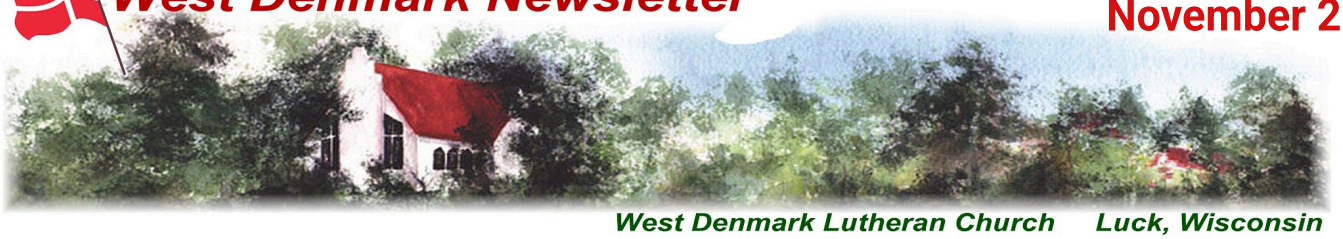
West Denmark Newsletter

November 2026



West Denmark Lutheran Church Luck, Wisconsin

Goings on at West Denmark!

Sunday November 1st All Saint's Day

Lighting of the candle lanterns made with the guidance of Christy Wetzig and Michael Sommers at the 10 am service.

(**Tuesday November 3rd Vote! The Polls are open 7 am to 8 pm)**

Wednesday November 4th West Denmark Book discussion on zoom at 11 am. The book choice is A.M. Allchin's book, ***Grundtvig: An Introduction to His Life and Work***. For the Zoom link contact: Mark Hulsether <mhulseth@gmail.com>

Sunday November 15th, WD Council meeting, Noon

Thursday November 19th, 10:30 to Noon Encore

Conversations about aging at the church Topic: What does pastoral care look like as we age with Pastor Jason.

November 29th First Sunday of Advent, *"In Advent, we await an event which occurs in history and at the same time transcends it."*

December 5th Cookie Walk!!! 9-1 at the Hall. Please bake 3 dozen of 2 kinds of cookies and bring to the hall by Friday December 4th.

December 6th West Denmark Congregational Annual Meeting and lunch, after morning worship. New Council Members election, committee reports, approval of 2027 budget, recap of 2026 and Goal setting for 2027.

Special Days ✺ November

Happy Birthday!

1 Brenda Johnson
2 Maya Lumley
4 Kyle Petersen
16 Mike Rozumalski
20 Christine Petersen

Anniversaries

If you have a November Anniversary, please email the editor!

Christmas Program date and time and Christmas Worship Schedule will be in the December newsletter.

Visitation/Care Team Ministry
Thursday October, 29th at 1pm at the Church.

This is for those that have been or are interested in being part of a team that visits and discusses the care needs of our community. Come to this meeting to learn more and see if this is for you.

Interested in membership at West Denmark Lutheran Church?

Pastor Jason will be facilitating a gathering for those that are interested in membership to learn more about this and what being a member means. Sunday November 1st following worship.

As a pastor I spend a lot of time thinking about the church. What is and what it is not. How we define the word matters greatly as we think about our relationship to the church.

In Sunday school I remember more than one lesson that stated that we are the church. The living breathing church and that the building, is well, a building.

Now buildings are special, they house memories of those who gather there, this is true of our homes as much as the church building.

Unfortunately, our language is limited and the word church is used for both the building and the congregation. I say unfortunately because I fear that more often than not it gets used only when referring to the building. This happens in subtle unintentional ways. Like when we say we are going to church. Over time this seeps in and for many I believe becomes just that the thing on our checklist for the week "Go to Church"

Years ago, even before seminary, maybe even before undergrad, I started to change how I used this in my vocabulary, and it continued into ministry. Instead of saying "we/I go to church", I try to use the phrase "the church gathers for worship" or some other variation. Yes it can seem clunky at first, but in my mind this aligns better with what Christ is talking about in his ministry regarding the church or the kingdom work we are invited to be part of.

