

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

January 2025

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 exploring what Christ's work in our lives looks like. We shared in ministry together, serving the Ellsworth area and beyond. We visited, and baptized, and loved, and shared. We served our needy neighbors near and far. We did God's work together. But we also leaned on God. We experienced loss and life transitions. We experienced ways that our lives don't always go as expected. But in the midst of it, we remember God's abiding love for us.

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 19th, February 16th, April 19th, May 18th

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

December 03, 2024

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

Attending: Debbi Pittman, Pastor Lucas, Donna Constant, Ron Halverson, Mike Rehbein, Tim Wiff, Ann Young, Patricia Peterson, Sue Palmquist, Steve Straub, Audrey Severson

Absent: Mark Jensen, John Traun

Opening Devotions: Pastor Lucas, Luke Chapter 1 Advent, season of waiting, preparing the way for the Lord.

Anonymous Donation:

Patricia received a generous and anonymous donation of \$6,000 donation to be used as follows.

\$1,000 for the Sunday school fund.

\$5,000 to update the landscaping in the front of the church.

Funds leftover after landscaping, please put towards general updates needed at the church.

Patricia will post in the bulletin the work accomplished due to the generous donation.

New Business:

Budget 2025

Council, line by line proposed the 2025 budget based on what was allocated and spent in 2024 and 2023 for the annual meeting in February 2025.

Old Business:

Elevator Phone Replacement

The analog phone is no longer supported, forcing a change to a digital phone. Arrow Lift responded with a quote to replace the analog elevator phone with a digital phone. Arrow Lift's quote contains an annual VoIP service fee and an annual 24/7 phone monitoring fee that amounts to \$52.50/month. There is ongoing work to determine if there is a digital phone not needing these two services.

Secretary's Report:

Motion to approve secretary's report by Donna, Ron 2nd M/C.

Treasurer's Report:

Designated Account	\$32,949.82
General Account	\$3,842.49
Money Market	\$35,747.82
Total	\$72,540.13

The Edward Jones CDs account: \$163,685.29

Motion to approve treasurer's report by Ann, Patricia 2nd M/C.

Continued on next page....

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

Pastor's Report:

Attended the Northwest Synod All-Conference meeting. The Conferences gather to have a workshop

Attended the Boundaries Training Seminar.

Participated in the Moses Project weekly projects.

Continuing the faith tradition for two families, presided at two baptisms, Emerson Coulson, Weston Nelson.

Coffee and conversation sessions, discussion on weird stuff in the bible from RightNow Media video series.

Led confirmation lessons, Sacraments and Mental Health.

Motion to approve Pastor's report by Steve, Donna 2nd M/C.

Youth Report:

Envelope fund raiser is in progress. There are 17 envelopes donated so far.

Scripture calendars are all sold out!

Teaming up with Donna for the candy walk, helps fund the college kid's kits and gift cards.

Sam's Christmas Village event has 32 members attending, a large group.

Wed Dec 11th S.O.S. Kids Crew, Christmas caroling. Bus picks up 4:00 PM at church to carol at Preferred Living and Ellsworth Health Services. Returns at 5:30 PM for pizza and cookies.

Next week, mailing out 22 collage kids Christmas cards with gift cards.

Motion to approve youth report by Donna, Pastor 2nd M/C.

Committee Reports:

None.

Conflict Detection: none

Discussion brought up regarding looking in a contemporary style service, emphasis on music, possibly once a month.

Adjourn to closed session: 8:30 PM

Adjourn: 9:45 PM

Motion to adjourn by Steve, Donna 2nd M/C.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Next Council Meeting: January 07, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Rehbein



*“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow”*

(Isaiah 1:18)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH - 10:00 AM

JOIN US FOR A THOUGHT-PROVOKING PRESENTATION AND CONVERSATION ON THE PRESSING ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE. LET'S COME TOGETHER TO ASK QUESTIONS OF AN EXPERT AND TO SHARE IDEAS AND EXPLORE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE. DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY. REFRESHMENTS AND SNACKS WILL BE SERVED.

PRESENTED BY: DR. JAMES BOULTER

Dr. James Boulter is a professor of chemistry and chair of the department of Public Health and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. There, he teaches and collaborates with students and colleagues in research that emphasizes issues of air pollution, climate change, and sustainability.



To register for FREE:



ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BATEMAN
20588 COUNTY HIGHWAY X, CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 715.723.4231



**FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES**

WHO CAN GO?

Any student
9th-12th grade!

WHEN IS IT?

Every other
week, on
Fridays. At
6:45 am.

WHERE IS IT?

EHS Library

WHAT IS IT?

FCA is a non-denominational
Christian sports ministry
that focuses on leading
athletes into a growing
relationship with Jesus
Christ and his church.

INTERESTED?

