



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



Pastor's Report January 2024

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

Winter so far has been surprisingly mild with very little snow and mostly above-freezing temperatures. After a winter like last year with record snowfall and a good 6 months of mostly below-freezing temperatures, I think we've earned a mild winter here up north. I actually broke one of my shovels trying to get through the ice last year! I thought those things had a lifetime guarantee to them. I guess even they have a breaking point. God's been pretty kind to us. Let's just pray He continues his mercy.

In some ways, a harsh winter is a good way to start the new year off. It forces most of us (winter sports enthusiasts aside) to stay indoors, reflect on things, and nurture our relationships. Sort of like during those dark years of the pandemic when the rest of the world got a taste of an isolating northern winter. We northern folk are quite accustomed to sheltering from the elements for half the year and have perfected it. We know how to hunker in and wait out the long winter with ever-deepening thoughts and relationships. If you don't like pondering or developing relationships, northern Wisconsin isn't the place for you.

I've begun my winter ponderings by reflecting on our shared ministry. I'm excited to be a part of Concordia's community this winter. I'd really like to see some children's ministries get started in the year ahead but for now I'm content focusing on adult education and choir revitalization. If you're interested in helping revitalize Concordia's children's ministries, please reach out to me so we can begin brainstorming. Thank you to those at both Concordia and Our Savior's who have already collaborated in Bible studies and choir gatherings. It created a richer Christmas season. Choir rehearsals will continue meeting at Our Savior's on Wednesdays and Sundays but perhaps this will change. Our weekly Bible studies are meeting once a month (2nd Thursday) at Concordia. There's no reason why we couldn't rehearse our joint choir at Concordia once a month or more. Things to consider as we develop our shared ministry.

God has blessed both our congregations with mighty resources and It's exciting to collaborate. Let's use this quiet time of the year to fully develop our collaboration. Though it's been slow coming, I imagine we have some cold, snowy days ahead of us yet. Let's put it to our advantage!

Blessings,
Pastor Sean



Narrative Lectionary January 2024

January 7, 2024 Mark 1:21-45

Jesus' Ministry Begun

January 14, 2024 Mark 2:1-22

Jesus Heals and Teaches

January 21, 2024 Mark 4:1-34

Parables in Mark

January 28, 2024 Mark 5:1-20

Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac






From Our Congregation President

As we end 2023 let's be thankful for our friends and church family, and consider what you can contribute in time and talent to our community in 2024. Thanks for helping me lead our congregation as president this year. Let's have a great 2024!
Rick



2023 Pastor Visitations

The 2023 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. Watch for information about visits in 2024.





Superior Singers again performed a concert here on December 17th followed by a potluck supper.



Board of Mission and Outreach is having a Hat and Mitten Drive. Put your donations on or below the tree in the Narthex.

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 January 2024

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30

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

01-03-24 Mark 1:21-45

1. What insight does verse 21 give into what a synagogue meeting was like? What do we learn here about Jesus' ministry?
2. What difference was there between his teaching and that of the scribes? How might his authority make His actual teaching look different?
3. Why do you think this demon possessed man went to this service? What might Satan have been trying to accomplish?
4. What did this demon admit that most people in Israel denied? What does this tell us about what true belief is?
5. Why might Jesus have told this demon to "be quiet?"
6. What do you think they expected of Jesus when they told Jesus about her fever?
7. What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
8. Why do you think Jesus did not permit the demons to speak about his identity in verse 34?
9. How should Jesus' time of solitary prayer help us prioritize times of daily prayer in our busy and demanding schedules?
10. If Jesus is fully able to heal people from disease and deliver them from demonic oppression, why does he want to focus on preaching?

01-10-24 Mark 2:1-22

1. What do each of the events recorded in this chapter have in common? Can you think of a common thread that links them all together?
2. Why did they go to such great effort for Jesus to see this paralytic?
3. Why do you think Jesus only said to the one man that his sins were forgiven instead of to all five? What did he see in that situation that we cannot?
4. In this passage what is the relationship between their faith and their works?
5. Which do you think is easier to say (verse 9) and why?
6. What insights into Jesus' character do you have from this passage?
7. Why did he choose someone he knew would be looked down on by most Jews?
8. What did the Pharisees think of Jesus' habit of associating with these types of people?
9. What was Jesus' explanation for this? What does this mean?
10. What other complaint did they have about Jesus? What do you think was their motivation for voicing this?

