



Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church * ELCA

P. O. Box 119 * 101 Main Street * Hanley Falls, MN 56245

Pastor Ponderings



JANUARY 2026
Volume 7,
Issue 1

Happy New Year, 2026!

When you read this we will be somewhere in the **12 days of Christmas** which begin on December 25 and continue until January 5th. So don't take down your Christmas tree yet!

January 6th is the day of **The Epiphany of our Lord**, which commemorates the visit of the Magi, or the Wiseman. What? They

weren't there at Christmas? Well, probably not. The new star appeared in the sky when Jesus was born. For them to follow the star from "the east", probably from Persia, (what we now know as Iran) indicates a journey of many long months. But they came! *Their visit means that this baby was for everybody!*

The wise men's visit created a stir. King Herod was a jealous man, and did not like the sound of another king. He was determined to eliminate any rival. He ordered every child under two years old and younger in and around Jerusalem to be killed. (The Massacre of the Infants Matthew 2:16-18) Jesus was born into a dangerous and violent world, not unlike our own. ***As we go into this new year, how can we be peacemakers in our relationships, our community, and in our world?*** Let us take counsel from the Apostle Paul:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind... Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interest of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus... who emptied himself... being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient the point of death – even death on a cross.



Thank you, Jesus for your self-giving love!

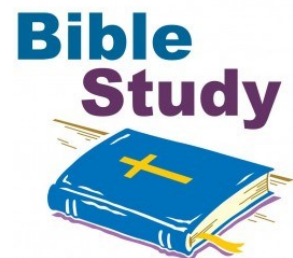
Joseph was instructed in a dream to take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. What do we call people who leave one country to go to another because their lives are in danger? *Refugees*. Jesus and his parents had the status of refugees as they crossed borders and sought safety. Would we welcome them if they sought sanctuary among us? I hope so. ***Who else can we welcome, for the love of Jesus?***

Noel and I want to thank you for welcoming us here among you, and for our life together so far. God has been faithful to us in our ventures in life, and we are experiencing that here as well! **May you experience the faithfulness of God, who sent us Jesus, and venture forward in faith.**

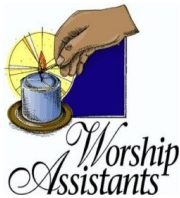
Pastor Sarah

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BIBLE STUDY will resume "40 Days Through the Bible" via Zoom on January 14th at 9:30 am. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Cindy Velde at 507-828-7593.



JANUARY ASSIGNMENTS:

Leader:

4 Pastor Sarah Tadé
11 Pastor Sarah Tadé
18 Tim Velde
25 Pastor Sarah Tadé

Accompanists:

4 Emma Gregoire
11 Colleen Hewitt
18 Augusta Volstad
25 Augusta Volstad

Ushers:

4 Justin Torke
11 Brooks Torke
18 Kevin Eye
25 Gary Enger

Lay Readers

4 Augusta Volstad
11 Ayla Volstad Hughes
18 Cindy Eye
25 Elmo Volstad

Technology

4 Julie Volstad
11 Julie Volstad
18 Bonnie Oftedahl
25 Paige Lehrkamp

Altar Guild:

Connie Velde

Communion Assistant

Daryl Gregoire

Funeral Chairs:

Service Team #3 will be in charge of the next funeral.

Co-chairs are:

Cindy Lundy at 507-423-5633 and Jill Fry at 507-828-0574

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS NEEDED: If you would like to help with the Altar Guild in the coming years, please talk to Connie Velde at 507-828-4227.

NEW COOKBOOKS AVAILABLE: Is your church cookbook worn out, splattered with various ingredients, missing a cover or pages? You are in luck, for the newly reprinted Favorite Recipes of Yellow Medicine Lutheran cookbook is now available. This is a joint fundraiser between the Yellow Medicine Lutheran and WELCA. Cookbooks are \$10.00. They are for sale at First Independent Bank or please contact Cindy Eye if you would like to purchase one. (507) 768-3547 or ceye@mvtvwireless.com.

