



PARTNERS



DECEMBER 2024

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 12



We are all beggars

It seems to me that often times in the church we give a very positive but yet fleeting acknowledgment to Martin Luther in and around the end of October and then we sort of move on to other topics. I am as guilty of this as anyone because of all of the many choices and opportunities we have in the church. But sometimes I wonder how important Luther really is?

How much attention should we give to him and how much credit if any should he deserve? I bring this up in part because November 10 is the anniversary of Luther's death, and also serves as one of the most powerful images for the legacy of his life.

As the story goes Luther in November 1546 was traveling to a small German village named Leitzig where he was going to preach. On the way as he was traveling, he had to take a ferry which carried him over a certain river. The ferry began to take on water and Luther in a note back to his wife said, that that river was "an old Anabaptist woman who is trying to rebaptize him." as he continued to travel closer and closer to his final destination, he began to feel sick. He couldn't quite put his finger on it, he just didn't feel well and hadn't felt really good for quite some time. By this point in his life, Luther was dealing with all kinds of different issues. He was suffering from phlebitis, he had diabetes and many other health issues. So, as he arrived in the town where he received a place to stay in a small hotel, which was across the street from the church, Luther sort of collapsed that Saturday evening in preparation for the events of the next day.

Sunday morning began with Luther still not feeling well. He hadn't slept particularly well and was not feeling up to preach. As far as his overall health, he mentioned to one of the caretakers as he entered the sanctuary that particular Sunday morning about his particular ailment, but it was shrugged off as the events of worship began to commence. The sermon text that day was Matthew chapter 11 verse 28, which says, "come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Well, Luther, sort of stumbled through the sermon, not feeling a particularly high level of energy or enthusiasm, finished the end of the liturgy, offered the benediction as the service ended. Afterwards, he again return to his room across the street from the church, which would end up being the last sermon he ever preached and the last worship service that he ever presided over. He chose to stay Sunday night, even though his plans originally were to leave and go back to Wittenberg to rejoin his family. On Monday, he woke to discover that he was not improving, but rather getting worse, he seemed of contracted a fever and was becoming a bit disorientated, a doctor was summoned and Luther would spend the next three days in that room his life sort of slipping away. That Thursday, November 10, 1546, Martin Luther would breathe his last. One of the attendances of the hotel shortly after his passing was attempting to sort through his personal effects, when he did this, he came across a small piece of paper up in the breast pocket of Luther's coat. It read, and of course I'm translating from what it would've said in German. "we are all beggars". This is most certainly true. That small sheet of paper served as a sort of eulogy, a sort of swan song for all of Luther's ministry. See even to his dying breath, Luther knew unequivocally that we are all beggars, and if it were not for the saving power of Christ, we would certainly die in our sins. He would say that this is most certainly true that we are completely dependent on, the grace which comes from outside of us and the unique gift of Christ given to us through the promise of faith. To me, this is the enduring legacy of Luther and the Reformation. This to me is the most powerful picture of what this man and this movement achieved, that it truly moved the entire church world away from a pattern labor as a means to satisfy God in order to gain his favor. But, rather a strong move towards faith alone, as the only means of salvation. That is why I think it's important for us to be reminded periodically of the life and ministry of Martin Luther, not just a simply celebrate him on the last Sunday of October, but to be truly reminded that the man who bears our church name is truly someone to be celebrated and that celebration should be a celebration about who Christ is and what he has done for us, the fact that we are truly all beggars with no ability to save ourselves if it were not for Christ. Thanks be to God for the Gospel and the hope that it affords us and thanks be to God for how he used so many countless saints all down through the ages and how he continues to use us even today.

4 Him,
Steve

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
November 6, 2024**

These minutes were recorded at the last council meeting and will be approved at the next meeting.

The OSLC Church Council met for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 in fellowship hall. Members present were Sharon Vollmer, Kari Halter, Courtney Thram, Kris Vollmer, Steve Halter, Brian Benedict, Deb Furth, Pastor Steve Walswick, Kevin Graff and Chad Coulter.

President Halter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and Pastor Steve led the group in prayer.

