



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

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OUR SAVIOR’S LUTHERAN

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:1-3

January 6, 2021

Beloved of God,

Grace to you and peace from the one who bring light to our darkness.

Today is the feast of Epiphany, which means “manifestation”. This festival concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

Epiphany has always been a season of hope and light for me, but as I sit here in the church office, listening to the news of unfolding chaos and violence in our nation’s capital, what I feel is deep sadness and shock. And I am wondering, where is God in all this? In a message shared on Wednesday evening, Bishop Leila Ortiz of the ELCA’s

Metropolitan D.C. Synod made a confession. “I was paralyzed,” she said. What she had just seen and heard left her speechless, unable to move or respond. The next day, more than one person told me it felt like 9-11, another day when the fabric of American life shifted. One of these people was out delivering newsletters for their church and every time a door opened, the message was the same, “Have you seen, have you heard? The unthinkable is happening in Washington.” Across the United States, we sat glued to news screens, watching as American citizens broke down barriers, smashed windows, and looted the offices of our Capitol building.

The right to protest and expression of free speech is intrinsic to who we are as a nation, however we are also citizens of the kin-dom of God. The violence and destruction that took place today have no place in that beloved community. In some ways the events of today are a culmination of the tensions that plagued us throughout 2020 and past years, decades, and centuries.

We, as children of God, have work to do. In the days and weeks to come, our calling as heirs of Christ is to be instruments of the good news of God’s love, forgiveness, and reconciliation in our homes, communities, and nation. We may not agree on politics, policies, or the people who serve in government, but I hope and pray that we can agree that there is more to unite us than drive us apart. We are called, claimed, sanctified, and sent out into the world to share the light of Christ Jesus, to be partners in the kin-dom of God, and above all to follow the example of servant-love set by our Lord.

May you find peace, hope, and enthusiasm for this calling as we begin a new calendar year.

Peace be yours,

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
November 10, 2020

Present: Pastor Liz, Ginger McCabe, Ginny Grabow, Kevin Hewitt, Kay Wendelschafer, Deb Gehrke
Absent: Sharyn Gregor, Ben Olsen

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

Financial Report: Approved by council.

- The general fund received gifts of \$7,255.00 in November, versus last year of \$8,728.75, giving us a difference of (\$1,473.75).
- Year to Date: The general fund received gifts of \$105,312.13 versus last year of \$107,066.03, giving us a difference of (\$1,753.90).
- Our expenses have been lower than budgeted for the year.

Old Business:

- Dave Voss cleaned the parsonage gutters and looked at the shingles. He thinks we need to consider a new roof in Spring 2021.
- Deb continues to make reservations for people who want to attend church in person. The average in-person attendance has been around 25.

New Business:

- Cleveland School's secondary students started distance learning this week, so they have not needed to use our church building for classes.
- Last Sunday a recorded video of the worship service was posted on Facebook afterward, but there were not as many views.
- Pastor Liz reported that 100 kids came to the Trunk or Treat event held in our church parking lot on Saturday, October 31st. The Church of Christ joined and there were 4 groups handing out candy. • Governor Walz put out new state guidelines today regarding reducing the size of group gatherings. The Council discussed what this means for church attendance and decided to go back to online-only worship services starting December 13th.
- What will God Squad look like if the entire school goes to distance learning? Ginger discouraged online classes for faith formation if the kids are already doing school online. Pastor Liz suggested possibly providing hands-on activities the kids can do at home.
- Pastor Liz told the Council that the Minnesota Department of Health requires us to have a COVID Preparedness Plan written and posted on our website and in the church building. Ginny will get in touch with Cindy McCabe to work on this.
- Pastor Liz received a Thrivent Action Team Grant. She is planning to use the money to make take-home worship kits for Advent.
 - Kay will contact the Le Sueur County Adopt-a-Family program to ask how we can participate this year.

