



PARTNERS

JANUARY 2025

VOLUME 37 ISSUE 1



Are you worthy?

The story of Jesus being born in Bethlehem is accompanied by what I would call several different advent characters. These are collections of individuals that we seem to encounter each year in church leading up to Christmas. One of those individuals is John the Baptist. To say that John the Baptist (or as some people call him John the Baptizer) was unique would be an understatement. There was a cartoon that I saw recently of a man looking up to heaven and shouting, "God! If you're up there, tell us what we should do!" Back comes a voice: "feed the hungry, house the homeless, establish justice." The skeptic looked alarmed. "Just testing, he said to me too," the voice replied. John seems to not be that sort of individual. He wasn't testing out discipleship or asking hollow questions, but rather was focused on following God. We're told that he ate grasshoppers, dressed himself in the hide of a camel, and tied a belt around his waist. You might think that this is just a strange collection of unique fashion habits; rather, John is doing something very intentional because he's letting everybody know that he is a Nazarite. There's a collection of these individuals in the Old Testament: Samson and Samuel being very notable examples. These are men who took serious religious vows to abstain from alcohol and any form of idolatry. Even Samson, though, was not nearly as dedicated or disciplined as John. John is considered to be a forerunner of Christ. He was a type of ambassador or someone to pave the way for the coming Messiah. His job was to announce that there was a Messiah coming, what that meant, and how people should prepare for this coming, messianic reign. This was a job that you wouldn't want to sign up for. There are many many challenges that went with this call. Eventually, John would lose his life because of his vocation. In Luke chapter 3 we were told that the ministry of John the Baptist consisted of mainly his call for people to repent. The call to repentance was coupled with a call to baptism. Unlike the other synoptics, Matthew and Mark, Luke's information about John the Baptist is much more concentrated, limiting all information to two sections in chapters 3 and 7. It is the portion of chapter 3 that I want to look at with you today.

Luke is emphasizing a pattern of focusing away from Jerusalem and the temple and Judaism and now focusing on something new. A new religious phenomenon that's emanating from the desert that is being led by people and priests. It is a new religious system predicated not on the law, but on grace. Again, John is the forerunner of this new religious movement. He is the catalyst for inaugurating a new methodology. This new way of thinking and believing is not about the rigid following of law, rather about baptismal Grace and imputed righteousness.



Pastor's article continued

Because of his strong religious dedication and unique character and spirit, John is soon confused with the Messiah. Meaning several people began to come up to him and ask if he is the Christ. In first century Palestinian culture this would have been normal at the time of Jesus's life. There were many people claiming to be the Messiah as well as many people misidentifying who the Messiah actually was. The question is not out of bounds, but John is very quick to point the question in a much different direction. The first point that John makes is a differentiation between his baptismal practice and the eventual baptismal practices of the Messiah. He claims that he is only baptizing with water, but the one who he refers to as "mightier than he" is coming, and he will be baptizing with the Holy Spirit and with fire. This is an incredible statement because it points directly to a trinitarian model for baptismal regeneration, as well as the Pentecostal experience of the Holy Spirit, raw faith, and what that will inevitably do to the church when it started in the book of Acts. Interspersed here is John's fascinating comment that this Messiah is mightier than he is and someone who he is not worthy even to strap his sandal. Let's put that in a modern vernacular for just a moment. John is saying quite literally that he is not worthy to untie Jesus's shoes, that's the difference between Jesus and him. No, let's ratchet it down for just a moment. Let's take this comment that John makes as profound as it is and contrast it with an incredible statement that Jesus makes about John. Jesus says in Matthew chapter 11, that no one born a woman is greater than John the Baptist. So what Jesus is saying is that John is the culmination of a prophetic line. He's really the greatest of all prophets and he was used in an integral way as the forerunner of a new Messianic era. But even if he's the greatest prophet, he pales in comparison to the Messiah himself. What we're saying, in essence, is that a human being is exactly that—merely human—and cannot even be compared with the divine. Which of course, causes a tremendous problem. If I am human and I am wanting to interact with immortality how can I do that? How can I receive heaven if my humanity is getting in the way? I'm not worthy. It is at this very moment where the gospel again is preeminent because in our moments of inadequacy and intense feelings of unworthiness is where God once again comes to us full of grace and truth. God comes to us with a message of forgiveness and reconciliation with him, which can make us worthy again. Not worthy in our own works, but rather our worthiness and value comes exclusively from Him. John saw his unworthiness, his unique inability to even untie the shoes of Jesus. Perhaps you feel much the same way? So once again, this season is a wonderful opportunity for us to see why Jesus came. Jesus came to an entire created order of people, knowing that they were universally unworthy, and he came sacrificially to give them worth. You have value today because of Jesus. You are declared to be worthy not because of anything you have done but because of what Christ has done for you.



