

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

January 2024

www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

After all the buildup toward Christmas last month, it might seem like something is missing now. That joy and hope and anticipation of Jesus's coming is let out. But that's not the end of it! If you've ever been told by a pastor with too much time on his hands that the wise men shouldn't be in your nativity scene on Christmas Eve, then you probably also have heard about the celebration of Epiphany. It's the day that we conclude the Christmas season, and it's also the day that we remember the coming of the wise men (the "magi") to Jesus's home to give him gifts. But have you ever thought about those gifts? Gold? Frankincense? Myrrh? Why those gifts in particular? Turns out, they each have a something symbolic to say about Jesus and his earthly ministry.

Gold, of course, is the metal of kings and queens. When the magi gave Jesus gold, it was their proclamation that he is king. And we celebrate on Epiphany that Jesus is revealed as king—but a very different kind of king than the ones we might know. He doesn't have a diamond-studded scepter, or a vast army, or a crowd of yes-men who do his every bidding. Instead, we see Jesus the King as a king born in a nowhere town, to obscure parents, and seemingly never really doing anything kingly. Rather, he serves, and loves, and heals, and teaches—a different kind of king, gifted with gold.

And frankincense. If you're like me, for the longest time I always thought of Frankenstein whenever this word was used! But frankincense is not a reanimated body sent to spook us on dark nights, but instead it's a resin, like a hardened sap, like if you left your maple syrup cooking for waaaaay too long and it nearly turned into rocks. Frankincense is the original incense, and incense was used in worship for the longest time. Its sweet smell, rising as plumes from a censor or a brazier, were integral parts of how people prayed. So when the magi gave Jesus frankincense, they were honoring his role as our high priest, who leads us in worship of God.

But myrrh. What is myrrh? Like frankincense, myrrh is also a resin. But while it had a lot of different uses in the ancient world (it was a medicine and used as incense in worship), it has one specific named use in the entire New Testament. It is one of the spices used to anoint Jesus's body at his burial. What an odd thing to give to a baby! But this gift reminds us that, even when he was born, Jesus was on a collision course with the world, and that would end in his death. It's a spice that symbolized Jesus's destiny to die on a cross. And the magi prefigured this by giving him such a strange gift when he was young.

There was meaning behind each of those three gifts that the magi brought. They symbolized Jesus's role as king, heir to the throne of David; high priest, made to be the connection between us and God; and sacrifice, dying for our sake to take away the sin of the world. We could go on and on about the other lessons of Epiphany, but for now let's stick with this one. And the next time you hear those gifts named, remember why the magi presented these ones in particular, and ponder in your heart what it means that even in his infancy, this is who Jesus is.

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 14th, February 11th, March 30th

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

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2023

Call Meeting to Order: President Tim Wiff at 7:03 PM.

Attending: Debbi Pittman, Jill Rosenberry, Pastor Lucas, Lanette Place, Donna Constant, Ron Halverson, Mike Rehbein, Tim Wiff, Audrey Severson, Ann Young, Patricia Peterson, John Traun

Absent: Mark Jensen

Opening Devotions: Pastor Lucas lead a discussion of Traditions: Treasures new and old; Matthew chapter 13: 54-

New Business:

- **Approve Agenda:** Lanette made a motion, seconded by John to approve the December 5, 2023 agenda. M/C
- **Money Counters & Tech Asst: Dec.** Audrey & Lanette **January-** Donna & Patricia
- **2024 Budget:** The council went through each line. We will finalize the budget in January and vote on it.

New Business for January: Look into having some Wellness opportunities for church members such as CPR classes or quarterly blood pressure checks.

Old Business:

Light up the Fair workers: We are good for the first weekend for workers. We will need more the second weekend. A few council members said they would plan to help. The youth were asked to help, since they were going to get a share of the donations, but no youth have signed up.

