



Balaton United Methodist Church January 2022 Newsletter

Happy New Year 2022! I hope that you all had a blessed Christmas and New Years with your family and friends. I was SO disappointed not to be able to lead you in worship this Christmas Eve! I again say a BIG Thank You to Sue and Phil Skramstad for stepping in and leading you. Thanks to Peggy Bundy for guiding traffic a bit too.

We enjoyed looking after our three Grandkids a few nights/days leading up to Christmas. It was nice to get to see some of their individual personalities developing. We learned all about “Nerf Wars, Bull Riding, Tractors, and some Princess Stuff” via the tv choices they chose. We are looking forward to having our Christmas with them tonight (January 2nd) if Grandma is feeling better. As I write, it’s Wednesday, and my voice is better but not yet “preachable”. The sermon is finished, and Sue is on “standby”. Don’t take your health for granted, friends

As we step into this New Year We LOOK to the future. We will be beginning John’s Gospel here in a few weeks. I’m still fleshing that out ... so stay tuned. But, January 6th is officially EPIPHANY! You know that I LOVE EPIPHANY! Epiphany is just that “Ah-Ha” ... it’s a sudden perception of something. In Christianity ... when the Wise Men visited the Holy Family it was an “Epiphany” Everything finally made sense ... all of the study of that crazy star ... the following it ... the Prophecy ... and why crazy King Herod was jealous. A new King had been born. Once they finally “got It” .. they couldn’t contain themselves and told everyone.

John’s Gospel ... is Asynoptic (different than) Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The three synoptic Gospels are all about Jesus Life and a Call to “FOLLOW”. They contain ethical lessons and parables about how to live as “Jesus People”. But John Is all about BELIEVING. The focus is on Light and Life.

I know John is a favorite for some of us. I’m looking forward to unpacking it together. Give me a little time to sort it out a bit. We still have a couple Sundays to wrap up “*Because of Bethlehem*”. I hope that you enjoyed it!

JAM & CONFIRMATION – We begin again Wednesday January 5th at TRINITY. CONFIRMATION will walk on over to UMC for class so pick up your teenager there at 8pm. We will have our Christmas party this week (January 5th).

DISCUSSION GROUP TUESDAYS – Tuesday, January 11th we will begin “The Shack” Study. We will view the movie first, then engage in discussion. All are welcome! Location: Balaton UMC Sanctuary 6:30-8pm.

ZOOM-ZOOM – I will have a few upcoming meetings via ZOOM (online) The Board of Ordained Ministry which I am a part of will be conducting all of our candidate interviews via ZOOM in February. We have an upcoming training to just “practice” with our teams via ZOOM this month. We did this last year too, and although it isn’t as great as being there in person ... it worked but takes a little extra navigating. CLERGY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY is also online via ZOOM this month ... largely due to weather might be iffy.

VISITS – I am hoping to make a few visits with many of you soon. Once I get to being healthy. Thank You for being patient and to those who stay in touch via texts and messages and Marco-Polo.

PRAYERS – Please continue to pray for all those undergoing cancer treatments and medical procedures. Also for those that are feeling depressed and anxiety. Our Son JJ just lost another friend to suicide just before Christmas. Reach out if you are feeling down ... and be a friend to others who might need you more than you know. We express our sympathy to Duane and Christie Sutherland, Carter and Alyssa in the recent death of Duane’s Mother Arlene Sutherland. Blessed be her memory! I have her on our list of Saints for November.

Thank you again for your prayers. Thank you for all of your cards and gifts. I am still opening them! Finally feeling good enough to do so ... I often spend New Years Day reading your cards/letters and saying a prayer over each.

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CHALK BLESSING 2022 - 20 + C + M + B + 22 over your door frame with chalk.

Christus mansionem benedict – May Christ Bless This Home”

The three Wise Men were said to be: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. The + sign represents the CROSS and then the year 2022.

Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created out of the dust in order to help your people. We invite your presence in our homes and conversations, in our going out and our coming in this year. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God's Blessings In This New Year
Pastor Lori (PL)

PL's January 2022 Calendar~

Sunday, January 2nd – 9am Worship

Wednesday, January 5th – PL at Hospice in Slayton 9am-Noon

J.A.M. Christmas Party at TRINITY 6pm-8pm. CONFIRMATION Christmas Party at UMC 7-8p

Thursday, January 6th – Epiphany



Sunday, January 9th – 9am Worship.

Monday, January 10th – PL & Jim have a Tax Appointment in Worthington 9am.

Tuesday, January 11th – “Discussion Group” begins “The Shack” (view movie tonight)
6:30-8pm



Wednesday, January 12th – JAM is at TRINITY 6-8pm/CONFIRMATION at UMC 7-8pm

Sunday, January 16th – 9am Worship

Tuesday, January 18th – “Discussion Group” – The Shack (finish movie/discussion begins)

Wednesday, January 20th – PL at Hospice in Slayton 9am-Noon

J.A.M. at TRINITY 6pm-8pm/CONFIRMATION at UMC 7-8pm

Thursday, January 21st – Licensed Local Pastor Group in Springfield ... but PL ONLINE via ZOOM for Clergy Leadership Academy (In Church Office) – ALL Day.

Sunday, January 23rd – 9am Worship

Tuesday, January 25th – PL ONLINE via ZOOM for Board of Ordained Ministry 9am-2pm
“Discussion Group” – “The Shack” 6:30-8pm

Wednesday, January 26th – JAM at TRINITY 6-8pm/CONFIRMATION at UMC 7-8pm

Sunday, January 30th – 9am Worship

Wednesday, February 2nd – JAM at TRINITY 6-8pm/CONFIRMATION at UMC 7-8pm

Thursday- Friday February 3rd-4th – PL to Clergy Leadership Academy in Buffalo.

Sunday, February 6th – 9am Worship

Monday-Thursday February 7th-10th - PL Board of Ordained Ministry Retreat/Interviews (ALL ONLINE via ZOOM)



Notes from Board Chair

Christmas has come and gone and 2022 will soon be here. It seems like the years just go by so fast, and of course we aren't getting any older. It sounds like we are in for a couple of cold days. I guess we do live in Minnesota. Did you know that Minnesota is the coldest state after Alaska. We really haven't had it too bad so far this year.

I would like to thank Sam for putting the self-closing hinge on the door to the basement. It makes such a difference when we have JAM at our church. Kids usually don't close the door and there is a lot of cold air that comes in during the winter. Thanks to Stella for helping me out cleaning the church when I wasn't able to do it all myself. Thanks to Sue for leading Christmas Eve service, she did a great job. Thanks also to Pastor Lori for the great message. Hope you are feeling better every day. You just have to take it one day at a time. Thanks to Denise for doing the powerpoint on Sundays you do an awesome job.

Just a reminder if you want to continue having coffee please sign up; the 3rd Sunday is UMW and the last Sunday Stella and I serve. Also we will be going back to monthly ushering in January. Bible Study will be starting again in January also. We will have it at our church, in the Sunday School rooms.

We should decide if we want to replace the sheet rock in the bathrooms downstairs. It has gotten wet and there are holes in it. Maybe now would be a good time to take a look at it. I believe we have the water problem fixed.

We have decided to replace the organ as wiring is getting bad and don't feel it is safe to use anymore. Peggy has checked out some organs and I believe she has the one she would like picked out. I think we will even have help getting the old one out.

As most of you know I have had two stents put in, I am doing very well just have to take it easy and listen to my body. I have started taking Cardiac Rehab in Marshall three times a week, it will go on for three months. I have done 3 so far, things are going well.

Prayers for Julie as she continues her cancer treatments, and all others in the surrounding area. It can be life changing.

I guess that is all for this time.

Happy New Year!

Lois

Greetings from the U.M.W.

