

# Tabor Lutheran News

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December 2025

Monthly Newsletter

Little Mary sank exhausted upon a bed of straw cradling the Child to her breast. She dozed, as she often did, pondering in her heart of a woman exhausted by the visit of strangers and full of the joy at the appearing of God-with-us, she became aware of a rustling of leaves stirred by a chilling wind from the east. Shivering, her first thought was of her swaddled boy and looking upon Him, she could see that His infant eyes were not upon her, but riveted upon the low entry of the peasant's hut in which they sheltered.

Brittle leaves, decomposing signs of life fled from the world, scuttled into the hut spinning in dusty eddies of death about the feet of a decrepit old woman, as though the wind borne carpet of leaves conveyed the crone into the hut. Mary became aware that the Child knew her and that she knew what she sought in the hut. Her hungry eyes hunted the Child in the darkness. Wrapped in rags that hinted of humus and dismal decay, the woman shuffled toward the Child. The little brazier, the hut's only proof against the chill, seemed to flee dampened by this spectral appearance. Its flickering flame struggled for life. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together righteousness, and the peoples with equity. (ESV) The shadows advanced.

Mary held the Child closer for the chilling presence threatened. Looking upon the intruder, Mary could see, that though she may once long ago have been dazzlingly beautiful, the woman's face was a death's head of crags framed by wild silver hair. Cold and lifeless eyes peering from deep sockets were perched atop a mouth falling down into her face as though fleeing from poisoned fruit. Her sagging skin bore the graying hints of ever-stalking death.

Mary pitied her for she seemed to bear a thousand years of sorrow. May knew in her heart that she had lost a thousand children that she had mothered, seen a thousand cheering armies march away to slaughter, witnessed a thousand proud kings fall, suffered every disappointment, every dashed hope, and every grief that could be borne. A sympathetic tear traced the lily white cheek of the radiant young woman to whom the hope of Israel had come.

Mary's sympathetic reverie was interrupted when she saw the specter move. Her gnarled hand rummaged among her ragged coverings. She was looking for something; something to give the Child. Her hand was clenched as she unsheathed it from her rags. Though what was in her hand was only a shriveled little thing, she lifted it as though upon it balanced the weight of the world. Bending into the dust of the hut and not daring to look up, she knelt before the Child and for a long while she was still. Her clenched hand still extended toward the Child.

After what seemed an earth's age, her shoulders began to shake and Mary heard grief-wracked sobbing emanating from a throat brittle with age. Agonizingly slowly her knotted hand loosened its grip, finger by covetous finger pried from its filthy prize. Now at last she dropped its burden at the feet of the Child.

What she laid there came forth only reluctantly. The thing had fitted into her hand as though it had been gripped there forever. Her tears pattered remorsefully upon this detritus of an age long past, but never forgotten; her weeping damning testimony to the memory of such an age and its powerful impact even unto the present.

Though its burden was crushing, still she desired to possess this ancient artifact; her imagination still enflamed by its horribly enriched, but impossible promise. For that too, she wept at the feet of the child.

What she laid there appeared to be a worm-infested, malformed apple core blackened by much age and handling, though it matters not what fruit it was, as much as the fruit that came from it.

Now the Child who has been fed by Mary upon curds and honey (Is 7:15), reached a tender hand and grasping the repentance-salted core picked up the ancient woman's burden. Not it was no longer hers, but His. What she could bear neither to love nor to give up, He took. What He did not love and did not need to bear, He grasped. And before Mary could stop the Child she watched with horror as He swallowed down the decayed core.

Immediately, His eyes became like burning coals; flames of fire that pierced the dark. Mary could see that his piercing eyes were set upon the face of the crone., whose eyes, formerly cold pits, now reflected the light, which came from the Child's eyes. From the eyes rekindled by the Child a transformation spread over her visage, eyes bright with life shared with the Child, now gave new youth and dissolved decay. Her rags were replaced with royal robes of shining blue. Her head scarf sparkled with seven stars.

