

The Parish Internet

Our Saviour's Lutheran of Holway

Sunday Worship 8:15 am



Merry Christmas

December 2022

Our mission is to share the love of Christ with each other, our community, and the world.

The Parish Internet—December 2022

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January Newsletter
Deadline
December 28



December Calendar

Sunday Worship 8:15am

Dec. 4	Worship w/Communion, Rev. Giese
Dec. 7	Confirmation 4-6pm Advent Worship, St. Paul's, Medford, 6pm
Dec. 11	Worship w/Communion, Rev. Sara Bishop
Dec. 14	Confirmation 4-6pm Advent Worship, St. Paul's, Medford, 6pm
Dec. 15	Church Council Meeting 6pm
Dec. 18	Worship w/Communion & Christmas Program Christmas Caroling after church
Dec. 21	Advent Worship & Christmas Caroling, St. Paul's, Medford, 6pm
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Dec. 25	No worship at Our Saviour's

This Christmas give scrip cards from Our Saviour's.

Hundreds of different cards are available to pre order. Lists of participating retailers are available at church. For Christmas gifts place orders on or before December 11. The best way to pre order is to email Barb Krug at barbkrug@charter.net or Brenda Nernberger at Brenda.Nernberger@weathershield.com.



Never the wrong size or color.

Convenient!

Scrip Gift Cards

Bishop Laurie's Christmas Message

"From Worry to Wonder"

A Christmas Message from Bishop Laurie

On June 19, 2020 our granddaughter was born. She was born three months into the pandemic. Her parents were worried. Her grandparents were worried. It is challenging enough to be pregnant and give birth in the best of times but to give birth in the middle of a worldwide pandemic is an even greater worry. We worried about the unknown dangers this virus might present to the mother, the unborn baby, and the new born baby. Our worries kept us up at night. Our worries were relieved when she was finally born, perfect in every way. Our worry gave way to wonder-filled joy. Worry transformed to wonder as we looked back to see how God was holding and carrying them through the unavoidable worry. Our worry transformed to gratitude and wonder watching for what God would be up to next in her tiny life.

It's December 2022. We prepare to celebrate the birth our Lord Jesus. This Advent we come with our fears and worries too. We are living in the midst of challenging times in our country. The very foundation of our nation seems less stable. We each come with our own personal set of worries and fears about our families, health, finances, work, safety, the future...What is it that keeps you up at night? What are you worried about today?

Folks across our church are experiencing doubts and uneasiness about the future of their church. Does it keep you up at night? What are the threats to your church's future? How can the conversation move from fear and worry to wonder? As the miracle of Christ's birth is celebrated this season, we can move from worry to wonder. We wonder what God is up to now in this day and age. Together we wonder what God's will is for the future of our church. Together we wonder; how can we use the abundance and blessings, (what we do have and opportunities in front of us), to make a difference in Jesus' name.

Bishop's Christmas Message

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid.

Luke 2:8-10a

Shepherds living in the fields watched over their sheep to keep them safe. There were dangers that kept the shepherds up at night and plenty of things for the shepherd's to worry about in the cold night like wild animals, predators, thieves, & bad weather. There was so much to worry about, but one night an angel of the Lord, all shiny and bright appeared and transformed their fears and worldly worry to divine wonder.

To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:11-14

Friends, you are precious, beloved, baptized children of God. We know that the antidote to worry is to trust in God.

During this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season I pray that your worries will be transformed to wonder at what God **is** doing and promises **to** do in your lives and in our churches. May the miracle of Christ's birth transform your worries to wonder! I am grateful for your partnership in ministry.

Peace be with you,



Scrip Cards available

Call Nancie Adams at 715-678-2397 for County Market cards.

To order other cards contact Brenda Nernberger at 715-678-2573.

It's that Advent Time of Year by Carol Lekies

Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas, is the beginning of the church year when we focus on the birth of Jesus. It is a time to slow down, reflect, and reach out to others in need. It's a time to bring families together and attend Advent worship services.

During this time of transition, Our Saviour's will not be hosting mid-week Advent services. Not to worry, Pastor Nancy Amacher from St. Paul's Lutheran, Medford, has graciously invited Our Saviour's to join them for Wednesday evening Advent worship. Worship is at 6pm. See schedule below.

December 7—Saint Nicholas—Is he the same as Santa Claus? What's the story?

December 14—Whose Birthday Is It?—

Come and celebrate a very special birthday.

December 21—Caroling. What is the background of caroling? Sharing the story of Jesus in song.

