

**Maranatha Free Lutheran Church**  
**101 Foundation Ave**  
**PO Box 94**  
**Glyndon, MN 56547-0094**

**NON-PROFIT**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**PERMIT NO. 50**  
**GLYNDON MN 56547**

**Glyndon:**

**Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck**  
*Senior Pastor @ Glyndon*

Glyndon Office: 218-498-2808  
Fax 218-498-2129  
mflc@maranathafreelutheran.com  
www.maranathafreelutheran.com

**Ulen:**

**Pastor Peter Ward**  
Pastor @ Ulen  
Ulen Office: 218-596-8580

**December 2024 Newsletter**



... "where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is freedom." II Corinthians 3:17

**Members of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations**



# DECEMBER 2024 @ ULEN




Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:00am - Worship Service w/communion 10:30am - Sunday School	<b>2</b> No Bone Builders this month	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00am - Worship Service 10:30am - Sunday School Church Council following	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00-11:00am - MOPS	<b>12</b> 1:30pm - Ladies Christmas Party	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am - Worship Service w/ Children's Christmas Program 10:30am - Sunday School	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00am - Worship Service NO Sunday School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00am - Worship Service NO Sunday School	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



# DECEMBER 2024 @ GLYNDON



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:30am - Worship Service w/ communion 10:45am - Sunday School 1:30pm - Christmas Caroling (meet at church)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:00-6:30pm - Supper 5:45pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - SaltTeens 7:00pm - Call Committee Mtg 8:00pm - Deacon Mtg	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast  6:00pm - Dusty Way Chapel
<b>8</b> 8:00am - YMT Meeting 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:30am - Women's Christmas Party  6:00-7:30pm - Trail Life	<b>11</b> 5:00-6:30pm - Supper 5:45pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - SaltTeens 8:00pm - Council Mtg	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
<b>15</b> 9:30am - Worship Service 11:00am - Sunday School Christmas Program	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30pm - Evening WMF at Janet Boe's home	<b>18</b> 5:00pm - Confirmation 6:00pm - SaltTeens Christmas Party	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast  6:00pm - Dusty Way Chapel
<b>22</b> 9:30am - Worship Service NO Sunday School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
<b>29</b> 9:30am - Worship Service NO Sunday School	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

**Maranatha Free Lutheran Church  
Glyndon, MN**

<b>Financial Snapshot - Maranatha Glyndon</b>			
31-Oct-24			
General Fund			
		Current Month	Year to Date
Contributions		\$21,600.00	<b>\$242,062</b>
Expenditures		-\$22,415.00	<b>-\$265,141</b>
Surplus / (Shortfall)			<b>\$ (23,079)</b>

	10/31/2024
<b>GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>	<b>\$21,600</b>
Deacons	-\$11,830
Education	-\$853
Finance	-\$3,702
Trustees	-\$5,835
Worship & Music	-\$195
<b>GENERAL FUND EXPENSES</b>	<b>-\$22,415</b>
Other Income (Rent, Interest)	\$20
Other Income )	\$0
<b>General Fund Balance Change</b>	<b>-\$795</b>

<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>			<b>\$33,398</b> Target is \$60,000
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<u>Special Funds</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Building Fund			\$ 73
Building Improvement Fund			\$ 15
Christmas Eve			\$ -
Cookbook Sales for Missions			\$ 245
Designated Donations			\$ -
Furnace Fund	2050		\$ 24,324
Good Samaritan Fund			\$ 1,946
Holiday Baskets			\$ 1,442
Lent Offering			\$ -
Memorial Fund			\$ 9,808
Men's Fellowship/Breakfast	125	-40	\$ 1,481
Men's Fraternity			\$ -
Outreach Ministries			\$ 166
Sunday Fellowship Fund			\$ 469
Sunday School Missions	28		\$ 426
Thanksgiving Offering			\$ -
Trail Life			\$ 573
Vacation Bible School			\$ -
VBS Blanket Project			\$ 404
Wedding Fund			\$ 500
Wednesday Suppers	1351	-694	\$ 3,585
World Missions Fund			\$ 9,981
Youth Activities Fund		-1500	\$ 263
Youth FLY Fund	685		\$ 13,193
<b>Special Funds Balance</b>			<b>\$ 68,896</b>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>			<b>\$ 33,398</b>
<b>CHECKBOOK BALANCE</b>			<b>\$ 102,274</b>
<b>PETTY CASH BALANCE</b>			<b>\$ 20</b>