Next meeting will take place online via Zoom on December 8th, 7:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Ginger McCabe

Addendum

The Council met, via Zoom, on 11/18/20 to discuss the following new business:

- Governor Walz is putting new restrictions in place for the next 3 weeks but is allowing church services to continue. However, Bishop Hassanally is recommending all churches in our synod go "all virtual" at least until the Governor's new orders expire on December 18th. The Council agrees with this recommendation and it was decided we should move to online-only worship services starting this Sunday, November 22nd and continue through the rest of 2020. Deb will call the congregation members who do not have access to technology and let them know that they can join via Zoom by phone. The Council will consider resuming in-person worship services on Sunday, January 3rd.
- Mediacom is installing internet at the church building on Tuesday, November 24th. Pastor Liz will contact Video Services, Inc. to schedule a time for them to come and install their equipment. They have a 1-year guarantee on their equipment and they will come and fix any glitches we experience as long as it's not due to "user error."
- Ballman roofing gave Kevin an estimate to repair the church roof. Cost \$2,660. The Council approved this and hopes the work can be done before the snow flies.
- Kay found out we can mail monetary donations to the Adopt-a-Family program by December 5th and they will use the money to shop for gifts. They told her "the need is great." She will create an email to share this information with the congregation.

NEWS AND UPDATES:

WORSHIP UPDATE

The Church Council meets on January 12th to discuss the option to return to in-person worship. Pending a lower infection rate, we will return to the reservation system we used during the fall. The decision will be communicated after the meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place on January 31st following worship. We are hopeful that it will be held in person with the option to join digitally via Zoom. Though there are two council members with expiring terms, they have been asked to remain on council for the coming year to help see us through the pandemic. We will need congregational approval for this measure. We will also be approving the 2021 budget which includes increasing our spending for technology and communication support. The council will be prepared to discuss these changes along with hopes and vision for 2021.

GOD SQUAD AND CONFIRMATION RESUME

Our modified God Squad schedule will resume on January 20th following the reopening of Cleveland Public Schools. Social distancing and mask wearing are still expected.

The Schedule for January and February is as follows:

1/20 Group 1 (PreK-2nd and 6th grades)
1/27 Group 2 (3rd-5th and 7-8th grades)
2/3 Group 1
2/10 Group 2
2/17 No Class—Ash Wednesday Worship
2/24 Group 2

9th grade confirmation class will resume at 10:00 am on January 24th. The same health and safety requirements apply.

GREEN LAKE BIBLE CAMP

SUMMER CAMP IS BACK!

In the months ahead, our program team will be gearing up for the many ways that campers and guests will experience the life-changing love of Jesus through summer camp and retreats in 2021. You might be wondering -- what will this look like? Will there be any changes? The answer is -- yes! There certainly will be changes. But, we are comfortable saying that we will be open for summer camp. We have great guidance from the American Camp Association, exciting new ideas to try, and diligent staff who will make sure we will be ready to operate in a fun and safe way!

This year, OSLC Youth Coordinator Victoria Sawyer will be coordinating the dates our kids go to camp and some fun fundraiser opportunities to support them. Email oslc1youth@gmail.com for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Summer Camp Registration opens • January 25
- Early Bird Discount ends • March 1
- First Day of Camp • June 20

THANKS FROM PR. LIZ

Thank you to everyone who sent me cards and gifts for Christmas. It helped make the season a little brighter while I was unable to be with family this year! I hope to see you all and thank you in person soon!

ONGOING CONCERNS:

TECHNOLOGY TRIUMPH!

We have switched our internet and phone service to MediaCom and Video Services Inc. installed a new streaming encoder at the end of November. If you haven't seen our new and improved worship videos, check them out on [Facebook!](#)

The total cost of the equipment and installation was approximately \$2,300. We have already received a couple donations toward this new ministry. If you would like to make a contribution, please, designate it for the technology fund.

TECHNOLOGY VOLUNTEERS –UPDATE

We need volunteers who are interested in learning how to video and stream worship on Sunday mornings. The Church Council has decided to make the position of Video Technology Helper a paid position (\$25 per service).

