

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

September 2020

www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

Twenty-four weeks ago, news of a terrifying disease hit the nation like a tidal wave, shutting down businesses, closing schools, and keeping us from meeting for worship in the sanctuary on Sunday morning. We, along with every church I know, went into disaster mode where they tried to hang onto something resembling normal while we figured out how we were going to combat this virus. We went online. We mailed out the bulletins. We sent meals to our shut-ins and crafted masks to make up for the shortages. We did alright.

But that was twenty-four weeks ago. This pandemic is getting long in the tooth, and we are getting impatient. We look at bars and restaurants opening up with patrons coming in. We see people streaming into Target and Menards to buy things. And it's made a lot of us wonder: why can't the church do that? Why can't we get together like everyone else seems to be doing?

Honestly? It's because it's too dangerous. Churches are listed up with nightclubs—yes, *nightclubs*—in terms of the riskiest places to go in this pandemic. Sitting around with about a hundred other people for an hour, breathing and singing and speaking in a closed space (even when it's large) is an absolutely perfect environment for the virus to spread. And spread it has: I have seen dozens of news articles of church after church that insisted on meeting, only to meet tragedy when a huge number of church members came down with the virus. God is sending us a clear signal: the church building is not a place we can be right now.

But there's this line that I keep hearing ringing in my head as I wonder about how we're called to do church in a time when we can't go into the church: "the church is not a building; the church is the *people*." I remember hearing it again and again as a child. It was lovingly repeated by deeply faithful people who had been members of the church for decades. I don't doubt many of y'all, just as faithful as the others I've heard, have said it as well. Well, it seems now, God may be asking us to prove that phrase true. What if, in this time, rather than lamenting how we can't meet in the church building—instead we asked how God was calling us to be church without the building?

What if God is calling us to take that time that we would have spent inside the church, whether worshipping or doing Bible studies or quilting or what-have-you, and used that time to share the love of God in our community? What neighbors do we have that need our help? What divides need to be bridged through the love of Christ in our community? How can Our Savior's serve our neighbors in new and different ways? I trust that God has revealed something to y'all, and it's a perfect time to share it.

And what if God is calling us to take our fellowship beyond the traditional ways that we've done it before? What if this is supposed to be a season where we do a Bible study in East End Park, or bring pies to the farmer's market and drum up support for other local businesses? What if God is calling us to make our time in fellowship into a mission itself, writing letters to other members and friends, sewing quilts or intentionally praying through the directory together? God is revealing this new way we could be doing church, and I just know some of y'all have been inspired with an idea that needs to be shared.

Not being able to meet like we used to is hard. I understand that; I've been grieving it. But like how the Israelites had to wander in the desert for forty years to get to the Promised Land, or how Paul and his companions were blocked from going to familiar churches in Asia and sent to Macedonia instead, I have to believe this is God calling us to do things differently and become a new people. So let's grieve the hard part of not getting to do what we've always done, and then look to the future that God has prepared for us on the other side of this—one that is more wonderful and fulfilling than we could possibly have imagined before.

In Christ,
Pastor Lucas

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

August 4th, 2020

Call to Order: President Randy Winger at 7:00 PM

Attending: Randy Winger, Debbi Pittman, Bob Winger, Sharon Seibel, Mary Straub, Jill Rosenberry, Dan Place, Norris Berg, Pastor Lucas, Ann Young – by phone

Absent: Lanette Place

Opening Devotions: Pastor Lucas – from Matthew Ch. 14

New Business:

Confirmation Sunday – Plan

August 16th – outside – one family to come up at a time – use tents with bad weather

Motion made to accept plan – Dan, 2nd – Bob – 2nd.

Lutefisk Supper – Audrey Severson presented the tentative plan – council and Audrey to think about and talk to other churches on what they are doing. Final decision to be made at the September board meeting.

Music at Outdoor Worship – Worship committee to meet about the music. The sound quality of the music has been better the last two Sundays. The organists are not comfortable coming into the church to play for a soloist to be recorded to help lead the songs for the service. We need to work on improving the music experience during the services.

Indoor Worship – Council will work on plans for indoor worship at the September meeting.

