



January 2025

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

**Sharing
the
Joy**

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 2025

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

It's always exciting to start a new year. So many unrealized opportunities waiting for us in the year ahead. So many exciting ways to be the body of Christ in this time and this place. There is no doubt that we've been growing in our faith and trust in God. We've explored some new ministries, expanded our learning, dreamed new futures, and imagined new identities. Let year was a big year for both Our Savior's and Concordia. Both congregations stabilized themselves by recognizing new financial resources and establishing new visions, not to mention optimizing current ministries. What a blessing to witness such growth in two congregations! But the work isn't done. We still need to keep visioning together and discerning how to best serve each neighborhood. Concordia has a good head start on visioning its ministry and I pray the two congregations will become more and more collaborative throughout the year ahead. God has blessed both congregations with great resources and I am confident both congregations have bright futures. Just stay faithful to God and each other. Perhaps more importantly, stay warm in the bitter cold out there this month!

Blessings,
Pastor Sean



Narrative Lectionaries January 2025

January 5th Luke 2:41-52
Boy in the Temple

January 12th Luke 3:1-22
Jesus' Baptism

January 19th Luke 4: 14-30
Sermon at Nazareth

January 26th Luke 5:1-11
Fish For People



From Our Congregation President:

We still need some board members for the 2025 year. In particular, trustee, secretary and VP. Don't be afraid to accept the call, everyone helps everyone. Merry Christmas and Happy 2025.

Len





Bible Studies January 2025

Wednesdays (Our Savior's)/2nd Thursday (Concordia), 10:30-11:30

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

01-01-25 NO BIBLE STUDY

01-08-25 Luke 3:1-22

1. How does the passage help us be ready for Jesus' return? Why is this an urgent matter?
2. What do the first 2 verses contribute to the passage? Why do you think Luke includes this kind of information?
3. What actions did John identify as fruits of repentance? How do these actions evidence a repentant heart?
4. If you had been in the crowd that day, what might your reaction be to verses 7-9? What does John say to those who don't bear fruits of repentance?
5. What do we find out about the people in vv. 10-14? What are they like in everyday life?
6. What is John emphasizing about genuine repentance? What would practical repentance look like for us today?
7. According to verse 15, what is the atmosphere of the crowd and the situation?
8. From verses 15-17, what do we learn about John?
9. What does John make clear about Christ in verses 15-17? What is surprising about this picture of the Messiah?
10. What might be some "crooked" or "rough" places in our lives?

01-15-25 Luke 4:14-30

1. Where did Jesus go and what did he do after defeating the devil (verses 14-15)? How did the people respond?
2. How did the Holy Spirit work in and with Jesus? (3:22; 4:1)
3. What did Jesus do in Nazareth, where he had been brought up? What does this show us about his childhood?
4. Why do we think he began his ministry in this place and in this way?
5. How does this scripture introduce Jesus, the Messiah? What does it tell us about his mission?
6. What is the good news? (3:18) Who are the poor (Mt 5.3; Lk7.22), the prisoners (Gal 3.22; Jn 8.32,36), the blind (Jn 9.5,41; Acts 26.16-18), the oppressed (Ex 6.6; Acts 7.34; Heb 2.14,15)?
7. How does he fulfill this prophecy of Isaiah? How did the people respond initially?
8. Vv. 23-24. Why were they spiritually blind? How did Jesus rebuke them?
9. What was the story of the widow of Zarephath (see 1 Kings 17:7-16)? How was she different from the widows of Israel of her time?
10. What was the story of Naaman (see 2 Kings 5)? How was he different from the lepers in Israel? How did each exhibit faith?

