

## Pastor's Report

We know Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and the mystery of the incarnation. For many the Christmas season is over after December 25th. For centuries, the Church has observed not just a day, but a season of celebration; a feast of 12 days from Dec 25 to Jan 5. The Twelve Days of Christmas, is a festive Christian season celebrating the Birth of Jesus. In 567, the Council of Tours "proclaimed the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred and festive season.

During the Dark Ages the 12 days of Christmas meant attending daily church services. It was a time of renewal. It was also a period when small, simple, and usually symbolic gifts of faith were given to children. The twelve days were considered a holy period.

The meaning behind the lyrics of the familiar 12 days of Christmas Song paint a picture of so much more than a pile of gifts under a tree. The **Partridge in a Pear Tree** that "my true love" gave me on that first day of Christmas represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young. The twin birds (**Two Turtle Doves**) represent the Old and New Testaments. Where we find the complete story of the Christian faith and God's plan for the world. The **Three French Hens**, represent faith, hope, and love. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, are **Four Calling Birds**. (four gospels) The gift of the **Five Gold Rings** represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch. **Six Geese a-Laying** reminds us of the days of creation. (when the world was "hatched" by God) **Seven Swans a-Swimming** are the seven gifts of

the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion. **Eight Maids-a-Milking** speaks to the ones Christ came to save. The eight who were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. **Nine Ladies Dancing**: These nine dancers are the fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. **Ten Lords a-leaping**: 10 Lords, 10 commandments. The **Eleven Pipers Piping** are the eleven disciples who carried out the gospel message. The final gift, **Twelve Drummers Drumming** are the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting." The true love who gave us all these wonderful gifts is none other than God the Father, who gave us Jesus to bring the light that has broken into the darkness.

I pray that each of you embrace each of the 12 gifts given to us this season. I hope that each of you are able to see and feel the light of Christ in your life this Christmas Season. Merry CHRISTmas one and all!

## ***Sunday School News***

Hello All,

December flew by! The kids did an amazing job with the program! It was so nice to have so many kids come and be apart of it.

For January we will get back into the swing of things. I have a few new games and crafts planned to help learn about the Bible. The kids really seem to enjoy learning this way!

God Bless,  
*Emily*

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## ***News from WELCA***

Where has the time gone, seems like we were just ushering in the New Year 2022!!!

Hope everyone had a Wonderful Holiday Season celebrating Christmas with your family and friends!!

### **“Also the Celebration of Jesus Birth.”**

We would like to give a Huge Thank You for your donation of monies for the Thank Offering, and the donation of food for SEMCAC Food Shelf in Kasson.

They very much appreciated the donation of food. I feel the food shelves have been struggling this year, so was glad we could help out.

Our Thank Offering was \$100.71, and 91 lbs. of food was delivered to the food shelf. Thank you, again!!

**May God be with you  
Through the New Year  
And fill your life with  
Comfort, Love, and Cheer.**

**May this day and the days ahead,  
Hold Many Blessings for you and yours.  
Happy New Year**



## ***Luther League News***

We met on December 4th and baked and decorated cookies to make goodie treats for everyone after the Sunday School Christmas Program which was on December 18th. After that, we had a little Christmas party and exchanged gifts, played games and shared some snacks. We also made “German Bells” to gift to everyone at the Luther League Christmas service.

Our Christmas Eve Service was cancelled and moved to Sunday, January 1st. Mother Nature has a way of showing us who is in charge.

We will have our Luther League meeting on January 15 after worship... should be a short meeting, we will be planning January activities!

The Luther League will be serving waffles after worship on Sunday, January 22nd—this will be right before the Annual Meeting. So come to worship, come for waffles and stay for the annual meeting.

Hoping you all were able to enjoy time with friends and family for the Holidays!

*Cathy and Noah*

## **Confirmation**

The students will have a short break. Classes will resume January 11th. With the coming new year we will start working on our faith statements and start thinking about if they are ready to affirm their faith. Continue to hold all of the students in your prayers as they continue to seek answer and understanding.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Jackie*

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## **Memorial Flowers**

Please consider a tax deductible contribution of \$25 to purchase flowers for the altar in honor of loved ones. We have flowers on the altar throughout the year except during lent. You may give your check or cash to Diane Linbo or Therese Manggaard.