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES December 4, 2024

The OSLC Church Council met for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 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 7:03 PM and Pastor Steve led the group in prayer.

Secretary's Report: Kari 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 November checking balance of \$19,359.65 and savings balance of \$66,488.23. On a motion by Sharon and seconded by Kevin, the treasurer's report was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Steve submitted a written report of his activities for November, which included personal contact visitations, 1 baptism, 1 funeral and several church and community events. A recommendation had come from a member that the Bible verses might be posted on the hymn number board. Council members felt there was not enough room there and that they are already printed in the bulletin, on the screens and announced when being read.

Committee Reports

Education: Courtney reported no meeting, but announced that the Christmas program on December 15, 2024, will be at 10:30 AM and not at 10:00 AM, as previously stated. Pot luck will follow the 10:30 program. There will be no Sunday School on December 22 and 29. Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Worship and Music: Sharon reported no meeting, but a change in serving communion will be made by placing individual communion cups on small plates. She also stated that the Christmas Eve service will be on Tuesday, December 24, 2024 at 5 PM.

Life, Growth & Stewardship: Kris reported no meeting. She did report that the new photo directory pictures will be taken Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 27, 28 and 29, 2025 by Holly Rohlik from Studio Z Photography. Life, Growth & Stewardship committee will meet with her after the holidays to set up a plan and expectations of her and OSLC.



Property: Brian had no report

Old Business:

Wedding policy: The current OSLC wedding policy was discussed at length and updates were made. Kris moved to submit the updates for the OSLC wedding standards and practices to Nicole to be printed. Brian seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor evaluation: The pastoral evaluation done by a council committee was shared with the entire council and reviewed. The evaluation will be kept on file. This is a procedure that needs to be done annually.

New Business

Church office hours – Nicole has requested that the church office be closed between Christmas and New Year's. Brian moved to accept this request and Kris seconded. Motion carried.

Church employee job descriptions – Do we have these? If not, need to be made and all employees to have a copy of their particular job description. Annual evaluations should also be looked at for all employees.

Mission Benevolence – After discussion, Kevin moved to make the following donations for benevolence for 2024:

- \$1000 – LCMC
- \$1000 – Augustana District
- \$ 500 – Tartu Academy
- \$ 500 – Table Ministry

Motion was seconded by Sharon. Motion carried.

End of the year items – All committee and executive reports need to be turned in to Nicole at the church office by January 5, 2025 in order to be ready for the annual meeting. All checkbooks from committees and groups must also be turned into the auditing committee by January 5, 2025, as well.

Council Minutes Continued...

Communion 12-8-24 – There will be no communion on Sunday, December 8, 2024.

Communion Assistants

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

December 24 – Steve Halter, Courtney Thram and Mike Vollmer

January 5 – Gayle Erickson and Kari Halter

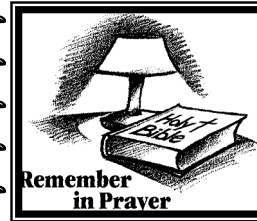
Next council meeting:

Wednesday, January 8, 2024

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, Brian moved to adjourn and Kevin seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Furth
Council
Secretary



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 (hospice)
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 ...



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](https://www.thrivent.com/choicevote) or call 800-847-4836.

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 on it, 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.