01-22-25 Luke 5:1-11

1. What do you learn about Jesus from the first three verses? The crowd? Simon Peter?
2. Peter was washing his nets and so was done for the day, but Jesus asked him to take him out in his boat. How do we react when Jesus interrupts our schedule or goals?
3. In the first half of v 5, what was Peter's initial reaction? Why do we think he reacted this way?
4. In the second half of v 5, we see a different reaction. What does this tell us about Peter and his view of Jesus?
5. Why are vv 6 and 7 so descriptive? What is Luke trying to communicate to his readers and what is God trying to communicate to us with this extra detail?
6. Peter's reaction to Jesus' "great catch" miracle as one of conviction (v8) and fear (v10). Why did Peter react this way instead of, say, praise?
7. What do we think Jesus was trying to do in his response to Peter?
8. If this sounds too lofty, how can we be involved with people in their reconciliation to God right where we work or "play?"
9. V 11 says that Peter and friends "left everything and followed him [Jesus]." What do we think "leaving" means for us today?
10. What is keeping us from metaphorically leaving everything and following Jesus?

01-29-25 Luke 6:1-16

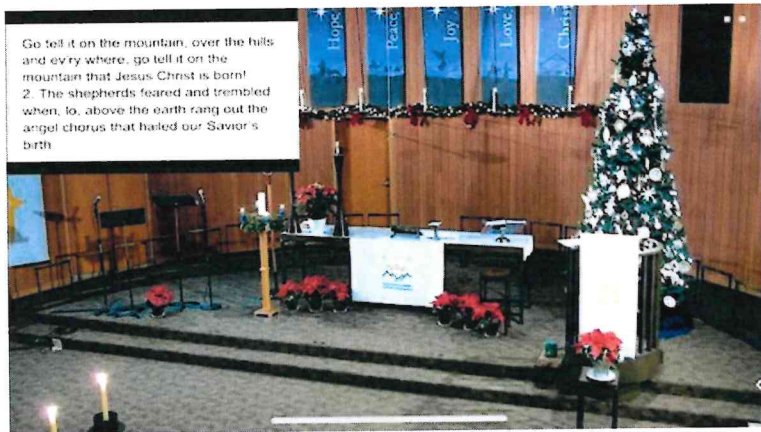
1. How does Jesus' handling of the Sabbath controversies challenge conventional religious thinking of His time?
2. What harmful "religious" tendencies was Jesus resisting by His actions and words during these incidents?
3. Why did Jesus heal on the Sabbath?
4. In these incidents, whose actions were really "Sabbath-keeping?"
5. Why is it important for us to take time off from work to rest?
6. How well were the Pharisees honoring the Sabbath while they discussed plans to retaliate against Jesus?
7. When is it easiest to apply a spiritual discipline unthinkingly?
8. How can we guard against misapplying spiritual disciplines?
9. How would you describe the biggest differences between Jesus and the Pharisees' teaching and work?
10. What significance can we glean from Jesus spending the night in prayer before choosing the Twelve Apostles?

Vendor Fair

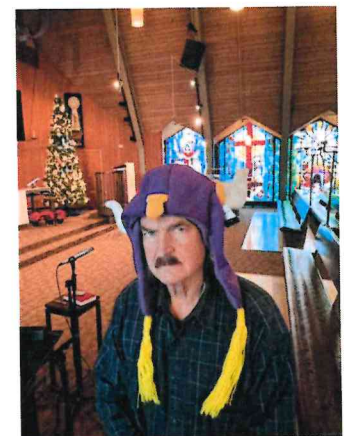
The vendor fair last month made over \$4000.00 Thank you to everybody who participated.



Each vendor who participated donated an item to a basket which people could then purchase a chance ticket,. The basket was won by Cheri Splinter.



The front of the church decorated for Christmas.



Our Own Border Battle
Ready for the GAME!

Help Needed

Officers and Board Members

We still need a vice president and people to serve on the board of education, the board of stewardship and the board of trustees for 2025-2026. These terms would begin in February. There are job descriptions in the office or feel free to ask any current board member. Please consider serving..

