



**Our Saviour's
Lutheran Church**

300 Logan Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Office:

715-536-5813
office@oslcelca.org

Office Hours

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

Scrip is available when
Carla is in the office.

Pastor:

Pastor@oslcelca.org

Youth & Family:

YouthandFamily@oslcelca.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

How many times have you found yourself watching... waiting... as a big event unfolded? Sometimes we don't realize an event is momentous until it's come and gone. Often when we are in the midst of it, we are buried in detail in the minutia of the moment. God is present in those events too. Whether we recognize God's presence or not; whether we recognize how God has been involved in the planning for a particular moment that is coming, or not.

We've spent the past month in watching and waiting mode – that's what Advent is all about. Christmas has arrived. Along with two weeks of wintery weather. Hopefully, not all of your plans were canceled, and you were able to see family or friends.

Here's something to ponder:

The joy of Christmas is not just about visits with family, it's about Jesus.
The glory of Christmas is **not in presents wrapped under a tree**, but in God's presence come among us and God's activity working ahead of our current reality. *The Glory of Christmas*, is the story of God's love for us... God's love for all of God's creation.

It's the realization that God longs to be in and with us as we live our lives today. So, God breaks into our everyday lives – however they look, with good news and great joy.

So, as you prepared for this Christmas, what were your expectations? What were you hoping for? Fearing?

All I want for Christmas is more than a wonderful holiday song, of course.

It's the following thoughts:

All I want for Christmas – is God's presence, not presents.

All I want for Christmas is God's love grown so large in my heart that I can't help but share it. Share it as Mary and Joseph did – even in the midst of their astonishment, their exhaustion, and their wonder. Share it, with angels who will sing noel, and shepherds who will share, and eventually with magi who will bow down to the King of Kings.

All I want for Christmas is for Jesus to become known.

All I want for Christmas, after all this watching and waiting, is for those I love to prepare room for Jesus in their hearts too. For the heart of each of those I love, including you, and our Redeemer who loves you, to become one.

So, you and I will never feel alone again.

See you in church,
Pastor Kathy

Annual Meeting

January 29, 2023 right after worship, make a plan to attend.

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Greetings and Happy January,

If you are reading this you may be wondering the same thing I am. January???

2023??? Time sure does go by too quickly, especially when God is with us and calling us to do God's work! Where and what is God calling you to in 2023? Happy New Year and blessings to you and your family. I hope that your relationship with Christ, the community of Our Saviour's Lutheran church and your faith are strong focuses for you and your family in this new year. With that being said, there are a number of different ways for you and your family to be involved in the new year! Check below for some awesome opportunities. We look forward to seeing you at worship and other youth and family events.

Family Worship-

This month, family worship will be on Sunday January 8th! There will be no worship on Sunday January 1st, as well as no Our Saviour's Kids. Family Worship is at 9am on usually the first Sunday of the month. It is the second Sunday this month because we will not be having worship on New Year's Day. Family Worship is led by youth and children in the congregation. They serve as ushers, readers, acolytes, communion assistants and more. You won't want to miss this opportunity. If your kids would like to be involved, please email youthandfamily@oslceleca.org. Katy will be happy to help your child or youth to find a way for them to share their gifts! It is okay if your child has never done something before, other youth and Katy are always excited to teach how to light candles, be an usher or communion assistant, etc.

Committee Meetings:

Youth and Family will meet on January 9th at 6pm. The Youth and Family Committee meets to discuss family events and activities.

Christian Education will meet on January 12th at 6:30pm. The Christian Education Committee meets to discuss confirmation, Vacation Bible School, Our Saviour's Kids, Curriculum, and adult education.

Please note that there are available spots on both committees for you to join and share your thoughts and Ideas! We would love to have you be on either committee. If you aren't entirely sure that this is something you want to commit to, you are welcome to come to a meeting and see what you think!

Our Saviour's Kids-

Our Saviour's Kids will resume on January 15th. Join us for Sunday School during worship. In January we will be trying out something different for Our Saviour's Kids in order for the children to have more time to learn the lesson of the day!

Please look to the January Calendar of Events that can be found on the Our Saviour's website as well as on the Youth and Family Board on the church for more activity dates, the confirmation schedule and the youth group schedule!

Gathering of the Grands!

Grandparents! Call your grandkids right away to mark Sunday, January 22 on their calendars. It's the day of a special get-together for all grandparents and grandkids. Starting after Sunday worship on the 22nd, the get-together will begin with a Read-a-Book Together activity. Many books will be available here or bring a favorite from home! Other activities are planned along with snacks --like Gram crackers.

It's for kids age 3 to Grade 4, but we won't be checking ID's. Grandparents and grandkids don't have to be members of OSLC to take part.



