

# The Parish Internet

## Our Saviour's Lutheran of Holway

Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m.  
St. Paul's, Medford 9:15 a.m.

### **ANNUAL REPORT INSIDE**

On Page 14

Annual Meeting December 10, 2023



**December 2023**

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

# News & Events

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Newsletter  
Deadline December 29

## December Calendar

*Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m.*

**December 3** 8:00 a.m. worship/communion, SAM Barb Krug  
Baptism—Dohrwardt

December 6 Confirmation after school—6 p.m.

**December 10** 8:00 a.m. worship, Pastor Robert Giese  
Baptism—Balsis

Annual Meeting, Brunch, Greatest Story Ever Told

December 13 Confirmation after school—6 p.m.

December 14 Council Meeting @ O.S. 6 p.m.

**December 17** 8:00 a.m. worship/communion, Pastor Robert Giese

December 20 Confirmation after school—6 p.m.

**December 24** 8:00 a.m. worship/communion, Pastor Robert Giese  
Emmerson Baptism, Brost Baptism

4:00 p.m. Candlelight Service /Communion, SAM Barb Krug

**December 31** 9:00 a.m. 5th Sunday Joint worship, Pastor Nancy  
Amacher, BS Bar, Medford, brunch following worship

## December Worship Assistants & Altar Guild—Adele Adams & Heidi Bower

Date	Ushers	Reader	Communion	Counters	Scrip	Acolyte
12/4/23 Blue - BK	Echo Buehler & Paula Stroinski	Bev Utke	Paula Stroinski	Echo Buehler & Paula Stroinski	Brenda Nernberger	Dawson Fox
12/10/23 Blue - RG	Mike & Heidi Kesling	Carol Lekies	Carol Lekies	Heidi Bower-Kesling & Carol Lekies	Nancie Adams	Bret Larson
12/17/23 Blue - RG	Harry & Karen Frosch	Sunday School Christmas Prog.	Karen Frosch	Barb Krug & Marian Nernberger	Marian Nernberger	Chelsea Dick
12/24/23 White, 8am, RG	Peter Jaslowski & Mike Kesling	Ava Adams	Paula Stroinski	Heidi Bower-Kesling & Paula Stroinski	Heidi Bower-Kesling	Ava Adams
12/24/23 White, 4pm, BK	Julie Janke & Nancie Adams	Rod Adams	Mike Lindau	Rod Adams & Marian Nernberger	Julie or Nancie	Volunteer
12/31/23 Joint worship 9am BS Bar, NA	Barb Krug	Janet Sova				Brayden Larson

# Bishop Larue's Christmas Message



Advent, Christmas and Epiphany blessings to you from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson, Synod Ministers, Elizabeth Bartsch, Sara Villarreal Bishop, Diane House, Lidix Montoya, Randy Olson, Laura Ramlow

## **Mary the Brave: Mary the God Bearer**

As a young pastor and working mom, I struggled with the challenges of balancing work and home life, often

while carrying a child in my womb, arms, on my hip, in a front or back baby pack, or car seat. Now my children are adults, and I have the joy of watching them carry my grandchildren. They do it differently than I did, their car seats are much nicer than the ones we had, but like us, they carry their children with much love. I still carry my adult children and grandchildren and will always carry them, in my heart with much love. This Advent and Christmas season I'm reflecting on Mary, the God bearer. (In Greek it's Theotokos.) Mary carried Jesus. Like all parents she carried her child with love, but she is also the God bearer. It was a brave thing Mary did to bear God into the world.

To love is a brave thing. It is a brave thing to become a parent. Mothers put their own lives at risk bearing a child in their womb and giving birth. It requires a measure of bravery for parents to bring a child into this world filled with the bad news of climate disasters, gun violence, war, political upheaval, racism, food/water insecurity, and escalating health and higher education costs.

History has painted Mary to be quiet, meek and mild, submissive to God's will, but a closer read shows us that Mary was brave. Mary was neither meek nor superhuman. She had grit. She was faithful, courageous,

*Luke 1: 26ff In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you..." "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High,... the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God... For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

# News & Events

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strong and brave. Most of all, she was human. Her encounter with the angel Gabriel, the messenger of God made her brave. She knew that her pregnancy was dangerous and she could die giving birth. She also knew that as an unmarried teenaged mother it would cause upheaval in her family and community. She would give birth to Jesus during Roman occupation, a time of political unrest. Mary was *brave*. Her encounter with the living God made her brave

Her encounter with God gave her bravery and the faith to see that if God was calling her God would also protect her. It revealed to her that God chooses the people on the margins, those overlooked and underestimated. Bearing God in the world was to bring good news and hope to those oppressed. May Mary, the God Bearer, inspire us all to be brave! This Advent and Christmas season, I invite you to be Theotokos, God Bearers. I invite you to carry the good news of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection to all those we meet on this journey of life and the love of Jesus in your hearts always.

Robert Munsch, *I'll Love You Forever*, Firefly Books (September 1, 1995)

Since the 3rd century, Christians had referred to Mary as theotokos, "God-bearer." The first documented usage of the term is in the writings of Origen of Alexandria in AD 230. [Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God](#)

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## This Christmas give Scrip Gift Cards.

