

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



Return Service
Requested

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Holway,
W7809 Apple Ave., Medford, WI 54451
SAM, Barb Krug: 715-965-5696
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Parish secretary: Nancy Jones
Next issue: January 2025
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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.

Nonprofit Organization
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Medford, WI 54451

The Parish Internet

Our Saviour's Lutheran of Holway
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m.

Annual Report Inside

Annual Meeting on December 1, 2024

**Christmas
SERVICES**

Advent Services at 5:30 p.m.
at St. Paul's

Wednesday, December 4
Wednesday, December 11
Wednesday, December 18

Sunday, December 8 - Joint Service &
Christmas Pageant at St. Paul's

Sunday, December 15 - Sunday School Program
at Our Saviour's

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
2:00 p.m. - St. Paul's
4:00 p.m. - Our Saviour's
6:00 p.m. - St. Paul's

December 2024

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

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December 2024 Calendar

Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m.

December 1	Worship w/communion, Mike Kesling Annual Meeting Sunday School
December 4	Confirmation & Sunday School, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Advent Service at St. Paul's, 5:30 p.m.
December 8	Joint Worship Service at St. Paul's, 9:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant during service, brunch to follow No Sunday School
December 10	Church Council, 6:00 p.m.
December 11	Confirmation & Sunday School, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Advent Service at St. Paul's, 5:30 p.m.
December 15	Worship w/communion, Barb Krug, SAM Sunday School Christmas Program, 8:00 a.m.
December 18	Confirmation Christmas Party, 4:00 p.m. Advent Service at St. Paul's, 5:30 p.m.
December 22	Worship w/communion, Barb Krug, SAM No Sunday School
December 24	Christmas Eve Service, 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 p.m. at Our Saviour's Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's
December 25	No Christmas Day Service
December 29	Worship w/communion, Barb Krug No Sunday School

Council Elections for 2025

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. 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 3-

Nominations will be taken from the floor.

Synod Assembly Delegates

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is holding their Synod Assembly in June 2025.

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2025 BUDGET - Our Saviour's				
INCOME	2023 Actual	2024 through 10/31/2024		
	63,934.89	49,255.35		
Total General Income	63,934.89			
EXPENSES	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 thru 10/31/24	2025 Budget
Benevolence	2,557.39	3,000.00	1,957.43	3,000.00
Internet Service	743.28	750.00	619.40	750.00
Phone	628.30	725.00	516.71	725.00
Electricity	1,735.00	2,000.00	1,629.71	2,000.00
LP Gas	4,023.00	4,000.00	2,482.00	4,000.00
Dumpster	625.62	500.00	694.29	700.00
Holding Tanks	430.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
Snow Plowing	993.75	1,200.00	356.25	1,200.00
Janitor Supplies	182.61	200.00	261.94	225.00
Clear Country Water Solutions	140.00	225.00	45.00	225.00
Building Repairs/Maintenance	1,269.32	1,000.00	1,216.26	1,000.00
Worship/Devotionals/Resources	571.90	600.00	605.20	600.00
Organ/Piano Maintenance	105.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Insurance	4,722.29	4,500.00	4,476.60	6,100.00
Office & Computer Supplies/parts/ink	323.00	500.00	134.40	300.00
Postage and Stamps	0.00	200.00	68.00	200.00
Computer Maintenance/Repair	75.00	200.00	175.00	200.00
Treasurer Supplies	120.60	100.00	170.91	100.00
Newsletter Postage	444.22	450.00	379.33	450.00
Copier Lease	1,420.68	1,500.00	1,232.59	1,500.00
Supply Pastors	5,166.03	7,200.00	5,548.86	7,200.00
Conference Dues (Paid up for 3 years)	33.50	40.00	34.10	40.00
Assembly Delegates	100.00	150.00	500.00	500.00
Joint Account** see notes below	1,860.76	500.00	500.00	500.00
Payroll-Secretary-Property Manager	7,882.51	7,800.00	6,698.13	7,800.00
Website	143.88	150.00	155.88	200.00
Music Fund	2,575.00	3,900.00	2,425.00	3,900.00
Leadership Training	237.50	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Education (Adult, Confirmation, Sunday School, VBS)	684.27	1,000.00	528.38	1,000.00
Background Checks	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
Camping Funds	0.00	250.00	400.00	400.00
Pastorial Admin	200.00	2,400.00	2,000.00	2,400.00
Miscellaneous-Special Events	114.92	500.00	48.32	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				
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$40,109.33	\$47,190.00	\$35,859.69	\$49,365.00
Non Budget Items: 2023				
Hunger	\$4,855.00	\$4,855.00		
Scrip	\$29,150.00	\$28,401.34		
Change The World/Special Offer.	\$989.00	\$917.00		
TOTAL	\$34,994.00	\$34,173.34		
Nicolet National Bank - Savings Account (Thrivent Choice Dollars):				
			10/31/2024	\$8,037.85
Summary of Our Saviour's Investments (Mission Investment Fund):				
Term Investment Fixed 4 Year CD	Matures 9/24/2025	Rate: 1.49%	Balance 10/31/2024	\$16,874.76
			Total Investment Balance:	\$16,874.76
			Submitted By: Nancie Adams, Treasurer	

There was no Joint Finance Budget available at the time of publication.

A message from Barb Krug, SAM

Greetings,

In November, we learned about Thankofferings, (an offering of Thanks) that the Women of the ELCA collect and use for ministry and mission work. The story of Martha (the worker) and Mary (the listener) sticks with me a lot. I always felt I was only a Martha. Doing the work that needs to be done. Recently, I've realized I am a Mary as well. I can sit and listen and appreciate the Word of our Lord. I'm a better Martha than I am a Mary, but I am a Mary sometimes.

