



2021

# GOOD NEWS



Breckenridge  
Lutheran  
Church

## **Smile, you are on Candid Camera! A time to laugh ... Ecclesiastes 3:4**

Every time Christmas approaches, one of the things my family and I love to do is to drive around the town and look at the Christmas lights and decorations that people put up. It is amazing the time and money some people put into to make their home and community special. I love their spirit.

I remember the first time my wife and I put up Christmas decorations. We wanted to make it look good like our neighbors who always put up a beautiful display. So, we bought three reindeer, Santa and his sleigh, and lights and then we put them in our front yard where everyone could see. Then, we sat down by the window and watched the reaction of those who passed by. We saw some people smile as they drove or walked by. We were very pleased with their reactions. My wife and I congratulated each other for putting up such a good display. We were pleased to join those who welcome the season with beautiful decorations. Then, from a comment made by one of our church members the following Sunday, we were embarrassed when we found out the reason people were smiling as they glanced into our yard. It was not because they were impressed with our decorations but rather it was because we had put the sleigh in front of the reindeers, just as putting the carriage before the horse. For us at that time it didn't make a difference which goes where because we thought it was all part of the decoration. And then when we discovered how it should have been done, we were embarrassed by our lack of common sense. I guess when you grow up in a different culture where you do not have the same traditions, it can be easy to make such a silly mistake and make yourself a laughing-stock.

*Continued on page 4*

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Breckenridge Lutheran Church  
301 6th St N  
Breckenridge MN 56520

**October/November Financial Summary**

General Account Income in October 2021	\$17,203.46
General Account Expenditures in October 2021	\$31,632.13
Cash deficit for the month	-\$14,428.67
General Account Cash Balance October 31, 2021	\$44,967.47
<hr/>	
General Account Income in November 2021	\$19,288.46
General Account Expenditures in November 2021	\$31,657.59
Cash deficit for the month	-\$12,369.13
General Account Cash Balance November 30, 2021	\$32,284.32

Breckenridge Lutheran Church Financials	Total 2021 Budget (adjusted)	Year to Date Income	Year to Date Expenses	Year to date Deficit	Monthly Budget	Weekly Budget
11/30/2021	\$276,544	\$213,201	\$231,421	\$18,220	\$23,045	\$5,318



**Weekly Giving for November**

November 7—\$8,338.00      November 14—\$5,509.00  
 November 21—\$1,801.75      November 28—\$1,615.00  
**Total—\$17,263.75**

**Elevator Update**—We received this update from Schindler:

We have received a few parts in our shop but we are still waiting for major components; motor, door operator, and others. We have reached out to our 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors that are supplying these parts but haven't gotten an estimated delivery date from them. Our industry has seen lead times on products continue to be delayed. We will continue to work on our vendors to get your parts shipped as soon as possible.



A Committee is forming to do some Landscape Designing. Our Church grounds are in need of an update and repairs after the concrete project. The property committee would like to get started with the planning so it can be implemented in the spring. If you would like to help please call the church office or Evie Fox.

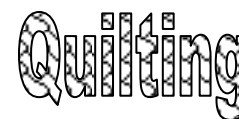
BLW  
 Women's  
 Ministry  
 Connecting for a  
 Christ-like  
 Purpose

**Individual Circles will not meet in December**



The Basket Raffle is still ongoing! Tickets will be sold on Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings or you can stop in the church office.

Tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. The drawing will held December 15th.



Quilting will not meet in December. It will resume again on January 18, 2022



**Book Club will not meet in December.**

**Assorted Christmas Cards are available for purchase. 13 for \$2.00! They are located in the stand in the overflow hallway.**



BLW Christmas Women Appreciation Meal & Program  
 Thursday, December 9, 2021—5:00 pm  
 5:00 pm—5:30 pm Social Gathering—5:30 pm Meal  
 Breckenridge Lutheran Fellowship Hall

**Caramel Popcorn or Popcorn Balls**

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 15oz can sweetened condensed milk
- 10 quarts popped corn



Directions: In saucepan combine butter, sugar, and corn syrup. Stir well and bring to boiling over medium heat. Stir in condensed milk; simmer, stirring constantly, till mixture comes to softball stage (234° to 238°). Stir in vanilla. Pour over popped corn and stir to coat. You can make balls or spread on wax paper, let set up and store in airtight container

Thanks to Mary Ann Birnbaum for this recipe.

YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED.

## President's Message

Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss

Dear BLC family,

Even with Covid-19 still in our midst, it feels good to look back on the last few months that we've been functioning at a close-to-normal capacity. We worship in-person. We have a pastor. Wednesday evening worship and youth programs are a bustle of activity. The choirs, quilters, circles and BLW group are meeting again. (And please know, the council is always open to other programs and activity ideas you have.)

**Installation**—On Sunday, December 12, at the 9:30 a.m. worship, Pastor Ale will be getting officially installed as our pastor. Bishop Bill Tesch will do the honors, and will also provide the sermon. Bishop Tesch has been an advocate for mask-wearing in his newsletters to congregations, as a way for us all to protect each other. Therefore we're hoping that all those who are willing and able will maybe consider masking up for at least this particular service, to honor Bishop Tesch's concerns. We are also going to celebrate the installation with a full brunch afterwards in the Fellowship Hall, served by members of council and others. And yes, I realize the contradiction of masking up upstairs, while eating together unmasked downstairs.

**Ideas Welcome**—In the coming month and a half, in preparation for our Annual Meeting at the end of January, committee budgets will be reevaluated, and new council members will be officially nominated and voted in. This is also the time we can re-evaluate everything, from committee re-organizing, term lengths, by-laws, etc. We have a very open-minded council, I believe. I feel like we really listen to each other, and make group decisions based on what we feel is best for all. While "meetings" in general can sometimes be seen as a drag, I honestly love our council meetings once a month. And if ever there was a time for you to suggest new or different ways of doing things, I think now is it. So please, please, please, don't be shy. Let me or someone else on council know if there is anything you feel doesn't serve our congregation well, or if there are different ways you think things could be done. Any idea will be thoughtfully considered. This once a year "Annual Meeting" is the only time alterations are able to be made in our constitution. So speak up now! You might not be the only person who feels the way you do.

**Reach out if you need anything**—I wish you all a merry Christmas season. And if there is anything you, or someone you know, might be needing, to make this season a little brighter, please let one of us know: me, Laurie, Pastor Ale or someone from the church council.

Merry Christmas,

Jill

218-779-9021 heringji@yahoo.com

**Faith, Care & Share** Our monthly leaders met to update the FCS program. There will now be 12 smaller groups and will rotate 1 month each year. It is the intention that by having one month a year we can get everyone to say "yes" I can help—at least for one thing during your month. This will begin in January.

They would like to know how it is going; so please feel free to share your thoughts.

## Church Council Meeting—November 8, 2021—7:00 pm @ the Church Fellowship Hall

Present: Pastor Ale Tulu, Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss, Connie Jensen, Teresa Pearson, Bri Allison, Jo Bolte, Orrin Ausen, Heidi Genereux, Deb Berndt, Laurie Allen

Absent: Raychel Bertelson

A. The meeting was called to order by President Jill

B. Pastor Ale opened the meeting with a prayer.

C. Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes:

a. October Council Meeting (Sent in an email prior to meeting)

2. Financial Reports: (Sent in an email prior to meeting)

a. Motion: A motion was made by Bri to approve the minutes and reports as presented.

b. Second: The motion was seconded by Teresa.

c. Action: Calling for discussion: Laurie reminded us that there are envelopes to be used by the kids for a Wednesday school offering if we wish. Jo suggested that we pass around the offering plate at the Wednesday night services. Pastor Ale suggested that maybe we need to have a short Temple talk at one of the Wednesday night Services to remind the people that are there of the financial short comings the Congregation is facing presently. Laurie stated that the loan to help pay for the elevator had not gone through and wondered if Jill could contact Shindler about any temporary financing that they might have available. Seeing no further discussion, the motion was passed with no opposition.

D. Additions to the agenda – Having communion at the Wednesday night services.

E. Old Business: None

F. New Business:

1. Pastor Update – Pastor Ale reported that 18 Kids went through the Confirmation Service. The families all enjoyed the personalized stoles that the students each wore with their gowns. There were 8 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students who received Bible. 4 attended the class and 5 took part in the church service. Pastor decided next year that he wants to meet with the kids twice. On All Saints Day there were 11 members who had died during 2021 who were remembered, and a candle was lit. Letters were sent to the family members ahead of time.