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM: To receive emergency warnings within Yellow Medicine County, click on the CodeRED logo at the website www.co.ym.mn.gov. You can register to receive community notifications of severe thunderstorms, flash floods, & tornadoes and other emergency information.

"Thank you for being hope to communities that have none, you lift us up, thank you."

-Beautiful note received from Lakeview School

YMLC Stewardship Offerings 4 weeks beginning Sunday, November 30, 2025 and ending Wednesday, December 24, 2025	
General Fund	\$ 8,642.00
Cemetery Fund	500.00
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$ 9,142.00
<i>Budgeted each week: \$1,537</i>	
YTD Budgeted Offering	\$ 79,924.00
YTD Actual Offering	71,787.51
BEHIND BUDGET	\$ 8,136.49

January Birthdays!

3 Nick Reishus
4 Mike Dahl
Elmo Volstad
5 Mike Oftedahl
7 Mark Jeseritz
9 Brynn Lundin
16 Julie Volstad
17 Vonnie Severson
18 Chris Kaftan
23 Joe Thostenson
24 Kyle Oftedahl
Judy Ristau
27 Lori Oftedahl
28 Patricia Savoie
Grant Velde
29 Teresa Oftedahl



Potlucks after Worship services in the Fellowship Hall will resume on the first Sundays of each month during the Fall and Winter months through February.



Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Progress On New Cabin!



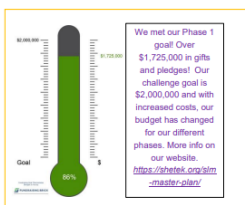
Join Us for a Winter Event

Wish List

- Adding Machine
- Office Supplies - Dry Erase Markers, Paper
- Spark Bibles
- Board Games
- Extension cords and Power Strips
- Arts and Crafts Supplies
- Volunteers

Upcoming Events

[Hiking Club January 11](#)
[Quilt and Craft Retreat January 14-18](#)
[Hiking Club February 15](#)
[Register online at Shetek.org or](#)
[Call 507-763-3567](#)



Help send kids to Camp...Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!



Effective January 1, 2026, cemetery lot prices will increase.

Member: One (1) 4' x 16' grave lot will increase to \$200.00

Non-Member: One (1) 4' x 16' grave lot will increase to \$400.00

Thanks,
YMLC Cemetery Board



"Christmas Quiz Show"
by the YMLC Sunday School

Winter Quilting & Crafting Retreat

January 14-18, 2026

Fabric Fun Fellowship

Registration fee includes lodging, meals & snacks.
You provide the project and creativity!

For more information contact Elizabeth at 507-763-3567
or elizabeth@shetek.org

SHETEK LUTHRAN MINISTRIES
14 KEELEY ISLAND DR
SLAYTON MN 56172

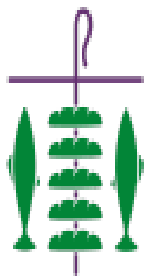


Quilting starts January 13th at 9:00 am, with a potluck lunch at 10:00. All are welcome! If you have any questions please get in touch with Connie Velde.

YMLC Annual Meeting will be on January 25th after worship in person or via Zoom. If you would like to attend via Zoom, please contact Angie Thostenson.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship





THE BANQUET

NEEDED:

The Banquet, a feeding ministry in Sioux Falls where people in need can gather, receive nourishment and experience love in action, requests any donations of empty containers, such as Cool Whip containers, larger yogurt containers, cottage cheese, etc... for leftover food.

A box has been placed in the church entry for any donations. A very sincere THANK YOU for your generosity!

SPECIAL MUSIC

If anyone would like to provide special music, or know of someone who would be willing to provide special music—PLEASE contact one of the worship committee members: Augusta, Emma, Julie, Connie or Colleen.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Sunday Services start at 11:00 am.

Sunday, January 4 – Worship in the Sanctuary followed by a potluck

Sunday, January 11 – Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

Sunday, January 18 – Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, January 25– Worship in the Sanctuary—Annual Meeting following worship



YMLC NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The newsletter deadline is set for the 20th of the month. Please let Angie know of any additions or changes to the newsletter you would like to make.

Next newsletter deadline is January 20th.

