



# OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN

*"A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious."*

October 6, 2020

## MISSION STATEMENT

"We are called to let our light shine as instruments of the Holy Spirit so all may know God's love."

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Our Savior's Lutheran

305 Sixth St  
PO Box 277  
Cleveland, MN 56017  
507/931-1564

<https://oursaviorscleveland.org/>  
[oursaviorslutheran1@gmail.com](mailto:oursaviorslutheran1@gmail.com)

Psalm 46

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

*Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.*

***"Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth."***

*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

Beloved of God,  
Grace to you and peace from God who is our refuge and strength.

Did you know that "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", one of the most beloved hymns in the Lutheran tradition and heritage is based on scripture?!? Well, it is! Martin Luther wrote the hymn in 1527, after ten years of struggling to reform the church in the midst of incredibly trying times. "For ten years, since publishing his 95 Theses against the abuse of indulgences, Luther had been buffeted by political and theological storms; at times his life had been in danger. Now he was battling other reformers over the meaning of the Lord's Supper. To Luther, their errors were as great as those of Rome—the very gospel was at stake—and Luther was deeply disturbed and angry. He suffered severe depression." In addition to other physical ailments, he and all of Wittenberg were in living in fear due to an outbreak of the plague! Western Europe was at war over the Italian peninsula, Rome was sacked and burned, and religious conflict continued as reformers challenged the Roman Catholic church and each other over tradition and theology. How in the world did Martin Luther have the energy or spirit to compose such a powerful hymn?

Perhaps it was precisely because of the trying times and conditions he found himself in that Luther needed the creative outlet of prayer and praise through music. I have found in my own life, that in the darkest most troubling times is when I lean most heavily on faith, even when God seems distant. And for Luther there were times when he "felt completely abandoned by Christ." We are closing in our eighth month of life during pandemic conditions. Some have been dealing with it even longer. Imagine life in Luther's time, ongoing threat of the plague, constant war, conflict, and political struggle, and personal spiritual turmoil. Maybe that doesn't sound all to different from the world we live in today...

A meditation that I came across a few years ago comes to mind whenever I read Psalm 46, and perhaps if the hymn "A might fortress" isn't quite your jam, you'll find a moment of peace with it too. Find a comfortable place to sit. Take a few deep breaths to center yourself and slow your racing thoughts. Then begin reciting the following verse from the Psalm, pausing to take deep breaths in between each line. May the peace of Christ come to you with each breath in a moment of stillness in God's presence

Be still and know that I am God  
Be still and know that I am  
Be still and know that I  
Be still and know that  
Be still and know  
Be still and  
Be still  
Be

Peace be yours,

Pr. Jing

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Minutes  
August 25, 2020

**Present via Zoom (video conference):** Pastor Liz, Ginger McCabe, Ginny Grabow, Kay Wendelschafer, Ben Olsen

**Absent:** Sharyn Gregor, Deb Gehrke, Kevin Hewitt

**Secretary's Report:** July council meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

**Financial Report:** Approved by council.

- The general fund received gifts of \$14,689.20 in August, versus last year of \$9,360.00, giving us a difference of \$5,329.20.
- Year to Date: The general fund received gifts of \$78,424.86 versus last year of \$75,885.02, giving us a difference of \$2,539.84.

**Old Business:**

- VBS was cancelled due to no response.
- The internet is working better for Sunday morning church services. Scott has found that plugging a cable in from the modem to the laptop helps. We have also stopped using Zoom so we don't need to rely on so much uploading capability.

**New Business:**

- Brian Phillips, the Superintendent for Cleveland Public Schools, approached Pastor Liz about the possibility of using our church building for their School Age Care Program (SAC) until the school renovations and additions are completed. They need space for 20 elementary students and 2 adult supervisors, Monday-Friday, 6:00 am - 6:00 pm. He stated they would pay us rent, clean/sanitize the space on a daily basis, plow our parking lot, extend their insurance policy to include our building, and pay for any repairs/damages (if needed). The majority of Council members support helping the school during this time of need. The Council discussed the following concerns:
  - Safety of church staff and congregation members
  - Developing a contract with a list of expectations and a month-to-month rental agreement
  - Funerals
  - Advent and Lenten services
  - God Squad
- The Council decided that if we rent our building to the school, they would only be allowed to use the Fellowship Hall, one bathroom (the men's bathroom would become unisex), and the door on the east side of the building by the parking lot. All other areas of the building, including the kitchen, would be closed off with doors, the accordion walls, and partitions provided by the school. SAC will need to close in the case of a funeral. Pastor Liz will set up a meeting with Brian Phillips to get some more information and let him know our concerns. Ginny volunteered to come along and will also talk to Brian Block beforehand about what we should expect for rent.
- Ginger feels God Squad needs to be cancelled until the school develops their routine and SAC no longer needs to use our building. SAC would have to close early on Wednesdays and clean/sanitize their space before God Squad children could come into the building. The preliminary plans for God Squad this year were that there would be no meal served and a shortened class time (1 hour total). Pastor Liz was planning on holding 7-9th grade confirmation classes on Sundays this year and could also hold a First Communion workshop on one Sunday for the 5th graders. We don't know how many children will sign up for God Squad or how many adults will want to volunteer due the COVID-19 pandemic. Some parents are limiting their child's participation in activities outside of school. Ginny feels that the lack of interest in our VBS program this summer gives a good indication of what God Squad might look like this year.