This means that weekly, or more/less often, that the church is gathered, we are fed, nourished, comforted and challenged by the Word of God; through fellowship we are reminded that we are not alone, that relationships matter and and then we are sent back out into the world to continue to be the church. The church that acts with justice, loves kindness, serves God and neighbor, and walks humbly with God. And may we never underestimate that in our being sent that we have revealed the Living God at work in and through us, as we extend the love, mercy and grace of God to those we encounter.

So my friends go be the living church in this world for the world so desperately needs us to be just that.

Blessings,
Pastor Jason

NOVEMBER WORSHIP NOTES

SUNDAYS AT WEST DENMARK:

8:30 MEDITATION GROUP

You are invited to join our 8:30 Meditation Group, which meets in the balcony of the church. In a world that can often feel chaotic, this gathering has become a grounding and connected time for all participants. We start with a short reflective reading, follow it with 15 to 20 minutes of silence, and wrap up with a discussion about our experiences. It's a beautiful way to center ourselves and find peace together.

10 AM WORSHIP

Join us for our thriving 10 AM worship service, filled with inspiring music, engaging lay participation, and thoughtful reflections on lectionary texts. Invite neighbors who may be looking for community to experience our eagerness to welcome. Stay afterward for coffee, delicious treats, and meaningful conversations at 11 AM!

COMMUNION IN NOVEMBER

will be on the first and third Sundays as usual.

PREACHERS IN NOVEMBER

November 1st	Pastor Jason	**November 8th**	Christy Wetzig
November 15th	Terra Lumley	**November 22nd**	Christy Wetzig
		November 29th	Pastor Jason

MEMORIES FROM INSTALLATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, September 20, 2026, the congregation of West Denmark joyfully welcomed a new Pastor, Pastor Jason Clifton-Meller, into the church. Nancy Moe acted as recorder of the event and her photos can be found on the church 's Face Book page and in this issue of the newsletter.

Christy Wetzig and the members of the shared ministry and music team worked with Pastor Randy Olson, to design an installation service that was inspiring and welcoming. Pastor Olson, representing the NW Area Synod of Wisconsin, lead the worship service, Pastor Clifton-Meller presided at communion, the church choir and the church musicians provided wonderful music, and the church council and congregation members provided lunch following worship.

Pastor Clifton-Meller and his husband, James Clifton-Meller, are busily getting settled into the parsonage and Pastor Jason began his first week of work at West Denmark on Monday, September 21. He will be available Wednesday through Sunday and will work on a part-time basis of 20 hours per week. Many of the congregation members already know Pastor Jason, but If you haven't yet met him, please reach out to introduce yourself.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
September 30, 2026

General Fund Checking:
$53,361.43
Youth Fund:
$3,737.80
Woodland School Checking:
$50,223.51
Memorial Fund Savings:
$56,562.18
Ravenholdt Repair Checking:
$8,510.96
Park Dane Checking:
$14,643.07

Certificate of Deposit Frandsen:
$83.550.17 (@3.71%)
Matt Nick Memorial Checking:
$4,540.94 (at Mission Investment Fund)
Matt Nick Memorial CD 6 yr:
$889.50 (at Mission Investment Fund @3.52%)
Frandsen Investment Acct:
$6,062.12
Saralice Petersen Memorial Fund:
$32,046.65 (at Thrivent)

COOKIE WALK IS COMING UP DECEMBER 5th!

This annual fundraiser often marks the start of the Christmas season for many, and it's not too early to watch for sales on butter, flour and sugar or to find a new, interesting cookie recipe to make. The ask is 3 dozen cookies of 2 varieties.Ethnic cookies are encouraged.

Is there interest in doing a cookie making afternoon at the hall sometime during the week before the 5th? Please let Pastor Jason know.

Cookies can be left at the hall Thursday Dec 3rd or the morning of December 4th. Watch for sign up sheets to help set up and plate cookies, work an earlier or later shift on the 5th, or help clean up. Thank you!!!



THE LUCK SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM HAS CHANGED

The school no longer needs us to donate peanut butter. We are still finding out how we can support this important program. There will be more information in the next newsletter. Thank you for all of the peanut butter donations given in the past several years. We had an awesome response!

Ongoing Activities at West Denmark…

Chair Yoga with Connie

Tuesdays 10-11 am at the parish hall. Join the growing group of participants for an excellent hour of stretching, balance, mobility and flexibility exercises led by Connie Wicklund. Bring a mat and yoga block and elastic band if you have one. Donations welcome.