Annual Meeting Update

The annual meeting for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church will take place following worship on Sunday, January 29, 2023. In addition to reviewing 2022 and plans for 2023, it is hoped that at this meeting we will elect several new members to church council, as well as other positions.

In addition, if our amended Constitution which has been passed by the church council, is returned by the Synod review board in time, we also plan on voting on updating the constitution. This serves as notice that we will vote on amending the constitution of this congregation. Physical copies of the amended constitution will be available outside the church office by December 29, 2022.

Please consider attending the annual meeting, and if you are contacted by the Nominating Committee please prayerfully discern stepping into a leadership position for 2023 and beyond.



Scrip

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

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.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are available on the table by the lounge. We will be updating the numbers this year, and you will get your number with your year end statement that will be available in January. Please write your name on your envelope so we know who is making the donation.

Transition Corner

MSP Update

Thank you to all members who participating in our visioning process as part of the writing of Our Saviour's Ministry Site Profile. The team has taken your thoughts and remarks and is transforming them into a document to be shared by the Synod with potential rostered leader candidates. Please have faith that God has the right Pastor out there for Our Saviour's, AND that we are the right congregation for that Pastor, as well. Much work and prayer goes into this process.

A great thanks to Aimée Pederson and her team for giving their time and talents to this work.

Prayers to for our Call Committee as they begin their work soon.

Oh by gosh by golly – its's time for

Well... it's time to untrim the church already and we need help! Come on Saturday Jan 7th at 9:00 – it's a big tree to haul out and lots of decorations to pack up for next year. The more hands we have the faster it will get done. We look forward to seeing you there.

Financial Stewardship Update

Financial Report 2022

<u>Month of Nov 2022</u>		<u>TOTAL Jan – Nov 2022</u>	
Income	\$ 18,164.94	Income	\$ 235,024.84
Expenses	\$ 22,126.90	Expenses	\$ 240,363.19
Net Loss	(\$ 3,961.96)	Net Loss	(\$ 5,338.35)

Often times, talking about stewardship seems like a tightrope walk. If we say too much, you might pull back. When we don't say enough, finances decline, impacting our ministries. Our goal as mature people of faith is to live in an atmosphere of generosity and gratitude. Beginning in January, Financial Stewardship will start a yearlong campaign helping us build our strengths as good stewards for Christ. Stay tuned for updates.

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. In 2022 we received \$2,862.00. This is a great way to help with the finances for your church.

Lenten Devotional being created

Pastor Kathy and Katy are building a team to write an Our Saviour's 2023 Lenten Devotional book. Designed to follow *Christ in our Home's* devotion model. The goal is for members to share faith stories that relate to themes found in the 2023 Lenten texts. If you are interested in helping with the project. Please contact Pastor Kathy or Katy by January 15th. You will receive simple guidelines to follow in writing. The writing deadline is January 31st.

Monday Evening Bible Study

The Bible study will continue the discussion of Proverb's. You can join the group at any time, no prior attendance is required. They meet every Monday evening at 7:15 in the Lounge.

