



**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 during
these times.

Pastor:

920-535-0014

revpatschutz@gmail.com

Staff

Pastor:

Reverend Patricia Schutz

Office Secretary:

Carla Weisenfeld

Custodian:

Tim Ruprecht

*Network articles are due on
or before the 15th of each
month*

Musings from the Pastor

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10*

The scripture above comes from Psalm 51, the psalm we pray every Ash Wednesday, the day Lent begins. The entire psalm is one of honest confession of our brokenness and lostness, and unrelenting hope in God's mercy, forgiveness, and new life. Since becoming a pastor Ash Wednesday has taken on a new dimension for me. It is incredibly humbling and poignant to mark an ashen cross on congregation members and sometimes people I don't even know and speak the reality we all carry within us: "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." It is a somber truth, one that brings us to our knees...and yet we are also raised up that night by another, greater truth spoken in the words: "The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."

What also makes the Ash Wednesday service so moving is that we are there together. It's easier to face our human fallibility and finitude as one body in Christ, together in faith and support of one another.

This year we won't gather in person but we will still be able to begin Lent together. The worship committee has ordered ashes and prepackaged Holy Communion that you can pick up at the church or have delivered to your house on Monday, Feb. 15, Tuesday, Feb. 16, or on Ash Wednesday itself, Feb. 17. An at-home worship service will also be included if you're not able to watch the online worship service that night.

In addition, prepackaged home Communion will now be available the first and third weeks of every month. I will bless it at the livestream Sunday worship service, and you can pick it up at the church anytime during the week or call to have it delivered to you. See the article elsewhere in the newsletter for a schedule.

During the holy season of Lent, in our dustiness and blessedness, may we work on shedding all that distracts us from the God who dwells within us and may God hold us lovingly within and throughout this time of becoming new.

Shalom, Pastor Pat

Financial Report 2020

<u>Month of December 2020</u>		<u>TOTAL Jan – December 2020</u>	
INCOME	\$ 31,535.29	INCOME	\$ 284,835.31
Scrip Use	\$ 1,075.15	Scrip Use	\$ 2,610.63
TRANSFER		TRANSFERS	
EXPENSES	<u>\$ 33,970.02</u>	EXPENSES	<u>\$ 215,996.92</u>
NET	- \$ 1,359.58	NET	\$ 71,449.02

Home Communion

Prepackaged Holy Communion along with a liturgy to have Communion at home will be available to pick up on the following dates, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the church office: February 8, 10, or 12 and 22, 24, or 26. It will be blessed at the livestream worship service on the preceding Sunday. If you would like someone to drop it off at your house please call Carla at the office or Pr. Pat. We have plenty available! If you already participate in Holy Communion on our online worship services with your own bread and wine you don't need to pick up the prepackaged elements.

Ashes to Go

As Pr. Pat wrote in her article, ashes and liturgy for Ash Wednesday will be available to pick up at the church during office hours beginning February 8 and up until 4 p.m. on Ash Wed. Feb. 17. If you would like them delivered to your home, please call Carla at the office or Pr. Pat.

Lent Mid-Week Worship

On Wednesday nights during Lent there will be an online prayer service at 6:15 p.m., livestreamed on our Facebook page and later posted on the church website. The theme this year is "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear." The service will follow the service of Evening Prayer and each week there will be a pair of scripture readings through which to explore the dimensions of God's love for us and the love of Christ we share. The liturgy and readings are included in this newsletter.

Worship Update

Our worship service is live on Sunday, 9 a.m. on Facebook and a bit later in the morning on our website. If you would like to participate by recording a reading, the Creed, or the prayers, please contact Pr. Pat. If you don't have any way to record yourself, you can stop briefly at church and we'll use the church laptop.

If you would like a CD/DVD of the worship service, please call the office.

What's up with Sunday School?

Because we are not yet meeting in person, packets for all students continue to be sent out weekly by the Sunday School staff. In January we started a series of lessons about how God used various animals in Bible stories. For example, the dove after the flood, the donkey on Palm Sunday, etc. We encourage families to read the story together, using their family Bibles or the Beginner's Bible they received at Baptism. Activities and crafts to accompany each lesson are included in the packet. Teachers may include personal notes, too. Calls were made to families and it was reported that kids are enjoying the materials., but, of course, would rather be meeting in person.

Confirmation Class Zooming Along!

Since mid-September 12 Middle School youth have been meeting on Wednesday nights with Pr. Pat on Zoom. We have used different Sparkhouse Digital Curriculum and YouTube videos to learn Old Testament stories. Since all work and no play makes for a boring confirmation class, each week we also spend time sharing highs and lows and playing a variety of games. In February we will try having class at church after school. Pr. Pat will also make a weekly video summary for those youth who are not able to attend in person. The seven 9th grade confirmands also Zoom weekly with Pr. Pat on Wednesday nights. Sometimes we simply check in with one another, other nights we play games. Time usually depends on how much homework they have; not everyone attends every week. The youth have some plans to give the Youth Room a makeover once we're able to meet in person. We also hope to have the Confirmation service later this spring, outside if not at the church.