Secretary's Report: Sharon moved and Chad seconded to approve the minutes sent out to council members prior to the meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kari reported the October checking balance of \$10,550.25 and savings balance of \$66,488.23. On a motion by Kevin and seconded by Kris, the treasurer's report was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Steve submitted a written report of his activities for October which included visitations, 1 baptism, and several church and community events. He has been asked and will do a service at VVM on the 3rd Monday of each month. In the future, he will conduct the Friday morning Bible Study if Pastor Mike needs help. He recommends that our church try to have a Luther League Mission Trip/Summer Retreat annually and is willing to help facilitate that event.

Committee Reports

Education: Courtney reported that the committee met tonight, Nov. 6, before our council meeting. The confirmation retreat will be Feb. 28 – March 2. The committee feels they will need additional funds to make this happen. Sunday School students will sing at the Nov. 17 service with Prayer Partners and singing at VVM to follow. They are possibly looking at buying new curriculum for Vacation Bible School. The Christmas program will be December 15 at 10 AM with pot luck to follow.



Worship and Music: Sharon reported no meeting.

Life, Growth & Stewardship: Kris reported that they met on October 15. Pastor has not had opportunity to use the caregivers group. Kevin moved and Brian seconded to accept the recommendation of giving our mission endowment of \$1323 to Eight Days of Hope to be used for disaster work. Motion carried. In the future, designations for free will offerings and profits from events will be done prior to events. Lenten meal donations were used for the following: \$100 to purchase a new microwave for the kitchen, \$160 will be used to purchase crockpots and possibly a new knife block and knives, the remainder of \$500, will be given to Mt. Carmel Retreat Center. Ice Cream Social profit was \$650 and will be given to Inspiration Point (confirmation retreat location). 2025 monthly missions were set up with a few changes and some areas that may pivot as the year progresses. Information was shared on the possibility of doing a new church directory. Brian moved and Kevin seconded to pursue a new church directory in 2025 with the cost covered by OSLC. Motion carried. Lenten meals 2025 will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. The committee made a motion to designate funds from these meals to the "church refresh" that is being pursued

Property: Brian reported that the boiler is being fixed. The gutters have been cleaned at the parsonage and leaves raked. There is some work that needs to be done on the stairway wall to the balcony.



Council Minutes Continued...

Old Business:

Wedding policy: Discussion is ongoing. Kevin moved and Sharon seconded to allow Pastor Cathy Hoffbeck to perform a wedding service in our church in October of 2025. Motion carried.

Pastor evaluation: Council members and Pastor are working on completing a pastoral evaluation form. Forms will be turned in to a small committee and then discussed with Pastor Steve.

New Business

Communion Assistants

Congregation members are encouraged to sign up on the bulletin board outside the offices if they would like to assist with communion.

November 10 – Gayle Erickson and Kevin Graff

December 1 – Kris Vollmer and Courtney Thram

Next council meeting: Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Confirmation retreat money: Kris moved and Sharon seconded to add confirmation retreat tuition and Bible camp scholarships as a line item in the budget. Motion carried.

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, Brian moved to adjourn and Sharon seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Furth
Council Secretary



**DECEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS
~Lamberton City Cemetery~**

The Lamberton Cemetery board has initiated plans to install a directory area on the south side of the existing white building.

The project will include the removal of large bushes, repainting the building, replacing the cross, and installing a cement pad where a weather-proof directory table will be placed. This table will feature a newly created directory, thoughtfully mapped out by a Lamberton native, designed to guide visitors through the cemetery. The directory will closely resemble the directory found at the Jeffers Cemetery. (pictures posted for reference)

In addition to the directory, the board envisions further enhancements, including the installation of a flagpole, new bushes, and a bench to offer a peaceful spot for reflection.

Your donation, no matter the amount, will help preserve and enhance access to this important part of Lamberton's history.

Each year there are many visitors that stop at the cemetery looking for relation buried there. All have the same thing in common, they are looking for their connection to Lamberton. This project will help ensure all can be found and connections made.



If you desire to support our mission, please use the envelopes provided in the pews and mark the envelopes, "Lamberton Cemetery". You can put them into the offering plate. You may also give your donation online via our website or use the link below and select 'mission'.
<https://oslclamberton.churchcenter.com/giving>
Your contributions are greatly appreciated!!
Thanks for your support!