Scrip card orders should be in by Monday noon, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> so the cards will be here by Sunday, Dec 17. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase a gift card for family/friends that will also benefit Saviour's.



**December 11  
Holiday Scrip  
Order Deadline**

**Scrip Cards available – Walmart, KwikTrip, County Market**  
To order other cards contact Brenda Nernberger at 715-678-2573  
or Nancie Adams at 715-678-2397

## This Christmas Season BRINGING OUR SAVIOUR'S FAMILIES TOGETHER ON ONE TREE

To decorate the tree at Our Saviour's this year, please bring 2 or 3 special memory-filled ornaments to share with the congregation.

There will be a box in the fellowship hall to set these in.

There will also be note cards (or write before bringing the ornaments) to describe your ornaments and tell a little bit about why they are special. Barb would love to share some of these stories on Christmas Eve.

All ornaments will be returned after the season.

Thanks for sharing with this creative idea for Our Saviour's Family.



Hello,

It is getting to be that time of year again. As past Giving Tree gift buyers, we are asking if you would be willing to help again

Taylor County  
Giving Tree



this year? Please reply to [taylorcountygivingtree@gmail.com](mailto:taylorcountygivingtree@gmail.com) with how many children you would like to buy for and we will get you the children's information as we get applications in. Please be patient as the applications usually come in closest to the middle/end of November.

**Gifts must be new and in the original packaging. Make sure to label each gift with the child's number.**

**Deliver unwrapped gifts to Cutting Edge Youth Center by December 12.**

Thank you for your participation in this amazing program. The program would not be the huge success it is without people like you! Sincerely, Taylor County Giving Tree Committee

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*This year, I will not be getting names for Our Saviour's members. Please reply to [taylorcountygivingtree@gmail.com](mailto:taylorcountygivingtree@gmail.com) for a child to buy for. If you do not have internet, contact me and I will get a child's number for you. Carol Lekies, Secretary OS*

**We Need  
YOU**

**at the Annual Meeting  
Sunday December 10  
following worship.**

**Everyone has a gift—**

*Each one of you has  
received a gift...these gifts  
are to be used to serve  
others...the gifts are given  
to you by God to be used  
for His work.*

*1 Peter 4:10*

***Volunteer to serve on the council!!***

A special presentation by the Showcase Players  
"The GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD"

**December 10, 10:45 A.M.  
at Our Saviour's after brunch.**



Please support the Showcase Players.  
A free-will offering will be taken. Thank you.

# News & Events—This & That

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I would like to thank Mike Tanis for helping me solve my computer problems. There is no way I could have figured this out on my own. Thanks again, Carol Lekies.



**Funeral**—Michael Bertsinger, 69, passed away at home on Thursday November 9. The funeral was at Our Saviour’s on November 18 with Pastor Bob officiating. The cremains were buried in the Our Saviour’s cemetery next to his wife, Judy Prell Bertsinger.

**Death**—Eunice Seffrood has died. Her husband, Rev. Dale Seffrood, served Our Saviour’s during the early 1990s. In the spring a memorial will be in the Dakotas. She had been living in a care center.

**Resignation**—As of January 31, 2024, I am leaving as the church secretary. I have enjoyed my job at Our Saviour’s. I will help during the transition process with training and be available to answer questions. Sincerely, Carol Lekies



**After Sunday Worship for children  
Pre K—6th grade.  
9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.**

Teachers are: Brenda Nernberger—Pre K, Ktg, & 1st grade  
Lynette Hamlet—2nd, 3rd, & 4th grades  
Jason Borman—5th & 6th grades

**Sunday School Program  
December 17 as part of the  
8:00 a.m. worship service.**



Teachers are:  
Meagan Neitzel 920-562-0100  
Heidi Bower 715-512-0557  
Bobbi Marion 715-290-0338

**4:00—6:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday December 6, 13, 20.**

No class December 22—Christmas break.

# News & Events—WELCA

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## **WELCA Meeting – November 1, 2023**

Thank you to Barb Krug lunch hostess. Barb Krug, Heidi Kesling, Julie Janke, Carol Lekies, Marian Nernberger, Heidi Frosch.

Together we recited our purpose statement.

**Secretary's report** Read, approved, passed.

**Treasurer's report:** balance \$8184.10

Dinner Deposit \$3196.00, Bucket Raffle \$492.00, Bake Sale

Total dinner deposit: 5800.31- Motion Barb, 2<sup>nd</sup> Julie, passed

Expenses: \$1385.16 food, \$93.07 raffle tickets; advertising and postage expense not available at this time.

Barb made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Julie, passed.

**Stewardship:** bought batting, Missing Carole Jari as she was a big help in making quilts. Need tops.

**Old Business:** Anniversary Dinner – Well received. Good food. Don't cut out the pies. Public looks forward to the homemade pie. Limit to three pies, pumpkin, apple, lemon. Plan to have dinner next year on either October 13 or 20<sup>th</sup>. Verify that Nancie and Amie will chair the event.