As we begin this busy Christmas season, let's all try to be Mary for a little bit. Let Martha do some work, but let Mary take over and slow us down to listen to all that the season has to tell us.

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, was born for us. He arrived in the most meager of ways and rose to his throne in Heaven for you and for me. Let the love of God bless your Christmas gatherings, your travels, your gift giving, your worship time, and grant you peace at this most blessed time of year.

Merry Christmas.

December Worship Assistants

Date	December 1	December 15	December 22	December 24	December 29
Message	Mike Kesling	Barb Krug	Barb Krug	Barb Krug	Barb Krug
Ushers	Marian & Ken Nernberger	Echo Buehler Paula Stroinski	Heidi & Mike Kesling		Karen & Harry Frosch
Liturgist	Barb Krug	Marian Nernberger	Heidi Kesling	Marian Nernberger	
Communion	Marian Nernberger	Karen Frosch	Karen Frosch	Mike Lindau	Karen Frosch
Counter	Heidi Kesling	Marian Nernberger	Mike Kesling	Marian Nernberger	
Script	Marian Nernberger				
Acolyte	Xander Cynor	Stormie Dums	Brycen Larson	Breckyn Klemm	

December Altar Guild: Adele Adams & Heidi Bower-Kesling

THE GIFT THAT IS YOU! 2024 Christmas Message



As I reflect on my time in Malawi back in early November, I had so many experiences that merit being shared. As I write this letter, perhaps the most important lesson I can offer was that of my new reality as a guest overseas.

Everywhere I turned, I truly felt like I was the most important person present. Yes,

there were times where I was the honored guest as a bishop. I was granted the best seats in the church, in the van, on the stage. When I walked the grounds at the Lutheran Compound in my purple clerical, EVERYONE immediately stopped what they were doing to greet me, even if that was their first encounter with me. I was fed better than most and I never had to carry my own luggage. I had women pour water over my hands before certain meals (including communion) much like Christ did during the Last Supper in washing the disciples' feet. And despite my innermost desires to remind them that I was just another guy, I simply could not insult them in that manner. The way in which they treated me was at the core of their faith practice.

Thankfully, Deacon Laura taught me a valuable insight that helped my understanding more clearly. They didn't treat only bishops that way, they treat all guests that way! Having been to Malawi five times before she took me, Laura has experienced that generous hospitality time and time again. And now that I'm a few weeks removed from their genuine welcome, I still firmly believe that their faith has taught them to love their neighbor and lift them up no matter how far away we may come.

What if we all treated our neighbor as though they are the most important person present at that time? What if we lifted the spirits of the people God places in our lives each and every day? As we prepare for the Christmas story once again this year, we emphasize the gift that comes in the Christ child, God made flesh to live among us mortals. Just think about the lives that the Christ child touched! It started with Mary and Joseph, continued to the shepherds in the fields, and even gave the heavenly host something to praise!

Of course, Jesus went on to touch so many lives - people in need of healing, children in need of welcoming, outcasts in need of community,

WELCA Financial Report

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 8,053.92		
Income		Expense	
General Meeting	\$ 307.00	Janitor	\$ 3,131.36
Fellowship		Supplies	\$ 56.00
Dinner	\$ 3,383.00	WELCA	\$ 653.00
Bake Sale	\$ 362.25	License	\$ 25.00
Raffle	\$ 764.00	Luther Park	\$ 750.00
Donations	\$ 974.00	Baptism Books	\$ 264.21
Food Sales	\$ 282.00	Synod Water is Life	\$ 200.00
Funerals	\$ 715.00	Emmanuel-Fire	\$ 300.00
Basket Raffle	\$ 272.00	ADS	\$ 150.00
Thankoffering	\$ 263.99	Raffle Prizes	\$ 200.00
Spec Donations	\$ 2,100.00	Lite of Light	\$ 25.00
Spring Rally	\$ 210.00	Vacumm	\$ 130.00
Interest	\$ 29.86	Thankoffering	\$ 265.00
		Spring Rally	\$ 156.00
		Gifts	\$ 422.00
		Dinner Expense	\$ 1,625.93
		Sewing Supplies	\$ 809.00
		Jean Czerniak / Gratuity	\$ 200.00
		Aspirus / Lite of Love	\$ 25.00
	\$ 9,663.19		\$ 9,387.50
Ending Balance			\$ 8,329.52
Submitted by Marian Nernberger, Treasurer			

HOLWAY LUTHERAN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION As of October 31, 2024

Checking Acct: Beginning Balance 10/31/23	18,924.62
INCOME	
Plot purchase	7,150.00
Burial fee	1,350.00
Interest on Certificate of Deposit	1,935.68
Interest on checking account	49.05
Easter Breakfast	2,540.00
Memorials	540.00
Donations	170.00
Total Income	13,734.73
EXPENSES	
Lawn care-(2nd half of 2023, 1st half of 2024)	3,235.00
Reimb. Grave Prep (Urn)	200.00
Easter Breakfast Supplies	104.00
Transferred Interest to CD	1,935.68
Total Expenses	5,474.68
Checking Acct: Ending Balance 10/31/24	27,184.67
10/31/2024 Perpetual Care	22,875.00
10/31/2024 Memorial Fund	20,734.06
Total in CD	43,609.06

Note: Expense for second half of 2024 lawn care is still pending.

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parties. The board approved the use of this form.

Current prices for burial plots were discussed. After discussion, the board approved the following increases effective **June 1, 2024**:

Church Member:

Per gravesite: \$250 plus \$250 perpetual care = \$500. At time of burial fee for staking, raking, reseeding etc. is additional \$250.

Non-Member:

Per gravesite: \$350 plus \$350 perpetual care = \$700. At time of burial, fee for staking, raking, reseeding etc. is additional \$350.

