



“The Visitor”

Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Canby, MN

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January 2024



One of the recurring themes I have seen here at Our Saviour’s through the years is an incredible sense of responsible stewardship and joyful offering that has sustained a vital sense of Christ’s mission here in our community and throughout the world. Whenever a need is made known this wonderful congregation steps forward to meet it. The faithful giving of this congregation has been a blessing, and the Board of Trustees and myself would like to respond to this blessing by always being as transparent as possible when it comes to your offerings.

One of the ways we decided on doing that is by me making use of the Pastor’s space in the Visitor a few times a year to share with you information on where we stand in our offering and budget goals for the year so far. An educated congregation is a healthy congregation and knowledge can be an invitation to learn more, so hopefully you will find this information useful.

Now normally in this space I tell you what the offering has been the last couple of months, but since it is the end of the year I am going to spend a little more time on where we stand in our year to date numbers. It is those numbers, I am very happy to say, that we as a congregation are in a very healthy financial place.

There is still a week left in the year as I write this and there is often an influx of donations in the last week of the year so as good as we sit financially now we will be in an even better position by the time you read this article. At this point in the year we have collected \$261,442.41 and our expenses have been \$283,198.75 though our expenses are more than income so far, that is often the case coming into the last month of the year and we are in good shape to come close to matching those numbers. At this time we also have significant reserves. Our checking account carries a balance of \$46,395.95 and our Cornerstone savings account has a balance of \$27,535.34. Finally our endowment has grown to \$260,895.84 this endowment annually has a return of over \$10,000 a year for us.

Being in good a financial position is a blessing and a reason to rejoice because it means we are more free to follow the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and go out into this world to change lives. Fiscal success is important, but only in how it allows us to live out the mission of God. I hope this information has been useful to you, and may God continue to bless your lives.

Pastor Levi

January Dates to Remember...

***1/2:** 2:00p.m.-
Circle at Sylvan
Place-Dining Room

***1/3:** 5:30p.m.-9th
Grade Confirmation

***1/7:** 9:00a.m.
Worship w/ Holy
Communion.
10:00a.-Sunday
School

***1/10:** 7:00p.m.-
Council Meeting at
Large

***1/14:** 9:00a.m.
Worship
10:00a.m.-Sunday
School
10:30a.m.- 7th/8th
Grade Confirmation

***1/15:** 9:00a.m.-
Quilting
9th Grade
Confirmation @
5:30p

***1/21: 9:00a.m.**
Worship w/ Holy
Communion
NO SUNDAY
SCHOOL

***1/28:** 9:00a.m.-
Worship w/ Holy
Communion
10:00a.m.-Sunday
School
**Annual Meeting
following Worship

For November 23rd – December 28th:
Gifts/Offerings received: \$32,690.22
Distributions: \$22,059.24

GIVE+Online.....

We invite you to consider our new electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offerings. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much-needed consistency for our church. There is no cost for you to participate.

To get started you will need to sign up in the link on the front page of our website (oslcanby.org) or you may call the office 223-5528 for assistance.

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANT



January Altar Assistant:
Juli Wornson

January Ushers:

Donn Peterson
Jeff Grengs

Larry Hulzebos



7th: Bruce Wornson
14th: Dawn Ourada
21st: Sonshine
28th: Cheryl Norquist



Wednesday, January 3rd
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion at
Sylvan Court Chapel
12:45 p.m. Holy Communion at
Sylvan Place
3:00 p.m. Holy Communion at
Twinwood A and Twinwood B

Women's Circle Meeting Date & Time

Tuesday, January 2nd
2:00p.m. – Sylvan Place Dining Room

Mission Work

Our Saviour's mission church is Iglesia Lutherana Paz y Esperanza [Peace and Hope Lutheran Church]. Our Mission Calendar will go ½ toward our new mission church and ½ to our missionary.

The Mission Calendar is \$10 per day and you may designate it for birthdays, anniversaries, or any special day you may have.

Our Saviour's Lutheran offers a mission opportunity for individuals and families to partner in spreading the Gospel through financial support of our TV broadcasts. Broadcasts may be given in honor or memory of loved ones with their names being published in our weekly bulletin and our monthly newsletter. One TV broadcast costs \$50.



December Mission Calendar

- 7th: In loving memory of **Harold Harding**. Given by Curt & Marilyn Rangaard.
 10th: In honor of **Julia Hanson's Baptismal Anniversary**. Given by her family.
 17th: In loving memory of **Amy Beutler's passing on December 18th**. Given by Bev, Barb & Brian.
 26th: In honor of **Si & Rose Olson's 69th Wedding Anniversary**.

December TV Broadcasts

- 3rd: In loving memory of **Harold Harding**. Given by Annette Harding.
 10th: In memory of the **Avis Harding**. Given by Annette Harding.

