

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

December 2025

www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

Every family has its own pace, but by now I expect most of us are fully into the season of Christmas, with lights and music and trees, preparing for the big day as we plan out when to bake and wrap presents and who will meet at what house when during the holiday season. I know there is a lot of controversy about the ever-encroaching beginning of this season (I heard Christmas music on the radio literally the day after Halloween), but there is one feature of this season that I think is worth celebrating in its entirety: generosity.

No season of the year is so marked by generosity in our culture as the Christmas season. Think of how much thought, purposefulness, and joy we put into selecting just the right gift for each person we know, wanting to make sure everyone has something to unwrap under the tree, sending cards to let ever-distant friends and family know how we have been in the past year. And even though the materialism of the season can feel worrisome at times, it keeps anchoring itself in that feeling of generosity—we don't get all this stuff for ourselves; we get it so we can give it away. It's truly amazing how the season brings out the sharing spirit in all of us!

Which is why we are going to focus on generosity this Advent season. We have been given so many good gifts, so many wondrous things that make life possible, that generosity is the appropriate reaction to just how generous God has been with us. So each week, we'll be contemplating how generosity begins and produces each of the focuses of the four Advent wreath candles: hope, peace, joy, and love. We'll wonder how the gift of Jesus, who makes the world right, can inspire us to be generous with what we have. And we can look at all the different ministries that inspire our generosity, both within and outside of the church!

So I hope this season you will see the hustle and bustle of people getting gifts and delivering baked goods and arranging holiday parties, and see the way God's spirit of generosity is awakened in each of us. I hope you'll hear the Christmas carols and think about how God is calling you to be generous with your friends, your family, and strangers both near and far. I hope you'll see through the crass materiality that Christmas can sometimes become, and feel the spirit of generosity that inspires you to share your abundance with others in this season. And I hope you'll remember how the gift of Jesus is the start of it all.

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 14th, January 11th, February 15th, April 4th, 5th,
May 17th, June 14th.**

Contact the Office if any of these dates would work for your family.
office.osbeldenville@gmail.com, 715-273-4570



In Need of Prayer!

Dave Buettner, Steve DuMond, Herman Olson, Max Beck, Matt Feuerhelm,
John Paape, and Kristen Anderson.

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

BISHOP HALOM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: WHEN GOD SHOWS UP



As we approach the season of Christmas that so many of us adore, I'd like to address a few churchy words that theologians like to use and sound impressive when using them. The first word is incarnation and the second is Emmanuel.

If your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), you will again hear the passage from the first chapter of John on Christmas Day. The passage famously concludes in verse 14 with the words, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." This verse speaks directly to the concept of incarnation. In other words, it speaks to a God who literally takes on human flesh and enters this

world in the form of baby Jesus. It's in stark contrast to what some believe and experience - a God who exists far away, only to look down on us from God's heavenly throne. Instead, the incarnate God speaks to a God who is willing to take on the human experience with all the joys and sorrows that come with it. One can readily see that Jesus did indeed make his way through the human experience. He felt joy. He felt pain. His eyes teared up. And even if I can't recall a story when he laughed, I gotta believe that he really did!

Another passage found in the Christmas season comes from the gospel of Matthew, which references Isaiah 7:14: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" One of the most important lessons I ever learned in seminary was in a pastoral care class. I had hoped to learn what to say, especially to someone hurting or grieving. What I learned was much more important. Instead of learning what to say, I was taught to show up - to be present. As time passes, few will remember what I say, but will remember that I was there. That's precisely why the name Emmanuel means so much to me. It's a constant reminder that God is always with us. Consider the final words in the gospel of Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Presence matters because God embodies it and teaches it.

Christmas is known for its gift giving nature. We share gifts with one another to reveal our love for them. This year, I hope that regardless of the quantity or quality of the wrapped presents that lay under the tree, you will recognize the gift of presence. Not only the presence of your loved ones, but particularly the presence of God. So many of you will grieve as you experience the lack of presence from a loved one due to death or distance. My heart grieves with you. My hope lies in a God who provides and will gift you all with someone who will be present with you in some way at some time. If nothing else, remember God's presence as you receive the body and blood of Christ in the worship services that you attend, for that's yet another way in which God shows up.

