

Chetek Lutheran Church

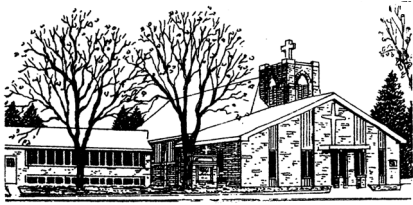
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2023 ANNUAL REPORT

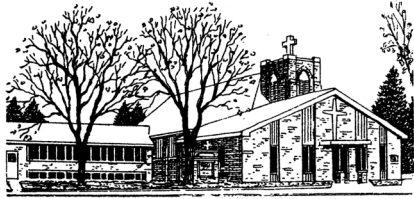
“— a community of faith empowered to know
Christ and make Christ known.”



Chetek Lutheran Church

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Chetek Lutheran Church

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA FEBRUARY 4, 2024

1. Devotions
2. Minutes of previous Annual Congregational Meeting
3. Pastor's Report
4. Youth & Family Director's Report
5. President's Report
6. Bookkeeper's Report
7. Auditor's Report
8. Approval of Church Council and Committee printed Reports

Faith & Life

Finance

Perpetual Trust

9. Elections
10. Old Business
 - A. Benevolences
11. New Business
 - A. Good Samaritan Fund Suggestion
12. Approval of 2024 Budget
 - A. Approval of Delegates for Synod Assembly on June 7-8, 2024 at UW-Eau Claire, WI. NW Synod Bishop election.
13. Adjournment
 - Closing Prayer

Chetek Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023, 10:33 a.m.

Voting members present: 38

Call to Order: by President Darrel Bauman **Opening Liturgy:** led by Karen Theesfeld

Pastor's Report: Our church is celebrating our 140th year. Tina has 25 years as secretary. Karen Theesfeld and Katie Benard have been added to the staff. Thanked the faithful and dedicated staff, John Kurshner, council and the many volunteers.

Youth and Family Report: Katie reported, Sunday school has 24 kids attending, and had good attendance for activities that were planned so far. Christmas program was well received. Confirmation has 9 – 9th graders and 20 – 6,7,8, graders attending.

President's Report: Darrel stated a big project was repairing and paving the parking lot, roofing the garage shed, and the many projects removing fallen branches from the Outdoor worship area with big equipment. Many thanks to everyone for their time of volunteering. Streaming ministry is growing and now we can check in and see where the viewers are coming from—27 cities around the world.

Auditor's Report: was done by Jan Bauman & Ginny Schimmel MSC (**Rick Bergen/Russ Richards**)

Faith & Life – We have lost saints, but have gained new members this past year.

Finance Report – MSC (Rick Bergen/Rod Olson)

Perpetual Trust Report: Rick Bergen asked Mark Carlson what are the Vanguard funds? Mark stated stock investments performance. Pastor Guy reminded people to keep the church in mind when Estate planning. **Approved MSC (Rick Meskers/Robb Bergen)**

Approval of Church Council and Committee Reports: MSC (Rod Olson/Dave Theesfeld)

Elections: No floor nominee, Dave Theesfeld and Rod Olson MSC (**John Kurshner/Ginny Schimmel**)

Old Business:

1. Directory Update – Sandi Gunderson reported the Church Directory is finished and should be shipped very soon.
2. Luther Bible Park Strategic Planning Committee – Rick Meskers. The staff are finding it difficult to get counselors to apply for \$300 a week when schooling is higher and need to make more money. A report of the 20 year should be ready soon.

Continued on the next page

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Anniversary Shirt Order due today – the 1st order will go in this week. W'ELCA will buy the shirts for Sunday School children
2. WE CARE Update – John Kurshner reported a big picture plan he is working on to be able to offer more food preparation using the church kitchen. He is working with a State food person to see what is needed to make the kitchen work area up to code for this. Many improvements would be needed and fund raising to complete it. Darrel suggested a Steering committee to be organized to work with John on this project. MSC (Darrel Bauman/Jerry Christianson) Sandi suggested a baking group of 4 or 8 to take over baking a treat for residents since the Chetek Bakery isn't dependable. Volunteers are needed to do the baking of 6 dozen cookies or bars would be appreciated. Contact Sandi if interested in baking once a month.
3. Approval of the Proposed 2023 Budget – A little higher with inflation. MSC (Rick Bergen/Rod Olson)
4. Approval of Synod Assembly Delegates on April 29, 2023 at Bethany Lutheran, Rice Lake – No one volunteered, contact Darrel later or the office