Old Business

Child Protection Policy – Council to read the policy and we will finalize at the September meeting.

Ballpark – Insurance – Norris checking on what the insurance covers.

Money Counters – the sign-up list was sent around for council members to sign up.

Fair Stand – cancelled until next year.

Secretary's Report – Motion to accept – Bob, 2nd Norris

Treasurer's Report – Discussion was held on what the average fuel Prebuy costs have been. Debbi to check back on this. Motion was made by Dan to spend between \$4,500 to \$5,500 for Prebuy fuel depending upon the averages. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report - Bob – 1st, Dan – 2nd.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Lucas talked about the past Sunday August 2nd was God's Work Our Hands, that the kids are on the mission trip, and how to safely have confirmation classes by having only a small group on Wednesdays and online lessons. The council asked for a plan for confirmation classes by the next meeting and to have Patricia to attend the next council meeting.

Youth Report

Committee Reports – Jill told us about the Luther Point Auction

Conflict Detection

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn. Debbi – 1st, Norris – 2nd

Closing Prayer

Next meeting – September 8, 2020 – 7 PM

Respectively submitted by Sharon Seibel

Gathering for Drive-In Worship

Dear siblings in Christ,

We have weathered quite a storm as we sheltered in place to keep one another safe! It has been hard, I know, to keep our distance for the sake of each other's health. We have missed one another, feeling the distance that used to be so short between us, and many of us are hoping for some small respite from this distancing we've been practicing. In conversation with the council, we have made the decision to offer drive-in worship. We have the space to gather in our cars for worship, and we have faithfully discerned that we can gather in this way safely.

The practices and protocols we have put into place as we prepare for this happy reunion are based on the recommendations of the Pierce County Health Department, guidelines from the ELCA on how to safely resume worship, the recommendations of health experts who have shared their wisdom at several synodical Zoom workshops, and the good sense that God gave us all to approach this time with wisdom and love.

Beginning June 21, we will begin holding worship in the church parking lot at 9:00 am on Sundays. To make sure that our actions align with Jesus' commandment to "love one another," we will need to do the following:

This is drive-in worship, so we will be worshipping in our cars together!

Follow the directions from the ushers on where to park so that we can keep a safe distance from each other during worship. Tune in to worship on the radio station 90.5 FM! Studies suggest the virus travels by particles in our breath, and singing has been found to exponentially increase the number of particles and also increase the risk to our neighbor. To keep the risks down, keep windows next to a person singing up so that there is one inch or less of an opening. If no one is sitting next to a window (such as the back seat) then those windows can be fully open while singing.

We are blessed to be able to resume Holy Communion during this time! When you enter the parking lot, someone will be manning a table to hand out communion kits. The kits will have been assembled under sanitary conditions and the person handing them out will have gloves and a mask to minimize contact. Please let them know how many are in your car (cover your mouth to protect them, whether with a mask, cloth, or your hand), and hold onto the elements until communion, when you will receive instructions on how we will receive together.

An offering basket will be in place when you enter the parking lot, so let the person handing out communion know if you would like to drop yours off. To minimize contact, drop your offering into the basket rather than handing it to them.

We will have bulletins available at the same table as the communion elements. The whole service will be printed in the bulletin, so no need to worry about getting a hymnal. Please note that we plan on giving one bulletin for each vehicle. The bulletin will also be available on the website for you to either download onto a device, or print at home and bring to church.

As tempting as it may be to get out and catch up with others, please stay in your car. There is still so much unknown about this virus, but it is known that you can be infectious without having any symptoms. Because of this, we won't have any social gatherings such as coffee hour for the time being. We keep apart to keep each other safe. If we have inclement weather, please still come! Just keep your windows up to stay dry!

We look forward to getting to see you soon!

In Christ,

Our Savior's Church Council

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE

LUTEFISK SUPPER??? Is it a lost cause for 2020? The chairs of the departments think maybe not!!!! The council voted to go ahead to try a new plan. We think there is a way to continue serving SOME Lutfisk Supper items in a safe way for us and the consumers. We are considering a reduced ala carte menu for take-out orders! Watch your emails, bulletins, and facebook in the near future to see how it could be done 2020 COVID style.