Next meeting will take place online via Zoom on September 1, 7:00 pm.  
Minutes prepared by: Ginger McCabe

## NEWS AND UPDATES:

### **GOD SQUAD/CONFIRMATION 2020-2021**

God Squad will begin the third week of October! We will be meeting in person with the option to join online. There will be a rotating schedule with two groups. These groups are based on age and number of participants. Due to the ongoing Corona Virus pandemic, we will not be serving a meal, but providing a prepackaged take home snack. Students will wear their masks and be spread out for social distancing in the social hall and sanctuary. The tentative schedule will be Group 1 meeting the first and third week of the month and Group 2 the second and fourth. October is as follows:

10/21 6-7pm Group 1  
(PreK-2nd grade in social hall, 6th grade in Sanctuary)

10/28 6-7pm Group 2  
(3rd-5th in social hall, 7th-8th in Sanctuary)

9th grade confirmation class will meet on the third Sunday of the month at 10am in the social hall. Our first session is on the 18th. A parent or mentor should attend with each student.

Registration materials and welcome letter will be sent by mail and/or email. Contact Victoria Sawyer to learn more. [oslc1youth@gmail.com](mailto:oslc1youth@gmail.com)

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—CLASS OF 2020**

On Reformation Sunday, October 25th, our 2020 class will affirm their faith during worship. Congratulations Ella Baker, Jonathan Biehn, and Alex Garcia! There will be a refresher workshop on Saturday the 24th for the confirmands due to our long period of social distancing. We will review the affirmations and work on final projects. Contact Pr. Liz or Victoria Sawyer for more info.

### **SHARING OUR SPACE WITH CPS**

Starting October 12th, OSLC will be renting our social hall and one classroom to the Cleveland Public School to help alleviate their need for extra space during construction and socially distanced learning. This agreement comes after a month of conversation and negotiation over terms and expectations. Part of the agreement includes having the school custodial staff clean our shared spaces after each day that classes occupy our space. There are also strict guidelines in place that regulate where the students are permitted to insure the health and safety of OSLC staff and membership. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Church Council or Pr. Liz.

## ONGOING CONCERNS:

### **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

As we continue to offer worship in person, we need your help! If you are willing to serve as a greeter/screener or usher, please contact the church office. It's actually very simple and training will be provided.

### **TECHNOLOGY VOLUNTEERS**

Exciting things are happening with technology at OSLC and we need your help. We need volunteers who are interested in learning how to video and stream worship on Sunday mornings. We hope to have enough people to create a rotating schedule. The Church Council feels that streaming our worship online is part of the “new normal.” and a great benefit to those who are ill, recovering from surgery, on vacation, or just forgot to set the alarm!

Contact Ginger McCabe for more information:  
763-350-4970, [ginger.larae@gmail.com](mailto:ginger.larae@gmail.com)

### **E-GIVING**

Sign-up for **Simply Giving** (automatic withdrawals) by requesting a form from the church office. Give online with **Tithe.ly**. A link can be found on the church website under the “[Donate](#)” tab. After filling out your information, you can choose to donate through a checking account or credit card. Contact the church office or Ben Olsen 507-351-7098 or [baolsen85@gmail.com](mailto:baolsen85@gmail.com) for more info.

### **OSLC-ONLINE**

<https://oursaviorscleveland.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/OSLCleveland/>

**ZOOM** – By clicking the first link below, you will be prompted to install the Zoom app if you do not have it. [Click here for the Zoom guide.](#)

Online: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3656795790>

By Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US

Meeting ID: 365 679 5790

For assistance getting started, contact Pr. Liz.