*Detailed expense reports are available in the Glyndon office.  
Questions can be directed to Kristine Quanbeck - Treasurer  
[treasurer@maranathafreelutheran.com](mailto:treasurer@maranathafreelutheran.com)  
218-498-2808*

October Financial Spreadsheet

## December~ Happy Birthday!

Jaxsyn Gallagher	December 01
Todd Dravland	December 03
Chelsey Baer	December 05
Emily Olek	December 05
Stephanie Schlauderaff	December 05
Wayne Tweten	December 06
Ethan John	December 07
Hank Boe	December 08
Emrys Delosoul	December 08
Carol Lackey	December 08
Steve Stong	December 08
Todd Rasmussen	December 08
Irma Hendrickson	December 10
Pat Palloch	December 10
Bruce Smith	December 10
Preston Erickson	December 13
Isabel Klemetson	December 15
Jane Dahl	December 16
Aubrey Huewe	December 16
Glenn Urlacher	December 16
Jared Northridge	December 18
Scott Fuglie	December 19
Jason Krueger	December 19
Lori Olek	December 19
Carlie Erickson	December 21
Hadley Heffta	December 24
Isaac Schmitke	December 24
Duane Swanson	December 24
Cecelia Mosloff	December 26
Naomi Nelson	December 27
Micah Schlauderaff	December 27
Don Pake	December 28
Jenifer Spielman	December 28
Yoseline Gonzalez	December 30
Nathaniel Tweten	December 30
Jessica Zillmer	December 30
Travis DeJong	December 31
Owen Larson	December 31
Josiah Quanbeck	December 31
Sully Rickford	December 31
Shelby Skolness	December 31



## **BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES**

### December~ Happy Anniversary!

Howard & Julie Scheuring	December 03
Craig & Sara Larson	December 05
Hank & Janet Boe	December 07
Todd & Sara Dravland	December 13
Jarred & Amy Johnson	December 15
Doyle & Wendy Fevig	December 18
Gordon & Karen Fevig	December 19
Pr Curt & Kathy Frankhauser	December 26



## *Military Personnel*

### Thankful for those who serve our country!

*Kally Anderson*, granddaughter of Vonnie Anderson  
*James Cortelyou*, nephew of Art & Delores Welle  
*Levi Dahl*, grandson of Harvey & Dianne Dahl  
*Cody Dravland*, son of Todd & Sara Dravland  
*Trevor Dufault*, son of Todd & Sara Dravland  
*Makaila England*, niece of Joyce Johnson & Lila Ebner  
*Jonathan Eastvold*, nephew of Joyce Johnson & Lila Ebner  
*Brody Erickson*, grand nephew of Glennys Sivertson  
*Kyle Johnson*, son-in-law of Gary & Debi Langerud  
*Layne Johnson*, grandson of Ardis Johnson  
*Hunter Macziewski*, son of Doug & Tiffany Macziewski  
*Sierra Northridge*, member of Ulen congregation  
*Andrew Quanbeck*, son of Pastor Lloyd & Jean  
*Josiah Quanbeck*, son of Pastor Lloyd & Jean  
*Jakob Rolf*, grandson of Jim & Mary Rolf



# SALT + TEENS

**SaltTeens**  
**Christmas Party**  
**Wednesday, December 18th**  
**at 6:00pm**

SUPPER WILL BE PROVIDED  
 (FOR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND SALTTEENS)  
 FUN AND GAMES.