Note: a gravesite may be used for one body burial and one cremation or for two cremations. At time of burial additional fee noted above will apply for each body and cremation.

The meeting was adjourned.
Submitted by Steve Hamann

Pastoral Acts for 2024

Baptisms: (4) Jared Houston-Brown, Alyssa Pagel, Brynlee Pagel, Jay Worden

New Members: (3) Nicole Worden, Jay Worden, Jared Houston-Brown

Marriages: (2) Benjamin Meyer & Shealyn Strebig, Casey Ritchey & Ken Krug

Transfers In: (2) Jim & Clarice Zenner

Transfers Out: (0)

Funerals: Tom Nelson, Carole Jari, Patsy Meier, Peter Janke, Howard Lavin

Our Saviour’s Memorial Fund 2024

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$	10,351.24
INCOME			
Bev Utke	Endowment	\$	50.00
Julie & Pete Janke	Air Conditioner	\$	5,000.00
Family & Friends	Tom Nelson	\$	1,110.00
Family & Friends	Carole Jari	\$	500.00
Family & Friends	Judy Nowak	\$	60.00
Family & Friends	Honor of Howard & Gwen	\$	125.00
Family & Friends	Patsy Meier	\$	650.00
Deb Gaffney	Gary	\$	300.00
Family & Friends	Pete Janke	\$	765.00
Interest		\$	7.90
		\$	8,567.90
EXPENSES			
Neubauer	Air Conditioner	\$	5,000.00
Peterson	Seal Coating	\$	5,728.44
		\$	10,728.44
ENDING BALANCE		\$	8,190.70

A message from Bishop Martin

(Bishop Martin’s Christmas Letter continued)

sinner in need of redeeming. Jesus became the gift who helped them all feel that they were the most important person present at the time, people worthy of his unconditional love, people whose spirits were uplifted.

As we march through the season of Advent toward the birth of God Emmanuel, Jesus the savior of the world, remember the gift of God’s presence in your lives. Recognize that God is even present within you and that you are a gift as well! And much like my new friends in Malawi, be that gift for others. Reveal Christ’s presence to others through your continued faithfulness and dedication to the God of love because that love can overcome division. You are a gift to this synod and to God’s church when you let God’s light shine in and through you! May this Christmas also reveal to you the light of Christ through others.

Bishop Martin

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

On Wednesday, November 13, students from Our Saviour’s and St. Paul’s Confirmation and Sunday School Classes went to see the movie *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Seventy one students and chaperones were in attendance.



Community Mission with Jesus Noisy Offering
Sunday, December 15

CMWJ helps people that may “have fallen through the cracks,” and there are many that just don’t have enough to make ends meet. So far in 2024, CMWJ has serve 43 persons/families, totaling \$12,121.00. We do not have the funds to help all the requests we receive. That is why all donations are appreciated. Please consider giving noisy or not so noisy offerings at anytime, and especially on December 15. Contact Marian Nernberger at 715-748-3055 to make a donation at anytime. Members of CMWJ from Our Saviour’s include Teresa Gretzinger, Marian Nernberger, Karen Frosch, and Jerry Cypher. If you would like to join this mission and their work, please contact any of these Individuals.

A Pastoral Response from Pastor Bob Giese Regarding His Sermon on November 10, 2024.

On November 10, 2024, I preached a sermon on “The Theology of Scarcity versus The Theology of Abundance based on the Gospel for the day (Mark 12:38-44) and two verses from the New Testament on abundance (John 10:10 and 2 Corinthians 9:8).

As is often the case, some people thanked me after the service and even said things like “Good job, Pastor.” However, I could read the faces of some other people who did not comment directly and see that they were probably not pleased.

I’d like to apologize right up front for any unnecessary pain or discomfort you may have experienced because of my choice of words and names in one section of the message. I’m especially sorry if this prevented you from hearing the main point of the message—that God has blessed us richly so we do not have to live with a scarcity mind set but can live generously out of the abundance of riches God has given us.

In the day or so following the sermon, there were a few comments accumulated at St. Paul’s and communicated to the St. Paul’s council and SAM Barb Krug by Heidi. The council and Barb discussed these comments at St Paul’s November council meeting. They both acknowledged the comments and communicated support for the main points of my sermon to me. They did not ask me to write this response, but I decided it would be a good idea to try to clear up the issues before they damaged our working relationship.

So I’d like to first share the comments as I received them, the phrases I used I think caused the main problem, and a bit of the pastoral history I have learned about both congregations which might justifiably have led to the comments some of you made and others of you were probably thinking. I’m sharing this letter with both St. Paul’s and Our Saviour’s even though these comments only came from St. Paul’s members both because I assume there are more of you who were thinking these things and because of the historical baggage which seems to be similar at both congregations.

Here are the comments which made it to St. Paul’s council:

1. ELCA is accepting of all people, but when you bring politics into church and sermons, you are alienating people.
2. You can’t say all are welcome and we mean it, then insult a group of people for not thinking the same way you do.
3. The sermon had a good message to give. There was no reason to bring up anything with the election or Donald Trump.

WELCA Stewardship Action 2024 Report (continued)

Received new (to us) sewing machine, donated by Claire Malchow

Received large supply of new materials from numerous donors.

Total 104 quilts

Submitted by Karen Frosch 11/10/2024

A report from Sunday School / VBS was not available at the time of publication.

Holway Lutheran Cemetery Minutes of Annual Meeting March 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church. People present were Rod Adams, Paula Stroinski, Echo Buehler, Kurt Neibacher and Steve Hamann.

