

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

March 2020

www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

I was at a workshop at Walking Together this year, and the presenter was talking about a friend of his who did Christian medical missions in central Africa. This friend was going from village to village, and each time there would be some kind of gift for her. They got to one village, and the gift was given by this boy, probably 15, who was the head of his household since both of his parents had died. The boy gave her a chicken, which was a difficult gift because what's she supposed to do with a chicken? The team told her she could donate it in the next village they visited. But then she got curious about the boy.

She asked the team about who he was and his background. He was the head of his household because AIDS had taken his father and malaria had taken his mother. And that chicken he gave her? He only had two chickens. She protested, insisting she had to give this boy his chicken back; she couldn't take that much away from him. But the team kept pushing back on it until finally one of them, a local pastor, said "What the boy understands is that he doesn't need to survive to be a Christian; but he does have to be generous."

And that story really struck me. How central do we place generosity in things that make us Christians? Early Christians considered generosity to be so important that pagans literally made fun of how stupidly naïve Christians were, giving to anyone who asked and welcoming any charlatan into their home for a meal. What that pastor said was true—we will all eventually die, but that fact doesn't make us less Christian. But are we generous? It's not that our salvation is tied to our generosity, but the entire biblical witness from cover to cover would have me think that, if we aren't generous, we'll have some serious explaining to do to the Savior on the other side of things.

That kind of thinking is scary though! So often we avoid talking about money in the church. We don't want to give off the impression that we're some money-grubbing, bean-counting organization that only values members for what they can donate, so we avoid talking about it entirely. But maybe that's because we come at it from the angle that stewardship is first and last about what we give to the church, rather than how we are generous with what God has given us.

So often, when we plan out our regular offering (if we plan it, that is) we gauge it based on how much we think the church needs and how much we can afford. But what we could learn from the early Christians—what we could learn from that boy in central Africa—is that we shouldn't really even be thinking about what the church needs when we give! Instead, our offerings are a physical piece of proof that Jesus really has affected our lives, even to the most terrifyingly powerful thing we own: our money. It proves to ourselves that we trust Jesus enough to be generous. When we sit down to plan our regular offering, maybe the question should be: how does God want me to be generous?

Maybe, if you've never been regular with your giving, that looks like dedicating five dollars a week. Or it looks like increasing your giving by half a percent this year. Or it looks like including the church in your estate planning. But the question should always come back to: how does God want you to be generous with what you have right now?

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.

April 11 (Vigil), May 10 (Mother's Day), June 21 (Father's Day), July 12, August 16, September 13, October 18, November 15, December 20.

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

Council Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2020 7 pm

Present were: Pastor Lucas, Tom, Randy, Deb, Jill, Mike, Jim, Mary, Ann, Bruce, and Dawn. The meeting was called to order by President Tom Holdorf.

Pastor led us in devotions from Matthew chapter 5.

Guest: none

New Business: A “computer internet policy” needs to be discussed mainly usage and security. Mission trip is less expensive this year. Patricia would like the church to donate \$175 for first time mission trip goers.

Old Business: “child protection policy” Tom printed off 3 samples. More discussion to follow. Pastor’s door needs a window. Is there another door in church that would fit and have a window?

Secretary’s report: Reviewed. Motion made to approve by Norris, second by Mike. Passed as written. (Dawn re-printed and changed the year at the top of the file.)

Treasurer’s report: \$29,073.18 in the designated account. \$19,310.45 is loan to general account from designated account. \$441.51 in the general account. Motion made to approve by Jim, second by Mike. BMO is closing the Ellsworth branch in April 2020. Safe deposit box is at BMO. Need to move items in safe deposit box to CCF? Or keep in church’s fire safe? Does cemetery committee have anything at BMO? Endowment committee has funds through BMO but only withdraws money once a year.

Pastor’s report: see attached. Pastor highly recommends attending “walking together” on Saturday February 22 in Eau Claire. Also, highly recommends council members attend “EPIC” on Saturday March 7.