Food Pantry

Thank you to all who bring in items for the food pantry. We will continue to take your donations during office hours and deliver them to the Food Pantry.

Finance Team Report

Stewardship is first of all about the incredible love and generosity of God. Our giving of time, talents, and treasure is in response to God's presence and activity in our lives. God has deeply blessed us this past year, and so have all of you. Thank you for your generous financial support through this difficult year. We feel we have faithfully stewarded your donations in our ministry. We are especially grateful to have been able to exceed our planned benevolence.

Online Giving

We will be adding an online giving option on the website soon. We will continue the automated giving that we currently have but we are going to be adding another option to give. Stay tuned to the weekly work and watch the website.

Church Council is Seeking....You?

There are 5 positions to fill on church council when we have our annual meeting. Each term is three years. Might God be calling you to serve on church council? No previous experience in a leadership position necessary, only a heart that desires to follow Jesus, curiosity about ways OSLC can be faithful participants in God's mission, and a willingness to serve with flexibility, patience, and good humor. Please prayerfully consider being on church council. Contact Pr. Pat or one of the nomination committee members, Kathi Peterson or Jose Countryman, if you have questions or would like to put your name forward for council when we have our annual meeting this spring.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let me start by saying "Thank you!" to our congregation for your patience through this pandemic! It can be such a struggle when we miss our church family and being able to worship in God's house. Especially when there are other congregations who have gone back to being in person. There's no one-size-fits-all answer for churches that struggle with this decision.

The OSLC Council takes many factors into consideration, including recommendations from health officials and the synod office, and the health of our community and congregation, giving priority to the life and health of ourselves and our neighbors as witness to our faith in Christ. Philippians 4:6-7

"Draw near to God, seek God's wisdom and guidance, stay in prayer, make decisions from a place of peace". We have discussed and prayed about this for many months, but feel that right now, this is where God wants us to be. In the meantime, we are blessed to have the technology (and the people who know how to use it!) to be able to still reach most of the congregation through online services.

The services are also able to be put on a CD or DVD for those who are not online.

As we continue to evaluate our status each month, please keep the Council in your prayers that the Spirit may continue to guide us in our decision making until we can safely be together again.

Yours in Christ,
Aimée Pederson
OSLC Council Secretary

Offering Envelopes

We will be using the same offering envelope numbers as in prior years. When you need more envelopes give the office a call and we can send you some. We also have an automatic giving option. If you are interested, contact the office and we will send you a signup form.

Thank You's for January

Thank you for your generous gift of \$410.00. We want you to know that your gift will make a real and tangible difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate in your community. May you experience a special place, knowing this thoughtful donation will enable The Salvation Army to continue offering Christ's blessings to our neighbors in need.

Thank you for Caring,
The Salvation Army
Wisconsin/Upper Michigan

Dear Our Saviour's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donation of \$43.46 to Homme Homes on January 11, 2021.

We appreciate this generous gift for our residents and your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated. Thank you again for your contribution to Homme Homes.

Sincerely,

Kathy Unverzagt
Foundation Coordinator

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church,

I am so grateful for the donation of \$2130.36 in our Matching Funds Campaign. Covid-19 continues to change the way we live causing much hardship for our neighbors in need. Our Conference continues to deal with the homeless, those facing evictions, power and water shutoffs and a myriad of other needs. We extend not only financial help but our prayers and friendship to the poor that we serve.

God Bless,

Dick Duginski
Conference President
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

To Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

On behalf of the Board of Directors we want to thank you for your recent donation to the Merrill Community Homeless Center, Inc. It is clearly a blessing to have supporters like you helping us out. Since opening in March of 2019, we have now served over 200 people covering 2,200 safe shelter bed nights. We currently have 3 of our 4 transitional living rooms filled.

Your gift of \$2,100.00 will be used to support the ongoing needs and functionality of the Warming Center/Transitional Temporary Shelter to aid our local homeless population.

Dee Olsen, Secretary-Treasurer
Merrill Community Homeless Center, Inc.

Dear Our Saviour's Lutheran Church,

The Community Food Pantry of Merrill thanks your Church and its members for their recent donation of \$120.00 and \$260.00. The Food Pantry functions on monetary donations, grants, and food donations. These donations allow us to meet the nutritional needs of those less fortunate in the Merrill Community.

Thank you for your generous gift to the Community Food Pantry of Merrill; it is vital and greatly appreciated!

May God bless you always.

