



# *The Fisherman*

**February/March 2025**

**Volume 26 Issue 13**

March 2nd, 2025

The Transfiguration of Our  
Lord

Then from the cloud came a  
voice that said, "This is my Son,  
my Chosen, listen to him!"  
(Luke 9:35 NRSV)



Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

Ash Wednesday

Return to the Lord, your God, who is gra-  
cious and merciful, slow to anger, and  
abounding in love. (Joel 2:13 NRSV)

*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)*



**Luke 4:16-19** – <sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: <sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

It is cold! As I am writing this, the temperature is not even above 0. Normally there are plenty of winter activities to do, but when it’s this cold, those activities are simply not that appealing. It’s been two days of this cold, and at least it’s expected to be warmer than zero tomorrow, but in the meantime the kids have been cooped up inside the house. Even though it’s a snow day because of the cold, the kids are trapped. It’s too cold to do anything outside, and venturing out in a cold car does not sound like that much fun. So even though they have the day off of school, they are stuck inside the house longing to be free.

I would make the argument that winter does trap us in its cold grasp until the spring thaws us out and the summer gets us out. The nights are long and the wind is cold. More often than not, it is tempting to stay where it’s nice and warm than to brave the cold. Yes, there are things that we can do during the winter to keep us moving; skiing/snowboarding, sledding, ice skating, ice fishing, etc. There is a lot that can be done, yet people still feel trapped by the cold of winter.

In Luke Jesus reads from Isaiah where it says that He was sent to proclaim Good News to the poor...to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free...” Basically to take those people who feel trapped in this life and set them free. Jesus sets those of us who are trapped free. Free from the weight of our sin and all the things in this life that separate us from God.

We are all born in a broken world. We live in a world where the cold wind of sin and selfishness has broken in and trapped us in its icy grasp. Sin breaks us and our world, and Jesus wants to set you free from sin’s icy grasp into the warmth of His Light. We live in a

Continued on page 3

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor’s Letter’s .....	2-3
Announcements .....	4
Come to Supper.....	5
Presbytery Point.....	7

Fortune Lake and VBS.....	8
Parish Board Notes.....	9
Bethlehem Council .....	10
Session Meeting Notes.....	12
Birthdays & Anniversaries .....	14

**From the Pastor** *(Continued from page 2)*

world where we are often weighed down by the weight of our sin and the baggage that we carry. There are many people who feel trapped; like the winter will never end. But Jesus came to set those of us who are oppressed in any way free.

If you feel trapped; if you feel like the winter in your life is never-ending; if you carry any sort of burden, you have a God who enters into your life and carries those things for you. That's what the cross is all about; Jesus bearing the weight of your sin and your baggage so you can be free from it. If you're carrying around baggage and feel trapped in the icy grasp of winter, you have a God who fights for you; who can set you free from the winters of life.

In God's Peace,  
Pastor Dave

Dear Congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Florence,



I'm so grateful for the opportunity to journey together with you through the start of this year and into the process of looking for the next pastor that God is preparing for you. I will keep praying for you all between my times visiting with the Session for their meetings and in the future meetings of the Pastor Nominating Committee as well.

I am joyful and hopeful that our shared love of Jesus will provide times in which we can share with one another and listen to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. One of the things I love most about the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is our connectionalism. In my brief time in our presbytery, I see an intent to be more connected with all of our churches. I pledge that to you all, that I will do my best to serve Christ through my support and assistance.

Grace and Peace,  
Daniel

Rev. Daniel A. Van Beek, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Escanaba



The Florence Parish Office is located in the First Presbyterian Church on 409 Lake Avenue. Our Email is [florpar@borderlandnet.net](mailto:florpar@borderlandnet.net).  
Office Phone: 715-528-4851  
Office Hours:  
Monday-8:00am-12:00pm  
Tuesday-8:00am-12:00pm  
Wednesday-8:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-3:00pm  
Thursday-8:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-3:00pm  
Friday-Closed

Please join us for Worship on Sunday mornings. All are welcome!

First Presbyterian-8:00am  
409 Lake Ave., Florence

Bethlehem Lutheran-9:15am  
900 Central Av., Florence

Zoom Services are available. If you would like to be added to our Zoom list, please contact the Parish Office.



