



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

Pastor Sean Koos

pastorkoos@gmail.com



December 2023

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

As we head into another Advent season, we are reminded of the newness of life's opportunities. Christ will be born anew in the hearts of many people this season. People longing for comfort and relief, guidance and companionship, or protection and salvation. No matter what we long for going into the season, Jesus promises to provide for such longing by the end of the season. It is a time of new beginnings as we lay the year's joys and worries to rest and start afresh. It is no wonder that we celebrate the birth of Christ at both the end of the year and the beginning of a new year. He was with us throughout the year and will lead us into the new year.

Christ was certainly with the churches here in Superior this year creating all sorts of new opportunities. Intern Sarah received the call to serve as pastor at Zion Lutheran. Pastor Tanner received the call to serve as pastor at Pilgrim Lutheran. Pastor Michelle resigned her call at Concordia Lutheran to serve in MN and I agreed to help serve Concordia as they transition into a call process. Sadly, our friends at Bethel Lutheran decided to leave the ELCA and affiliate with a different church body. All in all, it was a rich year of new opportunities for the churches of Superior and it couldn't have happened without the faithfulness of all the church leaders and members. The body of Christ is always changing and growing, and this was no more evident than in the churches of Superior this year. God is indeed good!

Looking at the calendar for the month, take note of all the holiday celebrations. Our kids will be performing in the pageant during service on the 17th and the Superior Singers will also perform later that afternoon. There won't be a morning service on the 24th and we'll focus instead on the 4:30 and 10:00 services later that day. I pray you'll join us for any of the celebrations. Christ is born anew in our world and our congregation, and we ought to give thanks for it!

Advent/Christmas blessings,

Pastor Koos



Narrative Lectionary December 2023

December 3rd Jeremiah 33:14-18
 Promise of the Messiah

December 10th Isaiah 40:1-11
 Isaiah of the Exile

December 17th Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13
 Rebuilding the Temple

December 24th Luke 1:5-13 [14-25], 57-80
 Zechariah's Song

December 24th Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
 Birth of Jesus

December 25th Luke 2:8-20
 Shepherd's Visit

December 31st Mark : 1-20
 Beginning of Good News





From Our Congregation President

The year is winding down which means we need to consider serving on boards in the year ahead. Please answer the call if asked. Thank you to the city for approving a grant to finish our boiler project. Be sure to celebrate Jesus' birth in this busy season



2023 Pastor Visitations

The scheduled visits are over for the year. However, if you were missed or would like to spend more time with Pastor, contact him or let the office know.



Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. There will be a service at 4:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Because of these later services, we will not have a morning service that day,

Blue Service.

There will be a Blue Christmas Service again this year. While open to members of all churches, it will be held here at OSLC on Thursday December 21st at 6:30 p.m. This service is held on the Winter Solstice, which is the longest day of the year. It is a quiet service designed for people who have lost a loved one or who are experiencing grief or feeling blue for whatever reason.



Board of Mission and Outreach will be having a Hat and Mitten Drive. The tree will go up in the St. Paul's Room after the vendor fair.

Offering

We are again passing the plate for the offering. 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.



Sharing the Peace

With the increase again in CoVid, sharing the peace is at the choice of the congregant. It was elected to have the congregants do as they feel comfortable. You may hug, shake hands, touching elbows, waving or simply smile and say the words. Be aware of the other person's preferences.



Bible Studies December 2023

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30

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

12-06-23 Isaiah 40:1-11

1. How would you describe God's character from this passage?
2. Why do you think Isaiah emphasizes the power of God in verses 1-5?
3. How would you rephrase verses 6-8 in your own words? Is this comforting?
4. Read Mark 1:1-11. Where do you see Isaiah 40:1-11 being fulfilled?
5. Where do we often look for peace and security when we feel fearful or anxious?
6. What happens when we treat temporary glory as though it is permanent?
7. Why do you think we are being so deeply affected by our trials?
8. How can we comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received from God?
9. Looking at Isaiah 40:6-8, how confident should we be that if we trust in the gospel we will never be lost?
10. Putting Isaiah 40:1-11 together, what four things does the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ tell us that ought to fill us with comfort straight from God?

