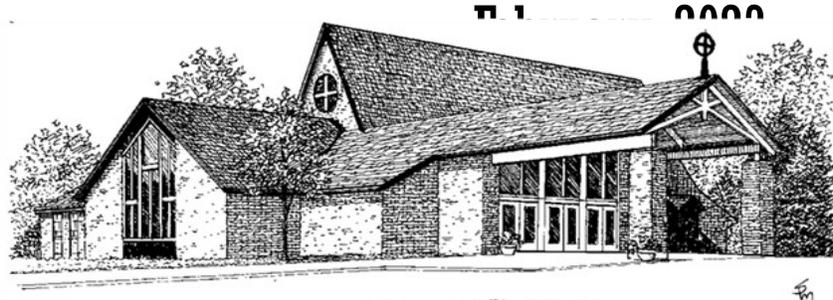


February 2023



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

**Sharing  
the  
Joy**

**Sunday Worship**

**9:30 a.m. Worship Service**

**9:30 a.m.—10:45 A.M. Sunday School**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church ELCA

(715) 394 3472 [oslcsuperioroffice@gmail.com](mailto:oslcsuperioroffice@gmail.com)

Pastor Sean Koos

[pastorkoos@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkoos@gmail.com)



**February 2023**

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

I've heard people say that December is the coldest month around the Twin Ports but in the 3 years I've lived up here that just hasn't proven to be true. February always seems to be the most miserable month of the year. Maybe it's because we've put up with the cold and snow for 3 months already and we're just done with it. Not to mention spring being right around the corner, at least according to the calendar. Regardless of how our minds get tricked, February is a month of suffering from my perspective. Thank goodness it's only 28 days long! We're in the dog days of winter now (if that's even an expression!) which invariably raises the question: what's the purpose of suffering? Why must we suffer? I've heard all the possible answers, from suffering being the result of our sin to suffering bringing us closer to God. We've been wrestling with the "problem" of suffering since the beginning of time and I don't think we're any closer to understanding it's purpose. I'm content with the wisdom revealed in the book of Job that there are just some mysteries that are too complex to be understood by us, at least for now. Suffering isn't a "problem," simply a mystery. Only God knows the purpose of suffering and He'll reveal it's purpose in due time. Just be content in not knowing it's purpose for now. Surely there are plenty of other mysteries for us to wrestle with in the meantime! Have faith that God will reveal the purpose of suffering when we're ready to receive it.

And have faith that we will have a fruitful month of ministry ahead! I'm excited to take some confirmation kids to the Middle School Gathering being held at Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake, WI. Confirmation kids from all over the synod will come together for the gathering and it's great for the kids to interact with kids from other programs. Perhaps if only for them to appreciate how awesome their pastor/youth leader is! We'll continue working through the wisdom of the book of Matthew in our Bible studies, worship services, and Sunday school classes. Be sure to join us as we kick off the Lenten season at our Ash Wednesday service on the 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. We'll have midweek services every Wednesday through Lent @ 6:30 p.m. Unfortunately, it was decided we won't have an accompanying meal to go with the services.

Better luck next year!

Try not to suffer too much this month and I hope to see you around.

Blessings,

Pastor Koos

February Narratives

02/05/2023	Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29	The Golden Rule
02/12/2023	Matthew 13:24-43	Parables of the Kingdom
02/19/2023	Matthew 16:24-17:8	Transfiguration
02/22/2023	Matthew 18:1-9	Who Is The Greatest?
Ash Wednesday		

## From Our Congregation President

As I begin my term as President, I hope to continue the momentum. 2022 was a positive year at Our Savior's Lutheran Church and we hope to sustain that in 2023. Thanks to Pastor Sean for his leadership. Thanks to all of the quiet volunteers, dedicated helpers and staff who help to make our church successful.

Rick



*02-01-23 Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29*

1. What does it mean “do not judge?” Are Christians forbidden from ever judging others?
2. What does it mean to judge others? If we are not supposed to judge others, then do we just ignore their sin?
3. So what kind of attitude should we have about judging?
4. How do we balance confronting people with their sin and the fact that God is THE judge?
5. What is the meaning of 7:6 and how is it related to the rest of the passage?
6. What is the practical way we can apply what we learn in vs 7:1-12?
7. Why would someone who says, “Lord, Lord” not enter the kingdom of heaven?
8. Does 7:21 teach a works-based salvation? Why or why not?
9. How does 7:22 show us that works cannot save us?
10. What is the will of the Father? How can we “do” it?