BACKPACKS FOR THE WEEK: Please drop off donations at Nilssen's Grocery store in Ellsworth. There is a large tub in the entryway marked Backpack Program. Thank you for continuing to support this program.

These are the items that are most needed:

LARGE (double size) cans of Tuna or Chicken -we need lots!

Bear Creek Soups (Chicken based if possible) but whatever works! (lighter than cans in the bags, and more servings from the packages ;)

Packages/Boxes of Instant Rice (like medium sz boxes)

Packages of Instant Mashed Potatoes (no flavors if possible, just basic mashed potatoes)

CREAMY Peanut Butter (18 oz)

Raisins (1 pound boxes)

Boxes of COLD Cereal (NON-sugary) Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies, Cheerios)

Cans Brown Beans

Boxes Mac N Cheese

UPCOMING EVENTS



Chisholm Family Appreciation – Please join us on Sunday, September 13, at the 9:00 AM drive-in worship service to show our appreciation to Jim, Paula, and Michael Chisholm. For nearly 20 years the Chisholm Family has been devoted to the exceptional care and maintenance of our church building. They deserve a big THANK YOU for a job well done!

Library Notes

If you are looking for new reading material, check out the church library. We have two books by Ellsworth's own Tasha Schuh to check out. The titles are My Last Step Backward and My Next Move Forward. Both books about her life and faith as she lives a life of a quadriplegic.

THANK YOU

Thank You! 3rd Annual Back to School Supply Event, Ellsworth Elementary. Without financial and school supply donations, this event wouldn't be possible. Thank you to Our Savior's Lutheran Church.



In Need of Prayer!

Judie Goodwin, Mark Kiefer, Norris Berg, Mason Lee, Bob Furan, Larry Shefvland, Tom Dachel, Tom Springette, Gary Johnson, Anna Walentowski, 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.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION WITH eGIVING

Consider making your contribution through our eGiving tools!
You can make a one-time gift or set up recurring donations.

Giving Made Easy

Make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts through our website's donations page.

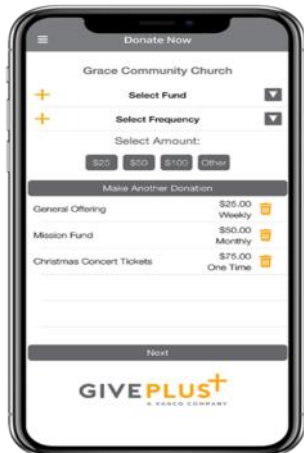
Our Savior's Lutheran Church offers giving from our Website, through the GivePlus mobile app, and by text.

Make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts through our website's donations page.

1. Visit Our Savior's Lutheran Church Website. www.oursaviorschurch.info
2. Locate the give tab.
3. Donate!

**It only takes a minute to set up an account or give as a guest.
We appreciate your generosity!**

**Give Anytime,
Anywhere
with Our
GivePlus
Mobile App**



Use Our GivePlus Mobile App

1. Download the free GivePlus App from the App Store or Google Play
2. Find our church by zip code **54003**, or by searching our church name.
3. Donate!

Giving through our mobile app is easy and convenient.

It only takes a minute to set up an account or give as a guest.

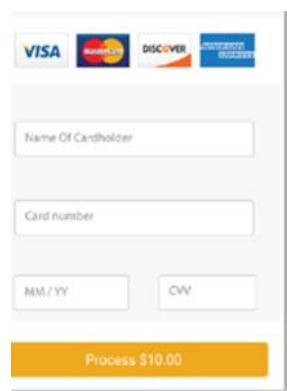
Text Your Donation

Giving by text is easy. Simply text your donation amount to **833-506-0632** and follow the instructions on your phone to complete your gift.