Newly Baptized in December

*Bennett Lee Kraft
 Estelle Gail Willgohs*

Dearly Departed

*Lorraine Jesme
 Myrna Tesch*

**A list of categories where you can designate your money when giving Memorials to Our Saviour's*

Lutheran include:

**Altar Fund
 Building Fund
 Campership Fund
 Cemetery Fund
 Cornerstone Fund
 Eternal Lights
 Foundation
 Lutheran Educational Aid Fund (L.E.A.F.)
 Mission Action
 Mission Calendar
 Music Fund
 Organ Fund
 Sunday School**

**TEAF (Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund)
 Video Equip/Broadcast/Technology Fund
 WELCA Projects Fund**

Youth

Or you may give it as:

Undesignated

**Cemetery Fund
 Myrna Tesch**

Eternal Lights
 Steve Benson

Mission Calendar

Harold Harding
 Julia Hanson
 Amy Beutler
 Si & Rose Olson

Sunday School
 Amy Beutler

Video Equip/Broadcast/Technology Fund

Harold Harding
 Avis Harding

INTERNAL CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor:
Levi Bollerud
 President of Congregation:
Dee Benson
 Vice President:
Mark Fokken
 Congregational Secretary:
Karen Hacker
 Congregational Treasurer:
Brenda Lothert
 Organist/Handbell Director:
Karen Olsen
 Choir Director:
Dawn Ourada
 Custodian:
Jesse Engesmoe
 Office Manager:
Jill Winters

2023 COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF DEACONS

Cindy Maras*	2020
Sherri Grengs*	2020
Glenda Olsen	2022
Janice Zimmerman	2023

BOARD OF YOUTH EDUCATION

Kathy Becker	2022
Jill Winters	2022
Pam Hanson	2023
Amanda Appel	2023
Josie Frank	2023
Amanda Anderson	2023

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Loren Hacker	2022
Jeff Grengs	2022
Kerri DeVos	2023
Rick Olsen	2023
Linda Blackwelder	2023

OSL Foundation

Mark Fokken	2022
Mark Whittier	2022
Carol Gorder	2022
Linda Blackwelder	2022
Dawn Giese	2022



***Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Council-at-Large Minutes of
the December 13, 2023
Meeting***

These are the Council at Large minutes for Wed., Dec. 13, 2023. President Benson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The minutes of the Nov. meeting were read and approved.

Pastor Levi led the council in prayer.

Mark Fokken shared that the Sick and Safe Leave has been included in the proposed Employee Handbook. Full time and part time employees have been defined. There was a question regarding clarification of church office hours, and some further communication is needed. Approval of the Handbook will take place at a future meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to set the Annual Meeting date for Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, following the service, with an alternate date of Feb. 4, in case of snow. The motion was approved.

The Nominating Committee has met to seek nominees for the January, 2024, elections. An idea was also proposed that an ex officio member on the Board of Youth Education would be helpful as the board is very busy, and more involvement is appreciated.

The council acknowledged the transfer of membership of Elois Shackelford to OSL Canby. Welcome, Elois.

Pastor Levi has suggested an idea for council consideration. On his trip to Oregon, he visited a

church with bricks lining the walkway that were engraved with the names of loved ones who had passed. In a similar manner, OSL could offer members the chance to purchase an engraved brick. Some suggestions were to use the money as a fundraiser toward church repairs or updates such as the bell tower or organ fund. The bricks could be placed by the bench outdoors.

Progress on the Playground will take place after the holiday season.

The training for a bus driver to bring people from Sylvan Court will begin soon.

The Board of Youth Education thanked the congregation for supporting the students with the gift wrapping fundraiser and the Money Tree. The Bake Sale will be held Sunday.

Motion and 2nd to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Hacker

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Minutes of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Board of Trustees

December 13, 2023

Chair Jeff Grengs called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm.

Present: Jeff Grengs, Dee Benson, Pastor Levi Bollerud, Rick Olson, Linda Blackwelder, Loren Hacker, Mark Fokken and Kerri DeVos (via phone).

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as read.

Reviewed financials. Loren made a motion to approve the financials and 2nd made by Linda. Motion carried.

Discussion had to have an audit done of financials in 2024.

Money counting schedule set. December 17th - Rick, December 24th - Loren and Jeff, December 31st - Kerri, December 7th - Loren

Church building repairs - Belltower, rooms upstairs (stains on walls), organ updates and cement step outside are deteriorating. Form committees to review what needs to be done so it can be prioritized.