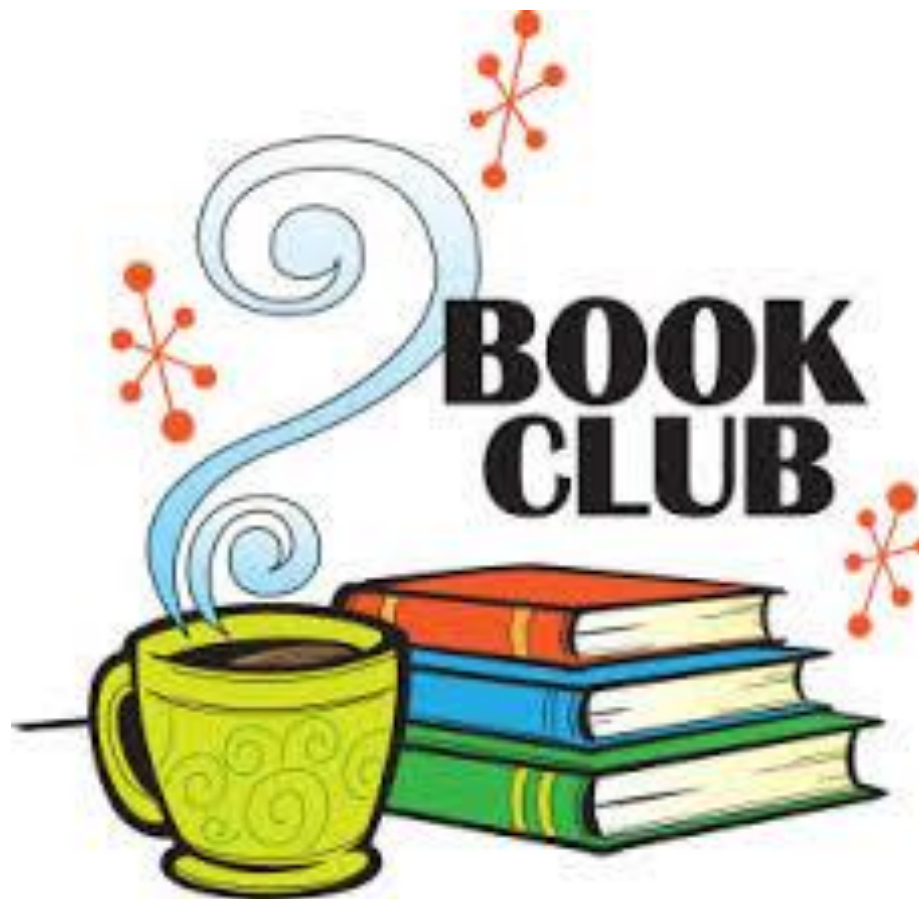
Miriam Circle

The Miriam Circle will meet at the Church for Bible study and Fellowship. The next 3 sessions are scheduled for January 9th, February 6th and March 6th at 1:00 pm in the lounge.

We welcome YOU!

Become a Member

The Circles and Teams are always looking for new members. If you have a talent that you would like to share with the church or are interested in fellowship with others and want to do a bible study, we have Circles and Teams that would like to hear from you. Check out the calendar for all the Dates and times of the meetings, and if you want more information, call the office and we can get you the information about the teams and bible studies.



Adult Small Group update

Pastor Kathy would like to start a book group after the first of the year. It can be hybrid – both in person and online and we can choose when to meet as well. I am thinking once every week or two so we can complete the book by March. I'm thinking either Wednesday afternoon or Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. What are your preferences?

This will also be open to others beyond our membership. Please feel free to ask friends or family if they would like to participate.

Please let Pastor Kathy know that you are interested in participating and the best time for the group to meet (mornings, afternoons, evenings). You can do that with either a phone call to Carla or Pastor Kathy or leave her a note at church.

But, FIRST, let's rank order the following books for reading: and return this page to my mailbox in the administrative hallway at Our Saviour's or to me personally:

- *Grateful*, Dr. Diane Butler Bass

If gratitude is good, why is it so hard to do? In *Grateful*, Diana Butler Bass untangles our conflicting understandings of gratitude and sets the table for a renewed practice of giving thanks. Butler Bass, author of eleven books on spirituality and culture, explores the transformative, subversive power of gratitude for our personal lives and in communities. Using her trademark blend of historical research, spiritual insights, and timely cultural observation, she shows how we can overcome this gap and make change in our own lives and in the world. (Amazon paperback \$14.99, & Kindle)

- *Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount*, Father Richard Rohr

When Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God, he was talking about an utterly different way of relating to human society as we know it. He lays out a blueprint for this new life in his best-known teaching, the Sermon on the Mount. From the Beatitudes onward, the Sermon on the Mount overturns conventional wisdom and traditional power structures, offering a plan for an alternative way of being. Acclaimed spiritual leader and Franciscan priest Richard Rohr explores the implications of this vision in *Jesus' Alternative Plan*. Rohr goes through the teachings of the sermon, explaining the historical and cultural context and offering guidance for what it means for Christians today.

- *Inspired*, Rachel Held Evans

If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is *inspired*? When Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she began a quest to better understand what the Bible is and how it is meant to be read. What she discovered changed her and it will change you too.

Drawing on the best in recent scholarship and using her well-honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and even a short screenplay.

(\$11.99 on Amazon, also available on Kindle).

Jan 2023 – Birthday

Angela Bailey	Jan 1
Brian Fruend	Jan 1
Ward Gremler	Jan 1
Amanda Fabbri	Jan 1
Faye Maschke	Jan 1
Brenda Stine	Jan 1
Joan Brandner	Jan 2
Jose Countryman	Jan 2
Ellie Stockowitz	Jan 2
Kristin Van Der Geest	Jan 2
Jay Block	Jan 2
Dakota Krzanowski	Jan 2
Santana Strand	Jan 2
Parker Welch	Jan 2
Dave Welk	Jan 2
Timothy Woller	Jan 2
Karleen Bebel	Jan 3
Kirby Peterson	Jan 3
Phyllis Rahlf	Jan 3
Debbie Schleif	Jan 3
Lillian Strand	Jan 3
Amy Sowinski	Jan 3
Kim Woellner	Jan 3
William Dinges	Jan 4
Charlotte Peters	Jan 4
Alyssa Buyatt	Jan 4
Toni Moldenhauer	Jan 4
Trey Stevenson	Jan 4
Todd Annis	Jan 5
Tom Knospe	Jan 5
Dustin Oslage	Jan 5
Kendyl Pettit	Jan 5
Morgan Pettit	Jan 5

