

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

March 2024

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[www.oursaviorschurch.info](http://www.oursaviorschurch.info)

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

At a workshop at this year's Synod event Walking Together, the question was raised about a phrase I think we all are fond of: "All Are Welcome." It's a lovely phrase that, when we look at it, sounds like we are extending a welcome to anyone and everyone who wants to come. Our doors are open. When we use it as a church, we are saying that you don't have to be perfect to come worship; you don't have to be flawless before you can serve God. All are welcome.

But that's not always what many people hear. Some people have experienced churches that claim "all are welcome," and have regularly experienced the footnote to that phrase: "as long as you're willing to become like us." Now, we may not intend for that, and we may not even feel that way. It may even make you upset reading this, because it sounds like you're being unfairly accused of judging others. But, and this is important, it's not really about you.

There are enough churches that have used the phrase "all are welcome" while not mentioning the footnote that when certain groups of people (especially LGBTQ+, but others as well) are suspicious. They've seen this wording before. And they've been rejected. They've been told to change who they are. They've seen the stares that tell them to leave. They've been told they're not worthy—whether in words or by the excluding behavior of the congregation. It's a phrase that has become, unfortunately, loaded with subtext that can only be disproven to people who have experienced rejection if they're willing to risk experiencing rejection again. So what can we do? How can we counter that footnote that we don't want to be there?

The simple answer is be explicit. Who do you welcome? Who is included? Who do we know who reads that phrase and immediately doubts it? We have to have the bravery to name the people we welcome, because if we don't, then the footnote sticks around for exactly the people we want to welcome. And that's the challenging part. Because when we start getting specific, that's when we start getting into trouble.

But Jesus was specific, wasn't he? He went to the cross to save all lives, but he explicitly named whose lives were being saved because they had always been told they weren't saved: prostitutes, tax collectors, sinners of all kinds. He named the Samaritans and the Gentiles as worthy of salvation, even though such a proclamation would win him enemies among his fellow Jews. Specificity is dangerous, but it's also essential, because when you've always experienced being sent outside even by people who claimed you could come in, you start to assume that's where everyone stands.

So this Lent, and as we continue to serve this community in Jesus's name, let's think about who hears "all" and assumes they're not included, because they never are. Let's be explicit about who God loves, because some people have always been told they aren't loved. Let's be daring enough to get specific, even if it gets us into hot water, because in Christ, God calls us to be specific. God has called us by name; shouldn't we call others by name too?

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.

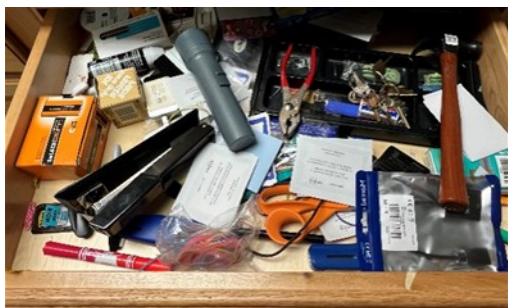
**March 30th, April 28, May 12th, June 16th, July 14th, August 11th, September 15th. October 13th, November 17th, December 15th**

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

[office.osbeldenville@gmail.com](mailto:office.osbeldenville@gmail.com), 715-273-4570

## Easter 2024 A Message from Bishop Laurie Rummaging for God

*Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!*



Does your house have a junk drawer? Do you ever find yourself going through this drawer full of stuff; feeling around looking for something that you are sure must be in there somewhere? Twist ties from bread wrappers, pens, batteries, rubber bands, nail clippers, scissors, matches, superglue, glass cleaner, coins, tiny screwdriver, ChapStick, charger cables, sticky notes... Rummaging around in your junk drawer might seem like a strange illustration for an Easter message, but I invite you to consider your memory of past life events as your junk drawer.

Think back on last year's Easter celebration. What do you remember? Rummage around in those memories to see if you can find God. You are pretty sure God is there somewhere but where? Where did you experience God last Easter? Was it in church, at the sunrise service, a sermon, a Bible reading, a hymn, an Easter egg hunt in the park, a gathering with family or friends, or a walk in the woods later that day? How did you experience God and the miracle of Christ's resurrection last Easter?

Now, think back over your lifetime, a lifetime of Easter celebrations, for me that 66 Easters. Where did you see or experience God and the power of the resurrection, God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life?

Looking back over a day, a year, a lifetime is a spiritual practice called the Examen. Essentially it is rummaging through our memories, looking for when and how God was present. The Examen is a form of daily prayer that invites us to examine our day to find God. Finding God in all things and at all times gives us the strength for that next most faithful step.

I wondered what must have been going through Mary Magdalene's mind as she walked to the tomb that first Easter morning. Was she rummaging through all the memories of her time walking with Jesus? Was she trying to remember every word Jesus said? Was she looking for a clue, some way to make sense of what happened on Friday? Where was God in all of this? How could this possibly bring in God's kingdom? She must have missed something. She saw him die. How could Jesus' death be part of God's plan?