*02-08-23 Matthew 13:24-43*

1. Who is the man who sowed good seed in this parable? Who is the enemy? Who or what do the weeds represent?
  2. Why is the destruction of the weeds delayed?
  3. What are your observations from the explanation of this parable starting in vs. 36?
  4. What does this teach us about God? People? Satan?
  5. Is there a warning here for us? If so, what?
  6. Is it our job to judge/predict who we think is the weed?
  7. What is the difference between the real seed and the weed?
  8. What was the enemy trying to accomplish by sowing bad seed in with the good?
  9. Why does this parable so puzzle the disciples? Why is patience and tolerance toward unbelievers difficult for them (and for us)?
  10. What does it mean to you that you will “shine like the sun” in the kingdom of God?
- Jesus

*02-15-23 Matthew 16:24-17:8*

1. Who could be Jesus’ disciple? Had the disciples done this?
  2. List out all the qualifications or signs of being a disciple listed in the gospels you can think of.
  3. How might we try to “save our life?” What things might we do if we lose our life for His sake?
  4. What will you give in exchange for your soul? Are you for sale? Is there anything which you are not willing to let go of for the sake of following Christ?
  5. What does “transfigured” mean to you?
  6. How do you think the disciples learned who Moses and Elijah were?
  7. Do you think people would have believed the disciples if they had told the vision?
  8. How might the story of Jesus’ transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-8 clarify part of what Jesus meant in Mat 16:16:28?
- Consider 2 Peter 1:16-18
9. Read Exodus 24:12-18. What parallels do you see with Matthew 17:1-8?
  10. What testimony did the Jesus’

*02-22-23 Matthew 18:15-35 transfiguration serve?*

*02-22-23 Matthew 18:15-35 transfiguration serve?*

1. Would a Jew at the time of Peter thought 7 times was a lot or not many times to forgive someone?
2. Does Jesus’ answer mean you should count seventy sevens (or 490) times? What does His answer mean?
3. In this parable, who is the king? The servants?
4. How much is ten thousand talents? What does this debt represent? Could this debt be paid? So what was to happen to the servant?
5. What character does the king shows when he forgives the debt? What character does the servant shows when he doesn’t forgive?
6. Does the final result of this parable indicate that a person can lose his salvation? Why or why not?
7. What conclusion can we make from this parable’s ending?
8. How important is forgiveness?
9. How might a lack of forgiveness manifest itself in our lives? How might we act toward someone if we do not forgive them?
10. Does forgiving mean forgetting? Does forgiving mean you will not bring it up again? Does forgiving mean the wound is completely healed?



## **Mentor Questions**

### **February 2023**

1. How would you define prayer?
  2. Do you pray regularly? Why or why not? Is it difficult for you to pray? Why or why not?
  3. Do you feel like you know how to pray when you pray?
  4. Do you find yourself praying the same thing repeatedly and you didn't really mean or know what you were saying?
  5. When you pray for God's will to be done in the world and in your life do you really mean it? What does it look like for God's will to be done in your life?
  6. Do you believe there is a right way or a wrong way to pray? Are there things you should not do when you pray? Explain.
  7. God knows what we need before we even ask (v.8). If this is true, why should we pray?
  8. Talk about how you pray. Are you alone? With family? Do you have lists of requests? Praises? Do you use Scripture?
  9. How often do you estimate that you think of God? What keeps you from thinking about Him?
  10. Do you believe God never stops thinking about you?
  11. Do you feel closer to God when you pray? Why do you think that is true or not true?
  12. How do you typically address God as you begin your prayer? Do you say "Our Father"?
  13. What is your earliest memory of the Lord's Prayer? Did you grow up saying it as part of a service?
  14. When you pray, what type of relationship do you believe you have with God?
  15. Consider the phrase "Our Father." What does this phrase communicate to you? How does it make you feel? In what ways is God like a father?
  16. The opening tells us that God is "in heaven." How does that make you feel?
  17. In what way is the Lord's Prayer a model for living?
  18. How does the Lord's Prayer tell us how to exist with God?
  19. What part of the Lord's Prayer speaks most powerfully to you? Why?
  20. What part does the Lord's Prayer play in your life today?
- 

# Let's Pray!

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen





## Birthdays

February 2	Del Kangas
5	Owen Wells
8	Kathleen Nelson
14	Kerri Gordon
	Devin Samarzia
	Drake Samarzia
15	Debra Gilbertson
16	Mari Perrault
17	James Splinter
22	Kimberly Blume
23	Russ Hendrickson
25	Zachary Magdzas
26	Archer Thompson

## Mission & Outreach

February Donations:

Salvation Army

Food Shelf



There continues to be such need in our community.

