

December, 2023

**NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1327 North Salem Road

La Crosse, WI 54603

**NORTH STAR NEWS** is a non-profit publication containing information and concerns of members and friends of North Presbyterian Church of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

**Sunday Worship:**

8:00 AM (Indoors)

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM

Virtually - Sunday at 8am on our Facebook Page or Website

**Please contact us at:**

608-781-5690

[office@npclax.org](mailto:office@npclax.org)

Office Hours M-Th 9am-2pm

**PASTOR:**

Rev. Scott Skogen

**OFFICE MANAGER & EDUCATION COORDINATOR:**

Karla Korish

**ORGANIST & ADULT CHOIR DIRECTOR:**

Ruth Mashak

**FIRST SERVICE MUSICIAN:**

Judy Bouffleur



**NORTH STAR NEWS**

*North Presbyterian Church of La Crosse, WI.*

**Pastor Scott's Scripts**

It was said, "That the gods of the ancient world lived outside time and space, on a different plane from our mutual existence." Unreachable. Distant.

While here on earth, with the hopes of glimpsing the divinity, the Ancients established hallowed places...A sacred tree...A holy mountain...A glorious temple...that they believed existed in both spheres like a window to heaven. The people traveled to these holy places on holy days believing the divine and the mundane might overlap for one moment.

As we begin this Advent season, we are preparing for a radically different encounter with the divine. Our God comes to us, not like the gods of old. Our God comes to us to be with us in the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. Our God comes to us in a tender way, a relatable way. In a way that we can see, hear, and touch.

It's been said that "Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, not only tells us what God is like, he shows us what God is like. Before Jesus, our ideas about God were shadowy...distant...unrelatable. Now our God can be seen, touched, heard, and followed. You can talk with him and break bread him, keep company. In Jesus, Emmanuel we see and encounter the love of God, the compassion of God, the grace and forgiveness of God. Jesus shows us the truth about God, that our God is a loving God who feels every emotion we feel cries with us, celebrates with us, cheers us on, and comforts us.

During this Advent season, let us not only welcome Emmanuel, let us meet Emmanuel anew this year...God with us.  
As we celebrate the birth, the life, and the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

See ya in church,  
Pastor Scott



## HOLIDAY GIVING TREE!

We are once again sponsoring children from the Northside Elementary School to make their holidays a bit brighter.

We still have a few Ornament Tags available to pick-up in the Narthex.

Wrapped Gifts with Ornament Tags attached must be returned to church by:

**Sunday, December 10th**

Thank you for your generosity!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 17th after the 10:00 a.m. service  
This short meeting is to approve Pastor Scott's Terms of Call, approve Elders and Deacons for the class of 2026, and Nomination Committee for 2024.

## Holiday Shut-in Gift Bags

The Deacons are asking members & friends of the church to donate for the traditional holiday shut-in gift bags.



- \* Nuts
- \* Pretzels
- \* Popcorn
- \* Mints
- \* Chocolate
- \* Peppermint Patties
- \* Cookies
- \* Chex Mix
- \* Flavored Crackers

Please have the items to the church by December 7th. Thank you!



We will be sending around an envelope this year during worship services through December 10th for Pastor Scott and Debby's Christmas Card. Or, you are welcome to send cards to the addresses below:

Church Address:  
1327 North Salem Road  
La Crosse, WI 54603

Home address:  
537 Chestnut Drive  
Onalaska, WI 54650



THANK YOU!!!



## Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

**Tuesday, December 12th - 11:30 a.m.**

**Please join us at: Ardie's/Flipside**

400 Lang Drive, La Crosse

We'll be ordering lunch on our own and will have a wonderful time enjoying each other's company and playing a few holiday games to get us in the Christmas spirit!

Sign-up in the Narthex



## NPC Little Food Pantry: Winter

Unbelievably it is time to switch over to our winter food pantry items already. In the cold temperatures, we do not put out canned goods (or glass jars) to avoid freezing, spoilage, and potential illness.

### Suggested Winter Donations:

- Ramen Noodles
- Raisins & Nuts
- Instant Potatoes/Stuffing Mix
- Dry Soups, Mixes (pancake etc.), & Sauces
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Crackers/Granola Bars
- Powdered Milk
- Popcorn
- Rice
- Peanut Butter
- Hormel Complete Meals
- Tuna/Chicken Packets
- Instant Mac & Cheese Cups
- Tortillas



## JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

Sunday, December 3rd 3:00-6:00 p.m.

On Sunday, December 3rd, North Church will go caroling throughout the community. We will stop at care facilities and different memory units to share our gift of song. Dress warm as we will be singing outside at some of the facilities.

MEET AT CHURCH AT 2:45!!!



## 2023 COOKIE WALK Saturday, December 9th 7:00– 10:00 a.m.

On Saturday, December 9th we will be holding our annual Cookie Walk at North Presbyterian Church. We would like to ask everyone to participate in this fun-filled event!

The following are all the activities you can sign-up for to make this Cookie Walk the best ever:

- \* Home-baking and decorating 5 to 10 dozen colorful Christmas Cookies. The more cookies, the more we raise for church projects.
- \* Making candy (fudge, divinity etc.....)
- \* Donations for Tribune and Onalaska Life ads
- \* Donations for miscellaneous expenses: gloves, napkins, plastic wrap and materials
- \* Setting up on Friday, December 8th
- \* Serving at event, December 9th
- \* Clean up after event, December 9th

Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex

### **TAX TIPS FROM OUR TREASURER:**

IRS regulations require that all contributions for 2023 be dated and/or postmarked by December 31, 2023

All contribution statements will be mailed on or before January 31, 2024.

