



**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

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Pastor Sean Koos

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



# *Pastor's Message*

**September 2023**

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

Either summers are getting shorter, or time is messing with me because I can't believe we're heading into another program year this month! The weather is holding steady in the pleasant 70s with little to no rain. The world is in full bloom and the roads have finally been patched enough for decent driving. The household rhythms have stabilized with the kids out of school. All is right with the world, and you want to disrupt everything again, God?! Not fair! Alas, all good things must come to an end eventually and summer fun is no exception. The ministry of Superior looks different without Bethel and called ministers at Pilgrim and Concordia, not to mention Intern Sarah serving Zion as their called pastor. Our shared ministry here at Our Savior's continues to remain strong thanks to your faithful support. Our confirmation program is growing with 2 new students joining the 6 existing students. Our Bible study group has grown larger than the Christopher Room can accommodate. Hard to tell what the Sunday classes will look like, but we'll know soon enough with Rally Sunday happening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of this month. Megan has stepped up yet again to help fill the vacancy of teachers and she's bringing some fresh, new excitement to the program. Thank you for your faithful financial giving through the summer months and throughout the program year. I truly feel blessed to be serving this faith community for the last 4 years and look forward to what's in store in the year ahead. I think we're a beacon of light in the larger community.

We're going to keep using the readings of the Narrative Lectionary for another program year. Perhaps you've noticed the readings go from Sept.-May and take a break for sermon series through the summer months of June-Aug. We'll begin with readings from Genesis and Exodus this month. In our worship services, we'll be shifting the Children's Sermon time to just after the sharing of the peace so that we include them in communion during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the service. Otherwise, services will remain unchanged. I hope to see more of you around the church this fall. We've really built an exciting ministry together. God is most pleased with what we're doing here in Billings Park!

Autumn blessings,

Pastor Koos



## **Narrative Lectionary September 2023**

September 3rd Acts 2:1-18, Matthew 28:17-29

Creeds Part 3

September 10th Genesis 2:4b—25

Garden of Eden

September 17th Genesis 18:1—15; 21:1-7

Isaac Born to Sarah

September 24th Genesis 32:[9-13], 22-30

Jacob Wrestles With God



We will be having 3 guests lead our worship service this fall beginning this month.

09/17/2023 Sara Bishop “Synod Advocate for Right Relationships”

10/15/2023 Bishop Laurie

11/12/2023 Sam Champion “Director, Luther Point Bible Camp”





## All Church Picnic

The picnic was a great success. While a little on the cool side, it was a nice sunny day. "Breaking Chains" led us in a great service with wonderful music. 152 people attended onsite and another 225 joined online. Following the service, there was a picnic. Thanks to Rick Gilbertson for his grilling skills. \$947.00 was raised to help the refugee family.









## Help Needed

It has been noted that there have been some problems recently with the church getting opened in a timely manner, people knowing what was available at the church and where it was located, etc. This has happened for both weddings and funerals.. It was suggested that we develop a list of volunteers who would be willing to help provide this service. The list would be available to Doris and/or Pastor to be able to call on a rotating basis to find someone available for that date and time Obviously, weddings are predictable whereas funerals are not. There would always be the option for you to say no for that particular event. If you would be willing to help provide this service, watch for a sign up sheet or please call the office to put your name on the list.



## Offering



At their August meeting, the council voted to begin passing the plate again. You still have the option to place your gift in the plate at the back of the sanctuary or to use the online or mail in options.





## From Our Congregation President

We're heading into another program year with Rally Sunday on Sept 10 kicking off both the Sunday school and choir rehearsals. Our weekly Bible studies continue on Wednesdays as well as our quilting group on Mondays. It's a little early to commit to serving on boards and the council in 2024 but the nominating committee will be seeking nominees soon enough. Please prayerfully consider serving. Rick



## September 2023 Pastor Visitations

08/27—09/02      Dave Oviatt, Doug Magdzas,  
Gene Rosburg

09/03—09/09      Sharon Kotter, Lori Skugstad,  
Dennis Johnson

09/10—09/16      Doris Maki, Matt Gralewski,  
Sharon Shea

09/17—09/23      Roger Prescott, Dawn Heinen

09/24—09/30      Joe Pearson, Tami Susens,  
Bonnie Wentzel





Bible Studies September 2023

**Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30**

(Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6627675381> or call 1-312-626-6799, passcode: 046800)

*09-06-23 Genesis 2:4b-25*

1. What are the different (but complementary) messages that the 2 creation narratives communicate?
2. What is the full implication of God being given a name (Lord/Yahweh) in chapter 2? How does this differ from other religions and/or worldviews?
3. The creation of humankind in Genesis 2 is humbling and beautiful. What is the link between Adam and the dust from which he was created?
4. How does humankind differ from other parts of creation? What does it mean to be a living being?
5. If God breathing life into us means that we are able to relate and serve him, how can we do this?
6. How would you describe the garden to a friend?
7. Whilst we are given much freedom, it is clear that humankind is also accountable to God. Do you think Christians find it hard to submit to God's authority?
8. What is the expectation of man in the garden?
9. How do these verses remind us of the dignity of all work?
10. Why did God give humankind the gift of marriage?