President Rod Adams called the meeting to order. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

The election of trustees was held. Echo Buehler and Steve Hamann were each reelected to a three-year term. The election of officers was conducted. Nominations were made for Rod Adams for President, Paula Stroinski for Vice President and Steve Hamann for Secretary/Treasurer. All were unanimously elected for a one-year term.

The minutes of the 2023 annual meeting were reviewed and accepted. The treasurer’s report was read and accepted.

Plans for the Easter Breakfast were discussed. Assignment of duties were discussed and finalized. Set up will be on Saturday, March 30, at 8:30 am.

Lawn mowing for the 2024 season was discussed. No bids had been received yet this year. Rod had heard that Central Lawn and Fencing was interested. Rod will reach out to Roy York at Central Lawn and Fencing and confirm he is interested in providing lawn care this year and ask that he send a quote. All felt that Central Lawn and Fencing did a great job this past year. All approved hiring them again this year with the assumption that the cost would be similar to the one for 2023.

Cemetery maintenance was discussed. Rod will schedule a day for cemetery maintenance once the lawn dries up.

Transfer of burial plots was reviewed and discussed. Kurt Neibacher shared a form that would be completed and signed by both

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Making quilts and sewing backpacks are ongoing projects for the group. If you would like to get involved contact Karen Frosch. Quilts are shipped to LWR, donated locally and given to veteran's organizations.

This fall the Broadway Theater in Medford had a special showing of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" as requested by Heidi Kesling. WELCA paid the admission for 9 confirmation students and their teachers and helper. The Sunday School was invited along with friends and families of Our Saviour's and St. Paul's. Over 50 children attended.

Members presented their Thank Offerings during worship on November 17. Heidi Kesling, Marian Nernberger, Carol Lekies, and Rod Adams participated in the service lead by Barb Krug.

We mourn the loss of Carole Jari who passed away earlier this year. She was instrumental in forming the connections with the Veteran's organization we support.

In December, Our Saviour's WELCA will sponsor St. Paul's food pantry in Medford.

Participation has been the key to a productive busy year. Thank you everyone. In addition, special thanks to our members serving on the Altar guild and our President Echo Buehler.

Carol Lekies, Secretary

WELCA Stewardship Action 2024 Report

Lutheran World Relief

60 backpacks - school kits

25 quilts

Beds from Christ - Medford United Methodist Church

43 quilts

Hope Hospice & Palliative Care

15 lap robes

Homeless Veterans - Hands Foundation

19 boxes / bags clothing & footwear

30 quilts

Rescued & Redeemed - Eau Claire

12 loads of clothing and houseware items

Miscellaneous

6 quilts for donation, Fall dinner, etc.

A Pastor Response from Pastor Bob Giese

4. None of the reasons he made for people voting for him (Donald Trump) and not the reasons I voted. He can't tell people what they think (Scared about not enough jobs, so keep immigrants out. Scared about not enough money so stop giving to welfare.).
5. Americans that voted for him (Donald Trump) are not sheep blindly leading into a cult like following.

Here are the two sentences from my message I think are mainly responsible for these comments (In Part B of my message if you are referring to my manuscript which is available from Nancy at both congregations. The spoken message is available online.):

1. "I am convinced we elected Donald Trump to President again because our nation operates on a scarcity model (theology)."
1. [President Elect] Donald Trump (along with most American [politicians and top] businesspeople) are masters of stoking our fears of scarcity so we will buy what they are offering, whether it be stuff or ideas. (Words between [] I added to the spoken message but are not in the manuscript.

Here's my dilemma: The reason I inserted these comments into my message was not intended to be partisan but to demonstrate the problems of a consumer society where everyone is trying to get people to buy their stuff and ideas. Had Kamala Harris been elected, it would have been her name I used in this message. She and Mr. Trump are selling different things, but the end result is the same. However, as I read through this part of my message again, I see how it is more likely to be taken as partisan than I intended. For this I offer a sincere apology. It is never my intent to be partisan in my messages. I ask your forgiveness that I wrote/spoke in a way which so easily could be taken as partisan.

So, yes, the ELCA "is accepting of all people." This is, however, a work in progress, even by pastors like me. It was not my intent to insult, but somehow I managed to do so anyway. Another work in progress. Thank you for thinking the basic message was a good one to give. Whether you voted for Mr. Trump or Ms. Harris, you had your reasons, just as I did. I want to affirm that. I do, however, want to stand by my contention that we (whomever we vote for) often vote out of our fears rather than because of our trust in God's abundance. As for the sheep comment, I just hope we are all Jesus' sheep following the Good Shepherd in word and deed.

Here's the history part which I think leads members of both congregations who have been around long enough to react particularly strongly to a message like this which (unintentionally in this case)

A Pastor Response from Pastor Bob Giese

strays over the line of non-partisanship. I have discovered previous pastors at both St. Paul's and Our Saviour's have told members who did not agree with them on both political and church issues that they were wrong and perhaps even their salvation was endangered and in at least one case threatened not to commune them. This is abuse of power and oh so wrong! I am sorry any of you had to endure that. It makes it very clear why my comments could bring the reaction they did. I want to assure you that there is nothing that can separate you from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39), especially not your political views, and certainly not your theological views. So, please do not fear for your salvation no matter what I or anyone else says in our sermons.

I want to thank those of you brave enough to share your comments so the council and I could reflect upon them and I could respond to them. I would only ask that in the future you would consider sharing them with me directly. I pledge to you that I will listen so we can discuss whatever the issue is together before bad feelings can develop. But if it's just too difficult for you to speak directly to me, please do tell a member of the council. I trust them to bring your concerns to me in a positive way.

Finally, thank you for allowing me to lead you in worship and mentor Barb as your SAM. It is indeed a privilege. We are in this together. That includes growing together through our miscommunications.

In Christ's Love.

Pastor Bob Giese

Let us help with your holiday shopping. . . give Scrip Gift Cards.