Fellow disciples, Merry Christmas to you all and may the presence of God incarnate, Emmanuel, embrace you in such a way that brings warmth to your heart!

Bishop Martin

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

November 04, 2025

Call Meeting to Order: President Tim Wiff at 6:00 PM.

Attending: Debbi Pittman, Pastor Lucas, Donna Constant, Ron Halverson, Mike Rehbein, Tim Wiff, Julie Winger, Patricia Peterson, Mark Jensen, Sue Palmquist, Steve Straub

Absent: N/A

Opening Devotions: Pastor Lucas

New Business:

Photo Display Panel

Oldest photos to be documented, removed and placed into an acid free Photo album. Available in cabinet at photo display panel area.

Old Business:

Center Rail, for Communion, Steve will talk with Randy regarding ease of use regarding placement the center rail of the alter for Communion.

Lutefisk Supper, Multimedia Loop

Steve talked with Gina about having a display of photos and music that loops on the monitors in the sanctuary. The loop and music would play while people waited to be served for Lutefisk Supper displaying events and activities of Our Saviors.

Secretary's Report:

Motion to approve Secretary's Report as presented by Julie, seconded by Steve, M/C.

Treasurer's Report:

Designated Account	\$50,505.48
General Account	-\$68.63
Money Market	\$36,161.32
Total	\$86,598.17

The Edward Jones CD account \$171,042.69

The CCF CD account \$50,489.82

Amount owed to general fund to be printed in the bulletin. Congregation is then aware of weekly status of collections relative to expenses for the current year budget.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Donna, seconded by Ron, M/C.

Pastor's report:

Motion to approve Pastor's Report as presented by Debbi, seconded by Patricia, M/C.

Youth Report:

Motion to approve Youth Report by Pastor, seconded by Donna, M/C.

Continue on next page....

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

Committee Reports:

Stewardship

Looking forward to the 5th Sunday in November and all that is planned for the service and the extra treats at coffee hour afterwards.

Property

Mailbox at East Entrance

The mailbox is worn out. A new mailbox will be acquired.

Solar Panels

Pierce Pepin offered to explain how the solar panels work with the utility bill. If there is interest, a Pierce Pepin representative will explain how the solar panels impact the utility bill.

Conflict Detection: none

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Debbi, seconded by Pastor, M/C.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Next Council Meeting: December 02, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Rehbein



**Support Our Mission
with eGiving**

This Season, consider making your gifts using our eGiving tools. Our Savior's
Lutheran Church offers online: www.oursaviorschurch.info "give" tab
Text-to-Give: 833-506-0632.

Men In Mission meeting
November 15, 2025

After breakfast served by David Jordahl and Clair, Pastor Lucas led us in devotions.

The business meeting was called to order by Pres. Mike Rehbein.

The secretary's report was read. Motion to approve by Brian J./Bruce P.

The treasurer's report: Clair reported that, as of the end of October, we have \$4,358 in the Luther Point Bible Camp fund, \$22,197 in the fair stand fund, \$2,179 in the ball park fund, and \$3,286 in the general fund. Clair reported that we have received \$200 from the Endowment Committee to the Luther point Bible Camp fund.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Tim W./Bruce P.

Motion by Clair/David to forward \$16,000 from the fair stand fund to the church for outreach ministries.

Old Business:

Motion by Clair/Brian J. to have the oyster stew/soup dinner on January 18, 2026. There is no Sunday school on that date and CHURCH WILL BE ONE HOUR LATER. The menu will be the same as last year with oyster stew, Fair vegetable beef soup, chicken/wild rice soup, and chili.

Proceeds will go directly to Luther Point bible Camp, NOT the Men In Mission's Luther Point Bible Camp fund which helps pay registration costs for campers. Bruce will apply for a Thrivent Action Team grant to help pay the price of the oysters.