February 5th - Canned fruit, Juice mixes

February 12th - Canned Meats (tuna, chicken)

February 19th - Dried food mixes (biscuits, pancakes, breads)

February 26th - Cooking oils, Peanut Butter, Jelly

Thank you for your continued dedication to our community through your donations.

## Threads of Hope Clothes Closet

The Threads of Hope Clothes Closet continues to serve a need in our community. Mission & Outreach is thankful for the support our congregation and the community have given through their donations of new and gently used clothing and footwear.



# Education Corner

## Confirmation:

Our confirmation students are invited to participate in a synod wide gathering of middle student students. The “Middle School Gathering” will be held 02/11/23 from 8 a.m.—5:00 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake, Minnesota. Next year we will again have a confirmation retreat here at the church. Forward from there, it will alternate locations.

## Sunday School:

Sunday School is back in the swing of things. We have had some low attendance with these cold days but the children have fun. The topics for February are “The House on the Rock,” “The Prodigal Son”, “The Sower” “and “The Transfiguration.”



Singing with Megan



Made bird feeders for Do Not Worry lesson

## Bible Studies:

Bible Studies continue at 10: 15 a.m. Wednesdays. They will be discussing “the Golden Rule’, ‘The Parables of the Kingdom”, ”The Transfiguration” and “Forgiveness”.

There will be a class on the 22nd which is Ash Wednesday. The topic will be Who Is The Greatest”.

Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for how to join us. Any one is welcome to join any week.



**We hope to see you soon!**



## Scrip Cards

The use of Scrip cards this past year made over \$3150.00 to go toward paying down the mortgage. This was with only a small number of people participating. Increasing the number of people using the cards is an easy way to make more money for the church

You can buy cards for local places you already go to such as Kwik Trip, Holiday Gas, BP, Menards, Ace Hardware, CVS, Walgreens, Walmart , Superior Meats, Applebees, Papa Murphy's,, Hardees, Burger King, Subway, Dairy Queen, and Dunkin Donuts. A list of participating stores along with how much they contribute back to the church is in the narthex. Through February 25th Kwik Trip is having a special. For use of the grocery card, they are increasing the rebate to 15% and for the gas card to 9%,

The Kwik card orders go in the third Sunday of the month so get your order in by February 19th.



Those serving in the military, those returning home with mental and physical scars, and for all military veterans. For the health of all unborn children and grandchildren, all those recovering or in nursing home care and for those struggling with addiction.

**Congregation Members:** Jim and Marcy Rigstad, Pat and Amanda Shaw, Meri Will, Roger Prescott, Mike Dahl, Joyce Bowser, Ralph Rolson, Doris Rober

**Family Member:** Mike Klawitter, Nellie, Jeanne David, Joel Dykema, Casey, Bill Mullens, Tim Volpe, Beth, Chuck Korn

**Friend/neighbor:** Annabel Hanson, Dwaine, Benita Sutherland, Lydia Miller, baby Curt, Pastor Bob Stoskopf, Bruce Carignan

***The Families of:***

**Call the church office (715-394-3472) to add (or remove) individuals to the prayer list.**



## Officers and Board Members 2023-2024

The following members were approved at the annual meeting on 01/29/2023 and were installed by the congregation on 02/05/2023.

### **Executive Board** (1 year term 2023-2024)

President: Rick Gilbertson

Vice President: Len Wicklund

Secretary: Brooke Puchalla (Dec. to May and Kathy Nelson May to Nov.)

Co-Treasurers: Linda Gran and Bonne Wentzel

Financial Treasurers: Marcie and Jim Rigstad

### **Boards** (2 year terms ending in)

Board of Education:

1. Diane Erickson ( June 2023), Henry Schultz (June 2023 until 2024)
2. Stephanie Shaw (2024)
3. Linda Clark (2025)
4. Julianne Koski (2025)

Board of Trustees

1. Dustin Puchalla (2024)
2. Steve Skamser (2024), Megan Birk (remainder term)
3. Ed Aamodt (2025)
4. Jim Splinter (2025)

Board of Deacons

1. Bonnie Wentzel (2024)
2. Deb Gilbertson (2024)
3. Loren Erickson (until June 2023); Steve Shaw ( June 2023—2025)
4. Dave Kringle (2025)