-Review of the fall retreat at Faith Lutheran, Marshfield. Marian & Karen attended. The program featured the story of the good news of the gospel as told in art and symbols of the church's stained-glass windows

-The 2023 Spring Rally theme is board games. Our Saviour's will host the gathering on April 20, 2023.

-Thankoffering Service, Sunday, November 12 – Barb will preach on Mary & Marth. Will need readers. Thankoffering boxes will be available for members next year.

## **New Business:**

Spring rally, April 20 – we need someone to chair the organizing of the meals, someone to plan door prizes. Heidi Bower volunteered to chair. Echo will be updating the WELCA handbook dates. Using the same hostess schedule as last year. Updating working circles.

-Ladies Luncheon, January 10, 11:30 at the Medford Café. Karen will call the Medford Café. This is a fellowship event between the November and our February meetings. All women are invited.

-Advent event for the end of November 2024. Julie Janke and Carol Lekies will plan.

-Vacuum cleaner not working well and needs to be replaced. Marian will call Deb Larson, janitor, to discuss a new vacuum. WELCA will buy the vacuum. Inexpensive rather than high dollar. Replace as needed when it wears out.

-\$200.00 tip for Jean from the hall for her help with the anniversary 8



dinner. Julie Janke made a motion, Karen seconded. Motion passed.  
-Family day at Our Saviour's for March 17, St. Patrick's Day. Planning a brunch. Just our church members and friends. The theme will be shamrocks & trinity. Event to follow worship. Megan Neitzel and Heidi Bower planning. Will reach out to the WELCA ladies for food.  
-Community Mission with Jesus representative, Marian Nernberger, said they are planning a sub sandwich fund raiser in August. Volunteers needed. Confirmation youth will also be asked to help also.

December 10, annual meeting, pot luck. December 17 Christmas program. December 31, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday worship @ BS Bar

**Next meeting Feb. 7, 2024** Karen Frosch hostess.

Closed with Lord's Prayer. Motion to adjourn – Marian, Karen 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Submitted by Carol Lekies, secretary

*Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. Jude 1:2*

## Christmas Giving

If you would like to make a donation or purchase a poinsettia for Christmas please complete the form below and return it to the church office. You can send the form and money (write checks to Our Saviour's) to: Our Saviour's W7809 Apple Ave., Medford, WI 54451 or drop them off at the church office before or after Sunday worship.



**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ELCA World Hunger** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Cemetery Association** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Poinsettias @ \$16.00/QTY:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:**

\_\_\_\_\_

# JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

ALL ARE WELCOME – AND WE MEAN IT!

PASTOR NANCY AMACHER WILL BE LEADING WORSHIP

WORSHIP WILL BE AT BS BAR (HALL) @ W4782 HWY 64  
(corner of Oriole & Hwy 64)

9:00 am Worship followed by brunch

provided by Barb Krug and Bruce Krug (members of OS)  
and Craig and Tara Krug (members of SP)

This will not be pot-luck – Please come, worship, and enjoy great food and fellowship

This newly remodeled Hall will be a beautiful setting for a joint worship service on this 5th Sunday of the month.

An early New Year's celebration is also being planned along with some games for the kids



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**National Trafficking Hotline:**

Call 1-888-373-7888  
or Text 233733

## **Our Saviour's November 9, 2023 Council Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President Barb Krug. In attendance were Mike Kesling, Nancie Adams, Brenda Nernberger, Carol Lekies and Barb Krug. Pastor Bob Giese attended via Zoom.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Bob.

Mission Statement received.

Agenda approved with addition of the EIN number: Mike/Nancie second/passed-.

Nancie/Mike seconded/passed motion to approve the secretary's report. Passed

Treasurers Report – Motion to accept Brenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike, passed.

As of January 1, the Joint Treasurer will be Gary Jensen from St. Paul's, Medford.

Joint Treasurer – Motion to approve by Mike Kesling, Brenda 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed

The council approved the proposed budget for the Annual Meeting on Dec. 10.

## **Co-Mission Reports**

**Education & Youth** – Barb Krug reported that S.S. attendance is low. Sending out lessons by mail to those who do not attend class. No response has been received. Working on the Christmas program on Dec. 17.

Confirmation has 17 students. Hoping to get a representative from Luther Park to speak to the confirmation class and encourage them to attend camp.

**Property** – Outdoor signs will be updated soon.

Basement bathroom repairs have been made.

The council discussed the cost of parking lot sealant and air conditioner repair. Air conditioning quotes were received from Zenners, Kramers, Wojjek and Neubauer. Seeking approval at the Annual Meeting providing funds are available.

Mike made a motion to submit 2 proposals for funds for property maintenance at the annual meeting. Nancie 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed.

**WELCA** –December 6, luncheon at the Medford Café in place of the December meeting.

**Worship** – Sound system upgrades discussed.

December 31 joint service at BS Bar – Pastor Bob will be playing the piano.

