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HILITES deadline for January is December 28. Call Carol@883.8064 or email - ac.francoeur@sasktel.net

Merry Christmas & Best Wishes for the New Year

come to me hoping to find answers. I don't have them.

Then a pastor friend of mine helped me think differently. He, too, said that he is not good at prophecy. He is not good as saying, "the Lord has spoken to me, and this is the way that we should go." I resonated with that. I'm not so good at looking into the future and seeing where God is at work. But that pastor friend reminded me that we don't have to be. We don't have to know the answers because we have the stories of our past. When we look back it tends to be easier to see how God helped us, where God guided us, and how when things seemed to be falling apart God led us into a different future. That, too, is all I can offer: stories of how God has been with us. How when I was falling apart, God sent someone to be with me. How when I needed help, God sent someone to help me. When I didn't know which direction to take, God eventually guided me into the path I chose. And also stories of how when I was very, very lost, God eventually guided me out of those situations. I may not know exactly what God is doing and how God is with you today, but I do know that God has been there since creation, through all the stories in our Old and New Testaments, through the stories of our ancestors, through your stories, and through my story. Remember, it is in those

moments when we have zero understanding that God is creating something new. We may not know what that is, but we can trust that God has always been there and will always be there no matter what comes our way. And... I'll be there for you, too.

Pastor Sarah Urano BSW, MDiv
Partners In Worship (Shell Lake, SK)
(306)841-7333
<urano.sarah@gmail.com>

OUR LADY OF SMILES

The Christmas services will be as follows: Decmber 24 mass at 11:30 am. December 25 mass at 11:30 am with Christmas Eve mass in Spiritwood at 7:00 pm. December 31 mass at 11:30 am. January 1 mass at 11:30 am.

Mass time will resume the winter schedule of 2 pm on Sunday.

FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH MONT NEBO

Adult Sunday school at 10:00 am and service at 11:00 am with chidren's church during the service .

THANK YOU

A big thank you to the Shell Lake Housing Board for coming & decorating our Common Room and providing us with a delicious festive lunch(Lana ,Donna,& Monique). We very much appreciated it. May you have a very Merry Christmas with much Joy, peace and happiness in 2024. Submitted by Nel Heckel



COMMITTEE/ CLUB NEWS

5TH ANNUAL SIP & SHOP CHRISTMAS MARKET

Another beautiful and success event for 2023!! The weather was great, the sips were flowing, and the shopping was fabulous! Thank you to all who came out near and far. Also to our vendors, we appreciate the hard work put in to curating your craft and sharing with us all! We are pleased to announce our Little Wonders Preschool program made a profit of \$586 at the door. Thank you again for welcoming our guests. Winner of the door prize was Patti Derksen, congratulations! On behalf of the Sip & Shop committee, we would like to give back to the community and will be making a \$500 donation to the Curling Rink Fundraising Initiative.

See you all next year! Jen Jones, Marion Sulymka, Amy Strate

SHELL LAKE LIONS

The Shell Lake Lions would like to thank the following people for all the

help adding the new sewer line from the lions hall to the town curb stop.

Without these special people within our community this would have not been possible. Gory's Excavating, Wayne Reddekopp, John Dykstra, Garry Nickolat and village maintenance Jim Mayo.

We wish you all a very happy holiday season! Best wishes in 2024!

SHELL LAKE LEGION

The Remembrance Day service was well attended and was very well orchestrated. The lunch was delicious with ample food left over. Thanks to Comrade Chanelle for the cupcakes all decked out in memorial crosses! Winner of the November Lottery was Roger Bourassa.

SHELL LAKE LIBRARY

Shell Lake Library Customer Appreciation Day - Tuesday - Dec 19 from 11:00am- 4:00 pm. Come down to the library and browse while you have coffee/tea and dainties on us!