Thanks to the following who contributed this past year:

Cindy Musolf  
Pastor Jackie & Jeff  
Ed & Hope Doherty  
Ray & Darlene Killo  
Roger & Jacque Nelson  
Doug Sheely  
Therese Manggaard  
Diane Linbo  
Shelly & Brad Howe  
Lynette Larson  
Cathy & David Severson  
Marion Bungum  
Dan & Taylor Kilgore



## **Birthdays**

4 - Shirley Peterson  
8 - David Groteluschen  
Don Semjem  
24 - Janice Marquardt  
28 - Brooklyn Nevile

## **Anniversaries**

None this month

## **January Events**

15 - Audit of 2022 Records (9:15 a.m.-  
10:15 a.m.)  
22 - Waffle Dinner and Annual Meeting  
following worship

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## **ATTENTION**

If you would like Pastor Jackie to call upon you or a loved one in the hospital or nursing home, or make a home visit, please contact her at 507-517-0769.

When you register at Mayo, please specify your faith tradition (Lutheran), full faith community name (Evanger Lutheran Church), and the town where the faith community is located (Sargeant, MN). This is new to their system.

## Sign Up!

Contact Pastor Jackie to help fill all of the empty slots below!

January 8, 2023			
	Acolyte	1. Carson	1. Alanna
	Usher	1. Carson	2.
	Reader	Myiah	
	Prayers		

January 15, 2023			
	Acolyte	1.	2.
	Usher	1.	2.
	Reader		
	Prayers		
	Communion	1.	2.

January 22, 2023			
	Acolyte	1.	2.
	Usher	1.	2.
	Reader		
	Prayers		

January 29, 2023			
	Acolyte	1.	2.
	Usher	1.	2.
	Reader		
	Prayers		

## Evanger Prayer List

Let's remember to keep these people in our prayers:

Kathy Blanchard, Charlie Paulson, Steve Boysen, Brian Howe, Luella Manggard, Jimmy Gronseth, Roger Kiefer, Marion Bungum, Anna Mundy, Beverly Simonson, Vernon and Kathryn DeRaad

Also for the persons serving in the Military:

Brett Andrist, Mitchell Severson, Roger (Sonny) Nelson, Laura Nesburg, Jarred Clement and Adam Bungum

## *This 'n That*



**EVANGER ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023**  
**Meeting Starts at noon.**

We need all Evanger members to attend the annual meeting. We need to work together to plan and care for the ministry of our church.

**LL will be serving waffles immediately after worship. Annual meeting will start at noon.**



### WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

If we need to cancel worship or other events due to weather, we will send a group email and it will be televised on KTC, KAAL and KIMT.

Also if there is a winter storm warning in effect for the timeframe of worship or events, they will be cancelled.

## VOLUNTEER FOR EVANGER

There are several volunteer positions that will need to be filled at the annual meeting. Please consider helping out.

We currently have only one person on the **Property Committee**. 3-4 would be ideal. Maybe meet every 2 months? General upkeep and take care of low maintenance issues.

We still need a **Financial Secretary** – duties include counting offerings, making deposits, some record keeping. Accuracy and confidentiality is a must.

The **Cemetery Board** is looking for a few volunteers as well.

**Ushers** – you can sign up by the month, or one Sunday at a time!

And of course we could use a few more members joining the **Church Council** – monthly meetings (Cathy brings treats). Possibly more often as needed. This is your opportunity to take part in making decisions that affect all aspects of Evanger, and see what really goes on behind the scenes. We have an awesome group currently and would love you to join us.

Maybe you have a special place in your heart to be on a committee are are interested in youth education? How about being on the **Education Committee**? While there hasn't been one in recent years, it is a great resource for Sunday School, LL and confirmation.



**Auditing Committee will meet on January 15 from 9:15 - 10:15 to audit the 2022 records.**



# *Evanger Lutheran Church*

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# **Echoes**

*from Evanger Lutheran Church*

*January 2023*