# News & Events—Council Minutes

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## Old business:

**Annual Meeting December 10** – The annual meeting will follow worship with brunch after the annual meeting. After brunch, the Showcase Players will be presenting a reading at 10:45 a.m. A freewill donation will be collected for the Showcase Players.

**Nominating committee**-looking for council members. Volunteers are needed to step up and serve.

**Church secretary** position available February 1 – if interested contact Carol Lekies or Barb Krug. Motion made to post position in the December newsletter Nancie/ Brenda/ passed.

## New Business:

There will be communion on Feb. 4 and March 3. The motion was made by Nancie/Brenda passed. Barb Krug will do communion on those Sundays.

Basement railing addressed. Need more information.

Scrip revenue to a designated group discussed. St. Paul's does this. We don't feel this is a good fit for us. Some scrip cards lose their value after a year. For Holiday scrip cards – contact Brenda Nernberger. An order will be placed on Dec. 11 for Holiday scrip cards.

March 17, planning a St. Patrick celebration on the Holy Trinity at Our Saviour's.

Community Mission for Jesus – Sub sandwich sale 8/14

EIN number received for St. Paul's and Our Saviour's. Joint parish with the new EIN number. Old EIN number will be discontinued.

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month or to be determined by new council members. December 14 at 6 p.m. Brenda made a motion to adjourn, Nancie seconded.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Carol Lekies, acting secretary

In the event of a pastoral care emergency contact:

Rev. Robert Giese 847-899-7122,

SAM Barb Krug 715-965-5696, or

Rev. Nancy Amacher 715-223-5316.

# News & Events—OS Finance

INCOME - Our Saviour's	October	YTD 2023		
General	5,218.00	51,694.39		
Hunger	280.00	3,900.00		
Sunday School/VBS/Camp	0.00	520.00		
Change the World/Special Offering	0.00	667.00		
Scrip	1,600.00	22,975.00		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>7,098.00</b>	<b>79,756.39</b>		
Expenses:	October	YTD	Monthly/Budget	Year/Budget
Benevolence	208.72	2,067.77	0.00	3,000.00
Hunger In/Out	280.00	3,900.00	0.00	
Special Offering In/Out		607.00	0.00	
Internet Service	61.94	619.40	62.50	750.00
Phone	50.92	524.87	60.42	725.00
Electricity	136.62	1,415.98	166.67	2,000.00
LP Gas	232.00	3,559.00	409.00	4,908.00
Dumpster	71.90	527.68	41.67	500.00
Holding Tanks		215.00	20.83	250.00
Snow Plowing		993.75	100.00	1,200.00
Janitor Supplies	43.74	134.14	16.67	200.00
Clear Country Water Solutions		105.00	18.75	225.00
Building Repairs/Maintenance	100.00	1,113.68	83.33	1,000.00
Worship/Devotionals/Resources	367.89	518.17	50.00	600.00
Organ/Piano Maintenance	105.00	105.00	25.00	300.00
Insurance	383.47	3,893.08	323.45	3,881.40
Office & Computer Supplies/parts/ink	42.18	194.71	41.67	500.00
Postage and Stamps		0.00	16.67	200.00
Computer Maintenance/Repair		75.00	16.67	200.00
Treasurer Supplies		120.60	8.33	100.00
Newsletter Postage	37.50	369.00	37.50	450.00
Copier Lease	122.14	1,176.40	108.33	1,300.00
Supply Pastors	693.60	4,184.11	58.33	700.00
Conference Dues	33.50	33.50	3.33	40.00
Assembly Delegates		100.00	12.50	150.00
Joint Account	412.56	1,860.76	4,000.01	48,000.12
Payroll	610.03	6,995.95	650.00	7,800.00
Website		143.88	12.50	150.00
Music Fund	250.00	2,000.00	173.33	2,080.00
Leadership Training		237.50	12.50	150.00
Education (Adult, Confirmation, Sunday School, VBS)		684.27	83.33	1,000.00
Background Checks		0.00	8.33	100.00
Camping Funds		0.00	20.83	250.00
Miscellaneous - Special Events	64.95	114.92	0.00	500.00
Scrip Cards	2,304.00	23,670.45	0.00	
VANCO Charge	4.40	52.90	0.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>6,617.06</b>	<b>62,313.47</b>	<b>6,642.46</b>	<b>83,209.52</b>
<b>Checking Account:</b>			<b>Savings Account:</b>	<b>7,525.74</b>
Camping Fund	1,273.54		Deposit	1.32
Sunday School	572.53		Total	<b>7,527.06</b>
General	28,170.84			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,016.91</b>	Submitted By:	Nandie Adams	Treasurer

# Annual Report 2023

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## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- CALL TO ORDER - OPENING PRAYER
- AGENDA APPROVAL (Establish a quorum – 25 people)
- MINUTES FROM November 11, 2022
- ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS
  - Pastor, Council President, Education, WELCA
  - Cemetery Association—(unavailable at time of printing)
- 2023 PASTORAL ACTS
- MEMORIAL FUND
- FINANCIAL REPORTS
- OLD BUSINESS
  - a. Call Committee b. Joint Parish
- NEW BUSINESS
  - a. 2024 Budget b. Air Conditioning Unit c. Sealant for parking lot d. Carol Lekies’ resignation
- COUNCIL ELECTIONS
  - President, Vice President, Secretary
  - Synod Assembly delegates: June 7 & 8

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# A Note from Bishop's Election Committee

## **To the Council, congregation, pastors and lay leaders of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church,**

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (NWSWI) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America is writing this letter to invite you to participate in the upcoming election of our synod Bishop at Synod Assembly 2024. The Bishop's role is to oversee the ministry and administration of the synod and its staff. This includes support for congregations, rostered leaders and Synodically Authorized ministers; and, relationships with churchwide and ecumenical partners.