She rose, head still inclined in reverence to the Child. She turned to go back into the night, now taller and more lithesome than before, now not ragged but beautifully attired as a bride ready to receive her bridegroom. She turned to leave and looking over her shoulder gave the Child a loving glance, her eyes sparkling with joy at the sight. Mary gasped, for upon seeing the transformed woman's face she realized that the woman looked like her. The woman flashed a dazzling smile at Mary and disappeared into the Judean night.

In the morning, Mary was not sure if she dreamed what she saw. But the neighbors were all astir that day because beautiful flowers and fruitful trees had sprouted up overnight in the town. Where there had only been the brown world of wintry death, the neighbors said that there now seemed to be a little slice of the Garden of Eden all over again. In the deep midwinter, life had returned to their village in full flower. Even the lilies were blooming where they had never been before and the Rose of Sharon sprang to life. Everything was made new. (Memorial Moments 12-24--24 by Rev. Dr. Scott Murray)

Together on the Way, Pastor Stoll

## December Birthdays

- 1 Cindy Tennant
- 4 Cheryl Jawort
- 9 Janet Strobusch
- 12 Jenny Kuske
- 18 Don Bahr
- 23 Paige Krueger
- 26 Brian Fitzpatrick
- 30 Pastor Steven Stoll
- 31 Ned Lundquist  
Allen Wittlieff

## December Anniversaries

- 21 Clarence (Skip) and Brenda Carey-Mielke
- 23 Brian and Heidi Gerndt
- 26 Eugene and Nancy Krueger
- 30 Pat and Jane Porubcan

## December Counters

- 7 Bill and Tracy Brooks
- 14 Eugene and Mark Krueger
- 21 Dennis and Sandy Sandri
- 28 Bill and Tracy Brooks

## December Ushers

- 3 Orv Quandt and Gary Kebshull
- 7 Jim and Cheryl Jawort
- 10 Jim and Cheryl Jawort
- 14 Mark Krueger and Orv Quandt
- 17 Mark Krueger and Orv Quandt
- 21 Brian and Diane Fitzpatrick
- 24 Brian and Diane Fitzpatrick
- 25 Orv Quandt and Ron Lange
- 28 Orv Quandt and Gary Kebshull

## December Elder on Call

Scott Tennant: 920-639-7899 (cell phone)

## December Altar Committee

December--Laurie Schoenebeck and Janet Strobusch  
January--Brenda Urban and Nancy Krueger

## Life Quotes for Lutherans

**December 7** "Children brightly signaled hope in our sin-infested world of old—consider the births of Seth, Isaac, Moses, Samson, Samuel, John, and, finally, of course and paramount, Jesus. And we, too, must become as children." James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of

St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**December 14** "And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God." Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**December 21** "As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us pray for all mothers who find themselves pregnant and afraid. Abortion is never the answer. We pray daily that the Lord will strengthen all expectant mothers who find themselves alone and seemingly without hope and that He will help them choose life. Every human being's life is a precious and beautiful miracle." Judie Brown, American Life League – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**December 28** "Look back at how God changed you. Look ahead to what God promises for you. The future looks bright when you're connected to the crucified and risen Lord Jesus. May the Lord continue to strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life." Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

## Thank You

I can't believe it is almost 10 years since I asked Pastor Paul if I could take over publishing the church monthly newsletter.

I want to thank all of you who contributed to the newsletter each month. Without your help, I would not have been able to put it together.

James, good luck on doing the new newsletter. I'm sure you will do a wonderful job.

I'm sorry to see the web site discontinued. I was hoping someone would have stepped up and continued doing it. I understand we have a Facebook page that people can follow.

Again, thank you for the last 10 years.

