

December, 2024

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 Service

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Service

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

Please contact us at:

608-781-5690

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

My mother loved Christmas, and it was very important to her that we all gathered together on Christmas Eve. We would dine on lutefisk and lefse, open presents, Grandpa Skogen would enjoy a Tom & Jerry, and Grandma Amundson would drink her one glass of wine of the year... Mogan David. My mom loved every minute of those Christmas Eve celebrations.

So...a few years ago after my mom passed away, I took it upon myself to put up a tiny Christmas tree with colorful lights at my mom and dad's grave. I felt it was appropriate and a special way to honor my mom. What I've come to realize is that my moment in the cemetery setting up that tree, making sure it looks just right, making sure the lights shine bright, has become a sacred moment for me. In all the busyness of the Advent/Christmas season, I've come to realize that my time setting up that tree reminds me of everything this season is meant to be.

In the busyness of life, God comes to us as Emmanuel, wrapped in swaddling clothes, gently lying in a manger. God comes to us in our confusion, our chaos, our busyness and stills our heart with His peaceful presence.

In my run up to Christmas, as I am preparing sermons, filming virtual services, visiting members and checking off activities in my loaded December calendar, I need my moment with my mom. I need to see that tree sparkle. It reminds me of all the things good about this season.

In our run up to Christmas, I pray we all find our time of peace when we truly celebrate the peaceful presence of Emmanuel...God with us.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Pastor Scott



HOLIDAY GIVING TREE

If you generously took a tag for a child from the Northside Elementary School,

Wrapped Gifts with Ornament Tags attached must be returned to church by: Sunday, December 15th

Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas with our neighborhood families!



Join Pastor Scott & Debby for a holiday luncheon on Tuesday, December 17th at Noon in the Fellowship Hall

**They will provide the main dish.
Please feel free to bring a dish to share.**

Holiday Shut-in Gift Bags

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



- * Lip Balm
- * Books
- * Cards
- * Hot Chocolate
- * Large Print Puzzle/Activity Books
- * Lotions & Hand Soaps
- * Cookies
- * Flavored Crackers
- * Candy & Snacks

**Please have the items to the church by December 8th.
Thank you!**



We will be sending around an envelope this year during worship services through December 8th 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!!!

NPC Family,

On behalf of the children and families who will benefit from your generosity, I want to extend my heartfelt thank you for your recent donation of games, books, and activities. Your kindness and compassion have brought not just joy but also a sense of normalcy to children facing incredibly challenging circumstances.

The games you provided were more than just a source of entertainment—they were tools for connection, laughter, and healing. These simple moments of play helped ease the uncertainty and fear that many of these young ones are experiencing, giving them a chance to just be kids again, even in difficult times.

Your willingness to support this vulnerable population exemplifies the spirit of love and community that binds us all. The smiles and laughter your gifts brought to Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Sonora Mexico are a testament to the good that can be achieved when people come together in faith and compassion.

I hope to share more of my experiences with you all in the near future. Thank you once again for your generosity and for being a light in the lives of these children.

With gratitude, Julie Connelly

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/Hot Chocolate
- Popcorn
- Rice
- Peanut Butter
- Hormel Complete Meals
- Tuna/Chicken **Packets**
- Instant Mac & Cheese Cups
- Tortillas