01-17-24 Mark 4:1-34

1. Why is it a gift not only to hear but also to understand the Word of the Lord?
2. Why do you think Jesus used seeds in His parables?
3. What does Jesus want to teach us about God's Kingdom through these parables?
4. There are some surprising things about God's ways in this passage. Is there anything offensive to you in Jesus' parables or His explanation of them? If so, what? What does this reveal about our ways and God's ways?
5. Why do you think Jesus often taught by the sea?
6. Why did Jesus conclude his parable saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear?"
7. How might someone who is not spiritually sensitive respond to a parable they didn't understand?
8. Why was this group privileged to understand the mystery of the kingdom of God?
9. Why was it important to understand this parable as opposed to others?

6. Why did Jesus conclude his parable saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear?"
7. How might someone who is not spiritually sensitive respond to a parable they didn't understand?
8. Why was this group privileged to understand the mystery of the kingdom of God?
9. Why was it important to understand this parable as opposed to others?
10. How can we put our "lamp on the lampstand?" What is the opposite of doing this?

01-24-24 Mark 5:1-20

1. Who is treated in the way this anonymous man was treated today?
2. The man saw Jesus and begged to be left alone-why? Why would someone fear goodness?
3. How did the townspeople treat him, and do you think their treatment was appropriate?
4. What would happen to this man if he showed up in Superior?
5. Did the man himself, in spite of the demons, throw himself down in front of Jesus?
6. Why does the demon adjure Jesus "by God?" (Matt 8:29)
7. Why does Jesus engage the demon by asking his name?
8. Why did the demon fear being cast "out of the country?"
9. Why is this man told to "go and tell" rather than to remain silent?
10. Why does Jesus not allow this man to "be with him?"

01-31-24 Mark 5:21-43

1. What was Jairus' request? What did this show about him?
2. How must she have felt suffering through this illness for 12 years?
3. Should she have kept seeing the physicians? Did this demonstrate a lack of faith?
4. What kinds of doubts or feelings toward God may have arisen in those 12 years?
5. What might this woman have learned during these 12 years?
6. Why did Jesus asked who touched Him? Did He not know the answer?
7. How did Jesus respond to the lady? What can we learn about his character from this?
8. How might Jairus have felt while all of this was going on?
9. How might Jairus and the people around reacted to Jesus' statement in verse 36?
10. How did Jesus respond to their derision? How should we respond when people laugh at us?



Bible Mentor 4 Questions

1. Do you think Solomon was a good leader? Why or why not?
2. Do you think Rehoboam was a good leader? Why or why not?
3. Do you think Jeroboam was a good leader? Why or why not?
4. Do you think God was justified in dividing the kingdom of Israel?
5. Have you ever done something foolish or sinful to gain popularity? Witnessed others?
6. Do you think God's wrath or judgment can be too harsh at times? Not harsh enough?
7. If given the choice, would you have supported/lived in the northern or the southern kingdom?
8. Can you think of any modern-day prophets?
9. Do you think a prophet's job is easy or hard? Why?
10. Do you think the rewards of prophecy outweigh the punishments?
11. What do you think the primary goal of prophecy should be?
12. Are there any of the biblical prophets that stand out for you? Why?
13. If you were a king or queen, how much would you rely on prophets in your decision-making?
14. Do you think prophets are important? Why or why not?
15. Do you think the Judeans deserved to be sent into exile? Why or why not?
16. If forced to worship false gods, how would you react?
17. Do you think Daniel was brave or foolish? Why?
18. What do you think would be the most difficult part of living in exile in a foreign land?
19. Do you believe in the power of dreams to reveal important things about your life?
20. Have you ever defied someone powerful in your life?



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 and will resume classes on 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.

