



**Our Saviour's
Lutheran Church**

300 Logan Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Office:

715-536-5813
office@oscelca.org

Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday -
Friday, 9:00-4:00.

Scrip is available when
Carla is in the office.

Pastor:

Pastor@oscelca.org

Youth & Family:

YouthandFamily@oscelca.org

Staff

Interim Pastor:

Pr. Kathy Tulman

**Director of Youth &
Family Ministry:**

Katy Bailey

Business Administrator:

Carla Weisenfeld

Custodian:

Cindy Latzig

*Network articles are due
on or before the 20th
of the month*

Pastor's Transitional Musings

Growing up for most of us, the Bible was a Story Book; filled with strong men and women, and a powerful God. As we reached adolescence and our world grew larger and more complicated, questions about who God is in the midst of all these stories, were likely asked. In those moments, God's voice may have gotten quieter, more distant. Now, as adults, we have opportunities to learn from scripture as it speaks Truth to us, often between the lines of the stories we first read in Arch books or heard in Sunday School. How have you balanced these 'magic' stories from childhood with the inspired nature of God's Word?

If you have struggled with balancing who God is, I lift up Rachel Held Evans 2018 book, *Inspired: Slaying Giants, walking on water and loving the Bible Again* as a good and important read. Covering its pages just might make the Bible sing for you again. In the meantime, let's take a moment to explore why learning stories as we have in the past couple months matters to you and I in the 21st century.

Over the past weeks we've explored what it looked like for prophets, priests, and every day people to live their lives as God's children: they were faithful servants, choosing God's way over the ways of the world when it mattered. Of all the stories, the little girl who shared her strong faith with the wife of Naaman remains strongest in my mind. Imagine for a moment her life: she was taken in a raid across the border as a child. Though we don't know this for certain, likely others in her family were killed so she is utterly alone. All she has left, living in a land far away, with people who are not her own and a language that was not her own, is her faith.

She could have chosen to keep her faith to herself, hide it under that proverbial 'bushel', but no, she let her light shine. Her willingness to share God in her circumstance, is a lesson for us not to take lightly. Neither is her hope that her God would heal a foreigner, one who had stolen her from nearly all she knew.

God's call to live faithfully sometimes means going to places that are less than comfortable for us. It means speaking of God's love, grace and abundance when those around us are apathetic or judgmental. Like the prophet Jeremiah, you have been called to a unique purpose: to share your faith that God, through Jesus Christ, our King, has already redeemed us from our sin and the evil of this world. We are meant to live into that calling, rising above our daily lives.

God may send you, regardless of your age. The question is, will you go willingly? Is your faith such that God's love and healing will rise and be shared wherever you've been planted?

Lastly, as we gather together to discern God's purpose for us here at Our Saviour's, remember the spiritual side of community – and God's presence here.

Peace,
Pastor Kathy

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

December 10, 4:30pm Combined church Christmas Cantata, reception to follow*

December 17, 4:30pm – Blue Christmas worship*

December 18, 9:00am - Children's Christmas Program* with Holy Communion, reception to follow*

Christmas Eve, December 24, 4:30pm and 7:00pm with Holy Communion

4:30pm family worship will include readings, an engaging children's message, a meditation.

This worship service will be livestreamed.

7:00pm candlelight worship will include readings, message and candlelit singing of 'Silent Night'

First Sunday of Christmas, Dec. 25, worship at 9 a.m. will be a

**see details elsewhere in the newsletter*

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Family Worship

You are invited to join us for family Worship on Sunday Dec 4 at 9:00 am. During the family service we will have all ages of children and youth participating as acolytes, readers, communion assistance and much more. There will be no Our Saviour's Kids during family worship Sunday due to the fact the sermon is geared toward children and youth, but ultimately it is for all ages.



It's almost time for the Christmas Program!

The children and youth have been practicing a lot! As well as the choir has been practicing as they will be singing for the Christmas program this year! Sunday December 18th at 9am, during worship, the children and youth will have a special Christmas program! One of our youth, Sebastian, wrote the program himself! Following the Christmas program, there will be treats downstairs. You won't want to miss this year's program! It will also be live streamed if you are unable to attend in person.

We hope that you can make it, and we look forward to seeing you there!

This will be a fun month for the children and youth!