MOBILE MEALS

Volunteers Needed

Monday, December 23rd- Sunday, December 30th

PICK UP WHERE

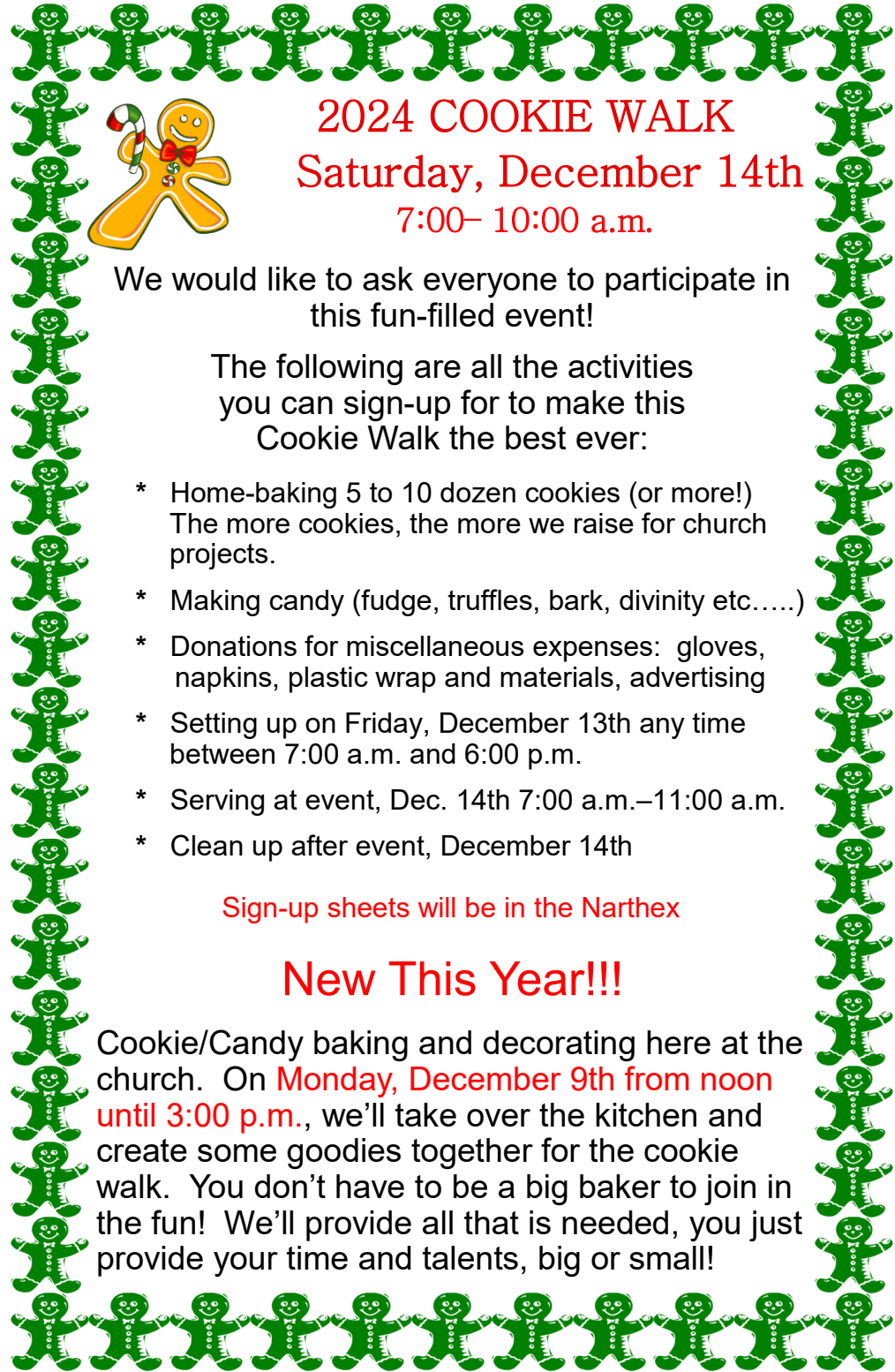
Mayo Clinic Hospital on Market St., between 10th & 11th

PICK-UP TIME

10:30 a.m.– **Please note new time!**

**Please Call or email the Church Office to sign up
(608)781-5690 or office@npclax.org**

(If you'd like to try this ministry opportunity, we can arrange for you to ride along with one of our experienced drivers)



2024 COOKIE WALK
Saturday, December 14th
7:00– 10:00 a.m.

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 5 to 10 dozen cookies (or more!)
The more cookies, the more we raise for church projects.
- * Making candy (fudge, truffles, bark, divinity etc.....)
- * Donations for miscellaneous expenses: gloves, napkins, plastic wrap and materials, advertising
- * Setting up on Friday, December 13th any time between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- * Serving at event, Dec. 14th 7:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
- * Clean up after event, December 14th

Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex

New This Year!!!

Cookie/Candy baking and decorating here at the church. On **Monday, December 9th from noon until 3:00 p.m.**, we'll take over the kitchen and create some goodies together for the cookie walk. You don't have to be a big baker to join in the fun! We'll provide all that is needed, you just provide your time and talents, big or small!

TAX TIPS :

IRS regulations require that all contributions for 2024 be dated and/or postmarked by December 31, 2024
All contribution statements will be mailed on or before January 31, 2025.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 15th 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 2025.