We are updating our church directory for 2025. The directory contains names, addresses and phone numbers of our church family and

friends. If your information has changed since 2023 or you would like your information included, please contact the Parish office.

### **First Presbyterian**

**Offering Envelopes**- In a cost saving measure, the Session decided in 2024 to order undated envelopes. We had observed that many of our members were contributing monthly or biweekly, which then left many unused envelopes in each box to be tossed in the trash. So, please, as we save our natural resources and cost, continue to use your current box of envelopes until empty. We have a new supply in the church office, which Leanne will issue when needed. Your envelope number will stay the same. At that time, if you wish, you may contribute using the supplied initial offering envelope which helps to defray the cost of the envelopes.

### **Important Dates**

First's Session-February 16th, 2:00pm and March 16th, 2:00pm

Bethlehem Council-February 11th, 6:00pm and March 11th, 6:00pm

Parish Board Meeting-Wednesday, April 9th, 6:00pm

Lenten Services-will be announced soon.





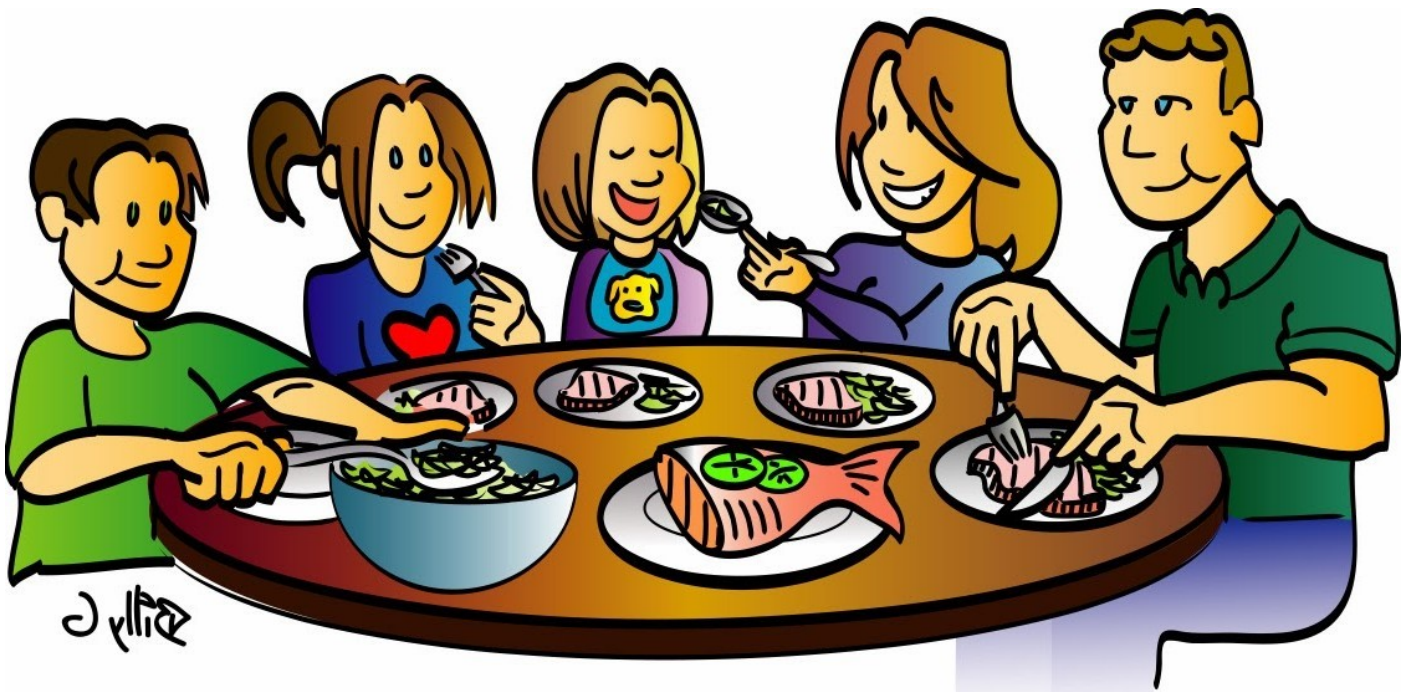
## Come To Supper

Would you believe our “Come To Supper” program began in 2011? This free meal has been served each month since then with the exception of COVID time and our construction project.