MAY YOU SHINE
THE LIGHT OF
CHRIST IN THE
NEW YEAR!



BUDGET RECAP as of 12/15/2024

Total Outstanding:

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

Income:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 11/17/24— 12/15/24 | \$9,934.32 |
| In Checking Acct. | \$5,499.21 |
| In Savings Acct. | \$66,488.23 |

Needed weekly to Meet budget

\$2,824.62

AUDITS

Attention all committees with a checking or savings account!

Please contact one of our auditors after the 1st of the year to have your books audited. Please plan ahead, **all books must be to the auditors by Friday, January 10th.** Thank you!!

2024 Auditors are: Marie Dammann, Chantel Neperman, & Emily Evans

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://oslclamberton.churchcenter.com/giving>

You may still mail checks to the church office.

**Address found on last page of newsletter.*

LUTHER LEAGUE NEWS

At Luther League this past month we made treat bags to hand out to all the children that were a part of the christmas program. We also talked about our Christmas party. Each child brought home a flyer with the details about our Christmas party this year along with a waiver that is needed to go to Mount Kato on January 12th. If you weren't at the meeting or the christmas program, your's were mailed. Additional extra forms are in the kitchen and we need them back ON OR BY January 5th. Thanks for sharing your youth with us.

Next meeting is January 8th.

Our Savior's Women Group News

Our Savior's Women met Dec 10, 2024. Secretary and treasurer reports were given. We will be starting a new Bible study in January.

We supply the devotional Portals of Prayer to the nursing home residents. We need to find out how many to order this year.

The Thankoffering money was divided:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Lamberton Ambulance— | \$300 |
| Lamberton Cemetery— | \$200 |
| Hospice— | \$300 |
| Union Gospel Mission— | \$200 |
| Table Ministries— | \$100 |
| Shetek & Green Lake Bible Camp— | \$100 each |
| Marshall Religious Center— | \$100 |
| Sewing Supplies— | \$100 |
| CCW to help pay for birthday packages for kids at food shelter. | |

We closed the gathering with Christmas finger foods.

Judie Harnack
Secretary



HOLY BAPTISM

"Through Baptism make this child to be your faithful follower and witness to your Gospel."

Estella Rose Johnson

*Infant daughter of
Timothy & Jessica Johnson*

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank you to each and every volunteer who worked together on the Sunday School



Christmas program!! A special thank you to Courtney Thram for her hours of dedication to pull it all together.

No Sunday School January 19 due to the Annual Meeting. All Confirmation students are required to attend the Annual Meeting and complete the worksheet.

Confirmation Retreat for all confirmation student is February 28-March 2, 2025 at Inspiration Point in Vining, MN. Check-in is Friday evening and concludes late Sunday morning. Youth should sign up during Confirmation class. If you have not yet signed up, please contact Pastor Steve or call or text Wendy Wondercheck at 507-828-6983 to get added to the list. Registration is due towards the beginning of February.

We are in need of one male and one female chaperone (at least 21 years old). Please let Wendy know if you are interested or if you have any questions.

The Board of Education would like to thank Courtney Thram for her time on the Board of Education. She'll continue to teach and help with music this year and we are grateful for her contributions. With the exit of Courtney, the Board of Education welcomes new member Savanna Engen. We are excited for the valuable skills and perspectives she will bring to the group!



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church—LCMC will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

Students in grades 7-9 are required to attend the meeting and complete a report. There will not be any Sunday School classes that day.

Annual reports will be available on Friday afternoon, January 17th. Please, one report per family. Thank you!