BUDGET RECAP
as of 11/17/2024

Total Outstanding:

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Accounts Payable | \$0 |
| Estimated Payroll | \$4,000.00 |

Income:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 10/20/243— 11/17/24 | \$23,186.77 |
| In Checking Acct. | \$20,153.15 |
| In Savings Acct. | \$66,488.23 |

Needed weekly to

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Meet budget | \$2,824.62 |
|--------------------|-------------------|

Online Giving

To assist you with your stewardship ministry, you may make a gift online! You may visit our website or use the link.

<https://osleclamberton.churchcenter.com/giving>

You may still mail checks to the church office.
**Address found on last page of newsletter.*



Annual Meeting
January 19, 2024



Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of
Chad Anderson
May the strength and hope of God's love be theirs.

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



DECEMBER ACOLYTE & VIDEO SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M.

Worship Service



December 1, 2024

Colton Jeckell & Levi Jeckell

Video: Max Erickson

December 8, 2024

Zoey Keck & Halle Paplow

Video: Madisyn Keck

December 15, 2024 @ 10:30am
Sunday School Christmas Program

TBD

Video: Aron Van Meveren

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Dawson Rue

Video: Lindsey Guggisberg

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

5 PM CHRISTMAS EVE

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Austin Werner & Abby Thram

Video: Sam Thillen



December 29, 2024

Braedon Mariner

Video: Dawson Mariner

Please remember it is your responsibility to find a replacement for your designated worship service. Thank you!!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
REMINDERS:**

Christmas Program Rehearsal
Schedule Parents: Thank you so much for sharing your children with us. Practice for our Christmas Program continues directly after our church services on **Sundays: November 24, December 1, 8.** Having your children there to practice is such a blessing and so, so important. Practices may run just a bit longer than regular class times as we are working on songs, costumes, speaking and acting parts. Feel free to join from the back. It is so fun (and a bit nerve-racking) to see it all come together!

If your child will not be at the December 15th 10:30 am Christmas program, please let their teacher, Courtney Thram or the church office know.

No Sunday School
Enjoy Christmas
Break!
No Sunday School
classes December
22 and 29



PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER CHAIN

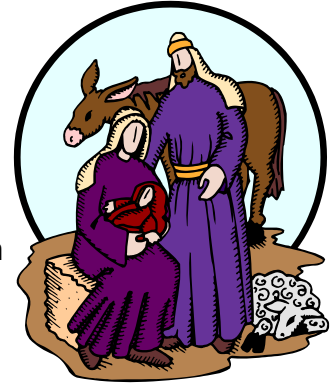
If you have a prayer concern you would like passed along to the Prayer Chain, please contact Judy Kuehl, 507-822-1716, or the church office. Please specify if you want the concern on (1) the Prayer chain and/or included in Sunday morning prayers which will be included for two (2) Sundays unless request is renewed. Thank you.



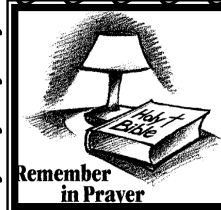
OSLC Sunday School presents:

Symbols of Christmas
Sunday, December 15th at
10:30 AM

Join us for a potluck dinner following the program. Ham, buns, beverages, and cake will be provided.



Please bring a side dish to pass and join us for food and fellowship following the program!



Please note our list of people needing our prayers regularly. This list is much more complete since it addresses ongoing

issues while the Sunday bulletin list is aimed at more immediate concerns. We ask that you would keep all these people in your prayers each day.

- Randy Hammerschmidt (health issues)
- David Rue (health issues)
- Nancy Rue (health issues)
- Joyce Hoffrogge (multiple myeloma)
- Paula (Mattison) Meidl (bone marrow transplant) recovery
- Kim Churchill Oelfke (stroke & cancer)
- Vicki Churchill Schenk (cancer treatments)
- Briana Halter Peterson (health concerns)

Pray for people affected by other disasters ...



Refresh of Overflow Area and Hall by Offices

In October, the council approved the formation of a committee to explore updates that would make these spaces more welcoming, inviting, and modern. We aim to begin with an assessment to identify needs, develop a cohesive plan, and organize funding.

If you have a talent for design or ideas for transforming these areas, please contact the church office to learn more. We hope to include members of all ages on this committee, creating a space that everyone can enjoy.



DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Janice Werner
Susan Jeckell

Our Savior's Women Group News



Our Savior's Women met November 12, 2024.

