

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

www.oursaviorschurch.info

December 2018

HEAR IT, FEEL IT, LIVE IT, SHARE IT – GOD'S LOVE

Dear siblings in Christ,

Over the past several weeks, Annie and I have been getting ready for a new arrival to our family. There have been showers thrown by friends and family, gifts arriving in the mail, strollers put together with Ikea-like directions, cribs assembled and proudly admired, and there is still so much we could do. As we enter this last month before she arrives, we are at the same time so excited to meet her face-to-face, and wondering how we'll get everything ready in time for her arrival. Many of y'all may remember that feeling of preparing for the first child, and it is an odd combination of impatiently waiting for their arrival and frantically searching for more time to prepare!

Getting ready for the little one is such a perfect metaphor for Advent. In this season, we get ready for the coming of Christ—both in our liturgical reenactment of waiting for Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and our holy waiting for his triumphant return with the clouds. Our hymns talk about watching and waiting, scanning the horizon for the one like a Son of Man coming with the clouds. We hear scriptures that talk about being prepared for his return, keeping our lamps lit as we wait. And just like how Annie and I haven't simply been sitting around waiting for our baby to get here, we are called to prepare for Christ's return.

Would we want Jesus to show up with the world as it is today? I look at so much we could point to when Jesus returns and be proud of how well we've done what he asked—generously providing for the food shelf, making it a yearly habit to get gifts for families who can't afford them, raising money for organizations that lift people out of poverty in the third world, taking note and praying for the people around the world who need it most. And I also see so much that Jesus would hope we work more on before he returns—welcoming the immigrant and stranger, calling for a wider scope of justice for all people, ending wars around the world, hearing those with different ideas than us with respect and love.

I don't know all that I need to do to prepare for my child's arrival in the world, and all that I may be forgetting so that she'll have all her needs covered, but I trust that others will help point out those things to me. And I trust that, even when I forget something, somehow she will be alright because I know Annie and I will love her, and she'll love us.

And I think the same can be said of how we are preparing for Jesus to return. We may not know everything we need to do to prepare for his arrival, and we may forget things, but we have each other to remind us. We have the voices of people we may not always hear telling us how we can make the world a little more like God's kingdom, make the place more a reflection of what God hopes for all of us. We have each other to point out ways that our Advent preparations can embody God's justice and love.

And we can trust that, even if we do our best and still don't have everything prepared when he arrives, it'll be alright because we love Jesus, and Jesus loves us.

In Christ,
Pastor Lucas

God calls us to the waters of baptism, and as we enter the months ahead, keep in mind the following dates that are open for baptisms.

December 16

Call the Office if any of these dates would work out for your family. 715-273-4570

Council Meeting Minutes

November 6th at 7pm

Present were: Pastor, Deb, Bruce, Jim, Norris, Jill, Randy, Tom, and Dawn. The meeting was called to order by President Tom. Pastor led us in prayer.

Secretary's report: reviewed. Motion made by Jim to accept as written, second by Norris.

Treasurer's report: \$20,635.92 in the designated account with bills coming to be paid from the Lutefisk supper. \$1.08 in the general account. All bills are paid. To date our loan from general is \$22,815.47 (this includes carry over from last year). Motion made to accept report made by Jim, second by Bruce.

Pastor's report: see attached. Pastor will be on paternity leave 1 week when baby arrives and 2nd week of paternity leave February 28 thru March 6. He is also on vacation (2 weeks) tentatively March 7 through March 20.

Youth report: see attached

Committee reports: Evangelism committee nominated a young adult to be supported by Our Savior's. Annie Halloin from Eau Claire. She will be doing missionary work in Mexico with the Young Adults in Global Mission through the ELCA. It is a 2 year and \$2,000 per year commitment from Our Savior's. Motion to approve by Jim, second by Deb.

Discussed if money from the Lutefisk supper and Fair stand should be paid to the church for paper products, insurance, and utilities. Flat fee or percentage? Fair stand serves food 4 days and Lutefisk is one meal. Randy will look into the insurance policies and discuss at the next council meeting.

Property: Thank you Carla Radkey-Earney for donating a window for the "blue room". Jim will install.