Donna made a motion, seconded by John, that the funds will now be determined by who works during the event. If no youth help during the event, the funds will all go toward the fuel bill. M/C

Secretary's Report-

Patricia made a motion, seconded by Donna, to approve the November 7, 2023 council meeting minutes as presented by Jill. M/C

Treasurer's Report-

Designated Account	\$42,883.39
General Account	\$1,130.35
Money Market	\$137,045.66
Total	\$181,029.40

It was noted that several large donations were made in November, so the fuel bill has been paid back to the loan from the general fund. Our contribution to the Synod Mission Support (Benevolence) has also been paid.

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

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Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

Pastor's report- Pastor Lucas highlighted a number of events from the month of November. **Pastor gave a shout-out to the altar guild ladies as they had to change the paraments three different times.** It was noted there has been a good turn-out for the Coffee and Conversation sessions. Pastor Lucas' full report is on file. John made a motion, seconded by Lanette to accept the Pastor's report as presented. M/C

Youth Report- Patricia provided a printed report highlighting upcoming events. The Candy Walk will be on December 9. The youth and congregation are invited to go Christmas Caroling on December 13. Santa will visit the children after the Sunday School program. The full Youth Report is on file. John made a motion, seconded by Audrey to approve the youth report as presented by Patricia. M/C

Committee Reports-

Worship Committee: Christmas Eve services will be at 9 am and 4 pm. There will be no Christmas Day service.

Property Committee: Bushes have been removed from the front of the church. They will be replaced next spring with some kind of shrubs.

Sunshine Crew: They will pack meals for 18 families for the holiday season. They will also deliver cookie boxes to those home alone.

Ballfield: The last septic inspection has been passed. They are just about ready to add fixtures and cabinets.

Conflict Detection-

The microphone interference may be resolved with the cancellation of the old internet service. The Live Stream conflict may be resolved as well with the transfer of the internet service.

Our church was not listed in the new phone book, possibly due to switching from AT&T to Swift Current.

Adjourn- Pastor Lucas made a motion, seconded by Lanette, to adjourn. M/C 8:54pm

Closing Prayer-The Lord's Prayer

Next Council Meeting: January 2, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Rosenberry

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE



MIM OYSTER STEW/SOUP DINNER:

The Annual Men In Mission Oyster Stew/Soup Dinner is set for January 28th, 2024. We will have oyster stew, chili, chicken wild-rice soup and Fair soup (vegetable beef). CHURCH WILL BE ONE HOUR LATER, STARTING AT 10:00am. We will serve immediately following church until all are fed. Take-outs will be available. Thank you to Thrivent for \$250 to HELP pay for the oysters. Your generous donations will help pay for the rest! Put it on your calendars and tell your friends!

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

January 24th, March 27th,

May 22nd, August 28th, November 13th



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: The Pierce County Food Pantry continues to need certain items.

For the month of **January**; we will be collecting;

Canned Vegetables, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, Canned Fruit, and Ramen Noodles.

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.

Stewardship Focus – Care of Talents

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

During the months of November & December we are acknowledging many of our God given gifts and talents. Take note of the overhead screens during the offering collection of our worship services.

Let's all be thankful & celebrate the vast talents & gifts that

God has blessed us with.

Our Savior's Candy Walk FUNDRAISER

Thank You! to everyone that contributed to The Candy Walk. We had the best year yet. Your support is helping raise money for the College Kits, and the Our Savior's Ball Field.

We appreciate it!

Special thanks to Clair, Audrey and Carolyn for their help and all those that spent hours at Donna's house making candy.

Special thanks to Santa for coming to the Christmas Program. You made the day very special for the kids. Thanks again, Donna & Patricia

Thank You to all that donated brownies and volunteered their time to help us make the Lightning of the Fair a great Community Event.

Thank You for all that have donated a light bulb in Memory or in Honor of their loved one/s. This fundraiser generated another \$850.00 to the Park Project.

These events wouldn't be possible without all of your help and support.