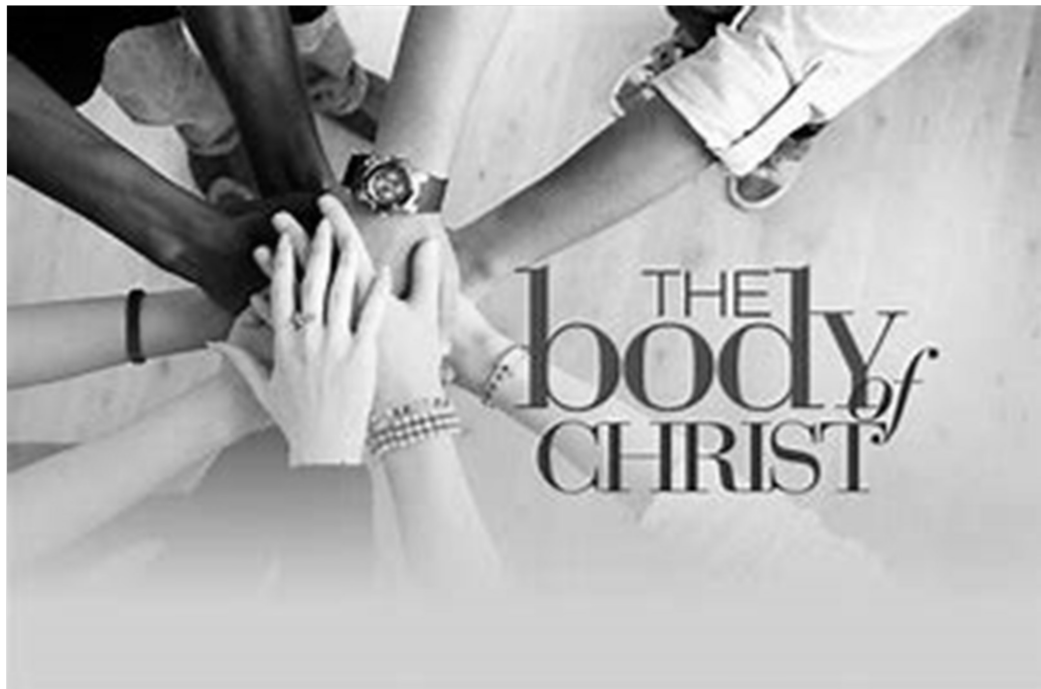
Closing Prayer – Pastor Guy

The Lord's Prayer

Motion to adjourn – MSC (Scott Kodesh/Lois Hartman)

Respectfully submitted by, Katie Benard for taking notes

And Sandi Gunderson for the written form of minutes.



PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Guy Redfield

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1: 3

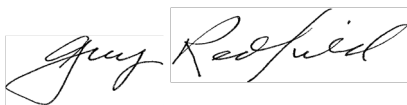
I give praise to God for the hope we have in Christ, and I give thanks for the many who help make that hope come alive in our daily lives at Chetek and Dovre Churches: Our faithful and dedicated staff and Volunteers, Tina Langman-Office Administrator/Secretary, Karen Theesfeld-Secretary, Katie Bernard-Youth and Family Minister, Rob Carlson and Jack Vork-Custodians, Kelly Knowlton and Cathy Albrecht-Bookkeepers, John Kurschner-SAM and We Care Minister, Bruce Kamrath-Choir Director, Chancel Choir, our organists and pianists and musicians, Sunday School and Confirmation Staff and Helpers, Worship Leaders and Livestream Ministers, WELCA Leaders and Ministers, Communion Visitors, our church councils chaired by Darrel Bauman and Paul Carlson, and a host of others who willingly give of their time and talents.

Our mission is strengthened and expanded in partnerships with The NW Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA, The Church in Malawi, Chetek Ministerial and We Care Ministry, Luther Park, Lutheran Social Services, Chetek Food Shelf, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and others who help make Christ known in word and deed.