### **All congregations have three responsibilities:**

1. Each congregation should send the appropriate number of lay representatives and rostered leader representatives if available to vote at the Chequamegon Conference Assembly on Thursday, February 8 at 6:30pm at Nazareth Lutheran Church. Each Conference may nominate up to 7 candidates for Bishop. Candidates for Bishop include active rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament; both interim ministers and retired ministers are eligible. Please prayerfully consider if you have any candidate to bring forth for nomination; and, please ask them before bringing their name forward.
2. The wide distribution of information regarding the nominees, once all individuals have been contacted, and confirmed their interest or have recused themselves, is key. Discussion, town-hall style meetings, participation by all members is encouraged during the Q&A sessions and sharing of the biographic videos should be shown or taken to those who cannot watch it themselves. Healthy participation is key in any election, and non-voting observers are welcome at all gatherings.

*continued on next page*

### **Signal for help.**

**Step 1:** Palm to camera and tuck thumb.

**Step 2:** Trap thumb.



Step 1



Step 2

# Annual Report 2023

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3. Each congregation should send an appropriate number of lay representatives and rostered leader representatives if available to vote at the NWSWI Synod Assembly on June 7-8, 2024 in Eau Claire, WI to elect a Bishop from those individuals nominated and confirmed. Additional nominees can be made at Synod Assembly per open Ecclesiastical ballot guidelines.

The process for the nomination of a Bishop was changed at our last Synod Assembly and details will follow from your Conference Dean,

Pastor Elizabeth Bier, 715-255-0013 or email her at:

[pastor@OneinChristLutherans.com](mailto:pastor@OneinChristLutherans.com). Details and a full timeline is available on the website: <https://nswwi.org/synod-assembly-2024>.

We look forward to navigating this process together, guided by the Spirit, in the work of the Kingdom of Heaven. With deep gratefulness, we thank you for your prayerful participation.

Sincerely,

NWSWI Bishop's Election Committee

VP Al Arndt Rev. Erin Nelson, Rev. Kurt Jacobsen,

Karyn Hullinger, Sue Zahrbock, Elizabeth Bartsch,

Rev. Sara Bishop, Rev. Greg Kaufmann, Rev. Mamy Ranaivosn,

and Madeline Leske-Oppedahl

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## 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

### 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



# Annual Report 2023

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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

# Annual Report 2023

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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 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.

# Annual Report 2023

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**Endowment Committee:** motion to leave Nominating 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

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## President's report—December 10, 2023

It has been another exciting year at Our Saviour's. Pastor Bob has led us through the transition from Pastor Amy to supply pastors and lay people leading worship, to our separation from Trinity in Unity to our new relationship with St. Paul's in Medford. We are truly grateful for his leadership. Our congregation is blessed with so much and we continue to share with so many!

From last year's report, I had printed this, "As we begin this interim time and the call process, we need to remain focused on our mission and be open to new and exciting opportunities that might arise. We are hearing it might not be a speedy process to find another Pastor." These are still the words we are hearing from the Synod, but we are not discouraged. As much as we would love an ordained Pastor to be called to our congregations (with St. Paul's), I feel we are growing because of the challenge and doing quite well with the pastors, lay people and me, the SAM, filling in. I hope it lets us all see that things can be different, and we can still have meaningful, and spirit filled worship along with exciting and fun filled activities.

The absolute dedication of the few members on the Council needs to be commended. They have all served for numerous years and are ready to turn the decision making over to others. Gayle resigned for medical reasons, and we continue to pray for her renewed health. Since then we have been short a person on the council and a secretary. Brenda has been the treasurer for the joint parish for a lot of years and is more than ready for a break. Mike Kesling has served well his two years and we are excited that he is again willing to serve on the council, however, he is working toward becoming a SAM so his continued role on the council may change. Carol, our church secretary, has attended council meetings since she began her role in the office. She is hoping we can fill her secretarial position in addition to her spot on the council. And, unfortunately, I am unable

# Annual Report 2023

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to serve on the council since I've been appointed a SAM (Synodically Authorized Minister). This doesn't mean I won't attend meetings, but the decision-making process needs to come from lay leadership.

Nancie has agreed to continue as our congregational treasurer.

WHICH MEANS, AT THIS TIME WE HAVE 2 MEMBERS

RETURNING TO THE COUNCIL. Our church cannot be properly lead with only two people.