Hopefully you all had a nice Christmas. I hosted Christmas at my home but unfortunately not all of my family could be here. I will be seeing some on this Sunday and I plan to call another grandson that couldn't be here. Hopefully I can call him this weekend.

I don't think any of us are sorry to see the last of 2021. Hopefully 2022 will be a better year for all of us.



We had to cancel the U.M.W. Christmas party that was to be in December. As that day started out the weather was pretty nice but by the time we would have been meeting at noon, I was really glad we had decided to cancel. December is such a busy month so we decided not to try to reschedule. I really felt bad, because it would have been a good time to just enjoy ourselves.

We will hopefully have a meeting on Thursday, January 13th at 1:30. In looking at our program book, I find that no one is scheduled to serve or to give devotions for that meeting, so I am asking for volunteers for those things. Please let me know if you are volunteering to serve lunch and have devotions at the meeting. Please contact me at 828-1591. Thank you in advance! The ladies scheduled to serve coffee on Sunday, January 16th for the U.M.W. are Betty C. and Verlane.

Our prayer chain is still active and we are especially holding Pastor Lori, Pam, Jon, Julie, Linda and others in our thoughts and prayers.



I would like to invite anyone to come for fellowship and a little lunch with us on January 13th at 1:30 - Hope to see you!

Take care, stay safe & God Bless!

**U.M.W. President,
June Terhark**

A Note from your Lay Leader:

Happy New Year! Hope you all had a safe and wonderful Christmas with your families. It felt so good to be together in person and to receive the best gift ever this year...the presence of family!

When we think of the new year we always think of New Year's Resolutions. It seems like resolutions are words that we say but not really something we stick to for very long. I would challenge you to form a new habit this year to make the Lord present in your life each and every day. It can be as simple as saying, "thank you Lord for another day". Find that quiet time for prayer during your drive to work, during a walk, or while having that first cup of coffee. Commit to reading a daily devotional or commit to making one phone call or sending one card each week as your outreach to others.

When we walk in our Christian journey it is not a resolution it is a lifetime commitment. The Lord looks to each one of us to spread his Word and do his good deeds. We must be faithful and show compassion each and every day.

May the Lord bless you with His grace and abundance in the New Year!

**Blessings,
Sue Skramstad, Lay Leader**





2022 Balaton United Methodist Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 Worship	3 Mya Smidt B-day	4 Jill Marczak	5 PL @ Hospice 9-12 JAM Christmas Party 6:00-8 @ Trinity Confirmation Christmas Party @ UMC 7-8	6 	7	1  8 Ellie Crumrine B-day
9 9:00 Worship	10 PL & Jim Tax apt in Worthington Kelsey Lustfield B-day	11 Discussion Group "The Shack" (movie) 6:30-8 Josh Kirk B-day	12 JAM @ Trinity 6-8 Confirmation @ UMC 7-8 April Ray B-day	13 Darrell Crumrine B-day	14	15 Mariah Jennings B-day
16 9:00 Worship	17 Stevie McMath B-day	18 Discussion Group finish movie 6:30-8 Madelinn Stibbe B-day	19 PL @ Hospice 9-12 JAM @ Trinity 6-8 Confirmation @ UMC 7-8	20 Licensed Local Pastor Group in Springfield PL via ZOOM Clergy Leadership Academy all day	21	22 
23 9:00 Worship	24 	25 PL via ZOOM Board of Ordained Ministry 9-2 Discussion Group "The Shack" 6:30-8	26 JAM @ Trinity 6-8 Confirmation @ UMC 7-8	27 Jeff McMath B-day	28	29
30 9:00 Worship	31 Marvin Chandler B-day Colleen & Mike Wreath Anniv					

Balaton United Methodist Church
Lori VonHoltum, Pastor
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Balaton MN 56115



Remember our Nursing Home/Care Center Residents:

Avera Morningside Heights Care Center-Marshall - Neva Manguson

Remembering & Praying for Brandon Swanson..... missing from his family since May 2008