Ascension Lutheran Church of Navarino

"The Visitor"

JANUARY

2026

"Joyfully, we invite and equip all people to share Christ's love"
The Mission Statement of Ascension Lutheran Church.

Ascension Lutheran Church
W6106 Navarino Road
Shiocton, WI 54170

Church Office: (715) 758-8312
Office Hours:
Tuesday 1:00-5:00 pm

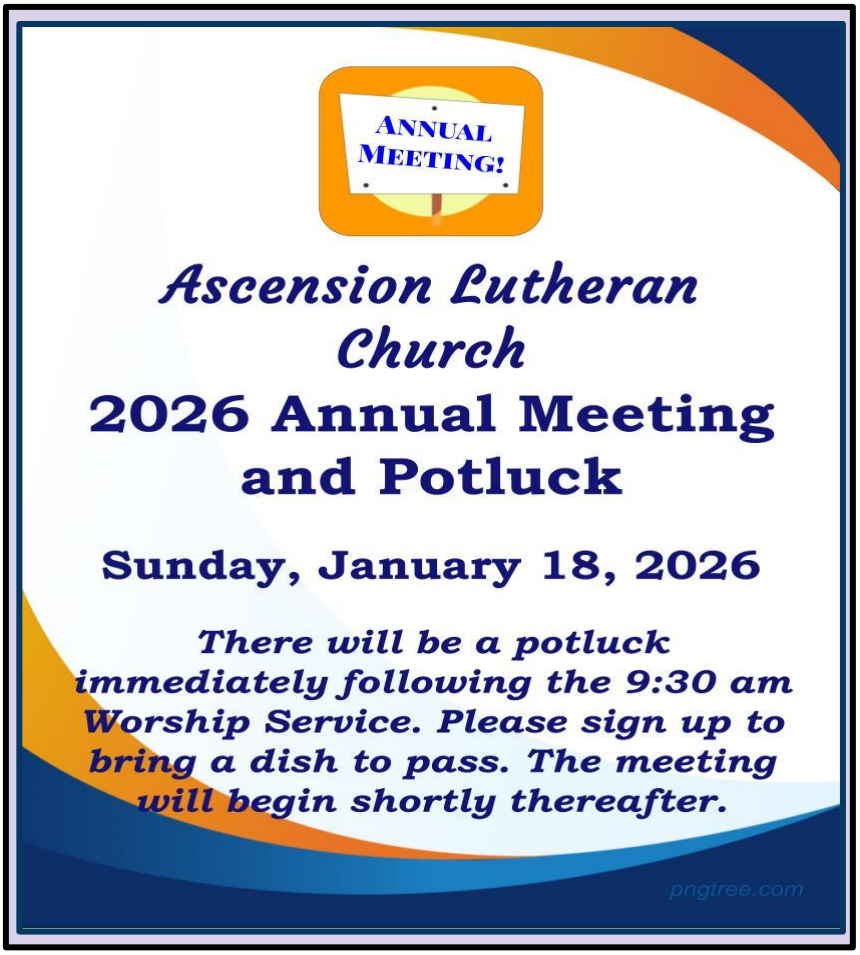
In case of an Emergency call
Glen Peebles at (715) 584-3029

Church Email:
Ascensionavarino@gmail.com

Church website:
www.ascensionavarino.com

Pastor Mark Sabin
715-340-3670-Cell
Or 715-445-2097-Home

Visitation Pastor:
Marcia Sabin
715-340-5951-Cell



Your Church Council

Carmen Wetzel, President	(715) 853-7101
Lisa Wollenberg, Treasurer	(920) 525-2024
Cathy Thomas, Secretary	(920) 858-3835
Brad Schuelke, Vice President	(920) 659-2402
Jacob Hartlaben	(715) 851-1904
Mike Homan	(715) 853-2996



The council usually meets the third Wednesday of each month. You are welcome to attend.
The next council meeting will be Wednesday, January 21 at 6:00 pm.