12-13-23 Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13

1. What do we learn about Cyrus and his character from these verses? Why would Cyrus even know about YHWH, much credit his kingdom to YHWH?
2. What can we learn about God's character from these verses?
3. Can you notice any similarities between this passage and the Exodus?
4. What can we learn from verse 1 about the spirit of the people?
5. Why was it important for them to be unified in the work (gathered together as one man)?
6. What are some of the most common causes for disunity then and now?
7. Why do you think they set up the altar so soon after returning?
8. What do all the people's actions show about the people's heart and relationship to God?
9. What can we learn about our attitude toward God? Who got the credit for their successes and accomplishments?
10. Is there any lesson we can learn from the fact that the second temple was not nearly as beautiful/awesome as the first one?

12-20-23 Luke 1:5-13, 57-80

1. If Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous, why didn't God reward them with children?
2. How does this passage help us to see that God and his purposes are good?
3. Zechariah was punished for not believing the Lord. Why is unbelief so offensive to God?
4. As the priest of Israel, Zacharias was supposed to be praying for the nation of Israel. Why wasn't he? Or was he? Could this answer to Zechariah and Elizabeth's need also be an answer to Israel's need?
5. Why does God allow suffering or need?
6. Define the word mercy and list the ways that the birth of John the Baptist was a great mercy from the Lord to Elizabeth.
7. How did God ignite attention and curiosity amongst the people through the birth of John?
8. Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17 and Jeremiah 23:5-6, in addition to Zechariah's prophecy, what house was the redeemer to come from and how does this show that God is omniscient, faithful and trustworthy?
9. According to the second half of vs. 74-75, what does salvation enable us to do?
10. What do God's tender mercies bring to the lives of those He saves?

12-27-23 Mark 1:1-20

NO BIBLE STUDY—CHRISTMAS BREAK

Bible Mentor 3 Questions

1. Do you think the Israelites needed the judges? Why or why not?
2. What do you think about the type of people chosen as judges?
3. The judges were kind of like superheroes. Do you think our society would be better ruled by superheroes than presidents or emperors or kings and queens? Why or why not?
4. The Israelites eventually found the judges limited in their ruling capabilities, so they appointed a priest, Samuel, to rule them. Do you think priests are the best type of rulers? Why or why not?
5. Do you think Saul was a good choice for the first king of Israel? Why or why not?
6. What do you think of the feud between Saul and David? Do you think it was justified or childish?
7. Do you think David was a good choice for the second king of Israel? Why or why not?
8. Do you think David was right in how he handled Bathsheba's husband?
9. Do you think it's right to try and cover up mistakes rather than confess them and ask for forgiveness?
10. Have you ever been asked to defeat a "giant" in your life? Was it easy or hard?
11. What do you think about God making a covenant with David that he will have an everlasting kingdom?
12. What do you think about Solomon's desire for wisdom above all else?
13. If God came to you and offered to give you anything, what would you choose?
14. Do you think it was right for Solomon to dedicate so much time and resources to building a temple?
15. Do you think it's fair/right that children often are given advantages or positions of leadership within companies or organizations simply because of who they are? (nepotism)
16. Do you think having wisdom is a good thing or a bad thing?
17. What is your favorite Christmas song?
18. What is your favorite part of the Christmas narrative?
19. Who is your favorite Christmas character outside of the Bible?
20. What is your favorite Christmas tradition?



Education

Confirmation:

This year's confirmation program is in full swing. They meet at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. They continue to acolyte and now will be reading the scripture lesson once a month as well. The students are going to have a Christmas party on December 20th at their usual time. They will then be on a holiday break until January 3rd..



