time Centers, and three Thrift Stores located in Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin Counties. There is a Breckenridge office located at 115 5th St North, phone 643-3109.

Someplace Safe works to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and other crimes (including; stalking, elder abuse, identity theft, robbery, theft, etc.), as they navigate the social, emotional and economic impacts they face as victims on the path to becoming survivors. Accessible services are available to all clients. Accessibility includes interpreters (foreign language and DHH), live chat, and text.

Happy New Year and God Bless!



## Memorials and Gifts

In memory of:	Given by:
<b>Elevator</b>	
Grandma Sue Anderson	Pete & Connie Jensen
Jim Bogenreif	Mike & Diane Belseth
Jim Gill	Mike & Diane Belseth
John Rightmire	Pete & Connie Jensen
Richard Ames, Sr.	Pete & Connie Jensen
<b>General</b>	
Diane Cordes	Joel & Melanie Herder
Jim Gill	Gary & Evie Fox
John Rightmire	Gary & Evie Fox
Sue Anderson	Mike & Diane Belseth
<b>New HVAC/Furnace</b>	
Diane Cordes	Jeff & Cathy Affield
Kathy Steiner	Jeff & Cathy Affield
<b>Wednesday School</b>	
Diane Cordes	Mike & Diane Belseth

## Upcoming Events

**BLC**  
Breckenridge  
Lutheran Church

**ALL YOU CAN EAT!**

**Smelt**

**FRY**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023**  
3 PM TO 7 PM

Includes All You Can Eat Smelt,  
Coleslaw, Dinner Roll, Macaroni &  
Cheese and Ice Cream Sundae

**ONLY \$15**

10 & under  
FREE

Wahpeton Community Center  
304 5th Street S | Wahpeton, ND

Questions? Contact:  
Harvey Anel  
218-643-5085

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**BLC**  
Breckenridge  
Lutheran Church

**January 29, 2023**  
10:30 am  
Fellowship Hall

Newsletter articles for the February 2023 Issue of "Good News" are due **JANUARY 23, 2023.**

## Planning Council Minutes—December 2022

**Present:** Pastor Ale Tulu, Jill Blaufuss, Ashley Johnson, Joel Herder, Connie Jensen, Evie Fox, Orrin Ausen, Harvey Andel and Deb Berndt.

**Absent:** None

- A. Welcome and Call to order: Jill opened the meeting about 10:50 am.
- B. Harvey Andel presentation: Harvey attended the meeting to offer a suggestion of having a Smelt fry at the Wahpeton Community center on January 21, 2023. Harvey has already done a lot of the leg work, securing the location, figuring out the menu and prices and talking to the Valley Lake Boy's home to get recipes and ask for help with serving the meal. He is asking for help with advertising, making posters, and helping in the kitchen.
  - a. Motion: Evie mad a motion that we sponsor the Smelt fry with Harvey Andel in charge at the Wahpeton Rec center on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 – 7:00 pm.
  - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Connie.
  - c. Action: It was suggested that Harvey get together a committee to help him with the project, he stated he would talk to people at Coffee with the staff. Following no further discussion, the motion passed.
- C. Devotions: Pastor Ale had Evie read a report about the importance about giving to the Benevolent fund and where the funds go. Pastor then led us in a prayer asking for God's guidance.
- D. Consent Agenda: Minutes from the October Council meeting, November updates, the financial reports for October and November, as well as a year-to-date profit and loss statements were provided for review. We discussed several items on statements and reviewed balances.
  - a. Motion: A motion was made by Connie to approve the minutes and financial reports as presented.
  - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Joel.
  - c. Action: The motion passed with no opposition.
- E. Additions to the agenda: None
- F. Old Business: None
- G. New Business:
  1. Pastor's Report – Pastor Ale suggested moving the meetings to Sundays after church, there was a good response from everyone regarding the idea. Pastor Ale also thanked everyone for helping navigate the challenges that the Congregation has faced following Laurie's stroke last December. We all continue to pray for her health and recovery.
  2. President's Report –
    - a. Determining Active/Inactive Membership – Pastor Ale stated that at Zion Lutheran where he was last at a member was considered active if they had given or communed during the last year. We also have a group which are given the newsletter. We need to look at both lists more closely to make sure that they accurately represent our Congregation.
    - b. Annual reports are due in the Church office no later than January 11, 2023
    - c. Filling Council positions – Jill reported that she had reached out to several people who were not interested in the President position. Orrin agreed to be the Vice President for the next year and Connie agreed to be the Secretary. We discussed getting a nominating committee to ask people to serve on the Council.
    - d. Updated Constitution/Bylaws – Jill and Lois worked on looking through all the past annual meeting minutes to determine what changes had already been voted on in the prior years' annual meetings. They determined that we need to add C10.08, C10.09 & C12.13 (remote communication) to the agenda to vote on at the annual meeting. They also felt that we should consider forming a subcommittee to update the current Constitution and /or use the NWMN synod Constitution. The Synod has a group that will go over our Constitution and offer suggestions.
    - e. Approval of new members or transfer of members out of our congregation per the Constitution. A list was passed around listing all the members that had not been formally approved at a Council meeting. Motion: Connie made a motion to approve the addition and transfer of members as listed that had occurred during the last year.  
Second: Joel seconded the motion.  
Action: the motion passed with no opposition.