Jane Porubcan

## Radio Broadcasts

<u>Station</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Freq</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
WRVM	Powers, MI	98.9	FM	Sun	10:00 AM
WRVM	Appleton, WI	101.7	FM	Sun	10:00 AM
WRVM	Ellison Bay, WI	103.1	FM	Sun	10:00 AM
WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	620	AM	Sun	6:30 AM
WRVM	North Fond du Lac, WI	88.5	FM	Sun	10:00 AM
WJMQ	Shawano, WI	92.3	FM	Sun	7:30 AM
WTCH	Shawano, WI	960	AM	Sun	7:30 AM
WRVM	Sturgeon Bay, WI	103.3	FM	Sun	10:00 AM
WRVM	Suring, WI	102.7	FM	Sun	10:00 AM



## *Lutheran Hour, December 2025*

### **December 7**

"Chosen for What?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
God calls believers to trust and follow Jesus--chosen, but chosen for what?  
(Romans 15:7)

### **December 14**

"Pictures of Patience"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Patience can be practiced, tested, strained, and lost. Christians are called to return the patience God in His mercy has shown us, in Christ.  
(James 5:7-8)

### **December 21**

"Everybody Is Somebody"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
God sends His people--the Church--to be His letters to the world, delivering His Word of promise.  
(Romans 1:7)

### **December 28**

"Get Ready for the Best"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Germán Novelli Oliveros  
Christ will return--maybe this year, maybe even today! Pastor German Novelli helps us to prepare for the blessings and challenges of a new year.  
(Luke 12:36-37)

## *The Geese* Author unknown

There was once a man who didn't believe in God and didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays, like Christmas. His wife did believe and raised their children to have faith in God and Jesus.

One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a Christmas Eve service in the farm community in which they lived. She asked her husband to come, but he refused as usual. "The Christmas story is nonsense!" he exclaimed. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!" She and the children went, and he stayed home.

That night the wind began to blow, and the snow turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out the window, all he could see was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down before the fireplace to relax. Suddenly there was a loud thump. Something had hit the window. Then a second thump. He looked out but couldn't see more than a few feet because of the blinding snow.

When the storm let up a little, he ventured out to see what could have been beating on his window. In the field near the house was a flock of wild geese. Apparently, they were flying south when they were caught in the blizzard and couldn't go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm, without food or shelter. Flapping their wings, they aimlessly flew around the field in low circles. Some had apparently flown into his window. The man felt concern for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It was warm and safe. They would be saved if they spent the night there waiting out the storm. He opened the barn doors wide. Then he watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and enter. But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and didn't seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to

get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them, and they moved further away. He went into the house and brought out some bread, broke it up, and made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on.

Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only became frightened and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be safe. "Why don't they follow me?" he puzzled. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive?" He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud.

Suddenly he had an idea. He went into the barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese. When he released his goose, it flew through the flock and straight into the safety of the barn. One by one the other geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife. Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese--blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us. That was the meaning of Christmas, he realized. As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet. Suddenly he understood what Christmas was all about, why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished like the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow and prayed his first real prayer: "Thank You, Lord, for coming in human form to get me out of this world and leading me to a better one. Lead me to the safety of Your Father's arms."

### ***Tabor Council Meeting*** November 7, 2025

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order with attendance by Orv Quandt, Pastor, Scott Tennant, Janet Strohmusch, Gary Kebschull, John Francis, and James Vorpahl. It was noted that the defibrillator had been checked successfully.

**Approval of the Agenda** The agenda was approved unanimously with a motion by Scott and second by Janet.

**Opening Devotion** Pastor led the opening devotion.

**Minutes from 10/10/25 for Approval** John explained a journal entry from before his appointment that was used to keep records balanced. The minutes were approved unanimously with a motion by Janet and second by Scott.

**Treasurer's Report** John Francis reported a missing \$2,600 check from October's deposit, which will be realized in November transactions. The report was approved unanimously with a motion by Sonja and second by Gary.

**Pastor's Report** Pastor noted there were no baptisms or funerals in October. Catechism continues with one student, and all shut-ins were visited. He discussed the upcoming convention and election, suggesting re-election of current officers, with Pam Nelson volunteering as delegate if needed. Advent services will begin the last Sunday in November with the theme "Something Better." The children's program is scheduled for December 14 at Emmanuel. Other announcements included the craft sale on December 6 and Brent Gruetzmacher's presentation on funeral arrangements November 12. The calendar of services is complete. The report was approved unanimously with a motion by Scott and second by Janet.