If you are giving gift cards to family or friends for the Christmas season, consider ordering them from our church. It is a good fundraiser that we offer all year and we can get you any kind of gift card that you need. Contact Nancie Adams 715-965-6959 or Brenda Nernberger 715-560-0917. We will be submitting our order by Dec 12, so we can get the cards before Christmas.



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I am blessed to serve as the administrative interim SAM and I thank God for this calling and you, the members of Our Saviour's for the opportunity to serve you.

God's Blessings,
Barb Krug - SAM

WELCA 2024 Year in review submitted by Carol Lekies

WELCA has a new treasurer, Amie Marzinske. We thank Marian Nernberger for her many years of service and welcome Amie.

WELCA meets the first Wednesday of the month except for June, July, December and January. In addition to monthly meetings, members met at the Medford Café, 64 North and Marilyn's for lunch.

In March, Barb Krug and Marian Nernberger participated in World Day of Prayer.

St. Patrick's family day. WELCA paid for the ham and eggs served at the brunch. Event planned by Meagan Neitzel and Heidi Kesling.

In April, Our Saviour's hosted the WELCA Spring Rally. The menu included baked potato and salad bars. Lunch was served on China plates and dishes washed in the dishwasher. No paper plates and plastic silverware.

In April, WELCA sponsored two Confirmation students and their chaperone to attend, Encourage, a middle school youth gathering at Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake.

Honor's Sunday was the second Sunday in June with 9 graduating seniors.

"The Wonderful Worth of a Women" was the theme of the WELCA all conference retreat at Luther Park, Chetek. Barb Krug will be serving on the Synod Women's Organization as a board member.

Joint worship: In June, St. Paul's hosted an outdoor worship service in the Medford Park. Potluck lunch followed. In September, Our Saviour's hosted a joint worship service followed by potluck brunch. These services were well attended.

The Anniversary Dinner was a success and is planned again for October 2025 with a few minor changes. Thank you to the planning committee and all who donated and helped. This event is the major fund-raiser of the year.

We were blessed to baptize four young people this year.

Our Saviour's was the site of two weddings in 2024. Shealyn Strebig & Ben Meyer on August 3, and Casey Ritchey and Ken Krug on September 6. God's blessings of love and commitment go out to these couples.

Tom Nelson, Carole Jari, Patsy Meier, Peter Janke, Melissa Becker, Cailey Deml, and Howard Lavin all went home to be with our Lord in 2024. Each one of these members continues to be missed. We pray for healing and strength for their families.

We were blessed to receive Jim and Clarice Zenner, Nicole Worden and sons, Jay and Jared, as new members at Our Saviour's.

Our Saviour's Sunday School "visited" the Holy Land on April 28. The church was transformed and stories were told as if they were touring the sites in Israel. St. Paul's students were invited and all spent their Bible Bucks at the market.

New in the Fall of 2024 Our Saviour's started a Wednesday after school 'Sunday' class along with the regular Sunday class. We are reaching close to 25 students each week. The teachers and helpers are dedicated and work well together on both days of the week.

As part of my ministry, I have attended numerous Conference and Synod events. Being a part of the synod assembly and voting for our new Bishop, Martin Halom with my grandson, was extra special.

Pastor Bob facilitates monthly SAM meetings/trainings that help me stay connected to other SAMs. The sharing of experiences is very helpful.

Our Conference has begun a multi-point ministry cohort. The goal of this cohort is to meet regularly with others serving in multi-point settings. These Zoom meetings are led by our Conference Dean, Pastor Elizabeth Biers.

Continuing Education through our synod's Lay School continues to teach and support me with the ministries of our congregations. It's exciting that Mike Kesling and Heidi Bower-Kesling are attending Lay School as well.

I am also a part of the Evangelical Leadership Commission. This Commission distributes available funds to education debt relief applicants and reviews the salary standards for the synod.

WELA Minutes - November 6, 2024

Purpose statement

The meeting was called to order by President Echo Buehler. In attendance were Nancie Adams, Marian Nernberger, Julie Janke, Karen Frosch, Amie Marzinske, Juanita Krug, Heidi Kesling, Carol Lekies, and Megan Neitzel. Barb Krug left early for an end-of-life emergency.

Reports:

Secretary's Report – by Carol Lekies. A motion was made by, (Julie J.) and seconded by (Marian N.) to accept the report. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – by Amie Marzinske. Heidi made a motion to accept; Nancie seconded. Passed.

Expenses:

\$ 50.00 offering sent to the Synod Women's Organization

\$140.00 was spent on quilt batting

\$1625.93 paid to the Centennial Community Hall, Anniversary Dinner

\$200.00 tip for Jean at the Centennial Hall

\$25.00 Lights of Love

Balance \$8329.52.

Stewardship Report - by Karen Frosch. Not much going on. Quilts have been shipped to LWR. Donations for the veterans are packed and ready for pick up. Clothing donations for the veterans were of good quality.

Old Business:

Next year's Anniversary Dinner Date – October 12, 2025

Committees will remain the same for the 2025 Anniversary Dinner.

Review of the Anniversary Dinner: Heidi suggested that raffle winners be announced the following Sunday at worship. Echo mentioned that there was only one vegetable served this year. Next year, back to two. Juanita suggested we limit pie choices. Some of the lemon pies were poor. They are difficult to make and to cut and serve. Decided not to substitute a fruit pie for lemon even though lemon is most often requested. Next year, only two pies will be served: apple and pumpkin. Next year, the bar will not be open. The quilt (\$564.00) and basket (\$272.00) raffles will be continued along with the bake sale (\$362.25). Leftover food sales - \$282.00. Dinner ticket sales and donations \$3683.00. This figure may change as donations come in. There were over 60 take-out orders. With the take-outs, over 300 people were served. Stuffing was the only thing we ran out of. There was plenty of everything else. May need to raise admission price. Will be discussed and decided next year.