Some of the fun activities we are hoping to do include a youth group white elephant gift exchange, snow tubing on sylvan hill, Christmas cookie decorating, ornament making and watching Christmas movies together!



Advent Devotions, beginning December 1st

This year, we have a book that will help us to await the coming of Jesus and celebrate Advent. Beginning December 1st, Katy will read from the book, "The Best Gift Ever Given." The book is by Ronnie Martin! It is a 25 day journey through Advent! On Sundays leading up to Christmas, Katy will also read from the Advent book. While this book is a children's advent book, adults can take away a lot from it as well! Be sure to keep an eye out for questions for the car ride home in your bulletins! These questions will be great conversation starters for the whole family!



Upcoming Annual Meeting Notice

The annual meeting for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church will take place last Sunday in January is the 29th, 2023 at 10:15.

This serves as written notice that in addition to voting on leadership and an annual budget, we will also vote on changes to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church's constitution and ByLaws.

Blue Christmas worship

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is cheery and excited for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other dis-ease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and gathering difficult, even painful for some in our congregation and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmastime. This service is meant to be reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope. Please invite family and friends regardless of their church affiliation to join us.

Join Pastor Kathy for a blue Christmas Healing service. We will gather Saturday evening, December 17st, 4:30pm.

Planned End of the Year Giving

As people of faith, we are called to give of our time, talent, and treasures to God and to people in need. As we come to year's end, please consider a gift to the general fund at Our Saviour's to support our ongoing mission and ministries. Post-Covid challenges and increased church activity have resulted in expenses year-to-date slightly exceeding our income. Please prayerfully consider how you can help. Thank you.

Your FINANCE COMMITTEE



Scrip

We have **exciting news**, Scrip will again be available for purchase on the first Sunday of the month.

Christmas gift giving is almost here, Gift Cards are available for many stores that we do not normally stock. We will be placing orders so you will have the Gift Cards before Christmas.

We will do more Sundays if the demand is there. We want to thank Shirley E. for stepping up to sell. She has a couple people who have agreed to help her, but there is still room for more helpers, let Shirley or the office know, and we will add you to the list.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Members of Thrivent did you know that you can have your Thrivent Choice Dollars designated to Our Saviour's? We have a number of members who already help by designating to the Church. So far in 2022 we received \$2,862.00. This is a great way to help with the finances for your church.

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Choir
and
Christ United Methodist Church Choir
Invite you to their
2022 Combined Choirs Christmas Program*

Sing We Now of Christmas

*Saturday, December 10 at 4:30 pm
at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
A reception will follow the program*

*Sunday, December 11 at 10:30 am
at Christ United Methodist Church*



Transition Corner

Our Saviour's Visioning sessions Led by your MSP team

Come one, Come all!

Would you like to have a hand in shaping our *Ministry Site Profile*?

The MSP Committee is hosting two listening/sharing sessions. Each will begin with a potluck meal, followed by a time of engagement and conversation around these key questions:

Who are we as a congregation?

Where is God leading us?

What kind of Pastor do we need to get us to God's future for us.

Who: all youth (grade 6 and up) and adults

When: Wednesday, November 30, 2022; 5:30pm – 7:15pm
Sunday, December 4; 10:15 – 11:45am*

Where: Our Saviour's Fellowship hall

What: Fellowship and an opportunity to shape the responses in our ministry site profile

Our goal is for all members, grade 6 and up, to have a say in this important document. Childcare will be available at the Sunday morning session

NOTE: If you are unable to attend either visioning session, we will send you a physical copy of the questions being asked so you still have a chance to respond.

Sign up for a visioning session in the hallway so we know that you are coming.

Your MSP committee

Financial Report 2022

<u>Month of Sep 2022</u>		<u>TOTAL Jan – Sep 2022</u>	
Income	\$ 22,140.08	Income	\$ 216,859.90
Expenses	<u>\$ 21,048.77</u>	Expenses	<u>\$ 218,209.91</u>
Net Loss	\$ 1,091.31	Net	(\$ 1,350.01)

End of Year Giving

The last day the offering to be counted for the 2022 will be Dec 31. Please have your donations to the church be Dec 31st if you want to use it for the 2022 tax year. Thank you for all your financial support. Year end statements will be available at church in the middle of January.



