

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

www.oursaviorschurch.info

December 2019

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

It's the season when the days get colder, the lights go up on the houses, the tree is decorated, and the entire world gets extremely busy rushing back and forth with holiday errands. More than half a dozen major holidays from different traditions happen this month, and every one of them adds to the frenzy of activity that happens all over the place. In our own houses, we're busily making Christmas treats, or getting ready for company or parties, and following up on traditions. People with school-aged children and grandchildren run from concert to performance to event to game this season. It feels like, in this holiday season, there isn't a lot of time to stop.

I did have an opportunity to experience that recently, though. I ran out to get some take-out supper one night, and after arriving at the place to put in my order, I realized I left my phone at the house. Normally, while waiting, I would pull out my phone and scroll through Facebook or whatever else to occupy the time. But instead, it was an opportunity to slow down, to be disconnected from the rush of technology and events, and just *be*. I know it's hard for any of us to get that kind of moment, especially in this season, but that's a big part of what Advent is about.

Advent is that time of year where we wait for Christ. We wait for him in our liturgical re-enactment of his conception when Mary boldly agreed to God's plan, and we wait for him as we scan the horizon for his coming with the clouds on the Last Day. But one thing that we do is we wait. And waiting can be hard. Anyone who's sat in the waiting room where all the magazines were old and it was simply taking forever for their name to be called knows that waiting can be agonizing. It feels like wasting time. But Advent reminds us that we can take time to put away distractions and simply wait.

Waiting, without any distractions, gives us a chance to breathe. It gives us a chance to be aware of what's right in front of us. When we pull away from needing to make every single moment as productive as humanly possible, we start to realize that maybe God has given us an opportunity in the quiet season of Advent to learn how freeing just waiting can be. Take a minute or three out of your day to simply sit and wait, even if you're not sure what to wait for. Turn off the devices and quiet your mind to let God speak. Take deep breaths, and let yourself wonder at what God is preparing to do.

Advent is a season dedicated to waiting. Sometimes, in our go-go-go culture, surrounded by so much busyness, it can be tempting to think we have no time to wait or slow down. But in the spirit of Advent, let's take a moment to try. Let's see what can be put off to take a minute and wait for the Lord. Let's listen for what God is saying when we quiet our minds and still our racing bodies. Let's trust that when God calls on us to wait, it's something that's worth waiting for.

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 15, January 12, February 16, April 11 (Vigil), May 10 (Mother's Day),  
June 21 (Father's Day), July 12, August 16, September 13, October 18,  
November 15, December 20.**

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

# "Don't Lose the Baby"

An Advent Message from Bishop Laurie



On the First Sunday of Advent, every year, our family unpacks the wreath. Our tradition is to put an incomplete nativity scene in the center. We use the ceramic figures my mom made for us the first year we were married. The magi are put up on a high shelf until they make their appearance on Epiphany. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, a few sheep, and an empty manger go in the center to wait.

One of our children would hide the tiny figure of the baby Jesus in a cup in nearby cabinet. Every year I'd worry a little and give a warning, "Remember where you put him, we don't want to lose baby Jesus." They were careful, but I would still worry that we might lose the baby Jesus. Before supper we'd light the blue candles on the Advent wreath and pray "Come, Lord Jesus be our guest." Advent was about waiting to put the baby in the manger. On Christmas Eve, we retrieve the hidden baby Jesus, give a sigh of relief that we haven't lost him, put him in the manger and light the Christ candle.

It's possible to lose baby Jesus in the craziness of Advent. As Christians, surrounded by the most commercialized and secularized holiday of all, we are always in danger of losing Jesus. Not the ceramic Jesus figurine from our nativity set, but losing our way in Advent and never finding the holy in the midst of the hectic; never experiencing the expectant purposeful waiting that brings us to the awe and wonder of Jesus Christ, the baby born in Bethlehem.

Every year I want to issue some motherly WARNING: Don't lose the baby! If you lose the baby, Christmas doesn't make any sense at all. Without the baby, Christmas is a beautifully wrapped box with nothing inside. It is empty of meaning, but most of all it is empty of hope.

I want to issue a motherly CAUTION: Don't lose the baby. If you lose the baby, Christmas doesn't work. It is broken and like a cracked snow globe, the hope leaks out. The world needs Jesus this Christmas more than ever. There are so many broken things in our personal lives, the pain leaks out over grief, loss, and disappointment. There is so much systemic brokenness in our communities and in our country that it leaks out as violence. We need the hope and healing that only Jesus can bring.

Theologically, we don't need to worry about losing Jesus because Jesus is with us. First in Luke 2 "*She gave birth to her first born son and laid him in the manger;*" then the incarnation of John 1, "*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*" The incarnation Jesus hasn't been lost. In Matthew 28 Jesus promises to be with us "*always to the end of the age.*"

Perhaps a more accurate warning is this: DANGER: Don't lose sight of the baby. That baby, that Word made flesh is the light of the world. In these dark days of winter we need the light of the world to shine in us and through us.

Now a little ENCOURAGEMENT for this Advent and Christmas: **PRACTICE INCARNATIONAL MINISTRY.** That means just show up and be Jesus for others. Go and be Jesus for those who may have lost sight of him. Go and be the Church, show your neighbors, your community the love of Jesus. Go to the dark places and bring Jesus. Go sit with those who are sad and be Christmas. Go and speak the truth into the cracks of the broken places in our society. Go, just show up and be the hands, feet, the voice, the love of Jesus. Go and let your light so shine before others, go be the light of Christ, the light no darkness can overcome.

May God bless you, your family and congregation, and may the peace of God made real to us in a baby born in Bethlehem fill your hearts this Advent and Christmas Season.

*Rev. Laurie M. O'Sullivan*

# Council Meeting Minutes

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**November 5, 2019 7 pm**

Present were Mike, Tom, Dawn Norris, Ann, Mary, Pastor, Randy Deb, and Jim. The meeting was called to order by President Tom Holdorf.

Pastor led us in devotions from Acts 16:6-15.

Guest: none

**New Business:** Christmas eve worship scheduled for 4 pm and 9 pm. Paul Frandsen family has agreed to take care of snow plowing parking lot. Mike and Jim Chishom will take care of sidewalk shoveling. Fair stand and Lutefisk proceeds will be dispersed at next council meeting. The ecumenical thanksgiving eve service will be held here at 4pm. Usually, there are 30 to 40 people in attendance. SVEA also has worship on Thanksgiving eve at 7 pm. Patricia found advent cards on Augsburg web site. 30 will be ordered and given to Sunday school families.

**Old Business:** Lifetouch picture directory went well. Pictures of shut ins will be taken and submitted. Deb Emery from Cru was asking for donation. Tom will ask if she can come to next council meeting and/or come to worship to give more information to congregation. Possible to give Cru proceeds from Lutefisk and fairstand. Donna submitted a letter for council to read that she is going to send asking for help with the ballpark bathroom water and sewer upgrades. Council agreed she is to have money upfront before construction. There will be no cost to the church. MIM is willing to help with future maintenance. FIN fed 100 farmers a lunch of ham and cheese sandwiches, rice krispie bar, and bottled water. "And so god made a farmer". Pastor and council updated the wedding policy. Pastor fee \$200 for member and \$400 for non-member. There are a lot of "off-site" weddings. Pastor will be paid 55 cents per mile, mileage from church to rehearsal site and wedding site. \$500 damage deposit will be required. If alcohol is found onsite, deposit is not refunded. Custodial fees \$75 for member, and \$125 for non-members.

**Secretary's report:** Reviewed. Motion made to approve by Norris, second by Mike. Passed as written.

**Treasurer's report:** \$ 20,510.79 in the designated account. \$20,317.45 is loan to general account from designated account. \$-78.44 in the general account. All bills are paid. Motion made to approve by Mike, second by Norris.

**Pastor's report:** see attached. Please "like" the live streaming of worship on Facebook. Thank you McKenna Minder.

If you need a home visit from Pastor, please contact the church.

**Youth report:** see attached

**Committee reports:** Council members need to have committees submit 1 or 2 goals of the committee to Ann to keep track we are achieving and moving forward.. Any updates from Stewardship committee? Council asked them to have a plan to help with giving. Endowment committee needs to change signors at bank.

**Conflict Detection:** Sunday school numbers are declining. Council is open to ideas.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike . 2<sup>nd</sup> by Norris .

Adjourned at 8:49 pm.

The next meeting will be December 3 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Madsen.

**Saturday, December 14th**

**9 AM to 2 PM**



Our Savior's  
Candy Walk!

Huge  
assortment!

**LET US HELP YOU WITH  
YOUR HOLIDAY TREATS!**

*Homemade candy will be sold  
at \$10 per pound (less than  
1/2 the price of area candy  
stores!) Specialty items sold  
separately. Homemade crafts  
will also be for sale. Join us!*

*Held in cooperation with St.  
Paul's UCC's Cookie Walk (see  
back for details)*

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
N6450 530th Street  
Beldenville, WI 54003  
1 mile east of Hwy 63 & Co Rd N  
Pierce County, WI*

**Questions? Contact Donna  
Constant at 715-273-4697**

## ELLSWORTH SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER ACTIVITIES

**BILLIARDS-PLAY EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY @ 1:00PM. FOLLOWED WITH COFFE & A TREAT PROVIDED BY THE SENIOR CENTER. DONATIONS ARE GIVEN.**

**BOOK CLUB-MEETS 2ND THURSDAY EACH MONTH. COFFEE, TEA & A TREAT PROVIDED BY THE SENIOR CENTER. AT TIMES THEY PROVIDE THEIR OWN TREATS.**

**EUCHRE-MEETS THE 2ND & 4TH THURSDAY AT 1:00PM OF EACH MONTH FOR CARDS & FELLOWSHIP. COFFEE & A TREAT PROVIDED BY THE SENIOR CENTER. DONATIONS ARE GIVEN.**

**CRIBBAGE-MEETS THE 3RD THURSDAY AT 1:00PM OF EACH MONTH. COFFEE & A TREAT PROVIDED BY THE SENIOR CENTER. AT TIMES THEY PROVIDE THEIR OWN TREAT. DONATIONS ARE GIVEN.**

**FOOT CARE CLINIC-SERVICE IS ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH. DATES & TIME VARY BY MONTH.**

**TUESDAY CLUB-MEETS THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:30AM WITH A FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER AND A NOON LUNCHEON. DONATIONS ARE GIVEN.**

**BIRTHDAY PARTIES-MEET THE LAST WEDNESDAY AT 1:30 PM OF EACH MONTH WITH A FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER FOLLOWED WITH CAKE & ICE CREAM. DONATIONS ARE GIVEN.**

**MEAL ON WHEELS PROGRAM-THE MEAL IS PACKAGED FOR DELIVERY MONDAY-THURSDAY.**

**SPECIAL OCCASIONS-HOLIDAY POTLUCKS, VALENTINES DAY, ST. PATRICKS DAY. LIGHT LUNCH PROVIDED.**

**FIELD TRIPS-LUNCH CRUISE AT TREASURE ISLAND, APPLE ORCHARDS, RED WING POTTERY MUSEUM, TROLLY RIDE & MUSEUM TOUR IN HUDSON, WI.**

**THIS CENTER IS A VITAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY AND WE ARE HOPING YOU CAN HELP US KEEP IT THAT WAY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.**

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE



**BACKPACKS FOR THE WEEKEND:** : What is better than soup and crackers on a busy, cold, December day? Please help us load up those backpacks with crackers and soup: canned, powdered, dried, instant, it is all welcome. We can also use more hot chocolate packets, they always go fast these cold winter months.

Remember the coffee can in the cart is for cash donations. A \$5 donation will buy approximately \$25 of food for this program when going through the food pantry. Thank You Evangelism Committee



We hear Thank You, Thank You over and over again for doing this program, which we do appreciate and yes, it's a lot of work, and in the end very rewarding. BUT we couldn't do it by ourselves, we thank all of you for giving generously and making it possible. If you take ornaments off the tree during the week, remember to write your name and phone number on the log sheets in the last pew. If you have problems buying your gifts, give one of us a call, we can help you. Remember return date

for gifts (wrapped or unwrapped) with ornaments attached is December 8th. Many thanks in advance to Pastor Lucas, Patricia, and the Confirmation Mentors for helping the confirmation class on wrapping night the 1th. They do a great job. Thrivent Action Team donation will be used to buy the last ornaments left on the tree. Remember: Jesus is the Reason for the Season. Evangelism Committee: Heather Johnson - 715-821-3039, Pauline Laughnan - 715-273-4942, or Sharon Peterson - 715-273-4255.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Have you been Wondering What F.I.N. is all about?** Please join us for this open forum to talk about our FIN (Faithful Innovations Network) progress and process. Sunday, Dec. 8th, Fellowship time (10:15am) in the Blue room (off kitchen).

