

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

January 2022

www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

Every December, Google puts out a video summarizing the most-searched-for phrases on their search engine that year. They organize these phrases around music and videos, and what results is always a three-minute encapsulation of the way something as dry and unassuming as statistics on searches can wrench out the emotions of everything we've felt over the last twelve months. You find yourself awash in meaning and swept up in the story of who we became together over a year, marveling at how your thoughts and your wonderings were part of the world's thoughts and wonderings, reflected back at you by a search engine and some very skilled editorial decisions.

That's the power of story. It would be very easy to look at life as just a series of unrelated days where something happens, but it's not connected to anything else. But when we start drawing connections, and seeing themes, then suddenly those ordinary moments get imbued with meaning. When we place ourselves in the story of scripture, the meaning our lives get becomes tied to who God is and what God is doing in and through us. We are part of a story that is the ultimate meaning—God's own story.

What was your story last year? What was the story of this congregation? I would say our story was one of the enduring hope that Christ gives us, even in the most challenging of times. Let's face it, we experienced a lot of hard stuff this past year. We grappled with a pandemic. We lost deeply beloved church family members. We struggled mightily with technology and helping our community and navigating age-old traditions under completely new circumstances.

But we also persevered with God's help. We kept trying when the ways we could gather had to be adjusted for everyone's safety. We adapted to the challenges of our traditions being changed by variants. We got shots, wore masks, wrote letters, made phone calls, gave generously, and at the end of the year we got together in the darkness, held up our candles, and sang "Silent Night" to herald the coming of Jesus into the world. God carried us through this year.

Now, what story do we want to have this coming year? How do we want to lean into God's call to be part of the new thing that is happening? What partnerships does our congregation need to rekindle? What hope do we need to shine for our community? What mercy do we need to lead the way on so the whole world can see that the Church will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in? How can reconnecting ourselves to each other define our story this year?

I hope you'll name the story you hope we tell about who God is and how God is still leading this congregation, because I'm eager to be part of it.

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.

**January 23, February 27, April 16 (Vigil),
May 15, June 19, July 17, August 14**

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

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2021

Call Meeting to Order: President Randy Winger at 7:05 PM

Attending: Sharon Seibel, Debbi Pittman, Randy Winger, Jill Rosenberry, Mary Straub, Pastor Lucas, Bob Winger,

Lanette Place, Ann Young, Patricia Peterson, Dan Place

Absent: Gabe Feuerhelm

Opening Devotions: Randy Winger Luke 23:26-43 Forgiveness

New Business:

1. **December Money counters:** Randy & Gabe

2. **January Devotions:** Lanette

3. **Budget for 2022**

We will vote on the budget during the January 2022 council meeting.

Upgrade printer to color

Our 5-year lease is up on the printer. A new 5-year lease with a new black & white printer would be \$3 more a month.

EZ rate (\$199.31) is \$73.50 more a month with a new printer. We would get unlimited black & white and color copies.

Pastor Lucas made the motion to go with the EZ rate plan with a new color printer for 60 months.

Dan 2nd MC

OSLC Annual Meeting will be February 20, 2022

Patricia will send out the reports to members by the end of January/beginning of February.

Old Business:

Feedback regarding Pastor's Leave of Absence letter

Letter was mailed/emailed November 4, 2021. No feedback from members.

Rehoming VHS Tape Library

A posting has been in the newsletter for the last two months asking for suggestions about what to do with the old VHS tapes-many are children's movies.

A few were home movies of previous pastor's or members' parties. They are stored in the record's room.

We will put in the bulletin that if anyone would like to take the VHS tapes, they may do so. Otherwise they will be recycled in January.

Worship Service Technology

Brick house music has put in the new sound board. In order to run the livestream and the screens during church

service, we need two monitors and laptops. Room needs to be made in order to have tables set up for it.

Bob made a motion to allow the property committee to remove 2 choir pews in order to fit the new sound system. They can try to salvage the pews by using them to replace any other pews. Those not needed can be auctioned or sold. Pastor Lucas 2nd. MC

Brickhouse will work on the camera that needs to be hard-wired.

Brickhouse Sound Upgrades-

Lapel mics are working, but need to be powered down after each use in order to save the battery life.

Those not using a lapel mic can use the pulpit. Try to speak toward the microphone.

Member's offer for funeral assistance expense fund

A generous family has offered to assist families in need to help pay for some of their funeral costs.

We will seek out more information on this, including how much, the time limit, and how they would want it publicized.

Secretary's Report- Bob made a motion to accept as written. Patricia 2nd. MC Bob made a motion to amend the wording about the funeral fund. Dan 2nd MC

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Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report-

Designated Account \$30,631.49

General Account -\$732.09

Money Market \$74,002.07

Total: \$103,901.47

This shows a negative balance in the general account, but since then, deposits were made and no longer negative.

(never was negative at the bank)

Dan made a motion to accept the report as written. Bob 2nd. MC

Pastor's report- On file. Pastor starts out each confirmation class with a quiz bowl. Students are doing well-learning and remembering their lessons.

Pastor Lucas would like us to reflect on these questions:

What is Our Savior's known for in the community? Does what you hear from others match who we believe God is calling us to be for the community?

What gifts and talents has God given us to serve others? How are we uniquely called to serve others as a congregation?

What is one thing you want to see our congregation focus on as our mission in Christ in this coming year?

