

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

February 2024

www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

If you ever happen to stop by my office, you may notice two things. First, the very messy desk (sorry to all you who like things neat and tidy). The second, though, is the artwork on the walls. This month there will be a new addition to this artwork. It's a quilted image of a puffin.

In case you don't know, a puffin is a small seabird with a large, bright bill. It looks a lot like what a penguin would look like if penguins could fly. And puffins are native to the northern areas of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, feeding on sardines and herring and often gathering in colonies of thousands during the egg-laying season.

But why a puffin?

Years ago, I delivered my first sermon. It was the first Sunday in Lent, and I was preaching to a little church in the Appalachian Mountains near my college called Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Now, as I said, it was the first Sunday in Lent, and so the gospel reading was Jesus's temptation in the wilderness. But also, since it was Lent, a lot of people had taken up a Lenten discipline (giving to charity, dedicating prayer time, and fasting from something). And I chose to delve into those disciplines as the focus of my sermon.

And here's where the puffin comes in.

In the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church made the rule that every Christian should fast during Lent. That mean no meat, eggs, or dairy for the season. The exception, of course, was on Fridays, when fish was permitted. (Interestingly, this is where our fish fries come from!) The question, then, was what constituted a fish? We all know that whales aren't biologically fish, but to a medieval person, they might as well be! So the Catholic Church had to make some decisions on what was, according to their doctrine, a "fish." And the puffin (which is so obviously a bird to us) was up for that debate.

See, the puffin spends almost its whole life on, over, or in the water. It has great big flipper-shaped feet. It eats exclusively seafood. So, as a result, the Catholic Church decided that the Puffin was, for doctrinal purposes, a fish.

The point of my sermon was, if you're going to take on a Lenten discipline and dedicate something to God, then don't pick out the puffins. Meaning, if you're going to do it, do it. Go all in with your discipline! Don't invent exceptions! Your Lenten discipline is between you and God, after all, so no one is telling you what to do there. Lenten disciplines are meant to bring us closer to God by helping us focus on how God has blessed us to be a blessing for others. They don't need to have exceptions.

So this Lent (which is fast approaching!), as you're considering if and what discipline you want to undertake, don't pick out the puffins!

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.

February 11th, March 30th

Contact the Office if any of these dates would work for your family.

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2024

Call Meeting to Order: President Tim Wiff at 7:00 PM.

Attending: Debbi Pittman, Jill Rosenberry, Pastor Lucas, Lanette Place, Donna Constant, Ron Halverson, Mike Rehbein, Tim Wiff, Audrey Severson, Mark Jensen

Absent: Ann Young, Patricia Peterson, John Traun

Opening Devotions: Pastor Lucas read from Isaiah 55 about the Abundance of God.

New Business:

- **Approve Agenda**
 - **Money Counters & Tech Asst:** Jan. Donna & Patricia **February-** Tim & Mike
 - **Date for Annual Meeting:** A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Mark to have the Annual Meeting on February 18, 2024. M/C
- Recommendations for FairStand & Lutefisk proceeds:** Lanette made a motion, seconded by Donna, to accept the 2023 Lutefisk Supper and Fairstand Proposed Disbursements as written. M/C This will be shared at the Annual Meeting to be voted on by the congregation.

Old Business:

- Review Staff Annual Performance Evaluations:** Pastor Lucas and Debbi stepped out as the council discussed their performance evaluations and salary. Discussions of the organists, custodian, office administration, and youth director followed.
- Approve Proposed Staff Salary Adjustments:** The council agreed upon salary compensation included in the annual budget.
- Finalize 2024 Budget Proposal:** Audrey made a motion, seconded by Donna, to send the 2024 OSLC Proposed Budget to the congregation members for a vote of approval at the Annual Meeting. M/C
- Wellness opportunities:** Will be tabled until March.

Secretary's Report-

Lanette made a motion, seconded by Ron, to approve the December 6, 2023 council meeting minutes as presented by Jill. M/C

Treasurer's Report-

Designated Account	\$57,500.19
General Account	\$4,013.01
Money Market	\$137,260.60
Total	\$198,773.80

The Edward Jones CDs account: \$202,538.98.

Debbi asked to have the Treasurer included on the "Executive Committee" section of the OSLC Committee sheet. It would also be helpful to have her information as the Treasurer on a form with the church letterhead in order for her to more easily conduct business for the church.

Donna made a motion, seconded by Pastor Lucas, to accept the Treasurer's report as presented by Debbi. M/C

Pastor's report- Pastor Lucas highlighted a number of events from the month of November. Light Up the Fair was successful, as was the Christmas Program. Pastor Lucas' full report is on file.

Youth Report- Patricia provided a printed report highlighting upcoming events. Donna reported the Candy Walk was hugely successful with \$4300 going toward College Kits and the Ballfield. The full Youth Report is on file.

Committee Reports-

Sunshine Crew Activity: They packed meals for 18 families. Some were delivered. Plates of cookies were shared with 25 families. **Way to go Sunshine Crew! We appreciate all you do!**

Conflict Detection- none

Adjourn- Pastor Lucas made a motion, seconded by Mike, to adjourn. M/C 9:15pm

Closing Prayer-The Lord's Prayer

Next Council Meeting: February 6, 2024.