Authorization Form - Automated Giving

Name of the organization: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Address: 300 Logan Merrill, WI 54452

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____ Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation		
Last Name		First Name
Address		
City		State Zip
Email Address		
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays	FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism/Outreach \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ \$ _____ <p style="text-align: right;">Total \$ _____</p>
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)	Routing Number: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____ ⑆ 23456789 ⑆ 23 23456 ⑆ 000 ⑆ └──────────┬──────────┬──────────┘ Routing Number Account Number Check Number
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____	

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check here:

Dec 2022 – Birthday

Breanna Ineichen	Dec 1
Mark Latzig	Dec 1
Brenda Mueller	Dec 1
Stephanie Spoehr	Dec 1
Michael Lambrecht	Dec 2
Eric Soderlund	Dec 2
Isaac Buntrock	Dec 3
Dylan Miller	Dec 3
Kylie Russell	Dec 3
Katlyn Williams	Dec 4
Robert Williams	Dec 4
Jeremy Hietala	Dec 5
Michelle Stangl	Dec 5
Carson Stockowitz	Dec 6
Brian Teske	Dec 6
Susan Jaeger	Dec 7
Greg Thorson	Dec 7
Sabrina Eggersgluess	Dec 9
Carol Frederick	Dec 9
Bruce Schleif	Dec 9
Ciara Steffenhagen	Dec 9
Meghan Truckey	Dec 10
Jerry Wick	Dec 10
Tim Lee	Dec 11
Betty Reinke	Dec 12
Makyla Stockowitz	Dec 12
Avery Patton	Dec 13
Norman Purmal	Dec 13
Ruth Schumacher	Dec 13
Bill Dinges	Dec 14
Michael Pagel	Dec 14
John Annis	Dec 15

Heather Dehne	Dec 15
Ed Dinges	Dec 15
Presten Ferrin	Dec 16
Iona Fleischman	Dec 16
Matt Leskey	Dec 16
Mike Strand	Dec 16
Elizabeth Albert	Dec 17
Jerry Hull	Dec 17
Kailyn Jannusch	Dec 17
Linda Murray	Dec 17
Zoe Slewitzke	Dec 17
Paul Wegener	Dec 17
Samantha Kautz	Dec 18
Shannon O'Malley	Dec 18
Emma Daley	Dec 19
Bonnie Osness	Dec 19
Kenneth Woellner	Dec 19
Larry Johnson	Dec 20
Danica Lipke	Dec 20
Harriet Torkelson	Dec 20
Carol Kienbaum	Dec 21
Joy Annis	Dec 22
Traci Grenwalt	Dec 23
Kelly Halbach	Dec 23
Marc Ollmann	Dec 23
Zane Westberg	Dec 23
Christopher Williams	Dec 23
Dan Bowen	Dec 24
Matt Peterson	Dec 24
Christy Lemerande	Dec 25
Magan Oberg	Dec 26
Sally McMenamin	Dec 27
Carol Pester	Dec 27
Angela Severt	Dec 27
Patrick Weix	Dec 28

Kensey Prentice	Dec 29
Sandy Hull	Dec 30
Char Jerzak	Dec 30
Katie Loskot	Dec 30
Chuck Reinke	Dec 31
Griffin Sorensen	Dec 31



Birthdays This Month

If the names or dates are incorrect, or if we are missing information let the office know.

Dec 2022 – Anniversary

Dennis and Dolores Blake	Dec 2
Ron and Laura Ward	Dec 4
Russell and Sandra Teske	Dec 6
Tim and Nina Lee	Dec 7
Jay and Joan Peterson	Dec 9
Shelly and Ricky Storm	Dec 11
Deborah and Theodore Bartz	Dec 14
Allen and Julie Osness	Dec 18
Ed and Cheryl Dohm	Dec 20
Joe and Michelle Brown	Dec 26
Patricia and David McNutt	Dec 27
Scott and Mary Buttke	Dec 28
John and Lorann Erickson	Dec 29