If you haven't picked-up your Contribution Envelopes for 2025, 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) and select the "giving" tab for a variety of options.

2025 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 2025 is \$40

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



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Joan Zielke | 17 | Holly Grimslid |
| 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 |
| | Dyanne Brudos | | Tiffany Bean |
| 9 | Trish Biemiller | 20 | Andrew Akey |
| | Brad Mills | 22 | Kay Bjorge |
| 10 | Karen Weis | 23 | Emily Vien |
| | Andrew Martell | 25 | JESUS |
| 11 | Kathleen Snyder | | Henry Richgels |
| | Tina McWain | | Lloyd Payne |
| 13 | Chase Ostrem | | Brady Olson |
| | Nancy Nick | 27 | Barb Akey |
| 14 | Linda Payne | 29 | Ron Carpenter |
| 15 | Mason Mihalovic | 30 | Dick Palm |
| 16 | Lisa Colburn | | Jacob Bahr |
| | Ted Roberts | | |
| | Julie Connelly | | |

NPC bell ringing for the Salvation Army

Monday, December 16th

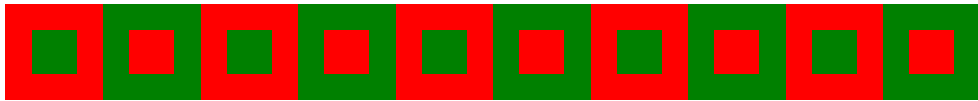
Location: Onalaska Festival Foods

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!



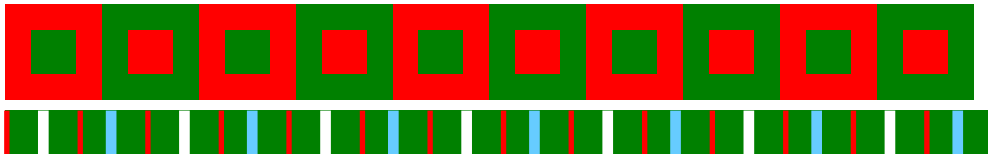


Children's Christmas Program
 Sunday, December 22nd at the
 10:00 A.M. service.



Hey kids! Please make every effort to be here for our choir practices during the Sunday School hour on the Sundays through December to prepare for the program.

Thanks to all of our families for making the extra effort since we will not be having an additional Saturday practice this year!



Never Alone Dinner
 Thursday, December 12th
 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
 Sign-up in the Narthex



Please join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus at our
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
 Tuesday, December 24th

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

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

Sunday, December 8th 3:00-6:00 p.m.

On Sunday, December 8th, North Church will go caroling to several care facilities on the South side of La Crosse to share our gift of song. This is a super fun fellowship time that brings so much joy to so many! Professional singers and those of us that can't carry a tune are all welcome!

MEET AT CHURCH AT 2:45!!!



We have also been invited to carol at the Cass Street Assisted Living Community on Tuesday, December 10th from 5:30-5:45 p.m.

We'll meet at the facility: 1315 Cass Street



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!



December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Poinsettia Orders & Vegetable Oil for Salvation Army Due</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Knit/Crochet Group Fellowship Hall 10 a.m.</p> 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>Caroling– Meet @ church at 2:45 p.m.</p> <p>Gift Items for shut-in baskets due</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Baking/Decorating Day @ the Church for the Cookie Walk Noon– 3:00 p.m.</p> 	<p>10</p>  <p>Caroling @ Cass Street Assisted Living Community 5:30-5:45 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Session Meeting 7 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Never Alone Dinner 5:30 p.m. @ Erin Goggin’s Home</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Cookie Walk Set-up 7 a.m.–6 p.m.</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>Cookie Walk 7:00-10:00 a.m.</p> 
<p>15</p> <p>Giving Tree Gifts Due Back</p> <p>Congregational Meeting after 10:00 Service</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bell Ringing @ Onalaska Festival Foods 10:00-4:00 p.m.</p> 	<p>17</p>  <p>Christmas Luncheon Noon– Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>  <p>10:00 Service</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>Mobile Meals</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Mobile Meals</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>Mobile Meals</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Mobile Meals</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Mobile Meals</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Mobile Meals</p>
<p>29</p> <p>No Sunday School</p> <p>Mobile Meals</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> 				