JANUARY ACOLYTE & VIDEO SCHEDULE 9:00 A.M. Worship Service



January 5, 2025
Quintin Willhite & Braylen Braulick
Video: Isaac Wondercheck

January 12, 2025
Max Erickson & Halle Paplow
Video: Lincoln Hesse

January 19, 2025
Colton Jeckell
Video: Levi Jeckell



January 26, 2025
Zoey Keck
Video: Madisyn Keck

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

JANUARY ALTAR GUILD
Gayle Erickson
Sally Erickson





January Birthdays

- 1st** - Mandy Petersen, Janet Jeckell, Stacy Leach, Justtina Erickson
- 2nd** - Addison Irlbeck
- 4th** - Fred Henkel, Jeanette Hildreth, Staci Koppen, Penny Mattison, Graham Erickson
- 5th** - Holden Mariner, Helen Nyberg
- 6th** - Zakary Zimmermann, Cody Casey
- 7th** - Lauren Willhite, Ezekiel Anderson
- 8th** - Sandra Danielowski, Charles Dammann
- 9th** - Stella Rue
- 11th** - Sandy Frericks
- 14th** - Karl Dagner, Jeremy Knutson
- 15th** - Joshua Hesse, Arlene Wetter, Marshal Willhite
- 16th** - Bentley Jo Werner, Mike Senst, Gary Mattison
- 19th** - Kevin Dagner
- 20th** - David Egenes, Joshua Pfarr
- 21st** - Nathan Lingle, Mike Redman
- 22nd** - Joyce Hoffrogge
- 23rd** - Peyton Coulter, Samuel Thillen, Brady Jeckell
- 24th** - Shawn Willhite, Teagen Werner
- 25th** - Ashton Kronbach
- 28th** - Jasmine Ward, Chad Mattison, Jeannie Horning
- 29th** - Treyton Knutson
- 30th** - Molly Arndt, Bobbie Jo Willer, David Lange, Kyle Salfer



~ 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.

January



- 4th** - Chad & Karen Beranek
- 12th** - Todd & Brenda Anderson
- 20th** - Dennis & Arlene Theis

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!!

Attention! This reminder is for the chairpersons of the various teams, heads of organizations, and president of the congregation.

Please have your Annual reports into the church office by **Sunday, January 5, 2025**. You can drop them off (slide under the door) but email is preferred:)

In addition to the team reports, the financial reports are needed as soon as that information has been attained.

Thank you!!



JANUARY USHER SCHEDULE

Nathan Erickson
Mike Redman
Jake Erickson
Kurt Willhite



Darrel Knutson—Sub

TAXI

Please call an usher by Fridays for a ride!



JANUARY MISSION EMPHASIS ~TRINITY MISSIONS~

(formerly Mission to Mississippi)



Mission
offering

Trinity Missions began in ND in the 1960's becoming Mission to Mississippi when Pastor Harvey & Marlene moved back to this area. They began working on homes in the Greenville MS area along with folks from Nebraska, South Dakota, & SW Minnesota. These homes belong to families in Greenville who had no other hope of repairs except from the "M to M" team. Revels Memorial United Methodist church has been the base camp of M to M where they make meals and sleep and a relationship has developed over the years. Over 16 families have been helped since 2011 and over 300 individuals have volunteered their time and resources to bless these folks a better living space and spiritual gifts. Those who volunteer report they come home more blessed than the folks they help.

Please help support this wonderful cause with your gifts of money so that the volunteers can continue to bless those in need. If you might be interested in volunteering or just want to learn more talk to Mike Vollmer or Pastor Mike Stangland. 2025 dates have been set for Feb 22 – Mar 9. You can attend for as long or short as you'd like, you don't have to stay the entire time.

You can use an envelope in the pew or use your own envelope and write "Trinity Missions" on it to designate for mission giving. 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!!

Thank you for supporting our monthly missions! Here's how much we helped the mission last month.

November—Salvation Army—\$375

Thank you for your support!

Overflow Refresh

The committee will meet in Tuesday, January 7th at 7:00pm.

The committee consists of Kris Vollmer, Valerie Halter, Leah Teveldal, Kim Grunewald, Susan Jeckell and LeeAnn Barrie.

Church Directory

March 27-29 are the dates for photos.

Photographer: Holly Rohlik from Studio Z Photography

Watch for more info after the new year!



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.