Youth report: see attached

Committee reports: none

Conflict Detection: Facebook service needs more volume. Tractor pull has not paid OSLC. Mike will call and check. Sand is still in the water lines. Need to keep checking the filters.

Thank you Tom Holdorf for your 6 years of being council president!

Motion to adjourn made by Deb. 2nd by Norris.

Adjourned at 7:59pm. Pastor led us in Lord’s Prayer.

The next meeting will be March 3, at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Madsen.

Our Savior's Annual Meeting February 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Holdorf.

Pastor led us in prayer.

Secretary's report: Reviewed. Pete asking for council about putting cemetery records on the church web site. Cemetery committee gets calls about graves for research. There are records in file cabinet at church from Martell, Salem and Rush river churches.

Lanette said the treasurer's report should read "no way to track loose cash in offering plate back to the donor." Motion made to approve changes by Larry P, second by Barry J.

Pastor's report. Pastor reassured there are no records of any "transfers out" of being an OSLC member.

Treasurer's report: \$ 28,748.10 in the designated account. \$19,310.45 is loan to general account from designated account. \$ 3.72 in the general account. \$77,881.12 in money market account. There is a corrected financial report. 2018 lutefisk number was missing from first report. Designated account spreadsheet not correct. Did not reflect from Lutefisk 2018. Motion made to approve by Jim, second by Belinda.

Lanette and Becky from audit committee found everything to be accurate and good.

Budget for 2020. Question asked why synod was not paid. Answer. It is in the lutefisk and fair stand dispersal. Discussion thought should be an expense, but church would have to "borrow" against itself to pay it. Motion to approve budget Jim, second by Deb.

Endowment committee, Gina, read off 2020 dispersals. Correction. Should be BMO not M&I bank. BMO is closing Ellsworth branch in April 2020. Claire said the camp scholarship and LPBC account is technically the same. Larry made motion to approve, second by Rhoda.

Dispersal of Lutefisk and Fair proceeds. Some funds were not dispersed last year. Synod reduction is for pastor collect tuition reduction.

Profit is up, thanks to donation for hamburger and pies helped reduce fair costs. Suggestion to market more about the "proceeds to outreach mission" on the fair stand food concession list. Motion to approve Bruce, second by Brian.

Nominating committee. Added person to education committee because there is not a superintendent. More hand less work. Terms are from February to February due to when annual meeting in February. Motion to close nominations and approve all nomination by Larry, second by Belinda.

Old Business: Jim has called Pierce Pepin to do audit on church's solar system. There is no battery backup, so need to make sure there is no power going back into the system. Jim will put the report on the church's web site when available.

Constitution changes came from the synod. There are 11 pages. Motion to approve by Rhoda, second by Audrey S.

Continued on next page....

Our Savior's Annual Meeting

February 9, 2020

New Business: Budget. Pete handed out a sheet. Figures were broke down of annual expenses, divided by week, divided by 128 weekly contributors. \$23.31 is needed by each contributor. The breakdown is listed on next page. Suggestions were made by Belinda and Audrey Severson to put this information on tv screens, newsletter, and mail letter to congregation.

Contribution to synod is based on church's budget not member count. LPBC donation is based on member count. Pastor said "member" is any baptized member. Confirmation members are voting members. No record of number of "households".

Bruce said a new well is desperately needed. When the state found nitrates in OSLC water, then you have 3 years to solve the problem, so in 2022, the well needs to be fixed. The septic and well funds will be combined. Need to get estimates to get public information of costs.

OSLC hasn't seen funds from the tractor pull. \$1,200 is expected, and will be put into the general account. OSLC will be doing tractor pull beer sales in 2020. Mike will call and ask about the funds. OSLC has plans to get sales from can cozies and ear plugs.

MIM report. Claire said the "oyster stew" money is going for startup expenses for the LPBC mission trip expenses.