Message from the Pastor ~ Learning Opportunities



On December 25th we celebrated the birth of love which ushered in peace to all the world; this is the hope of all humanity. The promised Messiah is born. He is the King. Not a political king but the divine King. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we have a new beginning in Christ. **II Corinthians 5:17** "*So, if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new*."

January 1, 2026 ushered in a new year. Unfortunately, a New Year doesn't make our world a safer place; we experience the same things as we did in 2025. Our New Year is based on a calendar of 365 days. We have a new year that does not necessarily change lives. But in II Corinthians 5:17, we are new creations in Christ. A New Year will begin new creations for those who come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Why do we celebrate 365 days which ushers in a New Year? Probably the same reason we celebrate 12 months with designated days in that month? We work in time; appointments need to be scheduled to visit a doctor as an example. There is no time with God. Our "newness" comes when we become a child of God through grace through faith **Ephesians 2: 8-9**. God is present everywhere (omnipresent).

New Year celebrations are times when friends and family get together. We eat, have eggnog and libations and of course soda. Many will watch the football games and others will visit.

Let's not forget the new Years' resolution that does not last more a day or two. We count down from 10 -1 in New York City Times square for the official beginning of 2026. Dear "Church Lady," my resolution will be to get the Visitor to you in a more timely manner.

Blessings, Pastors Marcia and Mark ╬





Learning Opportunities at Ascension

Adult Bible Study

Sunday Mornings at 8:30 am
Monday Evenings at 6:30 pm
Tuesday Mornings at 9:00 am



Confirmation & Children's Sunday School

Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 pm

Come join us! All are welcome.

Assisting Ministers

January 2026 *(9:30 services)*	**Communion Server**	**Reader**	**Money Counter**
January 4	Carrie Daoust	Toni Klemp	Ruthann Meiers
January 11	Denelle Daniels	Nathan Schley	Glen Peebles
January 18	Linda Bubolz	Denise Klemp	Phyllis Peebles
January 25	Pastor Marcia	Darrel Klemp	Rita Olson

If you would like to help out with any of the above tasks, please call the church office (715-758-8312) and we will add your name to the list. If you are unable to be here on the date you are assigned, please find a replacement. Thank you.



Happy Anniversary

01/13 Francis & Ioline Nitzske
(Married 64 years)



Happy Birthday

01/04	Everly Homan
01/06	Steve Thomas
01/11	Sarah Wilber
01/15	Helga Kuhnke
01/15	Xander Pues
01/17	Dean Hillsberg
01/17	Mandy Hartlaben
01/17	David Richter
01/19	Lon Hilliker
01/20	Hayden Ehrle
01/21	Jack Johnson
01/22	Lois Rohrer
01/24	Merle Olson
01/25	Beck Pues
01/27	Gregg Christianson
01/29	Denise Klemp
01/29	Jodi Hoberg
01/31	Ken Tisch

Upcoming Events ~ Financials ~ Miscellaneous

Mark Your Calendars

- **January 4, 2026 -** Birthday Sunday *(Birthday Sundays will now be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month)*
- **January 11, 2026** - Tree Un-Trimming after worship
- **January 18, 2026** - Annual Meeting after worship
- **January 31, 2026** - Pizza Making & Sale *(deadline to order is Jan. 18)*
- **March 27, 2026** - Fish Fry

Loaves & Fishes



FOOD PANTRY

Focus Item for January 2026:
Saltine Crackers

Stock the Pantry Shelves – help us stock the shelves with items that help provide for families in need in our communities.

Remember...
it never needs to be a brand name!

****The Food Pantry is in need of plastic and paper grocery bags.****

Ascension Budget



Council would like the membership to be aware of our financial status on a month to month basis.

YTD Income received:	$70,672.00
($6,388.00 below budgeted income)	
Expenses paid out:	$76,913.34
Expenses Exceeding Income:	$ 6,241.34

Sunday Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to stay for food and fellowship after worship every Sunday. A free will donation is accepted.

