



# FISH LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 206  
Harris, MN 55032  
Phone: 651-674-4252  
Online: [www.fishlakelutheran.org](http://www.fishlakelutheran.org)  
Office Hours:  
Monday—11:00-4:00  
Wednesday, Thursday 11:00-4:00  
Friday 11:00-4:00

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### Fish Lake Lutheran Leadership & Staff

Pastor: Rev. Teleen Saunders  
Office Administrator: Denise Steinberg  
Parish Deaconess: Sister LaDonna Olson  
Pianist: Cindy Blesener  
Custodian: Jeff Lustig

### Church Council Members

Michelle Young, President  
Floyd Pinotti, Vice-president  
Nancy Hoffman, Secretary  
Rick Cedergren, Treasurer  
Jeff Lustig  
Lisa Nephew  
Luciano Schisano, Youth Representative



**Worship Service each  
Sunday 10:00 am  
Online options also  
Choir rehearsal 9:00am  
every Sunday  
Chimers rehearsal the 2nd &  
3rd Sunday at 9:30am**

- 1st WELCA Meeting 9:00am work time, 11:00 meeting
- 5th Africa Sunday
- 6th Fish Lake Council Meeting 7:15pm
- 10th Cemetery Board Meeting 12:00pm
- 12th Mother's Day
- 14th Social Ministry Meeting 6:00pm
- 15th Last Wed. Youth Programming Celebration
- 16th WELCA Sewing/Coffee 9:00am
- 18th Block of the Month 8:30am
- 19th Fourth Sunday Forum - Mark Granquist
- 23rd Property Committee Meeting
- 26th Food Collection Sunday
- 27th Memorial Day - WELCA Chicken Dinner  
The Church Office will be closed.



## Vine & Branches

A Monthly Newsletter of Fish Lake Lutheran Church

**May 2024**  
**The Pastors Page**

The season of Easter lasts for fifty days and culminates on Pentecost as described in the book of Acts. Here, the Holy Spirit transcends geographical boundaries to show the true reaches of God's kingdom. This is a great opportunity to think about how diversity fits with our Biblical understanding and especially how we are called to see others as beloved children of God.

The allegorical roots of diversity can be found in the story of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9). In those days, all people spoke the same language and their unity gave them great power. They decided to build a grand tower, so tall it would reach into the heavens. As a consequence, The LORD said,

“Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down, and confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech.” So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth.

This story is helpful in that even the ancients wondered about different tribes, beliefs, and customs. Yet, the Bible is also clear that we should show compassion, hospitality, and justice to those from other lands. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, there are explicit commands to welcome strangers and treat them with kindness. Leviticus 19:33-34 states. When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.



It's easy to love those who look like us, think like us, and speak like us. The challenge comes when we are confronted with those who are different. What happened on the day of Pentecost was a reversing of Babel. The Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples as tongues of fire, enabling them to speak in various languages. This event unified people from different nations and cultures, allowing them to understand one another despite their differences. Where Babel brought division, Pentecost brings unity—a powerful symbol of the reconciling work of God, bringing diverse peoples together under the banner of understanding. The reversal at Pentecost highlights God's desire for unity among all people, overcoming our self-imposed lines of division. This year, we will

celebrate Pentecost on May 19th. Let's work toward a more just and compassionate world where differences are celebrated and where all people are held with dignity. Don't forget to wear the color red in celebration of God's mighty spirit.

- Pastor Teleen

### Block of the Month report:

1. Registration for upcoming year has begun. Approved an annual membership fee of \$25.00.
2. A donation of \$300 to help offset the cost of printing was approved.
3. Following the April meeting, there will be a demonstration of Featherweight Spa.
4. A May Basket Bingo will be held at the May meeting.
5. Signup for Egg Bake was requested as well as help in serving.

The next WELCA meeting will be held on May 1, 2024 beginning at 9:00.

The May sewing day will be May 16th starting at 9:00. All are WELCOME!

