

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Network

November 2023

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

300 Logan Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Office:
715-536-5813
office@oslcelca.org

Office Hours
Monday – Wednesday -
Friday,
9:00-1:00.
other times by appointment

Staff

Pastor:
Reverend Justin H. Smoot
Pastor@oslcelca.org

Business Administrator:
Carla Weisenfeld

Custodian:
Cindy Latzig

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

Our Saviour's Lutheran
Church is part of the:



East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ecsw.org

and the



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

elca.org

From the Pastor

A long time ago, in a seminary far, far away, I was interested in what was known as Diaconal Ministry. This is a ministry that was born out of the need for service to the community back in the 6th chapter of Acts. There were widows being neglected in the daily distribution of food, which means that women without a male connection to a very patriarchal society were not being supported in their daily needs. This disciples even said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables." (Acts 6:2) So, there were seven, "men of good standing, full of the spirit and of wisdom," (Acts 6:3) who were nominated to attend to the daily tasks of the community, like the distribution of food to all in need. They were called *diakonos*, which is has been translated deacon.

This model of service, to meet the needs of the community that are going unmet, is one that is very attainable for us. In some ways, if your parents raised you to value community, there was a sense that you were to take part in the life of it. Sometimes by attending events, and other times by hosting others and serving their needs. This also extended further to the needs of the community around us. If there was something that could be done, it is a duty to do it. Helping someone change a flat tire, being someone to talk to in tough times, and picking up trash on the highway, these are all services to the community.

This service was not that of a servant, slave, or *doulos*, in the Greek world. For the *doulos* had no part in the household other than to serve the needs of their master, and in fact, this is how Paul often saw himself in comparison to Christ Jesus. Paul was a *doulos* of the Gospel, carrying out his ministry at the command of Jesus. The *doulos* had no will other than their masters.

The service that *diakonos* engaged in was different, they were chosen by the community to serve the community. Chosen because they were of "good standing" not because they were skilled in any particular task. We often think that we cannot serve in certain ways because we don't have the skills. This service is not skill based, but faith based. It does not require us to be experts at anything in particular, but simply present for those in need. I cannot vouch for the food preparation skills of the Seven who were chosen in Acts 6, but there was nothing about being a gourmet chef mentioned there.

They are also not pastors. There are other words for pastor or preacher in the New Testament, but *diakonos* is not one of them. I often hear from people that they would be nervous and afraid to climb up into the pulpit and preach or speak in front of people. I understand that fear, I know that fear well. Some of the most faithful people I know, the people that I looked up to were not pastors, never mounted a pulpit, but when they

talked to you, they were there with you. When you needed something, they were there. There was no doubt about their faith because it was active in every relationship they had.

Think of those individuals who you looked up to in your lives. They have been *diakonos* to you. In some way they have helped you in a way less dramatic than dying on a cross, but no less powerful. This is who we are called to be when we talk about serving where Christ leads. Christ leads us and we are servants/slaves/*doulos* of Christ, but *diakonos* to one another. We do not blindly follow one another, doing whatever they want us to do. We hold on to a good standing with one another, being there when needed, helping when the opportunity presents itself, and all the while embodying the love of God that many people will only see through us.

We do this because of what Christ first did for us. We are no Jesus and don't need to replicate the cross. We cannot do so, but what we can do is be there for one another in ways that make a difference in their lives. Christ does not always lead us to far flung countries, but more often into the lives of friends and neighbors to share our faith in deed and in word.

Peace be with you.

Pr. Justin

Preparing for Annual Congregational Meeting in January Of 2024

To Members of Our Saviours Lutheran Church. If you are reading this know, You are in Our Saviours congregation., It is you I want to reach. If you have not been a team or council member, **we want you.** For many years our congregation has been served by a few dedicated members. They have prioritized their time energy and resources for **your wellbeing** that you maybe well served in faith at Our Saviours. We need you to step up and answer the call. That is pray not to just be on a committee but which committee or better yet be on the council. Recently we had a very successful Installation worship service and dinner for Pastor Justin. It would be wonderful to experience this type of joy at Our Saviours Annual meeting and not have to ask for volunteers at the meeting. Every team needs people and the Council has 4 vacancies.

Pray: **What can you do for our church???**

In past years members stepped up to volunteer and be on council . But it was the same people. **It is your turn.**

I am praying we can increase our numbers on teams and in council.