**PLEASE HELP OUR CONGREGATION TO MOVE  
FORWARD BY BEING A VOICE ON THE COUNCIL  
THIS IS THE TIME TO STEP UP!!!!**

My continued prayer for the upcoming year is to inspire more members to become involved with activities they enjoy, with sharing God's love and receiving God's blessings in everything we do as individuals and as a congregation.

Cheerfully in Christ,

*Barb Krug*

Outgoing Council President

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## Pastor's Report

Pastor Bob Giese (Administrative Interim) 11/13/23

*"<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:26-28*

It has been over a year since Pastor Amy left Our Saviour's and Trinity for her new call at Zion Stratford, and as of this writing there has not been a single pastor who has actually gotten so far as to read the Ministry Site Profiles for Our Saviour's or St. Paul's. While this is frustrating to me, our Synod staff, our congregation leaders, and probably you, as well, I'd like to share why I do not consider it either unusual for these times or even particularly concerning.

We knew going into this that there is a tremendous shortage of pastors to go around in the ELCA. Couple this with the fact that we are "off the beaten path" geographically, and a long wait for a new pastor was almost inevitable. So things are going pretty much as expected.

# Annual Report 2023

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Except that they are going better than expected, because lay people have stepped up at both Our Saviour's and St. Paul's to help lead us through this interim time. During the past year, Our Saviour's has officially ended its parish agreement with Trinity Unity and formed a new agreement with St. Paul's Medford, which in my mind is a much better alignment to be in, and increases the chances of eventually attracting a new called pastor. There is a Call Committee already to swing into action immediately when a potential pastor does come forward. There is a Parish Council working together to help the relationship between Our Saviour's and St. Paul's go smoothly and grow. And both congregations have excellent Congregation Councils working on behalf of the congregations.

Even better, lay members have stepped forward to help lead worship, and it's clear to me this lay worship leadership will continue whether or not we find a called pastor. Included in this list are Barb Krug, who has been authorized to be a SAM (Synodically Authorized Minister) for both Our Saviour's and St. Paul's. SAMs can do everything that ordained pastors can do (except wear the fancy stoles for some reason). Mike Kesling is currently attending his first year of Lay School and is leading worship on a regular basis and will hopefully one day be a SAM as well. Heidi Bower and Bobbi Marion are also contemplating attending Lay School in the future. So, you see, we are developing our own "pastors" right from within the congregations, which is much closer to the intent of the early church in the early centuries after Jesus' resurrection.

What does this mean? It means the Holy Spirit is guiding us into taking responsibility for our own congregation health and growth. Couple all these budding lay leaders with retired Pastors Nancy Amacher, Warren Behling, and me, who are willing to step in and do our part as needed, and things are looking just fine for Our Saviour's (and St. Paul's).

Just one more thing, though. Because Barb Krug is now a SAM, she can no longer serve as Congregation President or even on the Council. This means some of you who are not now in leadership positions are going to have to step up and help lead Our Saviour's. If you think you might be called to serve in this way, please contact Barb or one of the other current council members, or me, as soon as possible. (If you're reading this at the Annual Meeting, this means NOW- at this very moment.) The more of us who participate, the healthier our congregation (and parish) will become.

# Annual Report 2023

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Finally, I have been serving as Administrative Interim officially since the beginning of the agreement between Our Saviour's and St. Paul's April 1 but unofficially ever since Pastor Amy left. I have loved doing this, but I long to get back to retirement and total focus on my work with our Synod SAMs and playing piano at Our Saviour's and filling in as needed on Sundays. Since Barb Krug is a far better administrator than I am, it is quite likely she and I will work with the Parish Council to transition the "Administrative Interim" work to her in the new year. This has the blessing of Pastor Randy Olson, the Synod staff member in charge of such things.

It has been and will continue to be my pleasure to worship and minister with the people of Our Saviour's in whatever ways the Spirit leads us.

Pastor Bob Giese

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## Pastoral Acts for 2023

**Baptisms:** (3) Adelynn Beck, Axel M. Pinter, Amelia G. Wroblewski

**New Members:** (3) Chelsey, Charley & Kailey Krug

**Marriages:** Kevin Schnabel and Juanita Everson

**Transfers Out:** Donna Nicks, Kurt Staab

**Transfers In:** Kurt Neibacher

**Funerals:** Cory Gruhlke, Donna Benson, Melissa Becker, Michael Bertsinger

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## Our Saviours Memorial Fund 2023

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 8,277.22</b>
Carol Lekies/endowment	\$ 100.00	
Julie Hoffman/Gerry & Harvey	\$ 200.00	
Patsy Meier/endowment	\$ 20.00	
Ginger Berry/Camby	\$ 1,000.00	
Lois Neibacher/Camby	\$ 50.00	
Echo Buehler/Camby	\$ 50.00	
Deb Gaffney/Jane & Tammy	\$ 300.00	
Deb Gaffney/Gary, Jane & Tammy	\$ 300.00	
Bob Geise/Harry & Karen	\$ 50.00	
Interest	\$ 3.95	
	<b>\$ 2,073.95</b>	
<b>Ending Balance 10/31/2023</b>		<b>\$ 10,351.24</b>

The Cemetery Association Minutes & Financial Report  
will be available at the Annual Meeting.