### Old Business

1. Grad quilt update: All 2024 quilts have been completed, save for one. Quilts for 2025 graduates has begun.
2. Baptism quilts: No immediate need. One baptism scheduled in April.
3. Received the Pork Dinner signs (received 2).
4. Quilt Bingo: Already have 20 quilts ready; received donations for consolation prizes.
5. Reading/Comfort Buddies: A donation of several buddies was given to Wyoming Hospital to their emergency room.
6. Bundles of Love: Eight Quilts, 12 bibs, 1 burp cloth, and 1 receiving blanket were delivered.
7. Personal Care Items were delivered to the Cambridge Isanti schools.
8. Pet beds: The Northwoods Animal Shelter very much appreciates our donations. Thirteen beds and a bag of medicine bottles were delivered.
9. Food Shelves: This month, they are collecting canned vegetables. Also, cash is always needed. These items will be delivered to Cambridge food shelf.
10. Safe Haven Foster Care: We will be participating in their mission to "fill the diaper bag". Diaper bags were purchased using Thrivent money; requests for special baby items is posted in the basement. Eight quilts, 10 pillowcases, 5 comfort buddies were delivered.

### New Business

1. Faith Journey display: This effort has been put on hold until a consultant has completed a report outlining possible changes to the church. More to come.
2. A Place for You in Pine City: They have a need for 9 quilts due to client turnover. Several quilts were donated to this organization.
3. Change to monthly meetings: In an effort to complete more projects, we are gathering the first Wednesday of the month with work starting at 9:00. At 11:00, we will have coffee and begin our meeting. We will still have an additional sewing day on the third Thursday of each month beginning at 9:00.
4. Discussed the upcoming Memorial Day dinner. We will serve Cub chicken and coleslaw, requests for other salads and desserts will be made. A donation of \$250 was received from Thrivent to help offset the cost of the chicken. Mary Kay will lead the dinner's activities including the advertising. More info to come.
5. We discussed identifying someone to be responsible for advertising for all WELCA events.
6. The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Paul Area Synodical Women's Convention will be held on Saturday, April 27. Laurie Knutson and Sharon Petit will attend. The registration fee of \$45 for each was approved. A donation of 8 dozen cookies was requested.
7. WELCA serving day is April 28th. Kathy Lodin will be serving.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

### Poems by Sarah Cedergren

#### THE HANDS OF MANY

Each year the blooms of spring will make their case

A judge of beauty in all strands of light  
The lilac and the tulip take their place  
A swearing in, agreements in the night  
With each new growth a shadow will unfold  
A splitting open, silent in the lurch  
The solemn stem as new as time is old  
Beholden to the tendrils of the earth  
The hands of many work with useful force  
To grip the spade and understand the rain  
The garden brings us closer to the source  
In service of the things we can't explain  
The kingdom is at hand, the budding bough  
Impossible for us to disavow

#### It's almost time to plant the Fish Lake Community Garden!

Currently the garden committee is looking at May 22nd & 23rd or 29th & 30th for planting.

The actual dates depends on everyone's availability and the weather. As we get closer we will narrow down the date.

The best contact would be Steve Mettling if anyone wants to join the gardening crew or wants more information. Steve's number is 763-257-4695

**Everyone is welcome!!**



Note: Members can also donate to the food shelf in the name of Fish Lake. Just bring the donation sheet to the church (can be left in the collection place) so we can track how much is donated each summer!



#### You do not need to be retired to really make a difference as a Shalom Thrift Shop

**volunteer:** We are in need of persons who can work unloading cars one Saturday per month for 3 hours. This job can be done by women or men who are physically fit (two women already do this and are great at it). You will work with great people, have a good time and feel good about helping your church and Shalom with a great mission. You may contact any Shalom volunteer or Dick Halbmaier at 763-689-2630. Your service is vitally important to Shalom.



**All produce from the garden is donated to the Cambridge or North Branch Food Shelves.**

**The community members who use the food shelf always appreciate the fresh produce! Last year the total donation from the church garden was 2,403 pounds.**

#### Online giving through Vanco

**Vanco Online** is available on our website at [fishlakelutheran.org](http://fishlakelutheran.org).

**Vanco Mobile** is available in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store

**Safe, Easy & Faithful**

A message from Sister LaDonna...

I will soon be traveling to Serbia on a pilgrimage to study Orthodox icons. Our group is only 12 people led by a world renowned iconographer.

In preparation, I've been reading a lot about the meaning of icons. As a Protestant I did not grow up in a worship space with icons, but I am learning to appreciate the mystery and holiness that they portray.

Icons are often called "windows to heaven". The eyes invite you to look into the soul of both the icon and yourself. The icon not only tells a Bible story, it asks you to open your heart and allow God to speak directly to your heart.