Thank you to Frandsen family for snow plowing the church again this winter. Thank you to Michael Chisholm for taking care of the sidewalks this winter.

Conflict Detection: none

Old business: Thanksgiving eve service will be at 7 pm.

Paternity leave is 2 weeks. Pastor can take as separate days.

Pastor is researching fees for apps and how to use the tablet to make it easier for congregation to give. More to come.

New business: Christmas eve service 4 pm and 10 pm. No service Christmas day. Sunday, December 30 service will be at 10 am.

Motion to adjourn made by Deb, second by Bruce.

Adjourned at 8 pm

The next meeting will be December 4, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Madsen

STEWARDSHIP ARTICLE

When asked to write a statement related to stewardship, I struggled with where does one start? Taking the biblical view I believe stewardship is the responsibility of all Christian believers to be good stewards of all God's creation, for as stated in Psalm 24:1, "the earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord." We all must do our part to care for all that God has blessed us with.

Now, you may be asking how this relates to the stewardship of Our Savior's Lutheran? It relates to the fact that we are a community of believers who have been personally blessed in so many ways; but also a church built with the vision of our forefathers to worship the Lord, hear His word, and praise and thank Him for all of these blessings. This all came about through the generous giving of many for over 125 years and this responsibility has been passed on through the years.

Like many, I have gone through an evolution of giving, from throwing a few bucks in the offering plate now and then, to writing out a monthly check for what I felt I could afford, to the present using Simply Giving. With this method a set amount is taken out of my bank account monthly. The benefits of this to me are the convenience of not having to write a check or have cash with me on Sunday morning, and peace of mind not having to track where I am at with my giving. Obviously, I can still write a check to give more, or to a specific cause. Our church budget benefits even more from this method relying on a constant income stream that doesn't fluctuate with my attendance.

In conjunction with monetary giving there is also the sharing of your time and talents that too is vital to the life of the church. Here again without the proper resources the worship services, youth programs, community service activities, lutefisk supper, fair stand, and outreach ministries could be in jeopardy. I stand guilty of being selfish with my personal time or because I'm too busy to participate in the workings of the church. However, I also discovered that once I became more involved I found a feeling of satisfaction, comradery, and peace doing my part. When we begin to see our resources as tools that God has entrusted us with for His glory, we truly begin to live the Christian life.

God's blessing,
Bruce Place
Council member

THANK YOU

A Special Thank You to all who generously donated to the "GOOD GIFTS" as part of a Thrivent Team Action event.

Remember our shut-in and those on the prayer list with a card. There are address labels on the bulletin board in the entry way to the dining hall in the basement. Feel free take a label and send a card or note.
Thank-you! Peggy



A big thank-you to everyone young and old for making it possible for Our Savior's to donate 118 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. It's great to have all the support for this project. Thank-you again and have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Peggy Hoyer

In Need of Prayer



Alan Nelson, Monte & Donna Anderson, John Shefveland, Ron Mireau, Barry Place, Don Christopherson, Judy Rue, Zachery Caterer, Roger Billeter, Percy Gunderson, Bev Radkey, 652nd Engineers Unit, Colleen Johnson, Trudy Owen, Laurine Baker, and Kristen Anderson.

If you know of anyone that should be on our prayer list please contact the office.



Annie Halloin

Young Adults in Global Mission

Serving in: Mexico

From: Eau Claire, WI

Places I call Home: St John Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI, St John Lutheran Church in Northfield, MN, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI

Blog: <https://annieadondevamos.wordpress.com>

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE! HERE'S HOW TO GIVE:

Fundraising Page: <http://support.elca.org/goto/annieofftomexico>

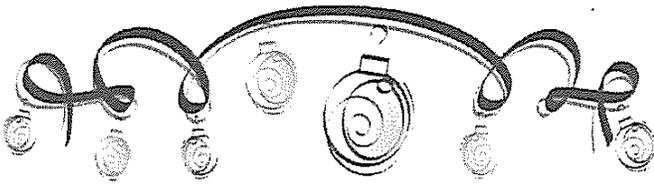
By credit or debit card: Find Annie's name in the dropdown menu at

<https://community.elca.org/yagm/give>. Or, call 800-638-3522 and specify "Anne Halloin GCS3452."