The annual Christmas pageant was held on December 17th during the worship service. See pictures on the following page.

The children are now on holiday break and will resume classes on Sunday January 7th.

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. On the second Thursday of the month, the bible study will be held at Concordia. There will not be a bible study at OSLC that week.



2023 SUNDAY
SCHOOL
PAGEANT



Narrator Zach



Star: Liam



Mary : Lila



Joseph: Lincoln



Angels: Ava , Kingsley and Ella



Shepards: Owen and Jameson



Kings: Evan, Cyler and Jace



Mission and Outreach

January 2024 Donations



- January 7th: Canned fruits and vegetables, canned and dried soups, breakfast cereals
- January 14th: Canned tuna and chicken, refried beans, black beans, kidney beans
- January 21st: Meal starters such as macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, Rice-a-Roni or boxed potatoes
- January 28th: Pasta products, rice, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, spaghetti sauce

Continued needs for the clothes closet

The CLOTHES CLOSET needs YOU...
 We accept all sizes C to Teen gently used or new.
 Mission + Outreach November Collection... of course need all continue
 (Details in our most needed items)

Long Sleeve Shirts	5 Boys
Adolesc. Boys	4 Boys
3 Youth Boys	7 Boys - Girls
6 Youth Boys	8 Boys - Girls
24 youth Boys	10 Youth - Boys
2T Boys	14 Boys
3T Boys	
Bottoms	10 Youth - Adolesc. for Outdoor Play
12 youth Girls	All Sizes
2T Girls	
4 Boys - Girls	Girls - Boys
7 Boys - Girls	All Sizes
8 Boys - Girls	
Pajamas / Sleepers	Girls - Boys
12 youth Boys	C - 7 (Adolesc.) Boys
6 youth Boys - Girls	2 youth Boys
4 youth Boys - Girls	6 youth Boys
12 youth Boys - Girls	4 youth Boys - Girls
2T Boys - Girls	
5 Boys - Girls	
6 Boys	
7 Boys - Girls	
Winter Jackets:	5 Boys - Girls
12 youth Boys - Girls	6 Boys
18 youth Boys - Girls	8 Boys - Girls
2T Boys - Girls	10 Boys
3T Boys - Girls	12 Boys
4T Boys	
5T Boys	

January 1

Dave Cody
Dea Gran
Judy Hack
Matt Little
Doris Roeber
John Roeber

January 3

Lauren Krob

January 4

Bev Prescott

January 5

David Kringle
Neil Thompson

January 6

Sondra Forrest
Liam Perrault

January 8

Dean Wilner

January 9

Nicole Gregory

January 10

Alexis Johnson
Douglas Magdzas

January 12

Richard Nystrom
Heather Thompson

January 14

Dawn Heinen

January 15

Craig Hanson
Maggie Mueller

January 17

Jacob Magdzas
Jordy Stank

January 18

Joanne Emberson

January 22

Isabella Lisdahl

January 23

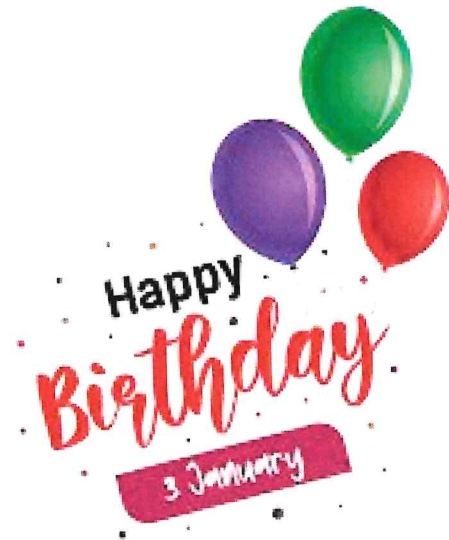
Matthew Netland

January 30

George Bennis
Owen Gran

January 31

Barbara Danielson



OSLC

Some different crockpot recipes—



Amazing Crockpot Chocolate Cake

Ingredients

- cooking spray
 - 2 cups white sugar
 - 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking soda
 - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1 cup milk
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable oil
 - 2 large eggs
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup boiling water

Directions:

Spray the crock of a large slow cooker with cooking spray.