*WEAR YOUR UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER!*

## BEHOLD

FLY 2025 | JOHN 1:29

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29

JUNE 30 - JULY 5, 2025

Fly CONVENTION
YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO

## Ole & Lena's pizzeria

### Fundraiser

The SaltTeens will be offering an opportunity for our church to help them raise funds for FLY the first 2 weeks of December.

A table will be set up for you to order pizzas and other food items to be delivered in January.

Please check out their table on Wednesdays & Sundays, December 4 - 15




The **Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) Convention** is the biennial national youth gathering of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The purpose of the FLY Convention is to provide congregations with a tool for **winning the lost, building the believer, and encouraging student disciple making** in the local congregations.

➔ **Regular Rate Deadline - January 23, 2025 (\$699)**  
 (cost to student is \$300)

**Late Rate Deadline - May 15, 2025 (\$849)**  
 (cost to student is \$450)

**REGISTER at: [flyconvention.org](http://flyconvention.org)**





## Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all who helped put together shoeboxes for this wonderful program. Our totals for this year are as follows:

Maranatha Free in Glyndon - 90 boxes

Maranatha Free in Ulen - 27 boxes

## Maranatha - Glyndon

### Feed Thy Neighbor Food Drive

We were blessed to bring in 436.9lbs and \$392 to donate to UC Hope to help those in the area with their needs. Thank You Maranatha!

The youth had a challenge to raise 1/3 of what the congregation donated. The youth brought in 52.6lbs and \$23.77. Great job SaltTeens!

As a church we were able to donate a total of **489.5lbs** and **\$415.77**, which exceeded our 400lb, \$400 goal!



"They say they are three kings."



## Christmas Dingbats

#11-20 are Christmas Movies

1 <b>DONKEY</b> → DONKEY	2 <b>HODRIVEME XMAS XMAS XMAS XMAS</b>	3 <b>S</b>	4 <b>EMINEM</b> 
5 	6 <b>SENFRANKSE</b>	7 	8 <b>FIR</b> _____ <b>HERE HERE HERE</b>
9  <b>Hurrah</b>	10 + <b>OUTLET</b>	11 	12 <b>NOE</b>
13 <b>Grrrr</b> + <b>2.54cms</b>	14 <i>Jingle</i> → ← <i>Jingle</i> <i>Jingle</i> → <b>END</b>	15 <b>HORROR</b> <b>Dec 24th</b>	16 <b>JACK</b>
17 	18 <b>EVE EVE EVE HOLLY HOLLY</b> → <b>CAROL</b>	19 <b>CARIBBEAN OFFSPRING HEY HI HELLO</b>	20 <b>CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS</b> → <b>CHRISTMAS</b>

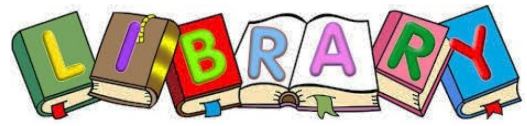
## Christmas Acrostic

By: Johnnie Desjarders

- C** is for the Child born that night to be our light.
- H** is for holy is His name.
- R** is for rejoice with gladness & joy.
- I** is for Immanuel, God with us.
- S** is for the star that led the Wise men to Him.
- T** is for the truth & grace that was sent our way.
- M** is for Mother Mary laying Him <sup>in swaddling clothes</sup> <sub>in the manger.</sub>
- A** is for angels singing songs of joy.
- S** is for salvation.

- Round 2 - Christmas Movies
- 11 - Home Alone
  - 12 - Noel or Noelle
  - 13 - The Grinch
  - 14 - Jingle all the Way
  - 15 - The Nightmare Before Christmas
  - 16 - Jack Frost
  - 17 - The Nutcracker
  - 18 - A Christmas Carol
  - 19 - Season's Greetings
  - 20 - Last Christmas
- Round 1 - Christmas
- 1 - Little Donkey
  - 2 - Driving Home for Christmas
  - 3 - Snowman
  - 4 - Wrapping Paper
  - 5 - Snowball
  - 6 - Frankincense
  - 7 - Tinsel
  - 8 - Presents Under The Tree
  - 9 - Festive Cheer
  - 10 - Advent

## Christmas Dingbats Answers



**GLYNDON LIBRARY—**  
**BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR DECEMBER**

**ADULT FICTION:** *The Orchard House Bed and Breakfast Series* is a seven-book series by Heidi Chiaverdi. It's a contemporary twist on the well-loved classic, *Little Women*.