January 4	- Birthday Cake & Ice Cream
January 11	- Sub Sandwiches
January 18	- Hot Pork Sandwiches & Potluck
January 25	- Meatballs & Cheesy Potatoes



Pizza Sale Flyer

PIZZA SALE



Orders Due: January 18, 2026

Pick Up:

- ➔ Saturday, 1/31/2026 12-2 pm
- ➔ Sunday, 2/1/2026 After worship

Choices:

- ★ **Cheese ($9)**
- ★ **Sausage ($11)**
- ★ **Pepperoni ($11)**
- ★ **Combo ($12)**
- ★ **Gluten Free (Additional $2/pizza)**

Order: Cash or check prepayment preferred. Checks can be dropped off or mailed to: Ascension Lutheran, W6106 Navarino Road, Shiocton, WI 54170
ascensionavarino@gmail.com ~ 715-758-8312

Sponsored by Ascension Lutheran Church.
Proceeds support Ascension Lutheran Special Projects fund.
A Thrivent Team Action Fundraiser

Fundraising & Scrip Information

ShopWithScrip®

As we begin a new year, many of us are thinking about fresh starts, better habits, and wise budgeting. One easy way to make your everyday spending count in the year ahead is by using **scrip gift cards**.

When you purchase scrip for groceries, gas, dining, or other regular expenses, you receive the full value of the card—and our church earns a percentage back from the retailer. There's no extra cost to you, yet it provides ongoing support for our ministries and mission work throughout the year.

Using scrip is a simple New Year habit that can make a lasting impact.

How to Participate

Scrip cards are available after services or through the church office.

Thank you for starting the new year by supporting our church in such an easy and meaningful way!



VandeWalles CANDIES

There are VandeWalle's candy bars on the table by the library for sale. The candy bars are $1.50 each. Please put your money in the envelope in the box.

If you'd like to sell a box at your place of employment or another business, please see Toni Klemp. All profits will go to the Special Projects Fund.

Looking for Thrivent Members

Any Thrivent member is eligible to apply for two $250 Thrivent action cards per year which can be used as seed money for our fundraisers or for community service projects. We will help you with the application process and completing your final report for any project you may be involved with.

Fundraising Committee

Do you have a fundraising idea? We have a form for you to complete and give to the Fundraising Committee. You can pick up a copy on the back table in Church.

Committee members: Dawn Dingeldein, Ruthann Meiers, Lois Rohrer. Fundraising supports the Church's Special Projects Fund.



Our January Benevolence
will go to the Martin Luther Church
in Saldus, Latvia

Dartball Schedule ~ VDC ~ Prayer List ~ Online Worship Service Info

Ascension's Dartball Schedule 2025-2026
Start Time 7:30 pm



Oct. 20 - Ascension BYE
Oct. 27 - Black Creek U.C.C @ Ascension
Nov. 3 - Ascension @ Seymour Methodist
Nov. 10 - No Dartball
Nov. 17 - Oneida Methodist @ Ascension
Nov. 24 - Deer Hunting & Thanksgiving
Dec. 1 - Ascension @ Cicero Lutheran
Dec. 8 - Black Creek Lutheran @ Ascension
Dec. 15 - Ascension @ Seymour Lutheran
Dec. 22 - Make-up Game
Jan. 5 - Ascension BYE
Jan. 12 - Ascension @ Black Creek U.C.C.
Jan. 19 - Seymour Methodist @ Ascension
Jan. 26 - Ascension @ Oneida Methodist
Feb. 2 - Cicero Lutheran @ Ascension
Feb. 9 - Ascension @ Black Creek Lutheran
Feb. 16 - Seymour Lutheran @ Ascension
Feb. 23 - Make up game
Mar. 2 - Captain's Meeting
Mar. 9 - PLAYOFFS
Mar. 16 - PLAYOFFS
Mar. 23 - PLAYOFFS/CHAMPIONSHIP
Apr. 6 - BANQUET





Prayers for those ill, injured or hospitalized:



- Alice Mueller
- Dave Richter
- Pat Zuiches
- Arnie Kloes
- Russell Kloes
- Beck & Rosie Pues
- Carl Schoettler
- Dave Rohrer
- Jen Erb

Via de Cristo News

Watch the upcoming Visitors for information about Spring Via de Cristo weekends.