**Old Business** Updates included the parsonage plumbing scheduled for November 13, Spectrum services postponed until February due to lawsuits, altar area painting canceled by unanimous vote, and parsonage wall repairs postponed until spring. Pastor confirmed snow removal would be handled with a snow blower rather than plowing at the Parsonage. Snow removal for the church will continue to be source through Spanky's.

**Short Term Project List** The Toys for Tots box will remain until mid-December. Communion ware was discussed, with no changes needed but possible replacement in the future. Preparations for winter include hooking up an extension cord for the heater and covering pipes with straw, which trustees will complete.

**New Business** The church website was canceled, with communication shifting to Facebook. James Vorpahl will take over the newsletter in January, while Jane will finish December's edition. A bulletin note will ask members if they prefer email newsletters. Sonja reported daily Facebook posts. James will transfer Egg-



ert's records to the designated church. Derek Bealeau was appointed as payroll processor, with Julia Timm completing records through December. The budget was reviewed and will be finalized in December. Concerns about usher duties and pew cleanup were raised, with Pastor planning a meeting to address them. Membership review will occur in December, with the annual meeting scheduled for January 25, 2026.

**Next Council Meeting** The next council meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

**Comments and Announcements** There were no additional comments or announcements.

**Elder on Call** Scott will serve as elder on call for December, and Gary will serve in January.

**Motion to Adjourn** The meeting was adjourned unanimously with a motion by Scott and second by Janet.

**Closing Prayer** Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by  
Sonja Schultz, Secretary

### ***Labor Ladies Aid Meeting***

Five members of the Ladies Aid attended the November 11, 2025, meeting. Diane Fitzpatrick lead the Bible Study "Bearing Life's Burdens ...Together." Pastor Stoll joined us for the Bible study. The content was the burdens in Mary's life and what they could teach us.

President Nancy Krueger called the meeting to order. A motion to accept the minutes from the October 14 meeting was made by Diane Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cindy Tenandt, motion passed. Diane Fitzpatrick gave the Treasurer's report showing \$5,587.09 in the checking account and \$13,379.83 in the Extension Fund. The Mission Tidings and Quarterly magazines were ordered. Gifts from the heart account is now at \$105. Motion to approved by Ev Charlson, seconded by Cindy Tenandt. Approved.

**Old Business:** Only two quilts have been completed with many more in process. We can use helpers to join us on Tuesday mornings. Reminder, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen for anyone who can bring in a treat for fellowship after service on Sunday.

**New Business:** Decorating the church for Christmas will be done on Tuesday, December 2. We have chosen white and gold for the color scheme. A sign-up sheet will be put out to order 20 poinsettias. We have an opening for someone to serve on the Altar Committee for January to set up communion. Diane reviewed the list of organizations we made donations to last year. She will send the same amounts out this year. Motion to approved by Diane, seconded by Nancy Krueger. Motion passed.

Ev Charlson will lead the Bible Study "Let Us Be" at our meeting on December 9. The Lord's Prayer was led by Nancy Krueger to close the meeting.

Ev Charlson, Secretary

### ***Tricks of the Trade***

I was talking on the telephone in my office one day when my wife and two-year-old daughter came to church. They decided to wait in the sanctuary.

Approaching the altar rail, my wife said to Bethany, "Let's talk to God." While they were kneeling, Bethany slipped through the rail and went directly to the altar. Returning to my wife, who was still kneeling, she pretended to hand her something, saying, "Here's the bread." Then back to the altar, return, and "Here's the wine."

My was was charmed until Bethany went back to the altar a third time and grabbed an offering plate. Turning around and shoving it in her mother's face, she said bluntly, "I need a dollar."

Clever preacher's kid!