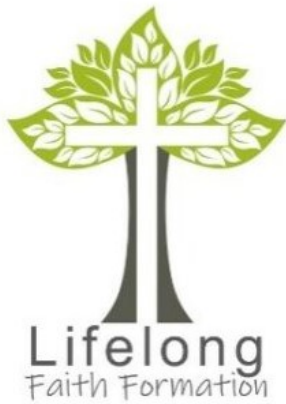
In 2024 “Come To Supper” was served from April through November. The dinner is held on the fourth Monday of each month (5-5:30 PM), providing a well-rounded, nutritious meal to our church, Parish and community families. During this time, the workers served 352 meals.

We are grateful to have the committee for planning, donations of food and serving these meals. These donations of food and financial support from others besides the Deacons have kept the program continuing this past year.

We do look to beginning the program on February 24<sup>th</sup> and invite members, friends and community to attend. We welcome anyone that would like to help with “Come To Supper” to see a deacon for further information.



1 Corinthians 10:31: So, whether you eat or drink;  
or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of  
God.



Winter Classes Begin in January and February.

For more information and to register, visit the Northern Great Lakes Synod website:

[nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation](https://nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation)

Youth ministry, the Bible, church traditions, and “Walking With Our Indigenous Neighbors” are included in the focus of Lifelong Faith Formation this winter.

In its fifth year, the program is one way for the people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, and beyond, to take part in conversations that nurture spiritual growth and Christian community. Four courses will meet online via Zoom. One, “Take and Eat,” will be meet in person at Immanuel Lutheran in Escanaba.

### **Winter 2025 Lifelong Faith Formation Class Schedule**

**Introduction to Biblical Greek II with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn, Salem & Zion, Ironwood**

Sunday evenings, beginning January 19 (end date to be determined)

7–8 p.m. Eastern Time, 6–7 p.m. Central Time

**Walking With Our Indigenous Neighbors with members of the Walking With Our Indigenous Neighbors Synod Task Force**

Tuesday evenings for 4 weeks, February 4 – 25

7–8 p.m. Eastern Time, 6–7 p.m. Central Time

**Take and Eat: A Study of Food and Spirituality, from Holy Communion to Potlucks with Pastor Mike Markwell, meeting at Immanuel, Escanaba**

Every other Wednesday evening, January 22 – March 5

6–7 p.m. Eastern Time, 5–6 p.m. Central Time

**Revelation – Revealing a Book of Hope & Comfort with Pastor Tommy Richter, Zion, Manistique**

Thursday evenings for 10 weeks, January 16 – March 20

7–8 p.m. Eastern Time, 6–7 p.m. Central Time

**Growing Younger: Sharing Ideas and Strategies to Engage Young People with Stefanie Ehle, Youth Coordinator, Northern Great Lakes Synod and members of the Youth Ministry Team**

Third Thursday of each month, January 16 – May 15

6–7 p.m. Eastern Time, 5–6 p.m. Central Time

**\*Courses are free but may require the purchase of textbooks. Please register at least one week prior to the date your class begins.**

Contact Deacon Lori Ward at 615-519-1969 or [lori.ward@nglsynd.org](mailto:lori.ward@nglsynd.org) if you have any questions.