Yours in Faith

Gregory Latzig

Council President

Our Saviour's Council

Greg Latzig – *President* Angela Bailey – *Vice-President* Aimee Pederson – *Secretary*

Bruce Schleif - *Exec. Committee*

Jackie Ackley

Christa Lahti

Brenda Mueller

Jay Peterson

Laurie Smith

Youth Representative – Ally Hoock

Financial Report 2023

Month of Sep 2023

Income	\$ 18,895.47
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 21,115.25</u>
Net	(\$ 2,219.78)

TOTAL Jan – Sep 2023

Income	\$ 222,822.66
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 198,351.93</u>
Net	\$ 24,470.73

Memorials

Thank you for your gifts given in memory of loved ones. We will steward them and use them in blessed memory.

In Memory of Lyle Anderson from:

Betty Latzig
 Brenda Mueller
 Rich & Elayne Ollmann
 Robbie & Trina Johnson
 Jerry & Ann Wick
 Halena Anderson
 Lindy & LeeAnn Lindquist
 Emily Edmund
 Marj English
 Russ & Mary Leyk
 Marlene Graap
 Shirley Engel

Larry & Bea Lebal
 John & Audrey Johnson
 Andy & Renee Semling
 Louis & Sandra Borelli
 Richard Stine
 Henry & Patricia Zomcheck
 Judy Frymark
 Carol Holz

In Memory of Barb Brose
 Shirley Engel

In memory of Wally Latzig
 Betty Latzig



Virtual Tour of the Holy Places for ELCA Disaster Relief

Join us on Sunday, December 3 at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall to welcome the Advent season with coffee, a BIG stack of donuts, and a virtual tour of the holy places led by Pastor Justin. See where Jesus was born, where He taught the crowds, and where He gave his life for us. We will have the "fishbowl" out to collect donations for the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. This important arm of the ELCA provides support to people at home and abroad who are victims of natural disasters such as wildfires and floods, as well as those displaced or in need of basic necessities due to the ravages of war and terrorism. See you there!

Lefsa Making

Lefse making time is almost upon us. If you've helped other years, we're counting on you again this year. If you haven't helped, this is your year - you won't learn any younger. Time flies as we roll/bake/cool/pack and yak.

Mark your calendars NOW: We start about 9:00 and finish up about noon. Come when you can, stay as long as you can.

Thursday Nov. 2

Saturday Nov. 4 yes, a Saturday! Will be a pleasure to have a full kitchen!

See you there. Your grandmother would be proud of you!

WELCA Lutheran World Relief Thank You

A big thank you to all who donated and helped with the quilts and kits that were made this year. This year there were quilts 17 donated to St Vincent Outreach, 1 to each Food for Kids and Fill the Gazebo along with the 167 that were sent to Lutheran World Relief. Also sent were 59 School kits, 20 Personal care kits and 20 Baby kits

Time to Tag!

Before you know it, the Skinny Tree will be up in the narthex for Lincoln County's Christmas Spirit Project. This is an opportunity for you to purchase gifts for less fortunate area kids. To take part, choose a tag with gift suggestions from the Skinny Tree, sign up on the Registration Sheet, and you're good to go shopping! Complete directions will be attached to each tag.

Thank you for sharing your Christmas Spirit to make the holidays happier for others!

Outreach Needs You

The Outreach Committee is still looking for volunteers to help with projects that demonstrate our faith through outreach to our church, community and the world. Have you given any thought to helping in any of the following ways? The projects do not take much of your time and your help is greatly appreciated!

*Christmas Spirit Appeal (skinny tree with children's names and gift requests). November-early December. Thank you Lana Strasman for volunteering for this project!

*Diaper Closet. Keep an eye on inventory and purchase supplies as needed; also needed, volunteer at the Diaper Closet for two hours once every few months.

*Dinner at Five. Help serve meals and clean up, two hours a few times a year (4th Mondays).

*Deliver Christ in our Home to shut in members, four times a year.

*Birthday in a Bag. Prepare simple gift bags and deliver them to the MAC Home as needed, 2-3 times a year.

*Little Diverse Library. Keep an eye on the little library in front of church, periodically straightening the books and requesting book donations as needed.