Sincerely,

Richard Johnson

The Community Food Pantry of Merrill,
Our Staff and Volunteers and Especially from those we Serve



Wednesday Lent Worship: Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

The theme for our midweek Lent worship services this year is “Perfect Love Casts Our Fear.” If you are not able to access the online service you are encouraged to read through the liturgy below each Wednesday and reflect on the scripture readings. The liturgy comes from Vespers in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Permission to reprint from Augsburg Fortress, license 43101.

Opening

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
C: the light no darkness can overcome.
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
and the day is almost over.
Let your light scatter the darkness
And illumine your church

Behold, now is the acceptable time;
now is the day of salvation.
Turn us again, O God of our salvation,
that the light of your face may shine on us.
May your justice shine like the sun;
and may the poor be lifted up.

Thanksgiving for Light

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being, and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day. In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night you led your people into freedom. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Psalmody

Let my prayer rise before you as incense; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise before you as incense; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips. Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness with evil doers. But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God. In you I take refuge. Strip me not of my life. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is

now and will be forever. Amen. Let my prayer rise before you as incense; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Word

Week 1: Leviticus 19:1-3, 9-18 *Love your neighbor as yourself*

Romans 13:8-10 *Love does no wrong to a neighbor*

Week 2: Hosea 11:1-12 *When Israel was a child I loved him*

Romans 8:35-39 *Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*

Week 3: Deuteronomy 10:12-22 *Love immigrants for you were immigrants in Egypt;* Luke 6:27-38 *Love your enemies*

Week 4: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 *If I have faith but do not have love, I am nothing*

John 14:15-31 *If you love me you will keep my commandments*

Week 5: Deuteronomy 7:7-13 *It was not because you were greater*

that the Lord loved you; 1 John 4:7-21 *Perfect love casts out fear*

Silence for reflection

Response

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

Gospel Canticle: Magnificat

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you.

You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.

Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,
strong is your kindness evermore.

How you favor the weak and lowly one,
humbling the proud of heart!

You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart.

You have filled the hungry with wondrous things,
and left the wealthy no part.

Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,
strong is your justice, strong your love,
as you promised to Sarah and Abraham,
kindness forevermore.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you.

You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.

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Prayers

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For this congregation and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing and reconciliation in this and every land, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, especially those we name in our hearts...and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For all essential workers who have been steadfast in their service and care for others, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For all servants of the church, for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. (silence) Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord.

To you, O Lord. Amen.

O Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

We pray as Jesus has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

Bless Now, O God, the Journey ELW 326

1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.

2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.

3 Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
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Feb 2021 – Birthday

Dixie Oberg	Feb 1
Audrey Germic	Feb 3
Robert Johnson	Feb 3
Brittany Bowen	Feb 5
Jaxon Catlin	Feb 6
Andrew Koss	Feb 8
Herm Zunker	Feb 8
Alyssa Catlin	Feb 9
Grayson Coleman	Feb 9
Ed Gruett	Feb 9
Ryan Leyk	Feb 9
Diane Osness	Feb 11
Macy Athanasiou	Feb 12
Sebastian Ollmann	Feb 12
Jay Peterson	Feb 12
Sarah Jaeger	Feb 13
Maycie Johnson	Feb 13
Earleen Fox	Feb 15
Betty Lange	Feb 16
Joy Sorensen	Feb 17
Jayden Buttke	Feb 18
Marilyn Jirovec	Feb 18
John Pintens	Feb 18
Millina Brandner	Feb 19
Alexis Ames	Feb 20
Aisla Hoock	Feb 20
Jayden Woller	Feb 20
Bill Jaeger	Feb 22
Tom Michalski	Feb 24
Deniale Steffen	Feb 24
Kyle Semling	Feb 25
Logan Grawien	Feb 26

Olen Lokemoen	Feb 26
Anna Miller	Feb 26
Rory Jirovec	Feb 27
Jayden Neiter	Feb 27
Jenny Thorson	Feb 27
Leo Francour	Feb 28
Allison Hunter	Feb 28

This list contains all members of Our Saviour's that we have Birthday and Anniversary information.

If the names or dates are incorrect, or if we are missing information about someone's special day, please let Carla in the office know and we will update our records.