Property committee has plans to help support the mission trip. LPBC sewer system is desperately needed to be repaired.

Donna said she sent out letters and has received \$8,000 for the water and septic at the ball park.

Motion to adjourn made by Larry, second by Mary.

Adjourned at 10:59 am

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Madsen.

This was presented at the Annual Meeting by one of the congregation members. This is a breakdown of the proposed budget compared to what was contributed offerings last year by Our Savior's Members. As it states it would take an additional .96 cents from last years contributing members to balance the 2020 Budget. By the numbers the member came up with 2 goals. The member would like to see this accomplished by presenting all members this information.

1. A Balanced Budget in 2020
2. More Contributing Members over 50%

Last year we showed 128 Contributing Members with a church membership of a little of 300. That is about 42% of contributing members.

1 Proposed Budget

Breaking down the problem (divide budget by 52 weeks)

\$155, 138.74 divide by 52 = \$2,983.44 Per Week

Comparison to last year's expenditures

\$148,782.41 divide by 52 = \$2,861.21

Divide weekly number by the number of contributors: 128

Proposed 2020

2019 Expenses

\$2,983.44 Divide by 128 = \$23.31

\$2,861.21 Divide by 128 = \$22.35

The Difference weekly contributors of 2019 Expenses and 2020 Proposed budget

2020 Proposed \$23.31

2019 Expenses \$22.35

\$0.96 (the 128 weekly contributors need to add this amount per week or have 128 more contributing members add this to their giving, to meet the budget.)

With **165 non-contributing members** as things stand. We need to get word to all members how little it would take to balance the church budget.

FIN Summary / February 2020

In June 2019, a group of Our Savior's Lutheran church members joined together to attend three workshops organized by our synod, called Faith Innovation Network (FIN). The FIN crew from Our Saviors includes: McKenna Minder, Kathy Young, Bruce and Lanette Place, Pastor Lucas and Mike Allyn (Mike replaced Stacy Hansen).

The main objective of FIN is to determine "what God is really up to, what he is saying to us concerning our church and our outside community, and how we can join in His work".

First assignment - **Listening**: we conducted "one on one" conversations with members and neighbors of Our Saviors. Here were the main themes.

What are your concerns?

Declining worship attendance and church memberships.

Financial concerns for the church.

Traditional versus contemporary worship, especially relating to music.

Aging church membership/attendance.

How has faith played a role in your life, and how have you sensed God in your life?

Out in God's beautiful nature.

Music.

While ill, struggling, and even in death.

What are your life's challenges, accomplishments and worries?

Changes in small farms in the past decades.

Fewer church members living close-by as in past years.

Life is very busy.

Second assignment – **Experiment** with ways to reach out to people to show God's presence in the world.

Delivering lunches to local farmers during harvest season:

Church members wrote messages of "thanks" on the lunch bags.

Sunday School children drew pictures on the bags.

Members gathered after worship service to prepare and pack the bag lunch.

Recipients were very touched by our act of kindness. Later, the church received some notes of thanks and monetary donations.

We hope to continue this act of kindness, even expanding it to include spring planting.

Reaching out through social media - Beginning in October 2019, we began live streaming our worship service on our Facebook page. This has become appreciated by many members & non-members alike who are unable to make it to worship services.

We continue to see an increase in the number of views and positive comments we receive on our FB page. Currently reaching 250 views per week.

We hope to continue providing this service with plans to purchase a church owned cell phone and setting up a schedule for church members to assist with this task.

Third assignment - **Continue to experiment** with other ways we can spread God's love.

We are applying to the Synod for a technology grant to enhance our live streaming process.

We welcome any of our members to join us in our initiative to reach out to the community through other programs.

Please contact anyone of the FIN committee members with ideas or willingness to help.

In Peace and Love,
Your FIN Crew

Men In Mission Notes

February 15th, 2020

After breakfast made by Gene and served by Donna, Mark Hall led us in devotions.