**ADULT FICTION:** From best-loved author of Amish fiction, "The Wish" is a stand-alone book about friendship.

**ADULT FICTION:** Amid the violent last days of the glittering Russian monarchy, a princess on the run finds her heart where she least expects it. "The Ice Swan" by J'Nell Ciesielski.



**GLYNDON**  
**WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS**  
**PARTY**

Tuesday, December 10th  
 at 10:30am

Theme is "Names of Jesus"

The Morning WMF is hosting a Christmas Party for all women and girls of Maranatha.

Please join us for singing, devotions, a game and fun for all.

Pot-blessing lunch to follow so bring a dish to share.

For Unto us a CHILD is born Unto us a Son is given, and the Government shall be Upon His shoulders, and His Name shall be called, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!  
 Isaiah 9:6



Adventure › Character › Leadership

**Troop meetings are the**

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 6-7:30pm**

**All boys grades K-12 are invited to attend!**

**If you have any questions, please contact Corey Trick.**

**This month's Troop Meetings are:**

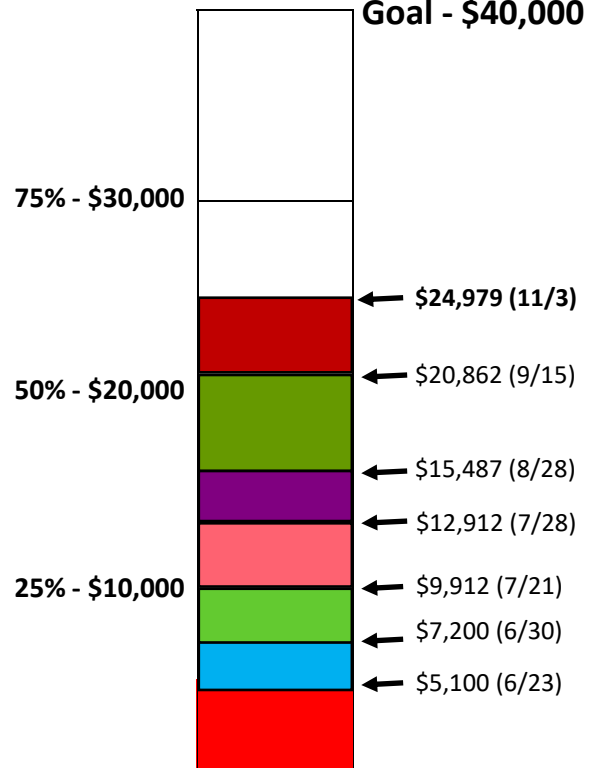
**December 10th**

**No meeting December 24th**



**GLYNDON**  
**FURNACE FUND**

Goal - \$40,000







# WMF NOTES (Women's Missionary Federation)

## Glyndon Morning

Morning WMF met Tuesday, November 12, 2024, with 13 ladies in attendance.

Delores W. opened with prayer and led the Bible study on "A Living God and a Giving People".

President Joan P. opened the business meeting with prayer.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Old Business:

- ~ WMF District Rally attended by Anne M. last month.
- ~ Ladies Christmas Gathering reminder...Next month, Tuesday, December 10th at 10:30am. Open to all ladies who wish to join us. It will be a potluck.

New Business:

- ~ 2025 Bible Study: "Seeing the Light of God in the Face of Christ". \$15 cost of book, let Anne know if you wish to order a book.
- ~ 2025 Hostess and Bible Study list handed out to volunteer for.
- ~ Missions for the month, Home and World Missions. Motion made and approved to send \$100 each.
- ~ 2025 Morning WMF officer elections held:
  - \* President - Cris F. nominated. Cris resigned VP position. Motion made and approved.
  - \* Vice President - Terrie E. nominated, motion made and approved. This is a 1year term position to fill out VP position vacated by Cris F.
  - \* Treasurer - Delores w. nominated. Delores resigned Secretary position. Motion made and approved.
  - \* Secretary - Karen U. nominated, motion made and approved. This is a 1 year term position to fill out secretary position vacated by Delores W.