Looking back with reverence and affection we remember our departed family and friends: Kathleen Dettmann, Linda Curtis, Elizabeth Zahorski, Linda Swant, Sandy Kurschner, Ethel Torauski, Tami Koepf, Harry Bossany, Barbara Grandy, Palmer Solberg, Alice Sannes, Hunter Scheel, Jim Janota, Kay Wheeler, Tom Reiter, Gertrude Taft, Darrell Skoug, Pat Johnson, Vicki Anderson, Lonnie Mikkelson, Annabelle Bronstad, Jenny Ganske, Laura Persons, Bob Duerr, Donna Lenbom, Janet Cunningham, Jerry Levenson, Lorraine Gilbertson, Cliff Nyberg, Anette Ypma and others who are in our hearts.

God bless their memory in our midst as we cling to the hope of being reunited with loved ones that have gone on before us!

Tusen takk for your partnership in our ministry of knowing Christ and making Christ known! Let us pray 2024 will be a year of renewal and growth in Jesus Christ our Lord!



Pastor Guy Redfield

YOUTH & FAMILY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Katie Bernard

Youth & Family Events

Jan. 2023: Hosted a Winter Break Pool Party at Northwoods Best Inn in Chetek. Twenty adults and students were in attendance.

June 2023: We met at Chetek City Beach for a picnic and swim night. We had 22 kids and adults in attendance.

July was our last Youth & Family Event and was held at Skate City in Rice Lake. Unfortunately there were severe thunderstorms so we had a down tick in attendance: 8 kids and adults.

Sunday School

Sunday School is once again held during 9am church service in Chetek. The 2022-2023 year we had 24 registered students. (In the 2023-2024 year we are up to 34!) We are using curriculum called Spark- Activate Faith. It has a great mix of scripture reading, crafts and activities to keep the students engaged. I do all the lesson planning and have any and all props or supplies ready in the classrooms to make it easy on our volunteer teachers. We will need to order new curriculum this spring for the 2024-2025 Sunday School year.

April 2023: Two 5th grade students and their families were invited to participate in our First Communion Class. We used a PowerPoint and worksheet to explore Holy Communion. Afterwards, they were invited as Special Guests to join and participate in the Seder Meal. Additionally, Sunday School students led the palm parade and sang two songs during the Palm Sunday worship service.

August 2023: A Backpack Blessing was held to prepare our students for the new school year. The presentation was held at both the 8am indoor service and 9:15am outdoor service. Approximately 25 students were in attendance between both services.

Sept. 2023: Bible Presentation was held during the 9am worship service. There were seven students who received a Spark Story Bible and five students who received their Spark Standard Bible. The five older students and their families were invited to an Intro to the Bible class after worship to learn how to use their Bibles. Rally Sunday is how we've been kicking off the Sunday School year. Our theme this year was *Put on the Armor of God*. We had a bounce house, craft, story time, cake and a photo-op with armor.

Oct. 2023: Sunday School students had a lesson on Abraham and God's promise to him. We learned the song "Father Abraham" and then performed it during worship.

Dec. 2023: Sunday School students performed their Christmas Program called "The Party" by Kendra Smiley during the 9am worship service.

Confirmation

We are once again using Rich Melheim's Faith Inkubator's curriculum. We meet from 6:30pm to 7:30pm with 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Generally, the first half of the class time we meet in a big group setting. Then, we break off into small groups. There is a mixture of games, discussions, crafts, lecture, food, skits, meditation and servant events. Students are required to attend regular class times and servant events as well as turn in two Sermon Notes each month. We currently have 17 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

Servant Events: Soup Suppers during Lent, quilt packing, Cards of Light, Bell Ringing, making cookies for Cookie Walk, spring clean-up at the park and Trunk or Treat.

October 2024: We celebrated four 9th Grade students and their Rite of Confirmation: Izzy Harelstad, Ryker Meskers, Lauren Waldrop and Bennet Engen.

Special Events

April 2023: We held our very first Good Friday Children's Service. There was an unexpectedly high attendance and a mix of member and non-member attendees – approximately 30 kids and adults. We traveled around the church and learned about the different events during holy week. We held our own palm parade, washed feet and ate the Lord's Supper, played a parachute tomb game and then created an empty tomb snack.

Oct. 2023: We had another successful Trunk or Treat event. We had 24 trunk hosts which was an increase of nine from the previous year. We raised \$252 and collected 150lbs of toiletry items for the Chetek Food Shelf. There were approximately 350 kids and 200 adults in attendance.



