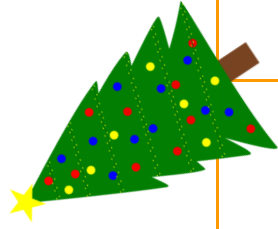


DECEMBER



2023

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



December 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	
3 2nd Sunday of Advent 9am Worship with Holy Communion	4	5	6 Bible Study 1030am 6pm God Squad Group 2 630pm Advent Service 7pm Choir Practice	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 Hanukkah	9
10 3rd Sunday of Advent 9am Worship Council Mtg after Worship	11	12	13 Bible Study 1030am 6pm God Squad Group 1 630pm Advent Service 7pm Choir Practice	14	15	16 1pm Christmas Program Practice
17 4th Sunday of Advent 9am Worship Christmas Program	18	19	20 Bible Study 1030am 630pm Advent Service 7pm Choir Practice No God Squad - Christmas Break	21  Winter Solstice	22	23
24 Nativity of Our Lord 9am Devotions 330 and 530 Service with Holy Communion CHRISTMAS EVE	25  CHRISTMAS DAY	26 First Day of Kwanzaa	27 No Bible Study No God Squad - Christmas Break	28	29	30
31 1st Sunday of Christmas 9am Worship New Years Eve						

Grapes from the Vine

December 2023



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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507/931-1564

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[Give Online](#)

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From the Pastor

In the evenings, when I let my puppies outside, I've been lamenting the fact that it gets dark so early. One day this past week I barely made it back to Cleveland before the sun set at 4:30ish! Though it may be dark and dreary for the majority of each day (less than 9 hours of day light as I write this...), this is a season of hope and light for the Christian faith.

One of my favorite parts of the Holden Evening Prayer service is when we recite John 1:5: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." It's almost as if the early church knew that we in the Northern hemisphere needed that extra bit of help to make it through the darkest part of the year. I remember when I was little, the Christmas season seemed like the culmination of the fall semester in school. Though much of my work in ministry still follows a program year, I am increasingly mindful of our world's need for the light of Christ.

A couple of nights ago, I saw the flashing lights and sirens of emergency responders going down the highway. My first prayer was that those I love be safe from harm. My next prayer was "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." It is a song and a fervent plea. In this season we all pray: Come and change the world as you did so long ago, as you promise to do here and now. Come and bring peace, bring hope, bring light to a world in desperate need. So, come let us adore him, the one for whom we wait, the one who is already here.

May peace be yours this Christmas and always,
Pr. Liz

Find Us Online



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
November 12, 2023

Members present: Pastor Liz, Deb Gehrke, Tom Christensen, Terri Heimerman, Julie Rogers, Ginny Grabow. Deb provided a meditation about serving as a leader, which was read in unison.

The financial report for October was presented by Brian Block:

The general fund received gifts of \$12,745.75 in October versus last year of \$12,748.63, a difference of (\$2.88). Year to date the general fund received gifts of \$99,550.72 versus last year's \$93,508, a difference of \$6,042.24. Brian presented projected gifts for the rest of 2023, as well as the proposed budget for 2024. The financial report was accepted on a motion by Julie and second by Tom. Tom moved we accept the proposed salary/benefit package for Pastor Liz, second by Terri. Motion passed. Council needs to accept the proposed budget for 2024 at the December meeting. There was discussion concerning how the cost of snow removal will impact the new budget.

Due to changes to business accounts, by Pay Pal, the council recommended applying for a debit card for online purchases instead of Pay Pal. Deb will check on procedure to secure a card.

Brian proposed sending out letters to the congregation updating contributions thus far in 2023. It was also decided to resume passing the offering plate within the worship service.

The October minutes were approved on a motion by Terri, second by Tom.

The new HVAC unit was installed on November 6.

Old Business:

Trunk & Treat was again a successful community outreach project.

Fall yard clean-up. Dean Heimerman took care of leaves, Bob Gehrke cleaned parsonage gutters. Others will meet on Nov 13 to finish trimming, etc.

New Business:

- The piggy ELCA Hunger boxes will be collected in November—Sundays & Wednesdays.
- Thanksgiving worship-Nov 19, 9:00 a.m. with a Pie Social following worship.
- Wednesday Advent worship will begin on November 29 in order to have four Advent services. Choir practice for Christmas special music will follow immediately after worship.
- A winter activity event for youth is in the planning stages. Julie Rogers and Andi Lassiter are considering a movie/pizza evening.
- Deb met with a sound system company representative to get an estimate on some extra speakers for the rear of the church.
- Tom & Terri's terms on council expire in January but they are willing to continue to serve. We can add one more member. Election of council members will take place at the Annual -- Meeting on January 28th. If you want to serve, notify a council member.
- Next meeting Dec 10 after worship. Pr. Liz will offer the devotional.