2. KBMW - Currently it costs \$80.00 per week to pay for the delayed broadcast on the radio. We discussed the fact that this is a lot of money to pay when only 3 people contacted the church office stating that they listened to the service on the radio regularly. Some weeks are sponsored but there are always some that are not covered by donations. Someone stated is this a service that we provide to the community you can put a price on. Laurie will ask again in the newsletter for people to reply who will be greatly affected by ending the radio coverage. We will make a decision in the new year.

3. Installation of the Pastor – Jill will contact the Bishop's office to find out some options of when this event should take place. We talked about having a potluck following the service or having a brunch catered with the Council to serve. Pastor Ale will contact the specific people that he will want to have present.

4. Grace Anidel Gift – Grace's family left \$500.00 to the church to be used as the council sees

fit. Some suggestions included updating the sound system, lighting, or purchasing a new air conditioner for the Luther Room. We would make sure that a plaque is purchased in Grace's memory.

5. Budget – Laurie will contact all the committees asking them to figure out what they will need their budgets to be for 2022 and reply by December 15, 2022. Jill will also ask each committee if they need more or less members on their committees. The Council should also send out a letter to all members thanking them for their contributions but showing them how much short we are.

6. Nominations – We discussed the need for a nominating committee Jill has a list of potential names to contact. The offices that will be open for sure are - Vice President, Treasurer, LYO representative to the council. We discussed the possibility of combining evangelism with mission. This will have to be voted on at the annual meeting. Once again, we discussed the need for determining the duties and responsibilities of each of the committees.

7. Updates from Committees –

Property – Teresa reported we are still waiting on the gutters to be installed and we will also have to look at some new landscaping around the church.

Education – Christmas program will be December 19<sup>th</sup> during the Church service at 9:30 am. Lexi Hought is working with the confirmation kids to collect gifts to put in the Christmas Box program.

8. Communion on Wednesday nights - Pastor Ale will look at the schedule for the service and figure out how he can fit it in.

G. Church Pulse –

1. The Blood Drive will be held at the church on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

2. Discussed earmarking the surplus offering collected each Wednesday night to be applied to

4 specific projects on a four-week rotation –

1<sup>st</sup> week – Christmas Child project

2<sup>nd</sup> week – National Youth gathering expenses for chaperone

3<sup>rd</sup> week – Elevator costs / Church home expenses

4<sup>th</sup> week – General Fund

a. Motion – Bri made a motion that we use the offering received on Wednesday night that is over and above the expenses to support the programs listed above through the end of the year

b. Second – Connie seconded the motion.

C. Action – Following no further discussion the motion passed with no opposition

3. Pastor Ale asked if we could change the meeting day to Tuesday instead of Monday since Monday is his day off. We will try Tuesday night next month.

H. Pastor Ale lead us in the Lord's Prayer to close out the meeting.

I. Adjournment –

Motion – A motion was made by Heidi to adjourn the meeting.

Second – Motion was seconded by Orrin.

Action – Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Debra Berndt



## Prayer Concerns

- Battling Cancer: Lisa Layton, Linda Melkert, Phil Koppelman, Sandy Albertson, Wendy Campbell, Rebekah Amdahl, Mel Klindt, Kenzie Christensen, Clint Conzemius
- Recovering at home: John Turner, Susie Fritsche, Jerry Czichotzki, Janet Czichotzki, Amelia Rossow, Ray Trower, Deb Steffens, Harriet Bakken, Barb Couillard
- For Good Health; Del Fredricks, Haedyn Douglas, Jill Beltz, Royce Cormack, Braedon Guy, Debbie Mark, Austin Erickson, Joan Vertin, Cliff Strege, Anna Hodges
- For those who have had, or are currently struggling with COVID-19
- For Betty LeNoue-St Catherine's
- For Stan Carlsrud—recovering at home
- For Dennis Nordahl-recovering from heart surgery
- For Hubert Lindblad, dad of Connie Jensen—St Francis



**Please Note: Gifts made for the 2021 Tax Year need to be in the Church Office by 9:00 am Wednesday December 29.**



Offering Envelopes

**The new offering envelopes will be available after the basket raffle has ended.**

**The Church Office will be closed December 24, 26, and 31.**



Our Church Council Meetings are being moved from the 2nd Monday of the month to the 2nd **TUESDAY** of the month.