The business meeting was called to order by President. Lemoine Baker.

The secretary's report was read. There was a correction from last month. The Candy walk made \$1,420. \$500 went to the College Kits, and the remainder went to the church to pay off bills. The secretary's report was approved.

Chuck C. reported that we have \$4,432 in the Luther Point Bible Camp fund, \$2,949 in the fair stand fund, and \$2,238 in the general fund. We made \$648 at the Oyster Stew/Soup dinner which was sent to Luther Point as start-up money for this summer's sponsored mission trip. The treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business: Donna reported that she has mailed over 500 letters to area businesses and her clients for ballpark/septic donations and has received \$8,000 so far.

There was some discussion on whether the ballpark bathroom should be open to the community or just be available for ballpark use. There are pros and cons to this but we seemed to agree that it should be open, hoping that there would be no vandalism. Peter Falde recommended that we write down our proposed ballpark bathroom concerns and forward them to the council so that we are all on the same page.

Pete F. has cut some trees at the ballpark and indicated that were about three trees left to fell.

Donna mentioned that the church insurance company would like to see the playground at the ballpark covered with mulch. We feel there is less chance of injury with the sand we have there than with mulch. Donna will talk with Randy Winger to see if he could check back with the insurance company.

New Business: Tom Holdorf will be taking over the MIM treasurer's position. A BIG THANK YOU to Chuck Christopherson for over ten years of service.

There was some discussion about moving the date for the oyster stew/soup dinner to the Sunday after New Year's Day. We will move on that latter.

A tentative date of May 17th was set for the MIM pancake breakfast. This date is pending on the date set for the spring "God's Work Our Hands" as we would like to coordinate it with them as we did last year. Clair Will apply for the Thrivent Action Team (TAT) as before.

Donna expressed her enthusiasm for next winter's "Candy walk". There will be much more for families. There will be a Santa Clause and Misses Claus. The children can make cookies and Christmas ornaments. Sue Peterson will tell the kids about the meaning of Christmas and there may be a sleigh ride.


MIM will serve coffee on March 15th and April 19th.

Donna will serve breakfast at the next MIM meeting on April 18th.

The meeting was adjourned, 9 members present.

Minutes respectfully submitted by secretary Clair Severson.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE

 **BACKPACKS FOR THE WEEKEND:** For the month of March we will be collecting macaroni and cheese and also canned Chef-Boyardee, meat and noodle products for the backpacks. The coffee can is also there if you prefer to give a monetary donation. Thanks for your continued support. The coffee can in the grocery cart is also available if you want to give a monetary donation. That money is also used for purchasing food for the backpacks. Thank You! Heather Johnson, Pauline Laughnan, and Sharon Peterson

UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 Atrium Post Acute Care & Preferred Living combined Schedule for Our Savior's

Wednesday September 9th

1:30pm Preferred Living
2:30pm Atrium Senior Living

Wednesday May 20th

1:30pm Preferred Living
2:30pm Atrium Senior Living

Wednesday December 9th

1:30pm Preferred Living
2:30pm Atrium Senior Living



WELCA will be selling Easter Lilies. Sign-up forms will be in the narthex. Lilies can be bought in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please order by Sunday, March 29.

2020 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

BUILDING A BIGGER TABLE

MAY 16TH 2020
TRINITY LUTHERAN,
EAU CLAIRE

THANK YOU

There are not enough words to express our heartfelt thanks for the love, support, and prayers you have extended to our family during this time of loss. It's a true blessing to have a church family.
The family of Seth Mercord