# PRESBYTERY POINT 2025



**FAMILY CAMP**  
JUNE 13-15, 2025  
\$100 PER PERSON/\$400 CAP



**SPRING WORK CAMP**  
MAY 9-11, 2025



**RETRO  
CAMP-A-CON**  
JUNE 20-22, 2025  
\$100 PER PERSON OR  
\$50 PER DAY



**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CAMP**  
JUNE 22-28, 2025  
\$400 PER CAMPER



**ELEMENTARY CAMP**  
JUNE 29-JULY 2, 2025  
\$275 PER CAMPER



**HIGH SCHOOL CAMP**  
JULY 6-12, 2025  
\$400 PER CAMPER



**FALL WORK CAMP**  
SEPTEMBER 12-14

**PRESBYTERY POINT CAMP**  
211 BROWN RD., MICHIGAMME, MI 49861  
#906-869-0925  
DIRECTOR@PRESBYTERYPOINT.ORG  
REGISTRATION BEGINS: JANUARY 1, 2025

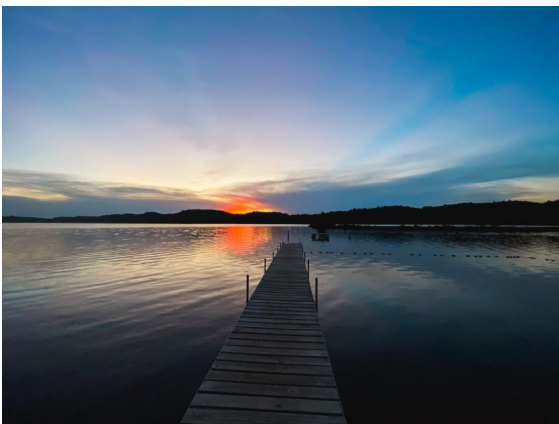
**REGISTER ONLINE:**  
[WWW.PRESBYTERYPOINT.ORG](http://WWW.PRESBYTERYPOINT.ORG)

**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!**

*Presbytery Point is a very special place where the spiritual nature of our campers is recognized.*

*At "The Point", campers are invited and encouraged to use their creativity and imagination, to dream dreams, to wonder, to ask hard questions, to reach for the best in themselves and bring that back to their homes, churches, and communities. We combine these spiritual aspects with an outdoor atmosphere and interactive programming so our campers can grow, while staying safe and having loads of fun!*

*Amidst the chaos and ambiguity that confront our children each day, our camp values serve as our ballast. Our principles of positive child, adolescent, and Christian development remain true and constant. Presbytery Point has programs and services that nurture and embrace each individual camper as they are. Here you will find an unapologetic Christian Community who is unabashedly committed to welcoming ALL God's children.*



**Please consider The Point as an INVESTMENT in YOUR  
camper's future!**

Funding is available for Camperships.  
Please contact Karen Wertanen or Debbie  
DeMuri for more information.





*The word of God is near to you –  
on your lips and in your heart.  
Romans 10:8*

## **Vacation Bible School 2025**

We are excited to announce that we will once again be offering Vacation Bible School to the children of Florence and surrounding areas. The dates for this year's VBS are July 20<sup>th</sup> thru July 24<sup>th</sup>. The staff from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp will join us on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> for church services. VBS will be held at First on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the 24<sup>th</sup> being a visit to FLLC for the day. We are fortunate to have received another generous donation from an anonymous donor to be used for VBS and camperships to the camp. Please watch for more information to come. We hope that the congregations will support this year's VBS as they did in 2024. Blessing to all.



## **FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP**

WEEK	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & AGE/GRADE COMPLETED	COST
Week 1	June 8-13	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)	\$645
Week 2	June 15-20	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Treehouse Adventures (Grades 7-12)	See website \$490
Week 3	June 22-27	High School Week (Grades 9-12)   LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)	\$490
Week 4	June 29-July 2	All Staff Reunion 3-night Event (with Special 1-day Event June 29!)	See website
Week 5	July 6-11	Villager (Grades 3-4)   Vagabond (Grades 5-6)   Venturer (Grades 7-8) LIT #1 Option (*No charge)	\$460
	July 13-15	Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)	\$230
Week 6	July 13-16	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)   MashUp (Grades 4-8)	\$320
	July 13-18	Villager (Grades 3-4)   Vagabond (Grades 5-6)   LIT #2 Option (*No charge)	\$460
Week 7	July 20-25	LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-9)   Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8) Art Camp (Grades 3-9)   Dungeons & Dragons Camp (Grades 6-9) New! > LIT #3 Option (*No charge)	\$460 \$490
	July 21-24	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$135
Week 8	July 27-Aug 1	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Vagabond (Grades 5-6)   LIT #4 Option (*No charge)	See website \$460
	July 28-31	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$135
	July 29-Aug 1	Intergenerational Half Week (all ages)	See website
Week 9	August 4-7	Evergreen Camp (ages 55+)	See website

*Scholarships  
Available*  
Everybody is welcome  
at camp regardless  
of ability to pay!