Symbolizing the season is the Advent Wreath with 4 outer candles and a center candle. The first candle represents hope, the second love, followed by joy and peace. The white candle in the center is the Christ's candle and is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.



Do you read Advent daily devotions? I do. At home, I have a simple Advent wreath. I light it in the morning and start my day with an Advent devotion and a cup of coffee. If you would like an Advent devotional they are available at church.

Maybe your family and friends go Christmas Caroling, or ring bells for the Salvation Army as my father, sister and I used to do. Sadly, without my father and sister, I haven't kept up this tradition. I take part in the Taylor County Giving Tree program which helps low-income families in Taylor County. On behalf of Our Saviour's, I requested 10 children to buy for and they all have been spoken for.



I can't think of a better way to focus on the birth of Jesus than by attending the Sunday School Christmas program. This year's

News & Events

Christmas program will be during worship on Sunday December 18. Invite your grandparents, relatives, and friends to attend. After worship we are going Christmas Caroling in Medford with planned stops at Our House Assisted Living, Aspirus Country Gardens and The Aspirus Memorial Nursing home and rehab facility. Mark Heinz will accompany us on his accordion, Krug's bus service the transportation. Upon returning to Our Saviour's, hot chocolate and cookies will be waiting for us.



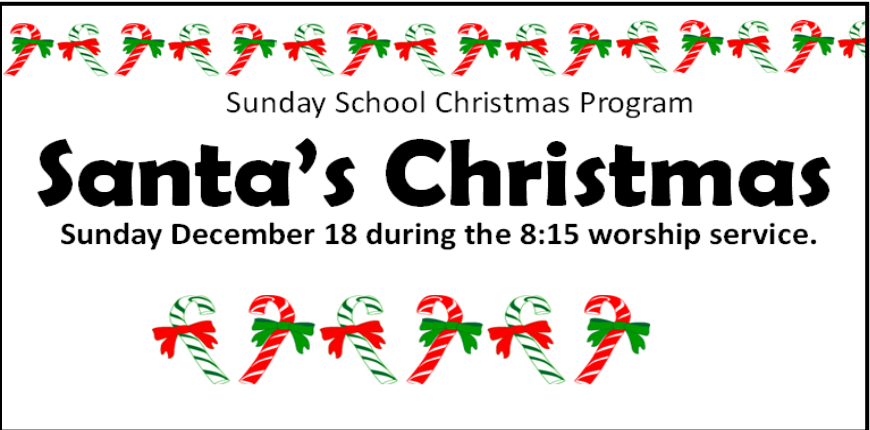
Our beautiful traditional candlelight service will be held Christmas Eve at 4:30 with Pastor Bob officiating. There won't be a Christmas Day service at Our Saviour's. For those wishing to worship Christmas Day, St. Paul's Lutheran in Medford's worship service is at 9:00am.



Sunday School Christmas Program

Santa's Christmas

Sunday December 18 during the 8:15 worship service.



Christmas Caroling following worship. Join us on the bus as we share the joy of Christmas with family and friends In Medford's assisted living centers.

News & Events



Meet Pastor Sara

Pastor Sara S.V. Bishop is the Synod Advocate for Right Relationship for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Being called to right relationship with oneself, one's neighbors, and one's God appears in surprising places in Sara's life; first as daughter, wife, and mother, but also as an anthropologist, zoologist, diplomat and now minister. Sara has lived overseas with her husband, son and daughter, for the past 25 years, living and serving at US Embassies in foreign countries, and fortunately loves language and travel. Sara is an avid reader who loves animals. She is a former lion and tiger keeper at the Smithsonian National Zoo. Sara and her husband are currently trying to purchase a home in Eau Claire, to remain in Wisconsin with and near family, as one (now adult) child starts a family and the other (also grown!) finishes her first university year. Pastor Sara will preach from time to time while Our Saviour's completes the call process to find a new pastor.



December Lectionary

You can look these up in your home Bible or use your Bible phone app to read passages. There are also some great websites to use if you are online: www.biblegateway.com and www.biblehub.com are both excellent. They include topical articles as well.