Meeting concluded with prayer requests and prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Delores Welle, Secretary



## Glyndon Evening

Evening WMF did not meet in November as they hosted the Ladies Jigsaw Puzzle Night in place of their regular meeting.

Next month they will hold their Christmas Party and meeting on December 17th at Janet Boe's home.

## Ulen

Our Ulen WMF met Wednesday, November 13th at 1:00pm with 4 ladies present. The Bible study was done together. Following the study MaryAnn W. opened our business meeting with the reading of the Secretary's Report by Ellen. Dianne made a motion to accept as read and MaryAnn S. second, motion carried. Dianne read the Treasurer's Report and Ellen made a motion to accept as read and MaryAnn second, motion carried.

Old Business:

- ~ MaryAnn W. purchased the ornaments and dropped off at Viking Manor for our Giving Tree. The tree will be set up on Sunday, Nov 17th and ornaments will be back with each resident's needs on one and people can pick up however many they wish. We will plan to get the gifts back to Viking Manor the week of Dec 16th .

New Business:

- ~ Our Project of the month offering of \$75 will go to World Missions.
- ~ We discussed the election of officers for next year and it was decided to leave the officers as is for now and we will possibly address it again in January.
- ~ We will be ordering the new Bible study books for next year and will decide on a number to get.

We will have our Ladies Christmas Party on Thursday, December 12th at 1:30. It was decided to do a simple candle craft as well. We will purchase food again for the party and we received a Thrivent card to help with the expenses for the day.

Our meeting was adjourned and we closed with several prayer concerns and the Lord's Prayer.

MaryAnn W. served a delicious cake.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Zillmer, Secretary



- Congregational Meeting Continued -

- o Election Board of Deacons (1 position)
  - \* Nominees: Brian Dahl and Todd Rasmussen
  - \* Ballots were cast and tallied. Todd Rasmussen received majority vote
- o Election Board of Finance (1 position)
  - \* Nominees: Monica Briske, Amanda Larson, Jennifer Rickford
  - \* Ballots were cast and tallied. Amanda Larson received majority vote
- o Election Board of Worship and Music (1 position)
  - \* Nominees: Linda Oelke and Martha Sanger
  - \* Ballots were cast and tallied. Martha Sanger received majority vote
- Board of Finance update – Todd Rasmussen
  - o Furnace Fund goal is \$40,000 - to replace aging three furnaces
  - o Per previous discussions - when Furnace Fund goal is reached, set up a levy (small percentage determined by Board of Finance) against General Fund to replenish Building Fund that was used to pay for first furnace. Levy will end once the Building Fund gets back to the original amount ~\$22,000.
  - o Todd Rasmussen made a motion to set up a levy against the General Fund to replenish the Building Fund back to original amount once the Furnace Fund reaches \$40,000. Also combine Building Fund and Building Improvement Funds to create one fund named Building/ Emergency Fund. Chad Johnson seconded the motion; motion carried.
- Update per Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck
  - o Confirmation class has grown to seven 7th grade boys, three new families
  - o Many new visitors

Pastor Lloyd closed the meeting in prayer.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Craig Hurner and seconded by Joyce Johnson; motion carried

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Johnson

**Election Results** from Glyndon's Congregational Meeting held on November 20, 2024. Terms will begin January 1, 2025.

Thank you to all those nominated for your willingness to serve.

