



# *The Fisherman*

## *The Newsletter of the Florence Parish*

December/January  
2023/2024

Volume 19 Issue 6

Season of Advent



*The Florence Parish is a partnership in Christian Ministry of:  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA & First Presbyterian Church, PC(USA)  
P.O. Box 47 \* Florence, WI 54121 \* [florpar@borderlandnet.net](mailto:florpar@borderlandnet.net) \* (715) 528-4851  
First Website: [www.firstpresbyterianflorencewi.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianflorencewi.org)  
Bethlehem Website: [www.bethlehmlutheranflorence.org](http://www.bethlehmlutheranflorence.org)  
The Rev. Cathleen A. Morris, Pastor*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the busyness of the Advent Season, it is easy to get caught up in shopping, meal planning, cookie baking, and other holiday activities. Yet, as your pastor, I would like to encourage you to focus your minds and hearts on the coming of Christ! One way you can do this, is to join in person with other parish families, or via online options, at our upcoming Advent, Christmas and Epiphany worship services. This letter includes information about the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and our plans for celebrating each one!

### ADVENT

**"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness. 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" (Mark 1:2 NRSV)**

Advent is a time of awaiting the coming of Christ. During the four Sundays of the Advent Season, candles are lit on the Advent wreath. The candles traditionally represent "Hope," "Peace," "Joy" and "Love."

As of the writing of this letter, there are two Sundays remaining in the Advent Season. This Sunday (December 17th), we will worship at our morning in-person services at First at 8:00 a.m. and at Bethlehem at 9:15 a.m.. Next Sunday, Christmas Eve morning (December 24th, the final Sunday of Advent), we will not have in-person worship services. Instead, we will provide you with some YouTube and website links from other churches, so that you can watch their services.

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**PASTOR'S LETTER** (continued from page 2)

I would like to invite our snowbirds, seasonal attendees, and others with two homes, to contact the Parish Office about possible Christmas Eve morning services that we can watch. Please send us service information from the ELCA or PC(USA) church that you attend when you are not in Florence. We will share the church's name, and the time of their service, in our upcoming bulletins, so that anyone who would like to watch a service(s) online can do so. In this way, we will be virtually linked with you! Please contact the Parish Office at [florpar@borderlandnet.net](mailto:florpar@borderlandnet.net) with the information for us to share. One service suggested by Bill and Deb Fleming, is Prince of Peace Lutheran in Appleton. Go to the church's website by 10:30 a.m. and click on "watch worship live," or view it later.

**CHRISTMAS**

(To the shepherds:)

**"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11, NRSV)**

On Christmas Eve, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus, lying in the manger, surrounded by Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. We will have two services, one at First at 4:00 p.m., and one at Bethlehem at 6:00 p.m.. If you will not be in the Florence area, you are invited to watch the services via our Zoom link. If you need to add your information to the Parish's Zoom email list, please contact the Parish Office and provide your email address.

**Season of Advent**

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

(From the Gospel Coalition)

(Continued on page 4)

## **PASTOR'S LETTER** (continued from page 3)

On Christmas morning, we will not have services at First or Bethlehem. However, you are encouraged to tune in to the ELCA Northern Great Lakes Synod's (NGLS) Christmas Service that will be broadcast on WLUC TV6. At present, we do not have the time(s) for the TV broadcast, but you will be able to watch on Channel 6 (Marquette), the NGLS website, or the WLUC TV6 website. Once we have more details, we will provide them in the church bulletins.

The Christmas season continues the following Sunday on New Year's Eve morning (December 31st). We will have a joint service of "Lessons and Carols" at 9:15 a.m. at First Presbyterian on that day. There will be scripture readings from the Bible and special music provided by Jan Roberts. You will be able to sing several beautiful Christmas hymns too!

If you are not in the Florence area on New Year's Eve morning, you are invited to watch the "Lessons and Carols" service via our Zoom link, or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Synod of the Covenant's worship service. The Synod's service will be available on their website ([synodofthecovenant.org](http://synodofthecovenant.org)) beginning New Year's Eve morning.