Youth Report- Events

- **Silent Auction- December 12-19**
- **Christmas Caroling – December 15**
- **Candy & Cookie Walk- December 18-19**
- **Cinnamon Roll Sunday-January 2**
- **Fundraiser at Country Fit-January 30**

We want to look into being a member of the Chamber of Commerce to become more community involved.

Ann made a motion to accept the Youth Report. Lanette 2nd MC

Committee Reports-

The Endowment Committee has given out three scholarships to students going to college.

Conflict Detection- Looking into adding back some of the things that were changed in service, such as possibly standing during the Opening Hymn and the Pastor greeting worshipers as they exit.

Adjourn- Motion made to adjourn by Lanette, 2nd by Lucas. MC

Closing Prayer

Next Council Meeting January 4th, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Rosenberry



A Christmas Message

During the holiday season, we extend a warm welcome to our members, their visiting families and friends, and to all our guests joining us in person or virtually.

No matter where you live, how frequently you attend services or where your religious roots are, your donations during the holiday season to this congregation are needed and greatly appreciated.

We offer convenient eGiving options that help you make donations on a one-time or recurring basis,

including texting your donation to 833-506-0632 then following the instructions on your phone, or online at oursaviorschurch.info under the "give" tab.

We highly recommend this method of giving for anyone who wishes to support the church. We also welcome mailing or bringing your donation to the church.

Thank you for your generosity, and Merry
Christmas from all of us!



Puzzle & VHS Tape Library: Our VHS Tape Library will be donated soon. If anyone is interested in these tapes for your own use, please contact the church office, as they are available for the taking. We have found a couple charities and recycle organizations that will accept used tapes. After February 1, 2022, any remaining tapes will be removed from the church and donated to one of these charities.

2022 Ellsworth Health & Preferred Living combined Schedule for Our Savior's

Wednesday January 19th
1:30pm Preferred Senior Living
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

Wednesday March 16th
1:30pm Preferred Senior Living
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

Wednesday May 18th
1:30pm Preferred Senior Living
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

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

Wednesday October 26th
1:30pm Preferred Senior Living
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

Wednesday December 28th
1:30pm Preferred Senior Living
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services



FAIR TRADE COFFEE:

We have just received a new shipment of Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee in regular grind and whole bean. Also we are trying their new products of organic semi-sweet chocolate chips for your holiday baking and herbal tea of ginger and turmeric. These items will be in the basement for sale.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Men in Mission will have a breakfast meeting on Saturday morning, January 15th at 8 :00am.



MIM OYSTER STEW/SOUP DINNER: Will be January 16th. Church will be 1 hour later, starting at 10:00am. The oyster stew/soup dinner will immediately follow church and continue until all are served. Oyster stew, chili, and vegetable beef and chicken wild rice soups. Containers will be available so you can take some home. Your generous donations will go to the MIM's Luther Point Bible Camp Fund. The MIM pays one half of the registration cost of all youth attending Luther Point Bible camp. Thank you!

THANK YOU



Thank You! to everyone that contributed to our Candy/Cookie Walk - we had the best year ever. Your support in our fundraising is so important in keeping these projects going and we appreciate it. Special thanks to Clair and Audrey for their help and Carolyn for all the hours at my house making candy. Thanks again, Donna & Patricia

Special thanks to Santa and his elf for making their appearance and reading a story. The children were so excited! You made the day very special for them. Thanks again.

Thank You from Our Savior's:

Thank you to Leah Frandsen for all her time and talent decorating the church for Christmas. It always looks so beautiful!

Thank you to Keith Lundstrom for sharing his knowledge & expertise by helping us figure-out and set-up the livestream.

Thank you for your recent gift of \$100.00. It will be used to help students participate in our immersion trip to Pine Ridge Reservation next March. Journey House Campus Ministry.

We would like to thank you for the recent gift of \$100.00 to our organization. This will help us reduce hunger and provide access to healthy food across Pierce Country. Heidi Albarado, Pierce County Food Pantry Coordinator.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guilds: Lanette Place Pauline Laughnan Money Counters: Randy Winger Lanette Place						1 Happy New Year!
2 Cinnamon Rolls 9am Live Stream Worship 9am In-person 10am Fellowship Hour No SS Hour	3	4 7pm Council Meeting	5 7-8pm Confirmation	6	7	8
9 9am Live Stream Worship 9am In-person 10am Fellowship Hour 9:45am SS Hour	10	11	12 7-8pm Confirmation	13	14	15 8am MIM Breakfast Meeting
16 10 am Live Stream Worship 10 am In-person 11 am Oyster Stew/Soup Dinner No SS Hour	17	18	19 4-5:30pm SOS Kids Crew 7-8pm Confirmation	20	21	22
23 9am Live Stream Worship 9 am In-person 10am Fellowship Hour 9:45am SS hour	24	25	26 8:30am Quilting 7-8pm Confirmation	27	28	29
30 9am Live Stream Worship 9 am In-person 10am Fellowship Hour No SS hour	31					

January Assist. Minister: Jan. 2 - Rhoda, Jan. 9 - Donald, Jan. 16 - Ann, Jan. 23 - Tom, Jan. 30 - Lanette

In Need of Prayer!



Ray Carlson, Ian Peterson, Dianne Hedrick, Sharon Dingrando, Peggy Roach, Elee, Carol Lewis, Ashley Hinrichs, Dylan, Larry Young, Eldon Schellfeffer, Mary Jo Bjork, Jim Hauschildt, Calvin Boe, Shirley Nickel, Della Larson, Mark Kiefer, Tom Dachel, Anna Walentowski, and Kristen Anderson.

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

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