Altar Guild

December:

Donna Nicks & Adele Adams

January: Paula Stroinski &

Echo Bueher

February: Janet Cypher &

Brenda Nernberger

December 4 - Blue - 2nd Sunday of Advent	
Esther	
1st Reading: Esther 4:1-17	
Accompanying: Matthew 5:13-16	
December 11 - Blue - 3rd Sunday of Advent	
Light to the Nations	
Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9	
Accompanying Reading: Matthew 12:15-21	
December 18 - Blue - 4th Sunday of Advent	
Jesus, Immanuel; Sun. School Christmas Program	
Reading: Matthew 1:18-25	
Accompanying Reading: Psalm 23:1-4	
December 24 - White - Christmas Eve	
Candle Light worship @ 4:30	
Reading: Luke 2:1-20	
Accompanying Reading: Psalm 96:10-13	

News & Events

Our Saviour's 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes November 13, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Opened the meeting with call to order and opening prayer by Pastor Bob Giese.

Meeting started at 9:10 am.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Barb Krug added to New Business: Holy Conversations and Council Representation.

Motion to approve the agenda with those two additions by Mike Kesling, second by Ken Nernberger, motion carried.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM (25 people)

Over 25 voting members in attendance so the quorum was met.

MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2021 ANNUAL MEETING HELD 11/14/21

Motion to approve 2021 annual meeting minutes with no changes by Ed Rowe, second by Marian Nernberger, motion carried.

REPORTS

Pastoral Acts Report, President's Report, Worship, Education & Youth, Property, WELCA, Memorial Fund, Holway Lutheran Cemetery. No discussion on any of the reports as printed in the annual report. Motion to accept and approve all of the reports from Pastoral Acts through Holway Cemetery report made by Ed Rowe, second by Mike Kesling. Motion carried.

Financial Reports:

2023 Joint Budget: Brenda Nernberger, Treasurer reviewed the proposed 2023 Joint Budget. She explained that both Our Saviour's and Trinity kept the joint budget the same for salary and benefits as if we had a full-time pastor in case we do call a new pastor in the upcoming year. Ed Rowe asked about how the payment for supply pastors will work? Brenda explained if the supply pastor leads worship at both Our Saviour's and Trinity on a Sunday, the joint account would pay that pastor for their service

including mileage. If the pastor just leads worship at Our Saviour's, then Our Saviour's would pay for it under our supply pastor line in the church budget. Motion to approve 2023 Joint Budget made by Mike Kesling, second by Gordy Lekies, motion carried.

2023 Our Saviour's Budget: Nancie Adams, Financial Secretary reviewed the proposed 2023 Our Saviour's Budget as presented to the congregation by the Church Council. Barb noted we have been borrowing from the music fund in order to pay monthly expenses instead of borrowing or having a line of credit with interest from a financial institution. Barb encouraged more stewardship and continued giving in order to increase our funds to pay expenses and build that music fund back up. Motion to approve 2023 Our Saviour's Budget made by Ed Rowe, second by Gordy Lekies, motion carried.

Old business: None

New business:

a. **2023 Budget** (already approved earlier in meeting)

b. **Pastor Search Committee / Holy Conversations:**

Mike Lindau gave an update on the call process, recent council meetings and Holy Conversations with St. Paul's in Medford. Mike gave a recap of the Joint Council Meeting with Trinity Lutheran held in October with synod representative Pastor Randy Olson. Pastor Olson went through the steps in the call process and explained there are over 20 pastor vacancies with our synod so there are many other churches in need of a pastor. Our Saviour's council is having discussions with St. Paul's in Medford about possible shared ministry and sharing of pastor as St. Paul's is also looking to call a new pastor. St. Paul's would be a good fit geographically with our congregation as it is much closer than Trinity in Unity and both churches have already done shared ministries with youth events, community services. Had the first meeting with both St. Paul's and Our Saviour's council members on November 9 with synod representative Pastor Erin Nelson leading the meeting. Was a good meeting and plan to have additional meetings and discussions in the coming weeks. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings to offer their input and ask questions. Trinity is aware we are having these discussions with St. Paul's. Contract between

News & Events

Our Saviour's and Trinity requires at least 90 days notice if either church wishes to end the partnership of sharing a pastor.

c. **Council Representation:** Barb Krug asked for more church members to attend council meetings to get more representation, ideas, and input from members. Also looking to get youth to attend council meetings for their input and ideas.

c. **Constitutional Changes:** Motion to update the Our Saviour's Constitution to include the changes as adopted by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in their most recent model constitution for congregations made by Ken Nernberger, second by Mike Kesling, motion carried. Carol Lekies will update our constitution with those changes.