St. Paul's Food Pantry: Amie Marsinske made a motion to sponsor the food pantry for one month a year beginning in December for \$400.00. Julie seconded, passed. Annual sponsor in December.

Movie Admission: WELCA is buying the tickets (\$120.00). Nine confirmation students, Megan, Heidi and their helper Eva are going to see "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at a special showing at the Broadway Theater, Wednesday, November 13 at 4:15. The \$10.00 deal includes, ticket, small popcorn and drink. Tell them at the ticket counter you are with the special showing to receive this special rate. Members and their children are welcome to attend.

New Business:

Discussed purchasing white altar clothes that aren't Easter or Christmas. Julie will do research on what is available and bring information to next meeting.

Short Program: Is there an interest in having a short program before our meetings? This would be on a volunteer basis beginning at 6:30 with the meeting to follow at 7 pm. If you would like to present a short devotion or program before a meeting, let Echo know.

WELCA – handbook should be available in January. The working circles will be eliminated. One member list will take its place. Callers will be Marian, Karen, Nancie and Julie. There will be a separate list of women who bake and help at funerals.

Christmas Gifts: A motion to give gift cards to staff, including Jeff Neitzel, Barb Krug, Nancy Jones, Robert Giese, Adele Adams and Debbie Larson, was made by Nancie, Julie seconded, passed.

Dates to Remember:

Advent Services at St. Paul's – Time to be announced
Annual Meeting December 1
Christmas Pageant December 8 at St. Paul's, Medford
Sunday School Christmas Program December 15
Christmas Eve 4 PM service, No Christmas Day service at Our Saviour's

Adjourn: Heidi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Juanita seconded it. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting is February 5 – Karen Frosch hostess
Submitted by Carol Lekies, Secretary

THANK YOU . . .

We would like to thank members of the Krug family for financing an upgrade to our audio system at church. This gift has been given in honor and memory of Keith & Joan Krug by their children.

executive hat and puts on her SAM hat, we are getting an excellent bang for our buck!

As the Congregation President, I have watched us move forward on several areas that concerned me as a member of the Our Saviour's Congregation. I see a congregation willing to work through difficult times, try new ideas in worship, fellowship, religious education, and with the physical church structure and support of our entire community.

Submitted by Mike Kesling, Council President

SAM & Administrative Interim 2024 Report

Blessings as we close another year of service here at Our Saviour's. We have been very fortunate and blessed to have retired Pastors Bob Giese and Nancy Amacher continue to lead worship for us. Lay leaders, Mike Kesling and Bobbi Marion bless us by share their faith as they conduct services as needed.

The worship assistants at our church are appreciated. Our musical accompanists continue to bless us with their talents. Misty Hartman, Pastor Bob Giese, and Nancy Jones.

In 2024, Bishop Laurie Skowe-Anderson visited and preached at both congregations as well led a joint confirmation class.

The call committee is ready, in the event we do get any interested candidates for Pastor. That continues to be our prayer.

The joint council meets regularly and works well together in conducting the business that pertains to both congregations.

Our church council is actively involved in church life and the business needs of the church. The hope to get a Pastor is still our goal, but the recognition that many members of the church are stepping up and pastoring to those in need, has been remarkable. We are the church, and we are servants to all, as God has asked and directed us to be.

Nancy Jones is a blessing to this congregation. Her knowledge and patience with me are appreciated. (I'm usually the last to turn in my report for anything.)

In 2024, we had seven students Reaffirm their Baptism. The teachers and helpers are dedicated in their faith and need to be commended.

We had six students attend class then receive their First Communion.

Council Elections:

A motion was made to nominate Mike Kesling for Council President, He accepted. Motion seconded, and passed. A motion was made to nominate Andrew Krug for VP. He accepted. Motion seconded, passed. A motion was made to nominate Meagan Neitzel as council secretary. She accepted. Motion seconded, passed. A motion was made to nominate Paula Stroinski, Josh Krug, Jason Borman and Lynette Hamlet as – voices on council. All accepted. Motion seconded & passed.

Synod Assembly

Representatives: Jo Giese volunteered to represent the women of Our Saviour's, & Andrew Krug the men. The synod assembly will be June 7 and 8, at UW Eau Claire.

Heidi Bower-Kesling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rod Adams seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Carol Lekies, acting secretary

Council President's 2024 Report

Isaiah 43:1-3

¹Israel, the Lord who created you says: "Do not be afraid—I will save you. I have called you by name—you are mine. ²When you pass through the deep waters, I will be with you, your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through fire, you will not be burned, the hard trials that come will not hurt you. ³For I am the Lord your God . . .

Yes, I truly believe that we are all called by God here at Our Saviour's, and we are doing great things in the eyes of God.