*09-13-23 Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7*

1. Do you think the Lord appears to individuals these days as He did to Abram? If yes how? If not why not?
2. Have you ever wondered why the Bible says Abraham saw 3 men, yet when he addressed them he said "My Lord" and not "My Lords?" Why?
3. There is a saying that when you entertain strangers you entertain angels. How does this saying apply to this passage?
4. If you were Sarah, would you have laughed at what God said? If yes, why? If not, why not?
5. What is the difference between the responses to the question in Luke 1:34 and Luke 1:18?
6. What does Genesis chapter 17:16-17 and 18:12-13 have in common?
7. What details, if any, regarding this birth do you think are a foreshadowing of the birth of Jesus Christ?
8. Why was the birth of Isaac so significant? Why is he called the son of promise?
9. What are the three ways we can see in the first five verses that Isaac's birth is a result of divine intervention or the promise of God?
10. What are two ways we see Abraham obey God in the first five verses?



9-20-23 *Genesis 18:1—15; 21:1-7*

1. Why did Jacob wrestle with God? Why did God consent to wrestle with Jacob?
2. Why did Jacob's stubborn, manipulative character make a wrestling match necessary?
3. What changed in Jacob's life because of this wrestling match with God?
4. Why do you think God gave Jacob a limp?)
5. How did Jacob's wrestling with God prepare him for meeting with Esau?
6. Do you think Jacob was the stronger? Why or why not?
7. What is the spiritual significance for us in this wrestling scene? What does it teach us?
8. The text describes Jacob's encounter as wrestling or struggling "with God and with men." What do you suppose this means?
9. Jacob asks the man he has wrestled with for a blessing. What do you think is the relationship between struggle and blessing?
10. Jacob is changed by his struggle – his hip is injured, and his name is changed to Israel. What role do we think struggling with God/Christianity has in creating/changing who we are?

9-27-23 *Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15*

1. What is significant about the new king's lack of knowledge about Joseph? (read Gen 47:1-10 & Gen 50:1-11)
2. Explain the seemingly contradictory statements by the new Egyptian king, "They are too many and too mighty for us" and "Therefore they set taskmasters over them and afflict them with heavy burdens."
3. What did the king mean by his fear that "if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land?"
4. Things take a dark turn in Exodus 1:8-11 from a family that is fruitful and multiplying to a family in bondage and oppression as slaves. How does this echo the story of Genesis 1-3?
5. Despite Pharaoh's attempts to crush and oppress, Israel prospered and multiplied all the more (Ex 1:12). How does this echo Genesis 3:15? What does this teach us about God's promises, plans, and faithfulness, and what encouragement does this give you in the midst of dark times?
6. Why is it so crucial to remember and regularly rehearse God's past promises and faithfulness before and during dark times of affliction and suffering?
7. What does appearing as a Burning Bush reveal about the character of God? How does God explain who He is? What was Moses' immediate action?
8. In verses 7-9, what is the focus of God's concern and what is He doing about it? (v9) What was God's solution (v10)? What was Moses' response?
9. What was God's first answer to Moses? Why should that have been sufficient for all the rest of Moses' questions?
10. What is Moses asking for when he asks God for His Name? What is the significance of who God is? What does "I Am Who I Am" say about God?





## Education

### **Confirmation:**

The new year will start September 6th. If you know of any students who might want to be confirmed here, contact Pastor or the office. The 2023-2024 year will focus on the bible. There will be a mandatory orientation meeting on August 30th at 5:30 p.m. for all students and their parents, those continuing and those brand new.

We would like to start the mentor program again. If you would be willing to be a mentor, speak to Pastor, Megan or Linda Clark for more information.

Most of the students were unable to participate in a summer camp experience this past year. It was felt that they then needed to do a service project.. Together with Pastor, they painted a mural in the middle stairwell area to welcome children (and adults) to Sunday School. Take a look.

### **Sunday School:**

We will resume on Rally Day September 10th. It will begin at 9:30 a.m. In the fellowship hall with registration. We continue to try to find the best fit for Sunday School at OSLC . This year while some activities like music will be together, in order to make their time more fun and relevant for their particular age group students, the students will be split in two groups—age 3 through 3rd grade and the second 4th through 6th grade, for some activities. We do invite 6th graders to attend again. So if you have a sixth grader or know of one who would like to join us, please let Megan or the office know. Julianne Koski and Stephanie Shaw will teach the younger group and Megan Birk will lead the older group. We encourage all students to attend again as we plan some new and different fun activities that still promote learning.

