

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

February 2026

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www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

It's an interesting quirk of the calendar that the Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday seem to always fall so closely together. Twice in the past ten years, they've fallen on the same day! There's something jarring and intriguing about a day where all is pink and red and white, where love hearts fill the air and chocolates are given to sweet hearts, coming right up against a day of ashes and soot, of penance and the reminder of our mortality. Many of my colleagues delighted in the challenge of writing that sermon when the two days fell together.

I think there's something important in it, still. Consider the focus of Valentine's Day: love. Everything is about it. It celebrates love. It commercializes love. Romantic movies, specialized restaurant menus, even community events revolve around the concept of love on Valentine's Day. But how deep is it? How deep does the love we celebrate on Valentine's Day really go? Soon Annie and I will be sweeping the aisles at Target for boxed Valentine sets for the girls' classes, ready to give a "punny" little card and a heart-shaped lollipop to the kids they spend the day with. A good number of husbands and boyfriends will hurriedly swing by the store to grab roses and a card, some really meaning it and some just going through the motions we've been taught for this holiday. Hallmark will churn out a few more movies showcasing romantic love that goes wrong and then gets saved. It can end up feeling very surface level. What does love really consist of?

That is where Ash Wednesday says something interesting. Because on Ash Wednesday we remember our mortality. We remember that we are sinners. We remember the brokenness of the world. And when we look at love through that lens, when we consider love in a world that is not whole, it reminds us that love costs something. It makes you different. It grows in you, and it takes something away—even when that thing needs to be taken away. Just as we die and will be raised to new life, so too does love bring about the death of something in us to raise it to new life.

The love for your spouse requires that you realize you no longer live only for yourself, but for the both of you. That love seeks to kill the selfish drive in us that has us ignore the needs of others. When we are partnered, when we are no longer two separate lives but made into one, that takes away the illusion that we can somehow live only for ourselves by making us part of another person. It's the same with our children: we can't keep going as if they don't change our lives utterly. We make sacrifices, put their needs first, express love by the ways we care and encourage and teach and support them. And our friendships are expressions of that love too! We make room in our lives to be the support, the care, and the confidence of those we call friends. Love pulls us out of ourselves and turns us to others. Love costs us our selfishness and self-centeredness. And we love in the face of death.

Ash Wednesday reminds us that the love we express on Valentine's Day isn't just a short card or a box of chocolates. Love is the transformative power that makes us see who God has destined us to be. It's the fire that burns away all that keeps us from caring for others, from seeing our neighbor, from holding ourselves apart from the world. Love is the way to overcome sin, because love is from God. And when we celebrate *that* love, it makes it possible for us to hear the words "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" with confidence and bravery.

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 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

# Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

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**January 06, 2026**

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

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

**Absent:** Pastor Lucas, Julie Winger

**Opening Devotions:** Tim Wiff

**New Business:**

Money counter/Tech Assistant sign-up sheet passed around. Volunteers signed up.

Annual meeting: Date set, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Christmas and Easter Candles: Discuss use of wax candles in place of battery powered candles. Moved to February agenda.

**Old Business:**

Fair Stand/Lutefisk Supper: Disbursement of funds to charities that totaled \$29,623.08 was determined. Motion to approve disbursement of funds by Donna, seconded by Patricia, M/C.

Closed session to complete reviews, 7:00 – 7:20 PM, reviews completed.

Proposed 2026 Budget: Budget items discussed and completed. Motion to approve 2026 annual budget by Patricia, seconded by Steve, M/C.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve Secretary's Report by Ron, seconded by Donna, M/C.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Designated Account	\$61,063.32
General Account	\$536.19
Money Market	\$32,810.23
Total	\$94,409.74

The Edward Jones CD account \$171,171.06

The CCF CD account \$50,844.72

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

**Pastor's report:**

Motion to approve Pastor's Report by Sue, seconded by Mark, M/C.

**Youth Report:**

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

**Committee Reports:**

**Endowment Committee:**

Counsel recommends grants, endowments as listed and the recommend language changes in scholarship application be forwarded to congregation annual meeting.

**Conflict Detection:** none

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Ron, seconded by Sue, M/C.

**Closing Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer

**Next Council Meeting: February 03, 2026, 6 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by Mike Rehbein

## Men In Mission Meeting January 16, 2026

After devotions led by Brian Johnson, the business meeting was called to order by acting president Bruce Place.

The secretary's report was read and approved. Motion by Dave Jordahl/ Brian J. to accept.

**Reporting for treasurer**, Tom Holdorf, Clair noted we have \$3,592 in the general fund, \$4,358 in the Luther Point Bible Camp fund, \$5,541 in the fair stand fund, and \$0.00 in the ball park fund. \$16,000 has been transferred from the fair stand fund to the church for outreach ministries. The ball park fund, \$2,065.54, has been transferred to the church account. The Men In Mission will no longer handle ball park monies. Motion made by Brian J./Bruce P. to accept the treasurer's report.

**Old Business:** The oyster stew/ soup dinner is scheduled for Sunday, January 18th immediately following church. Church is one hour later at 10:00. Bruce P. will be cooking the oyster stew, Tom H. is making the chili, Clair is making the FAIR vegetable beef soup and Donna is making the chicken/wild rice soup. We hope for a good turn out!