# Annual Report 2023-24 budget

2024 BUDGET - Our Saviour's				
INCOME	2022 Actual	2023 through 9/30/2023		
	72,462.40	46,476.39		
<b>Total General Income</b>	<b>72,462.40</b>			
EXPENSES	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 thru 9/30/23	2024 Budget
Benevolence	2,887.52	3,000.00	1,859.05	3,000.00
Internet Service	743.28	750.00	557.46	750.00
Phone	627.78	725.00	474.95	725.00
Electricity	1,810.73	2,000.00	1,279.36	2,000.00
LP Gas	4,908.00	4,908.00	3,327.00	4,000.00
Dumpster	531.78	500.00	455.78	500.00
Holding Tanks	0.00	250.00	215.00	250.00
Snow Plowing	768.75	1,200.00	993.75	1,200.00
Janitor Supplies	138.42	200.00	90.40	200.00
Clear Country Water Solutions	449.95	225.00	105.00	225.00
Building Repairs/Maintenance	3,581.53	600.00	1,013.68	1,000.00
Worship/Devotionals/Resources	254.63	600.00	150.28	600.00
Organ/Piano Maintenance	105.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Insurance	3,881.40	3,881.40	3,509.61	4,500.00
Office & Computer Supplies/parts/ink	271.91	500.00	152.53	500.00
Postage and Stamps	34.80	200.00	0.00	200.00
Computer Maintenance/Repair	913.99	200.00	75.00	200.00
Treasurer Supplies	114.94	100.00	120.60	100.00
Newletter Postage	420.30	450.00	331.50	450.00
Copier Lease	1,359.98	1,300.00	1,054.26	1,500.00
Supply Pastors	710.30	700.00	3,490.51	7,200.00
Conference Dues (Paid up for 3 years)	0.00	40.00	0.00	40.00
Assembly Delegates	132.00	150.00	100.00	150.00
Joint Account** see notes below	37,000.09	48,000.12	1,448.20	500.00
Payroll-Secretary-Property Manager	5,375.00	7,800.00	6,385.92	7,800.00
Website	143.88	120.00	143.88	150.00
Music Fund	1,745.00	2,080.00	1,750.00	3,900.00
Leadership Training	0.00	150.00	237.50	1,000.00
Education (Adult, Confirmation, Sunday School, VBS)	1,087.39	1,000.00	684.27	1,000.00
Background Checks	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Camping Funds	0.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
Pastoral Admin				2,400.00
Miscellaneous-Special Events	75.19	500.00	49.97	500.00
** Upon calling a pastor, joint account budget would be \$50,000				
Cleaning	\$3,000 estimated cost currently paid for by the women of the church			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$70,083.50</b>	<b>\$82,779.52</b>	<b>\$30,055.46</b>	<b>\$47,190.00</b>
Non Budget Items: 2022		Income	Expenses	
Hunger		\$3,880.00	\$3,880.00	
Camping Funds		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Sunday School/VBS		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Script		\$27,570.00	\$25,655.74	
Change The World/Special Offer		\$2,135.04	\$2,172.04	
Miscellaneous		\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$33,585.04</b>	<b>\$31,707.78</b>	
Submitted By: Nance Adams, Treasurer				
Nicolet National Bank - Savings Account (Thrivent Choice Dollars):			09/30/2023 Balance:	\$15,225.74
Summary of Our Saviour's Investments (Mission Investment Fund):				
Term Investment Fixed 4 Year CD	Maturity 9/24/25	Rate: 1.4%	Balance 09/30/2023	\$36,624.65
			Total Investment Balance:	\$16,624.65
Submitted By: Nance Adams, Treasurer				

# Annual Report 2023

Joint Finance submitted by Brenda Nernberger

<b>2024 JOINT BUDGET</b>		2023	2023	2024
		Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
Our Saviour's		\$0.00		
Trinity		\$0.00		
Payroll		\$0.00		
Money already in Joint		\$0.00		
<b>Total Joint Income</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; OPERATIONS</b>				
Joint Resources/tools/stamps/checks		\$0.00		
Workman's Compensation		\$924.00	\$ 924.00	\$ 924.00
Polka Service		\$0.00		
<b>Administration &amp; Operations Subtotal</b>		<b>\$924.00</b>		
<b>PASTORAL:</b>				
Pastor's Salary		0.00		
Housing Allowance		0.00		
Mileage allowance		0.00		
Pension and insurance		0.00		
Social security tax		0.00		
Official meetings/ Continuing Ed		0.00		
<b>Pastoral Subtotal</b>		<b>0.00</b>		
		924.00		

This will be a 50/50 split with St Pauls

**Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.**  
Colossians 3:23 NLT



# 2023 Co-Mission Reports

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## Our Saviour's Sunday School and Vacation Bible School Report

It's been an exciting year and a year of change for the Sunday school curriculum. This year we are focusing our studies on the New Testament and incorporating scripture with fun activities. Of the 37 students we have in our congregation, we have seen about half of them in the classroom. Each week, for those that cannot be in Sunday school, we send the study sheets home to them. Our prayer is that the families will work together in sharing the lesson and fulfilling the promise they made at their child's baptism –

*“to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God make, and work for justice and peace.”*

We are also working on an exciting trip to the “holy land” for our May 2024 lesson. Creating the setting and learning the stories of each place was supposed to be a reflection of the Holy Land tour that four of us from Our Saviour's were going to take in January 2024. Unfortunately, that isn't happening, but our holy land lesson is still being planned. The students are earning BIBLE BUCKS to take on their holy land tour because, of course, there is a gift shop involved on any tour.

