

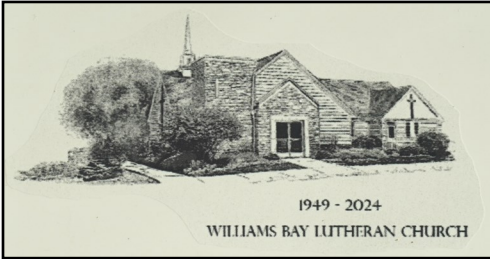
# Life Together

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2024



## A Message From Pastor Tom



*Another very nice letter has been received from Gerry Lee in honor of our 75<sup>th</sup> church anniversary. Gerry Lee was the wife of Rev. Gary Lee who served Williams Bay Lutheran Church from 1966-1973.*

After leaving Williams Bay in 1973 we went to Cresco, Iowa. Gary served First Lutheran Church and I taught elementary school and we raised our family - Kent, Stephen, and Anne. Gary and I moved to Decorah in 2005 when he retired. Gary died in 2020.

I continue to live in our town house and am very active with friends and church. I am blessed with good health and a great family. Kent (Denise) are in Lakeville, Minnesota. Stephen (Ann) are in Lake Mills, Wisconsin, and Anne (Lee) Hagen are in Eagan, Minnesota. Kent is with Hewlett Packard Enterprises. Denise is a retired teacher. Stephen is a facilities manager for Summit Credit Union. Ann is director of Independent Living at St. Camillus in Wauwatosa. Anne teaches English Language Learners at Eagan High School.

I have seven grandchildren and two are still in college – St Olaf and Concordia – Moorhead. My very best to you all – thank you for the invitation.

Blessings to you all. A special hello to all who remember us.

Gerry Lee

**Christmas Tree and Manger**  
Please help us put up the Christmas tree and manger after 9:30 worship on Sunday, December 8th.



**Lutherdale Bible Camp -**  
On Saturday, November 16th the confirmation students went to Lutherdale Bible Camp for a confirmation retreat. The day included Bible study, games, pizza, and a service project of raking leaves at the camp. Everyone had a good time!

# Things to Know



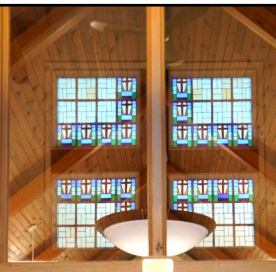
**POINSETTIA ORDERS** - Order your Christmas Poinsettia plant to help decorate the church Christmas Eve, and your home afterwards. We will be ordering the plants from Pesche's Greenhouse again, for \$8.50 each. **Order deadline is Sunday, December 15th.** Order forms are available in church bulletins, and in the narthex.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
*Christmas*  
**PROGRAM**

Sunday, December 15th  
during the 9:30 AM service.

**JOIN US!**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**with Holy Communion**  
**5:00 PM**

*Christmas Eve Worship*





# 75th Anniversary





# In Our Prayers

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*All our military men and women:* Clayton Kelley (Pennsylvania), Collins Nash (Africa)

**New Requests:** Mark Reno, Rev. Mark Danczyk, Jo Ann (friend of Reno's), Brandy, Harold Friestad, Helen Hawkinson (sister-in-law of Barb and Chip Renfro), the family of Jerry Amend (Marianne Peterson's friend), Earl Gunsolus (Marie Stewart's father), Gordon Kohnke (brother of Sharon Yanz), David Mock, Rev. David Groth, the family of Dennis Tanking, Tim Dunn, Rich Weeden, Apple Grove Lutheran Church in Argyle, WI, Susan Johnson, Meta (Fries) Drieser, Craig Davis, Elisa Corcoran's family, the family of Michelle Strom, the family of Rick Fritz, the family of Sarah Greene, the family of Larry H. (father to Tiffany Frey), Muriel Thompson, Mardee Wojcik, Sarah Keith's family, Neill Frame, the family of Minerva Bauer (Marilyn Carlson's mother), Mike Miller (Jack & Paula's neighbor), Debbie Garcia (mother-in-law of Zach Frame), Tina Tanking, Dennis Tanking, Sarah and Thelma (Stu's co-workers), Jerry Amend (Marianne Peterson's friend), Lauren Aramini, Teresa Davis's sister, Marilyn DeMore, Fran Burda, Lynne Swatek, The family of Lena Maude Mueller, Connie Decker, Sharon Yanz, Dean Barney, Randy Hauschildt (Chad Beth's step dad), David Burrough, Fran Flucke, Ron Fry, Jill and Wendy (friends of Biebers), David Reddy and family, Karin Slayton and family, Dave Mock, Mike Reno, Sarah Wollman (friend of the Frame's), Jennifer (friend of Lynn Peterson), Paul Swatek, Larry H. (father to Tiffany Frey), Kathy Tanking, Wayne Anderson, Al Austin, Audrey (friend of the Beth family), Brett (Chad Beth's brother-in-law), Ron Bieber (Stu Bieber's brother), Dorthey Boss, Bud Breen, Donna Ceschi, Shelly Daniels (friend of the Biebers), the parents of Craig Davis, Jim Davis (Craig Davis's father), Terri DeVries (friend of the Biebers), Don Effenheim (Stu Bieber's brother-in-law), Lauren Fontana, Debbie Garcia (Emily Frame's mother), Kira Granberg, Gordie Grender, Timothy Gebauer, Jack Hagele, Randy Hauschildt (Chad Beth's stepfather), Taylor Heinberg (Chad and Bridget's niece), Judy Hirsch, George Holmes (Natalie Reno's father), Eric Johannesson, Lynn Lange, the family of Paul Lopez (grandson of Diane Sherin), Michael Lois, Curtis Lundin, Jerna Madero (friend of Stu Bieber), Renee McAdamis (friend of Deena Putnam), Emily Newell, Shar Newman (family member of Deena Putnam), Marianne Peterson, Roger Peterson (Laura Breen's father), Stephen Porter (Angela Porter's husband), Michael Reno, San Jose congregation in Beloit, Evie Schultz and Janet (Linda's sister), Bruce Sienkowski (friend of the Putnam family), Lynne Swatek, Larry VanHout (Bridget Beth's father), Dale Vavra, Ursula Wellhausen, Scott Wild, and the people of Ukraine, those impacted from the Turkey and Syria earthquake.