ELECTIONS

Election of council officers for 2023: Barb Krug willing to continue to serve as President, Mike Kesling willing to continue to serve as Vice President, Mike Lindau has declined to run for council secretary. These are 1 year terms. Gayle Hamann is willing to serve as council secretary. No other candidates for any of the positions. Motion to close the nominations made by Heidi Kesling, second by Janet Cypher, motion carried. Motion to accept the nominations as follows: Barb Krug-President, Mike Kesling-Vice President, Gayle Hamann-Secretary made by Gordy Lekies, second by Pete Jaslowski, motion carried.

Synod Assembly Delegates: 1 male and 1 female from our congregation may attend the 2023 Synod Assembly being held on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake. No one has volunteered at this time so the council will work on finding representatives.

Endowment Committee: motion to leave Endowment Committee members as is by Karen Frosch, second by Harry Frosch, motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ed Rowe, second by Gordy Lekies, motion carried.

Time of adjournment: 9:40 am

We closed with the dismissal and our mission statement.

Submitted by Mike Lindau- Secretary

No Council meeting during November.



WELCA minutes from Nov. 2, 2022

Attendees: Lynette Hamlet, Echo Buehler, Nancie Adams, Amie Marzinske, Karen Frosch, Julie Janke, Paula Stroinski, Heidi Bower-Kesling, Barb Krug, Juanita Krug, and Marion Nernberger

Paula S. called the meeting to order. The purpose statement was read by all. The secretary's report was read and approved. Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Stewardship: Karen F. received a donation from Patty and Dennis Christianson. A thank you card was sent. Karen's brother asked her to talk at a Lion's meeting. She has not made up her mind if she wants to do this.

Old Business

Anniversary dinner discussion:

- Pies. Would like to go back to only lemon, pumpkin, and apple. It will make handing out pies easier.
- Please save cool whip containers to use for left over food to sell at the end. Put in the basement.
- Will see about getting some 4 oz cups for to go coleslaw. Lynette H. said she could get a sleeve of 100 from Rocky's.
- On poster we need to put Open to the Public on it so everyone is aware that it is.
- A motion was made to give Jean \$200 for all her help with the dinner.
- 2023 Anniversary dinner will be Oct 15th

Thankoffering Service will be Nov. 20th.

Christmas caroling will be Dec. 18th. Will stop hopefully at the County Gardens, the Nursing home, Our House, and at Patsy Meier's. Heidi K. will talk to Carol L. to get in touch with these places. Paula S. will take to Amy H. about stopping by Patsy's.

News & Events

New Business:

Lites of Love. Since we only have two members that passed away this year Echo B. made a motion to send \$25 in memory of Jennifer Krug and Vernice Selby. Barb K. second it.

•Feb. 12 is a Cupid Family Day after church. Barb K. and Heidi K. are in charge of planning this fun day.

•Echo B. made a motion to give the same amount of script cards from last year to the janitors. \$100 to Bob G. for all his work and \$50 to Carl C. Juanita K. second it.

Next meeting will be Feb 1 at 7:00. Refreshments at 6:45

Barb made a motion to adjourned the meeting.
Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by
Lynette Hamlet

Education & Youth

Sunday School Classes meet Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15am. There will not be Sunday School on Christmas day and January 1. Classes will resume on January 8.

Confirmation Class:

Dec. 7—Confession and Forgiveness

Dec. 14—Daily Prayers

Christmas Break—Class resumes on January 11



Sunday School Christmas Program

Santa's Christmas

Sunday December 18 during the 8:15 worship service.