This report is substantially larger than the report I wrote for 2022 and it's all because of you. You have grown our youth numbers. You have supplied the means to create new opportunities and activities for our youth. Thank you to the congregation, Sunday School families, Confirmation families, council members and circle groups among others. Thank you for your donations of both time and money. Thank you for your kind words and wisdom. Thank you for your willingness to volunteer and help whenever and where ever needed.

A special shout out of thanks goes to the following people who have to “deal” with me on a regular basis ☺:

Gloria Kwallek

Pastor Guy

Tina Langman

Rachel Elbin

Karen Theesfeld

Sarah Knepper

Janika Lenbom

Darrel Bauman

Sandi Gunderson

Brielle Kowalski

Jerica Haas

Rob Carlson

Nikki Erickson

Lacey Huset

Calli Johnson

Hollie Hutzler

Mel Bown

Brooke Nehring

Ashlyn Huset

JoJo Bohl

Aliza Nelson

Lois Hartman

Scott Bernard

Jenny Lenbom

Louann Novak

Tiffany Davis

Amy Adams

Danielle Marquardt

Paige Perusky

Sara Jones

Michelle Calkins

Dean Marquardt

John Kurschner

Nikki Erickson

Linda Roth

Bonnie Elliott

Tracey Meskers

Kelly Knowlton

Respectfully yours,
Katie Bernard

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Darrel Bauman

Random Thoughts From Your Council President



Has another year gone by again??? I guess so, and what a beginning to the 141st year of “Knowing Christ and making Christ known” here at Chetek Lutheran Church. Great things are taking place in God’s name.

First let me say once again what an honor and privilege it has been to serve as Council President. The trust and support I have received from everyone has been humbling. It has been a blessing to serve. I have also been blessed with a tremendous group of fellow Council persons. This dedicated group spends countless hours taking care of God’s house and His work. Special thanks to all of them.

Challenges moving forward

As we move into a new year, the Council will have to face many more challenges. Those of you who follow closely have probably noticed two things; one, your Council has been good stewards of God’s blessings that you have given to them for God’s work. Second, the keen observer has also seen that each year we fall short of our needs by about \$10,000. This trend has been consistent since at least 2016, if not longer. Clearly we cannot continue to “rob Peter to pay Paul” indefinitely. In the coming year, your Council is going to have to make some hard decisions. Pray for their wisdom and guidance in these matters.

Our Outreach

In the past few years our outreach has evolved and grown. I am continually reminded of the small visionary group who began live streaming our services. We continue our weekly live-streaming and broadcasts to Christian World Media, Facebook, Youtube, and a Dial-up service. We regularly have viewers from a dozen states and 30 different cities across the country. Viewers include many who use their mobile devices to tune in. The fact that we are able to stream Celebrations of Life has helped bring closure to countless family and friends of loved ones who are unable to attend in person. All of this and more due to the support of this congregation. Thanks to **Bob & Theresa Anderson, Rick & Kathy Bowers**, and our newest “streamer”, **Karen Theesfeld**. Without their help we would not be able to make it happen. We continue to prayer for Rick & Kathy.

Outdoor Ministry

As most of you know, another generous gift from the estate of **Alice Saanes** has allowed us to build an outdoor worship space in our “park”. The structure was completed and electricity brought onto the property in November. A special thanks to **Dave Theesfeld** for all his work on the project as well as the use of his tractor, auger, and expertise. Donations of additional lumber and steel materials by **Tim Knutson** and **Scott Kodesh** will allow us to complete a ceiling in the structure in the near future.

It is hoped that this added worship space will continue to grow our ministry as people come to enjoy the facility. **Pastor Guy** has taken his gifts from God and grown the summer outdoor worship tremendously. We regularly have 50 or more attending the outdoor service. This outreach has even brought new members to the church. We look forward to the growth of this outreach. Without these donations, these improvements would not be possible.

Continued on the next page.

Youth and Sunday School

We continue to be blessed by the addition of **Katie Bernard** as our Youth Coordinator. Her efforts and enthusiasm have paid off tremendously. We have 32 children participating in Sunday school. What a thrill to see all the kids in church. Please make every effort to tell her and her staff how much we appreciate them.