Secretary's report was read. The treasurer's report was given with some updates.

Motion was made and seconded to send money to Wycliff Bible translators.

A motion was made to give Christmas gifts.

We have finished our current Bible study and chose a new one to start in January.

The Thankoffering monies will be distributed in December.

Merry Christmas



Judie Harnack,
Secretary

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on
whom His favor rest." (Luke 2:14)*

Advent is a season of anticipation - a season of waiting, praying, serving, and living as a witness to God's reign in this world.

Our traditional Christmas Eve Candle Light Service will be held at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 24th. We will have the Sacrament of Holy Communion along with the celebration of the Birth of Christ.

We invite you to bring your families. The day has finally come. All the waiting, prayers, hopes, dreams, struggles, joy, and pain is over. We've made it to the manger. We've made it to the fulfillment of God's promise and prophecies. The Savior has been born and we can all celebrate!

Wishing You a
Happy Birthday!

December Birthdays

- 1st - Tim Osland
- 2nd - Cole Werner, Casey Vogel
- 3rd - Justin Kreuger, O Detta Manthei
- 4th - Avery Anderson
- 5th - Deb Lingle, Katie Gisch
- 6th - Chad Beranek, Cory Churchill
- 7th - William Buetow
- 8th - Janine Frank
- 9th - Mikaela Erickson, Amelia Gisch
- 10th - Jedidiah Kronback, Jaxon Anderson
- 11th - Perry Kronback
- 13th - Stephanie Mattison, Jon Bergemann
- 14th - Vernon Pfarr
- 15th - Larry Kronback
- 16th - Alayna Erickson, Asher Erickson, Kali Bedner
- 18th - Chad Coulter, Jaden Prechel, Derek Werner, Scarlet Carter
- 20th - Lisa Willhite, Kysha Wani
- 21st - Ron Koch, Cooper Churchill
- 23rd - Hailey Teveldal
- 25th - Heather Brand, Reagan Pfarr
- 26th - Sean Burns, Jordan Vollmer
- 27th - Char Graff, Drake Neperman
- 29th - Morgan Mattison, Steve Wegman

December Anniversary Celebration

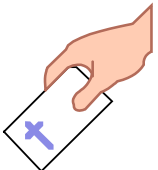

- 3rd - Duane & Virginia Waldriff
- 15th - Charlie & Bonnie Peterson
- 20th - Leon & Jan Benedict
- 22nd - Kent & Leah Teveldal

2024 Contributions

The financial personnel please ask that you have your 2024 contributions into the church office on **Sunday, January 5, 2025** to allow them to credit your accounts and process those reports for the Annual Meeting in a timely fashion.


All contributions for 2024 given after the new year MUST be marked as '2024 Giving'.

Thank you!!


~ Hospitalized ~

Because of privacy laws, a phone call from a family member or friend is the best way to make sure the pastor is notified if you or a loved one are hospitalized or in a nursing home or would like a pastoral visit.




DECEMBER USHER SCHEDULE

John Smith
Ryan Wondercheck
Kevin Juhnke
Dave (Jill) Irlbeck
Justin Thram—Sub



TAXI
Please call an usher by Fridays for a ride!



Help to Keep Our Church “Healthy”



Is our church “healthy”? Healthy churches are full of healthy volunteers. It’s that time of year when we will begin to look for individuals to help our church stay “healthy” and lead our church by being a member of

church council or ministry teams. For individuals, that would be a daunting task, but working together as a team, can make it much easier.

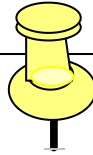
Offices up for re-election this year are Vice-President and Secretary. Ministry teams are always grateful and appreciative of new members. Do you want to ensure that your child or grandchild gets a good Christian education? Are you interested in “growing” our church through fellowship and missions to others? How about some new ideas for our worship services or musical parts of the service? Our church building and parsonage are always in need of care. Do you have some talents that might help do these tasks or find people that could? These are all areas that our council and ministry teams have input into.