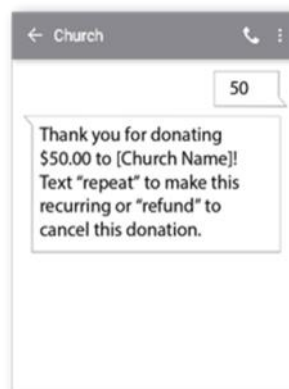
1. Get Started



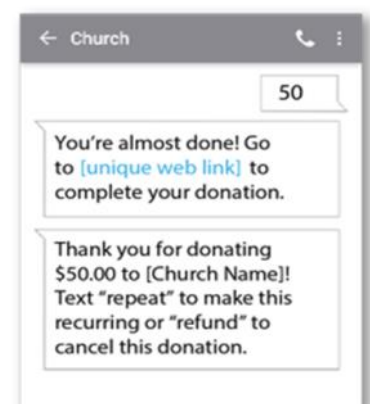
2. Register



3. Give



4. Repeat





Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

COVID 19 Stimulus Check Appeal for ministries of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

August 1, 2020

Friends in Christ:

Over the past few months our lives have changed dramatically. Daily routines have been disrupted, new challenges have arisen. In spite of Covid 19, the ministry of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin continues to be impactful, making a difference in the world for Jesus' sake. I am grateful for your generous prayerful and financial support of the work that we do together. **I invite you to join me and our synod council in continuing to support the synod's ministry with a special gift.** Perhaps you received a COVID stimulus check. For many this check was a blessing, a needed relief for those who had lost income. However, if you are able, I invite you to consider making a gift from those funds to support essential synod ministries. Consider these opportunities:

Give a gift to your home congregation

Give a gift that will keep on giving by donating to the

Synod Endowment Fund <http://nswsi.org/endowment-fund>

Give to the ongoing work of the NWSWI <http://nswsi.org/giving>

Give to the synod's general fund

Give to our companion synod in Malawi

Give to our synod's newest Latino/a ministry, Neighbor to Neighbor

Give directly to one of our synod's ministries

Bible Camps: Luther Park, Luther Point, Wapogasset, Amnicon

Lutheran Campus Ministries: UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, UW-River Falls

As a Synod, we are making a difference for Jesus' sake

The synod's capital campaign, endowment fund and staff helped congregations upgrade technology and provided assistance as nearly every congregation in the synod went to worship and meetings on line during the pandemic. The synod ministers provided additional education, support, encouragement, and resources for both worship and faith formation to pastors, deacons, SAMS and congregations since March.

The synod has provided financial support to the Lutheran church in Malawi to help with flood relief and pastor's salaries during the pandemic.

The synod's justice team has been meeting and working on video resources on racial, gender, environmental and hunger justice issues. The synod is launching a NEW Latinx racial justice ministry called Neighbor to Neighbor that will focus on connecting with our American Latinx neighbors.

The Northwest Synod awarded small ELCA COVID 19 grants to our synod's Bible Camps and Lutheran Campus Ministries hit hard by loss of income during the pandemic.

Thank you for your faithful partnership in ministry in the past! I invite you to join me and the members of the Northwest Wisconsin Synod Council in making a special gift to support the synod that will benefit the ministries of every congregation in NW Wisconsin as we move forward together in God's mission for the sake of the world.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9am Online Worship 9am Drive-In Worship	7	8 7pm Council Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 9am online Worship 9am Drive-In Worship Chisholm Family Appreciation	14	15	16 7-8pm Confirmation	17	18	19
20 9am online Worship 9am Drive-In Worship	21	22	23 7-8pm Confirmation	24	25	26
27 9am online Worship 9am Drive-In Worship	28	29	30 4-5:30pm SOS Kids Crew 7-8pm Confirmation			

Our Savior's Worship Options
 9am Drive-In Worship (radio station 90.5)
 9am Virtual Online Worship

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.

September 13, October 18, November 15, December 20.

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

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

<p>Wednesday September 9th 1:30pm Preferred Living 2:30pm Atrium Senior Living</p>	<p>Wednesday December 9th 1:30pm Preferred Living 2:30pm Atrium Senior Living</p>
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New Church Emails:

pastor.os@hbcj.com
admin.os@hbcj.com
treasurer.os@hbcj.com

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
N6450 530th Street
Beldenville WI 54003
Phone: (715) 273-4570
Pastor Lucas Ladnier
Email: pastor.os@hbc.com
admin.os@hbc.com
www.oursaviorschurch.info

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HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?