For more information contact Denelle Daniels, Darrel or Toni Klemp.

Online Worship Services

Ascension's website for online services: https://www.facebook.com/AscensionNavarino

OR you can find a link to our online services on our website: https://www.ascensionavarino.com

To view past church services: http://www.youtube.com/@AscensionLutheranChurch-w1l

If you are worshipping at home and would like to follow along with a bulletin, you will find both the Bulletin and Announcement sheet on our website.

The services are also audio-recorded onto CD's when possible and delivered to the homes of those without internet who are unable to attend worship.

If you have something you would like to be included in the "Visitor", please have the information to the church office by the third Sunday of the month. Thank you!

Trimming the Tree – December 7, 2025















"The Nativity – Through the Eyes of Children" ~ December 14, 2025



Grandma Carrol -
Carrigan Hartlaben



Angel -
Tori Hogan



Mary -
Everly Homan



Joseph -
Elliot Peeters



Donkey -
Brooklyn Olson



Animals -
Luke & Brady Olson



Stable -
Ezra Erb



Brady Scott, Ezra Erb &
Director - Toni Klemp

"The Nativity – Through the Eyes of Children" ~ December 14, 2025



Shepherds - Kasen Homan & Eyan Peeters



Kings - Jack Bushie, Levi Olson, Emily Bushie
Camel - Ray Leeman, Star - Kendra Scott



Baby Jesus - Brady Scott







"The Nativity – Through the Eyes of Children" ~ December 14, 2025







Maebel Krull with Baby Jesus

The Nativity



Ascension Lutheran Church Of Navarino
Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Present: Carmen Wetzel, Lisa Wollenberg, Jake Hartlaben, Brad Schuelke, Mike Homan, Cathy Thomas and Glen Peebles.
Meeting was called to order by president Carmen Wetzel at 6:15
Prayer and devotion: Submitted by Pastors Mark and Marcia, Matthew 1:23-25 and read by Mike Homan.
Approval of last month's minutes: Motion to accept by Jake, 2nd by Mike, Voice vote passed
Pastor's Report: The Sally Richter Funeral, (4) member home visits with Holy Communion, Confirmation curriculum development-a revision of the first-year studies. Tuesday Bible Study-developing the study materials for our discussions in 2026.
Treasurer's Report:
Income for November: $5,902.00 YTD $70,672.00 **adjusted for 1⁄2 of the lawn mower maintenance paid by the cemetery committee.
Expenses paid out for November: $5,509.88, YTD $76,913.34 **adjusted for computer being added to operating expense **adjusted for 1/2 of lawn mower maintenance paid by the cemetery committee. ($6,388.00) below budgeted expenses (annualized)
YTD: Income over Expenses $70,672.00 minus $76,913.34 = ($6,241.34) Expenses exceeding Income. November Electric $61.21
Project Fund Income Received for the Month:
Loud Offering $87.00, Eggs $24.00, Scrip Cards Sold $5,525.00, Misc. Donations $1,450.00
Total Income for the Month: $7,086.00
Office Computer Expense $614.98, Scrip Card Expense $8,513.35.
Total Available for Project(s) $39,653.41<$2,042.33.
Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: 1st by Mike, 2nd by Brad, voice vote passed.
Old Business:
Update on new Computer: Office computer hooked up and running. Another computer will be ordered for the Sanctuary. Internet upgrade complete.
Upgrade play area outside/new swing set: Will discuss at the Annual Meeting
Discussion/approval budget 2026: Motion made to approve Budget: 1st by Brad, 2nd by Mike, voice vote passed.
New Business:
Annual meeting January 18, 2026: 3 open seats for Church Council - Anyone interested please contact any Council Member to be put on the ballot.
Outagamie County Public Health dropped 12 Narcan and information literature. TBD where Narcan will be kept if needed.