West Denmark Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1 pm in the fellowship area. Wander through the interesting book of Acts with glimpses of the early church which is getting more relevant all of the time! This is an excellent time to join an engaging, low stress study led by Christy Wetzig. No prep necessary! Our motto is: Not all who wander are lost! All are welcome!



West Denmark Book Club

West Denmark Book Club November 11th on zoom at 11 am. The book choice is A.M. Allchin's book, ***Grundtvig: An Introduction to His Life and Work***. There are also supplements and/or workarounds to this book as this is a hard book to find. Please contact Mark Hulsether for more information about those options. This is a lively, insightful discussion group with lots of opinions!! Consider joining! The WDLC book discussion group meets via zoom from late fall to late spring at 11 AM on the second Wednesday of every other month. For the Zoom link contact: Mark Hulsether <mhulseth@gmail.com>

Choir practice

Wednesdays at 7 pm. Come and sing beautiful music! All voices are needed!

Just a closer walk:

Theological Walk and Talk

We are on break til evenings get lighter again, and after the snow melts. April?? See Tara Lumely for more information.

Encore: Conversations About Aging

Thursday November 19th

At the church, 10:30 to noon.

Topic: What does pastoral care look like as we age with Pastor Jason. December 17th: Bring your Creche and share your Christmas traditions, January: Discussion on ***Outlive:The science and art of longevity*** by Peter Attia.
Join us!!!

Men's Breakfast

Mondays 7:30am

Meets at the Tin Shed in Frederic



Women's Breakfast

Mondays 10 am

Mondays 10 am at the Tin Shed in Frederic except the last week of the month when they meet on Monday at Cafe Wren at 11:40am.

Quilters!

We have started to cut fabric for new quilts and accepting fabric for more, and also bigger pieces or sheets or blankets for backing. (This is a great way to get that out of control fabric stash down to a reasonable amount!) We need people to sew packets of 30 squares together.This can be done at home. Next needed are crews to assemble, tie and bind the quilts. In initial calculations, Margaret, our quilting maeven, figures we could reasonably be able to gather 10 to 15 weeks for tying quilts. At 2 to 3 a week, we would need 20 to 30 quilt tops, backs and filler. Wouldn't it be great to meet this goal by next spring?! Figure out where you fit into this great project and come when you can. All skill levels are welcome!!! Call the church for meeting times, they are often at 10 am on Thursdays.

AA Saturday's 9-10 in the Fellowship room.

MORE IDEAS FOR EXPANDING WEST DENMARK CHURCH'S WELCOME

Thank you to everyone who helps make West Denmark Lutheran Church a welcoming place to worship, enjoy fellowship and participate in being part of the church community.

As we look for expanded ways to present a welcoming presence, the Church Council and Pastor Jason have been discussing ideas to begin by updating and sprucing up the front entryway/indoor entrance and the Narthex. The next phase of the project will be to redo the infant and small child room and add speakers into this area.

We propose that the first step in this work will be cleaning out and "spiffing up" our entrance by recycling, donating or getting rid of unwanted or unnecessary items in the entryway and the Narthex. We are suggesting that we remove, relocate or donate the following items: some of the plants, the wheelchairs, the church pew, the brooms, shovels and ice melt, the food pantry collection site, the bulletin board and sign-in shelf and several of the tables that are currently being used in this area. Please talk to Nancy Moe about "adopting" any of the listed items that will no longer be needed. You can also talk to Nancy if you wish to volunteer your help in cleaning out and cleaning up these areas.

Concurrent with clean-up in these areas, we are looking for volunteers to begin acting as greeters at the front entryway of church. We propose adding that category to the jobs listing in the sign-up sheet of duties. You can talk to Pastor Jason about this new volunteer opportunity and please sign up if you are willing to volunteer to serve as a greeter.

You can get more information on this project by talking with Pastor Jason and Nancy Moe any of the other Church Council members, reading about it in upcoming newsletters and West Denmark emails and during the announcement time during worship. Also, please talk to Pastor Jason or any of the Church Council members to share your suggestions, thoughts and feedback about this proposal. Thanks again for your contributions to West Denmark's Church community. The Church wouldn't exist without you!!