### **Adult Education:**

Bible studies continue on Wednesdays at 10:30. a.m. See elsewhere in this newsletter for August study questions Anyone is welcome.



## **OSLC COOKS:**

***With school starting, here are some  
lunchbox cookie recipes—***



### **Oatmeal Raisin Cookies.**

#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups quick oatmeal
- 1 1/2 cups raisins
- 1/2 cup nuts



Cream together butter and sugars. Add remainder of ingredients. Drop onto cookie sheet. Flatten with bottom of glass dipped in sugar. Bake at 375\*

# Nestle Toll House Chocolate Chip Cookies

## Ingredients:

2 1/4 cup flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon salt (Kosher)

1 cup (2 sticks) butter

3/4 cup granulated sugar

3/4 cup packed brown sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 large eggs

2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

1 cup chopped nuts (if omitting, add 1-2 tablespoons flour)

Preheat oven to 375\*. In a small bowl combine flour, baking soda and salt.

In large bowl beat butter, sugars and vanilla extract until creamy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in flour mixture gradually. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts

Drop on ungreased baking sheets. Bake 9-11 minutes until a golden brown. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes, Then move to wire racks to cool completely.

How to make  
the original  
Nestlé Toll House  
chocolate chip  
cookies





09/01 Gretchen Lisdahl  
09/03 Dawn Wicklund  
09/06 Nelson Netland  
09/07 Ashlee Wicklund  
09/08 David Carlson  
Gene Rosburg  
Henry Schultz  
09/09 Helen Ardell  
09/11 Jan Hendrickson  
09/13 Cameran Carlson  
Patricia Johnson  
Megan Westlund  
09/14 Adam Young  
09/16 Megan Birk  
Joseph Bowser  
09/17 Karen Cirilli  
Jim Rigstad  
09/19 Vivian Willoughby  
09/23 Andrew Nelson  
Richard Taber  
09/25 Ed Willie  
09/26 Pamela Oviatt  
Joshua Tomczak  
Rachel Tomczak  
09/28 Christine Carlson  
Leonard Wicklund  
09/29 LuAnn Hoff





As fall kicks in, don't forget some of our other resources and activities.

The choir has started full time again. It meets Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 8:45a.m. Anyone is welcome. Contact Megan Birk.

Quilting continues on Mondays at 9 a.m. Anyone is welcome. No skill level needed. Contact Kandee Rosburg or Carol Arthur.

The book cart is still downstairs. Some new books have been added. There are also a couple of new jigsaw puzzles. Please feel free to take a book or puzzle and/or contribute one of your own that you have finished.





## Scrip Cards

Beginning September 15th, Cherie Splinter will be taking over the Script card reorders and orders for "new" cards! Please continue to drop off your checks either by utilizing the outside mailbox or place in the container on Sunday mornings. The box is locked and is checked each day. Payment is necessary at the time you order. If ordering "New" cards please place the order by the 20th<sup>h</sup> of the month. September orders must be in by 09/17/2023. The first 10 people who place an order for new cards will receive a free \$10.00 'IN SERVICE" CARD FOR Trends Salon for any salon services. OSLC has made \$1048.00 profit from Script Cards so far this year so it continues to be worthwhile. A list of participating businesses is in the narthex. Be sure to look periodically as some businesses provide specials for a short period of time. If you have questions, you can email Cheri at [c.splinter.2629@gmail.com](mailto:c.splinter.2629@gmail.com) or text her at 218-348-4813. You can also call the church office @715-394-3472. Thank you.





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.

**Remember in Your Prayers**

**Support Congregation Members:** Jim and Marcy Rigstad, Meri Will, Roger Prescott, Joyce Bowser, Lynne Hoff, Rusty Carlson, Stephanie Shaw, Steve Shaw, Pat Shaw, Ralph Rolson, Tom Donaldson, Carl Roberts, Russ Hendrickson , Judy Nelson

**Family Member:** Mike Klawitter, Jeanne David, Joel Dykema, Casey, Bill Mullens, Tim Volpe, Beth, Chuck Korn, Richard Gran, Jill Bruno, Bob Ericson, Kristy Mae and family, Kim and family

**Friend/neighbor:** Annabel Hanson, Dwaine, Lydia Miller, baby Curt, Bruce Carignan, Ron, Ben & family, Jenny







Mission & Outreach  
September Donations

**Salvation Army  
Thanksgiving  
Baskets**



September 3: Scalloped potato mix, canned sweet potatoes

September 10: Canned vegetables, French fried onions

September 17: Canned or mix turkey gravy

September 24: Muffin mix. cornbread mix,





Our Saviors Lutheran Church Council Meeting minutes

August 15, 2023, 5:15 pm

Present:

Pastor Sean Koos, President Rick Gilbertson, Kathy Nelson, Julianne Koski, Dave Kringle, Megan Birk, Dianne Tomczak, Jennifer Farell, Linda Clark, Stephanie Shaw and Steve Shaw

Opening and greeting by Pres. Rick G at 5:18

**Opening prayer and devotion** by Pastor Sean Koos Reading from Luke 1: verses 46 to 55.

The verses were about Mother Mary as she sang with delight at being the bearer of God. Knowing she will always be known as blessed Mary, the God Bearer.