Thank You to everyone for coming and bringing all the beautiful, scrumptious food. We had \$200 in donations to go toward the septic system. Thank you to Dawn for all the photos, watch for them on the website. Dave Radatz found the gold coin in his King's Cake so he was the king for the day. We had several tables of euchre in the blue chair room while the Sunday School kids played games, coloring, decorated masks in the dining hall. Thank You to the Education Committee for running that. Leslie Young helped with the set up on Thursday and did the face painting on Sunday. Big thank you to the kitchen/furnace room help before, during, and after the Bash. Bingo was a suggestion for next year, if anyone is interested in running that let us know, we are always open for new ideas. It was another great day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Evangelism Committee: Heather Johnson, Pauline Laughnan, and Sharon Peterson



In Need of Prayer

Jeremy Anderson, Lilli Graf, Tom Springette, Julie Mazac, Ann Siebenaler, Gary Johnson, Gerald Place, Laura Kemmerer, Anna Walentowski, Michele Klennert, Betty Davidson, Alan Nelson, Zachery Caterer, and Kristen Anderson.
If you know of anyone that should be on our prayer list please contact the office.



Scrapbooking and Crafting Retreats

**Luther Point Bible Camp
Scrapbooking and Crafting Retreats**

Join us in our adult retreat center for a time set aside
to scrapbook and craft.

March 26-29, 2020, April 2-5, 2020

www.lutherpoint.org

*Audrey Severson will be going, if anyone would like to car pool with her.

Rates:

2 nights, 4 meals (2 brunches and 2 suppers) \$120

3 nights, 6 meals (3 brunches and 3 suppers) \$140

\$20 discount if attending two weeks in a row

(You can leave your crafting supplies here if coming 2 weeks in a row)

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guild Audrey Severson Bev Radkey	Money Counters Norris Berg Randy Winger					
1 9am Worship 10am Fellowship No SS Hour	2	3 7pm Council Meeting	4 5:30pm Lent Supper 6:30pm Worship	5	6	7
8 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10:15am SS Hour	9 4pm Women's Bible Study	10	11 5:30pm Lent Supper 6:30pm Worship	12	13	14
15 9am Worship 10am Fellowship No SS Hour	16	17	18 4-5:30pm SOS Kids Crew 5:30pm Lent Supper 6:30pm Worship	19	20	21
22 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10:15am SS Hour	23	24	25 8:30am Quilting 5:30pm Lent Supper 6:30pm Worship	26	27	28
29 9am Worship 10am Fellowship No SS Hour 11am-1pm Pool Party	30	31		Luther Point Scrapbook and Crafting Retreat		

March 2020

	Greeters	Ushers	Acolyte	Reader	Bell Ringer	Communion Server
Mar. 1 9:00 am	Leslie/Mike Young Fam.	Brad Taplin/Pam Hines Katie/Mike Allyn Family	Trinity Wilkens Morgan Kolodzienski	Kay Berg	Bruce Place	Lanette Place
Mar. 8 9:00 am	Renee/Cory Johnson	Chuck Chris./Tom Holdorf Lori Coulson Family	Derek Johnson Anthony Madsen	Peggy Hoyer	Shane Johnson	Gene Ostendorf Rhoda Foley
Mar. 15 9:00 am	Brenda/Bob Winger	Patricia/Casey Peterson Randy/Nate Winger	Madison Peterson Juliana Winger	Brad Taplin	Desi Peterson	Peggy Hoyer Ann Young
Mar. 22 9:00 am	Arianne/John Halverson	Bridget/Adam Peterson Dawn/Brian Madsen	Dayah Halverson Andi Peterson	Amy Parmeter	Parker Peterson	Dawn Madsen Lanette Place
Mar. 29 9:00 am	Gayle Knight Family	Pauline/Roger Laughnan Leah/Paul Frandsen	Alex Knight Luke Knight	Sue Palmquist	Paul Frandsen	Becky Johnson Tom Holdorf

Assisting Minister: March 1st - Lanette, 8th - Rhoda, 15th - Ann, 22nd - Lanette, 29th - Tom

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.

Instructions for ministry positions are posted in the narthex. If you have any questions, please call Rhoda Foley at 273-4865 or Pastor at 273-4570.