**Vacation Bible School** was held on July 20<sup>th</sup> with our day beginning at St. Paul's church for a morning of lessons that focused on the First Commandment: “You shall have no other gods.” The teachers worked hard to develop their lessons and did an amazing job. After lunch we traveled to Our Saviour's where we focused on Jesus' early years. The fun and excitement of the afternoon were the animals that Lisa Kopp brought to church. In addition to the sheep, calves and bunnies, there was Ladybug, Lisa's gentle horse. Any child that wanted to, could ride Ladybug. This was the most memorable event of VBS, but we're okay with that ☐ The kids were at church, learning and having fun. It doesn't get much better than that!

Submitted by Barb Krug

# Annual Report 2023

## WELCA Stewardship Action 2023 Report

1. Lutheran World Relief  
80 backpacks – school kits, 11 quilts
  2. Beds From Christ – Methodist Church, Medford  
20 quilts
  4. Hope Hospice & Palliative Care  
7 lap robes
  4. Homeless Veterans – Hands Foundation  
42 quilts, 30 boxes/ bags of clothing
  5. Rescued & Redeemed—Eau Claire  
5 Pickup loads of clothing & household items
- Miscellaneous  
11 quilts-Anniversary Dinner, emergencies etc
- Submitted by Karen Frosch—total quilts 84

## WELCA Financial Report—2023

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$	9,275.50	<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>INCOME</b>			Dinner 22	\$	1,415.72
General Meeting	\$	343.00	Lites of Love	\$	25.00
Thankoffering	\$	151.20	Gifts	\$	300.00
Donations	\$	90.00	Ads 22	\$	63.00
Funeral	\$	400.00	Janitors	\$	3,141.36
Empty Ink	\$	121.75	Welca	\$	335.00
Dinner 23	\$	3,196.00	Thankoffering	\$	151.19
Bucket Raffle	\$	492.00	CMWJ soup sup	\$	30.00
Bake Sale	\$	297.31	Quick Print	\$	93.07
Dinner Donations	\$	1,131.00	Karen/Batting	\$	155.00
Raffle/after gifts	\$	796.00	Raffle license	\$	25.00
Refund supplies	\$	24.50	89Q	\$	100.00
interest	\$	28.40	Luther Park/Quilt	\$	250.00
<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>7,071.16</b>	Veterans Fest	\$	100.00
			School Supplies	\$	223.24
			Rescued& Redeemed	\$	100.00
			Dinner 23	\$	1,385.16
			Jean tip 22&23	\$	400.00
			<b>Total</b>	\$	<b>8,292.74</b>
			<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$	<b>8,053.92</b>

Submitted by  
Marian Nernberger  
Treasurer

# Annual Report 2023

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## Council Elections for 2024

The council is made up of the pastor, president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and members of the congregation. At Our Saviour's council terms are 1 year except for the treasurer who serves a 3-year term. Members are limited to no more than 3 consecutive terms. Terms begin at the end of the annual meeting. The president, vice president, secretary positions are open and will need to be filled. Nancie Adams has agreed to stay on as treasurer. Thank you Nancie. In addition to the officers, members of the congregation are needed to voice the congregation. Any voting member may be elected, this includes youth that have been confirmed.

### Positions to be elected by the congregation are:

President—  
Vice President—  
Secretary—  
Member Representative x 2-

Nominations will be taken from the floor.

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## Synod Assembly Delegates

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is holding their Synod Assembly on June 7 and 8, 2024 at UW-Eau Claire.

Nominations for Synod Assembly—1 male & 1 female

A new Synod Bishop for the NW Synod will be elected at the 2024 assembly. The assembly was lengthened to allow for the election of the new bishop. Lodging will be paid for delegates attending. See page 15 for a letter from the Bishop's Election Committee for more information.

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



Electronic Service  
Requested

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Holway,  
W7809 Apple Ave., Medford, WI 54451  
Website: [oursavioursholway.com](http://oursavioursholway.com)  
Facebook: Our Saviour's Lutheran Holway  
Parish Office: 715-785-7975  
Email: [secretary.saviourschurch@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.saviourschurch@gmail.com)  
Parish secretary: Carol Lekies  
home: 715-785-7362, cell: 715-965-9108  
Next issue: January 2024  
Deadline: December 29  
Submit News to: [secretary.saviourschurch@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.saviourschurch@gmail.com)*

 **Merry**  
**Christmas**  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  


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Medford, WI 54451

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