*Souper Bowl. Organize a friendly soup making competition, Super Bowl Sunday.

*Highway Clean Up. Pick dates and organize volunteers, two times a year.

*Fill the Gazebo. A few meetings, publicize, event in August.

*Potluck with a purpose. Organize a potluck to raise funds for a charity or cause.

There is a place for everyone! If you have questions or to volunteer, contact the office, Brenda Mueller, or Marie Rein.

Communion Cards vs. Pew Pads

There has been a great struggle for a place in the pews going on over the past few months. These red pew pads showed up one day, but not they've disappeared without a trace. Are these cards taking their place? This is enough to make your head spin, like when we got the new green hymnal!

These are communion cards. We ask that each time you come to the service, you take a card and fill it out with your name and the date of the service, and hand them to the ushers as you come forward for communion. This will allow us to have a record of your communion, which helps when calculating how many people we need to have a congregational meeting, but it also helps us track worship attendance. Please help us out by filling one out when you are with us in person.

p.s. the cards can help you send notes to the pastor as well.

Giving Tuesday

November is full of special days:

Thanksgiving Thursday

Black Friday

Shop Local Saturday

Sabbath Sunday

Cyber Monday

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday ??

Giving Tuesday is a day observed globally since 2012 in order to inspire donations to non-profits that serve important causes at home, nationally, and around the world - even here at Our Saviour's! If you would like to help support a need or program sponsored by Our Saviour's, it's very simple. Just choose an envelope from the bright green bulletin board outside the lounge, place your check or cash inside, and return the envelope in the offering plate or to the church office. We will be celebrating Giving Tuesday on Saturday and Sunday, November 25 and 26, but your gift may be dropped off at any time in November. We hope you will consider making a donation to a cause important to you. In gratefulness and appreciation, God's blessings to you.

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

Nursing Home Worship

If you check out the calendar, there are two worship services out in the community:

2nd Sundays Pine Crest @ 2pm

2nd Thursdays Bell Tower @ 11am

Please come and worship with us, bring the gift of your presence to those residents who cannot come out and be with us.

Family Ministry and Education

There are a few updates from this ministry. You may have noticed the absence of Katie on Sundays. She is no longer going to be taking a lead role in ministry at Our Saviour's. The Church Council and FME are going to work on getting a job description posted and begin the search process for someone to work with the youth.

Meanwhile, we are going to need some help coordinating Our Saviour's Kids and keeping a schedule of who is leading each Sunday. Also, Youth Group will be only once each month on Sunday afternoons. We will gather on the 2nd Sunday to lead the Pine Crest residents in worship, they would love to see you. Then we will have some activities afterwards.

If you are interested in helping out in any capacity, please reach out to Pr. Justin.

Stream Team

You have often heard Pr. Justin say, “we are not professionals, but participants,” when it comes to our worship services. I am putting a call out for folks to help with the livestream service!

There is a small but faithful community that gathers online and this is a way to connect them with our worship service. We are working on creating a process that anyone can follow to point and click so that those joining virtually can experience our worship service.

Contact Pr. Justin and he can walk you through the program...or you could preach and he'll run the computer from the balcony. Either way is good with him.

Scrip

The profits from the Scrip program are used for different teams and projects. Please purchase Scrip cards for all your shopping needs and support these projects.

Scrip will be available for purchase on the first weekend of the month before and after each worship service. We will do more weekends if the demand is there.

Did You Know.....

- *The Choir is combining with CUMC, contact Bea if you like to sign and want to join.*
- *Church committees are supplying treats and coffee in the lounge each week after Sunday services.*
 - ***Family Ministry and Education (Week 1)***
 - Property & Maintenance (Week 2)***
 - Worship & Music and Finance (Week 3)***
 - ***Outreach (Week 4)***
 - Council (Week 5)***

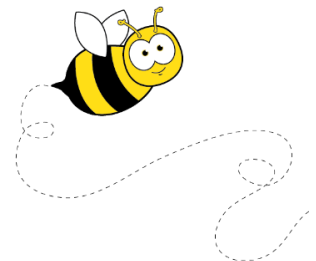
If you have information to share with your church family, please contact the office.

Diaper Closet News

The Diaper Closet will be open Tuesday, November 14 from 3-5 PM and Saturday November 25 from 9-11 AM.