Thanks  
Terry Thomas  
North Presbyterian Church Treasurer

**If you haven't picked-up your Contribution Envelopes for 2023, they are available for pick-up in the Narthex anytime before or after Worship service and during office hours Monday - Thursday 9am-2pm.**

**If you're considering a switch to online giving (which assists the church with costs), please visit our website ([www.npclax.com](http://www.npclax.com)) and select the "giving" tab for a variety of options.**

### **2023 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT:**

Per Capita is "the tie that binds" - annual giving that unites the entire church in the ongoing and essential work that guides the Office of the General Assembly, the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and benefits every congregation and every mid council ministry. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the office of the General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

**The Per Capita amount for North Presbyterian members for 2023 is \$36**

**"Members" includes everyone who has been confirmed as an "Active Member"**



- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Joan Zielke       | 17 Holly Grimsliid |
| 3 Chris Lezpona     | 18 Bonnie Clements |
| 4 Pat Markos        | Matthew Bahr       |
| 7 Scott Hauser      | Cooper Molling     |
| 8 John Conder       | 19 Cathy Harris    |
| Carol Bassuener     | Danielle Martell   |
| Kathy Sierp         | Linda Thompson     |
| 9 Trish Biemiller   | Tiffany Bean       |
| Brad Mills          | 20 Andrew Akey     |
| 10 Karen Weis       | 22 Kay Bjorge      |
| Andrew Martell      | 23 Emily Vien      |
| Tina McWain         | 25 JESUS           |
| Lance Jurgensen     | Henry Richgels     |
| 11 Kathleen Snyder  | Lloyd Payne        |
| 13 Chase Ostrem     | Brady Olson        |
| Nancy Nick          | 27 Barb Akey       |
| Linda Payne         | 29 Ron Carpenter   |
| 15 Mason Mihalovic  | 30 Dick Palm       |
| 16 Lisa Colburn     | Jacob Bahr         |
| Ted Roberts         |                    |
| Julie Connelly      |                    |
| Katherine Burelbach |                    |

**NPC bell ringing for the Salvation Army**

**Tuesday, December 12th**

**Location: Onalaska Festival Foods**

**Shifts from 10 a.m.– 4 p.m.**

**Sign-up in the Narthex**

**If someone else is signed up during a time that works for you, please join them! The more the merrier!**

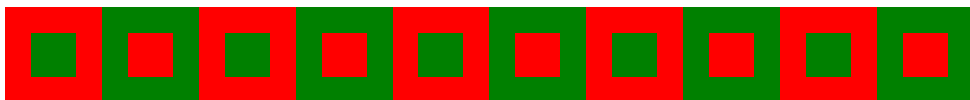




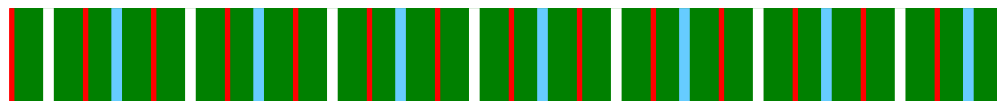
Children's Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 17th at the  
10:00 A.M. service.

Please make every effort to be here for our choir  
practices during the Sunday School hour on  
**Sunday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 10th**  
to prepare for the program.

***Thanks to all of our families!***



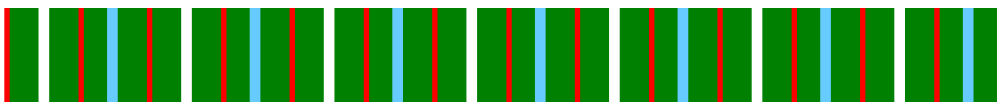
Just a reminder that our knitting/  
crocheting group meets at the church the  
first Wednesday of each month from  
10:00 a.m.-noon. Come work on your  
projects and enjoy some good  
conversation with your fellow crafters!  
Everyone of all skill levels is welcome!



Never Alone Dinner  
Sunday, December 10th  
5:30 p.m.

Please join us for a time of fellowship and support during  
this holiday season.

Erin Goggin's home: 1409 Wood St., La Crosse  
A wonderful meal and dessert will be served



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
**Sunday, December 24th**

**10:00 a.m. Advent Service**





**3:00 P.M. Candlelight Service**  
**5:00 P.M. Candlelight Service**





# December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Poinsettia Orders Due  Christmas Caroling 3:00-6:00 p.m.	4	5	6 Knit/ Crochet Group 10:00-Noon 	7	8 Cookie Walk Set-Up 	9 Cookie Walk 
10 Giving Tree Gifts Due Never Alone Dinner 5:30 p.m.	11	12 Bell Ringing @ Ona Festival Foods 10-4:00  Women's Lunch @ Ardies- 11:30 a.m.	13 Session Meeting	14	15	16
17 Children's Christmas Program 10:00 a.m.  Congregation Meeting Following 10:00 Service	18	19	20 Confirmation Class Bell Ringing @ Ona Festival Foods 6-8:00 p.m.	21	22	23
24 10:00 Advent Service  3:00 & 5:00 p.m. Candlelight Services	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 