## **EPIPHANY**

(Regarding the Magi after their meeting with King Herod:)

**"When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." (Matthew 2:9-12, NRSV)**

Epiphany is about the manifestation of Christ to the world! On the "Epiphany of Our Lord," Saturday, January 6th, the Magi, who are gentiles, pay homage to Jesus. On Sunday, January 7th, we will join together in worship at 8:00 a.m. at First, and 9:15 a.m. at Bethlehem. The Epiphany Season continues until Ash Wednesday, which is, the beginning of the Lenten Season.

We have many opportunities to celebrate the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Seasons! Please join us in person or via online technology at these upcoming services.

Peace,

*Pastor Cathy*



## PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office is in the new wing of the First Presbyterian Church at 409 Lake Avenue. The office phone number is (715) 528-4851 and our email address is [florpar@borderlandnet.net](mailto:florpar@borderlandnet.net). The office will be open the following hours:

**Monday 8-12pm (closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day)**

**Tuesday 8-12pm**

**Wednesday 8-12pm, 1-3pm**

**Thursday 8-12pm, 1-3pm**

**Friday-Closed**

## CONTACTING PASTOR CATHY

Pastor Cathy is normally in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. If you need her at other times, please text her or knock on the door at the pastor's residence.

The best way to contact her is by texting her cell phone at 608-865-1074 or emailing her at [cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu](mailto:cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu).



**December 15, 10:00 am**  
**Pastor Cathy Leads Worship**  
 Florence Health Services

**December 24**  
**Christmas Eve Services**  
 4:00 pm - First  
 6:00 pm - Bethlehem

**December 25**  
**Merry Christmas!**

**December 25 through January 2**  
**Pastor Cathy on Vacation**

**December 31**  
**Lessons & Carols Service**  
 9:15am-First

Called to *Serve*

Thank you to those who have responded to our request for volunteers! Please let the office know if you have interest in helping in any area. Feel free to call 715-528-4851 or email us at [florpar@borderlandnet.net](mailto:florpar@borderlandnet.net).

- Being a reader (can do seated if needed)
- Making sure readers are scheduled for Sunday and have the scripture passages.
- Being a greeter
- Fold and assemble bulletins for First
- Mail bulletins to a few shut-ins (weekly)
- Fold and assemble bulletins for Bethlehem
- Copy large-print bulletins
- Enlarging intercessory prayers from "Sundays and Seasons" (could be done for the entire year, once we have the "Sundays and Seasons" book).
- Folding, sealing and mailing newsletter
- Serving as "on call" assistant for various tasks
- Copying, assembling and stapling First's annual report (once per year)
- Copying, assembling and stapling Bethlehem's annual report (once per year)
- Update and maintain websites (ongoing)
- Lawn mowing and snow shoveling
- Other ideas we haven't thought of

# PRESBYTERY POINT CAMP

2024

DONATIONS  
NEEDED

- ★ Food storage containers for leftovers
- ★ White laundry baskets (=2 bushels) for the walk-in fridge (Need 8)
- ★ Box of SOS pads
- ★ 2 level packaging center shelf
- ★ 12 napkin dispensers
- ★ 8 Plastic (stackable) Adirondack Chairs for the Beach
- ★ Bullhorn with batteries (Need 2)
- ★ 12 Gently Used Sleeping Bags
- ★ 4 Storage Bins for Sleeping Bags
- ★ 12 New Pillows with Pillow Cases
- ★ 3 Storage Bins for Pillows
- ★ 12 Children Sized PFD's
- ★ New Vacuum for the Mac Lodge
- ★ 1 Metal Garage Storage Cabinet with Wheels for Knox Hall
- ★ Sandbox Toys
- ★ Car Battery Charger for Golf Cart
- ★ New Toilet for Manager's Cabin
- ★ Cereal Dispensers (5L or more)
- ★ OVE Gloves (2 pair)
- ★ Laundry Detergent
- ★ Dryer Sheets
- ★ Tree Cookies (for name tags)
- ★ 3 Picnic Benches
- ★ Clear Contact Paper (4 rolls)
- ★ Printed Contact Paper (4 rolls)
- ★ 4 End Table Lamps with Shades
- ★ Full Size Bed and Mattress for Manager's Cabin
- ★ Bleach Wipes

More items can be found on our ...