By check: Make payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" with "Anne Halloin GCS3452" in the memo line. Give through your synod office or mail your check to: ELCA Gift Processing Center, P O Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Noah is Challenging YOU!

WILL YOU ACCEPT THE 26 HOUR CHALLENGE?

November 15th – December 30th

Will your group or business ring for 26 hours?

St. Croix County
Needs Volunteer Bell Ringers!

Your time spent volunteering helps raise money to serve the homeless at Grace Place Shelter

Sign up today by visiting:
www.RegisterToRing.com

To Learn More about how your time spent as a bell ringer in St. Croix County serves others
Visit: www.sagraceplace.org



Sign up Today!

BE A

BELLRINGER

VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS VISIT:

www.registertoring.com

Just 2 hours to make change happen!

A little change, can go a long way!
Volunteer for your two hours today!

DONATIONS STAY LOCAL

Thank you!

715-497-4438 with questions.

90% of every dollar you give will stay in your local community to help the homeless, the hungry and those in the most need.

DOING THE MOST GOOD!

Annual Benefit House the Homeless

Saturday | 17 | November

6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Advance Tickets: \$35

\$40 at the Door

Silent and Live Auction
Gamer
Wine, Beer and Spirit Tasting
Appetizers
Music by The Karackers

Tickets available online at
www.sagraceplace.org
Or by stopping in at
Grace Place, Serenity Home
or Ready Randy's

Proceeds go to Grace Place & Serenity Home

MUST BE 21 TO ATTEND

Event Held at RD Catering
1492 51st Street
New Richmond, WI 54017
Question Call: 715-246-4444 ext. 1

SAVE THE DATES!

- **November 15th** - The Red Kettle Campaign Begins!
- **November 17th** - Annual Wine, Beer, Cocktail Tasting and Silent Auction at Ready Randy's in New Richmond! Come and Shop for Christmas!
- **November 22nd** - Happy Thanksgiving! (Consider Bell Ringing as a family around this Holiday and start a new tradition)
- **December 7th** - Realtor Ring Day! (Realtors will be our bell ringers for the day)
- **December 13th—14th** 30 Hour Marathon Ring! Thank you St. Croix County Sheriff's Department!
- **December 13th** 26.2 Hour Marathon Ring! Thank you Noah!
- **December 15th** -Breakfast with Santa at RD Catering in New Richmond!
- **December 16th**—Christmas Party for Families in Need. Sign up at www.sagraceplace.org to Sponsor a family this Christmas!
- **December 25th**—Merry Christmas!
- **December 30th**—Last Day of Bell Ringing

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE



BACKPACKS FOR THE WEEKEND: : What's better than soup and crackers on a cold December day? Please help us load up those backpacks with crackers & soup: canned, powdered, dried, instant - it's all welcome. We could use some more hot chocolate packets too.



We are almost there. You have gone above and beyond our expectations again this year. We had planned to do 25 people until we found out there were 14 families that hadn't been adopted yet. At that point we decided to take on one more family which now gave us 29 to buy for. We will be hosting a coffee hour that will cover costs for the gifts left on the tree.

Thank You all for your generous giving. **Thank You** in advance to Patricia and the confirmation students for their wrapping skills. Many thanks to Thrivent Financial for helping make this project a huge success. Remember the words of our Lord Jesus when he said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive".
Evangelism Committee: Heather Johnson, Pauline Laughnan, and Sharon Peterson

UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 Atrium Post Acute Care & Preferred Living combined Schedule for Our Savior's

December 12th 2:30pm Atrium Post Acute Care

Sunday School Christmas Program: Sunday December 16th at 10:30am.

Christmas Eve Services will be at 4pm and 10pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

THE ANNUAL MEN IN MISSION OYSTER STEW, SOUP AND CHILI DINNER

DECEMBER 30TH, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

NOTE: CHURCH WILL BE AT 10:00 ON DECEMBER 30TH, NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.

PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE CHURCH BUDGET DEFICIT.