Mary arrived at the tomb and found the stone rolled away. She didn't find what she was looking for. The body wasn't there. It still made no sense. Did someone steal his body? She knows that God is in all of this, but where? She continues to search with Peter and John and finally after they leave she enters the tomb and through her tears sees the angels and then a gardener, but not a gardener but the teacher, the risen Savior; and finally through her tears she sees God. (John 20)

*John 20:11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb.*

Look back over a day, a year, a lifetime of trips you've made to some tomb. Was it the place that held the body of loved one, a dream that had died, a relationship that ended, or a hope that had been crushed? Rummage around in those memories to find what you know is there somewhere, God. Through the tears see the angels, the messengers; the ordinary people, those who helped you and see God!

Dear Friends, I invite you to rummage through all the memories in the junk drawer of life and find God. Think back over a lifetime, a lifetime of trips to the tomb and Easter celebrations. See God and the power of the resurrection. See God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life. May seeing God in all of life give you the courage and strength to take your next most faithful step.

*Rev. Laurie M. Adams*

# Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2024

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

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

**Absent:** Patricia Peterson, Mark Jensen

**Opening Devotions:** Pastor Lucas read from Mark 9 about the Transfiguration.

## New Business:

**Approve Agenda:** Lanette made a motion, seconded by Donna to accept the meeting agenda. M/C

**Money Counters & Tech Asst: Feb.** Tim & Mike **March-** Ron & Mike

## Old Business:

**Last look at 2024 Budget proposal including Fairstand & Lutefisk Disbursements, and the Endowment**

**Committee Disbursements:** Audrey made a motion, seconded by Pastor Lucas, to approve the Lutefisk Supper and Fairstand Proposed Disbursements for 2023 and send them to the Annual Meeting for the congregation to approve.

M/C

John made a motion, seconded by Pastor Lucas, to approve the 2024 Endowment Committee disbursements, totaling \$2600. M/C

**Annual Meeting is February 18-Location:** We will have it in the Fellowship Hall with coffee and treats.

**Light up the Fair Funds:** \$1447.31 minus any other start-up costs. John made a motion, seconded by Mike, to amend a previous motion, so that the Light Up the Fair funds will be split three ways between the fuel bill, youth activities, and the ballfield fundraiser fund. M/C

The council discussed asking for suggestions from the congregation for possible organizations in which to disburse funds.

## **Secretary's Report-**

Lanette made a motion, seconded by Donna, to approve the January 2, 2024 council meeting minutes with the correction of Pastor's report was from December rather than November, as presented by Jill. M/C

## **Treasurer's Report-**

Designated Account \$64,064.60

General Account \$895.21

Money Market \$137,539.82

Total \$202,499.63

The Edward Jones CDs account: \$202,693.06.

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

**Pastor's report-** Pastor Lucas highlighted a number of events from the month of January. He assisted in the MLK ecumenical service at UCC, and they are looking into making this an annual event. Lent is coming up. Pastor will preside at each service, which will be based on the Tree of Life series. Pastor Skow-Anderson will be retiring as the Northwest synod Bishop, so a new bishop will be elected this year. The Walking Together Workshop will be February 17, at Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake. Pastor Lucas' full report is on file. John made a motion, seconded by Audrey, to accept the Pastor's report as presented. M/C

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**Youth Report-** Patricia provided a printed report highlighting upcoming events. The full Youth Report is on file. Debbi made a motion, seconded by Donna, to accept the Youth report as presented by Pastor Lucas. M/C

**Committee Reports-**

**Stewardship-** Lanette shared the next focus is “Care of Our Health”. There will be possibly four sessions to attend. An example session could include how to use the AED.

**Property-** Tim reported they made a list of projects for this year including fixing the roof, painting the west side of the church, some indoor painting, and addressing the leaking office side door.

**Evangelism-** Ron reported they donated \$180 to Basics for Local Kids.

**Endowment-** The bi-laws state that members can only serve two terms rather than unlimited terms. Donna will change it on the OSLC Committee Sheet. The bi-laws further state that the Endowment Fund needs to be audited every year rather than every other year.

**Nominating Committee:** The bi-laws state there will be 3 members on the Education Committee, so it will be changed from the four listed.

**Luther Park Bible Camp Committee:** They will host Lenten supper on February 21. Donations will go directly to Luther Point for their campership. They ask the council to look into requiring youth to go to camp one year again as in the past.