**Vice President: Chad Johnson**

**Treasurer: Kristine Quanbeck**

**Boards:**

**Deacons - Todd Rasmussen**

**Trustees - Dave Olek**

**Jeff Ehrichs** (fill term expiring 2025)

**Finance - Amanda Larson**

**Worship & Music - Carol Johnson**

**Martha Sanger**

**Education - Jill Toms** (fill term expiring June 2025)

## SERVING GROUP 2 ~ Glyndon

Serving Group 2 will be responsible for January, February & March. Please watch for the new sign-up sheet in the kitchen later in December. Take time to check the date or dates that you would be willing to serve goodies after church on Sunday mornings. We will also be responsible for serving other events that come up—lunches, special events, and funerals. Thank you for your willingness to serve our Lord & our church family—it is much appreciated. Any questions, contact Lori Pender. Thank you!



# Christmas Programs/Services Schedule

## GLYNDON

**Sunday School Christmas Program**  
Sunday, December 15th at 11:00pm

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
December 24th @ 5:00pm



## ULEN

**Sunday School Christmas Program**  
Sunday, December 15th @ 9:00am  
(part of the Worship Service)

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
December 24th @4:00pm



## Thank You



Thank you to **Jack Olek** and **Olek Services** for providing the snow removal for our church in Glyndon again this winter. We are hoping for another mild winter like last year, but if not, we appreciate knowing it will be plowed out when it is needed.

**Maranatha Free Lutheran Church – Glyndon, MN  
Council Meeting**

November 13, 2024, 8:00pm

Present: Cliff Langerud, Bruce Smith, Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck, Kristine Quanbeck, Todd Rasmussen, Glenn Urlacher, Jake Pender, Art Welle, Mary Langerud, and Alyssa Johnson

Cliff opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

Secretary's report of October meeting minutes was read by Alyssa. No corrections nor additions to the Secretary's report. Stand approved as read.

Treasurer's report was given by Kristine. Reported October 2024 contributions as \$21,600 and expenditures of \$22,415. General fund balance \$33,398 (target \$60K). A new checking account opened for Trail Life. Reviewed proposed 2025 budgets.

**Board Reports:**

- Finance – Todd
  - Furnace fund goal \$40K. Once cap/goal reached need to replenish Building Fund. Option to have small percentage of giving go to that fund
- Education – Brittany (read by Jake)
  - Christmas program 12/15 11am
  - Trunk or treat with UC Hope went well
  - Still in need of Kid's Club leader and Librarian
- Trustees – Jake
  - Replacing blower fan on old furnace in the education wing
  - Jack Olek to do snow removal this winter
  - Request to investigate handicap accessible bathroom doors
- Worship & Music – Mary
  - 60 in attendance for movie night
  - Food drive until 11/24
  - Advent readers lined up
  - Poinsettia sign-up sheet posted
  - Christmas caroling 12/1 1:30
- Deacons – Glenn
  - Working on Pastor annual review – to be completed beginning of December
  - Preparation for Thanksgiving Eve service
  - Continuing monthly Deacon Bible study
  - Pulpit coverage 12/8 and 12/29, Pastor Lloyd on vacation
- Pastor Report – Pastor Lloyd
  - Confirmation going well – 7 boys in class. Brian Dahl's Apologetics class has 12 students
  - Early registration for FLY ends next week 11/21. 22 youth and 8 adults planning to go
  - Call Committee met: Jake Murack – Chair, Dave Jensen – Vice Chair, Ashley Hurner – Secretary
    - \* Sub committees:
      - \* Salary comparison
      - \* Job description details
  - Trail Life – 20 boys and their dads. Corey

- Council Meeting continued -

Trick leading. Charlie Toms, Brian Dahl, and Anne Manderud assisting

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Annual congregational meeting set: January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Pastor Lloyd closed the meeting in prayer .

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Johnson, Secretary



**Maranatha Free Lutheran – Glyndon, MN  
Congregational Meeting**

Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 7:00 PM

President Cliff Langerud called the meeting to order. The hymn, "Count Your Blessings" was sung. Followed with devotion and prayer.

Congregational Secretary's meeting minutes of June 23rd, 2024 was read by Alyssa Johnson. No corrections nor additions to the Secretary's report, stand approved as read.