Sunday School:

Things seem to be going better with the switch in time. The children start out in the sanctuary with their parents. After the announcements, Pastor Koos will do the children's sermon. The children will then go downstairs for their Sunday School. The parents will then pick them up downstairs after church ends. The older children's schedule will stay the same as they have been.

This year's Christmas Program will be December 17th during the service. They will be doing a Christmas poem and music.. Upon completion of the program, the students will go downstairs for a birthday party for Jesus. The church service will then continue and there will be communion.

Adult Education:

Bible studies continue on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. See elsewhere in this newsletter for this month's study questions. Anyone is welcome. We are now planning some joint bible studies with Concordia. The first one will be on December 14th. After that, there will be bible study at Concordia on **the first Thursday of the month. There will not be bible study at OSLC that week.**

12/03 Heidi Hoff
12/04 Matthew Gralewski
Jennifer Johnstad
12/05 Jonathan Rhodes
12/07 Rick Gilbertson
12/09 Benny Carlson
12/13 Jean Larkee
Pat Thompson
12/15 Kelsey Krob
Cassie Stank
Jack Stank
12/21 Scott Emberson
12/22 Richard Gran
12/24 Ryan Nelson
12/28 Daniel Shea
12/29 Tom Simon
Karina Skudstad
Joni Westlund
12/30 John Hendricks
Tina Thompson
12/31 Myrna Raisanen



Birthdays



2023 Vendor Fair

This year's vendor fair will be December 2nd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

More than 30 vendors have purchased a table with products, ranging from jewelry, jams, one of a kind crafts, blankets and lots more.

Some of our church members have also been busy crafting and will have a table to raise money for the church. If you are a quilter, knitter, crochet or do other crafts and you would be willing to contribute, please contact, Linda Clark. There will also be a bake sale and pasties for sale.






Gifts of Grace

This year's annual stewardship campaign is called "Gifts of Grace". Due to the high cost of postage, annual giving cards were not sent to everyone by regular mail. If you have do receive email or have not yet received your email notification, please contact the office. The requested return date was November 29 so if you haven't done so, please do it at your earliest convenience. This is important in determining next year's budget.

Scrip Cards

Script Cards NEXT NEW CARD ORDER WILL GO IN 12/10/2023 If you have questions call Cheri or the church office @715-394-3472. Thank you. The total profit for the year for OSLC is \$1703.78! this amount is from 10-15 customers purchasing everyday items from gas to groceries. Script cards make wonderful gift cards. Christmas is coming. Just imagine what could be raised for OSLC if additional members joined! Just by using a Script Card for your everyday needs.



Quilting

Quilting continues on Mondays at 9 a.m. Anyone is welcome. Contact Kandee Rosburg or Carol Arthur. 40 quilts were blessed on October 22nd with 20 going to CASDA and 20 to Harbor House.



There are now 29 toddler and 70 youth or adult blankets or throws in progress. If you are willing to help, you can attend on Monday mornings or take the supplies home. No skill level is required. Contact Kandee Rosburg or Carol Arthur.

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is starting the Reconciling in Christ process. We need volunteers for the team that will guide the synod through the process to publicly guide, practice, and teach particularly for LGBTQIA+, racial identity, and neurodiversity. If you think this is important enough to spend some time on Zoom each month, and maybe one in-person meeting or two, please send your expression of interest to synodadvocate@nswi.org. We only need eight more people, and if you represent one of these identified groups, we need you! Thank you!

Mission & Outreach

December Donations are again for donations to our clothes closet. See the list below. The list will be placed in the St. Paul's room again after the vendor sale.

The CLOTHES CLOSET needs YOU...