### Poinsettias/Miniature Christmas Tree Fundraiser

The Altar Guild we be having a Poinsettia/Christmas Tree fundraiser. The cost is \$12 for a poinsettia and \$20 for a decorate tree. 10 poinsettias and 10 trees have been ordered . We will not be able to order additional plants. Please place your order by filling out the order form and return it with payment to the church office by December 17th.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia \_\_\_\_\_ Tree

Poinsettias may be given:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Your plant may be picked up the week following Christmas Services.

# MEMORIALS & GIFTS

## ELEVATOR FUND

In memory of Russ Kastelle from Dennis Cobb  
In memory of Corey Brummond from Marilyn Johnson  
In memory of Yeshe Tulu from Jan Michels  
In memory of Gary Youngquist from Pete & Connie Jensen

## QUILTING

In memory of Grace Andel from the family & friends of Grace, Alice Ellsworth, Krystal Schaible, Jan Michels, Ken & Cleo Reitan, Gary & Jane Fick, Harriet Bakken, Ron & Cindy Krier, James & Kathleen Dahle

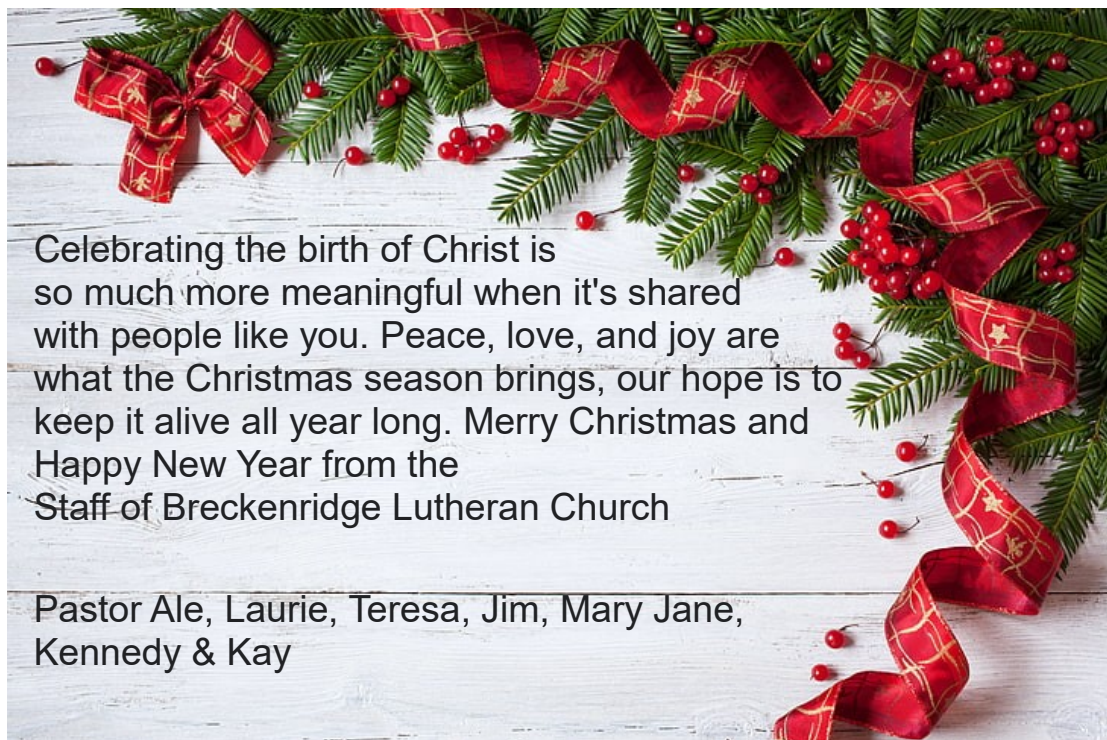
## UNDESIGNATED

In memory of Eunice Shasky from Lavonne Viken



Thank You to the family of Grace Andel for donating two listening devices in Grace's memory.

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Community Choir & Orchestra Christmas Cantata  
*Kent Loken & Jana Berndt, Co-Directors*  
Saturday December 11 | 7 pm Sunday December 12 | 2pm  
NDSCS Cultural Center | Bremer Bank Theatre  
*Free Will Offering*



Celebrating the birth of Christ is so much more meaningful when it's shared with people like you. Peace, love, and joy are what the Christmas season brings, our hope is to keep it alive all year long. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Staff of Breckenridge Lutheran Church

Pastor Ale, Laurie, Teresa, Jim, Mary Jane, Kennedy & Kay

Continued from front page...