The icon expresses incarnation. Jesus and Mary and the apostles and saints were all humans who walked the earth. In an icon we are able to see both the humanity and the holiness of the subjects.

I encourage you to view an Orthodox icon and allow it to speak to your heart. There are many to see online. As with any spiritual practice, experiencing an icon's holiness takes time.

I look forward to sharing more after my trip.

### 2024 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AT FISH LAKE LUTHERAN

DATE	Budgeted Offerings	Actual Offerings	Precent	Above/Below Budget
March 24th	<b>3,936.83</b>	3,742.51	95%	(194.00)
March 31st	<b>3,936.83</b>	3,760.51	96%	(176.32)
April 7th	<b>3,936.83</b>	2,699.80	69%	(1,237.03)
April 14th	<b>3,936.83</b>	3,806.89	97%	(129.94)
<b>2024 Year to Date</b>	<b>59,052.45</b>	61,266.08	104%	2,213.63

Thank You to all those who have donated to the following funds so far in 2024

\* Cemetery Fund - \$626.00

\* Building Fund - 1,952.00

## Decoration Reminder From the Cemetery Board

The Fish Lake Lutheran Cemetery is a special place for many people. As your board members, we strive to preserve the natural beauty of the cemetery while providing safe and orderly maintenance of the grounds. With this in mind, we ask everyone to review the rules governing the decoration of gravesites:

**Flowers** are allowed as follows:

- 1) **Fresh cut Flowers** placed in containers
- 2) **Annual Flowers** planted in in-ground planting areas, or in containers on single-leg stands
- 3) **Artificial Flowers** from May 15th to September 15th in containers on single leg stands.

In all cases, flowers must be located next to the monument or marker. **Glass containers** are not allowed. Trees, shrubs or other plants are not allowed.

**All Other Adornments:** Including wreaths, crosses and statues are only allowed as follows:

- 1) During the **Memorial Day period** of May 15th through June 15th, and following interments
- 2) **Wreaths** placed during the Christmas season of November 15th through January 15<sup>th</sup>
- 3) **Government issued veterans markers (Bronze Star)**

In accordance with state and national veterans cemeteries requirements, we request that flags on bronze stars and gravesites be displayed only during the Memorial Day period.

**Toys, balloons, stuffed animals, pinwheels, vigil lights, solar powered lights, breakable objects, and similar items are not permitted.**

Beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>, any items not in conformance will be removed and placed on the north side of the cemetery storage building for 30 days for pick-up by the owners.

We ask for your understanding and cooperation with these items. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the cemetery board members.

### Shalom Thrift Shop Assistance

**Are you or your family in need of some financial assistance, or do know of a family that is?**

Members of Fish Lake Lutheran volunteer their time at the *Shalom Thrift Store* in Cambridge. Because of the generosity of their time, Fish Lake Lutheran receives funds each month to help families with financial struggles. **All requests are confidential.**

Contact Pastor Teleen Saunders or the church office if you, or someone you know, could benefit from this service.

### Fish Lake Scholarship

**Purpose:** To provide financial support for students who are members of Fish Lake Lutheran Church.

**Policy:** Students shall receive an annual financial gift upon meeting membership requirements and completing the scholarship application. Scholarship awards will be made based upon application requirements being met and the balance in the scholarship fund.

#### Student Requirements:

1. Students must be an active member of Fish Lake Lutheran Church for at least two (2) years.
2. Students must complete the Fish Lake Scholarship application by May 15.
3. Each scholarship recipient must continue to participate in service as follows:
  - a. Technical and undergraduate college: a minimum of 10 hours annually
  - b. Graduate school: a minimum of 10 hours annually, 5 of which are in a leadership role
  - c. Seminary: Ministry services at minimum of 20 hours per semester in a leadership role.

#### Scholarship Awards: (Depending on funds available)

- Technical and undergraduate college up to \$300 annually for four years with a GPA of 2.0 or higher\*
- Graduate school student up to \$500 annually for two years with a GPA of 3.0 or higher\*
- Seminary students up to \$1500 annually (\$750/semester) for four years with a GPA of 3.5 or higher\*

\*Part-time students in any category receive half of the scholarship aid offered.

Applications are available in the church office.