Whisk sugar, flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, and salt together in a large bowl.

Whisk milk, oil, eggs, and vanilla together in a medium bowl until well combined. Slowly whisk in boiling water. Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix until well combined; pour batter into the prepared slow cooker.

Cover and cook on Low until cake has no wet spots on top and is pulling away from the sides of the crock, about 3 hours. Turn off slow cooker and let rest for 30 minutes before serving.

Pickle Roast Beef Sandwiches

Ingredients: 4 lbs. beef chuck roast
0.87 ounce packet brown gravy mix
1 ounce packet ranch dressing mix
24 ounce jar baby dill pickles -drain. Reserve 1/2 cup
pickle juice. Discard the remaining juice
6 whole garlic cloves - keep whole
1/2 teaspoon dried dill (or one tablespoon fresh)

Instructions:

Add the roast to the slow cooker. Sprinkle brown gravy mix and ranch dressing mix over the roast. Add the pickles, garlic cloves, dill and the pickle juice. Place the lid on the slow cooker. Cook on LOW for 9-10 hours or on HIGH for 5-6 hours. Shred the meat with 2 forks.



Christmas 2023 Poinsettia Plants & Donations

In loving memory of Virgil & Virginia Everson from the family

In Memory of Robert & Vivian Plunkett & In Honor of Robert A. Plunkett from Sharon Kotter

from Sharon Kotter & Family

In Memory of Al Will from Meri Will

In Memory of our Parents from Ed & Sheryl Aamodt

In memory of Alex Kotter from Sharon, Tim, Tami and family

In Memory of Parents, baby Kyle, Neil from Marian & Tom Simon

In Memory of Carl Roberts & Jonathan Roberts from Carol Roberts

In Memory of Judy from Steve Shaw

In Memory of Walt Brayer, Cal & Virginia Erickson from Jim & Kim Erickson

In Memory of Judy Trisko-Nelson from Dawn & Len Nelson

In Memory of Linda Donaldson & Tom Hill from Bev & Tom Donaldson

In Memory of Don & Pat Hansen from Dawn, John, Kacie & Kaitlin Heinen

In honor of Madison & Jayden Fenner from Grandpa Jim & Grandma Cheri Splinter

In Memory of Mae & Kenneth Jacobson, Helen & Walter Schulz from Dwane & Delores Schultz

In Memory of Paul & Erik Narveson, Harry & Mable Nummi from Diane & Loren Erickson

In Memory our Parents from Gene & Kandee Rosburg

In Memory of Darlene Kringle from Dave Kringle

In Honor of All Veterans from George & Letha Bennis

From Pastor Koos & family

In Memory of Family & Friends from Doris Maki





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. If you haven't done so, please do it at your earliest convenience. This is important in determining next year's budget and reports are due in 01/10/2024.

Scrip Cards

What's going on with Scrips?

Thank you to all those who placed orders for Scrip cards and reload during the past four months that I have taken over for Carol Skamser. Thank you to Carol as well for leaving me with such good detailed instructions.

New lists of participating business are in the filing bin on the table in the narthex. Help yourself to one.

There are some new businesses and some of the old ones have dropped off.

I'm looking forward to the new year and I hope we can raise even more money to go toward the building fund. We raised \$1779.97 for 2023 and may get a few more reload orders.

It's so simple. Buy cards from local businesses and use them for everyday expenses. (Kwik Trip, Holiday Gas, Walmart/Sam'sClub, Cub, Target, Fleet Farm)

Thank you all again. I look forward to lots of orders! The orders for January will go in on January 21st.

Cheri






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.

More blankets and throws are in progress. If you are willing to help, you can attend on Monday mornings or take the supplies home. No skill level is required. If you have questions, 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!