**Secretary's report** Previous Council Minutes Discussion and minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurers Report** reviewed by Rick. At the Trustees meeting they were asked by Linda Gran to help find a discrepancy. Dustin P from Trustees board has taken the books home to investigate, the problem may be the Scripts cards and how it was entered. June and July Treasurers report were reviewed and motion to accept was approved and seconded.

Boards Reports/ minutes

**Deacons** ; Barbershop quartet on Father's Day was great and SS kick off Sept.10

**Trustees** ; spent time on the treasurer's report and wondering if a better process can be used for Scripts using an app.

**Board of Ed.;** Vacation bible school was wonderful. Confirmation robes need to be replaced and Linda C is researching this.

Discussion regarding dividing the SS into 2 age groups. 3 years to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Megan B wants to take the older kids.

The children returning to the service at the end of service for a children's sermon and allowing the age-appropriate kids to take communion. This keeps the kids knowing pastor and yet involved with communion. Restarting the mentor program for confirmation students.

**Mission and Outreach;** clothes closet busy this summer 272 items given to families. The winter clothes will exchanged in the closet at the end of summer. Schools have been notified of our clothes closet. National Night out was a success and everyone had fun. The board is short a member as Diane R moved away.

**Stewardship** unable to meet members were out of town.

Motion made and seconded to accept board reports.

**Pastor Sean Koos report** and discussion items

a. Fall guest Speakers on Sundays 9/17 director of right relationships on 10/15 Bishop Laurie and 11/12 the camp director

b. theological conference in Trego Sept. 24 to 26 all pastors required to attend.

c. Youth Gathering in New Orleans 2024. This happens every 3 years Pastor Sarah from Zion is leading this group. For kids 9 to 12 grade. Money makers will be needed.

Motion made and seconded to accept Pastors report.



## 6 Old Business

None

## 7. New Business

a. There is a need to establish a list of members 5 or 6 willing to open the church one hour before funerals and weddings. Be helpful to the family, answer questions and help them get what they may need. Flowers may need to be dropped off early. Doris has been doing this, but it is not her job. A deacon could be called also but they are not always available. Doris would need to call a person off the list to find a person to do this.

b. An additional camera is needed to get a full view of sanctuary. A donor has volunteered to pay for this. Pastor will again try to contact the company.

c. Picture company was contacted regarding our church directory and the process is in place. More church information is needed to complete the book. Board of Stewardship will take on this project and coordinate with Doris.

d. The back entrance steps are crumbling. They need fixing. Trustee Board was asked to check with Jack Arthur as this was gotten a bid before.

11. **Vision Victories:** All church Sunday went well. 152 on site and 225 online. Cash donation to Afghan refuge family was \$947.

Trim around window replaced by Andy Nelson.

**Upcoming events:** Rally Sunday Sept. 10

Sep. 12 all Boards meet.

Sept. 19 Council meeting 5:15

Motion made to adjourn.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 6:21

Respectfully submitted by


Kathy Nelson council Secretary



# September



# 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 a.m. Service (in house and online)	4  Office closed	5 11:00 a.m. Text study	6 9:00 a.m. NP 10:30 a.m. Bible study 1:30 p.m. HH 3:30 p.m. Confirmation	7	8	9
10 National Grandparents Day 8:45 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Service (in house and online) 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	11 9:00 a.m. quilting	12 11:00 a.m. Text study  5:15 p.m. Boards	13 9:00 a.m. New Perspective 10:30 a.m. Bible study 3:30 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Choir	14	15	16
17 8:45 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Service (in house and online) 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Guest Pastor Sara Bishop	18 9:00 a.m. quilting	19 11:00 a.m. Text study  5:15 p.m. Council	20 9:00 a.m. New Perspective 10:30 a.m. Bible study 3:30 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Choir	21	22	23
24 8:45 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Service (in house and online) 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	25 9:00 a.m. quilting	26 11:00 a.m. Text study	27 9:00 a.m. New Perspective 10:30 a.m. Bible study 1:30 p.m. Harmony House 3:30 p.m. Confirmation 4:00 p.m. Choir	28 National Good Neighbor	29	30