**Update The Prayer List** - Please review the church prayer list. If you wish to add a name to the list or remove a name from the list, please let us know ([secretary@wblc.org](mailto:secretary@wblc.org)).



[www.wblc.org](http://www.wblc.org)  
262-245-5995

THE MISSION OF THIS CONGREGATION IS TO:

**PRAISE** God

**PROCLAIM** the message of Jesus Christ

**REACH OUT** with this message to people of  
all backgrounds and cultures

**CREATE A COMMUNITY** of Christian support, love, and forgiveness.

**Williams Bay Lutheran Church**  
**November 21, 2024-Church Council Minutes**

Members Present (please cross out absent members)

Michelle Love      Allen Filloon      Mark Reno      Chip Renfro      Pastor Tom      Wayne Anderson

Call to order: Wayne Anderson

Open with Devotion & Prayer – Allen Filloon

Minutes from October Meeting (emailed)

M Renfro      S Filloon      A X  
(Moved)      (Seconded)      (Check if approved)

Treasurer's Report (emailed)

M Renfro      S Love      A X  
(Moved)      (Seconded)      (Check if approved)

Committee Reports:

**Youth & Education:** The Sunday school children are practicing on Sunday mornings for their Christmas program, *The Manger Tales* on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Nine children are participating in the Christmas program.

**Property and Finance:** The first budget meeting for 2025 will be on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Additional budget items discussed at the meeting – 1) Beloit support increased to \$1000, 2) New road signs for WBLC at entrance to Williams Bay will be purchased next year, proposed budget \$2000. Budget will be delivered to congregation December 11.

**Worship:** The church choir is rehearsing at 11:00 AM on Sunday mornings. The choir will be performing, *Bethlehem Lullaby* at the Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. Marianne Peterson has decided not to play for the 8:00 service but will continue to be a substitute for the 8:00 service. Susan Gali and Chris Groth have offered to help with the 8:00 service. We need one more musician for the 8:00 service.

**Stewardship:** “Celebrate the Past, Envision the Future,” was our stewardship theme this year. Members are invited to fill out a pledge form and a time and talents form for 2025. The last highway pick-up of the year was held on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> with three members participating. New Williams Bay Lutheran Pick-Up County Highway signs replaced the old signs on our portion of the highway on Highway 14 West out of Walworth. Stu is organizing Salvation Army Bell-Ringing for this Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at Daniels in Walworth.

**Outreach/Evangelism:** There was a very large turnout this year for the community CROP Hunger Walk in Williams Bay with 153 walkers and a donation of \$23,625. Sixteen members participated in the walk and our members gave \$2,185 to this hunger ministry. We received a record 800 + pounds of food for Food Pantry Sunday! The food donations were given to the Chapel on the Hill Food Pantry. Mark Reno planned this year’s God’s Work. Our Hands community service work. Members were invited to help with packing food at the Walworth County Food Pantry in Elkhorn on Tuesday, November 19th.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor will email his report to the church council.

Motion to approve all reports above:

M Renfro                      S Love                      A X  
(Moved)                      (Seconded)                      (Check if approved)

**Old Business:**

M \_\_\_\_\_                      S \_\_\_\_\_                      A \_\_\_\_\_  
(Moved)                      (Seconded)                      (Check if approved)

**New Business:**

M Reno                      S Renfro                      A X  
(Moved)                      (Seconded)                      (Check if approved)

Allen Filloon will look into possible Yerkes tour for congregation – details to future council meeting.