\*LIT program requires an application process. Week #1 has a fee; subsequent weeks do not.

More info at [FortuneLake.org](https://FortuneLake.org)

2025  
**SCHEDULE**

### Parish Board Notes

Our Parish Articles of Agreement require the Parish Board to meet quarterly to conduct the business and oversee the ministry of our Parish. The Board did meet at 6 p.m. on January 6<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church. Six members of Bethlehem's Council and three members from First's Session were present. Bill Fleming opened the meeting with prayer.

This was our first meeting since the November retirement of Pastor Cathy Morris, who also had been our chairperson. The Articles state that in the absence of the Pastor, the current president of Bethlehem's Council or the current Clerk of Session of First Presbyterian, shall preside on a rotating basis. Consensus of those present was that the chairperson for this meeting be Karen Wertanen, current Clerk of Session at First, and going forward with our rotating meeting plan, the next meeting will be chaired by Bethlehem's Council President, currently Bill Fleming. Both churches will be having annual meetings soon and positions may change at that time.

Anticipating changes on both the Session and Council, which means new members on the Board, a secretary will be elected from the Parish Board members at our next meeting. Karen volunteered to do the minutes of this meeting.

We received reports from the GriefShare program, Pastoral Support Committee, and those updating the Parish Directory. Bill Fleming, who is attending a Presbyterian series of classes for "Cultivating the Gift of Preaching" and similar Lutheran classes, shared that he is doing a scripture reading for the virtual worship service prepared for Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Board is grateful to have the assistance of Bishop Katherine Finegan, Northern Great Lakes Synod, Rev. Daniel Van Beek from the Commission on Ministry, Presbytery of Mackinac, and Rev. Dave Johnson, Pastor of Bethany Lutheran of Norway, MI, and Calvary Lutheran, Quinnesec, MI, who is serving as our Administrative Interim. Rev. Johnson has sought lay persons and ministers willing to provide pulpit supply for our churches and he will assist with other pastoral duties. Rev. Van Beek, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Escanaba, MI, comes to First to lead Session meetings and is our connection to the Presbytery. We are especially thankful for those, who on short notice, came to us to lead worship in the busy month of December; Gisele Duehring, Rev. Rell Spickerman, our own Bill Fleming, and Bishop Finegan. Rev. Spickerman, who drives from Gwinn, Michigan, has offered to preach on Sundays through May. Plans for our special services during Lent will be announced soon.

After reviewing the 2024 financial reports of our Parish Board treasurer, JoAnne Friberg, and Barb Marden, we then completed the Parish budget for 2025. The new budget is a lower total than 2024, due to our status without a Pastor. We are paying for weekly pulpit supply and mileage, as well as for the assistance provided by Rev. Johnson and Rev. Van Beek. The per church monthly payment will be \$3,200 in 2025. The budget will be included for discussion at our congregational annual meetings.

We were pleased to hear that a donation has been received to provide Vacation Bible School in July and Deb Fleming has volunteered to be our VBS coordinator! We had a great week in 2024!

The Board expressed thanks to our Administrative Assistant, Leanne Wilcox, for her excellent work on our behalf and we closed in prayer.

Karen Wertanen, Clerk of Session-First Presbyterian Church





## **Bethlehem Council Minutes** (Subject to approval at the February Council Meeting) **January 7, 2025**

**Item 1: Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by President, Bill Fleming. Other council members in attendance include: Ben Lehto, Deb Fleming, Diane Theis, JoAnne Friberg, and Connie Walther. Also in attendance were Pastor Dave Johnson and Leanne Wilcox.