The board discussed the budget for 2024. Wages discussed for Pastor Levi, Jill and Jesse for the 2024 budget. Discussion on COLA for those staff members.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Loren and 2nd made by Rick. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerri DeVos

BOARD OF DEACONS:

Date: December 13, 2023

Attending: Glenda Olsen, Sherri Grengs, Cindy Maras

Agenda:

Candles for the Christmas Eve Service: Each member of the deacons assisted in putting batteries in the candles.

Communion:

*Sunday, December 24th: Cindy, Sherri, Bruce, Jeff, Lois, Cheryl, Dawn

*Sunday, December 3rd: Cindy Maras, Bruce Wornson, Sherri Grengs.

*Sunday, December 31st: Cindy Maras, Bruce Wornson, Sherri Grengs.

*Sunday, January 7th: Dee, Dawn, Bruce

Next council meeting: Wednesday, January 10th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted

Sherri Grengs

BOARD OF YOUTH EDUCATION:

--Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Meeting started at 7:40 pm and adjourned at 7:50 pm

--In attendance: Kathy Becker, Amanda Appel, Pam Hansen, and Amanda Anderson

Topics of Discussion-

--Finalized Christmas program: "The Amazing Story of Christmas", for December 17th during Church Service. Manger, lights, music, clothing, and accessories.

--Gift bags for all Youth to be handed out after service on 17th

--Bake Sale (youth helping to set up and sell, pricing done by youth)

--Sunday School resumes in January (lessons and upcoming music) and many traditional Christmas songs. Program will be on December 17th during Church Service.



**Happy Birthday to all those born in:
January**

1st:

Noah Hanson

Erin Hewer

2nd:

Kendra Vanderostyne

3rd:

Charlotte Boulton

Jadyn Schmitt

4th:

Paige Heidecker

Wanda Hemish

5th:

Blake Robbin

6th:

Cindy Hiedeman

Teresa Menk

Larry Stoks

7th:

Karen Kockelman

Natalie Morris

8th:

Beth Beiningen

Rick Bueltel

Brett Stoks

9th:

Matthew Bliss

Tim Winters

11th:

Kendra Hoffman
Cole Regnier

12th:

Parker Anhalt
Karin Livermore
Nathan Oellien

13th:

Tiffini Stockman

14th:

Bruce Wornson

15th:

Richard Mortenson

16th:

Gail Eilers
Brooklyn Frensko
Sheila Hegg
Bruce Madsen

17th:

Jackie Mortenson
Curt Olsen
Silas Olson

18th:

Jane Ellison
Peyton Svoboda
Maeley Wollum

20th:

Nina Benz

21st:

Gary VanDerostyne
Gerald VanDerostyne

22nd:

Trevor Menk
Natalie Stoks

23rd:

Brynlee Jeppesen
Lucille Stoks

25th:

Amy Drietz
Matthew Groen
Piper Antony

26th:

Kaylin Anderson
Levi Bollerud

28th:

Tucker Coil
Madisen Krug
Joshua Long

29th:

Atley Eilers
Tyler Baer
Brooke Nelson

30th:

Trish Hoffman

31st:

Gavin Benz
Donald Beutler
Kerri DeVos
Janet Full
Marion Oellien
Richard Rogers



Thank You's.....

Look at all the amazing things that God has done this past month at Our Saviour's: communion services, special music, baptism, Sonshine worship and many other unnamed and unknown ministries. It takes many hearts and hands to do God's work. We are truly grateful & blessed!



We ask God's guidance

and prayers for all those who have special needs: Randy Westphal, Shirley Hanson, Gary Fokken, Fritz Urban, Mandy Kack, David Sorby, Karen Wendroth (Sherri Full's sister), Shirley Markegard, Charlotte Thompson, Nick Benson, Bonnie Olson, Debra (Haugen) Galecki, Troy Hoffman, Kara Mortenson, Fred Full, Patty McLain (Sherri Full's sister), Lyla Nelson, Nina Benz, Katrina Vick, Debbie Cornell, Dane Nordquist, John Cornell, Joyce Brouwer, Mary Adler, Robert Kokesh, Fern Emmons and granddaughter Gabrielle, Fran Beecher, Patricia Hoffman, Bruce Garrels, Karin Livermore, Deanna Stephenson, Dean Hedge, Sandra Nelson, Sherry Olson, Linda Vlamincik and all whom we name before you in our hearts. May God strengthen all who are in need.

We continue to pray for the Leaders of the Nations, for all the Peacekeeping forces and especially for the service men and women connected with OSL, both those who remain deployed and those who now feel the safety of home: Justin Gislason, Anthony Nemitz, Cody Dinius, Ross Larson, Nicole Nelson (granddaughter

of Larry & Joanne Nelson), Ethan Webster, Tony Geier, Ryan Stoks, Nicholas Schultz, Tony Nelson, Kirk Larson, Ryan Otto, Tyson Coil, Christopher Oellien, Stephanie Geier and Sue Behrens. **May God**



PRAYERS

for our

Military

continue to strengthen these committed military personnel and their families. If anyone has been omitted or you would like to add a name, please contact the church office. We ask God to surround them and their loved ones with His love and presence.