We accept all sizes 0 to Teen gently used or new
Mission & Outreach November Collection... of course need will continue
Below is our most needed items

Long Sleeve Shirts:		
Newborn Boys	5 Boys	
3 Month Boys	6 Boys	
6 month Boys	7 Boys + Girls	
24 month Boys	8 Boys + Girls	
2T Boys	12 Girls + Boys	
3T Boys	14 Boys	
Bottoms:		Mittens/Gloves for Outdoor Play: All Sizes
18 month Girls		
3T Girls		
6 Boys + Girls		Snow Boots: All Sizes
7 Boys + Girls		
8 Boys + Girls		
Pajamas/Sleepers:		Snow Pants: All Sizes
Newborn Boys		
6 month Boys + Girls		
9 month Boys + Girls		
12 month Boys + Girls		
24 month Boys + Girls		
2T Boys + Girls		
5 Boys + Girls		
6 Boys		
7 Boys + Girls		
Winter Jackets:		Snow Suits:
12 month Boys + Girls	5 Boys + Girls	0-3 (Newborn) Boys
18 month Boys + Girls	6 Boys	3 month Boys
2T Boys + Girls	8 Boys + Girls	6 month Boys
3T Boys + Girls	10 Boys	9 month Boys + Girls
4T Boys	12 Boys	
		14 Boys
		16 Boys + Girls

Concordia Church

Concordia Church has been without a pastor since August. The synod has been filling in as they could. They have now offered Pastor Koos a 1/4 time position until a new pastor can be found and he accepted. It has been approved by the councils of both churches. Pastor Koos' contract with us is 3/4 time. He will remain our primary pastor. The additional expenses will be paid by Concordia. He will provide a Sunday service for them. Their service time currently conflicts with ours but they are changing the time of their service to 8 a.m. Pastor will provide wedding and funeral services for them. Additional services may need to be worked out but it should not significantly affect the functions of our church. The will be reviewed every 3 months and can be renewed depending upon how the call process is proceeding.

Poinsettias

The church will again be selling Poinsettias for Christmas. Orders will be accepted starting December 1st. The price is \$16.00. There are order forms below newspaper. They will be in the St. Paul's Room after the Vendor sale.



Poinsettia Plants

In Memory or Honor

(Need to receive by Sunday December 17th)

Purchase poinsettia plant/s to help decorate the church during the Christmas season or make a donation towards church in memory or honor of a special person/s in your life. Forms may be turned into the office or placed in the offering plate.

Each poinsettia plant is \$16

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

from _____

Total poinsettia/s _____ x \$16 = \$_____ or Donation \$_____

Plants will be purchased locally, so the price is an estimate of what maybe charged. Any donations and extra money will be used by the church.

Poinsettia Plants

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Each poinsettia plant is \$16

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

from _____

Total poinsettia/s _____ x \$16 = \$_____ or Donation \$_____



Remember in Your Prayers

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.

Support Congregation Members: Jim and Marcy Rigstad, Meri Will, Roger Prescott, Lynne Hoff, Stephanie Shaw, Steve Shaw, Pat Shaw, Amanda Shaw, Ralph Rolson,, Russ Hendrickson, Tom Donaldson , Meri Will

Family Member: Mike Klawitter, Jeanne David, Joel Dykema, Casey, Bill Mullens, Beth, Chuck Korn, Jill Bruno, Bob Ericson, Dave Kangas, Lois Ullmann, Greg Austreng, Dorothy Huffman, Jerry Carlson

Friend/neighbor: Lydia Miller, Bruce Carignan, David Witney, Joe H., Vicki

The Family of: Don Olson, Judy Trisko Nelson
The funeral for Judy Trisko Nelson will be Dec. 9th with visitation @10:00, funeral @11:00 lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall

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



**OSLC Council Minutes
November 21, 2023**

Present: Pastor Sean, Rick Gilbertson, Len Wicklund, Diane Tomczak, Donna Liebaert, Stephanie Shaw, Brooke Puchalla, Steve Shaw, Bonnie Wentzel, David Kringle, Jennifer Farrell, Linda Clark

Devotions/Prayer: Pastor Sean lead with Isaiah Ch.2, verse 3

Secretary Report: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the October 2023 Council Minutes