Christmas Eve Service



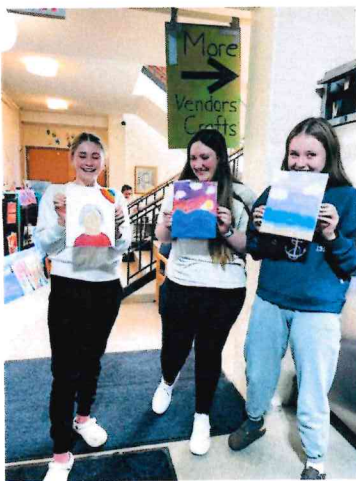
VENDOR FAIR

The second annual vendor fair was held on December 2nd. It was well attended by both vendors and the public and raised \$4020.00.

A gift card was found at the church. If anyone lost one, contact Linda Clark with what it is and for how much. Otherwise it will be donated.



Gift Basket



Paint With Wes



Kissing Ball



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 & Jan 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, Joe H., Vicki, Jenn Salo

The Family of: Dick Berg

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



**OSLC Council Minutes
December 19th, 2023**

Present: Pastor Sean, Rick Gilbertson, Donna Liebaert, Stephanie Shaw, Brooke Puchalla, Steve Shaw, Bonnie Wentzel, David Kringle, Carol Arthur

Devotions/Prayer: Pastor Sean lead a reading from the book of Ezra

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

Treasurers report: Income for November was \$9,988.48. Expenses were \$18,666.48. Loss of -\$8,677.99. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurers report

Board Reports:

- Deacons: Christmas tree will be taken down 1/7 after Church service. Looking for readers for January.
- Stewardship: Not getting very many pledge cards coming in. Saved \$80 by sending pledge cards online.
- Board of Education: Sunday School program went well!
- Mission and Outreach: Thrivent cards used to buy clothes for the clothes closet and to help with the food and utensils for the Superior Singers pot luck. Donations for January will go to Faith United Food Shelf
- Trustees: All boards need to get their budgets to the Trustees ASAP. Grant from City of Superior will be used to remove the small boiler and connection to new boiler

Pastors Report:

Joint Bible Study with Concordia went very well! About 20 people in attendance. Blue Christmas service will be Thursday 12/21 at 6:30pm

Vision Victories:

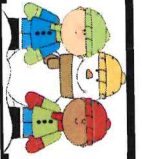
- Vendor Sale raised \$4,020
- Awarded a grant from City of Superior for boiler work - \$15,732
- Sunday School Program had 77 onsite and 85 online
- Superior Singers had 115 onsite and 186 online

Motion was made to adjourn

Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Brooke Puchalla, Secretary





January 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1
New Year's Day
Office closed



2

3
9:00 a.m. New
Perspective
1:30 p.m. Harmony
House
10:30 a.m. Bible study
3:30 p.m. Confirmation
4:30 p.m. Choir

4

5

6

8

9:00 a.m. quilting

9

5:15 p.m. all boards
meetings (annual reports
due)

10

9:00 a.m. New
Perspective
3:30 p.m. Confirmation
4:30 p.m. Choir

11

10:30 a.m. Bible study
(Concordia)

12

13

7
8:45 a.m. Choir
9:30 a.m. Service (in
house and online)
9:30 a.m. Sunday
School

14

8:45 a.m. Choir
9:30 a.m. Service (in
house and online)
9:30 a.m. Sunday
School

15

9:00 a.m. quilting

16

5:15 p.m. council meeting

17

9:00 a.m. New
Perspective
10:30 a.m. Bible study
3:30 p.m. Confirmation
4:30 p.m. Choir

18

19

20

21

8:45 a.m. Choir
9:30 a.m. Service (in
house and online)
9:30 a.m. Sunday
School

22

9:00 a.m. quilting

23

9:00 a.m. New
Perspective
10:30 a.m. Bible study
3:30 p.m. Confirmation
4:30 p.m. Choir

25

26

27

28

8:45 a.m. Choir
9:30 a.m. Service (in
house and online)
9:30 a.m. Sunday
School
**10:30 a.m. annual
meeting**

29

9:00 a.m. quilting
Pastor gone-winter
theological conference

30

31

9:00 a.m. New
Perspective
10:30 a.m. Bible study
1:30 p.m. Harmony
House
3:30 p.m. Confirmation
4:30 p.m. Choir