**New Business:** We will serve coffee hours on February 15th and March 15th.

The next Men In Mission meeting will be Thursday, March 19th and 3:00 pm. Come and join us for fellowship, devotions, and a short business meeting. Just a reminder: All men, members of Our Savior's, are automatically members of the MIM, whether active or inactive. There are no membership fees, initial costs, or implied responsibilities.

Please join us! Motion to adjourn by Brian J./Dave J.

Four members present.

Minutes submitted by secretary, Clair Severson

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**Mark Your Calendars!** The Our Savior's Annual Meeting will take place Sunday February 8th immediately following Worship.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE

## English Lutheran Church Roast Beef Dinner

*"Drive up for a carry-out version of the summertime favorite you love from our fair stand and support our kitchen renovation!"*

**Date:** Saturday  
February 21, 2026

**Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM

**Location:**  
English Lutheran Church  
229 W Main St.  
Ellsworth WI. 54011



All proceeds go to benefit our kitchen renovation.

**Cost: \$12 Includes**

- Slow-Roasted Beef over Bread
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Corn
- Homemade Dessert

For more information, please contact us at (715) 273-4617 or email [office@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@englishlutheranchurch.org)



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

**Baked Beans, Macaroni, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, Laundry Soap, Feminine Products, Toothbrush, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper.**

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](mailto:@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.



## WELCA Quilts and Baby Care Kits

Lutheran World Relief is the distributor of the quilts we make at church. The quilts are used for warmth, shelter as tents and beds. We take the quilts to a warehouse in St. Paul where they are stored until semis take them to ports on the east coast or to designated disasters in the United States. There is another warehouse in Maryland. From our warehouse in Minnesota this year: 9,520 quilts went to Madagascar, 9,520 quilts went to Tanzania 9,520 quilts went to Djibouti, Africa, 5,100 quilts went to Zimbabwe 85,737 quilts went to disaster relief in the Eastern States of USA, 17, 720 quilts went to USA Central States with disasters, 10,851 quilts to the disasters in the Western States of USA

We keep back a few quilts to send with the Mission Trip kids and to local shelters. We average about 60 quilts each year. We purchase batting in large rolls to cut to the 60x80 required size for quilts. We use gently used sheets for backing and cut squares from fabric scraps for the front or use another whole sheet. Donations of used sheets, fabric, mattress pads or money are appreciated.

Baby Care Kits are also stored in the warehouse in St Paul. They were shipped from there to five different countries including the USA. 3,500 kits went to Liberia, 7,350 kits went to Madagascar, 7,350 kits went to Sierra Leone, 7,350 kits went to Tanzania, 22,934 kits went throughout the United States

The Baby Care kits consist of 2 t-shirts, 1 sweater/coat, 2 sleepers/nightgowns, 2 pairs of new socks, 4 diapers, 2 blankets, 1 new towel and 2 bath soap bars. New items or next to new pristine items are required or custom officials will fine LWR or refuse passage.

We would welcome knitters and crocheters to donate sweaters, hats and lightweight blankets they could make for size 12 or 18 months. Fleece blankets are not acceptable.

**WILL YOU HELP?** We need more panels for our confirmation picture display. Those historic photos get a lot of attention from our members and guests alike. Pictures of us, our parents or grandparents, our children or grandchildren, cousins, neighbors, friends. It's a piece of Our Savior's history we need to maintain. The cost for each panel, which holds 12 photos (front and back), is approximately \$200. The Property Committee is hosting coffee hour on February 8th, with donations going toward purchasing more panels. February 8th is also our annual meeting. Thank you in advance for your financial support. Bruce Place & Property Committee

**2026  
Preferred Senior Living  
&  
Ellsworth Health Services**

**Worship Schedule for Our Savior's**

**Wednesday February 18th,  
1:30pm Preferred Senior Living,  
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services**

**April 22nd, June 24th, September 23rd, November 25th**



*In Need  
of Your  
Prayers*

Please Pray for;  
**Ron Halverson,  
Bill Howard,  
Benita (Keehr) Gregg,  
Gene Ostendorf,  
Kay Baker,  
Jon Swedien,  
Sharlene Valenzuela,  
Dave Buettner,  
Steve DuMond,  
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.



*Valentine Fundraiser*

All money raised will be split between the Heart Organization and help Faith Mitchell with expenses during her battle with Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

**1 dozen Chocolate Covered Strawberries**

**1 dozen Chocolate Covered Cherries, Peanut Butter Hearts,  
& Strawberry Lemonade Truffles.**

**Please order by Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup>.  
They can be picked up after 10am on February 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>.**



Treat your someone special and help us support our community.  
Call or text 715-307-0451 or email [constant.donna@yahoo.com](mailto:constant.donna@yahoo.com)

**Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Box of 1 dz. Chocolate Covered Strawberries  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 a box

Box of 1 dz. Chocolate Covered Cherries, Peanut Butter Hearts,  
& Strawberry Lemonade Truffles  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 a box  
(items can be mixed or matched)

Thanks for Supporting Our Community!