## Planning Council Minutes—continued

3. Property update – Evie reported that the elevator is still waiting for parts to complete the process of installing the new jack and getting the elevator running. They determined that the leaking of oil was quite minimal, but the insurance company felt the leak spot was caused by wear and tear and they would not cover any of the costs of replacing it. She reported that there has still been water coming into the Rap room along the outside wall. They are still not sure what is causing this and have reached out to Krump construction about possible trenching to help drain the water from the kitchen. The automated door stays open too long and lets too much cold air into the building and messes with the heating system. They will have the automatic door shut off for the winter months.
4. Mission Update – Connie reported that there were 50 boxes sent from our Congregation for Operation Christmas Child during November. The Confirmation kids were a lot of help assembling the boxes. In December they asked for people to donate money or \$25.00 gift cards for the needy people in Wilkin County. She is going to organize a calendar for the whole year and maybe concentrate on a different mission for 2 months at a time.
5. Youth Education update – Ashley reported that the Wednesday night programming has been going well again this year. She reported that we had almost 100% attendance of the kids that have attended this year who were in the program. Two were home sick. We love the new curriculum that we have gone with this year. Joel reported that the LYO had a Christmas party with 14 Confirmation age students in attendance. Four kids along with Lexi Hought attended the retreat at Luther Crest.
6. Finance Update – Orrin reported that over \$500.00 was raised on the Thanksgiving tree for the elevator. He suggested a dinner again for the Council Members to get together.
7. Worship Update – None

### H. Church Pulse:

1. Benevolence / Stewardship – Pastor Ale stressed the importance of giving to the synod. Of the amount a Church gives part of it stays with the programs in our Synod and part of it goes out to global missions. During this last year we have gotten behind with our Benevolence giving because we have been operating in the red much of the time. We discussed trying to get caught up with our pledge of \$550.00 per month. We have sent off \$1,650.00 so far this year. We discussed using some of the funds in the Undesignated gift fund and Pastor's Discretionary fund to help cover the expense.
  - a. Motion: A motion was made by Orrin to use \$1000.00 from the Pastor's discretionary fund and \$2000.00 from the undesignated gift fund to help cover the remaining pledge for the Benevolence fund.
  - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Ashley.
  - c. Action: The motion passed with no opposition.

### G. Closing Prayer –

### I. Adjournment –

- a. Motion: A motion was made by Orrin to adjourn the meeting
- b. Second: The motion was seconded by Joel
- c. Action: The motion passed with no opposition.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Berndt, Secretary



## Youth Ministry



We had 4 middle schoolers attend the Northwest Synod Middle School Youth Gathering in November. We spent a fun night at Luther Crest playing games and hanging out. The newly winterized cabins were great. The theme was Love your Neighbor and explored who is your neighbor and how can we serve our neighbors. Although, we all liked it we agreed the skits with Mr. Rogers were a little creepy. Ha ha. The worship band was definitely a highlight. After seeing the camp covered in snow, looking forward to exploring summer camp options.

Mark your calendar for Feed My Starving Children on February 4th from noon to 2 pm. More information to follow.



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BRECKENRIDGE MN  
PERMIT NO. 42

## Breckenridge Lutheran Church

Located at 301 6th St N | Breckenridge, MN

### Our Mission

Learning to be disciples and to make disciples,  
Reaching out to witness and support our community,  
Welcoming all to worship and serve Jesus Christ!



### Worship Schedule

Worship Service—Sundays at 9:30 am | Fellowship at 10:30 am

Wednesday Meal at 5:30 pm | Worship Service at 6:15 pm | Education at 6:30 pm | Confirmation at 6:45 pm

*Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday*



# January 2023

January 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Jan 1, 23</b> 8:30am Choir Practice 9:30am Worship Service w/ Communion 10:30am Fellowship	2	3 9:30am Coffee with Staff 5:15pm Staff Meeting	4 5:30pm Meal 6:15pm Worship 6:30pm Wed. School 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Handbell Practice	5 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan	6 9:30am Coffee with Staff	7
8 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am 10th Grade Confirmands & Mentor Mtg 10:30am Fellowship	9	10 9:30am Coffee with Staff 12:00pm Ministerial Meeting 1:00pm Prayer Shawl 7:00pm Council Meeting	11 5:30pm Meal 6:15pm Worship 6:30pm Wed. School 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Handbell Practice	12 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan 9:00am Conference Meeting 1:30pm Abigail Circle 7:00pm Rebekah Circle	13 9:30am Coffee with Staff	14
15 8:30am Choir Practice 9:30am Worship Service w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship	16 7:00pm Book Club	17 9:30am Coffee with Staff 6:00pm Evening Quilting	18 9:00am Quilting 5:30pm Meal 6:15pm Worship 6:30pm Wed. School 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Handbell Practice	19 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan 2:00pm Apple Tree Court Service 3:00pm York Manor 6:30pm LYO Meeting	20 9:30am Coffee with Staff	21 3:00pm Smelt Fry (Wahpeton Community Center)
22 8:30am Choir Practice 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	23 Newsletter Articles Due	24 9:30am Coffee with Staff	25 5:30pm Meal 6:15pm Worship 6:30pm Wed. School 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Handbell Practice	26 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan	27 9:30am Coffee with Staff	28
29 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Annual Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	30	31 9:30am Coffee with Staff 10:30am Leach Home	Feb 1	2	3	4