**Item 2: Opening Prayer:** Pastor Dave offered the opening prayer.

**Item 3: Secretary's report:** Minutes from the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Discussion ensued regarding carpet cleaning yearly vs. new carpet. It was decided by consensus that this item will be discussed this coming Fall (2025). JoAnne made a motion to accept the minutes and Connie seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 4: Treasurer's Report:** Diane provided handouts to all present and reported that a large donation was received and applied to the General Fund and the donation from Wild Rivers Quilt Guide would be applied to the Building Fund. Discussion regarding putting some of the money market funds into a CD took place. Diane will check on the current interest rates before action would be taken on this matter. Deb motioned to accept the treasurer's report and Connie seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Item 5 - Pastor's Update:** Pastor Dave shared the following:

Chris Nelson's funeral was held at Bethlehem on December 19, 2024.

Pastor Doug Johnson presided over communion at the Christmas Eve service

Pastor Rell Spickerman will provide pulpit supply until May 2025. Pastor Dave will check on pulpit supply, as well as communion on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Leanne volunteered to check previous bulletins to determine what days communion was served.

**Item 6 - Synod and ELCA news:**

- NGLS is once again providing Lifelong learning opportunities. A list of the offerings is located on the table in the back of the church.
- Mission Support Letters will be discussed during the budget discussion
- NGLS offering Lenten devotionals. Bill will get the website to Leanne for publication.

### **Old Business**

**Item 7: Pastoral Support Committee/Mutual Ministry Books** – Kim Richmond has withdrawn from the committee. Guidelines need to be developed explaining the committee's responsibilities. Possible responsibilities could include: home communion, hospital visits, and visits to shut ins.

**Item 8: Building Use Forms – update** - tabled

**Item 9: Hold Harmless document** - tabled

**Item 10: Parish Directory** – include regular attendees as well as members. Progress is being made and updates to the directory are being provided.

**Item 11: VBS update** – nothing new to report since Parish board meeting held on January 6, 2025.

Continued on page 11

Bethlehem Council Notes  
Continued from page 10

## New Business

**Item 12: Annual Meeting (Potluck before?)** Annual meeting to be held on Feb.2, 2025 at 1:00 pm to allow Pastor Dave time to get to Bethlehem. BLC needs to provide announcements during church services at least 2 Sundays before meeting as well as provide written or electronic notification to members. Pot Luck will be held before the meeting at 1:00 pm. Leanne will make a sign-up sheet for the potluck.

**Item 13: Budget:** The proposed budget was discussed and additions/changes were made. The proposed budget included the annual Mission Support Commitment to be given to Synod in the amount of \$12,700.00. JoAnne made the motion to include the Mission Support Commitment and Diane seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. The proposed budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Feb. 2, 2025.

**Item 14: Camera-Zoom services:** There were issues with the sound during the service if not by a microphone (could not hear music, singing, announcements made by congregation). Discussed possible solutions including adding more microphones throughout the church or possibly installing drop down microphones from the ceiling. Will continue to work on the sound issue.

**Item 15: Pulpit Supply:** covered until May 2025

**Item 16: Services during Lent:** Consensus was midweek services have not been well attended in the past and that BLC would offer Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services (providing Pulpit Supply could be obtained)

**Item 17: Member Concerns and Other Business:**

- Water and temperature sensors for the church have been ordered
- Humidifier – Bob Friberg has not received a response from his inquiries regarding humidifier.

**Item 18: Date for next Meeting:** February 11<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, and April 8<sup>th</sup> all @ 6:00pm  
Next Parish Board Meeting April 9<sup>th</sup> at Bethlehem @ 6:00pm

**Item 19: Adjournment and Closing Prayer:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm. All joined in reciting the Lord's Prayer.



## Session Meeting Notes

Rev. Daniel Van Beek, who moderated, called our January 12, 2025, meeting of the Session to order in the Conference Room at 2:00 p.m. and opened with prayer. Ruling Elders Jim Churchill, Debra DeMuri, Greg Novak, Janice Roberts and Karen Wertanen, who is also Clerk of Session, were present. Frank DeCleene was absent. A quorum was declared.

We then approved the agenda.

Rev. Van Beek shared that he plans to do a brief training on the pastoral search process with us at our next meeting. In answer to our question about using bread cubes and/or prepared wafers for Communion, he explained that both are fine according to our "Book of Order".