Annual Meeting: February 18, 2024

Respectfully submitted by Jill Rosenberry

Men In Mission: January 20, 2024

After breakfast served by Tim Wiff and Bruce Place and devotions led by Brian Johnson, the business meeting was called to order by president Mike Rehbein.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

Reporting for treasurer Tom Holdorf, Clair said we have \$3980 in the Luther Point Bible Camp Fund, \$5213 in the fair stand fund, and \$2565 in the general fund. \$17,300 has been forwarded to the church from the fair stand fund for outreach ministries. Motion made by Bruce P./Donna C. to accept the treasurer's report.

Old Business:

The oyster stew/soup dinner will be next week, January 28th with church one hour later at 10:00. We need to check on our supply of take-out containers. There was discussion on the rising price of oysters. Two gallons cost us \$336 this year. With the Thrivent Action Team donation of \$250, there is still plenty of expense. Motion was made by Clair/Dave J. that the proceeds from the dinner be sent to Luther Point for their campership fund. This helps cover camper costs and for those not able to afford camp. On a basic one-week camp, campers actually pay about 70% of the total cost of the camp. Donations to Luther Point by individuals and churches pay the rest of the camper costs.

Donna reported that the ballpark project is nearing completion. The excavation is done at a cost of \$3,500. Inside paneling is being finished. Windows are being trimmed. The cabinets are being positioned. Discussion on how we can recognize all the donors.

New Business:

MIM will serve coffee on February 18th and March 17th.

The next MIM meeting will be Saturday, March 16th with Mike Rehbein and Clair S. serving. Just a reminder: All men, members of Our Savior's, are invited.

Motion to adjourn by Bruce/Donna.

7 members present.

Minutes respectively submitted by Secretary Clair Severson

Support Our Mission with eGiving

The ministry of Our Savior's continues and thanks you for your generosity.

God's work continues through all of us!

Offering can be received either by mailing it to the church at N6450 530th St. Beldenville, WI 54003, dropping it off, online at oursaviorschurch.info under the "give" tab, or simply text your donation amount to 833-506-0632 and follow the instructions on your phone to complete your donation.



2024
Preferred Senior Living
&
Ellsworth Health Services

Worship Schedule for Our Savior's
1:30pm Preferred Senior Living,
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

Wednesday
March 27th, May 22nd,
August 28th, November 13th

Winter is a time to knit. If you are a knitter or crocheter, WELCA needs infant sweaters & caps up to 24 months size for layettes for Lutheran World Relief. We might have yarn you could use. Contact Audrey Severson with any questions.



The Pierce County Food Pantry continues to need certain items. For the month of **February**; we will be collecting;
Birthday Bags with Cake Mix & Frosting,
Shampoo, Feminine Products,
Canned Dog and Cat Food.

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

Lets help end hunger in Pierce County.



Thank you for making our children's Christmas! We appreciate everything you did for our family!

Thank you so much for your financial support of the Ellsworth Giftbox! Together we helped make the holidays brighter for over 90 families.

I would like to thank the church for the college care box and also for the \$200 for the college needs. Thank you Shelby Lawler.

Thank you very much for choosing to support local kids through Basics for Local Kids. Your generous donation makes a huge difference to cover the purchase of needed winter wear. Kim You helped us serve over 800 of God's local kids already this year.

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guilds: Sharon Peterson Mary Straub Money Counters/ Tech Assistants: Tim Wiff Mike Rehbein				1	2	3
4 Cinnamon Roll Sunday 9am Worship/Livestream Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	5 10am Coffee and Conversation	6 7pm Council Meeting	7 7-8pm Confirmation	8	9	10
11 9am Worship/Livestream No Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday 4-5:30pm S.O.S. Kids Crew 5:30-6:30pm Family / Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lent Service	15	16	17 6-8pm Youth 1st-8th grade Movie Night
18 9am Worship/Livestream Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour Annual Meeting	19	20	21 6pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lent Service	22	23	24
25 9am Worship/Livestream No Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	26	27	28 6pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lent Service	29		

	Greeter's/Ushers	Tech Assistant	Acolyte	Reader	Bell Ringer	Communion Server	Assisting Minister
Feb. 4th 9:00am	Bruce & Lanette Place	Maddie Constant Tim Wiff	Brody Flynn Breken Young	Peggy Hoyer	Roger Laughnan	Acolytes	Tom Holdorf
Feb. 11th 9:00am	Clair & Audrey Severson	Wyatt Kirchner Mike Rehbein	Hadley Coulson Ada Erlandson	Larry Peterson	Roger Laughnan	Pauline Laughnan	Rhoda Foley
Feb. 18th 9:00am	Lori Coulson Mary Halls	Isaac Yunker Tim Wiff	June & Lucy Feuerhelm	Mary Halls	Roger Laughnan	Bruce Place	Lanette Place
Feb. 25th 9:00am	Tim & Jody Wiff	Karli Foley-Nelson Mike Rehbein	Dusty & Wes Raleigh	Crystal Raleigh	Roger Laughnan	Bruce Place	Donald Rosenberry

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.



Please continue to pray for the following people;

Elaine Hines, Betty Winger, Heather Borst Nelson, Larry Young, Dean Mewes, Fred Hoyer, John Paape, Eldon Schellfeffer, Mary Jo Bjork, and Kristen Anderson.
 If you know of anyone that should be on our prayer list please contact the office.
 The names will be on the prayer list for two weeks unless specified.

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