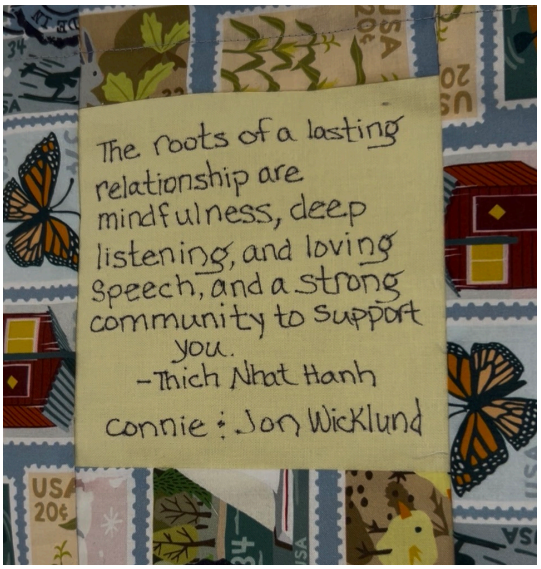
PRAYER SHAWLS NEEDED

We have a beautiful prayer shawl ministry. Shawls are a visible reminder of the prayer support and love given by the West Denmark community in the time of sickness, grief, or change. Our supply is running low. Would you consider knitting or crocheting a shawl or two this winter! Yarn is available at the church and there are many patterns available on line or ask for one from Barb Kass. Thank you!

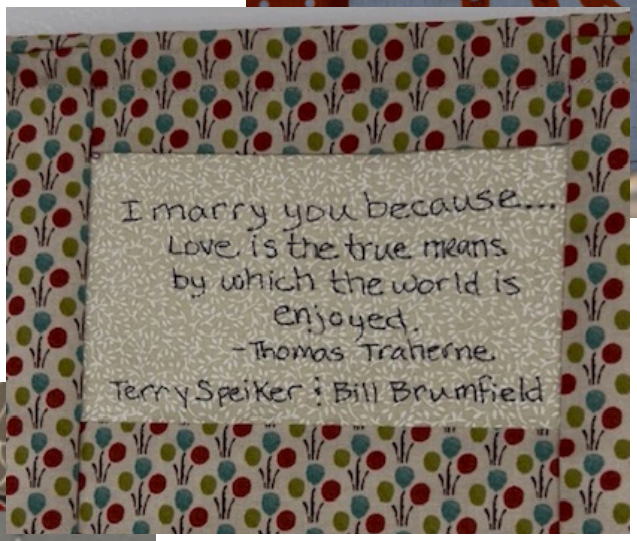
Pictured: Al Zook wrapped in a shawl made with prayer and love following his successful cornea surgery!

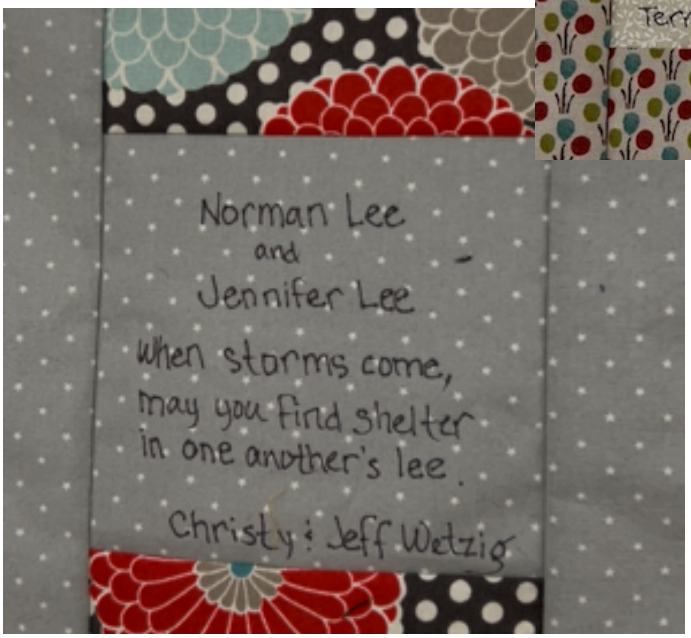
BLESSING BANNERS

These are close ups of banners made for Norman and Jen Hansen's reception. WD honored their marriage by submitting wedding blessings to Nancy Moe. The blessings were put on banners and strung in the dining area of the hall. The wedding couple was surprised to see them and spent time reading each blessing. We heard tears were shed.











