

# OCTOBER

2023

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
P.O. Box 277 • 305 Sixth Street  
Cleveland, Minnesota 56017-027

# October 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Worship with Holy Communion & 3rd Grade Bibles 10 am 9th grade Confirmation	2	3	4 10:30 am Bible Study 6 pm God Squad - Group 2 (3rd-4th and 7th-8th)	5	6	7
8 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Worship with 10 am Council 5 pm Mutual Ministry	9	10	11 10:30 am Bible Study 6 pm God Squad - Group 1 (PreK-2nd, 5th-6th)	12	13	14
15 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Worship with Holy Communion	16	17	18 10:30 am Bible Study No God Squad	19	20	21
22 Reformation Sunday 9 am Worship	23	24	25 6 pm God Squad Halloween Party	26	27	28
29 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Worship	30	31 5-7pm Trunk-or-Treat				

# Grapes from the Vine

October 2023



**OUR SAVIOR'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Cleveland, MN 56017  
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[Give Online](#)

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## From the Pastor

*"October, baptize me with leaves! Swaddle me in corduroy and nurse me with split pea soup. October, tuck tiny candy bars in my pockets and carve my smile into a thousand pumpkins. O autumn! O teakettle! O grace!" - Rainbow Rowell, author*

When I was hunting for inspiration for this month's letter I came across the quote listed above by Rainbow Rowell (Yes that is her actual name!). It seemed to capture the feeling of Autumnal October perfectly—the month that is a lovely buffer between summer and winter, full of fall fun, full of God's grace.

Did you know that Halloween started as a Christian holiday? Pope Gregory III, 731-741 AD, set aside November 1 for all saints or All Hallows Day. The night before was All Hallows' Eve. When Christianity came to Britain, traditions from fall festivals were incorporated. During the Middle Ages, the idea of purgatory and evil spirits walking the earth entered the picture. And it was later on, during the Reformation, that some of the festivities came under attack because they did go with the protestant ideas of the afterlife. As with most holidays, it is a mix of cultures and traditions.

What matters most about this time of year—harvest, Halloween, changing season—is that we remember to make time for God in the hustle and bustle. Though the seasons may change, our God stays the same, full of grace and mercy for those who love God through our savior Jesus Christ.

Peace be yours,  
Pr. Liz

Find Us Online



## **Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

### **Council Minutes**

**September 13, 2023**

Members present: Deb Gehrke, Pastor Liz, Tom Christensen, Terri Himerman, Julie Rogers, Jim Grabow, Ginny Grabow

Meeting opened with a devotional activity & prayer presented by Julie.

Brian Block presented financial information. For the month of August, the general fund received gifts of \$9,278.00 versus last year of \$7,271.20, giving us a difference of \$2006.80. Year to date the general fund received gifts of \$78,314.72 versus last year's \$73,424.46, a difference of \$4,890.26. When we committed to roof replacement, funds were borrowed from the memorial fund. Generous gifts from our church family have covered about 80% of the total cost, with the remaining balance to be paid by funds in the memorial account. This payback of funds will occur before year end 2023. Gratitude was expressed for the generosity of the people of Our Savior's in gifting funds for the roof repairs. Brian also presented a projection of our financial condition through year's end if gifts remain constant. Brian presented possible changes in Pr. Liz's health insurance plan. It was decided to stay with the present plan for the coming year.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved.

#### **Old Business:**

- The summer church cleaning is complete & Deb and Ginny are conducting an inventory of removable church property at the request of our insurance company.
- Julie reported on VBS. We had many happy children and adult volunteers. It was four evenings of fun and learning about how we can also be heroes like the heroes of the Bible. The children enjoyed music led by Kevin & Lacey Johnson, a lesson in the form of a puppet show (scripts written by Julie Rogers), activities, and recreation led by Aaron Rogers. Thanks to all who were a part of these evenings of learning and fun.
- God's Work Our Hands Sunday was moved indoors due to weather conditions on September 10. Following worship, more than 30 hygiene kits were packed for use at the school and the Food Shelf. A delicious potluck was enjoyed after the work was done.
- Pastor Liz explained how the Mutual Ministry Committee will work. She will write a description of the committee's work and distribute it to the council.
- Giving Tree will be started soon. Terri will check on how to proceed.

#### **New Business:**

- The OSLC Events Calendar was used to plan activities for the coming months. Some possible activities: A progressive dinner, if there is sufficient interest, Lefse making, College care packages for new college students from Our Savior's.
- God Squad will begin on September 20 with an ice cream social. Pr. Liz will meet with parents to discuss the coming year.
- Fall yard clean-up will be scheduled soon. The dry conditions this year will change how we will proceed. Shrubs need to be planted on the west side of the church this fall after the old plants are removed. Tom & Jim will decide on when to schedule the clean-up.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next council meeting on October 8 following worship.**

Ginny Grabow, council secretary

# News and Updates

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

## **Bibles for 3rd Graders**

On Sunday, October 1st, during worship our 3rd graders will be gifted a new Bible. Families are encouraged to attend for a special dedication and blessing of this gift. If your child is older than 3rd grade and has not received a Bible, let Pr. Liz know and we'll make sure they are included too.