[amazon](#)  wishlist

Thank You for your consideration!!

PRESBYTERY POINT CAMP BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER TO LEARN AND GROW IN THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION BY REACHING OUT AND WELCOMING ALL TO JOIN TOGETHER IN FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND RECREATION!



## BETHLEHEM COUNCIL NOTES

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President, Bob Friberg at 6:12pm.  
Present: Bob Friberg, Bill Fleming, Deb Fleming, Diane Theis and Pastor Cathy Morris. Absent: Mary Voelker & Connie Walther.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Cathy offered the opening prayer.

Secretary's report: Minutes from October 17th meeting were reviewed. Diane made a motion to accept the minutes as written and Bill seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Deferred until December meeting

Pastor's Update:

- Final meeting of GriefShare Monday, Nov. 13th
  - Meeting with Stacey from "Crafters on Central": use of church kitchens and possibility of "Make and Take" activity.
  - "Trunk or Treat" – left over candy will be used at Come to Supper – will save other items in bags for use next year
  - Harvest Dinner – successful for first year back after not being held since Covid.
  - "Home Start" – no update
  - Volunteer duties - discussed possible ways to encourage congregation to assist with various duties throughout the year
- Synod and ELCA news:
- "Faithful Innovations" – Bill gave a summary, pointing out highlights – focus on God, not the church, evangelize, & listen
  - "Dwelling in the Word" – Sunday, November 12th – John Willard to lead
  - "Senior Day" at FLLC – November 13th – Thanksgiving meal
  - Retreat for Clergy Women at FLLC – Sun. evening Jan. 7th 2024 to Tues. afternoon Jan. 9th, 2024
  - Synod Assembly – May 18th 2024 – possibly another hybrid (Continued on page 11)

## FIRST'S SESSION NOTES

The November 15, 2023, meeting of the Session was called to order in Fellowship Hall by the Rev. Cathleen Morris, Moderator, at 3:00 p.m. and she opened with prayer. A quorum was declared with all Session members present.

A motion to approve the agenda was duly made, seconded and carried.

Steve Farone, our investment advisor from Nicolet Wealth Management, then joined us virtually via Zoom and utilizing his prepared document provided a general update on our account, noting the transfer to Charles Schwab and Co. Inc. went well. He briefly reviewed our funds and answered questions of the Session. We thanked Steve for meeting with us and plan to meet with him annually with the next meeting to be during the November 2024 meeting of the Session.

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**SESSION MEETING NOTES** (continued from page 7)

At 3:30 p.m., we returned to our meeting agenda.

Janice Roberts is our Ministry of Service person for November; Jim Gehlhoff for December.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting and the special meeting of October 25<sup>th</sup> was duly made, seconded and carried.

In her Minister's Report, Pastor Cathy shared:

- We celebrated our Lord's Supper during worship on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- She led worship at Florence Heath Services on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The Presbytery North Westerly Regional Meeting group has not yet reconvened this fall.
- November 13<sup>th</sup> was the last meeting of the GriefShare program. Our thanks to Kim Richmond for once again being the facilitator.
- The October 29<sup>th</sup>, PTO "Trunk or Treat" activity was well attended.
- A delicious Harvest Dinner was enjoyed at St. Mary's Catholic Church on October 29th.
- Annette Seibold, Director of the Florence County Health Department, has shared that they are assisting the Head Start agency locally with advertising, seeking a location, and staff. A classroom may be available at the Elementary School in the fall.
- A few people have volunteered as a result of sharing our "volunteer duties" list.
- The St. Vincent de Paul "Giving Tree" items are to be returned to the church by Dec. 3rd.
- A "Dwelling in the Word" Bible Study is being held once a month at Bethlehem at about 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Pastor Cathy and Joan Churchill have met with Stacey from "Crafters on Central" regarding the use of our kitchen and Fellowship Hall. Tentative plans are to use the facilities twice a month. In order for her to offer a children's program, volunteer help would be needed. High School students were suggested. More details are still to be discussed. Pastor Cathy asks that a committee meet with Stacey. Our fee for janitor services after use should be assessed.
- Christmas Eve services are set for 4:00 p.m. at First and 6:00 p.m. at Bethlehem. No worship services are scheduled for the morning of December 24th or Christmas Day.
- The Synod of the Covenant has decided to provide a virtual worship service for Sunday, December 31st, rather than on the 24th. Session prefers that we have a combined worship of scripture and carols, as we have done in the past, on the Sunday after Christmas. This year it would be at Bethlehem Lutheran. Time to be determined.
- Pastor Cathy will be leaving for vacation on December 25th and returning on January 2nd.
- We agreed to have our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at noon. Refreshments to be served.
- Pastor Cathy will check with Barb Marden regarding our website.
- Consensus was that our Parish Directory be updated by mid-year.