THIS IS A THRIVENT ACTION TEAM EVENT. THRIVENT WILL CONTRIBUTE \$250 TOWARDS OUR EXPENSES. YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED. OYSTERS ARE EXPENSIVE.

Luther Point Bible Camp's Winter Retreats "Strengthen"

"The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." - Exodus 15:2

Come experience Luther Point in the winter for our programed retreats. Sign up with your church group and be ready for a weekend filled with fun, faith and awesome times as we explore what it means to "Strengthen".

Space is limited so sign up quickly, registration opens November 1! Cost is \$65 per person and includes lodging, meals and the program. **Jan 11 – 13: Jr. & Sr. High ~ March 2—3: Family Camp Weekend.**

Registration Opens November 1! www.LutherPoint.org

Printer/Copier for Sale: The copier that was in the office is for sale. It works great. We were offered a better rate going with a different company. Contact Tom is interested.

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guild Rhoda Foley Belinda Foley	Money Counters Mike Allyn					
						1
2 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 10:15am SS Hour 10:30am Adult Forum Silent Auction Ends	3	4 7pm Council Meeting	5 6pm Choir Practice 7-8pm Youth Night: Gift Wrapping	6	7	8
9 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 10:15am SS Hour	10 NO Women's Bible Study	11	12 2:30pm Atrium Post Acute Care Service 4-5:30pm SOS Kids Crew (Christmas Caroling) 6pm Choir Practice 7-8pm Confirmation/Aftershock	13	14	15 8am MIM Meeting
16 9am Worship (Baptism) 10am Fellowship Hour 10:30am SS Christmas Program	17	18	19 6pm Choir practice 7-8pm Confirmation/Aftershock	20	21	22
23 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour No SS Hour 10:30am Adult Forum	24 Christmas Eve 4pm Worship 10pm Worship	25 Merry Christmas!	26 No Quilting No Choir Practice No Confirmation/Aftershock	27	28	29
30 10am Worship 11am Oyster Stew/Soup No SS Hour	31					January Money Counters Randy Winger

December 2018

	Greeters	Ushers	Acolyte	Reader	Bell Ringer	Communion Server
Dec. 2 9:00 am	Annie Unser/ Mike Chisholm	Pauline/Roger Laughnan Tricia/Jeremy Rouleau	Shelby Lawler Brett Unser	Steve Straub	Josh Erlandson	Ann Young
Dec. 9 9:00 am	Renee/Cory Johnson	Crystal/Mark Raleigh Bridget/Adam Peterson	Anthony Madsen Derek Johnson	Kay Berg	Andi Peterson	Mike Allyn Lanette Place
Dec. 16 9:00 am	Gayle Knight Family	Lori Coulson Family Leah/Paul Frandsen	Shane Johnson Luke Knight	Heather Johnson	Ryan Matzek	Audrey Halverson Rhoda Foley
Dec. 23 9:00 am	Leslie/Michael Young	Pam Hines, Peg Hoyer Kay Berg, Belinday Foley	Taylor Peterson Trinity Wilkens	Larry Peterson	Lily Young	Sheryl Mercord Tom Holdorf
Dec. 24 4:00 pm	Janelle/Brock Rasmussen	Carla/Bob Earney Connie/Todd Girdeen	Rylan Girdeen Rhett Rasmussen	Clair Severson	McKenna Girdeen	Mary Straub Rhoda Foley
Dec. 24 10:00 pm	Mary/Jerry Halls	Dawn/Brian Madsen Katie/Mike Allyn	Sam Allyn Charley Gilby	Jacob Halls	Anthony Madsen	Dawn Madsen Tom Holdorf
Dec. 30 10:00 am	Paula/Jim Chisholm	Stacy/Kerry Hansen Bruce Place, Jim Chisholm	Megan Hansen Meredith Hansen	Sue Peterson Rachel Mancuso Kathy Young	Randy Winger	Gene Ostendorf Lanette Place

Assisting Minister: 12/2 - Ann; 12/9 - Lanette; 12/16 - Rhoda; 12/23 - Tom; 12/24 @ 4 - Rhoda; 12/24 @ 10pm—Tom, 12/30-Lanette