Homebound Ministry

We have a number of members who are not able to regularly attend services or receive the sacraments. To date, these folks were ministered to primarily by **Pastor Guy** and **Patti Lloyd**. However, we recently expanded the team to include **Kevin Prill, Ginny Schimmel, Jim Adams, Rod Olson** and **Darrel & Jan Bauman**. Anyone who wishes to receive home visits can call the church office or one of the ministry team members. Also, anyone who wishes to join the ministry team can do the same.

Other Church Resources

In addition to the above, efforts have been made to maintain and improve the church. Water intrusion in the Sunday School wing has been mitigated by the addition of gravel and grading in the south parking lot to aid with run-off of rain water.

During the summer our wifi server system failed and we were without internet services. Member, **Mike Lenbom** Consulting recommended upgrading to a business grade service. Our speed is now capable of handling all of our internet needs. He also added a "hot spot" to provide us with internet at the outdoor worship pavilion across the street.

We recently added track lighting to the sanctuary. A light has been added to the lectern to aid readers. You may also notice that it is brighter in the Sanctuary. This is due to the upgraded L.E.D. lighting, which will also save us in energy costs.

As old ballast type lighting fails, we have been updating to lower energy L.E.D. lighting. Recently the lighting in the marquee in the front yard finally failed and is being upgraded. Thanks to **Larry Nelson** for keeping the marquee operational for as long as he has. Sanctuary lighting L.E.D. lighting was also done by **Larry**.

Again, these upgrades have been funded by donations. Thanks to all those individuals.

Finally, the Council came to the end of a two year project to update our policy manual, job descriptions, and time sheets. After consultation with employees and a group of committee volunteers we have developed a system to hopefully meet everyone's expectations and needs. Thanks to **Bonnie Halberg, Kevin Prill, Connie Olson, and Crystal Huset** who provided all their expertise and experience to the project.

Thanks to everyone for everything all of you do.

God Bless You All,
Darrel Bauman, Chetek Lutheran Council President
(715) 559-0935



**PAROCHIAL REPORT
JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Membership

Baptized, January 1, 2023	1456
Confirmed, January 1, 2023	1057

Members Added

	Baptized	Confirmed
By Baptism of Children.....	20	0
By Baptism of Adults	0	0
By Affirmation of Faith.....	8	5
By Transfer from ELCA Congregations	26	18
By Transfer from other Lutheran Congregations	1	1
From Non-Lutheran Congregations.....	0	0
Statistical Adjustment for error	0	0
<u>Baptized Youth Confirmed</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	55	28

Members Removed

By Death	17	17
By Transfer to ELCA Congregations	2	2
To Non-Lutheran Congregations.....	0	0
For Other Reasons	0	0
Statistical Adjustment for error	0	0
Total	19	19

Membership in 2023

Baptized, December 31, 2023.....	1511
Confirmed, December 31, 2023.....	1072

Ministerial Acts:

20 Baptisms (6 Member 14 Non-Member)
 0 Adult Baptism
 4 Youth Confirmed
 0 Marriages
 31 Funerals (17 Member 14 Non-Member)

Religious Instruction:

Sunday School..... 1-4 Teachers and Staff
 Total Number of Students..... 35+ Students
 No Vacation Bible School at Luther Park Youth encouraged to attend
 Luther Park Summer Camp

Confirmation Classes:

.....Grade 9..... 3 Students
 Grade 8..... 7 Students
 Grade 7..... 10 Students
 Grade 6..... 4 Students

First Communion Class:

.....Grade 5..... 2 Students

27 Students
 4 Teachers



**FROM THE PARISH RECORDS
JANUARY 1 to DECEMBER 31, 2023**

BAPTISMS

* Emmitt Nelson	* Peyton Schultz	* Wilson Schultz
* Aiden Smith	* Leigh-Anna Schultz	* Eli Schultz
* Carli Anderson	* Adeline Anderson	* Keaton Ostrowski
* Kenzie Anderson	* Malachi Anderson	* Zander Ostrowski
* Braden Kenealy	* Lucas Moen	Paige Slagoski
Braylynn Slagoski	Dawson Baskin	Roderick Slagoski
Ronan Roesler	Sebastian Roesler	

YOUTH CONFIRMED

Bennet Engen	Ryker Meskers	Lauren Waldrop
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FIRST COMMUNION