Show up to our 1st huddle
meeting on November 8th at
6:45am to learn more! Donuts
will be provided! OR join our
← GroupMe chat using the
QR code for FCA updates!



OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! We were able to get 117 gifts purchased for the five families that we sponsored. 25 people are going to be very blessed with gifts from Our Savior's members and the Heart organization. Thank you to the confirmation students who helped us wrap the ones that needed wrapping on Wednesday, December 4th. We delivered them to the drop off point on Tuesday, December 10th. 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, Kathy, and Darlene



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

Jello & Pudding Mix, Dry Soup Mix, and Canned Soups.

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.



MIM OYSTER STEW/SOUP DINNER: Will be Sunday January 26th. 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, vegetable beef (fair) soup, chilli, and chicken wild rice soup.

Thanks to Thrivent for the Thrivent action team donation of \$250. Spread the word, see you there!

Your generous donations will go to Luther Point Bible Camp Fund. The MIM pays one half of the registration cost of all youth attending Luther Point Bible camp. Thank you! Take out is available. Thank you!



In Need of Prayer!

Alan Winberg, Herman Olson, Bob Dahm, Terryl Florcek, Dean Mewes, John Paape, Eldon Schellfeffer, and Kristen Anderson.

The men and Women that are deployed; Ian Gilby, Brady Sharon, Mathew Normand, Reuben Huppert, Kohl Flock, Wyatt Roed, Ryan Orpen and Ella Wynveen.

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.



HEART's mission is to transform communities by demonstrating God's love in practical ways.

OUR STORY

Founded in 2012, Heart Response Ministry began with a simple mission: to support local officials and organizations as they do their work in their communities during disaster recovery. Since then, HEART volunteers began to focus not just on disaster recovery, but the very real needs within our own communities.

By partnering with over 170 non-profit organizations along with city and county governments, police departments, and schools, HEART's goal is to build relationships with local organizations to meet the spiritual and physical needs of their communities.

We transform communities by getting the right goods into the right hands to distribute to the people in need that our non-profit partners serve.

Heartland Outlet serves as one of the primary funding mechanisms for HEART. The outlet is open to the public 20 hours a week carrying home improvement products, food, beverage, clothing, furniture and so much more.

Heart-Helping Others Heart was created to help those in need. Through this organization, we can shop and bid on items at significantly discounted prices. Shopping appointments are arranged for us, and purchases made go directly to those in need. We are partnering with the Ellsworth School District and Pierce County Human Services to identify families who would benefit most from this support. This is a valuable opportunity to stretch our resources and reach out to those in need. If you would like to contribute to this initiative, please designate "Heart" on your donations., or contact Donna Constant

Support Our Mission with eGiving



During the Holidays, 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.



Dear Our Savior's Lutheran Church, we would like to thank you for the recent gift of \$200.00 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

Thank you so much for all of the gifts over the years! It was always nice to receive a package (College Care Kit) from church. It definitely made me feel better on the days that I was home sick. Thanks! Nadia Thurmes

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guilds: Pauline Laughnan Lanette Place Money Counters: Tim Wiff Audrey Severson			1 Happy New Year! No Confirmation	2	3	4
5 9am Worship/Livestream No SS Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	6 10am Coffee and Conversation	7 7pm Council Meeting	8 1:30pm Preferred Living Service 2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services Service 6pm Youth Night: Bingo at the Ellsworth Health Services.	9	10	11
12 Cinnamon Roll Sunday 9am Worship/Livestream 9:15am SS Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	13	14	15 4-5:30pm S.O.S. Kids Crew 7pm Confirmation	16	17	18 8am Men in Mission Meeting
19 9am Worship/Livestream No SS hour 10am Fellowship Hour	20 10am Coffee and Conversation	21	22 7pm Confirmation	23	24	25
26 10am Worship/Livestream 10:15am SS hour 11am MIM Oyster Stew & Soup Dinner	27	28	29 8:30am Quilting 7pm Confirmation	30	31	

Annual Reports are due January 29th.

	Greeter's/Ushers	Tech Assistant	Acolyte	Reader	Bell Ringer	Assisting Minister
January 5th 9:00AM	Lori Coulson Mary Halls	Martha Allyn Tim Wiff	Hadley Coulson Lucy Feuerhelm	Kay Berg	Roger Laughnan	
January 12th 9:00AM	Clair Severson Brian Johnson	Chase Unser Audrey Severson	Brady Peterson Ben Johnson	Clair Severson	Roger Laughnan	Lanette Place
January 19th 9:00AM	Mark & Crystal Raleigh	Dusty Raleigh Tim Wiff	Eli Stockwell Wes Raleigh	Sue Palmquist	Roger Laughnan	Rhoda Foley
January 26th 10:00AM	Roger & Pauline Laughnan	Maddie Constant Audrey Severson	Wyatt Kirchner Eli Stockwell	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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