## Board of Stewardship

1. Donna Liebaert (2024)
2. Sharrie Janovick (2024)
3. Jennifer Farrell (2025)
4. Myrna Raisanen (2025)

## Board of Mission and Outreach

1. Diane Tomczak (2024)
2. Dianne Garthwait (2024)
3. Barb Danielson (2025)
4. Carol Arthur (2025)

## Nominating Committee (1 year term)

1. Doris Maki
2. Sharon Kotter
3. Karen Cirilli
4. Meri Will

## Investment Committee (3 year term)

1. Del Kangas (2024)
2. Lynne Hoff (2025)
3. Jack Arthur (2026)



## Visitation Schedule 2023

Pastor Sean has resumed visitations. He hopes to visit every family again this year. The schedule for February follows:

01/29-02/04

Jodie Dahl, Dana Buckovich, Jim Erickson

02/05-02/11

Matt Rue, George Olson, Dustin Puchalla

02/12-02/18

Sabrina Maki, Amber Palmer, George Bennis

02/19-02/25

Jennifer Salo-Dahlberg, Rose Reijo, Jennifer Farrell

02/26-03/04

Sylvia Parker, Mark Vaughan, Brad Nelson



## Mardi Gras



Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday) is Tuesday February 21st. Bethel Lutheran Church is having a spaghetti dinner to celebrate. Dinner will be served from 4 –6 p.m.

## Ash Wednesday



OSLC will have an Ash Wednesday Service on 02/22/2-23 at 6;30 P.M. Children are welcome to attend and to come forward to receive ashes on their forehead.

The other Lutheran churches are having services as follows

Concordia	11:45 a.m. lunch followed by 12:15 p.m. service
Bethel	5: 00 p.m. soup supper followed by 5:30 p.m. service
Zion	5:45 p.m. dinner followed by 6:30 p.m. service
Pilgrim	6:30 p.m. service
Our Savior's	6:30 p.m. service

## Lent Wednesdays



The local Lutheran services will celebrate Lent on the following schedule:

Concordia	11:45 a.m. lunch followed by 12:15 service
Bethel	5:00 p.m. soup supper followed by 5:30 p.m. service
Zion	5:45 p.m. dinner followed by 6:30 p.m. service
Our Saviors	6:30 p.m. Service
Pilgrim	no service

# OSLC Cooks



Are you staying in to celebrate Valentine's Day this year? Whether you are cooking for or with your valentine, you can celebrate any time of the day. Here are some possibilities.

## Breakfast: French Toast Bake

1



### Ingredients::

2 cans (12.4 oz ) Pillsbury refrigerated cinnamon rolls with icing

1/4 cup melted butter

6 eggs

1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

2 tsp. ground cinnamon

2 tsp. vanilla

1 cup chopped pecans

1 cup maple syrup

### Steps:

1. Heat oven to 375\*. Pour melted butter in 13X9 glass baking dish. Separate both cans of dough into 16 rolls. Et icing aside. Cut each roll into 8 pieces. Place pieces over butter in dish.
2. In medium bowl, beat eggs. Beat in cream, cinnamon and vanilla until well blended.. Pour gently over roll pieces. Sprinkle with pecans and drizzle with maple syrup
3. Bake 20-28 minutes or until golden brown.. Cool 15 minutes. While cooling, remove covers from icings. Microwave at 50% for 10-15 seconds or until thin enough to drizzle
4. Drizzle icing over top. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

## Lunch: Lobster Mac and Cheese

### Ingredients:

4 tbsp. butter	2 tbsp. flour
2 1/2 cups water	4 cups milk
1 pound corkscrew pasta	3/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp garlic powder	1/4 tsp. onion powder
1/2 tsp. smoked paprika	1/4 tsp pepper
4 cups shredded cheddar cheese	1 cup mozzarella cheese
1 1/2 cups chopped cooked lobster meat	1/2 cup Panko bread crumbs
2 tbsp. Chives, thinly sliced	cooking spray

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350\*. Coat a 2-3 quart baking dish with cooking spray.. Melt 2 tbsp. butter in large pot over medium heat. Add the flour. Whisk until combined (about 30 seconds). Pour in water and whisk until smooth and just thickened. Add the milk and whisk until combined. Stir in the pasta, salt, garlic powder, smoked paprika and pepper. Bring to a simmer. Cook for 10-12 minutes, stirring occasionally until pasta is done. Turn the heat to low. Stir in the cheeses. Keep stirring until the sauce is smooth. Fold in the lobster meat. Transfer the pasta mixture into prepared baking dish. Melt the remaining 2 tbsp. butter. Stir into the panko breadcrumbs. Sprinkle the breadcrumbs over the top of the pasta. Bake 10-15 minutes or until topping is golden brown. Sprinkle with chives.