The congregation at Our Saviour's is alive and doing well. We have survived the loss of a dedicated Ordained Pastor of our own. The on going Parish Call Process that was started sometime ago is still active. However, we are faced with the lack of any available candidates. We have been blessed with several Lay messengers, our own SAM Barb Krug and two semi retired Ordained Pastors filling our pulpit every Sunday. We will continue to work this way for the foreseeable future. Barb has done an outstanding job as our SAM. When I attend Lay School classes each month, I hear about other congregations that are using SAMS. I know that Barb is working very hard at her role as a SAM for Our Saviour's. Comparing our SAM with others, I really know Barb is doing great things for us every time she takes off her transportation

Anniversary Dinner Raffle Winners

Ticket Raffle:

Quilt winner: Bev Hoffman

\$100.00 : Adele Adams

\$50.00: Duane Larson

Gift Certificates: Jamiye Kohn and Jess Nerneberger

Basket Raffle:

Nestle Goodie bag: Liselle Weiler (Donated by Nestle)

Bird Basket- Diane Jochimson (Donated by Paula and Julie)

Lottery Tickets—Nakiel Sanders (Donated by Barb Krug)

8th Street Basket—Annabel Neitzel (Donated by 8th Street Artisans)

Kids Basket- Michelle Dyer (Donated by Amie Marzinske)

Bakers Basket- Lois Neibacher (donated by Carol Lekies)

Pumpkin Pie Basket- Cindy Hassemer (Donated by County Market & Nancie Adams)

Fall Décor Basket- Annabel Neitzel (Donated by Rose Frelichowski & Juanita Krug)

Bell Choir

The Bell Choir has been practicing for their debut at the Joint Worship Service on Sunday, December 8, and other Christmas services throughout the season.



Mark your calendars:

December 8—Joint Worship Service at St. Paul's, 9:00 a.m. Service will include a Christmas Pageant followed by a potluck and taco bar. Please bring a dish to pass.

December 15—Sunday School Christmas Program, 8:00 a.m.

Christmas Giving / Poinsettia Orders

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.



Name: _____

ELCA World Hunger \$ _____

Cemetery Association \$ _____

Poinsettias @ \$15.00 /QTY _____ \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

In Memory of OR **In Honor of** (circle one)

Given by: _____

Church Council Minutes
Thursday, November 14, 2024

Attendees: Barb K, Paula S, Mike K, Nancie A, and Josh K

The meeting was called to order by Mike. He presented devotions from Max Lucado's book on Hebrews. Our mission statement was recited by all. The agenda was approved with a motion by Nancie and seconded by Paula. The October meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Paula and seconded by Josh. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Paula and seconded by Josh. Motion approved. Nancie reported that Darlene Berry and Gayle Hamman audited the treasurer's books, and everything was okay.

Education and youth reported on the movie attendance at "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." 71 students, teachers, adults and friends from

December 10, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes**Call to Order**

The meeting opened with prayer.

President Barb Krug called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

Agenda: A motion to accept the agenda as printed was made by Mike Kesling, 2nded by Ed Rowe, motion passed.

Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes from the 2022 annual meeting was made by Marian Nernberger, 2nded by Julie Janke, passed.

Barb Krug reviewed the committee reports as printed in the Annual Report. No questions or discussion.

Ken Nernberger made a motion to accept the President's, Pastor's, pastoral acts, Memorial Fund, budget, education, and WELCA reports as printed in the Annual Report, 2nd Ed Rowe, Passed.

Old business:

Call committee – met, no prospects

Shared Ministry with St. Pauls. No concerns, going well.

New Business:

The 2024 proposed budget was printed in Annual Report

A motion to accept the budget as printed was made by Julie Janke, Harry Frosch 2nd, passed. A motion to accept the joint budget as printed was made by Mike Kesling, seconded by Paula Stroinski, motion passed

Maintenance: Air conditioning – Mike Kesling made a motion to replace the air conditioning unit in the sanctuary for up to \$6000.00 if funds are available. There were no questions, comments, or concerns. Rod Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed. Parking lot sealant - Marian Nernberger made a motion to spend up to \$6000.00, if funds are available, to seal the parking lot. Heidi Bower-Kesling seconded. Motion passed.

Comments – Ed Rowe asked if the parking lot bids included doing the lines? Barb replied that would probably be a job for Ed and Gordy.

Resignation: After 14 years as church secretary, Carol Lekies is retiring. Anyone interested in applying for the position should contact Barb Krug, Carol or a council member. Interviewing will be done by the council. Carol will be on hand to train her replacement. January 31 will be her last day as secretary.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER — OPENING PRAYER

AGENDA APPROVAL (Establish a quorum—25 people)

MINUTES FROM December 10, 2023

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

Council President, SAM, WELCA

Cemetery Association

2024 PASTORAL ACTS

MEMORIAL FUND

FINANCIAL REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Budget

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

President, Vice President, Secretary

Synod Assembly delegates:

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the two congregations attended the private viewing. Sunday School is going well with the Wednesday after school classes and Sunday morning classes. Christmas programs are being planned for Wednesday, December 11, and Sunday, December 15.

Property items were reviewed: The motion lights on the east side have been completed and are wonderful. Mike is still trying to make contact with Jess Carlson to see what can be done about the windows on the west side of the sanctuary. The furnace in the basement went out. Jeff Neitzel contacted Zenner’s and it is being repaired. Thank you, Jeff, for your diligence.

WELCA’s report included great news about the anniversary dinner that was held in October. WELCA does not meet in December or January. They will meet again in February. The 2025 WELCA booklet will be completed before Christmas.

Items related to our worship included: the sound system upgrade is in the works. New components can be added to our system. A part was backordered but should be here and installed before Christmas. The viewing of “The Chosen” is going well with added participants most weeks. All are welcome to attend any time. You need not have started at the beginning to appreciate each series. The Bell Chime choir is working hard to have some select songs ready for the Joint Worship service on December 8, at St. Paul’s and for the Sunday School program on December 15. Advent services will be held on December 4, December 11, and December 18, at St. Paul’s beginning at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Christmas Eve services will be held at 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s and at 4:00 p.m. at Our Saviour’s. Members are encouraged to attend whatever service works best for them. There will not be a service on Christmas Day. A NOISY OFFERING will be held on Sunday, December 15, to help fund the Community Mission with Jesus. An insert will be included in the bulletins until then with information about the work they have done. A reminder that most sermons will be printed and saved in the secretary’s office at the church for anyone that might want a copy to share with family, friends or for themselves.