Treasurers report: Income for October was \$10,749.58, Expenses \$11,769.30. Loss of \$1019.72. One more month of insurance payment needs to be made. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurers report

Board Reports:

- Deacons: Christmas tree will be put up on 12/9 at 2pm.
- Stewardship: Helping with Vendor Sale on 12/2 and organizing for Superior Singers on 12/17. Waiting for pledge cards to be returned. In years past it's been tough to get pledge cards returned, but it helps set the budget for next year.
- Board of Education: Sunday school is doing better with new schedule. Getting ready for Christmas program on 12/17. Confirmation students will be selling Kwik Trip Car Wash cards.
- Mission and Outreach: Quilters are working on creating quilts for kids this month. 144 items have been given out in the clothes closet.
- Trustees: Nothing new to report on.

Pastors Report:

Christmas service plans:

- Blue Christmas service 12/21 @ 6:30pm
- Christmas Eve service 12/24 @ 4:30pm and 10pm. **There will be no Sunday morning service this day since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday**

Mileage Reimbursement - Pastor hasn't been reporting his miles. Going forward he will report his miles monthly.

Pastor will hold office hours at Concordia on Thursday's. There has been some discussion on joining bible study and choir. Bible study will continue to meet on Wednesdays, but will move to Thursday the first week of the month and the 1st Thursday of the month it will be held at Concordia. Joining choir is a work in progress

Superior Singers - 12/17 @ 4pm. Potluck to follow



Pie Fundraiser - discussion about having a pie fundraiser. People would need to bake pies to be sold

New Business: Setting up Christmas tree on 12/9 at 2pm. Ornaments will go on at Sunday service the following day.

Vision Victories:

- Clothes closet
- Sunday school switch in schedule
- Concordia trying to join us for some activities
- Sam Campeau from Luther Point joining us as a guest speaker on 11/12.

Motion was made to adjourn

Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Brooke Puchalla, Secretary

December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1		2 Vendor Sale 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
3 8:45 choir 9:30 a.m. service (in house and online) 9:30 a.m. Sunday school	4 10:30 a.m. quilting	4 5:15 p.m. All boards meetings	6 9:00 a.m. <u>New Perspective</u> 10:30 a.m. <u>Bible study</u> 1:30 p.m. <u>Harmony House</u> 3:30 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u>	7 8 9:00 a.m. <u>New Perspective</u> 10:30 a.m. <u>Bible study</u> 1:30 p.m. <u>Harmony House</u> 3:30 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u>	8 9 Judy Nelson funeral 11:00 a.m.	
10 8:45 choir 9:30 a.m. Service (in house and online) 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Scrip order to go in	11 10:30 a.m. quilting	12 5:15 p.m. All boards meetings	13 9:00 a.m. <u>New Perspective</u> 3:30 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>choir</u>	14 10:30 a.m. Bible study with Concordia	15 16	
17 8:45 a.m. choir 9:30 a.m. Service: Kids Pageant (in house and online) 4:00 p.m. Superior Singers program, potluck following	18 10:30 a.m. quilting	19 5:15 p.m. Council meeting	20 9:00 a.m. <u>New Perspective</u> 10:30 a.m. <u>Bible study</u> 1:30 p.m. <u>Harmony House</u> 3:30 p.m. <u>Confirmation Party</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>choir</u>	21 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas service	22 23	
24 9:30 a.m. NO Service 9:30 a.m. NO Sunday School 3:30 p.m. choir 4:30 p.m. service 10:00 p.m. service	25 Christmas Day NO service	26 Pastor vacation	27 9:00 a.m. <u>NO New Perspective</u> 10:30 a.m. <u>NO Bible study</u> 1:30 p.m. <u>NO Harmony House</u> 3:30 p.m. <u>NO Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>NO choir</u>	28 Pastor vacation	29 30	
31 9:30 a.m. Service (in house and online) 9:30 a.m. NO Sunday school						