The Rev Mark Huggenvik  
Newbury Park, CA

*Tabor Lutheran Church Special Funds*

<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Beg. Balance</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>End. Balance</u>
	Flower Fund	569.83				569.83
	(In checking)					
8722	General Fund	\$3,309.42		3.51		\$ 3,312.93
7894	Parsonage Improvements	7,197.95	<u>300.00</u>	7.80		7,505.75
9486	Winter Savings	1,854.01		1.97		1,855.98
7906	Church Building/Maintenance	5,451.57		5.79		5,457.36
	Organ in above (3,537.00)					
7759	Bequest Fund	675.14		.72		675.86
6961	Scholarship Fund	2,172.37		<u>2.31</u>		2,174.68
8298	CD 40 Month Fixed 4%	12,132.77				12,132.37
5736	CD General*	16,110.48				16,110.48
5714	Winter*	8,055.26				8,055.26
5702	Bequest*	6,865.50				6,865.50
5725	Scholarship*	<u>8,055.26</u>				<u>8,055.26</u>
TOTAL ALL SPECIAL FUNDS		\$72,449.56	\$300.00	\$22.10		\$72,771.66

\*Interest paid quarterly

*Tabor Lutheran Church Income/Expense Report - October 2025*

Beginning Balance 10/01/25 7,782.27

## October Income:

General Income.....	5,714.00
Loose .....	184.00
Thrivent.....	231.00
From Emmanuel.....	413.00
WRLHS Scholarship/Organ Fund.....	160.00
Missions.....	40.00
Other General Fund .....	320.39
Visitor.....	100.00
Wolf River Lutheran High .....	<u>583.00</u>

Total October Income 7,745.39

## October Expenses:

1 - District Budgeted.....	1,000.00
12 - Pastor's Salary.....	6,152.73
13 - Pastor's CDSP.....	133.22
14 - Pasto's Retirement.....	574.33
15 - Medical Reimbursement .....	185.00
16 - Pastor's Mileage Reimbursement.....	1,148.00
17 - Parsonage Utilities .....	120.42
18 - Conferences/Conventions.....	279.00
2 - Mission Designated.....	40.00
21 - Church Phone/Internet .....	141.21
27 - State Withholding/Dept of Revenue .....	385.38
28 - Federal Tax/Social Security .....	1,415.60
31 - Church Utilities .....	86.36
36 - To LCEF Church Bldg/Maintenance Fund .....	160.00
37 - To Parsonage Improvement Budgeted .....	300.00
43 - Pass Through .....	583.00
47 - Parsonage Expense Miscellaneous.....	119.99
5 - Organist .....	207.79
54 - Administrator Wages.....	668.48
6 - Worship Supplies.....	<u>122.57</u>

Total October Expenses (13,823.08)

Ending Balance 10/31/25 1,704.58

# DECEMBER 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b> 9:00 a.m. Ladies Aid will be decorating the church for Christmas	<b>03</b> 4:00 p.m. Advent Worship @ Tabor* 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship @ Emmanuel*	<b>04</b> 9:00 a.m. Bible Study @ Tabor	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>07</b> 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service @ Tabor	<b>08</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>09</b> 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ladies Aid Meeting Quilting after	<b>10</b> 4:00 p.m. Advent Worship @ Tabor* 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship @ Emmanuel*	<b>11</b> 9:00 a.m. Bible Study @ Tabor	<b>12</b> 4:30 p.m. Board Meeting	<b>13</b> Ruby's Pantry @ Gillett
<b>14</b> 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service @ Tabor Mites Collected	<b>15</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>16</b> 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Ladies Aid Quilting	<b>17</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship @ The Bay in Suring 1:00 p.m. Worship @ Serenity Gardens in Gillett 4:00 p.m. Advent Worship @ Tabor* 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship @ Emmanuel*	<b>18</b> 9:00 a.m. Bible Study @ Tabor 1:00 p.m. Worship @ Lakewood Assisted Living Center	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service @ Tabor	<b>22</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>23</b> NO LADIES AID QUILTING	<b>24</b> 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve @ Tabor 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve @ Emmanuel	<b>25</b> 9:00 a.m. Christmas Combined Service @ Tabor	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service @ Tabor WRHS door offering I	<b>29</b> PASTOR'S DAY OFF	<b>30</b> NO LADIES AID QUILTING	<b>31</b> 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Combined Service @ Emmanuel	*No communion @ Advent Services		



## **Tabor Lutheran Church**

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**Address Service Requested**

# **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**Sunday Service 8:30 a.m.**

**Communion is celebrated every Sunday of each month; plus Holy Days**