Our Saviour's Scrip Order Form

Name _____

Date _____

ON HAND

Qty Total

GROCERIES

County Market - 3%	\$25		
County Market - 3%	\$50		
County Market - 3%	\$100		

RESTAURANTS

Arby's - 8%	\$10		
Chips - 10%	\$5		
Clark's Cup N Cone- 10%	\$10		
Culver's - 5%	\$10		
Culver's - 5%	\$25		
Dairy Queen - 10%	\$10		
Dairy Queen - 10%	\$20		
1st St. Coffee - 5%	\$5		
1st St. Coffee - 5%	\$10		
Friendship House – 10%	\$10		
Hardee's – 5%	\$10		
Los Mezcales - 15%	\$10		
McDonald's - 5%	\$5		
McDonald's - 5%	\$10		
Pizza Hut - 8%	\$10		
Taco Bell - 5%	\$10		

FUEL

Kwik Trip - 4%	\$25		
Kwik Trip - 4%	\$50		
Kwik Trip - 4%	\$100		

MISCELLANEOUS

Cosmo Child/Sr- 10%	\$5		
Cosmo Adult - 10%	\$8		
Fleet Farm – 3.5%	\$25		
Kohl's - 4%	\$25		
Menards - 3%	\$25		
Walgreens - 5%	\$25		
Walmart - 2.5%	\$25		
Walmart - 2.5%	\$50		
Walmart - 2.5%	\$100		

SPECIAL ORDER LIST \$ Amt Qty Total

**Other stores also be available - ask seller for details*

Most popular special orders - many others also

RESTAURANTS

Chipotle - 10%	\$10		
Tex Roadhouse - 8%	\$25		

CLOTHING

Am. Eagle - 9%	\$25		
Gap/Old Navy - 14%	\$25		
Macy's - 10%	\$25		
TJ Maxx - 7%	\$25		

Miscellaneous

Barnes & Noble - 8%	\$10/25		
Bath N' Body Works- 12%	\$25		
Bed/Bath/Beyond - 7%	\$25		
Best Buy - 4%	\$25/100		
Menard's - 3%	\$25/100		
Michael's - 4%	\$25		
Office Max - 5%	\$25		
Target - 2.5%	\$25		

The following stores offer a check to Our Saviour's:

Courtside Furniture - 4% (No Credit Card Purchases)

Miller Furniture - 4% (No Credit Card Purchases)

Central Carpet - 5% up to \$2000 (No installation or other discounts)

Hargrave Appliances - 3% (No Credit Card Purchases)

VIP & Merrill Radio Shack - 3% (No Credit Card Purchase)

Check # _____

Check Amount _____

Cash Amount _____

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:00p Yoga Event	2	3 9:00a Christmas Program Practice 9:00a Decorating the Church 9:00a AA Meeting 4:30p Worship (HC)
4 9:00a Worship (HC) - Family Worship 10:15a MSP Potluck	5 8:00a TOPs 1:00p Miriam Circle 6:00p Busy Bees 4-H 6:00p Property & Maintenance	6 1:00p Staff Meeting 4:30p Worship & Music 5:00p Outreach 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	7 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade 6:00p Youth Group	8 11:00a Bell Tower Worship 1:00p Ruth Circle 6:30p Christian Ed	9	10 9:00a Christmas Program Practice 9:00a AA Meeting 4:30p Choir Cantata 4:30p Worship (HC)
11 9:00a Worship (HC) 9:20a Our Saviour's Kid's 10:30a Choir Cantata - CUMC 10:45a Pinecrest Worship 4:00p Messy Church	12 8:00a TOPs 10:15a Esther Circle 6:00p Youth & Family	13 1:00p Staff Meeting 6:00p Finance 6:30p High School Movie Night	14 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade 6:00p Youth Group	15	16	17 9:00a Christmas Program Practice 9:00a AA Meeting 4:30p Worship (HC)
18 9:00a Worship (HC) - Christmas Program	19 8:00a TOPs	20 1:00p Staff Meeting	21 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade 6:00p Council	22 6:00p Ornament Making	23	24 Christmas Eve 9:00a AA Meeting 4:30p Christmas Eve Worship (HC) 7:00p Christmas Eve Worship (HC)
25 9:00a Christmas Worship (HC)	26 8:00a TOPs 9:00a Office Closed	27 1:00p Staff Meeting	28	29	30	31 9:00a AA Meeting 4:30p Worship (HC)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
300 Logan Street
Merrill, WI 54452

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Organization
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Return Service Requested

MS DIANE L PETERSON
PO BOX 81
RUBICON WI 53078



East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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www.oslcelca.org

Network

Newsletter

December 2022