Ginny Grabow, 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.

Advent at OSLC

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm for Holden Evening prayer and a chance to get back to basics. Let's recapture the beauty of simplicity. Let's have music and presents and celebration, yes, but let's focus on what's most important, and put first things first. This year, let's have less stuff and less stress – and more hope, more peace, more joy, and more love.

9th Grade Confirmation

Our third class will be on December 18th at 10am after worship with Pr. Liz.

Adult 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

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](#). Contact Jordan Elias (jordanelias42@gmail.com) or Pr. Liz with questions.

December 6: Group 2 (3rd-4th, 7th-8th)

December 13: Group 1 Pre K-2nd, 5th-6th

December 20: No God Squad - Christmas Break

December 27: No God Squad - Christmas Break

Christmas Program

The God Squad Christmas Program will take place during worship on Sunday December 17th. Join us as the kids tell the age old story of Jesus' birth in a classic pageant with music and costumes.

There will be a brief run through for all participants on Saturday, December 16th at 1pm.

Christmas Eve Services

On Christmas Eve, we will have 9:00 am devotions for those who wish to gather on Sunday morning. In the evening, we will gather for worship on at 3:30 and 5:00 pm. Both services will include a special children's message, Holy communion, and candle light.

Make a Joyful Noise

Do you fantasize about being a famous singer? Come join us for choir. We will sing at Christmas Eve services. Join us for choir practice on Wednesday nights at 7pm on November 29, December 6, 13, and 20. Come for Advent services and stay for choir practice. We are looking for new members, come join the fun. We cannot guarantee you will be famous, but you will be loved and appreciated.

Thank You Pastor Liz!!

Whether you plan to attend Christmas services in person or online, please consider a monetary gift for Pastor Liz. She deserves thanks for her efforts to keep the wheels on the bus for our Christian family and home.

At Our Savior's Christmas Eve services the loose change offering has been given to Pastor Liz as a Christmas and thank you gift.

The Council would ask you to consider a gift again this year by giving a loose change offering or by sending her a card with a monetary gift in it to her address at:

Liz Rossing, PO Box 9, Cleveland, MN 56017

Thank you in advance for all your caring!

Snow Removal

Are you or someone you know interested in the snow plowing contract for OSLC for the upcoming winter season? Contact Pr. Liz or Tom Christensen for more information.

Finish the year strong by giving generously!

Put an exclamation point on 2023 with a gift that will empower OSLC's efforts to make a life-changing difference for those we serve.

Simply scan the QR code to make your end-of-year gift.

You can support our mission and ministry together in a variety of ways such as volunteering to assist in Sunday morning worship, helping with God Squad, 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.



Find more pictures of events on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

Birthdays

2nd Joshua Biehn, Michael Bluhm, Sandi Hollerich

3rd Sandy Seitz

9th Bob Gehrke

10th Gary Hasse, Ethan Thompson

12th Corbin Thompson

14th Nancy Block, Oaklyn Van Eck

15th Nancy Hensel

20th Nancy Petrich

23rd Sherry Johnstone

24th Doris Borchardt

27th Alex Garrison

31st Christopher Seely

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



Anniversaries

11th Alan & Julie Zimmerman

18th Wally & Sylvia Perron

28th Mike Enter & Jan Fisher



Preparing for Worship



12/3 - 2nd Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, Mark 1:1-18

12/10 - 3rd Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, John 1:6-8, 19-28

12/17 - 4th Sunday of Advent - Hymn - The Magnificat from Holden Evening Prayer, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Luke 1: 26-38

12/24 - Nativity of Our Lord - Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Luke 2: 1-20

12/31 - 1st Sunday of Christmas - Isaiah 61:10-62, Psalm 148, Luke 2:22-40

Prayer Concerns

Members: Terry Bateman, Myron Wolf+, Mark Consoer+, Charlotte Jacoby+, George Bauer+, Dan McCabe+, Kevin Mueller+, Karen Johnson+, Bradley Riba+, Michaela Biehn+

Non-Members: Roger Miller+, Cindy Wieland+, Holly Kallestad+, Mary Heckman+, Ray Perkins+

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 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.