Email Angie at: yellowmedicinelutheranchurch@gmail.com. **If you would prefer to read the newsletter online** (and save printing and mailing costs), please email yellowmedicinelutheranchurch@gmail.com.

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 119
101 Main Street
Hanley Falls, MN 56245
www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org

E-mail:

Yellowmedicinelutheranchurch@gmail.com
Phone Angie at 507-766-0909

Pastor Sarah Tadé—507-589-9308
pastorsarah@granitefallslutheran.com

Tim Velde, Synodically Authorized Minister—
tcvfarm@yahoo.com, 507-828-5343
Gwen Arneson, Synodically Authorized
Minister— gwenarneson@yahoo.com,
612-280-5987



You can find us at
[www.facebook.com/
yellowmedicinelutheran](http://www.facebook.com/yellowmedicinelutheran).

Please notify us when:

There is a birth or
adoption of a child

There is a death in
your family

There is a
hospitalization in
your family

Someone becomes
home bound

Someone becomes
unemployed

You move or get a new
phone number

A child moves out of
the house or
attends college, or
whenever there is a
cause for sorrow or
a cause for joy.

PRAYER LIST:

At YMLC – Family of Bob Hoseck, Doug Anderson, Carol Engel, Elmo Volstad, Les Reisner, Ruth Sharkey, Lola Hoseck, Bonnie Gustafson
In the Community – Jeff Mertens, Rudy Espinoza, Morgan Dale, Pastor Larry Olson

(If you know of any changes to the prayer list, please let Angie know. We will have people on the prayer list for a month and then remove them unless we receive an additional request or are given details for longer.)

YMLC EAST & WEST CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS

- **NO SHRUBBERY SHALL BE ALLOWED.**
 - **ALL FAMILY DECORATIONS ARE AT THE FAMILY'S OWN RISK AND WILL BE REMOVED AT THE NEXT MOWING.**
 - **ALL FOOT MARKERS ARE TO BE SET AT GRASS LEVEL TO PRECLUDE EQUIPMENT DAMAGE.**
 - **IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THE SEXTONS TO ENTER UPON ANY LOT OR GRAVE TO PROHIBIT, MODIFY, OR REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF ANY STRUCTURE OR OBJECT WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN PLACED THERE IN VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS SUBMITTED, OR WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED IN THEIR JUDGMENT TO BE UNSIGHTLY, DANGEROUS, OBJECTIONABLE, OR INTERFERING WITH THE CEMETERY OPERATIONS.**
 - **FAMILY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF SNOW REMOVAL IN THE CASE OF WINTER BURIALS.**
- THE CEMETERY BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THESE RULES OR TO MAKE SUCH OTHER RULES AS THEY DEEM NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CEMETERY. NO NOTICE OF SUCH INTENDED CHANGES SHALL BE REQUIRED.**

We're on the web!
www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org

Contributions



If you are in need of a new box of contribution envelopes, please contact Angie and she will get you one. But please use the old box until it is empty.

The tithes and donations you make to Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church make a difference to our church and our community. There are various ways you can donate:

- We pass a collection plate during services
- You can send a check to YMLC, P. O. Box 119, Hanley Falls, MN 56245
- Electronic giving is available for 24/7 donations. Just visit www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org under GIVING and press the "DONATE NOW" button.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."
Proverbs 3:9

Monthly Treasurer's Report - Nov 2025

11/1/2025 through 11/30/2025

12/9/2025

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Category	11/1/2025- 11/30/2025
INFLOWS	
RECEIPTS	
General Expense Offerings	6,197.59
Harvest Dinner	199.00
Other Offerings	160.00
Poinsettias	-4.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6,552.59
TOTAL INFLOWS	6,552.59
OUTFLOWS	
FOOD STAND EXPENSES	
Profits Distributed	4,268.25
TOTAL FOOD STAND EXPENSES	4,268.25
LOCAL MINISTRY	
FICA-Medicare (lay employees)	97.92
Pastor's Salary	2,871.34
Staff Salaries	1,280.17
Travel Expense (Pastor)	56.00
TOTAL LOCAL MINISTRY	4,305.43
OUR CHURCH BUILDING	
New Equipment & Maintenance	145.00
Property Upkeep - Church Building	100.91
Utilities & Fuel	778.90
Worker's Compensation	520.00
TOTAL OUR CHURCH BUILDING	1,544.81
WORSHIP & EDUCATION	
e-Giving Transaction Fees	16.10
Worship Supplies	93.85
TOTAL WORSHIP & EDUCATION	109.95
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	10,228.44
OVERALL TOTAL	-3,675.85