LOAVES & FISHES MONTHLY REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2026

Open Tues. & Thurs. 11 – 1:00 Lions Hall, 300 S. 1st Street Luck, WI P.O. Box 554 Luck, WI 54853

Households served: 37
Luck: 22; Unity: 14
Adults: 27; Children: 14
1 New Person
Total people: 74

Donations: Money: $150
(Below includes TEFAP, purchased food, donations)
Weight of food coming in: # 1540
Weight of food going out: # 1629
Volunteer hours: 51 hours.



The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federally funded USDA food program, which is administered through the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Loaves & Fishes is a recipient agency.

Needs for next month: crackers, diced tomatoes, spaghetti sauce, canned tuna without soy.

We can always use more volunteer workers!

If interested, please contact:
Pam Girtz 320-232-7541
email: girtzp@gmail.com;
or Gena Bugno: nobug115@yahoo.com

Good-bye and Welcome Back to Shawn

(to the tune of "76 Trombones)

Now it's the day to honor a pastor great,
And to say "thank-you" for all he's done,
Yes, it is Shawn Mai who is our honoree today:
It's high time he had his praises sung!

It was a sad time when old West Denmark Church,
Home of those merry, hap-happy Danes,
Lost a great pastor and we were in the lurch:
Oh, who could take up Linda's reins?

Well, we looked around and up and down and soon we found,
Sitting here, in the church, right in our own pews,
A pastor ready-made to fill our altar need,
Even though — he's a Kansas Swede.

Yes, he stepped right up and donned a robe and led us all —
Are we glad? Yes we are; he's a shining star.
He led our worship service with a bright and joyous power,
And he never missed a coffee hour!

(Brief melodic interlude)

Look at our happy faces, we are not sad,
'Cause our "good-bye" is blessed with good news;
Just as he always does, Shawn will make us very glad:
He's rejoining us among our pews.

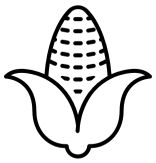
Now let us hear from ev'ry West Denmark soul
Let us all shout a loud, hearty Skål!
Let us sing it out— with Lutheran zest
Telling all we think that Shawn's the best!

HARVEST FEST, 2026

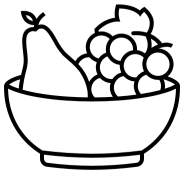
It was a gorgeous day for our Høstfest and it was enjoyed by all; some even took the cribbage board outside to enjoy the beauty of the woods along the ball field while playing the game.

When entering the hall we were astounded by the beautifully decorated stage provided by Norman Hansen and Jen Williams (with some small help from yours truly). We began the festivities with very delicious potluck. Winners in that competition were Kristan Martin for salad, Christine Johansen for main dish, and Maggie Petersen for dessert. Then there was singing and a very interesting talk on the subject of the West Denmark Cemetery given by Laura Jensen who has done extensive research locating the obituaries of the people buried there, some 600 plus. Thank you Laura.

After another song, the games and competitions began for fabulous prizes, i.e. beautiful, large, red onions donated by Bill Krueger from his garden, with the results as follows:



Fall Centerpiece - Michael Sommers
Impressive Vegetables - Kristan and Art Martin
Horseshoes - Paul Petersen
Henrik Strandskov - Bocce Ball
Scrabble - Norman Hansen, Patty Pearson
Cribbage - Bill Krueger and yours truly



My thanks go out to so many people who helped with the day:



Nancy Moe, Jen Williams, and Jon Wicklund for their work in the kitchen
Chris and Randy Petersen and Jeff Wetzig for handling the dishwasher
Carl Hansen for judging Impressive Veggies
Roger Petersen, Connie Engblom, and Maggie Petersen for food judging
Bill Brumfield and Dick Jensen for receiving the offering
Terry Speiker for judging the Fall Centerpieces
Ronnie Peterson for setting up Home Run Derby (but no-one played - are we getting too old? Where were the Petersen kids?)

and for help with cleanup:



Maggie and Paul Petersen, Chris' Johansen,
Kristan and Art Martin, and Norman Hansen.

Thank you all who attended, sang, helped and made the day a celebration.