Treasurer's report was given by Kristine Quanbeck. Proposed 2025 budget \$379,796.58 (1.7% increase from last year). Monthly contributions for 2025 will need to be \$31,470 to meet the budget. Average 2024 monthly giving ~\$25,000.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Review of 2025 Budgets

o Deacons – Glenn Urlacher

\* Increase for speaker fees due to Ryan's departure

\* Increase in FLY convention support

o Finance – Todd Rasmussen

\* AFLBS scholarship budget increased to \$4000

\* Cease support for Nate and Rhoda Jore (one time

\$500 gift in 2025), then begin support for Zach

Kupser, MATA aviation training program

o Education – Brittany Pender

\* No changes

o Trustees – Jake Pender

\* Increase phone budget

o Worship – Mary Langerud

\* Combined some line items

\* Increase bulletin line item

Call Committee update – Chanyce Dahl

o One meeting so far, committee positions assigned and formed two subcommittees

o Next meeting first week of December

Election of Officers & Board Members

o A unanimous ballot for Chad Johnson as Vice President

o A unanimous ballot for Kristine Quanbeck as Treasurer

o A unanimous ballot for Dave Olek and Jeff Ehrichs (fill out Ron Larson's term expiring 2025) as members of the Board of Trustees

o A unanimous ballot for Carol Johnson as member of the Board of Worship and Music

o A unanimous ballot for Jill Toms (to fill out partial term of Liz Tonneson, expiring June 2025) as member of the Board of Education

# Maranatha News

DECEMBER 2024

## FROM PASTOR LLOYD...

*The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called "**the Son of God.**"* (Luke 1:35)

Dear friends at Maranatha,

**Why and how did it come about that we celebrate Christmas?** We, who have never known a time when Christmas was not celebrated, and who have lived our lives with all kinds of Christmas traditions, may assume that since the birth of Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago such celebrations have always taken place. However, while yearly Easter celebrations link back close to New Testament days, celebration of Christmas came significantly later.

In New Times, Christians experienced severe persecution and death at the hands of Roman government officials. However, the Roman Emperor named Constantine was sympathetic to Christianity, and in 313 AD made a declaration known as the Edict of Milan – which made it illegal in the Roman Empire to persecute Christians. In 325 AD he convened the Council of Nicaea, which gathered a group of Christian bishops to clarify what Christians believe regarding the person of Jesus Christ. There was a bishop named Arius from Alexandria Egypt who taught that Jesus was not divine, but rather a created being. A result of this council is the Nicene Creed (which we traditionally recite at Christmas). The Nicene Creed is a bit longer than the Apostle's Creed, and goes into much more detail about the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and His relationship to God the Father and to the Holy Spirit.

The first historical record of Christmas being celebrated on December 25 traces back to the reign of Constantine and the year 336 AD. (So, not many years after that historical Council of Nicaea firmly settled the doctrine of the divinity of Christ). There are various theories on why Christmas landed on that date, including the possibility that it lined up with the pagan date of the winter solstice in the Roman Empire, and the festival birthday of "the Invincible Sun." (Winter Solstice, by the way is the day of the year with the least hours of daylight, after which days begin to get longer again.) So Winter Solstice was looked on as the birthday of "the Sun."

It is interesting that the Old Testament Prophet Malachi spoke of the coming Messiah and stated this concerning Him: "*But for you who fear My name, the **sun of righteousness** will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.*" (Malachi 4:2)

Regardless, of the factors that shaped the celebration of Christmas landing on December 25<sup>th</sup>, our celebration of the birth of Jesus emphasizes that we believe what the angel declared to the virgin Mary - "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called "**the Son of God.**"*

During Advent at Maranatha in Glyndon I will be preaching on the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. There we will look into the annunciations of the angel Gabriel to Zacharias and to Mary (foretelling the birth of John the Baptist and of Jesus). These annunciations and the subsequent births of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ reveal the awesome plan of God to send His own Son to be our savior. I look forward to celebrating the season of Advent and Christmas with you, as we gather for worship each Sunday in December.

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck