

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

December 2020

www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

Loving our neighbor is exhausting. It's exhausting because in a time of pandemic, loving our neighbor means doing some very hard work to make sure they are safe. It means wearing a mask any time we're in public, even when we are sick of its elastic pulling on our ears and its fabric riding up our nose. It means honoring distance from others, following the arrows on the grocery store floor, standing in the middle of the checkout space to stay six feet from the next shopper. It looks like opting for takeout instead of dining in whenever we have the option, avoiding public gatherings, and being bored at home instead of going to the movies.

Loving our neighbor is exhausting. And we've been doing it since March. And it's getting harder, because we see so many people not doing it anymore. "Covid fatigue," they call it.

"But let us not weary in doing what is right." I know it's tiring. Way back in March, we imagined that this pandemic would be over by Easter, and we are way past that now. We long for this to be over, for us to be able to get back to our regular lives, to not always have to consider the safety of our neighbors in all that we do. But we don't live in that time right now. Don't grow weary, because your neighbor still depends on you. Your neighbor who is a nurse, overwhelmed by the rise in cases and clogged ICUs, needs you. Your neighbor who works as a cashier with no feasible option to stay home and stay safe, needs you. Your neighbor who is elderly and keeps being told their life being lost isn't worth the effort, needs you.

"Each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." God didn't set us down on Earth as isolated islands, completely unaffected by others. Instead, God put us in communities. God set us among neighbors. And God calls on us to care deeply for each other. Sacrificially care for each other. Give up real things in pursuit of the good for the sake of everyone. And as tempting as it is, we are to resist the temptation to act like everyone else, throw caution to the wind, declare our "freedom" is more important, and focus on just ourselves and what affects us. God calls on us to look up, see our neighbor, and do love.

"Perfect love casts out fear." In all this time apart, we fear the bonds of love withering. We fear for our congregation, what will happen as the months stretch on and the sanctuary remains empty. We fear those families who have "gone digital" not coming back to worship in person. We fear how the pandemic will forever change the church. But God is bigger than fear. God is more faithful to us than any disease that seeks to undo what God has done. God is not going to let a pandemic sever the witness of the Church. Instead, God is calling on the Church to be witnesses to that unflagging love that God gives us, especially in a time when the whole world is off-kilter.

We have a while yet to go, my beloved siblings. Continue to fight the good fight. Love your neighbors. Do everything you can to protect them. Show with your actions how the love of Jesus is still changing the world, even when the body can't meet in person. Hold fast to your faith. God is with you.

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 20, January 17, February 14, April 3, May 9, June 20, July 18 August 15

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



The CRISIS of CHRISTMAS

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Christmas 2020 will occur while we are living through of a series of crises. Here's the list: the pandemic, economic losses, protests against racial injustices, an ongoing climate crisis, and a divided country following a contentious presidential election. I'm not going to lie, it's been stressful for me, and I imagine it has been for you, too. As Christians, we have been moving through these crisis-filled days with the expectation that God is present and God's promises are true. We move forward with hope.

The two Chinese characters for the word “**crisis**,” 危机, have often been translated as “danger” and “opportunity.” Others say that a better translation is “danger” and “change point.” What dangers do you see as your congregation moves toward celebrating the Birth of our Savior – Christmas - in a totally new way? What “opportunities” or “change points” do you see that could propel your church forward in a positive way into God's future?

Mary experienced a theological crisis when the angel Gabriel revealed to her God's plan to enter this world by the baby in her womb. Mary's body was the center of a theological crisis - much like the theological crisis caused by a virus that has invaded the bodies of our loved ones, and the theological crisis of abused and broken black and brown bodies, and the theological crisis experienced in the misuse of this planet on which all bodies live. Where is God in the crisis? What does this mean?

In a crisis, God comes to us. John 1:1,14 *In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and lived among us.* Jesus is God, divine *and* human. God took up residence and moved into our neighborhood. God goes where God's people go and is who the people are. This is the theological promise of John's gospel. God is present with us in our times of crisis and suffering. This is the foundation of Luther's theology of the cross.

God is revealed through the crisis of Mary's pregnancy and Jesus' untimely birth in a Bethlehem barn. God is revealed in the crucifixion; through the body of Jesus, hanging on a cross. God is revealed through the risen body of Jesus on Easter Morning.

No matter how different Christmas is for you this year, no matter what crisis arises, God is there, present as promised, in the WORD made flesh. May the story of Jesus' birth bring you much needed joy and hope this holiday season and may the presence of God comfort you in the new year.

AMEN

Rev. Lauri Sta. Oshman

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2020

Call to Order: President Randy Winger at 7:00 PM

Attending: Randy Winger, Debbi Pittman, Bob Winger, Sharon Seibel, Mary Straub, Pastor Lucas, Lanette Place, and Guest: Youth Director Patricia Peterson

Absent: Jill Rosenberry, Norris Berg, Dan Place, and Ann Young,

Opening Devotions: Pastor Lucas – Thessalonians Ch. 5, Ver. 1 - 11

New Business: Confirmation Class Structure– Pastor stated that the students are doing well and the parents had positive comments about the lessons. Bob made the motion to continue with the lessons and look at the classes again in December. Lanette seconded.

Candy Walk – Council will ask Donna about the plans for this.

COVID-19 Response Committee – Was set up – Survey completed – Moving Forward. Council talked about the results from the Survey. We will see an email in the next 10 days for the plan to possibly have indoor services starting Nov. 29th.

Snow Plowing – Paul Frandsen will do this for the church again. Randy will check with Michael Chisholm to see if he will be the backup for Paul.

Pastor's contact with shut-ins and older members – We talked about how Pastor could contact more members and to get the kids involved with this. Pastor would like the names of members that should be called.

Church Siding – Lifetime warranty – looking dark. Council and the Building Committee to look into what can be done.

Old Business: Weekday Prayer Service Attendance – Pastor said that no one has attended since Oct. 5th but that he is at the church at those times.

Applications – Church Cleaner – Interviews will be in the next few weeks and they would start Dec. 1st.

Secretary's Report – Amendment – Bob will be heading the COVID 19 Response Committee. Motion to accept – Lanette, 2nd Debbi

Treasurer's Report – Motion to accept – Bob, 2nd Lanette

Pastor's Report – Pastor asked the council about allowing students to use the church's internet during the day for school work with supervision if they do not good internet at home. Council had positive comments about this and will pass this ideal to the Education Committee to work on.

Pastor also discussed with us the possibility of a Progressive Christmas Parade with other churches.

Youth Report – Programs are going well. 15 College Kits were sent out.

Committee Reports –

Conflict Detection

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn - Bob – 1st, Debbi– 2nd

Closing Prayer

Next meeting – December 8th, 2020 – 7 PM

Respectively submitted by Sharon Seibel

11/24/2020 Addition to OS Church Council Minutes

President Randy Winger sent an email to each council member asking for their opinion on the following two items:

By the recommendation of the Covid-19 committee, should we pause the start of our indoor worship service for two weeks beyond our goal of 11-29-2020 due to the wild spread of the virus over the last few weeks.

Should we take \$500.00 from our budgeted emergency funds to send to the Jonathan Chisholm family during their difficult time after his accident and hospitalization.

The church council passed items 1 and 2 by email votes.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Seibel

Property Committee Report:

As some items have been brought to the attention of the property committee, we would like to give the congregation an update.

Moss on the Church Roof:

This is something that happens to many roofs, especially on the north slopes. As this gives a not-so-pleasant appearance, it does not harm the roof. The roof was re-shingled some years ago with metal shingles which are less likely to be damaged by the moss than asphalt or wood shingles are. In discussing the option of cleaning the moss off, the cost, the potential to damage the surface of the shingles, and the fact that the moss will just grow back it was decided this is not an urgent need.

Siding – Peeling Paint:

The peeling off of the paint on the siding in some areas of the church is definitely an eye sore. The siding was installed in 1997 and the peeling problem began shortly after. Lindus Construction was contacted regarding this problem at that time and the peeling areas were repainted under the warranty of the siding. Lindus Const has once again been advised of this issue and we are awaiting a response. Other than the shoddy appearance, the siding integrity is not compromised.

American Flag – Outside:

The flag in the front of the church will be replaced as it is once again showing wear. We also will be taking steps to modify the flag pole hookup as the life of our flag is only 3-4 months.

Sand in the Plumbing:

Good news here! The issue seems to be resolved with our new well.

Committee Members: Mike Allyn, Mark Raleigh, Bruce Place, Dan Place (Council Liaison)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE

Pierce County Food Pantry: Will you help to make a Happy Holiday Meal for a family in our community? Drive Up and Drop Off a FROZEN ham, turkey or chicken at the Pierce County Food Pantry on Mondays or Wednesdays between 4-6 p.m. in November and December at our location at 440 N Maple St beside the Fair Grounds. You may also donate money for the pantry to purchase needed holiday items. Any questions, call 715-273-2070. THANK YOU!

Virtual Learning Internet Option: Hello members of Our Saviors Lutheran. With potential distance learning on the horizon for many of our School Districts, the Board of Education, a long side Pastor Lucas would like to inquire on the internet need for your school aged child(ren). We ask all church members complete the following survey questions. In friendship and support, The Board of Education – Connie, Lindsay, Kim
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XYLQG9Q>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hello Sunday School Families: We are amping up for another festive and joyous Christmas Season. The Board of Education is working a long side Pastor Lucas and Patricia, bringing this year's program to you in the comforts of your own home...that's right...a Virtual Christmas Program!

Sunday School Parents, we are planning to knock this out in one, possibly two Sundays: Dec. 6th (during our regular SS hour) and the 13th if needed. We respect and understand each family's decision on whether or not to send your child(ren), that's why we feel a virtual program is the best option. It will provide every SS child the opportunity to participate.

You can contact us by the following: Facebook group page: Our Saviors Sunday School Families, direct message, text or email Kim: 715-307-1383, kunser4@gmail.com.

Will your child(ren) be participating in our Christmas Program this year? If yes, please provide name(s) and age(s).

Will your child(ren) be attending face to face practices?

If no, we will contact you and distribute the necessary materials.

Blessings, The Board of Education- Connie, Lindsay, Kim

THANK YOU

Thank you very much for dropping off farmer lunches during harvest. Your kindness & thoughtfulness is appreciated! Tim & Judi Wiff

Members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, During this season of giving thanks. We want your congregation to know how important you are to our mission. We, along with the many households you have assisted, are extremely grateful for your faithful support. Thank you, Judy Perkins "On behalf of the ARC Board"



Members of Our Savior's: I would like to thank all of you for making it possible for our church to donate 147 shoeboxes this year. The support was great. Young and old all helped make it possible. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! Thanks! Peggy Hoyer

SUPPORT OUR MISSION WITH eGIVING

Consider making your contribution through our eGiving tools!
You can make a one-time gift or set up recurring donations.

Giving Made Easy

Make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts through our website's donations page.

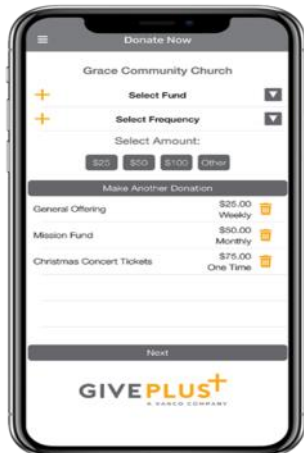
Our Savior's Lutheran Church offers giving from our Website, through the GivePlus mobile app, and by text.

Make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts through our website's donations page.

1. Visit Our Savior's Lutheran Church Website. www.oursaviorschurch.info
2. Locate the give tab.
3. Donate!

**It only takes a minute to set up an account or give as a guest.
We appreciate your generosity!**

**Give Anytime,
Anywhere
with Our
GivePlus
Mobile App**



Use Our GivePlus Mobile App

1. Download the free GivePlus App from the App Store or Google Play
2. Find our church by zip code **54003**, or by searching our church name.
3. Donate!

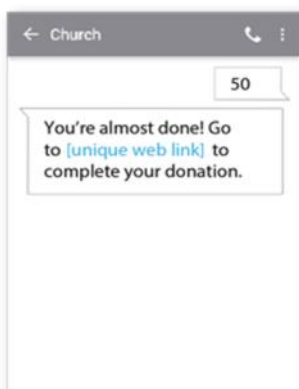
Giving through our mobile app is easy and convenient.

It only takes a minute to set up an account or give as a guest.

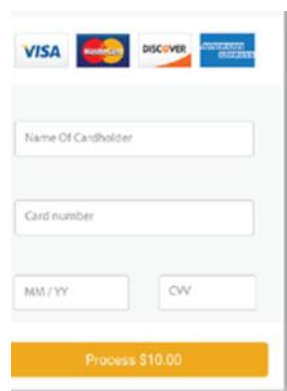
Text Your Donation

Giving by text is easy. Simply text your donation amount to **833-506-0632** and follow the instructions on your phone to complete your gift.

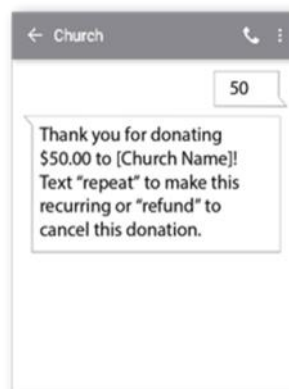
1. Get Started



2. Register



3. Give



4. Repeat



Saturday, December 12th

9 AM to 2 PM



Our Savior's
Candy & Cookie,
Walk!
Huge
assortments!

*LET US HELP YOU WITH
YOUR HOLIDAY TREATS!
Homemade candy & Cookies
will be sold at \$6 per pound
(less than 1/2 the price of area
stores!) Specialty items sold
separately. Homemade crafts
will also be for sale.*

Join us!

*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**

Candy/Cookie Walk Fundraiser: I am teaming up with Patricia to raise money for the College kits and help with the cost of some Softball Field Improvements. We are going to have another Candy/ Cookie Walk on Saturday Dec. 12th from 9 am to 2 pm. We are asking you to help us by making homemade Candy/Cookies and maybe some Norwegian treats. We would love to see up to 20 dozen of one item. Please have the treats to the Church before or on set-up day Friday December 11th. We will set up tables and people can fill their own boxes or we will have some boxes made up. We are also asking for crafts - if you are crafty and not a baker - if you could bring something for the craft area - that works too. We are requiring all people to come masked and ready to make trays or gifts for their families and have a great day. The cost for the walk will be \$6.00 per pound and any specialty items will be priced individually.

Please help us with our fundraiser - we are excited and hope the community will be as well. If you have any questions - Donna Constant 715-307-0451

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7-8pm Confirmation (9th Grade & Group B)	3 12:30pm Prayer Service	4	5
6 Cinnamon Rolls 9am Live Stream Worship 9am Drive-In Worship 9am Sunday School	7 12:30pm Prayer Service	8 7pm Council Meeting	9 7-8pm Confirmation (9th Grade & Group A)	10 12:30pm Prayer Service	11	12 9am-2pm Candy/Cookie Walk
13 9am Live Stream Worship 9am Drive-In Worship	14 12:30pm Prayer Service	15	16 4-5:30pm SOS Kids Crew (Christmas Caroling) 7-8pm Confirmation (9th Grade & Group B)	17 12:30pm Prayer Service	18	19
20 9am Live Stream Worship 9am Drive-In Worship No Sunday School	21 12:30pm Prayer Service	22	23 No Confirmation Classes	24 Christmas Eve Worship Services TBD	25	26
27 9am Live Stream Worship 9am Drive-In Worship NO Sunday School	28 12:30pm Prayer Service	29	30 No Confirmation Classes	31		

Our Savior's Worship Options

9am Drive-In Worship (radio station 90.5)
9am Live Stream Worship
12:30pm Prayer Service (Monday's & Thursdays)
Call the office to get your name on the list.

Church Emails:

pastor.os@hbc.com
admin.os@hbc.com
treasurer.os@hbc.com
youthdirector.os@hbc.com



In Need of Prayer!

Jon Chisholm, Marion Erlandson, Ron Mireau, Jerry Halls, Shirley Nickel, Lu Johnson, Nancy Hove, Della Larson, Judie Goodwin, Mark Kiefer, Norris Berg, Tom Dachel, Tom Springette, Gary Johnson, Anna Walentowski, Alan Nelson, Zachery Caterer, and Kristen Anderson.

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

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
N6450 530th Street
Beldenville WI 54003
Phone: (715) 273-4570
Pastor Lucas Ladnier
Email: pastor.os@hbc.com
admin.os@hbc.com
www.oursaviorschurch.info

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Come let us
Adore
Him

