



# PARTNERS

JANUARY 2024

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 1



*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6: 24-26 NIV*

January is often the time of resolution. The time to: lose weight, exercise more, spend more time with family/friends, spend less time at work, and the list goes on. January can also be a time for spiritual resolution. A time where we endeavor to read the Bible more, pray with more fervency, or serve in a new way.

Have you ever thought of what God's resolutions are as it pertains to you? The very first question in Luther's Small Catechism is: What are God's thoughts of you? The catechism answers this by simply saying that God's thoughts about us are thoughts of love and blessing. I suspect you know what the word love means, but what does the word blessing mean? John Calvin, the great 16th century reformer of the church, defined blessing as God's goodness in action. God's desire, or if you will, his resolution for you this year is that he wants to bless you in an ongoing fashion. The blessing is not simply contingent on your goodness, but rather it is contingent on his. For many of us, we have spent the vast majority of our lives hearing church services end with the benediction of Aaron recorded in the sixth chapter of Numbers verses 22 through 26. But have we ever considered those words, really thought about them?

The Lord says in verse 22 to Moses that this is how you are to bless the people by saying these words. You bless them by reminding them of what God has done. This is actually a prayer. A prayer that God will keep us—to protect us. In its original context, it meant the blessing of some 603,000 people as is recorded in Numbers 1:46. This truly is his ability to preserve our faith that we should be most thankful for. Verse 26 speaks of peace. The Lord will turn his very face towards us and give us peace. The Hebrew word for peace is shalom—which has rich, deep meaning. This is not just the peace between warring factions, or the peace that comes between governmental officials, but this is fundamentally the peace between God and man. The book of Romans chapter 8, verse 17 speaks of the end of this conflict between God and man. The reality is that Christ ended that conflict between God and us, *"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,"* Romans 5:1. This sort of peace is what we can trust in now and always.

For Him,  
Pastor Steve

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
December 6, 2023**

The OSLC Church Council met for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 in fellowship hall. Members present were Kevin Graff, Deb Furth, Courtney Thram, Janice Werner, Steve Halter, Kari Halter, Brian Benedict, John Smith, Kurt Willhite, and Pastor Steve Walswick.

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

Secretary's Report: November minutes were read by Deb. Correction to minutes indicates that the CEV version of the Bible is being used with our confirmation students, not the NIV. Kari moved and Courtney seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kari reported the November checking balance of \$51,883.61 and savings balance of \$46,062.05. On a motion by Steve and seconded by John, the treasurer's report was approved. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Steve reported that he is working towards using the care giving team to assist with visits and administering communion to members of our congregation as needed. Pastor Steve questioned whether he should plan to attend the confirmation retreat with students and what had been done in the past. Council said if he would like to attend, he should. The discussion then went as to how to handle Sundays where Pastor Steve would be unavailable. Pastor Steve would help us find someone or congregation members would assist with services.

**Committee Reports**

Education: ESV study Bibles have been ordered for 7<sup>th</sup> graders for confirmation and will be the version being used in the future. The Christmas program will be Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 10:30 AM.

There will be no confirmation December 20 and 27. No Sunday School on December 24 and 31. Wendy Wondercheck will be the new chairperson for the Board of Education.

Worship and Music: Janice reported the Christmas Eve service will be at 5 PM with communion.

Life, Growth & Stewardship: Kurt reported that they met on Monday, Nov.20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with Pastor Steve present at the meeting. He looks forward to working with the care giving team on visits and for lay people to assist with communion for shut-ins. The committee is looking into options for the 2024 Mission Endowment and reports will be put in the newsletter. Coffee fellowship is going well. They will continue with soundbites in the newsletter. Rally Sunday went well. The 2024 -26 council rep and committee chair will be Kris Vollmer and Bridget Arkell will take over as missions' treasurer. Lenten meals will be kept the same as in prior years. Sent \$330 to the Salvation Army for October missions and \$1200 to Share the Spirit in November.

Property: Brian reported the office doors had arrived that day. A new water heater and faucets have been ordered. A window pane needs to be replaced in the parsonage garage. One of the lights in the overflow area needs to be fixed. A new vacuum cleaner used for the church may need replacing soon.

**Old Business**

Curtain/Divider Discussion: We need to proceed with this project. The problem is we can't find a company that can give us the size we feel we need and something that can keep the sound down between partitions. We continue to explore this problem.

Computers: Nicole prefers the PC and Pastor Steve is fine with that as well. They will get ordered.

Nominating committee: Looking for people for this committee

**Council Minutes Continued...**

Church records: Kevin and Deb will look into these and decide what needs to be kept.

**New Business**

Water heater: Ready to be put in and will be installed by Lamberton Heating and Plumbing

Budget: Will be finalized next month

Parsonage Issues: No problems

Missions: Deb moved and Steve seconded that we send \$500 to the Tartu Bible Academy (suggested earlier this year by Pastor Carl Billings), \$1000 to LCMC and \$1000 to Augustana.