## **Fall Bible Fellowship**

Our adult Bible Study and Fellowship meets at 10:30 am on Wednesdays. Join Pr. Liz for a time of casual discussion about the readings for the following Sunday and time of intercessory prayer.

## **God Squad 2023**

God Squad is in full swing! Registration forms are available at church or on our [website](#). We need your help to teach, assist, and find fun and meaningful ways to share faith with our youngest members. A sign-up sheet is available on the welcome table or on [Sign-up Genius](#).

Jordan Elias will be helping to coordinate communication and volunteers. You can email her or Pr. Liz with questions ([jordanelias42@gmail.com](mailto:jordanelias42@gmail.com)).

October 4: Group 2 (3rd-4th, 7th-8th)

October 11: Group 1

October 25: Halloween Party

## **Trunk-or-Treat**

Sign up to help or donate treats and food for the 6th Annual Trunk-or-Treat on Halloween night from 5-7 pm. We need people to host a trunk, and donations for candy, hot dogs, buns, chips and drinks. The sign up sheet is located on the table in the narthex.

## **Raise the Roof - Thank you!**

We finished our capital campaign for the roof repair on September 10th with \$27,350 in gifts! The rest of the funds will be supplied from memorial funds. You can still give at any time, but our active campaign is done. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generous support and care for our building for our continued ministry together.

## **Building and Grounds**

We're still getting some summer temperatures, but fall and winter are coming! It will soon be time to do our fall landscaping cleanup and get ready for snow removal. If you are able to help, please contact Tom Christensen.

## **Lefse Day!**

We will be making lefse on Saturday, November 11, 9:00-Noon. This is a fun multi-generational activity that has included children, parents, and grandparents. If you own a lefse griddle, sticks, rolling pins and pads and one recipe of prepared dough bring it. If you do not have a griddle, just come and help with rolling and baking.

So that we know how many to expect, please sign up at the welcome table beginning on October 8th. A recipe will be available at the sign up. If you have a favorite recipe you would prefer, feel free to use it. Packets of four lefse will be available for a donation of \$5.00 on November 12. All proceeds will go to the youth fund. If you have questions, call Ginny at 507-304-0667.

## **Supporting Our Values**

At Our Savior's Lutheran Church, our mission is that "We are called to let our light shine as instruments of the Holy Spirit so all may know God's love." We value time spent together in worship and praise, sharing faith with the next generation, and gathering in fellowship.

Support our mission and ministry together in a variety of ways such as volunteering to assist in Sunday morning worship, helping with youth Faith Formation in God Squad and Vacation Bible School, or signing up to provide treats at Coffee Hour. Your financial contributions can be made by giving on Sunday mornings, or with Simply Giving (automatic withdrawals) by requesting a form from the church office. Give online with Vanco. A link can be found on the church website under the ["Donate"](#) tab or scanning the QR code with your smartphone.



## **Birthdays**

2nd Jeff Block, Deb Hunt,  
3rd David Wolf  
4th Mary Koppelman, Samantha Olsen,  
7th Jody Block  
8th Benjamin Olsen, Tom Christensen  
10th Ariel Murphy  
11th Joanna Starner, Derrick Stocker  
13th Morgan VanEck  
14th Pete Sexe  
15th Mitch Dawald  
16th Jan Fischer, Ginger McCabe, Rhett Ponwith  
20th Layla Ponwith, Jordie Seely, Steve Ziebarth  
21st Ian Krenik  
22nd Donna Anderson, Greg Davis  
23rd Jeff Thom  
25th Jacob Ely, Leann Sexe, Lori Zimmerman  
26th Iliana Hollerich  
27th George Bateman  
28th Anna Beisch, Kevin Sexe,  
Benjamin Zimmerman  
30th Bill Miller

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

## **Anniversaries**

2nd Gaylord & Rita Martin  
14th Peter & Lisa Koppelman  
17th Leo & Sandra Koppelman  
20th Brian & Susan Eppmeyer

### **Preparing for Worship**

10/1 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost - Phil. 2:1-13;  
Psalm 25:1-9; Matthew 21:23-32

10/8 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost - Phil. 3:4b-14;  
Psalm 80:7-15; Matthew 21:33-46

10/15 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost - Phil. 4:1-9;  
Psalm 23; Matthew 22:1-14

10/22 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost - 1 Thess. 1:1-10;  
96:1-13; Matthew 22:15-22

10/29 - Reformation Sunday - Jeremiah 31:31-34;  
Psalm 46; Matthew 22:34-46

### **Prayer Concerns**

**Members:** Charlotte Jacoby+, George Bauer+, Dan McCabe+, Kevin Mueller+, Karen Johnson+, Bradley Riba+, Michaela Biehn+

**Non-Members:** Cindy Wieland+, Holly Kallestad+, Mary Heckman+, Teresa Griep+

### **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.

Send your prayer concerns to [oursaviorslutheran1@gmail.com](mailto:oursaviorslutheran1@gmail.com) or call the church office. We will keep these loved ones in prayer for three weeks. If the concern continues, please let us know to extend your petition.