Tanner Pettit	Jan 5
Richard Rogers	Jan 5
Donna Baumgart	Jan 6
Ted Ley	Jan 6
Keith Meyer	Jan 6
Betty Latzig	Jan 8
Skyler Schotz	Jan 9
Abby Frazier	Jan 9
Dusty Rampart	Jan 10
Kerri Wolff	Jan 10
Logan Knospe	Jan 11
Emmanuel Ollmann	Jan 11
Sebastian Boyd	Jan 11
Elias Hebert	Jan 12
Shauna Pasholk	Jan 12
Matthew Torkelson	Jan 12
Joshua Berton	Jan 13
Patty Thwaits	Jan 13
Brook Van Vuren	Jan 13
Kristine Woellner	Jan 13
Anakin Brooner	Jan 14
Judy Evans	Jan 14
Shirley Henkelman	Jan 14
Patrick O'Malley	Jan 14
Julie Johnas	Jan 15
Debra Wagner	Jan 15
Steven Miller	Jan 16
Micheal Schmidt	Jan 16
Jeff Benedict	Jan 17
Ben Sturm	Jan 17
Kurt Eggersgluess	Jan 17
Cindy Leskey	Jan 17
Lucas Olson	Jan 17
Amanda Cipra	Jan 19
Kristin Wimmer	Jan 19

Kariann Hanneman	Jan 20
Ross Heller	Jan 20
Kelsey Pintens	Jan 20
Ryan Teske	Jan 20
Alyssa Yorde	Jan 20
Kailey Bender	Jan 21
Jessica Cortright	Jan 21
Kristina Mueller	Jan 21
Marjorie English	Jan 22
Laurie Smith	Jan 22
Marcie Jannusch	Jan 23
Latrell Cooper	Jan 23
Brendon Kufahl	Jan 23
Nathan Pehlke	Jan 24
Russ Mungor	Jan 25
Austin Jaeger	Jan 25
Benjamin Lee	Jan 25
John Baumann	Jan 26
Amanda Van Heuklom	Jan 26
Carson Woellner	Jan 27
Jim Wolff	Jan 28
Deidre Lemke	Jan 28
Jamie Slott	Jan 28
Mykayla Kuhn	Jan 29
Dirk Peterson	Jan 29
Lois Patton	Jan 29
Judy Elliott	Jan 30
Keagan Schoone	Jan 30
Benjamin Osness	Jan 30
Gloria Bondioli	Jan 31
John Erickson	Jan 31
Zachary Kubichek	Jan 31

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

Dec 2022 – Anniversary

Gene and Karleen Bebel	Jan 4
Jerry and Ana Fiene	Jan 9
Dave and Roxanne Johnson	Jan 17
Joe and Faye Maschke	Jan 20
Jeff and Robin Halbach	Jan 21
Nicole and Kelby Krause	Jan 25
Ben and Sarah Sturm	Jan 26

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

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2 8:00a TOPs	3 1:00p Staff Meeting 4:30p Worship & Music 5:00p Outreach	4 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade 6:00p Youth Group	5 8:30a Mission Sewing	6 Epiphany	7 9:00a Take Down Christmas Decorations 9:00a AA Meeting 4:30p Worship (HC)
8 9:00a Worship (HC) 9:20a Our Saviour's Kid's	9 8:00a TOPs 10:15a Esther Circle 1:00p Miriam Circle 6:00p Youth & Family 6:00p Busy Bees 4-H 6:00p Property & Maintenance 7:15p Bible Study	10 1:00p Staff Meeting 6:00p Finance	11 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade 6:00p Youth Group	12 8:30a Mission Sewing 11:00a Bell Tower Worship 1:00p Ruth Circle 6:30p Christian Ed	13	14 9:00a AA Meeting 4:30p Worship (HC)
15 9:00a Worship (HC) 9:20a Our Saviour's Kid's	16 MLK Jr. B-day 8:00a TOPs 7:15p Bible Study	17 1:00p Staff Meeting	18 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade 6:00p Youth Group 6:00p Council	19	20	21 9:00a AA Meeting 4:30p Worship (HC)
22 9:00a Worship (HC) 9:20a Our Saviour's Kid's 10:10a Gathering of the Grands	23 8:00a TOPs 7:15p Bible Study	24 1:00p Staff Meeting	25 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade 6:00p Youth Group	26	27	28 9:00a AA Meeting 4:30p Worship (HC)
29 9:00a Worship (HC) 9:20a Our Saviour's Kid's	30 8:00a TOPs 7:15p Bible Study	31 1:00p Staff Meeting				

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Merrill, WI 54452

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

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715-536-5813

www.oslcelca.org

Network

Newsletter

January 2023