October Financial Report

INCOME - Our Saviour's	October	YTD 2022		
General	6,045.75	60,050.03		
Hunger	410.00	3,085.00		
Sunday School/VBS/Camp		0.00		
Change the World/Special Offering		1,930.04		
Scrip	1,950.00	18,150.00		
TOTAL INCOME	8,405.75	83,215.07		
Expenses:	October	YTD	Monthly/Budget	Year/Budget
Benevolence	241.83	2,391.03	0.00	3,000.00
Hunger In/Out	410.00	3,085.00	0.00	
Special Offering In/Out		1,980.04	0.00	
Internet Service	61.94	619.40	62.50	750.00
Phone	52.90	527.43	60.42	725.00
Electricity	128.13	1,508.11	166.67	2,000.00
LP Gas	409.00	4,090.00	409.00	4,908.00
Dumpster	47.06	432.88	41.67	500.00
Holding Tanks		0.00	20.83	250.00
Snow Plowing		768.75	100.00	1,200.00
Janitor Supplies		97.76	16.67	200.00
Clear Country Water Solutions		314.95	18.75	225.00
Building Repairs/Maintenance		3,264.73	50.00	600.00
Worship/Devotionals/Resources		184.18	50.00	600.00
Organ/Piano Maintenance		0.00	25.00	300.00
Insurance	323.45	3,234.50	323.45	3,881.40
Office & Computer Supplies/parts/Ink	49.97	199.39	41.67	500.00
Postage and Stamps		34.80	16.67	200.00
Computer Maintenance/Repair		913.99	16.67	200.00
Treasurer Supplies	86.14	114.94	8.33	100.00
Newsletter Postage	35.19	350.17	37.50	450.00
Copier Lease	112.14	1,125.70	108.33	1,300.00
Supply Pastors		455.20	58.33	700.00
Conference Dues		0.00	3.33	40.00
Assembly Delegates		100.00	12.50	150.00
Joint Account		36,000.09	4,000.01	48,000.12
Payroll		4,375.00	650.00	7,800.00
Website		143.88	10.00	120.00
Music Fund		1,520.00	173.33	2,080.00
Leadership Training		0.00	12.50	150.00
Education (Adult, Confirmation, Sunday School, VBS)		1,001.47	83.33	1,000.00
Background Checks		0.00	8.33	100.00
Camping Funds		0.00	20.83	250.00
Miscellaneous - Special Events		75.15	0.00	500.00
Scrip Cards	2,304.00	17,474.48	0.00	
VANCO Charge	7.13	86.76	0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,268.88	86,469.78	6,606.63	82,779.52
Checking Account:			Savings Account:	7,234.47
Camping Fund	1,273.54		Deposit	20.00
Music Fund	7,990.00		Total	7,254.47
Sunday School	164.53			
General	-4,268.67			
TOTAL	5,159.40	<i>Submitted By:</i>	<i>Nandie Adams</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>

CHURCH CANCELLATION POLICY

If worship is cancelled due to poor weather conditions, the cancellation will be announced on our Facebook page and on MEDFORD RADIO STATION-99.3 FM.

Finance

Our Saviour's October Financial Report:

This report shows the normal, ongoing bills that are paid on a regular basis each month. I have detailed the Income, as well as the line items expenses.

Nancie

Income Section:

General -\$6045.75

Hunger--\$410.00

Scrip ----\$1950.00

TOTAL INCOME: **\$8405.75**

Expense Section

Benevolence \$241.83 to NW Synod of WI General Mission Support – 4%

Hunger \$410.00 to Northwest Synod of WI for ELCA World Hunger

Internet Service (Clark Electric) \$61.94

Phone (TDS) \$52.90

Electricity (Taylor Electric) \$128.13

Dumpster (GFL Environmental) \$47.06

LP Gas (Budget) \$409.00

Insurance (Church Mutual) \$323.45

Newsletter Postage \$35.19

Office & Computer Supplies \$49.97 (copy paper)

Treasurer Supplies \$86.14 (bank deposit slips)

Copier Lease (E.O. Johnson) \$112.14

Scrip Cards \$2304.00 (Co. Market)

VANCO charge \$7.13

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$4268.88**

Savings Account: **\$7254.47**

Mission Investment Fund: Term Investment Fixed 4 Year – 3847

Rate 1.49% YTD Interest Earned \$182.08 Matures 9/24/2025

ELCA Good Gifts

Each year Americans spend over \$800 billion on Christmas shopping. Imagine what would happen if we could redirect that spending toward things that really matter, like putting an end to hunger.

With ELCA Good Gifts you can help. Choose from over 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of loved ones that fight hunger and transform lives. Go to goodgifts.elca.org.



Give something **unexpected** this Christmas.

Christmas Giving



This Christmas if you would like to purchase a poinsettia or make a donation in memory or honor of a loved one please complete the form below. Drop off or mail to: Our Saviour's W7809 Apple Ave., Medford, WI 54451 (write checks to Our Saviour's) Thank you.

Your Name: _____

ELCA World Hunger \$ _____

Our Saviour's Endowment Fund \$ _____

Cemetery Association \$ _____

Memorial Fund \$ _____

Poinsettias @ \$16.00/QTY: _____ \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

In Memory Of -- OR -- *In Honor Of* (circle one)



A list of loved ones & donors will be included in the January newsletter. The poinsettias will be here in time for the Sunday School Christmas program and will adorn the altar through Christmas Eve. Please take your plant home after the Christmas Eve service. Thank you for your donation. Merry Christmas!

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
W7809 Apple Avenue
Medford, WI 54451



Electronic Service
Requested



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Submit News to:
secretary.saviourschurch@gmail.com*

Our mission is to share the love of Christ with each other, our community, and the world.