**Let us Pray for...**

*Injured and ill: Ron & Jo Weltruski, Julie Gagnon & Joyce Kranz (friends of Jan Burda), John Stanz (father of Maggie Hubbling), Mary Neria (mother of Nina Schisano), Laura Nephew (mother of Cory Nephew), Lisa Brady (mother of Lisa Nephew), Marissa Johnson, Dave Lehman (friend of Robyn Graham), John Plotz (father of Kelli Klein), Betty Schlipp (friend of Mary Bryson), Henry Holland (relative of Amy Johnson), Guy Ahlstrom (cousin of Judy Nelson), Sean, Sharon & Claire Bismark (cousins of Dick Burda), Dave Pape, Alex Heine-Zacharias (nephew of Mary & Brent Diehl), Evie Yates, Amy Noyes-Mellen.*

*Awaiting organ transplant: Matthew Anderson (cousin of Shelly Lustig), Beth Jones, Chris Olson*

**Remember and Pray for our homebound members:** Tom & Carol Nieman, Evie Janssen, Evie Yates, Jane Chapman, Jack & Linda Sprinkle.



**Forth Sunday Forum - May 19th following worship**

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Mark Granquist, church history professor from Luther Seminary will join us to talk about the

roots of Swedish Baptists and Swedish Lutherans. He will also be preaching for us during worship! Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this exciting day!

**Looking ahead...**

June 2nd - Graduation Sunday  
Graduates: Katherine MacMillan, Peter Skiba, Landon Utecht, Reese Wilking, Kinsley Wilson.

June 5th Baccalaureate Service  
June 9th - Baptism of Braden Pilz  
June 16th - Father's Day



**F55 Group is starting up again. (F5 on the computer refreshes.)**

So if you are 55 years old, or older, or younger than that, come join us for some fun.

We will have our first meeting on Friday May 17, 2024, at 12:00 noon. Please bring a bag lunch for yourself. We will have coffee and treats

available. The focus of this group is to have friends, family, fellowship, faith and fun. F-5. We will break bread together, play some games and make plans for future outings and opportunities. Some of the ideas we have are going to the gardens in St. Cloud, Train ride with Noel, visiting Como Zoo, boat ride on the St. Croix, or playing games at the church, etc. Floyd Pinotti has graciously agreed to help with transportation needs. If you are thinking about coming, but don't have a ride call him at 763-260-0093. If you have any questions about this group, please contact Sharon Petit or Beth Jones for more information.

**HISTORICAL MINUTES**

A Tribute to Our Church

By: Hjalmer A Swenson

Now for more than a century  
You've stood upon this hill,  
A beacon for the country side;  
A symbol of good will.  
You'll never know the good you've done  
By standing here, sometimes alone  
With open arms to everyone.  
For all your guiding light has shown.  
The Pioneers who sought this place  
A century ago  
Left deeds here time will not erase  
But in God's grace still grow.  
May your bell still peal out its call.  
Come gather here. Come one, come all.  
My mission must not ended be.  
I'm here unto eternity.

To those sturdy pioneers who laid the foundations upon which the present church is built, we humbly pay our due respects. Surely these early pioneers were a courageous and hardy people to venture into this complete wilderness to hew out their homes and open up fields to make a living from the soil. Their earthly possessions were meager, but they brought their Bibles, "Postilla" Psalm books and their Christian heritage so they could not fail. Had it not been for the perseverance of these early pioneers in retaining this spiritual heritage from their homeland, chances are that this page of history would have been entered as a failure. There were no pioneers anywhere more sturdy and vigorous, nor possessed a larger vision than these first Swedish settlers of the Fish Lake Area.

In order to better focus the date of organization of the Fish Lake Lutheran Church, on February 19, 1867, we should point out that the State of Minnesota was only nine years old and Chisago County was only fifteen years old; (having been organized while Minnesota was still a territory) and it was only two years after the end of the Civil War. Fish Lake Township, as such, was still not in existence (that taking place the following year 1868).

The Chippewa Indians still roamed this area and had their settlements on the shores of the numerous lakes, however they were of a friendly nature and did not cause these early settlers much alarm (although there are some stories told that at times some were scared when they noticed that the Indians were watching them from behind trees and occasionally caught peeking in the windows).