Funeral Set up: Our funeral set up committee needs more people. Volunteers would be appreciated.

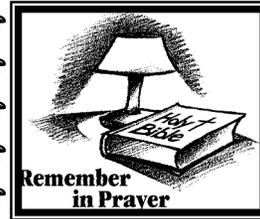
**Communion Assistants**

December 10 – Kevin and John  
December 24, Christmas Eve – Steve, Courtney and Kari

**Next council meeting:** Wednesday, January 3, 2024

**Adjournment:** With no further business to conduct, John moved to adjourn and Kurt seconded. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.  
Meeting adjourned 8:05 PM.

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)
- Joyce Hoffrogge (multiple myeloma)
- Paula (Mattison) Meidl (need to improve #s before transplant)
- Kim Churchill Oelfke (stroke & cancer)
- Vicki Churchill Schenk (cancer treatments)
- Maria Bedner (stage 4 ovarian cancer)
- Briana Halter Peterson (health concerns)

Pray for people affected by other disasters ...



**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Be sure to stop and pick up your 2024 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.

**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.

**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](http://Thrivent.com/choicevote) or call 800-847-4836.



**BUDGET RECAP**  
as of 12/17/2023

**Total Outstanding:**

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

**Income:**

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 11/19/23— 12/17/23 | \$10,280.58 |
| In Checking Acct.  | \$46,349.70 |
| In Savings Acct.   | \$46,062.05 |

**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 12th.** Thank you!!

2023 Auditors are: Marie Dammann, Grace Guggisberg, & Chantel Neperman

**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.*

**Our Savior's Women Group News**

Our Savior's Women met Dec 12, 2023. We watched the final Bible Study video of this series.

The Thankoffering monies were distributed as such:

- Hospice—\$400
- Campus Religious Center, Marshall—\$200
- Green Lake Bible Camp—\$200
- Shetek Bible Camp—\$200
- Lamberton Cemetery—\$200
- Lamberton Ambulance—\$400

We voted to give Vonnie Halter \$25 to cover stamps and to give Pastors Carl & Steve and Nicole Christmas gifts.

Judy K & Nicole will choose and order a new Bible Study series, to be started in January.

Everyone brought Christmas treats to have with coffee.

Judie Harnack  
Secretary

**~ 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.

*Thank you to everyone who has volunteered throughout the year!*

We are blessed with caring, talented, 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!**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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



NO Sunday School January 21 due to the Annual Meeting.

All Confirmation students are required to attend the Annual meeting and complete the worksheet.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of Our Savior's Lutheran Church—LCMC will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2024 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 19th. Please, one report per family. Thank you!

**JANUARY MISSION EMPHASIS**

**~TRINITY MISSIONS~**

*(formerly Mission to Mississippi)*



**Mission**  
offering

Each year a local group of volunteers head on the annual mission trip to Mississippi in March!

They are always looking for more people to join their team! There truly is something for everyone to do, no matter what their talents! You don't have to be a pro with a hammer, ALL talents are needed—cooks, painters, etc.! If you feel a calling, this is a great opportunity to do God's work.

Every year they like to give hand-made quilts to the residents of the homes we repair as a way to remind them of God's love and our compassion for them.

Your gifts and prayers are welcomed at anytime and thank you for all the wonderful generosity to make this happen with God's grace.

Gifts & inquiries may be directed to:

**Mike Vollmer**

402 11th Ave W. Lamberton, MN 56152

507-830-0193

You can pick up a blue 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!!

**JANUARY ACOLYTE  
& VIDEO SCHEDULE**

9:00 A.M. Worship Service



**January 7, 2024**

Austin Werner & Zoey Keck

**Video:** Kysha Wani

**January 14, 2024**

Sophie Paplow & Quintin Willhite

**Video:** Marshal Willhite

**January 21, 2024**

Paige Wondercheck

**Video:** Aron Van Meveren



**January 28, 2024**

Colton Jeckell

**Video:** Lincoln Hesse

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

Thank you!!

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

November—Share the Spirit—\$1,200.00

*Thank you for your support!*

**JANUARY ALTAR GUILD**

Gayle Erickson

Sally Erickson





Wishing You a  
**Happy Birthday!**

**January Birthdays**

- 1st - Mandy Petersen, Janet Jeckell, Stacy Leach, Justina Erickson
- 2nd - Addison Irlbeck
- 4th - Fred Henkel, Jeanette Hildreth, Staci Koppen
- 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 - Todd Brand, Karl Dagner, Jeremy Knutson
- 15th - Joshua Hesse, Arlene Wetter, Marshal Willhite
- 16th - Bentley Jo Werner, Mike Senst
- 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

**Media System Operator Schedule**

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| January 7, 2024  | Jodi Smith (507-360-8326)     |
| January 14, 2024 | Ethan Willhite (507-640-0421) |
| January 21, 2024 | Carter Beranek (507-822-4575) |
| January 28, 2024 | Val Halter (507-276-0008)     |



**January**



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

**Volunteers Wanted!**

Trinity Missions (Mission to Mississippi) is planned for March 1st—10th. We are looking for team members and contributors. Contact Mike Vollmer 507-830-0193 or Pastor Mike Stangeland 507-626-0529 if you are interested or have any questions .