I still laugh at my foolishness when Christmas comes, and I go out to put those reindeer, sleigh and Santa up; but I no longer put the sleigh in front of the reindeer. Yet that incident has created a lasting memory for us to laugh at ourselves for years to come.

It is always fun to make people laugh in one way or another. We can all use a good laugh. There is a saying that goes like this, "The most utterly lost of all days is that one on which you have not laughed." Are you too uptight? Don't always be so serious. You will lose your charm. Smile and put others and yourself at ease. Such experience will change your life for good. Proverbs 17:22 says, "A merry heart does good like a medicine." So get this medication and fill your life with smile and laughter. It will lead you to a happy life.

This holiday season, may the Lord fill your heart with joy and your mouth with laughter. Have a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Pastor Ale

*Greetings In the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!*



*The Members of Breckenridge Lutheran Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*Cordially invite you to the*

*Service of Installation*

*for*

*Pastor Alemayehu Tulu*

**Sunday December 12, 2021 at 9:30 am**

**Guest: Bishop Bill Tesch**

Reception immediately following  
in the Fellowship Hall

*Your presence and participation are appreciated as we  
celebrate the future ministry of our church under the  
leadership of our new Pastor.*

## SUSTAINING RURAL MINISTRY FUND

Q. What is this fund?

A. It is a fund established in 1989 by our Synod Assembly in response to the large debt that many seminarians incur while attending seminary, a debt that new pastors must begin repaying during their first call.

Q. Why take this offering at an ordination or installation?

A. These are occasions when a congregation can be made aware of the treasure that we have in the seminaries of our ELCA as well as the need for some assistance to new pastors of our synod.

Q. What is the need?

A. Seminarians have on average \$70,000 in educational debt at graduation.

Q. Why a Sustaining Rural Ministry grant? A. The average annual tuition fee at a seminary is \$30,000-\$40,000. Add to this the cost of other seminary fees, housing, food, books, health insurance, transportation, and personal expenses and the cost increases accordingly. Synods and seminaries are continually looking for ways to decrease the educational debt load of our recent graduates.

Q. Has the fund grown?

A. Since 1990 contributions from congregations have allowed our synod to give 369 grants totaling over \$395,675.

Q. How does the fund work?

Pastors with significant educational debt can apply annually for debt reduction grants during the first five years of ministry.

**A Second Collection will be held on  
Sunday, December 12  
at the Installation Worship Service**

## The Season of Giving



### Operation Christmas Child

8 seventh graders along with their small group leader, Lexi Hought took on this meaningful project. The students brought donations in for the boxes and then went out and bought items with the money donated at the Wednesday night

supper. They came back and enthusiastically packed up the boxes. Along with their boxes and additional boxes brought in by our congregation 36 boxes will be shared with children around the world. Since 1993, more than **188 million children** in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox.



BLW had 2 Christmas projects this year. Wilkin County Family Service Christmas Project where they "adopted" 4 children and bought needed gifts of clothes, boots and fun items too.

They also decorated a tree for the Kinship Festival of Trees where the tree will go to a family who might otherwise not have one.



## Wednesday School

5:45-6:15 Meal

6:15-6:45 Worship in the fellowship hall Pastor's message will lead into small group time.

6:45-7:15 Pre-6 Class

Class groups will be divided by grade Pre-1, 2-5 & 6

6:45-7:15 pm Confirmation Small groups for grades 7-10

# Growing In Faith

## Wednesday School

There has been an awesome turnout for the Wednesday Night Growing in Faith Program. We thank everyone for bringing your students, being group leaders, teachers, helpers and serving the meals.



### A SUPER CHRISTMAS

This vibrant and funny play consists of a cast of classic Super Heroes, fighting to maintain their jobs as "those who save the day", when they find out that a "Savior" has come to save the world!



**Sunday, December 19 at 9:30 am.**

*There will be a short communion service following the play.*

## Wednesday School

### NOTICE TO PARENTS

No Wednesday Supper, Worship Service or Youth Education December 22 & 29. Wednesday Class will resume January 5



Wednesday Night Suppers have been awesome! Great food and a time to share a meal with others. Pictured is the Kent family, one of many families who have take a turn to serve the supper. We are always looking for more people to help out. Contact Jill if you would like to volunteer.