

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

January 2017

www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year, for the longest time, my family would stay up until midnight to watch Dick Clark bring in the New Year. We would count down with him and shout "Happy New Year!" along with everyone else. And then we would announce our resolutions to each other, those things we planned to do differently this year. Eventually we softened "resolutions" to "goals," just so we wouldn't feel quite so bad never quite achieving some of them. I imagine you and yours have very similar traditions to that for the New Year.

To look at it, our collective tradition of New Year's resolutions is a bit arbitrary. After all, why set the first of the year as our start date to do something good? Why not just pick any random Monday? It's never a bad time to start a good habit, after all. Well, in a way, we do that already—starting over again on an already chosen day.

We do it every Sunday when we confess our sins, receive forgiveness, and are commissioned to live into who God created us to be. Every Sunday is like a little New Year's, where the guilt of the weight and mistakes of the past get wiped away, and we get another chance to do it right. We don't even have to wait for Sunday though, because as Martin Luther reminds us, we are to die to our sins and rise into new life every morning because of our baptisms. What a gracious God we worship who would never get tired of giving us another chance!

New Year's resolutions are good, and they are helpful to put us on a new track for a new year. Even when we have to soften them down to goals instead, we could all use a direction we want for the new year. But let's not forget about how God is always giving us a chance to start over. How God is always calling us to turn from our sin to live into all the joy and peace and believing that God has in store for us. Every time you wash your face, remember your baptism, and start the day as a new creation!

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. **Jan 22nd, Feb 26th, April 15th**
Call the Office if any of these dates would work out for your family. 715-273-4570

In Need of Prayer



Jim Chisholm, Danika Newberry, Robert (Bobby) Nelson, Lori O'Keefe, Letty Larson, Colleen Johnson, Ken Arneson, Larry Hoyer, Chad J Peterson, Alexander Kempe, Gary Lundgaard, Ervin Golson, and Kristen Anderson.

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

Council Meeting Minutes

Date 12/6/16 7 pm

Present were: Pastor, Debbi, Norris, Stacy, Brenda, Brian, Tom, Linda, Kerry, Audrey, and Carla.

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Holdorf. Pastor led us in discussion of chapters 6-7 in Ask, Thank, Tell.

Secretary's report: Motion to approve by Brian, Second by Kerry. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: \$27,679.66 in the designated account. \$8.20 in the general account. We were unable to pay Pastor's insurance this month. Have until the 15th. Can borrow from ourselves if we need to. Offering envelopes are here. Instead of having an assigned number, as the first in our batch is 749, we will place the envelopes in the Narthex. People can take a set and record the number they took on the form on the table. If you need to have your donations tracked by the church then you need to remember to record your number. This is an attempt to save money. Report approved by Norris, second by Linda.

Pastor's report: see attached

Youth report: see attached

Committee reports: none

Conflict Detection: light on the east side of the building is out. Ed to check it out.

TV on the left side had a flicker in it on Sunday. Resolved by Wed.

The text on the blue background is difficult to see. Will change this.

Advent songs are not as well-known as Christmas songs. People are asking for at least one known Christmas song during this time.

Old Business: Printers with Loffler will be changed out on December 29th.

The old ones need a new home. Will ask Luther Point if they need one.

Website with Erin Gipford. Prototype was well received. Patricia will be trained on how to make up dates. Cost of training was included in her quote. Will need feedback as we are certain there were things missed when council reviewed the site. Viola, the current carrier, is aware of this change. Motion made to have Go Live on Jan 1st, 2017 made by Deb, second by Stacy. Motion passed.

Confirmation requirements were reviewed again as the council could not recall when kids were asked to attend church camp and a mission trip. Council will review this next month.

New Business: Annual meeting will be February 12th, 2017. Reports need to get to Patricia by January 20th. 2017 budget was completed.

Motion to adjourn made by Stacy, second by Kerry.

Adjourned at 8:45 pm

The next meeting will be Jan 3rd, 2017

Respectfully submitted by Stacy Hansen

Men In Mission Meeting - December 24, 2016

After a breakfast served by Gene Ostendorf and devotions led by Pastor Lucas, the business meeting was called to order by President Lemoine Baker.

The secretary's reports were read and approved.

Treasurer Chuck Christopherson reported that we have \$4274 in the Luther Point Bible Camp fund, \$1999 in the general fund, and \$2911 in the fair stand fund. \$9007 was forwarded from the fair stand fund to the church for outreach ministries. The treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business: The oyster stew/soup/chili dinner is set for Wednesday evening, December 28th. Clair will pick up all the ingredients needed. Thrivent is giving us \$250 to be used towards our expenses. Men will provide bars and Christmas cookies for dessert. This is a Thrivent Action Team event. Money raised will be used to replace damaged wiring at the ball park caused by summer storms.

The ball park concession stand renovation is coming along. The serving window has been moved from the west side to the north facing the picnic area. A sliding window has been inserted on the west side. Insulation is in and Brian Johnson will provide boards to cover it. Cabinets have been purchased and Peter Falde will look into counter tops. Thank You to Jim Foley for the fine workmanship.

Gene O. reported that Paul and Leah Frandsen have once again volunteered to mow the ball park next year. THANK YOU!

I have not received a number yet as to the cost of repairing the damage at the ball park. The proceeds from the oyster stew will go towards that and, if need be, additional money will come from the general fund. We are looking at taking down about three diseased trees on the north side and the tree on the southwest corner at the ball park. A replacement plan is being discussed.

Peter F. reported that trees overhanging the fair stand are being pruned to prevent possible future storm damage.

New Business: Motion made by Bruce Place and seconded by Chuck to give a \$50 donation to Anchor House/Tim Huppert.

The MIM are tentatively scheduled to serve coffee on January 15th.

Bruce Place volunteered to serve breakfast at our next MIM meeting on Saturday, February 18th.

The meeting was adjourned. Ten members present.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Clair Severson.

Martin Luther Hymnody: From Heaven Above (ELW 268)

We don't sing this hymn very often, perhaps because it has fifteen stanzas! But it was one of Martin Luther's hymns written for the Christmas season, and we will sing it on New Year's Day. Like a lot of Luther's hymns, it was partly derived from popular songs of the day (easier to get a melody you've already heard before) called 'the Garland Song.' A version of the first stanza was sung by a boy, often in a social setting around Christmas, to a girl, and would be followed by him asking a riddle. If the girl couldn't answer, she would give the boy a garland. It's not hard to imagine Luther had sung this song in his youth!

The hymn was first written for Luther's family Christmas celebration, but it was published in Joseph Klug's *Geistliche Lieder* in Wittenberg in 1535, and from there made it into several other hymnals. Originally it was set to a folk melody, but by 1539 it was set to a new tune that is believed to have been written by Luther himself, adapted from that folk melody. Because of how well it captures the story of Christmas, it's been adapted by various composers including Bach, and continues to be available in our hymnals for congregational singing.

Luther rewrote the first stanza and added fourteen more—what we might call a ballad. He even shaped the song to fit a story. The first five stanzas are the words of the angels on Christmas night announcing to the shepherds what had happened. The remaining stanzas are what the shepherds report to the world, explaining the significance of what had happened on that night in Bethlehem. It perfectly fits with Luther's insistence that it is through congregational singing that a Christian best learns the faith.

2017 Atrium Post Acute Care & Preferred Living combined Schedule for Our Savior's

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| January 1/18 Atrium Post Acute Care 2:30pm | May 5/3 Preferred Living 1:30pm Atrium Post Acute Care 2:30pm | September None |
| February None | June 6/21 Atrium Post Acute Care 2:30pm | October 10/18 Atrium Post Acute Care 2:30pm |
| March 3/8 Atrium Post Acute Care 2:30pm | July None | November None |
| April None | August 8/23 Atrium Post Acute Care 2:30pm | December 12/6 Preferred Living 1:30pm Atrium Post Acute Care 2:30pm |

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE

New Acolyte Robes: The Altar Guild is looking into buying new acolyte robes. A memorial fund has been started for this purpose. If you would like to contribute memorial moneys or make a contribution to this purchase, place it in the offering plates in an envelope marked acolyte robes or mail it to the church. The color will be about the same but it will be a zipper front with hood. Cost will be about \$70 each and we need 4-5 of different sizes in length.