**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 **Wednesday, January 3, 2023**. 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

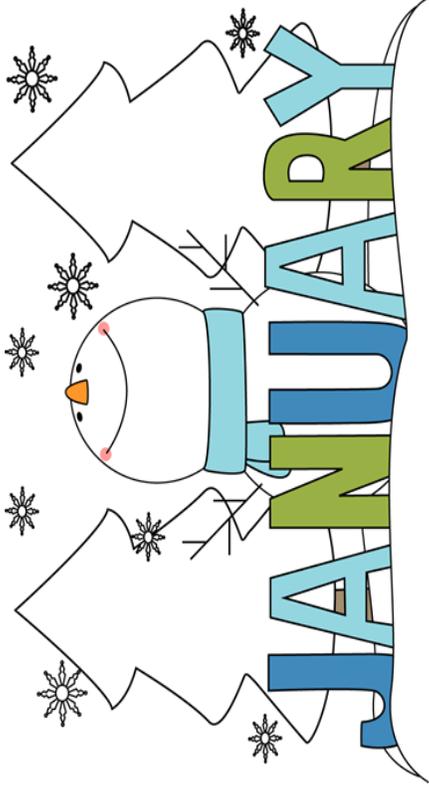


Darrel Knutson—Sub

**TAXI**

Please call an usher by Fridays for a ride!





2024

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|-----|
| <p>1</p> <p><b>Offices Closed</b></p> <p>Please have your bulletin Announcements into the Church Office by 10 A.M. on Tuesdays! THANKS!</p> | <p>2</p> <p><b>Offices Closed</b></p>   | <p>3</p> <p><b>Annual Reports Due!</b><br/><i>No Confirmation</i><br/>7:00 Church Council</p>                | <p>4</p>   | <p>5</p> <p><b>Offices Closed</b><br/>9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study</p>  | <p>6</p> <p><i>Epiphany of Our Lord!</i></p> |     |
| <p>7</p> <p>9:00 Worship/Communion<br/>10:00 Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship</p>  | <p>8</p> <p><b>Offices Closed</b></p> <p>1:30 OSW Exec. Bd<br/>2:00 OSW Meeting</p>   | <p>9</p> <p>1:35 9th Grade Confirmation<br/>2:25 7th &amp; 8th Grade Confirmation<br/>6:00 Luther League</p> | <p>10</p> <p><b>Offices Closed</b></p> <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> <p><b>Offices Closed</b><br/><b>Financials due to Auditors</b><br/>9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study</p> | <p>13</p>                                    |     |
| <p>14</p> <p>9:00 Worship/Communion<br/>10:00 Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship</p>   | <p>15</p> <p><b>Offices Closed</b></p>  | <p>16</p> <p>3:20 9th Grade Confirmation<br/>4:25 7th &amp; 8th Grade Confirmation</p>                       | <p>17</p>  | <p>19</p> <p><b>Offices Closed</b><br/>9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study</p>                                       | <p>20</p>                                    |     |
| <p>21</p> <p>10:00 Contemporary Worship<br/><b>Annual Meeting</b><br/>*7th-9th Required to attend</p>                                       | <p>22</p> <p><b>Offices Closed</b><br/><b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> </p> | <p>23</p> <p>3:20 9th Grade Confirmation<br/>4:25 7th &amp; 8th Grade Confirmation</p>                       | <p>24</p>  | <p>26</p> <p><b>Offices Closed</b><br/>9:00 A.M. Community Bible Study</p>                                       | <p>27</p>                                    |     |
| <p>28</p> <p>9:00 Worship<br/>10:00 Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship</p>   | <p>29</p> <p><b>Offices Closed</b></p>  | <p>30</p> <p>3:20 9th Grade Confirmation<br/>4:25 7th &amp; 8th Grade Confirmation</p>                       | <p>31</p>  |  |  |     |

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

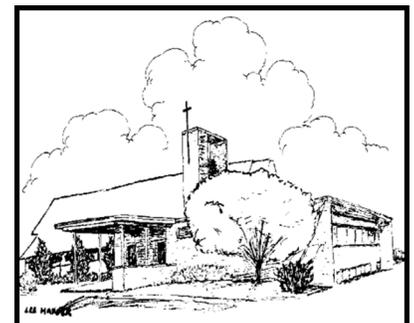
Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 43  
Lamberton,  
MN. 56152

*Address Service Requested*

**January**

## **PARTNERS**

**IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY**  
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](mailto:stevewalswick@yahoo.com)

### **Church Office Hours:**

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

[osclamberton@centurytel.net](mailto:osclamberton@centurytel.net)  
Website: [www.osclamberton.com](http://www.osclamberton.com)

### **Worship Services:**

Sundays: 9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Schooll: 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.**