December Book Club Meeting will be held on Jan. 3 at 2:00 pm in the library. This years theme is pick your

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for current Shell Lake
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own book. Decembers book is Memoir. Please feel free to contact me at the library if you have any questions or would like to join. 306.841.8440

PLANT AND DECOR COMMITTEE

Merry Christmas to all and all the best in 2024 from the Plant & Decor Committee. Thank you everyone for all your donations this year. It really is a blessing to know we have such a wonderful community who wants to beautify our town.

The flowers had a rough start this year but miracles happen and they lasted way into the fall.

We leave you with a Christmas quote: **IT’S NOT HOW MUCH WE GIVE, BUT ABOUT HOW MUCH LOVE WE PUT INTO GIVING**

To everyone enjoy the seasons and safe travels. Merry Christmas from **Cathy, Sherry, Marion, Anita, Chelsea, and Kathy**

VILLAGE OF SHELL LAKE

It seems it was just yesterday that I was preparing the November newsletter and here we are into December. I'm just guessing that the weather has a lot to do with it, It is certainly helping with the progress on the construction of the rink. It was unusual but nice to put up the Christmas lights in above zero weather. The Village also has had

some reprieve from huge dumps of snow in previous years, that we had to move and then move again at great we must be prepared for snowfall and for frost. I want to remind everyone that the frozen sewer line policy is as follows:

That a councillor or the maintenance person and a plumber shall determine where the problem is. If the frozen line is on the Village property, the Village will fix the line as soon as possible and will pay for a pumpout as needed. If the problem is on the homeowners property then it will be the home owner's expense.

With regards to cardboard and paper collection. This bin is for the Village taxpayers only. It seems to accommodate too many people. There is a bin for rural residents at the fire station.

The log rental building is vacant at the present time. We will be up grading the facility but if you know of someone looking for office space or a hair salon contact Tara.

A very big thank you to Ken Anklovich for building the new , improved Bulletin Board. You have great ideas.

Congratulations to Greg and Joy on the sale of their Store business and of course welcome to the new owners . We wish you success and to Greg and Joy Happy retirement!

As 2023 winds down on behalf of council I would like to thank each and

every volunteer for their time spent on committee and for the work you do all year long to make our community run like a well oiled wheel.

The Christmas suppers and get togethers are getting underway. Enjoy! On behalf of Council I wish everyone a happy Christmas season and good times with family and friends.

Respectfully, Anita Weiers, Mayor

CHURCHES

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Bible Study Thursdays at 10 am at the Villa. There will be no Bible Study Decemeber 28 or January 4.

Youth Christmas Pageant practices: **Dec 3rd, Dec 10th, and Dec 17th at 4 p.m.** at Partners in Worship

Dec 3rd Senior’s Supper
 Christmas Service and Youth Christmas Pageant at Partners in Worship is **Dec 23rd at 4 pm.**

-NO SERVICES on Dec 24th or Dec. 31st

- Epiphany service will be January 7th at Partners in Worship at 9 a.m. and at Partners in Faith 11 a.m.

Partners is Worship is sponsoring a food drive for Christmas. We will be accepting financial donations towards the purchase of food gift certificates for the store in town. We will also be accepting donations of food.

Food can be brought to the church. We are very happy to say that the grocery store has generously agreed to provide a drop box there for both dry products and perishable as well. Thank you so much to the new owners for helping us out in this. Let’s all work together to help others enjoy the bounty that we all do. We are also planning to give baking to some single seniors. Please contact Donna Strate if you would be able to help with that.

Nothing has made me dislike Christmas more than becoming a pastor. Ironic, right? Yet here we are in another Christmas season, and I fail to have to words to say. How am I supposed to preach that God is with us when our loved ones have passed away or whose anniversaries of their passing approach? What can I say to someone who is struggling with mental illness as our days grow longer and darker? What answers can I possibly give to people struggling with finances, food security, homelessness, grief, and toxic relationships? I was sitting in the emergency room one day and a woman told me all of her hardships and struggles. Then she asked me pointed questions about how I saw God present in those tragedies. I only spoke with her for thirty minutes and she expected me to have the answers. As a pastor, I feel like a lot of people

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