BACKPACKS FOR THE WEEKEND:



During January we will be collecting hamburger and tuna helper . We thank you for remembering our grocery cart here at Our Savior's when purchasing your groceries this month.

Christmas Tree Gift Program: Once again you have let your generosity shine through! We thank you for helping us to collect 125 Christmas presents for some very needy families. May we continue to be good stewards of God's many blessings and may many lives and hearts be impacted by your kindness and love. With gratitude, the Evangelism Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS

WELCA holds their **Triennial Convention** in 2017 in Minneapolis on July 13-16 at the Convention Center. It will include Bible studies, exhibits, speakers, documentary films on trafficking, choir concert, and tours. Cost is \$310 until January 6 early discount or \$175/day. See welcatg.org for more information. A bus will be available from our synod for the first day and a return bus on Sunday.

The Annual Meeting will be February 12th 2017. All Reports need to get to Patricia by January 20th.



January



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|-----------|-----------|---|
| Altar Guild Lanette Place Pauline Laughnan | Money Counters Tom Holdorf Brenda Winger | | | | | |
| 1 9am Worship 10am Fellowship No SS Hour | 2 | 3 7pm Council Meeting | 4 4-5:30pm SOS Kids Crew 6pm Choir Practice 7-8pm Confirmation & Aftershock | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10:15 SS Hour | 9 5pm Women's Bible Study | 10 | 11 6pm Choir Practice 7-8pm Confirmation & Aftershock | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10:15 SS Hour | 16 | 17 | 18 2:30pm Atrium Post Acute Care 6pm Choir Practice 7-8pm Confirmation | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9am Worship Baptism Sunday 10am Fellowship 10:15 SS Hour | 23 | 24 | 25 8:30am Quilting 6pm Choir Practice 7-8pm Confirmation & Aftershock | 26 | 27 | 28 Ski Trip 12-7pm |
| 29 10am Worship 10am Fellowship 10:15 SS Hour | 30 | 31 | | | | February Money Counters Linda Steele Brenda Winger |

January 2017

| | Greeters | Ushers | Acolyte | Reader | Bell Ringer | Communion Server |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Jan 1 9:00 am | Carla/Bob Radkey-Earney | Helen/Clint Anderson Peggy/Larry Hoyer | Autumn Radkey-Earney Shelby Lawler | Kay Baker | Josh Erlandson | Lanette Place |
| Jan. 8 9:00 am | Becky/Scott Mathiesen | Amy/Ken Matzek Family | Halle Langer Haedyn Langer | Clair Severson | Ryan Matzek | Audrey Severson Becky Johnson |
| Jan. 15 9:00 am | Rachel M./Alison Laughnan | Crystal/Mark Raleigh Mary/Steve Straub | Nadia Thurmes McKenna Girdeen | Crystal Raleigh | Rachel Mancuso | Pauline Laughnan Kelly Parmeter |
| Jan. 22 9:00 am | Mel/Chuck Freier Family | Jeff & Brad Taplin Dawn/Joe Minder | Brooke Minder Charley Gilby. | Brad Taplin | Nick Freier | Bruce Place Mary Halls |
| Jan. 29 9:00 am | Brenda/Bob Winger | Randy & Nate Winger Paula/Michael Chisholm | Devin Denzer Gunnar Allyn | Kay Berg | Juliana Winger | Ed Rohl Brenda Winger |

Thank you for your participation in our worship service. Each ministry participant is greatly appreciated. If you cannot serve on the date assigned, please trade with someone. Instructions for each ministry position are posted in the narthex. If you have any questions, please call Rhoda Foley at 715-273-4865.