**Council will host coffee hour on February 25.**

**There will be an Ellsworth Chamber Awards banquet on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Any member can purchase a ticket to go.**

**Conflict Detection-** none

**Adjourn-** Pastor Lucas made a motion, seconded by Lanette, to adjourn. M/C 8:25pm

**Closing Prayer-**The Lord’s Prayer

**Next Council Meeting: March 5, 2024.**

**Annual Meeting: February 18, 2024**

Respectfully submitted by Jill Rosenberry

**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 530<sup>th</sup> St. Beldenville, WI 54003, dropping it off, online at [oursaviorschurch.info](http://oursaviorschurch.info) under the “give” tab, or simply text your donation amount to 8 33-506-0632 and follow the instructions on your phone to complete your donation.



**Please continue to pray for the following people;**



John Steele, Elaine Hines, Betty Winger, Heather Borst Nelson, Larry Young, Dean Mewes, Fred Hoyer, John Paape, 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.

# Our Savior's Annual Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2024

**Call Meeting to Order:** President Tim Wiff at 10:15am

**Attending:** Approximately 44. Meeting happened in the OSLC basement.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Ladnier

## **Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting:**

Roger L made a motion, seconded by Donald R, to accept the 2023 Annual meeting minutes as written. MC

**Report from Pastor Lucas:** Pastor Lucas highlighted a number of accomplishments in the congregation the past year. The goals for this year will be Inward: Strengthening our youth and children's ministries; Outward: Open and arrange for visits with non-homebound members; and Upward: Complete a read-thru of the whole Bible. Pastor Lucas' full report is on file. Bruce made a motion, seconded by Rhoda, to accept the Pastor's report as presented. MC

## **Report from Treasurer:**

### **Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2023**

General Account: \$541.16

Designated Acct: \$75,013.53

Money Market: \$232,895.29

### **Ending Balance as of December 31, 2023**

General Account: \$4,013.01

Designated Acct: \$57,500.19

Money Market: \$137,260.60

**2023 Offerings:** \$173,517.69

**2023 Expenses:** \$167,003.96

Notes: A question was asked about the expense of the phone bill. We no longer were getting a deal. We have now switched from AT&T to Swift Current. It will be a considerable savings.

Thank you to Debbi for all your work this year as Treasurer!

Fred P made a motion, seconded by Roger L to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. MC

## **Report from the Audit Committee:**

Rhoda F and Randy W audited the Quick Books, MIM, and the Youth finances and found everything in order.

Audrey S made the motion, seconded by Mary H, to accept the Audit report. MC

## **Proposed Budget for 2024**

The proposed budget for 2024 is \$188,692.10

A motion to accept the proposed budget was made by Donna C, seconded by Rhoda F. MC

## **Endowment Committee Report & Dispersal of Funds:**

The Endowment Fund had an income of \$2,604.40.

The account balance as of 1/1/2024 was \$140,687.16.

There will be a number of changes from the written report. These include: Proposed disbursements for Scholarships will be \$1,700. Under Scholarships, Recipient 4 will also receive \$400. Under Adult/Families in Need, the total disbursement will be \$300. Under Grants-Synod (ELCA), the total disbursement will be \$300. The total disbursement for Congregation Grants will be \$300. The total amount of Proposed Disbursements for 2024 will be \$2600.

A motion was made by Ann Y, seconded by Lanette P, to accept the report with the noted changes. MC

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**Dispersal of Fairstand and Lutefisk Supper Funds:**

The amount of disbursements:

Lutefisk Supper	\$6,438.24
Fairstand	\$17,300.00
2023 remaining funds	\$8,293.07
Total Disbursements	\$32,031.31

A question was asked about the Disaster Fund/ECON Assistance. This is set up in case of a member's tragedy. Tom H made a motion, seconded by Roger L, to accept the Fair Stand and Lutefisk Disbursements. MC

**Nominating Committee:**

Thank you to all those who have served and are serving on a committee. We appreciate your time and talents.

**2023 Congregation Highlights:**

President Tim W highlighted a number of events during 2023.

Welcomed new members nominated in February

3 new road signs for church were put up

QR codes were added for offering/giving

Thanks to Bruce & Bill for putting in new LED bulbs

GFI receptacles were put in

Swift Current for internet and phone

Ballfield well, septic and building in place

Tractor pull

Successful Fairstand year-\$200 more than last year

Thanks to all that worked on all the maintenance at the Fairstand

New Church directory is coming

Change of insurance company to Brotherhood Mutual, which is giving us a huge savings

Candywalk

Light Up the Fair

Lutefisk Supper

A huge thanks to all, whether on committees or not that made all of these possible!

**Election of Officers and Committee Members:**

Tom H went over the new committee members and those taking a second term. See attachment, "Our Savior's Lutheran Church Committees 2024," for election results.

Mike A made a motion, seconded by Rhoda F, to accept the nominees. MC

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Thanks to Bruce P and all those who worked on painting the church.

Thanks to Secretary, Jill R, for her thorough note taking and reporting.

Thanks to all that have served in any way, over the last year in order to make Our Savior's a great community church.