Contact Ginger McCabe for more information or to apply: 763-350-4970, 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 for more info.

2020 Contributions

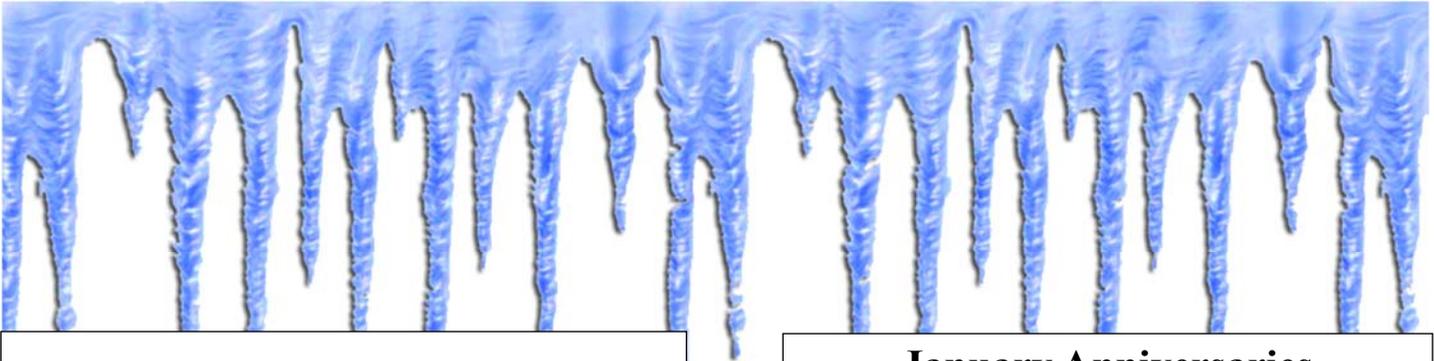
2020 Contribution statements will be sent by mail. Please, make sure the church office has your correct mailing address.

OSLC-ONLINE

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Watch online through our Facebook page at 9:00 am any time thereafter.



January Birthdays

3rd Michelle Mettler, Michael Metzler
4th Kevin Johnson, Harrison Sexe
6th Porter Goettlicher
7th Ryan Evenson, Max Van Binsbergen
8th Kristi Goettlicher, Emma Hahn
9th Kathleen Davies
10th Avery Chavez-Broas, Kaitlyn Powers
13th Ryan Ponwith
15th Scott Davies, Lael Starkweather
16th Rhonda Johnson
17th Colin Krenik, Erin Larson
18th Sullivan Sexe
19th Dick Newbrough
20th Dennis Hiller
21st Harper Meyer
23rd Louise Goede
24th Jonathan Anderson, Jennifer Nelson
25th Victoria Jacoby, Theresa Jordan,
Tyler Piotter
26th Kade Miller
27th Lisa Will
28th Brandon Seitz
29th Kacy Queen

January Anniversaries

6th Bill & Nancy Hensel
8th Adam & Sue Wendelschafer
31st Adam & Kacy Queen

Do you have a birthday or anniversary to add to our list? Contact the church office to let us know!



January 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 2nd Sunday of Christmas 9 am Worship & Holy Comm (online)	4	5	6 7:00 pm Bible Study*	7	1 8	2 9
10 Baptism of Our Lord 9 am Worship (online)	11	12 7:00 pm Church Council*	13 7:00 pm Bible Study*	14	15	16
17 2nd Sunday After Epiphany 9 am Worship & Holy Comm (in-person?/online)	18	19	20 6:00 pm God Squad - Group 1 7:00 pm Bible Study*	21	22	23
24 3rd Sunday After Epiphany 9 am Worship (in-person?/online) 10 am 9th Grade Confirmation (in-person)	25	26	27 6:00 pm God Squad - Group 2 7:00 pm Bible Study*	28	29	30
31 1st Sunday of Christmas 9 am Worship 10 am Annual Meeting (in-person/online)					* = online only	