Indians no doubt had roamed this area on their hunting and fishing expeditions, perhaps for several centuries prior to 1867, this is evidenced by Indian artifacts found in fields and on lake shores (as recent as 1966 we know of a flint spear head and arrow heads being found in Fish Lake Township).

In 1878 the chancel was furnished and a church bell weighing 1029 pounds was procured. Now the bell from the temple tower sounded forth jubilantly when the sun sank in the west and the Sabbath was ushered in. It was similar to what they were accustomed to from the land of their fathers when they were there. Sunday morning came and their feelings were similar, and when one entered the church, one's eyes immediately fell on the Christian banner, the Cross with covering over it, there on the altar, and the organ begins to sound forth, the congregation begins to sing, "How beautiful is this house, dear Lord, Thy Temple and Thy Church", etc.



**Africa Sunday - May 5th**

Mark your calendars for May 5: Africa Celebration Sunday  
Join in the singing of joyful African hymns!  
Experience the auction of donation items put in the offering.  
Enjoy the after-worship coffee time with African treats!



We will be raffling an African quilt to raise money for scholarships for our students in Wasa, Tanzania. The average cost per year for each student is \$400.00. Currently we are sponsoring 5 students. Tickets are 1 for \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00 and will be on sale during coffee hour beginning at our annual African service on Sunday, May 5th. The drawing will be held on Sunday, June 9th. If you have any questions please contact Cindy Blesener.

Thank you so much for supporting this important mission!

**Kirsten Levorson from the synod will preach for Africa Sunday!**

**REMEMBER: Gift cards are available from LaDonna all year long! Order forms are kept in the fellowship hall.**

Class of 2024  
Baccalaureate Service

**Wednesday, June 5, 7:00 p.m.**  
**North Branch Area High School Auditorium**

Baccalaureate is a time where the community and area churches gather together to honor the graduating class. All senior students, their families, and the public are invited and welcome to this non-denominational service. The service is not required but optional. This year's Baccalaureate will include music, scripture, speaker, prayer, and blessing for the Class of 2024.

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Rentals/Reserving Church property and buildings

*Note: All reservations need to be made through the church office  
(first come/first serve)  
651-674-4252*

White 8-foot tables (6), 6-foot tables (5) - recommended donation of \$20.00 for the day (any number).

Folding Chairs free of charge

Fellowship hall - \$50.00 (the reservation will be considered 'confirmed' once the deposit is made.  
Renters are expected to clean the kitchen/fellowship hall/restrooms and nursery if used.  
Families can also choose to hire custodial support at an additional cost.

Wedding fees - A non-refundable deposit of \$200.00 is required to reserve the date and sanctuary for a wedding.

- Sanctuary use for members – No Charge
- Sanctuary use for non-members - \$1000.00
- Organist services for all weddings are \$200.00
- Pastoral services for all weddings are \$300.00
- Office fees - \$25.00
- Custodial fees for all weddings are \$30/hour: 4 hours minimum.

Funeral fees

- Use of building – Members – no charge
- Non-Members - \$200.00
- \*Pastor or Deacon - Honorarium of \$200.00
- Graveside only \$100.00
- Organist services for all funerals - \$125.00
- Office fees - \$25.00
- \*\*Custodial fee - \$100.00

\*A pastor or deacon is required for all services

\*\*Required for use of building

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Cemetery fees/services are separate from funeral fees - contact Marty Zachrisson at 763-754-9841.  
Food service for funerals - contact Barb Sauer at 763-691-3297 for fees/services available.

**Youth Programming- Faith Weavers & Confirmation students**

**End of the year celebration at Pizza Ranch 6:00pm on  
Wednesday, May 15th!!**

**FAMILY PATHWAYS FOOD SHELF DONATION ITEMS OF THE MONTH IS CLEANING SUPPLIES**

# COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Members: Michelle Young, President, Floyd Pinotti, Vice-president, Nancy Hoffman, Treasurer, Rick Cedegren, Secretary, Jeff Lustig, Lisa Nephew, Luciano Schisano (youth representative)

April 8, 2024

**FISH LAKE CHURCH COUNCIL**  
April 8, 2024, 7:15pm

Fish Lake Lutheran Church  
Stark, MN

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## Members Present

## Absent

Michelle Young (Pres.)  
Floyd Pinotti (VP)  
Nancy Hoffman (Secy.)  
Rick Cedergren (Treas.)  
Jeff Lustig  
Luciano Schisano  
Lisa Nephew

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**Advisors** Pastor Teleen Saunders  
Sister LaDonna Olson

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## Call to Order

Council President Michelle Young called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

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## Consent Calendar

Items on the consent calendar were presented for approval.