Session then reviewed the reports submitted by our treasurer as of October 31, 2023, which included the End of the Month Account Balances, General Checking, Building Checking, and the Monthly Transaction Report.

Karen had prepared updates on our budget as of 10/31/2023 for Session's information.

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**SESSION MEETING NOTES** (continued from page 8)

Janell reported that our Deacons had met last week and will be decorating the sanctuary and entrance area on Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 3 p.m. All are invited to the decorating time, after which a light meal will be shared. Please see their report in this issue of the newsletter.

The final "Come to Supper" meal for this year is set for November 27<sup>th</sup>. A date to resume in the spring has not been determined.

Our Parish Articles of Agreement need further revision. Pastor Cathy and Karen will work on thoughts mentioned at the recent Parish Board meeting.

Property Committee agenda items discussed:

St. George Glass has scheduled the loft window replacement for November 19<sup>th</sup>.

A recent phone call from our lift resulted in a 911 call to the Sheriff's Department, though no one was in our building. Jim offered to follow-up on the situation so the Sheriff's office has current information about our buildings, whom to contact, etc.

Jim also will reprogram our thermostats as the temperatures are fluctuating in each zone.

The trash collection in the town will be changing in 2024. As a tax-exempt property, we are asked to complete a form for the church and manse. Karen will submit that.

Installation of a mirror in the entrance, which would allow our office staff to see those coming into the building, will be considered.

Jim suggested calling the phone company regarding moving the internet cable which could allow sharing of the internet between the manse and church office.

In Presbytery News, Karen shared that persons interested in applying for the vacated position of Stated Clerk of Presbytery are to submit a letter of interest. Those applicants then will be on a ballot for election at a meeting of the Presbytery.

The next meetings of the Session were set for 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 13th and Wednesday, January 10th.

The Parish Board will meet on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was then adjourned at 4:55 p.m. and we closed with our Lord's Prayer in unison.

Karen Wertanen,  
Clerk of Session

Please note: If you wish to read the complete minutes, please contact me for a copy.



Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp  
138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd.  
Crystal Falls, MI 49920  
Phone: (906) 214-CAMP (2267)



Come to Fortune Lake for a winter getaway! Join us for a weekend filled with good friends, hot saunas, camp games and songs, and time spent outdoors in the snowy northwoods! Recenter your lives in a beautiful season while refilling your cup at camp. In addition to a plethora of activities at Fortune Lake, there will also be an optional trip to Ski Brule or Crystella for snow tubing. This retreat is open to all ages and would make a great Christmas gift for those who are prioritizing experiences over “stuff.” Visit <https://fortunelake.org/event/winter-wonderland-retreat/> or call 906-214-2267 for more information and to register by January 5th, 2024.



We invite you to visit our Amazon.com wish list, a registry of smaller items used for summer and year-round ministry at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp!

When using Amazon Wishlist, please include your name, address and email when checking out so we can send you a thank-you!

For tracking purposes, you are welcome to forward your purchase confirmation to [officemanager@fortunelake.org](mailto:officemanager@fortunelake.org) so that we can update you on its arrival.

## Large Item Needs List

- Used minivan in good condition
- Golf Carts
- Woodchipper
- Hammocks with mosquito nets
- Smart t.v. at least 55”
- Dehumidifiers
- Easel with flipchart
- Heavy duty indoor/outdoor extension cords

**BETHLEHEM COUNCIL NOTES** (continued from page 7)

- Conference 4 event – discussed previous gathering (at Bethlehem) and possibility of a future event for our 4 Rivers Conference.