New Business:

Bruce reported that the kitchen's roasters are getting old. He will check with the kitchen committee to see if they could look into purchasing a couple new ones.

Bruce has moved the cooler to Ed Rohl's shed for the winter. Thank you!

There was discussion on where we go from here with the MIM involvement with the ballpark. A motion was made by Clair/ David J. that the MIM will no longer have control/guidance as to ball park affairs. Donna has been in touch with Debbi as far as ball park finances and they will be handled through the church. When the setup is complete, the MIM money held in the ball park account will be transferred over.

The MIM is hosting the November coffee hour tomorrow after church. the next scheduled coffee hour would be Dec. 21st. We will wait to see if another group is interested in that date before taking it.

Discussion on moving our meeting dates from Saturday morning. Seems this time is always popular for weekend and family events. We are going to try something new in hopes of maybe reaching out to more men. A motion was made by Tim W./Pastor Lucas to have our next meeting on THURSDAY AFTERNOON AT 3:00 ON JANUARY 15TH.

Motion to adjourn by Brian J./ David J. Nine members present.

Minutes submitted by secretary, Clair Severson

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE



All gifts must be returned to Church by Sunday December 7th with the ornament attached and unwrapped.

The Confirmation youth will be wrapping the gifts on Wed the 10th.

All gifts will be delivered on December 16th. We thank you for supporting the Gift Box Program, the Evangelism Committee; Kathy Young Darlene Halverson, and Lori Coulson

Hebrews 13:16 "Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."



**PIERCE COUNTY
HUNGER PREVENTION COUNCIL**
WE GO BEYOND THE FOOD

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: The Pierce County Food Pantry continues to need certain items. For the month of **DECEMBER** we will be collecting;

Baked Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Cream Corn, Ketchup, Baking Soda, Baking Powder, Evaporated Milk, Fruit Snacks.

Please put the items in the grocery cart in the back of the church. Thank you for showing your concern. Money donations accepted as well. Did you know that every dollar donated can purchase \$7 worth of food? Online donations @hungerpreventioncouncil.net, call 715-273-2070 or to arrange a food drive sponsored by your family or organization. Let's help end hunger in Pierce County.

The background of the poster is a light brown surface decorated with various gingerbread cookies, including snowflakes, stars, and holly leaves.

Cookie Walk

and Craft Sale

8:30 - NOON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Let us do the Christmas Cookie baking for you this year. \$8.00 / pound.

St. Paul's UCC
W5706 State Road 72 - Ellsworth

Attendees will have an opportunity to win a quilt!

Our Savior's Candy Walk

FUNDRAISER

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE COLLEGE KITS AND OUTREACH MINISTRY.

Saturday December 13th
8AM - 12PM

LET US HELP YOU WITH YOUR HOLIDAY TREATS/GIFTS.
Homemade Candy will be sold at \$15 per pound
(less than 1/2 the price of candy stores!)

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

A pile of various chocolates, including round ones with gold and white wrappers, and some with nuts.

Sweet memories



All are welcome!

Please join us at Church on Monday's
December 1st & 15th at 10:00am.
We hope to see you there!

**2025
Preferred Senior Living
&
Ellsworth Health Services**

Worship Schedule for Our Savior's

Wednesday December 10th,
1:30pm Preferred Senior Living,
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services



Thank-you! I want to thank all the members of the church for making it possible to take **129** shoeboxes to the collection site for Operation Christmas Child. Wishing all of you a Blessed Holiday Season!
Peggy Hoyer



Mark Your Calendars! Pastor Lucas will be offering a First Communion Class Saturday January 24th at 9am. This class is offered to all youth that are ready to learn the meaning of receiving communion.

EVER PONDER YOUR LEGACY?

Your legacy is how you want to be remembered after your life has passed. There is a book of remembrance in the narthex of our church. In it are the members of Our Savior's who have made the Our Savior's Lutheran Church Endowment Fund (O.S.E.F.) part of their legacy.