## Dinner: Ribeye steaks

### Ingredients:

Good quality steaks 1" thick or 1/2#	salt and pepper
1 tbsp. olive oil	1/4 cup butter
1 tsp. minced garlic.	

Take steaks out of refrigerator 20-30 minutes before starting to rest. At room

Brush oil over grill pan or cast iron skillet. Heat over medium heat for 3-4 minutes. Place steaks on the grill for 1 minute. Then rotate 90\* to create grill marks. Cook another minute. Melt butter and garlic. Baste steak repeatedly by pouring the mixture over the steaks with a spoon. Cook to desired level of doneness. Let rest 5 minutes before serving.

Serve with sides of your choice.

## **Dessert: Easy Cream Cheese Brownies**

### Ingredients:

1 (19.8 oz.) pkg. of brownie mix  
1 egg

1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese  
1/3 cup white sugar.

### Instructions:

Line 9X13 pan with foil. Preheat oven to temperature specified on brownie pkg. Prepare the brownie mix according to the pkg. directions. Set aside.

Combine cream cheese, egg and sugar. Beat on medium speed until mixture is smooth. Pour over brownie batter. Swirl with a toothpick or knife. Bake according to brownie directions. Let cool completely before slicing.

Serve with whipped cream or ice cream. You can go with classic vanilla or try something different like butter pecan. To make these brownies more sinful top with sweet and salty caramel or decadent chocolate syrup.



# Singing Valentines

*Have Returned!!*

*A Barbershop Quartet will show up at your Sweetheart's Home, Office, Class, Restaurant or anywhere else in the Twin Ports*

*On February 13 or 14, from 9am to 7pm, a Quartet will sing Love Songs and present a Rose and Card to your Special Sweetheart*

*To Arrange your Valentine Surprise - Call Don 715-919-1049 or 715-392-1357  
(Calls accepted until Monday, February 13 at 5pm)*

*This Romantic Gift is Only \$45*

**Presented by the Duluth-Superior Harbormasters Chorus**

**Member of the Land O Lakes District of the Barbershop Harmony Society**

*(note—Pastor Sean is a member of the Harbormasters Chorus)*

**Opening Greeting:** The meeting was called to order by President Kandee Rosburg at 5:15pm.

**Present:** Pastor Sean Koos, Kandee Rosburg, Diane Erickson, Jim Erickson, Kim Erickson, Rick Gilbertson, Dave Kringle, Donna Liebaert, Doris Maki, Stephanie Shaw, Steve Shaw, Bonnie Wentzel.

**Devotions/Prayer:** Pastor read from the Book of Genesis.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the December 20<sup>th</sup> council minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Income for December was \$35,309.58. Expenses were \$11,569.99. Income includes a \$10,000 donation from a member plus an \$8,000 donation from the Kronlund Fund. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the treasurer's report.

**Board Reports:**

Deacons: It was decided we would not have pre-service meals before the Lenten services.

Stewardship: Thank you notes were sent out for pledge cards for 2023. Family Sunday game days from 1:00 to 4:00 will be held February 12<sup>th</sup> through March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Scrip Cards are available to order.

Board of Education: Julianne Koski will replace Diane Erickson later this year on the Board.

Mission & Outreach: Did not meet.

Trustees: The Trustees have worked on the 2023 budget. Snow plowing always a concern in the winter. Please consider a donation for this, and volunteers are needed to help keep the sidewalks shoveled.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept all board reports.

**Pastor's Report:** Lenten services this year will begin at 6:30 with no pre-service meals. Pastor will be attending the Synod Winter Meeting in Chetek on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Confirmation winter retreat will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Two weddings are scheduled this summer at the Church. A special offering will be requested to fund the purchase of an additional camera for church services. The price would be around \$1,000.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** One more trustee is needed for this upcoming term. Bishop Laurie Snow-Anderson met with Superior pastors and church presidents at Concordia Lutheran Church to discuss the status of Superior's Lutheran Churches. She would like the churches to work together on missions/ministry. The next meeting is February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Vision Victories:** The 2022 year-end budget ended well. Superior Lutheran churches are meeting and opening discussions.

**Upcoming events:** January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 after 9:30 service – Annual Meeting; February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 5:15 pm church Board meetings; February 21, 2023 – 5:15 church Council meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn. Pastor gave a closing prayer followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kim Erickson, Secretary