Thank you for your generosity. Your gift of \$1,000.00 to Feed My Starving Children is providing 3,448 MannaPack meals to those around the world who need it most. Mark Crea, Executive Director/CEO

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35

Dear friends at Our Savior's Lutheran, Thank you for choosing Our Neighbors' Place to receive funds from your Fairstand and the Lutefisk supper. We really appreciate it! We are working hard to support the many in Pierce and St. Croix Counties who are struggling to meet their basic needs. With gratitude Shelly Smith ONP Director

Assistance & Resource Center: ARC is very grateful for your recent generous donation! Many households find themselves in often unexpected financial shortfalls due to illness, injury, job loss, car repair bills, etc. These dollars will bring much needed relief from those stresses as families move forward to get back on their feet. Thank you! Sharon Schulze, ARC Board Chair

Thank you for another wonderful year at Luther Point Bible Camp! Without your partnership we wouldn't be able to be "Forming Faith, Pointing to Christ" in all we do. In the past year we have welcomed thousands of people to experience the beauty of Luther Point Campus. Lives were changed and the spirit worked in all areas of our ministry. We are wishing you a Happy Holiday Season and look forward to all God has in store for Luther Point in 2024. LPBC Board and Staff.

Dear Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Thank you for your \$250.00 donation to the Ellsworth Senior Center. Your gift is sincerely appreciated and will be put to good use. It is through gifts like your that we are able to continue to serve the community by providing a friendly safe atmosphere where adults age 50 and above may engage in recreational, social and educational activities. Sincerely Janelle Braund, Senior Center Director.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

We were able to get all the gifts purchased for the four families we adopted, with some money left over to donate to the gift box program for some families that had not been adopted yet.

The confirmation students wrapped the ones that needed wrapping on Wednesday night. We have them all bagged up and ready to deliver. What a blessing it is to be able to make Christmas merry and bright for these families. May they feel the love that came to us through the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Christmas Blessings to all!

The Evangelism committee Pauline, Heather, and Darlene

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guilds: Pauline Laughnan Lanette Place Money Counters/ Tech Assistants: Patricia Peterson Donna Constant	1	2 7pm Council Meeting	3 No Confirmation	4	5	6
7 Cinnamon Roll Sunday 9am Worship/Livestream Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	8	9	10 7-8pm Confirmation	11	12	13
14 Baptism 9am Worship/Livestream No Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	15	16	17 4-5:30pm S.O.S. Kids Crew 5:30-6:30pm Family Meal 7-8pm Confirmation	18	19	20 8am Men in Mission Meeting
21 9am Worship/Livestream Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	22	23	24 1:30pm Preferred Senior Living Service 2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services 7-8pm Confirmation	25	26	27
28 10am Worship/Livestream No Sunday School Hour 11am Fellowship Hour Oyster Stew & Soup Dinner	29	30	31 8:30am Quilting 6-7pm Youth Night Bingo at the Ellsworth Health Services			

	Greeter's/Ushers	Tech Assistant	Acolyte	Reader	Bell Ringer	Communion Server	Assisting Minister
Jan. 7th 9:00am	Barry, Becky & Brian Johnson	Eli Stockwell Patricia Peterson	Grayson Jensen Nora Christopherson	Rhoda Foley	Roger Laughnan	Becky Johnson	Tom Holdorf
Jan. 14th 9:00am	Bruce & Lanette Place	Chase Unser Donna Constant	Karli Foley/Nelson Ada Erlandson	Michael Chisholm	Roger Laughnan	Audrey Severson	Rhoda Foley
Jan. 21st 9:00am	Tim & Jodi Wiff	Aubrey Minder Patricia Peterson	Megan Peterson Brady Peterson	Kay Berg	Roger Laughnan	Pauline Laughnan	Donald Rosenberry
Jan. 28th 10:00am	Rhoda Foley	Luke Lundstrom Donna Constant	Jake Knight Matthew Lundstrom	Tim Wiff	Roger Laughnan	Mary Halls	Lanette Place

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;

Molly Gappa, Heather Borst Nelson, Larry Young, Dean Mewes, Fred Hoyer, John Paape, Wayne Peterson, 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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