Feb 2021 – Anniversary

Bill and Sarah Jaeger	Feb 14
Lyle and Halena Anderson	Feb 18
Jason and Kacie Johnas	Feb 18
Kevin and Julia Jannusch	Feb 25



Valentines Day Word Search

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U Y T R A E H F Z S E V R U R
B A O U Q A N W Z U R Y C C A
B I V T L O V E C U N S H A N
D H S H L S I Y R E D L D J W
T V S V R M D B D N P N I H D
A W M H Y T U B C U P I D U M
I J T P S M P I N K V D Y Q T
L I C A N D Y W S Q I G I Z S
R O S E S E F G W O B Z F W S
B N N I F K J E R Z I G T I M
J D H O H O M O W O K I S S O
E A D O I F Z I E H U G S U J
J O H A R V E M C W O R R A S
Y N I U Y D M Q N A C A R D X
W D R B B F F Y P T Z I G S C
  
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ARROW
BOW
CANDY
CARD

CUPID
HEART
HUGS
KISS

LOVE
PINK
RED
ROSES

Our Saviour`s Lutheran Church

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:00p Miriam Circle 6:00p Property & Maintenance	2 6:00p Worship & Music	3 12:00p Live on Wednesday 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade @ Church 7:00p Confirmation 9th Grade - Zoom	4 8:30a Mission Sewing 6:30p NA Meeting	5	6 9:00a AA Meeting
7 9:00a Worship Online 9:00a AA Meeting 10:45a First Presbyterian Worship	8 9:00a-4:00p Ashes Pickup 9:00a-4:00p Communion Pickup 6:00p Boy Scouts 599	9 6:00p Finance	10 9:00a-4:00p Ashes Pickup 9:00a-4:00p Communion Pickup 12:00p Live on Wednesday 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade @ Church 7:00p Confirmation 9th Grade - Zoom	11 8:30a Mission Sewing 1:00p Ruth Circle 6:30p Christian Ed 6:30p NA Meeting	12 9:00a-4:00p Ashes Pickup 9:00a-4:00p Communion Pickup	13 9:00a AA Meeting
14 Valentine's Day 9:00a Worship Online 9:00a AA Meeting 10:45a First Presbyterian Worship	15 Presidents' Day 9:00a-4:00p Ashes Pickup 6:00p Boy Scouts 599 6:15p Outreach	16 10:00a-1:00p Ashes Pickup 6:00p Council	17 Ash Wednesday 9:00a-4:00p Ashes Pickup 1:00p First Presbyterian Ash Wed Service 6:15p Ash Wednesday Worship - Online	18 8:30a Mission Sewing 6:30p NA Meeting	19	20 9:00a AA Meeting
21 9:00a Worship Online 9:00a AA Meeting 10:45a First Presbyterian Worship	22 9:00a-4:00p Communion Pickup 6:00p Boy Scouts 599	23	24 9:00a-4:00p Communion Pickup 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade @ Church 6:15p Lenten Worship - Online 7:00p Confirmation 9th Grade - Zoom	25 8:30a Mission Sewing 6:30p NA Meeting	26 9:00a-4:00p Communion Pickup	27 9:00a AA Meeting
28 9:00a Worship Online 9:00a AA Meeting 10:45a First Presbyterian Worship						

Our Saviour's Scrip Order Form

Name _____

Date _____

ON HAND

Qty Total

GROCERIES

Cty Market - 5%	\$25		
Cty Market - 5%	\$50		
Cty Market - 5%	\$100		

RESTAURANTS

2510 - 7%	\$15		
Arby's - 8%	\$10		
Chips - 10%	\$5		
Clark's Cup N Cone- 10%	\$10		
Club 64 - 5%	\$10		
Culver's - 5%	\$10		
Dairy Queen - 10%	\$10	<i>Not Available</i>	
Dairy Queen - 10%	\$20		
1st St. Coffee - 5%	\$5		
Friendship House - 10%	\$10		
Hardees - 5%	\$10		
Los Mezcales - 15%	\$10		
McDonald's - 5%	\$5		
McDonald's - 5%	\$10		
Pizza Hut - 8%	\$10		
Studio 808 - 10%	\$5		
Taco Bell - 5%	\$10		

FUEL

Kwik Trip - 9%	\$25		
Kwik Trip - 9%	\$50		
Kwik Trip - 9%	\$100		

MISCELLANEOUS

Cosmo Child/Sr- 10%	\$5		
Cosmo Adult - 10%	\$8		
Fleet Farm - 5%	\$25		
Fleet Farm - 5%	\$50	<i>Not Available</i>	
Hallmark - 4%	\$25		
Kohl's - 4%	\$25		
Walgreens - 5%	\$25		
Walmart - 2.5%	\$25		
Walmart - 2.5%	\$50		
Walmart - 2.5%	\$100		

SPECIAL ORDER LIST

Qty Total

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

Most popular special orders - many others also

RESTAURANTS

Applebee's - 8%	\$25		
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		
Joanne Fabrics - 6%	\$25		
Home Depot - 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 # _____

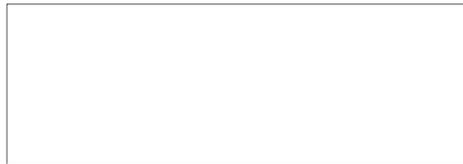
Check Amount _____

Cash Amount _____

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

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

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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715-536-5813

www.oslcelca.org



Network

Newsletter

February 2021