(continued on next page)

Church Council Minutes

Council Minutes (continued from previous page)

Committee Updates Worship:
Christmas Eve: 1 Service at 4:00 , Glen and Phyllis will be setting up the soup suppers for Lent Services.
Youth:
Finance: Meeting January 12, 6:00pm
Property:
Fundraising: Pizza Making and Sale - January 31, 2026
Miscellaneous: December 28 - Lessons & Carol Worship Service, Birthday Sunday(moving to the 1st of the month in 2026)
Next Meeting Date: January 21, 2026 at 6:00.
Motion to Adjourn: 1st by Mike 2nd by Lisa, Voice vote passed

Respectfully Submitted by Cathy Thomas (Secretary)

My Thoughts in Words
By The Church Lady

My Nativity



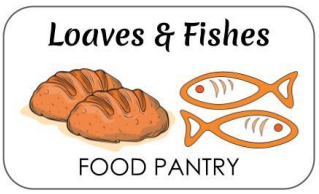
Happy New Year!

I don't really have any words of wisdom for you this month. It's December 23, 2025 and I'm sitting in my living room. I'm thankful for quiet moments like this. I love this time of year. I really love the lights. I often wish my Christmas lights and decorations could stay up for a few months. After all, it takes so long to decorate for Christmas. The stress of getting it all done in a timely manner all disappears once it's done and I can sit down and enjoy it. As I'm writing this I'm admiring my Nativity set. It's about 30 years old, but I still love looking at it. Somehow, though the pieces are ceramic, not one piece has broken in all these years. There's something special, sacred about it. I don't ever remember my children playing with any of the pieces. A couple weeks ago my granddaughter played with the sheep. She was careful with them and so I let her. I guess it's actually a good thing that the Christmas decorations don't stay out long. Every December, when I start decorating, each piece I pull out of the box feels new and fresh. I find myself getting excited about certain pieces (like my nativity) and the joy that ensues is palpable. This year I pray you'll find the joy and wonder that comes with each new season. Happy New Year to you all!

God bless you all! Denise



January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 *2nd Sunday after Christmas* **Birthday Sunday** **8:30am** Bible Study **9:30am** Worship **Birthday Sunday**	**5** **6:30pm** Bible Study **NO** Dartball 	**6** **9:00am** Bible Study	**7** **6:30pm** Confirmation & Church School	**8** 	**9**	**10**
11 *Baptism of the Lord/Epiphany* **8:30 am** Bible Study **9:30am** Worship **After Worship -** Tree Un-Trimming **Fellowship meal -** Sub Sandwiches	**12** **6:30pm** Bible Study **7:30pm** Dartball at Black Creek UCC	**13** **9:00am** Bible Study	**14** **6:30pm** Confirmation & Church School	**15**	**16**	**17**
18 *2nd Sunday after the Epiphany* **8:30am** Bible Study **9:30am** Worship Service **After Worship -** Annual Meeting and Potluck (Hot Pork Sandwiches will be provided) 	**19** **6:30pm** Bible Study **7:30pm** Dartball at Ascension	**20** **9:00am** Bible Study	**21** **4-6pm** Loaves and Fishes Distribution **6:00pm** Council Meeting **6:30pm** Confirmation & Church School	**22** 	**23**	**24** **9-11 am** Loaves and Fishes
25 *3rd Sunday after the Epiphany* **8:30am** Bible Study **9:30am** Worship Service **Fellowship Meal -** Meatballs & Cheesy Potatoes	**26** **6:30pm** Bible Study **7:30pm** Dartball at Oneida Methodist	**27** **9:00am** Bible Study	**28** **6:30pm** Confirmation & Church School	**29**	**30** 	31 **8am-3pm -** Pizza Making & Sale

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