In the Clerk's Report:

The minutes of the December 15, 2024 meeting of the Session were approved. As usual the minutes were sent via e-mail to the members and Rev. Van Beek prior to the meeting.

For the record, Karen noted that we celebrated the Lord's Supper during worship on Christmas Eve with Gisele Duehring presiding and on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> with Rev. Rell Spickerman presiding.

Karen also shared that the Parish Board met on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The main agenda items were to review the 2024 financial reports prepared by JoAnne Friberg, Parish Board treasurer, and Barb Marden, and to prepare the Parish Budget for 2025.

In a discussion about worship, a decision was made to ask our scripture readers to also serve as greeters each Sunday. We will continue to pass the collection plate.

Session then reviewed the reports submitted by our Treasurer as of December 31, 2024. Karen provided our investment account current balance. Session members had met via phone conference with our Nicolet Wealth Investment Advisor, Steve Farone, on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

In view of the minimal interest received on our Memorial Fund Savings account, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to transfer a portion of those funds to our investment account and to also open two CDs at the Great North Bank where the savings account is held. Karen will talk with our treasurer about these transactions.

It was noted that in 2024, the Session had decided to use undated envelopes since many members were contributing monthly or bimonthly. That leaves half or more of the envelopes in the boxes for continued use in 2025. New boxes will be available in the church office for anyone needing envelopes. (See an additional announcement in this newsletter.) A separate envelope will be provided for those who wish to contribute the \$41.40 per capita requested by the Presbytery each year for each member. (They will be in the sanctuary on the table.)

Debbie reported for our Deacons noting that the Christmas decorations were taken down in the sanctuary after worship this morning. They have appreciated hearing positive comments about them. Cleaning the kitchen (volunteers are welcome) and working on the church directory are on their agenda for February. "Come to Supper" will be on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. A potluck meal is set for the day of our annual congregational meeting, Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Our nominating committee is contacting members for the positions opening for our Deacons and Session. Election will take place at the annual meeting.

Continued on page 13

## Session Meeting Notes-Continued from page 12

Greg is seeking a company to do a capacity test required for our elevator/lift every five years.

The “Dwelling in the Word” Bible Study was today at Bethlehem. Next on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Session then prepared our 2025 budget (Total \$59,275.00), which was approved by a motion duly made, seconded and carried. It will be reviewed at the annual congregational meeting.

In Presbytery and Synod news, Karen is serving on the Committee on Representation and Nominations for the Presbytery. The Presbytery of Mackinac next meeting will be virtual and is set for February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. EST.

Our prayers of intercession list will start anew with 2025. Please contact Leanne at the office or complete one of the prayer cards that are in the sanctuary for your requests.

Rev. VanBeek shared information about the changes in the special offerings for our denomination. Consensus was that we again participate in “One Great Hour of Sharing” during Lent. Special Lenten services have yet to be decided.

Property Committee agenda items discussed were:

- Debbie and Karen have checked the interior of the manse. Pr. Cathy is storing items there. Temp sensors have arrived and will be activated.
- Greg has a monitor that may work with the WIFI camera for the entrance.
- The storage building behind the church is available for the taking and moving.
- Jan and her brother checked the water leaking under the kitchen sinks. Water is going under the lip of the sinks, which additional clamps and caulking will correct.

Karen will be out of town on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, so someone is needed to set up Zoom.

The next Session meeting was set for Sunday, **February 16<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 p.m. Rev. Van Beek then closed in prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Karen Wertanen,  
Clerk of Session

**Note: If you wish to read the complete minutes, please contact me at 715-528-4744**



**Per Capita Apportionment-** Each year Presbyterian Churches are required to contribute funds to support the work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). For 2025, those amounts are: General Assembly (\$10.84), Synod of the Covenant (\$3.40), and our Presbytery of Mackinac (\$27.16}, a total \$41.40 per member. Your Session appreciates the generous support of our members in meeting this obligation. For 2025, we will provide a special envelope for you to contribute as you desire and are able. They will be located on the table in the sanctuary. You can also send your donation to the church office at P. O. Box 47, Florence WI 54121. Thank you!