Kylie Pierce	William Nelson
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MARRIAGES

No marriages

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY TRANSFER OR OTHERWISE

Christine & Dick Anderson	Mike & Cindy Bird
Michelle & Dan Calkins, Laiken	Alec & Vicki Christianson
Stewart & Toni Cochrane	Andrew & Rachel Elbin & Asher
Jordyn & Tim Esselman, Trish	David Foss
Cassandra & Cole Larson, Kegan & Blair	
Dean & Danielle Marquardt. Owen & Donovan	
Larry Otto	
Jesse & Jenn Roesler, Ronan & Sebastian	
Jay Slagoski & Summer Byers, Dawson, Paige, Braylynn & Roderick	

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED, REMOVED BY REQUEST OR DEATH

Wayne & Marilyn Brenholt	Linda Curtis	Sandy Kurschner
Barbara Grandy	Palmer Solberg	Alice Sannes
Hunter Scheel	Gertrude Taft	Darrell Skoug
Pat Johnson	Vicki Anderson	Genevieve Ganske
Bob Duerr	Laura Persons	Donna Lenbom
Lorraine Gilbertson	Jerry Leverson	

NON-MEMBER FUNERALS *

Kathleen Dettman	Elizabeth Zahorski	Linda Swant
Ethel Turauski	Tami Koepf	Harry Bossany
James Janota	Kay Wheeler	Tom Reiter
Lonnie Mikkelson	Annabelle Bronstad	Janet Cunningham
Clifford Nyberg	Annete Ypma	

CHETEK LUTHERAN'S WORSHIP & SPECIAL SERVICES (JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023)

REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

- 50 9:00 a.m. Worship Services
- 1 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 1 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Holy Communion is celebrated every service on Sundays, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Christmas Eve & Day

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

- 6 Lenten Services (1 Ash Wednesday & 5 Wednesday services)
- 2 Maundy Thursday Service
- 1 Good Friday Service
- 1 Good Friday Ecumenical Service for all area pastors at Chetek Lutheran Church
- 1 Thanksgiving Eve Service held jointly with area churches
- 3 Advent Services
- 2 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Communion Services at Meadowbrook the second Friday of every month



Faith & Fellowship

Our past year was exciting and rewarding with the activities the members of Chetek and Dovre participated in. It began with our group preparing the meatballs at Luther Bible Park's kitchen. We prepared 1,052 meatballs last year over a few laughs and fun stories together. Although, the weather was a factor since we had planned for many more it was successful. The proceeds were shared among the Chetek Weyerhaeuser Weekend Back Pack program and the local Chetek Food Shelf.

The Men's Group prepared a delicious Easter Breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, milk and coffee. It's so fun to see the guys cooking in the kitchen and having a great fellowship together. A nice crowd enjoyed their delicious cooking.

The We Care program organized by John Kurschner for Meadowbrook residents is very important to our friends in the nursing facility. They look forward to the Pastor's letter that comes with a treat for everyone. Chetek Lutheran members furnish treats the third Tuesday of each month. Our generous members sign up to bake six dozen treats once a month on the cookie/cupcake sheet located by the glass doors of the sanctuary. Grab a friend to sign up with you!

The third week in August, the church members sponsored the NU-TU-U SALE in the Fellowship Hall. This was the second year as a church-wide event and women and men enjoyed getting to know each while working on organizing items that were brought in for sale. We also sold a BBQ lunch for the first time. We have two organizing days and a day and a half for sales. The proceeds this past year were ear-marked for the Pavilion across from the church parking lot for gatherings.

Everyone who loves lefse looks forward to our 'Lefse Baking Day' in October! This year we had 10 griddles going and twenty or more men and women flipping those lefses to the tune of 636 rounds in two and a half hours. After cleaning up we joined together for lunch of two delicious homemade soups prepared by those Lutheran ladies who have the best recipes.

Fellowship produces our mutual cooperation in God's work and God's well being done in the world. It is so important we participate and share our mutual feelings towards Christ. That's why God made fellowship so important. He wanted us to come together so that we always know we're not alone.

Each Sunday morning, we furnish coffee and treats after the worship service to enjoy each other's company and to get to know new friends in the Fellowship Hall.

Sandi Gunderson
Committee member