



Sunday, December 6, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

2 Peter 3:9

Serving of Holy Communion

Today the people of BSW will receive Holy Communion. We will approach the Lord Jesus Christ in faith and He will meet us at His table and give us grace. That is what Holy Communion is- a means of grace.

BSW practices open communion. Anyone who confesses Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is welcomed and encouraged to come forward and receive. Minors are served on the recommendation of their parents or guardians.

Family Business for December 7, 2025

- 1) Holy Communion served today.
- 2) Christmas Choir practices shortly after service today.
- 3) Men's Quarterly Breakfast next Saturday morning.
- 4) Christmas Week Schedule (Newsletter page 4).
- 5) Prayers for Marcy Foley.
- 6) An update on Pastor Lonnie and the jail ministry.
- 7) Helping Pastor Lonnie report from Bonnie Lemke.

Mary said "yes!"
A timeless Christmas message
Senior Pastor Milt Van Natta

An angel speaks ...
 God wants your help ...
 Mary asks how ...
 The Holy Spirit, that's how ...
 Mary says yes ...
 God does the impossible ...

Your notes:

This Week at BSW

On Sunday (12-7) – Christmas Choir practice in the sanctuary after worship service.

On Sunday (12-7) – Four micro-churches meet in the Wood County Jail this afternoon. Pastor Lonnie and Pastor Milt among the leaders.

On Monday (12-8) – Women’s study group in the church lobby at 5:30 pm. Joelle Lemke leads.

On Monday (12-8) – Men’s study group meets in the Family Center at 7 pm.

On Tuesday (12-9) – 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 (12-9) - Tuesday Bible study in the Shepherd’s Loft at 11:15am studying Women of the Bible. Pastor Milt leads.

On Wednesday (12-10) – Micro-church at Waterford nursing home at 10:30 am. Pastor Milt leads.

On Wednesday (12-10) - Next Level ministry for youth from Youth for Christ held in the Family Center from 3:30 to 5:30 pm ... then the BSW Underground at 6 pm until 8 pm. Tonight's book is Ezra.

On Thursday (12-11) – Coffee with Pastors Holiday Gathering. Seniors 50+ meet in the Fellowship Hall for food, fellowship, prayer, song, and the Good Word of God.

On Thursday (12-11) – Pastoral staff meeting at 11:30.

On Friday (12-12) – 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 Saturday (12-13) – Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Prep and set up begin at 7 am. The breakfast and devotional time begin at 8 am.

Christmas Schedule at BSW

Sunday, December 21st at 10 am ... Congregation Choir and Children's Choir sing.

Wednesday, December 24 at 6 pm ... Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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
Nov. 2	101	68	28	48	217
Nov. 9	103	45	22	37	185
Nov. 16	114	54	25	43	211
Nov. 23	85	34	33	55	174
Nov. 30	91	56	34	58	205
Monthly Ave.	99	51	28	48	198

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		
Nov. 2	2,983	2	560		
Nov. 9	3,549	2			
Nov. 16	2,302	102	750		
Nov. 23	1,285	2			
Nov. 30	3,625	2	520		
Monthly totals	13,744	110	1,830		

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 Oklahoma, Oregon, and Pennsylvania (Senators on pages 11 and Congressional Representatives on page 16).
- 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 peace process between Ukraine and Russia.

- 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 24 days ... on January 1, 2026

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

- 1) Journaling through the Bible
- 2) Praying daily over our hearts the prayer of John Baillie (14th day in morning)
- 3) Dennis Kinlaw's daily devotional *This Day with the Master*

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

Dear Church Family,

As many of you know, I've had a long year with health issues. It started with a diagnosis of Lyme's Disease and RA in January, and continued with shoulder replacement in February. Another thing many of you are aware of is that our health care system is very broken, so waiting to see doctors and get treatment has been the biggest challenge for someone who's been healthy most of their life.

With that said, I have been diagnosed with over a dozen illnesses now, and one is terminal. In July I learned I have RA-ILD. My body is attacking itself and I now have scar tissue on my lungs. Some of the other issues have been caused by meds, and others are unexplained. But through this all, I know I am in God's hands. The same God who counts the hairs on our heads.

Right now, many of you are in shock. You will quickly move into a processing stage and then go through a whole grieving process. I have known natural death from early childhood through adulthood. I have also known tragic death. What I can honestly say is that death is not only a part of our lives, but the beginning of the faith we claim. I told Pastor Milt that as much as I like his grief series, we don't address grieving in the moment, as someone is facing the end of their life. Those times for me have been some of the closest I've been to God. You're invited to join me for the ride!

With that said, illness, meds, and Wisconsin winter limits my ability to see everyone. Bonnie Lemke has graciously agreed to coordinate things for me. She'll know what type of help I need and when. Please coordinate with her if you want to help. I don't know how much help I'll need or when yet. I can say rides to appointments will be the biggest right now. I also remind you there is truly power in prayer. Don't pray for healing, which is what everyone wants to do. I've been prayed over and anointed, but what I truly want is God's will. (He miraculously healed me from cancer 37 years ago.)

He knows his best plan. It could be to give me more time like He did Hezekiah. He may come tomorrow and take us all up. (I love trumpets and hope I get to hear it!) I need wisdom in making medical decisions since the side effects are as severe as the diseases, or worse. My family needs prayer as they all live out of town or out of state. They are putting their trust in you to fill their void. They feel relief that Bonnie can do what they would like to be able to.

Most of all, allow Holy Spirit to teach you lessons. It will be different for each of you. Allow yourself time to process this. Be patient with each other as you deal with the stages individually. I have been phasing myself out of jail, so please pray for those stepping up and that God will continue to pour out His Spirit on the jail and inmates. I may not answer my phone every time it rings, but I will try to text or email when I'm able. Pastor Milt can tell you the blessings I received when the jail was told. He and Bonnie will keep you posted on my journey. Oh, BTW, "terminal" means 6 months to 5 years from diagnosis. So precise! LOL

I love and miss seeing you all,

Pastor Lonnie