Cross—Black

Heart—Red

Rose—White

Background—Blue

Border—Gold

Find out more about

Luther’s Seal at

[http://www.lutheran-](http://www.lutheran-resources.org/)

[resources.org/](http://www.lutheran-resources.org/)

[Luther rose.htm](http://www.lutheran-resources.org/)

## October Birthdays

- 2nd Jeff Block, Deb Hunt, Nikki Sunderman  
3rd David Wolf  
4th Timothy Ellickson, Mary Koppelman,  
Samantha Olsen, Zachary Wagner  
5th McKenzie Cemensky, Kameryn Wilmes  
7th Jody Block  
8th Benjamin Olsen  
9th Tabatha Woodrum  
10th Ariel Murphy  
11th Joanna Starner, Derrick Stocker  
14th Pete Sexe, Jaden Thompson  
15th Kaylee Dauk, Mitch Dawald  
16th Jan Fischer, Ginger McCabe,  
Rhett Ponwith  
17th Max Mettler, Bruce Wing  
20th Layla Ponwith, Jordie Seely,  
Steve Ziebarth  
21st Ian Krenik  
22nd Donna Anderson, Greg Davis,  
Kim Gherke  
23rd Rocky Metzler, Jeff Thom  
25th Jacob Ely, Morgan Goettlicher,  
Leann Sexe, Lori Zimmerman  
26th Iliana Hollerich, Bruce Ponwith  
27th George Bateman  
28th Anna Ely, Josh Landsteiner,  
Kevin Sexe, Benjamin Zimmerman

## October Anniversaries

- 1st Wade & Sandy Anderson  
2nd Mel & Louise Goede,  
Gaylord & Rita Martin  
14th Peter & Lisa Koppelman  
15th Michael & Lea Reed  
17th Leo & Sandra Koppelman  
18th Josh & Helene Bluhm  
20th Brian & Susan Eppmeyer



## **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE—CLEVELAND**

### **FIRE AND RESCUE**

We will be helping people that are elderly and have underlying health conditions procuring supplies that they need without them having to leave their homes.

If you have an emergency please dial 911. If you need assistance getting supplies and don't want to leave your home because you're high risk contact us through the following means, in this order please.

1) City hall Monday—Friday 8am-4pm

507-931-6380

2) Through Facebook messenger

3) 507-484-1315

4) clvfirerescue@gmail.com

## **Our Savior's Contact Information**

Pastor Liz Rossing                  Home 507/931-5450  
    Cell 706/218-0420  
    pastor.oursaviorslutheran@gmail.com

Secretary, Sandy Bateman        507/931-1564  
    oursaviorslutheran1@gmail.com

Treasurer, Brian Block            507/ 560-0050  
    lecenterhh@gmail.com

## **2020 Church Council Information**

Sharyn Gregor                      320/496-0342  
    sharyng2014@gmail.com

Ginny Grabow                      507/304-0667  
    vgrabow@gmail.com

Ginger McCabe, Secretary        763/350-4970  
    ginger.larae@gmail.com

Kevin Hewitt , President        507/327-7629  
    khewitt7629@gmail.com

Kay Wendelschafer                507/380-9986  
    kwendelschafer@gmail.com

Ben Olsen, Vice President        507/351-7098  
    baolsen85@gmail.com

Deb Gehrke                        507/381-0815  
    gehrkebd74@gmail.com

## **Prayer Concerns**

**Members:** Bruce Ponwith +, Bradley Riba+, Michaela Biehn+ and Bill Sexe.

**Non-Members:** Natalie Boelter+, Chantha Eckman+, Holly Kallestad+, Glen Zabel, Bev Colombo, Dean Grabow.

## **Those in the military service:**

**Active Military:** Brendon Brown, Alex Garrison, Chris Glassel, Jim Grandaw, Tyler Seitz and Tyler Piotter.

**Veterans:** We also pray for all veterans who have served in our nation's Armed Forces.

**Pray for** First Responders, Medical Professionals, and Essential Workers.

# October 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 18th Sunday After Pentecost 9 am Worship & Holy Comm (online and in person)	5	6	7 7:00 pm Bible Study*	8	9	10
11 19th Sunday After Pentecost 9 am Worship (online and in person)	12	13	14 7:00 pm Bible Study*	15	16	17
18 20th Sunday After Pentecost 9 am Worship & Holy Comm (online and in person) 10 am 9th Grade Confirmation	19	20	21 6:00 pm God Squad— Group 1 7:00 pm Bible Study*	22	23	24 2020 Confirmation Refresh
25 Reformation Sunday 9 am Worship & Affirmation of Faith (online and in person)	26	27	28 6:00 pm God Squad— Group 2 7:00 pm Bible Study*	29	30	31

\* = online only