WELCA NEWS AND NOTES

No WELCA Meeting in January or February.

Coffee Talk

If anyone would like to provide treats for Coffee Talk please let the church office know what Sunday and WELCA will help you get things set up and cleaned up. Your Coffee Talk friends love to help celebrate birthdays, anniversaries or any other occasion.

Predictions for the new year

Author Ronald Wilson, in *Stretching the Soul*, describes being certain that four things will occur in the days ahead.

- Trouble will come. Life is difficult. I must mourn as well as dance.
- In this long journey [of life], I'm not in control. God has reminded us of this.
- Many times I will fail.
- I will find forgiveness and get up and go on. God will wipe up the mess I've made of things, take me by the hand and set me back on the right path.

Praise God for his sure presence during the joys and challenges the new year brings!



Mission Statement

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Youth News



Acolyte Sign up:

We invite and encourage ALL youth to sign up to acolyte.

This ministry is a fun privilege, that our youth get to engage in every Sunday! If your youth would like to acolyte, please sign up in the office. Pastor Levi will assist younger children if they'd like to have a turn.

Usher Ministry: We are looking for families to help usher during Sunday Services. Some things ushers are responsible for are: handing out bulletins as church starts, collecting offering and excusing the congregation by rows for communion. There will be a sign-up sheet posted outside the office. What a great way for **YOUR** family to be involved. Please consider helping out with this ministry.



**2023-2024-
Sunday School
3 year olds-6th
Grade**

**January:
7th- Class
14th- Class
21st- NO CLASS
28th- Class**

Youth Puzzle & Activity

Slow down and uncover this message and Bible verse, using the code below.

HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7		8	9	10	11	12
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14		15	16	17	18	19
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21		22	23	24	25	26
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28		29	30	31		
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday _____
 The last Monday ____
 The 16th _____
 One day before the 20th ____
 The day before the first Friday ____
 The last weekday of the second week _____
 The day after the 20th ____
 The day after 18th ____
 The first day of the second weekend ____
 The last Sunday ____
 The last day of the month _____

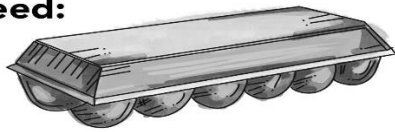
Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush











What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.

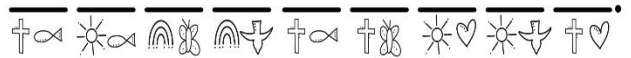
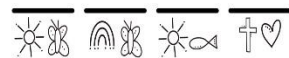



Puzzle!


Use the grid to discover what James 5:13-18 advises when challenges loom.

	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y
					

P



	<h1>January 2024</h1>
Monday 1	<i>Pastor's Sabbath - OFFICE CLOSED</i>
Tuesday 2	2:00 p.m. Circle at Sylvan Place (Dining Room)
Wednesday 3	5:30 p.m. 9 th Grade Confirmation
Thursday 4	2:00 p.m. Hendricks Communion
Friday 5	
Saturday 6	
Sunday 7	8:30 a.m. Coffee Bar open prior to church 9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Coffee Talk
Monday 8	Pastor Levi- Gone
Tuesday 9	Pastor Levi- Gone
Wednesday 10	Pastor Levi- Gone 7:00 p.m. Council at Large Meeting
Thursday 11	Pastor Levi- Gone
Friday 12	Pastor Levi- Gone
Saturday 13	
Sunday 14	8:30 a.m. Coffee Bar open prior to church 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Coffee Talk 10:30 a.m. 7 th /8 th Grade Confirmation
Monday 15	<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> - Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. Quilting
Tuesday 16	
Wednesday 17	8:30 a.m. Hospital Board Meeting 10:30 a.m. Nursing Home Communion 5:30 p.m. 9 th Grade Confirmation

Thursday 18	
Friday 19	
Saturday 20	
Sunday 21	 <div> 8:30 a.m. Coffee Bar open prior to church 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:10 a.m. Coffee Talk </div>
Monday 22	<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> - Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Tuesday 23	
Wednesday 24	Articles due for February Newsletter
Thursday 25	
Friday 26	<i>Assembly of February Newsletter</i>
Saturday 27	
Sunday 28	<div> 8:30 a.m. Coffee Bar open prior to church 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00a.m. Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Coffee Talk </div> Annual Meeting following Worship
Monday 29	<i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> - Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Tuesday 30	
Wednesday 31	