Volunteers:

November 14 - Jackie Ackley and Mary Leyk
November 25 - Barb Fraser and Linda Blake



Thank you to our October volunteers: LeeAnn Lindquist, Joyce Handlin, Deb Schleif, and Christa Lahti.

Interested in volunteering? Add your name and contact info to the sign-up sheet outside the lounge and we'll schedule a date that works for you!

November 2023 – Birthdays

Roger Anderson	Nov 1
Don Evans	Nov 2
Breck Buntrock	Nov 4
Paisley Hopp	Nov 4
Korrine O'Malley	Nov 5
Jake Bailey	Nov 6
Ty Bailey	Nov 6
Susie Latzig	Nov 9
Gene Bebel	Nov 11
Joanne Zunker	Nov 11
Owen Rhode	Nov 12
Karen Buntrock	Nov 13
Eric Annis	Nov 14
Roxanne Johnson	Nov 14
Cameron Peterson	Nov 14
Gregory Smith	Nov 14
Emmett Brooner	Nov 20
Daniel Lau	Nov 20
Scott Van Der Geest	Nov 21
Dolores Blake	Nov 24
Landon Smith	Nov 24
Prestin Dashek	Nov 25
Jean Howick	Nov 26
Leah Brown	Nov 27
Kevin Jannusch	Nov 28
Emily Edmund	Nov 29
Beverly Pophal	Nov 29
David Purmal	Nov 29



November 2023 – Anniversaries

Mary and Rick Akey	Nov 6
Tom and Beverly Michalski	Nov 7
Bryan and Carla Weisenfeld	Nov 7
Herm and Joanne Zunker	Nov 8
Roger and Donna Baumgart	Nov 12

Almighty God, we humbly thank you for your goodness to us and to all that you have made. We praise you for your creation, for keeping us and all things in your care, and for all the blessings of life we lift up those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Above all we bless you for your immeasurable love in redeeming the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with thankful hearts we praise you, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service and by living in your gifts of holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all worship and praise, now and forever. Amen.

Our Saviour's Scrip Order Form

Name _____

Date _____

ON HAND Qty Total

GROCERIES

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

RESTAURANTS

Arby's - 8%	\$10		
Arby's - 8%	\$25		
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		
Friendship House - 5%	\$10		
Grand Stand - 5%	\$5		
Los Mezcales - 15%	\$10		
McDonald's - 5%	\$5		
McDonald's - 5%	\$10		
Pizza Hut - 8%	\$10		
Taco Bell - 5%	\$10		
Tex Roadhouse - 8%	\$25		

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		
Menard's - 3%	\$25		
Rain Auto Wash - 10%	\$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

CLOTHING

MISCELLANEOUS

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)

Check # _____

Check Amount _____

Cash Amount _____

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9:00a All Saints Sunday - Worship	6 8:00a TOPs 1:00p Miriam Circle 7:15p Adult Bible Study	7 3:30p Finance 4:30p Worship & Music 5:00p Outreach 6:30p Property & Maintenance 7:30p Family Ministry and Education	1 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade 6:00p Choir Rehearsal at OSLC	2 9:00a Lefse Rolling	3	4 9:00a AA Meeting 9:00a Lefse Rolling 4:30p Worship
12 9:00a Worship 9:00a WELCA Sale 2:00p Pinecrest Worship 3:00p Youth Group	13 8:00a TOPs 10:15a Esther Circle 7:15p Adult Bible Study	14 3:00p Diaper Closet	8 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade	9 11:00a Bell Tower Worship 1:00p Ruth Circle	10	11 Veterans' Day 9:00a AA Meeting 4:00p WELCA Sale 4:30p Worship
19 9:00a Worship	20 8:00a Newsletter Deadline 8:00a TOPs 7:15p Adult Bible Study	21	15 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade 6:00p Choir Rehearsal at CUMC 6:00p Council	16	17	18 9:00a AA Meeting 4:30p Worship
26 9:00a Worship	27 8:00a TOPs 7:15p Adult Bible Study	28	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25 9:00a AA Meeting 9:00a Diaper Closet 4:30p Worship
26 9:00a Worship	27 8:00a TOPs 7:15p Adult Bible Study	28	29 3:30p Confirmation 6-8 Grade 6:00p Choir Rehearsal at OSLC	30		

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