**Sunday School Christmas Program: Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am.**

**Christmas Eve Services: Tuesday December 24th at 4pm and 9pm.**

### Mark Your Calendars!

The Annual Men In Mission Oyster Tew, Soup and Chili Dinner.

December 29th, Immediately following Worship.

**Note:** Church will be at 10am that Sunday, and No Sunday School Hour.

You will be able to purchase soup to go. There will be to-go containers available.



**A big thank-you to everyone young and old** for making it possible for Our Savior's to donate shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. It's great to have all your support for this project.

Thank-you again and have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Peggy Hoyer



### In Need of Prayer

Gary Johnson, Terry Evenson, Gerald Place, Dennis Anderson, Laura Kemmerer Anna Walentowski, Michele Klennert, Betty Davidson, Alan Nelson, Zachery Caterer, Colleen Johnson, and Kristen Anderson.

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

# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guild Rhoda Foley Belinda Foley	Money Counters Mike Allyn Norris Berg					
1 New Member Sunday 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 10:15am SS Hour	2	3 7pm Council Meeting	4 6pm Choir Practice 7-8pm Confirmation/ Aftershock	5	6	7
8 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 10:30am SS Program FIN informational Meeting Silent Auction Ends	9 NO Women's Bible Study	10	11 4-5:30pm SOS Kids Crew (Christmas Caroling) 6pm Choir Practice 7-8pm Youth Night: Gift Wrapping	12	13	14 9-2pm Candy Walk 9-12pm Cookie Walk @ UCC
15 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 10:30am SS Christmas Program	16	17	18 6pm Choir practice 7-8pm Confirmation/ Aftershock	19	20	21 8am MIM Meeting
22 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour No SS Hour	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 4pm Worship 9pm Worship	25 Merry Christmas! No Quilting No Choir Practice No Confirmation/Aftershock	26	27	28
29 10am Worship 11am Oyster Stew/ Soup No SS Hour	30	31				January Money Counters Bruce Place Jim Chisholm

## December 2019

## Communion

	Greeters	Ushers	Acolyte	Reader	Bell Ringer	Server
Dec. 1 9:00 am	Kolodzienski Family	Lanette/Bruce Place Stacy/Kerry Hansen	Trinity Wilkens Ava Kolodzien.	Lemoine Baker	Michael Young	Tom Holdorf
Dec. 8 9:00 am	Renee/Cory Johnson	Sheryl/Bob Mercord Sharon/Larry Peterson	Derek Johnson Taylor Peterson	Bob Mercord	Lily Young	Lanette Place Sheryl Mercord
Dec. 15 9:00 am	Connie/Todd Girdeen	Jackie/John Schroeder Pam Hines/Brad Taplin	Sam Allyn Rylan Girdeen	Heather Johnson	Shane Johnson	Rhoda Foley Mike Allyn
Dec. 22 9:00 am	Erin/Chris Kirchner	Brian Jhnsn/Pete Falde Kay/Lemoine Baker	Dayah Halverson Andi Peterson	Audrey Severson	Erin Kirchner	Ann Young Kay Berg
Dec. 24 4:00 pm	Bridget/Adam Peterson	Becky/Barry Johnson Megan/Guy Stockwell	Leo Parmeter George Rohl	Amy Parmeter	Parker Peterson	Tom Holdorf Ed Rohl
Dec. 24 9:00 pm	Janelle/Brock Rasmussen	Ann/Dennis Kiefer Becky/Dan Olson	Raelyn Rasmussen Rhett Rasmussen	Jacob Halls	Dennis Kiefer	Rhoda Foley Mary Halls
Dec. 29 10:00am	Patricia/Casey Peterson family	Ann/Terry Young Pauline/Roger Laughnan	Luke Knight Alex Knight	Crystal R., Connie G. & Sue Palmquist	Warren Schade	Lanette Place Chuck Christopherson

Assisting Minister: 12/1 - Tom; 12/8 - Lanette; 12/15 - Rhoda; 12/22 - Ann; 12/24 @ 4 - Tom; 12/24 @10—Rhoda, 12/29 - Lanette.