The O.S.E.F. was established and approved by the congregation on January 28th, 1996. All bequests and donations to the O.S.E.F. are invested and only the income from the investments are disbursed every year with the congregation's approval at the Annual Meeting. As its preamble states:

WHEREAS Christian Stewardship involves the faithful management of all the gifts that God has given to humankind - the created world, the Gospel, life, time, abilities, money, including accumulated, inherited and appreciated resources, and WHEREAS the Scriptural principle of proportionate giving, the return to the Lord a portion of the gifts God has first given to his beloved children, is both a privilege and an appropriate response in all times and circumstances, and WHEREAS, Christians can give to the work of the church through bequests in wills, assignment of life insurance, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder and other trusts, assignment of certificates of deposit, and transfers of property (cash, securities, bonds, real estate), and WHEREAS, it is the desire of Our Savior's Lutheran Church to encourage, receive and administer these gifts in a manner consistent with the loyalty and devotion to our Lord as expressed by the donors and in accord with the policies of this congregation.... The O,S,E.F. was established. The purpose of the O.S.E.F. is to enhance our churches outreach ministry. This includes educational scholarships, agencies ministering to adults/families in need, grants to ELCA schools, colleges, and seminaries, and grants through the Synod and ELCA for various ministries. (A full listing appears in the O.S.E.F. bylaws.) No income from the fund can be used for budgetary expenses. Income disbursed follows the guidelines as set forth in the endowment fund bylaws.

This article is intended to inform you as to the purpose of O.S.E.F. and to encourage you to think about your legacy. Thank you from the Endowment Committee

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guilds: Rhoda Foley Belinda Foley Money Counters/ Tech Assistants Donna Constant Council Member	1 10am Coffee & Conversation	2 6pm Council Meeting	3 7pm Confirmation		5 Light up the Fair 5-8pm	6
7 9am Worship/Livestream SS hour/program practice 10am Fellowship Hour 10am Endowment Committee Meeting	8	9	10 7pm Youth Night	11	12	13 8am-12pm Candy Walk
14 9am Worship/Livestream SS Christmas Program 10am Fellowship Hour Candy Wak Silent Auction Ends	15 10am Coffee & Conversation	16	17 4pm Christmas Caroling (S.O.S. Kids Crew) 5:30pm Family Meal 7pm Confirmation	18	19	20
21 9am Worship/Livestream 10am Fellowship Hour	22	23	24 4pm Christmas Eve Worship/Livestream No Confirmation	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27
28 9am Worship/Livestream 10am Fellowship Hour	29	30	31 No Quilting No Confirmation	Happy New Year!		

	Greeter's/Ushers	Tech Assistant	Acolyte	Reader	Bell Ringer	Assisting Minister
December 7th 9:00AM	Belinda Foley	Luke Lundstrom Family	Hadley Coulson June Feuerhelm	Belinda Foley	Roger Laughnan	Rhoda Foley
December 14th 9:00AM	Tricia Rouleau Family	Lane Kolodzienski Patricia Peterson	Brody Flynn Eli Stockwell	Tricia Rouleau	Roger Laughnan	Lanette Place
December 21st 9:00AM	Roger & Pauline Laughnan	Wyatt Kirchner Donna Constant	Hallee Place Ryland Jensen	Sue Palmquist	Roger Laughnan	
December 24th 4:00PM	Dan & Holly Johnson Family	Wes Raleigh Council Member?	Ben Johnson Wyatt Goodier	Steve Straub	Roger Laughnan	
December 28th 9:00AM	Rhoda Foley	Kaia Christopherson Donna Constant	Megan Peterson Brady Peterson	Rhoda Foley	Roger Laughnan	Sue Palmquist

*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 or call Lori Coulson, Mary Halls, or Vicki Bowen if you have any questions. Lori: 715-821-3731 Mary: 715-307-0842, Vicki: 612-756-5067.
 Instructions for each ministry position are posted in the narthex.*

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