



Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields
and keeping watch over their flock by night.*

Luke 2:8

Christmas Sunday

Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent. We are delighted to welcome the children from Children's Church to sing for us. The Christmas Choir will sing for us today also. This is a family service. The children will be joining us for intergenerational worship. The cry room is available for youngest of our family (no nursery, but Jamie is open to helping).

Family Business for December 21, 2025

- 1) Welcoming Julius James Dykstra to the BSW Family
- 2) The Christmas week schedule ... service on Wednesday evening ... no teen programs this week ... the Shepherd's Loft is closed on Friday.
- 3) Cry room is available today for the little ones and Jamie is on stand by to help also.

God working in the margins
Senior Pastor Milt Van Natta
Luke 2:2-20

Telling the story of Luke 2:2-20 ...

The Shepherd's hear the news first! ... They see the Christ child first! ... They are first to tell the story of God's son in the world.

God is speaking in the margins ... God is moving in the margins ... God's story is being told in the margins ... don't miss the margins!

Your notes:

This Week at BSW

On Sunday (12-21) – Four micro-churches meet in the Wood County Jail this afternoon. Pastor Lonnie and Pastor Milt among the leaders.

On Monday (12-22) – Women's study group in the church lobby at 5:30 pm. Joelle Lemke leads.

On Monday (12-22) – Men's study group meets in the Family Center at 7 pm.

On Tuesday (12-23) – The Shepherd's Loft clothing ministry is open to people in need of clothing, bedding, and towels with appointments at 9:30, 10, 10:30, and 11 am available. Donations will be accepted from 9 am until noon.

On Tuesday (12-23) – Bible study at 11:15 am in the Shepherd's Loft processing area. Pastor Milt leads a study on women in the Bible.

On Wednesday (12-24) – Micro-church at Waterford nursing home at 10:30 am. Pastor Milt leads ... Micro-church service at Wisconsin Rapids Health Services at 2 pm. Pastor Milt leads.

On Wednesday (12-24) – Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6 pm.

On Thursday (12-25) – Merry Christmas!

On Friday (12-26) – The Shepherd's Loft clothing ministry is closed, but main lobby will be manned from 9 am to noon for donations and emergencies helps.

Congratulations to Pastor Seth and Molly Dykstra on the arrival of their son Julius James on Thursday morning. Mom and son are doing well!

By The Numbers

Celebrating new life in Christ:

For the 2025-26 Church year (June 1, 2025 until May 31, 2026):

Those confessing Christ as Savior and Lord: 17

Those recommitting their life to Christ: 10

Those being baptized: 2

Call-to-Ministry: 0

Attendance Report

Date	Sanctuary	Micro-Churches	Online Raw #	X 1.7 Reporting Number	Total Foot Print
Y-T-D Averages To 11/30	100	45	27	47	192
Dec. 7	98	57	23	39	194
Dec. 14	94	53	31	53	200
Dec. 21					
Dec. 28					
Monthly Ave.					

Supporting BSW: There are four ways that you can support BSW with your tithes and offerings.

- 1) Securely online at bakerstwesleyan.org using the “support BSW” tab on the right-hand side of the homepage.
- 2) In the jar provided in the sanctuary on the tech booth.
- 3) By mail to Baker Street Wesleyan Church, 640 Baker St. Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, 54494. Attn: Treasurer.
- 4) Donation of stock and securities to our Edward Jones account.

Tithes and Offerings Report

Date	General Fund	Zambia Partnership	Warehouse Partnership	Wish List	
Y-T-Date As of 11/30	78,295	6,840	9,750		
Dec. 7	3,791	2		100	
Dec. 14	2,488	102	640		
Dec. 21					
Dec. 28					
Monthly totals					

Leadership Team 2025-26:

Local Board of Administration as elected at the Local Church Conference on Sunday, June 22, 2025 serving until the next local church conference.

Chairperson: Rev. Milt Van Natta, Senior Pastor

Treasurer: Jamie Mlsna

Secretary: Kimberly Bier

Members-at-Large: Kat Esser, Mike Hamilton, Diane Jackson, Bonnie Lemke, Brandon Pautz, and Kevin Lien (Vice-Chair).

Your BSW Staff Team

Lead Pastor/Teaching Pastor/Shepherd's Loft: Rev. Milt Van Natta

Next Generations Director/Music Leader: Pastor Seth Dykstra

Assistant Pastor of Discipleship/Zambia: Rev. Carri Johnson

Assistant Pastor of Spiritual Care/Prayer Chain: Rev. Jim Leston

Jail Ministry Missionary: Rev. Lonnie Selje

Building and Grounds Care Team

- Project Managers: Mike Hamilton, Brandon Pautz and Mimi Sievers.

Hearts on Fire: Four Spiritual Journeys in 2025

Journey One- *First Time Through*: Reading/Listening to Good News Bible

Congratulations! You have read through the New Testament a chapter and a day. You are now encouraged to do the same with the Old Testament in your Living Bible.

Journey Two- Daily Holiness Devotional Reading: *When Morning Gilds the Skies* by Dr. John Oswalt. Read the devotional for each day.

Journey Three- Praying for the world from World Almanac and Book of Facts, the Field Guide for Daily Prayer, and other sources: be a cot-bearer and pray for the world by name. Also pray as the Lord leads you.

- 1) Read the intercession prayer from page 18 of the Field Guide for Daily Prayer
- 2) Pray for President Trump and Vice-President Vance. Also, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson and Senate leader John Thune.
- 3) Pray for the congressional delegations of Tennessee, Texas, and Utah (Senators on pages 11 and Congressional Representatives on pages 16 & 17).
- 4) Pray for the leadership of our local communities. Take a map and pray for the cities of our region by name.
- 5) Pray for the efforts being made by the Trump administration for Middle East peace and an end to the war in Ukraine.

- 6) Pray for Governor Evers and the 33 state senators and the 99 state assembly persons of the state of Wisconsin. Pray for the candidates declaring for the governor's race in 2026.

Journey Four- Morning and Evening Surrender. Read John Baillie's *Diary of Private Prayer*. One prayer for morning and one prayer for evening. Please read out loud over your own life and heart.

Coming in 10 days ... on January 1, 2026

Spiritual Formation 2026: Guarding our Hearts (Proverbs 4:23)

- 1) Journaling through the Bible ... Slow reading year
- 2) Praying daily over our hearts the prayer of John Baillie (14th day in morning) ... praying specifically for our spiritual hearts in the manner of Ephesians 1:3
- 3) Dennis Kinlaw's daily devotional *This Day with the Master* to challenge us to spiritual growth

Father grants us ...

A brave heart

A true heart

A tender heart

A heart with great room in it

A heart fixed on you

A pure heart