SAVINGS

Parsonage Sale	\$ 30,755.89
Food Stand Profits	9,158.17
Other savings	102,576.65
TOTAL SAVINGS	\$ 142,490.71

CHECKING

CHECKING BALANCE AS OF 10/31/25	\$ 14,866.49
CHECKING BALANCE AS OF 11/30/25	11,190.64
	\$ 3,675.85

TOTAL SAVINGS & CHECKING: \$ 153,681.35

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 12th, 2025 at 6:30pm - Care Center

Present: Megan McPhail, Augusta Volstad, Teresa Oftedahl, Vonnie Severson, Rich Hagen, Gary Enger, Kevin Eye.

Absent: Daryl Gregoire

1. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Kevin.
2. Devotions led by Rich.
3. Agenda was approved.
4. Secretary's Minutes were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report was approved.
6. No Committee Reports.
7. Pastor Sarah's Report was reviewed. Correction: name should be read Angela Harris (not Angela Davis).
8. Old Business
 - Thanksgiving Eve service November 26 at 7:00p. Proceeding will be a catered meal at 6:15p. GFLC members are invited to attend both. Deadline for signing up is Wednesday, Nov 19th.
 - Beginning November through February on the 1st Sunday of each month, Worship services and Potluck will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Please arrive early if you can help set up (make coffee, set out plates, forks, napkins, tables, etc.).
 - Zoom Business Membership for YMLC. Currently we have the Pro version. We pay \$159.90 per year. Uses for Bible Study, Worship committee and Annual meeting. Council voted to continue this for another year.
 - Narthex entrance cement is all done! By Eric Soine. Will get a bid for next spring to replace outside sidewalks. Discussed responsibilities of church vs. city in this regard.
9. New Business
 - Children's Christmas Play at YMLC will be Sunday, December 14th.
 - Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, December 21st at 11 AM at YMLC.
 - Sunday Offerings: Will be placed underneath door after collecting. Usher will use pouch with key to put it in the bank. Rich will count on Mondays with assistance of bank staff.
 - 2026 Nominating Committee – Reviewed which positions need to be filled: Kevin's term expiring (will have done 6 years – three 2-year terms). Vonnie may run for another term (currently ending 2nd term = 4th year). Rich is in the beginning of his 3rd term (5th year). Tom Oftedahl's term will be up for Cemetery Board. Kevin plans to replace Al Torke's position there. Carol Engel's Memorial committee term will be up (needs to be replaced). Julie Volstad's Worship committee term is up (may be re-elected). Connie Velde term up on Parish ed committee. Judy Enger & Britanna Torke terms will be up on Stewardship committee and will need to be re-elected (no limit). Currently there are 5 ushers (Kevin to contact).
 - Will start working on 2026 budget next month and finalize the second Wednesday in January. Angie will put together an estimate for next Council meeting.
 - Juan and Anne Fernandez of World Mission Prayer League are in Bolivia for 6 weeks with their daughter. (They were here one year ago). Keep them in your prayers.
10. Next meeting will be on 6:30pm Wednesday, December 10th.
11. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Augusta Volstad, Secretary

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3
4 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live with a potluck following worship.	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 COMMUNION 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live. Annual Reports due to Angie	12	13 WIA Quilting at 9:00 am	14 YMLC Council meets at 6:30 pm in the Care Center Bible Study via Zoom at 9:30 am	15	16	17
18 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live.	19	20 WIA Quilting at 9:00 am NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21	22	23	24
25 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live. Annual Meeting following Worship	26	27 WIA Quilting at 9:00 am	28	29	30	31