Motion to adjourn :

M Anderson                      S Filloon                      A X  
(Moved)                      (Seconded)                      (Check if approved)

Close: The Lord's Prayer

The next council meeting will be on December 19th at 7:00 PM with Wayne Anderson giving the church council devotions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

# **Pastor Tom's Mission and Ministry Report for November 2024**

## Ministry Highlight:

- Everyone enjoyed celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> church anniversary on Reformation Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>! We had a great turnout for the worship service with 95 people in attendance. Many people stayed for the potluck dinner following worship. Our member, Elise Corcoran took pictures and they are displayed in two albums on the narthex table. I feel that her pictures really captured how meaningful and special that day was for our congregation. I am very happy with how it all came together.
- On Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> I took my three confirmation students to Lutherdale Bible Camp for a confirmation retreat. The day included games, Bible study, worship, and a service project of raking leaves at the camp. Around thirty confirmation students attended the event. My three confirmation students shared that they all want to go back next year.

## Forward-Looking:

- Next Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm will be the community Thanksgiving worship service. Four congregations (United Church of Christ Williams Bay, Chapel on the Hill, First Congregational United Church of Christ Lake Geneva, and Williams Bay Lutheran) are participating in the service with UCC Williams Bay hosting the service this year. I will be participating in the service with my ecumenical colleagues. The offering at the service will go to the food pantry and a coffee fellowship hour will follow the service.

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I will be taking vacation time at Thanksgiving from November 28<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rev. Lynn Peterson will be covering for me on Sunday.

# December Sign-Ups

*If you wish to be a worship server, please contact the church office and you will be added to the list or put your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.*

<b>December 1</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
Usher	<i>Not Needed</i>	Chad Beth
Lector	Dori Freundt	Bridget Beth
Cantor	<i>Not Needed</i>	Bridget Beth
Comm. Assist.	<i>Not Needed</i>	Deena Putnam
Altar Guild		
Altar Flowers	Lynne Landgraf	
Refreshments		Bieber Family
Offer. Counters (2 each week)		
SS Teacher	Paula Williams	

<b>December 8</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
Usher	<i>Not Needed</i>	Jim Pfeil
Lector		Jen Galvin
Cantor	<i>Not Needed</i>	Mary Mock
Comm. Assist.	<i>Not Needed</i>	Mary Mock
Altar Guild		
Altar Flowers	Pastor Tom & Evie	
Refreshments	Pastor Tom & Evie	
Offer. Counters (2 each week)	Jack Williams	
	Dinah Harner	
SS Teacher	Jen Galvin	

<b>December 15</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
Usher	<i>Not Needed</i>	Jim Pfeil
Lector	Dori Freundt	Marilyn Carlson
Cantor	<i>Not Needed</i>	Marilyn Carlson
Comm. Assist.	<i>Not Needed</i>	
Altar Guild		
Altar Flowers	Jorine Granberg	
Refreshments		
Offer. Counters (2 each week)		
SS Teacher	Christmas Program	

<b>December 22</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
Usher	<i>Not Needed</i>	Chad Beth
Lector	Lynne Swatek	Mary Mock
Cantor	<i>Not Needed</i>	Mary Mock
Comm. Assist.	<i>Not Needed</i>	Mary Mock
Altar Guild		
Altar Flowers	Putnam Family	
Refreshments	Dinah Harner	
Offer. Counters (2 each week)		
SS Teacher	No Sunday School	

<b>December 29</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
Usher	<i>Not Needed</i>	
Lector		
Cantor	<i>Not Needed</i>	
Comm. Assist.	<i>Not Needed</i>	
Altar Guild		
Altar Flowers		
Refreshments		
Offer. Counters (2 each week)		
SS Teacher	No Sunday School	

<b><u>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</u></b>	
<b>December 24</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>
Usher	Chad Beth
Lector	Bridget Beth
Cantor	Bridget Beth
Comm. Assist.	
Altar Guild	
Offer. Counters (2 each week)	
SS Teacher	No Sunday School



# Williams Bay Lutheran Church

11 Collie St., Williams Bay, WI 53191

Ph: 262-245-5995 E-mail: [secretary@wblc.org](mailto:secretary@wblc.org)

Website: [wblc.org](http://wblc.org)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8 am Simplified Worship 9:30 am Worship Service 10:35 am SS Christm. Pract.	<b>2</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30 am Senior Coffee 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8 am Simplified Worship 9:30 am Worship Service 10:35 am SS Christm. Pract. 11 am Christmas Choir Reh.	<b>9</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30 am Senior Coffee 5 pm Property & Fin. 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8 am Simplified Worship 9:30 am Worship Svc. w/Christmas Program 11 am Christmas Choir Reh.	<b>16</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30 am Senior Coffee 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>19</b> 7 pm Council	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8 am Simplified Worship 9:30 am Worship Service	<b>23</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> Salvation Army Bell-Ringing (All Day)	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 5 pm Candlelight Service at WBLC	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8 am Simplified Worship 9:30 am Worship Service	<b>30</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>				