See the full Our Savior's Lutheran Church 2023 Annual Reports for other reports included by the Evangelism Committee, Luther Point Bible Camp, WELCA, the Youth Report, and the Cemetery Association.

**Adjourn:** Motion made by Bruce P, seconded by Debbi P, to adjourn at 10:50 am. MC

Cemetery Association Meeting happened immediately following the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Rosenberry

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE

**Easter Lily Order Form.**  
 \$15/pot.  
 Checks written to WELCA



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF POTS \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

**Orders due by Sunday, March 10**



We will be collecting winter coats, snowpants, boots, hats, and gloves/mittens, for Basics for Local Kids starting in April. Some stores have their winter wear on clearance now or they will take gently used items also. The gently used items need to be clean with zippers that work. They collect all sizes from infant to adult. The first Sunday in April we will have our box in the narthex.

The Evangelism committee,  
 Darlene Halverson, Kathy Young,

**2024  
 Preferred Senior Living  
 &  
 Ellsworth Health Services**

**Worship Schedule for Our Savior's**  
 1:30pm Preferred Senior Living,  
 2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

**Wednesday**  
**March 27th, May 22nd,**  
**August 28th, November 13th**



The Pierce County Food Pantry continues to need certain items. For the month of **March**; we will be collecting; **Grape Jelly, Dry Soup Mix, Ketchup, Canned Chicken, Baked Beans, Fruit Snacks** 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.



## **OYSTER STEW/SOUP DINNER THANK YOU!**

Because of your generous donations at our Annual Oyster Stew/Soup dinner two weeks ago, we are sending \$1050 to Luther Point Bible Camp for their Campership fund. Thank You to all who attended. Thanks to Thrivent and MIM members for paying for all the expenses.

Thank you to Bruce Place for using his Time and Talent to repaint the basement of the church. It is looking great!

**Wednesday Wellness at Our Savior's**

*Save The Dates:*

*April 17 and 24, 2024 - 5:30 PM*

**WELLNESS**



# MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Altar Guilds:</b> Audrey Severson Ann Young <b>Money Counters/                      Tech Assistants:</b> Ron Halverson Mike Rehbein					1	2
3 9am Worship/Livestream No Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	4 10am Coffee and Conversation	5 7pm Council Meeting	6 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lent Service	7	8	9
10 <b>Cinnamon Rolls</b> 9am Worship/Livestream Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour	11	12	13 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lent Service	14	15	16 8am Men in Mission Meeting
17 9am Worship/Livestream No Sunday School Hour 10am Fellowship Hour 11-1pm Family Pool Party	18 10am Coffee and Conversation	19	20 4-5:30pm S.O.S. Kids Crew 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lent Service	21	22	23 10am Easter Egg Hunt
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9am Worship/Livestream Sunday School Sing 10am Palm Sunday Brunch	25	26	27 8:30am Quilting 1:30pm Preferred Senior Living Service 2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services 7pm Youth Night/Confirmation	28 6pm <b>Maundy                      Thursday</b>	29 7pm <b>Good Friday</b> Ecumenical Service @ Our Savior's	30 7pm <b>Easter Vigil                      Service</b> Fireworks to Follow
31 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 10am Worship/Livestream No Sunday School Hour 11am Fellowship Hour						

	Greeter's/Ushers	Tech Assistant	Acolyte	Reader	Bell Ringer	Communion Server	Assisting Minister
<b>March 3rd</b> 9:00am	Lori Coulson Mary Halls	Jake Knight Ron Halverson	Ada Erlandson Hadley Coulson	Amy Parmeter	Roger Laughnan	Acolytes	Donald Rosenberry
<b>March 10th</b> 9:00am	Brian Johnson Mary Halls	Breken Young Mike Rehbein	Brody Flynn Ben Johnson	Kathy Young	Roger Laughnan	Bruce Place	Lanette Place
<b>March 17th</b> 9:00am	Michael & Anne Chisholm	Chase Unser Ron Halverson	Matthew & Luke Lundstrom	Michael Chisholm	Roger Laughnan	Audrey Severson	Ann Young
<b>March 24th</b> 9:00am	Dan & Nadalie Place Family	Wyatt Kirchner Mike Rehbein	Marti Allyn Eli Stockwell	Belinda Foley	Roger Laughnan	Pauline Laughnan	Rhoda Foley
<b>March 30th</b> 7:00pm	Darrin & Lindsay Christopherson Family	Nora Christopherson Ron Halverson	Maddie Constant Grayson Jensen	Rhoda Foley	Roger Laughnan	Donna Constant	
<b>March 31st</b> 10:00am	Casey & Patricia Peterson Family	Megan Peterson Mike Rehbein	Wyatt Goodier Brady Peterson	Steve Straub	Roger Laughnan	Mary Halls	Tom Holdorf

*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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