**Happy Valentine's Day!**



The next meeting is **Saturday  
February 14th** at 9am at  
Broz Bar.



**All are welcome!**  
Please join us at Church on Monday's  
**February 9th & 23rd at 10:00am.**  
We hope to see you there!



To our Friends at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Thank you for your \$150.00 donation to the Ellsworth Senior Center. It is through gifts like yours that we are able to continue to serve the community and provide a friendly safe atmosphere where adults age 50 and above may engage in educational, social and recreational activities. Your gift is sincerely appreciated and will help us continue serving our seniors. Sincerely, Phyllis Beastro

Dear Our Savior's Lutheran Church, We would like to thank you for the recent gift of \$2,000.00 to our organization. We appreciate your continued support for our mission as we support Pierce County residents' quality of life by providing equitable access to food and resources. Your generous gift will help us to purchase much needed nutritional and personal care items as well as equipment to protect the safety of our volunteers and clients. Sincerely, Heidi Albarado, Pierce County Food Pantry Coordinator.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Thank you for the generous continued support of Basics for Local Kids! We are blessed to network with wonderful serving hearts and hands, especially from your congregation. Thank you Kim

To the members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church; On behalf of our board and our families, I want to express my appreciation for your recent contribution to our program. As we begin this year we reflect on the many people who have helped our program grow, with financial donations, donations for time, talent and materials. Together we are making a difference for caregivers and the people they love. With deep gratitude, Norma Revels Program Coordinator from Among Friends.

Dear Our Savior's Congregation, your generous gift and your sharing in our mission to grow healthy neighborhoods is a very special gift. Wishing you a very happy new year!  
Kristie Executive Director from St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Dear Friends, On behalf of the Salvation Army and the families that benefit from the services provided at Grace Place, we wish to Thank you for your generous donation. We want you to know that your gift will make a real and tangible difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate in your community. In Christ, Jennifer Salaba, Shelter Director.

## Support Our Mission with eGiving

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

**St. Paul's UCC**  
W5706 St Rd 72, Ellsworth WI

# DRIVE THRU STEAK DINNER

Feb 14, 2026 | 4-7 pm

**Meal includes:**  
grilled steak, baked potato, special green beans, salad, homemade bun & dessert.

Tickets must be purchased in advance in person or online at [spuccellsworth.org](http://spuccellsworth.org) / \$15.00 each  
*Proceeds spread kindness through outreach ministry.*

# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Altar Guilds:</b> Sharon Peterson Mary Straub <b>Money Counters/                      Tech Assistants</b> Tim Wiff						
<b>1 Cinnamon Roll Sunday</b> <b>9am</b> Worship/Livestream <b>No</b> Sunday School Hour <b>10am</b> Fellowship Hour	2	3 <b>6pm</b> Council Meeting	4 <b>7pm</b> Confirmation	5	6	7
<b>8</b> <b>9am</b> Worship/Livestream <b>No</b> Sunday School Hour Annual Meeting <b>10am</b> Fellowship Hour	9 <b>10am</b> Coffee & Conversation	10	11 <b>7pm</b> Confirmation	12	13	14 <b>9am</b> Next Chapter at Broz Bar
<b>15</b> <b>9am</b> Worship/Livestream <b>9:15am</b> Sunday School Hour <b>10am</b> Fellowship Hour	16	17	<b>18 Ash Wednesday</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Preferred Senior Living Service <b>2:30pm</b> Ellsworth Health Services <b>4pm</b> S.O.S. Kids Crew <b>5:30pm</b> Lent Supper <b>6:30pm</b> Lent Service	19	20	21
<b>22</b> <b>9am</b> Worship/Livestream <b>No</b> Sunday School Hour <b>10am</b> Fellowship Hour	23 <b>10am</b> Coffee & Conversation	24	<b>25</b> <b>8:30am</b> Quilting <b>5:30pm</b> Lent Supper <b>6:30pm</b> Lent Service	26	27	28

	Greeter's/Ushers	Tech Assistant	Acolyte	Reader	Bell Ringer	Assisting Minister
<b>February 1st</b> <b>9:00AM</b>	Clair & Audrey Severson	Luke Lundstrom Patricia Peterson	Hadley Coulson Hallee Place	Clair Severson	Roger Laughnan	Tom Holdorf
<b>February 8th</b> <b>9:00AM</b>	Mary Halls Lori Coulson	Brody Flynn Tim Wiff	Eli Stockwell Ryland Jensen	Rhoda Foley	Roger Laughnan	Sue Palmquist
<b>February 15th</b> <b>9:00AM</b>	Roger & Pauline Laughnan	Wyatt Kirchner Tim Wiff	Lane Kolodzienski Ben Johnson	Michael Chisholm	Roger Laughnan	Ann Young
<b>February 22nd</b> <b>9:00AM</b>	Bruce & Lanette Place	Wes Raleigh Patricia Peterson	Megan Peterson Brady Peterson	Sue Palmquist	Roger Laughnan	Rhoda Foley

*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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## February 2026 Newsletter

*Love one another*  
as I have loved you.  
John 15:12