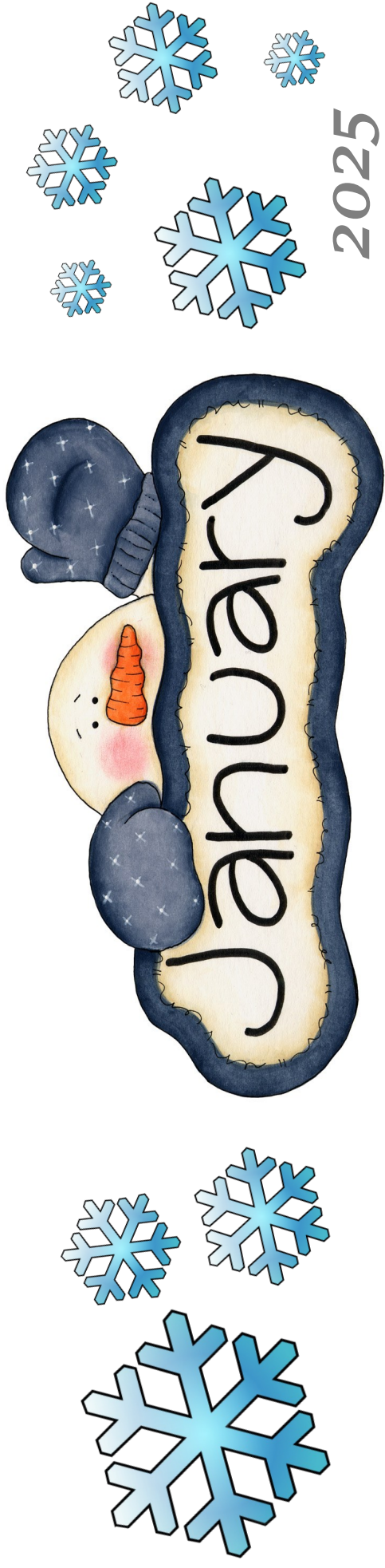




Thank you to everyone who has volunteered throughout the year!

We are blessed with talented, caring, and willing members and we couldn't do all we do without all of you!

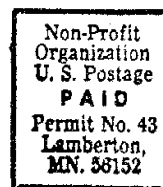
You are truly appreciated!!

Thank you for all you do!



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|-----|---|-----|
| Please have your bulletin Announcements into the Church Office by 10 A.M. on Tuesdays! THANKS! | | | 1 No Confirmation | 2 | 3 Offices Closed 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study | 4 |
| 5 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Sunday School; 6th Grade Acolyte Training & Coffee Fellowship Annual Reports Due! | 6 Offices Closed <i>Epiphany of Our Lord!</i>  | 7 | 8 3:20 7th Grade Confirmation 4:25 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation 6:00 Luther League Meeting 7:00 Church Council | 9 | 10 Offices Closed Financials due to Auditors 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study | 11 |
| 12 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship | 13 Offices Closed | 14 1:30 OSW Exec. Bd 2:00 OSW Meeting | 15 3:20 7th Grade Confirmation 4:25 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation | 16 | 17 Offices Closed 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study | 18 |
| 19 10:00 Contemporary Worship Annual Meeting *7th-9th Required to attend | 20 Offices Closed Newsletter Articles Due!!  | 21 | 22 3:20 7th Grade Confirmation 4:25 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation | 23 | 24 Offices Closed 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study | 25 |
| 26 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship | 27 Offices Closed | 28 | 29 3:20 7th Grade Confirmation 4:25 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation | 30 | 31 9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study | |

**OUR SAVIOR'S
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Address Service Requested



PARTNERS

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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:

oslcamberton@centurytel.net

Website: www.oslcamberton.com

Worship Services:

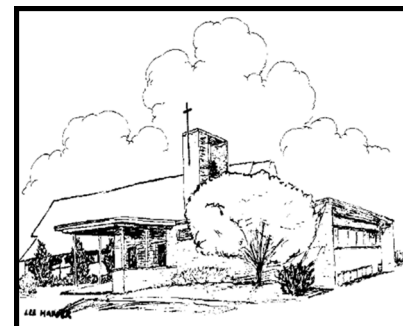
Sundays: 9:00 A.M.

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.