OLD BUSINESS: The annual meeting will be held on December 1, following the 8:00 a.m. worship service. We will need at least two new members as Josh and Andrew will not be seeking re-election.

Reports for the Annual meeting are due tomorrow, to Nancy Jones. After the annual meeting and elections, the new council will discuss when the meeting dates should be.

News & Events: Council & Finance

Nancie presented the new TDS contract for renewal and approval. There will be a savings to the congregation. A motion was made by Josh and seconded by Paula to renew with TDS with the new contract rates. Motion carried.

INCOME - Our Saviour's	October	YTD 2024		
General	4,031.14	49,255.35		
Hunger	360.00	3,730.00		
Sunday School/VBS/Camp		1,000.00		
Change the World/Special Offering	4,555.00	7,638.10		
Scrip	2,700.00	19,430.00		
TOTAL INCOME	11,646.14	81,053.45		
Expenses:	October	YTD	Monthly/Budget	Year/Budget
Benevolence	159.84	1,957.43	250.00	3,000.00
Hunger In/Out	360.00	3,730.00	0.00	
Special Offering In/Out	4,554.62	7,337.72	0.00	
Internet Service	61.94	619.40	62.50	750.00
Phone	51.58	516.71	60.42	725.00
Electricity	150.42	1,629.71	166.67	2,000.00
LP Gas	286.00	2,482.00	333.33	4,000.00
Dumpster - GFL	25.92	694.29	41.67	500.00
Holding Tanks		0.00	20.83	250.00
Snow Plowing		356.25	100.00	1,200.00
Janitor Supplies	100.62	261.94	16.67	200.00
Clear Country Water Solutions		45.00	18.75	225.00
Building Repairs/Maintenance	60.00	1,216.26	83.33	1,000.00
Worship/Devotionals/Resources		605.20	50.00	600.00
Organ/Piano Maintenance		0.00	25.00	300.00
Insurance	447.66	4,476.60	375.00	4,500.00
Office & Computer Supplies/parts/ink	41.12	134.40	41.67	500.00
Postage and Stamps		68.00	16.67	200.00
Computer Maintenance/Repair		175.00	16.67	200.00
Treasurer Supplies		170.91	8.33	100.00
Newsletter Postage	39.11	379.33	37.50	450.00
Copier Lease	128.14	1,232.59	125.00	1,500.00
Supply Pastors	522.39	5,548.86	600.00	7,200.00
Conference Dues	34.10	34.10	3.33	40.00
Assembly Delegates		500.00	12.50	150.00
Joint Account** see notes below		500.00	41.67	500.00
Payroll-Secretary-Property Manager	554.17	6,698.13	650.00	7,800.00
Website		155.88	12.50	150.00
Music	225.00	2,425.00	325.00	3,900.00
Leadership Training		0.00	83.33	1,000.00
Education (Adult, Confirmation, Sunday School, VBS)		528.38	83.33	1,000.00
Background Checks		0.00	8.33	100.00
Camping Funds		400.00	20.83	250.00
Pastorial Admin	200.00	2,000.00	200.00	2,400.00
Miscellaneous- Special Events		48.32	41.67	500.00
Scrip Cards	1,344.00	18,925.30	0.00	
VANCO Charge	6.30	61.60	0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	9,352.93	65,914.31	3,890.83	47,190.00
Checking Account:		Savings Account:		8,037.17
Camping Fund	873.54	Deposit		0.68
Sunday School/VBS	1,572.53	Total		8,037.85
General	50,437.43			
TOTAL	52,883.50	<i>Submitted By:</i>	<i>Nancie Adams, Treasurer</i>	

News & Events: Finance

Our Saviour's October Financial Report: 2024

EXPLANATIONS:

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 \$4031.14(Oct checking acc interest added \$35.14)
Hunger \$360.00
Scrip \$2700.00
Special Offering In/out \$4555.00(donation for new audio upgrade)

TOTAL INCOME: **\$11,646.14**

Expense Section

Benevolence \$159.84(to NW Synod of WI General Mission Support – 4%)
Hunger \$360.00(to Northwest Synod of WI for ELCA World Hunger)
Special Offering In/Out \$4554.62(Audio Architects-audio upgrade)
Internet Service (Clark Electric) \$61.94
Phone (TDS) \$51.58
Electricity (Taylor Electric) \$150.42
Dumpster (GFL Environmental) \$25.92
LP Gas (Budget-Medford Coop) \$286.00
Insurance (Church Mutual) \$447.66
Newsletter Postage \$39.11
Office & Computer Supplies \$41.12(copy paper)
Building Repairs/Maintenance \$60.00(labor for outside railing 3hrs @\$20.00 an hr)
Payroll \$554.17(watchman \$80.00–sec wage \$379.50, F- tax \$94.67)
Church Administrator \$200.00
Supply Pastors \$522.39
Music (Organist) \$225.00
Copier Lease (E. O. Johnson) \$128.14
Janitor Supplies \$100.62(toilet paper, Lysol cleaner, air fresheners, hand soap, 2-toilet plungers, water bubbler cups)
Conference Dues \$34.10(10 cents for each baptized member)
VANCO charge \$6.30
Scrip Cards \$1344.00(Co. Market)

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$9352.93**

Savings Account: \$8037.85

Mission Investment Fund: Term Investment Fixed 4 Year – 3847 Rate 1.49%
YTD Interest Earned Matures 9/24/2025

0630//2024 Balance: \$16,811.54
Interest 09/30/2024 \$63.22
New Balance \$16,874.76

For pastoral care emergencies, call the following:

Barb Krug: 715-965-5696, barbkzug@charter.net
Pastor Bob Giese: 847-899-7122, rjgiese@gmail.com
Pastor Nancy Amacher: 715-223-5316, revnia10@gmail.com