**Old Business**

Building items – project complete – Deb made a motion to pay Barry Held the remaining balance of \$2,046.20. Diane seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Social Ministry –

Will continue with “Giving Tree” again this year

Request for assistance – single mom needs stove and refrigerator, will put in bulletin

Land sale update: waiting for completion of paper work through title company

Church Decoration: Pastor Cathy expressed concerns about mixing Christmas figures with Epiphany figures at the manger. Bob made a motion to decorate the church as has been done traditionally in the past celebrating the Christmas story. Deb seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Future Maintenance of Manse: Past and anticipated maintenance expenses being reviewed for future budget projections.

Pastor DJ mileage – He doesn’t want reimbursement for mileage for an emergency hospital visit.

**New Business**

Baptism – Brantley, Kathy DeGrave’s great grandson on November 26, 2023, or another upcoming Sunday. Discussion regarding gifts from church as a remembrance of the day took place.

Member Concerns and other Business – Diane updated council on purchase of CD – 6 months @ 5.16% -\$25,000

Date for Next Meetings – Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 and Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 6pm

Next Parish Board Meeting – Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 6pm at Bethlehem

Adjournment and Closing with prayer



## DECEMBER - FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

### AT FIRST

**12/2 - Keith Davis**  
**12/5 - Joan Churchill**  
**12/10 - Peter Wilson**  
**12/12 - Kim Richmond**  
**12/17 - Kameron Johnson**  
**12/25 - We celebrate the birth of Jesus**  
**12/29 - Howard Smith**  
**1/9 - Frank DeCleene**  
**2/1 - Doris Rasmussen**  
**2/8 - Lance Davis**  
**2/20 - Pat Christian**  
**2/22 - Bernard Klescewski**  
**2/25 - Evelyn Anderson**

### Anniversaries

**12/28 - Russell & Barb Soderberg**  
**12/30 - Dennis & Pat Christian**  
**12/31 - Keith & Connie Davis**  
**1/28 - Rich & Ruth Blohm**

### AT BETHLEHEM

**12/3 - Tina Rittenhouse**  
**12/18 - Alex Rittenhouse**  
**12/25 - We celebrate the birth of Jesus**  
**1/13 - Doug Johnson**  
**1/13 - Ralph Valine**  
**1/17 - Allen VanHaute**  
**1/24 - Lori Friberg**  
**1/26 - Eric DeCremer**  
**1/31 - Bill Neuberg**  
**2/2 - Nicholas Friberg**  
**2/28 - JoAnne Friberg**

### Anniversaries

**1/19 - Denise & Randy Foltz**  
**2/14 - Daymond & Carol Saak**  
**2/10 - Jaysen & Connie Walther**

## MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH COUNCIL, SESSION, & DEACONS

### BETHLEHEM COUNCIL

Bill Fleming  
 Deb Fleming  
 Bob Friberg  
 Diane Theis  
 Mary Voelker  
 Connie Walther

### FIRST'S SESSION

Frank DeCleene  
 Debbie DeMuri  
 Jim Gehlhoff  
 Jan Roberts  
 Karen Wertanen  
 Janell White

### FIRST'S DEACONS

Joan Churchill  
 Wendy Gehlhoff  
 Kelly Johnson  
 Lois Ann Johnson  
 Lisa Novak  
 Janell White

## The Florence Parish

PO. Box 47

Florence, WI 54121

*A Partnership in Christian Ministry of:*

*First Presbyterian Church & Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

Rev. Cathleen Morris, Pastor

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### Address Service Requested

#### PECAN MELTAWAYS

##### Ingredients:

1 cup butter, softened  
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2-1/4 cups all purpose flour  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup chopped pecans  
Additional confectioners' sugar

(Recipe from Taste of Home. Picture from [jettskitchen.com](http://jettskitchen.com).)



Directions: In a large bowl, cream butter and confectioners' sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in vanilla. Combine flour and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in pecans. Refrigerate until chilled.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Roll into 1-inch balls and place on ungreased baking sheets. Bake 10-12 minutes or until set. Roll warm cookies in additional confectioners' sugar; cool completely on wire racks. Roll cooled cookies again in confectioners' sugar. Yield: 4 dozen

# 2023