The following motion was made by President Young, seconded, and unanimously approved:

**CC 24.04.01 Moved:** That consideration for an audit of existing insurance policies be added to New Business.

The following motion was made by Nancy Hoffman, seconded, and unanimously approved:

**CC 24.04.02 Moved:** That the council approve the Consent Calendar as presented and amended.

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## Devotion and Opening Prayer

Jeff Lustig led the council in a devotion about seeking tranquility in God's presence, followed by an opening prayer from Pastor Teleen.

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## Financial Report

Sister LaDonna Olson presented the financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2024. The council discussed strong giving throughout March and the expenditures resulting from the work on the elevator.

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## Pastor's Report

Pastor Teleen expressed her thanks to everyone who took part in a busy Holy Week and joyous Easter celebration. She also discussed the ongoing goal setting project leading to a visit from Anne Gerrietts, a Church Building Consultant, later in the month. Lastly, Pastor Teleen relayed that Tom Anderson has also retired from his custodial role at Fish Lake Lutheran. The custodial position will be reassessed to align with the current and future needs of the church, and she offered thanks to Jeff Lustig and Candy McColley for covering the necessary duties in the interim.

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## Committee Reports

•Communications - Pastor Teleen had no activity to report.

•Property and Safety - Jeff Lustig summarized completed repairs to the elevator which brought it up to code. He also mentioned other projects in various stages of progress, including replacing an outlet in the kitchen, repurposing the basement altar, and exploring status on the National Historic Register.

•Social Ministry - Pastor Teleen reported donations for the birthday kit drive were strong, and the committee will be sponsoring the 4th Sunday speaker for the month of April.

•Worship and Music - Sister LaDonna Olson announced Africa Sunday is scheduled for May 5th.

•Youth and Family - Pastor Teleen announced the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner on April 20th, and the excitement among the youth to bring this event back to our congregation. Youth events for the summer are also taking shape.

•Evangelism and Stewardship - Pastor Teleen had no activity to report.

•WELCA - Michelle Young reported many blanket and reading buddy donations, as well as quilts sent to A Place For You. The group is also planning their annual Memorial Dinner event. Several members are set to attend the Synodical Women's Organization Conference in late April.

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## New Business

The council discussed several options on how to proceed with custodial duties in light of the recent retirement of both Robin Graham and Tom Anderson. It was agreed that Pastor Teleen should revise the custodial job description with consultation from Jeff Lustig and Candy McColley, who are currently performing the work. Additionally, as Jeff is being paid for his temporary custodial role, it was suggested that Candy also be compensated for her time.

The following motion was made by Floyd Pinotti, seconded, and unanimously approved:

**CC 24.04.03 Moved:** That an Altar Guild stipend of \$50 per week be established out of custodian salary and offered to Candy McColley for her work until a long term solution is reached.

Pastor Teleen encouraged the council to attend the upcoming consultation visit with Anne Gerrietts, and engage in dialogue about our community spaces.

President Young presented an offer for cyber insurance from our current provider. After discussion, the council agreed our electronic systems are very low risk as they contain a minimum of personal or financial data and opted not to pursue the offer. As an alternative, it was suggested to seek out options for free cyber security training for computer-based staff.

The church received an insurance renewal notice with a significant premium increase for the next coverage period. Pastor Teleen recommended evaluating our current policy to confirm our coverage is appropriate for our specific situation and ensure there are no coverage gaps.

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## Old Business

President Young encouraged all council members to participate in the goal setting activity throughout the month of April.

Secretary Hoffman reported on conversations with Associated Bank regarding higher yielding account options and suggested opening a money market account. The council discussed the logistics and options involved.

The following motion was made by Lisa Nephew, seconded, and unanimously approved:

**CC 24.04.04 Moved:** To authorize our financial representatives to open a money market account with an initial deposit of \$10,000 from the checking account and another \$70,000 from the savings account at Associated Bank.

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## The Lord's Prayer and Adjournment

Following recitation of the Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: May 6, 2024, 7:15 p.m.**