Please consider volunteering or saying yes when asked to be a part of our church council beginning in 2025. If you have any questions regarding serving on the church council or a ministry team, please feel free to ask a current council member. We **need** you in order to continue to assist in keeping Our Savior’s Lutheran Church “healthy”, in spirituality, memberships and financially.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

As always, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member eligible to direct Choice Dollars, we ask you to consider our congregation as you help direct Thrivent Financial’s charitable funds. For more information about how to designate Choice Dollars visit: Thrivent.com/choicevote or call 800-847-4836.



Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE BY SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH!!!

Please have them emailed or dropped off at the church office. Thanks!

This does not include financial reports—they are needed as soon as that information has been attained.

Media System Operator Schedule

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| December 1, 2024 | Ethan Willhite (507-640-0421) |
| December 8, 2024 | Carter Beranek (507-822-4575) |
| December 15, 2024 | Jodi Smith (507-360-8326) |
| December 22, 2024 | Ethan Willhite (507-640-0421) |
| December 24, 2024 Christmas Eve | Trenton Blomgren (507-822-6571) |
| December 29, 2024 | Val Halter (507-276-0008) |

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Be sure to stop and pick up your 2025 offering envelopes in the overflow!

If you do not see one with your name, please let Mike or Kris Vollmer know.

We pray that all will consider the stewardship of sharing what God has given us to meet the needs of our congregation and community.



Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Helen Nyberg** May the strength and hope of God’s love be theirs.

JESUS is
the Reason
for the
Season.

2024 DECEMBER



| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----|---|--|--|--|-----|---|
| | Please have your bulletin Announcements into the Church Office by 10 A.M. on TUESDAYS! THANKS! | | | | | |
| 1 | 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal Coffee Fellowship | 2 <i>Church Office Closed</i> | 3 3:20 7th Grade Confirmation 4:25 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Church Council | 4 3:20 7th Grade Confirmation 4:25 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation 7:00 Church Council | 5 | 6 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study |
| 8 | 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal Coffee Fellowship | 9 <i>Church Office Closed</i> | 10 12 P.M. Christmas Party Potluck | 11 3:20 7th Grade Confirmation 4:25 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation 6:00 Luther League Meeting | 12 | 13 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study |
| 15 | 10:30 A.M. Sunday School Christmas Program Potluck to follow! | 16 <i>Church Office Closed</i> <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Articles Due!!</u> | 17 3:20 7th Grade Confirmation 4:25 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation | 18 3:20 7th Grade Confirmation 4:25 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation | 19 | 20 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study |
| 22 | 9:00 Contemporary Worship w/ baptism No Sunday School | 23 <i>Church Office Closed</i> | 24 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service (C) | 25 No Confirmation <i>Merry Christmas</i> | 26 | 27 <i>Church Office Closed</i> |
| 29 | 9:00 Worship No Sunday School | 30 <i>Church Office Closed</i> | 31 | | | 28 |

**OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
805 BIRCH ST
P.O. BOX 67
LAMBERTON, MN 56152-0067
507/752-7334**



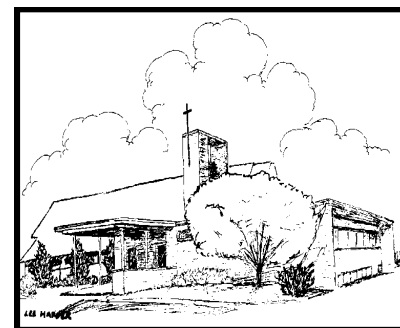
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PARTNERS

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church — LCMC
805 Birch St. P.O. Box 67
Lamberton, Minnesota
56152-0067



Pastor Steve Walswick

Pastor Steve's Cell Phone: 320-808-4588
Pastor Steve's E-mail: stevewalswick@yahoo.com

Church Office Hours:

9 a.m.-Noon, 1-4p.m. Tues-Thurs
Church Phone: 752-7334
Church Email:
oslclamberton@centurytel.net

Worship Services:

Sundays: 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School
10:00 A.M. (Sept.-May)

Cable Broadcast of Services:

Lamberton -WED: 4:00 P.M.
Springfield -Wednesday: 6:00 P.M.



The Mission of Our Savior's Lutheran Church is to demonstrate Christ's Spirit through worship, witnessing, and ministry to the needs of the people of this church and the community.

◆ **Please have bulletins articles into the church office by 10am Tuesday mornings.**

+ + + + +

◆ **Please have your Newsletter articles or calendar items into the church office as designated on the monthly calendar.**