Harry Johansen, coordinator

WD Woodland School Gets Ready for State Licensing Visits

The Woodland School Group along with some WD volunteers have been busy readying for licensing visits. One critical upgrade that State licensing visitors had previously requested was installation of a hand washing sink in our Main Room Eating Area. Last week, we were excited to get a hand sink installed. To help fund this additional expense, we obtained a grant from the Polk-Burnett Operation Round-Up program and a generous donation from a Friend of the Church. Liz D. now is scheduling our pre-licensing visit.



New Woodland School Hand Sink

Additional Fall trail work has been underway. Nicole L. and Mary J. removed about 40-50 prickly ash saplings from the Frog Harbor area. Nicole, Mary, and Carrie P. leveled Trail sections, where needed, using a McLeod Forestry Tool borrowed from the local Ice Age Trail Association. This Fall, Carrie and Paul P. will be installing a donated (Mike L.) wood duck house at the end of the Trail. (We hope to recruit additional volunteers to help with outdoor work come Spring.)





Carrie Leveling Trail and Completed Leveling

In the Parish Hall kitchen, Nicole L. (with help from her daughter and son) and Susan C. have been batch cooking for our freezer. They peeled and cooked dozens of apples for apple sauce. In general, Nicole has been planning meals and snacks for the program.

Opportunities to Invest in Luther Point

Greetings, and thank you for your continued love and support of Luther Point Bible Camp!

For generations, Luther Point has been a place where people form faith, experience God's creation, build relationships, and create lasting memories. As we look to the future, we have an exciting opportunity to build on that legacy and help make Luther Point an even stronger place for the next generation.

There are many projects—both large and small—that can enhance the camp experience, improve our facilities, care for God's creation, and prepare Luther Point for the years ahead. The list included in this newsletter highlights just some of the opportunities available.

How Can You Help?
Have a skill? Have a crew? Have a heart for Luther Point? We would love to have you be part of the team!

Churches, families, businesses, and other groups are invited to take on projects that match their skills and interests. Whether you can help with construction, painting, landscaping, carpentry, maintenance, or something else, there is an opportunity for you to make a difference.

If your group would like to take on a project, please reach out to Property Committee Members Jennifer or Brad Werner or Volunteer Coordinator Sara Route. We can help identify a project, coordinate schedules and logistics, and make sure your group has what it needs to make your time at Luther Point meaningful and productive.

Invest in the Future
Volunteering is one way to make a difference, but financial support is another important way to invest in Luther Point's future. Your generosity helps provide the facilities, programs, and resources that make camp ministry possible throughout the year.

Many of us have special memories of Luther Point—campfires, waterfront activities, worship, friendships, laughter, and moments that have stayed with us long after leaving camp. Our goal is not simply to preserve those memories, but to create opportunities for a new generation to make their own.

Whether you can give your time, share a skill, bring a group, donate materials, or make a financial contribution, you have a place in the next chapter of Luther Point. Thank you for believing in Luther Point, investing in its future, and helping us continue to Form Faith and Point to Christ for generations to come.

Together, let's build the next chapter of Luther Point!

How to Connect

Brad Werner – Property Committee Member	brad.werner@live.com | 715-292-7651
Jennifer Werner – Property Committee Member	jlwerner536@gmail.com | 715-292-7651
Sara Route – Volunteer Coordinator	sroute17@gmail.com | 715-977-0789

West Denmark
Lutheran Church



2478 170th Street
Luck, WI 54853
www.westdenmark.org

Return Service Requested

November Weekly Calendar

SUNDAYS
- Contemplative Meditation 8:30am
- Worship 10am
- Fellowship time 11am

MONDAYS
- Men's Breakfast -
  - Tin Shed, Frederic 7:30am
- Women's Coffee
  - Tin Shed, Frederic 10am
    - last week of month:
    - MONDAY, 11:40am, usually Cafe Wren

TUESDAY
- Chair Yoga with Connie 10am

WEDNESDAY
- Bible Study 1pm
- Choir Practice 7pm

THURSDAY
- Every Other week:

ENCORE 10:30am

SATURDAYS AA 9-10:30am

Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Events

11/1	All Saints Sunday!
11/3	**VOTE!**
11/15	Council Meeting
12/5	Cookie Walk, 9am-1pm

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West Denmark is a safe place
to worship, study,
and build relationships with God
and others,
regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, or cultural background.