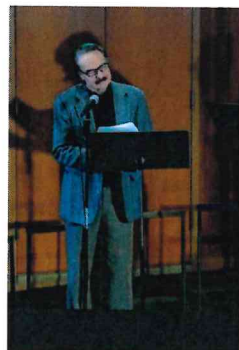
Audio-visual Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help with our audio-visual programs. This is mainly to provide the online part of our church service although other events may come up. Audio-visual experience is not absolutely necessary but would be helpful. Computer skills are necessary. You will receive training. Contact the office if you are interested.

Altar Committee

Help is still needed on the Altar Committee. . You would be setting up and cleaning up communion. There are written instructions, and Kandee will go through it with you your first time.. Talk to Kandee if you have questions and/or are willing to help.

Brad Nelson, our long time guitarist, is leaving us. Brad has also been providing music for the Sunday School. He is moving to Ohio for more employment opportunities. His last service here will be January 5th. A reception for Brad will be held after the service on the 5th.



Quilters

The quilters continue to be busy. 140 quilts were blessed on December 15th. They included 35 youth quilts, 78 blankets and 27 toddler blankets. Half of the items went to the Ruth House and half to Harbor House.

Anyone is welcome to join the group. They meet on Mondays from 9 am to 11:30 am or so. Knitters and crocheters are also welcome. It is a great time to get out and socialize with others. During this time, we tie the quilts. Most of the sewing is done at home. We welcome anyone. Talk to Kande. We will also provide you with donated materials we have. We are now going to be making children's mittens. Contact Kande for instructions and patterns.

We can always use donated materials. Our biggest need is always the back material for the quilt. Top sheets that are in good condition work great. Any cotton or cotton-blend fabric. We also will use polyester fabric. Other things that work and are in good condition include: drapes, table cloths, shower curtains, etc. Thread Yarn. Thank you, Thrivent for help with our supplies!!!

Through Thrivent Action Teams we purchase batting and fabric for quilt backs. If you have insurance or investments in Thrivent, you are usually eligible to write for moneys on each account that can be used to purchase materials. This can be worth two (action teams), worth \$250 each, to help pay for projects at church. Talk to Carol Roberts or Kande Rosburg for more information.



Blessing of the Quilts

Educational Corner

Confirmation



Confirmands make a gingerbread house.



Tyler Dahl lights the Advent candles.

Sunday School

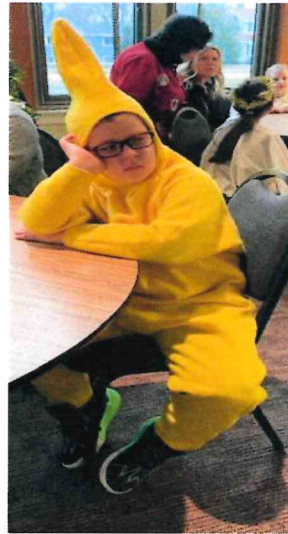
Some recent Sunday School weekly projects.



Adult Education:

Adult bible studies continue on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. See elsewhere in this newsletter for this month's study questions. Anyone is welcome. These are now joint studies with Concordia. Remember the second Thursday of the month, bible study will be held at Concordia at 10:30 a.m.. There will not be a bible study at OSLC that week.

Sunday School Christmas Program 12/15 /2024



The 'STAR' is waiting for the Program to begin.

Some of the kids wanted to dress up and some not. Here are some of the Sunday School kids that performed for you.



After the program, the children decorated Christmas cookies.





MISSION & OUTREACH

JANUARY COLLECTION

Collecting for St. Vincent DePaul

**Jan 5- Deodorant, shampoo & conditioner,
body wash**

**Jan 12- Adult & kids toothbrushes, toothpaste,
hand lotion**

**Jan 19- Razors, shaving cream, mens and womens
socks**

**Jan 26- Cleaning supplies, i.e., Pine Sol,
glass cleaners, Ajax, paper towels, toilet paper**

We would like to thank everyone for the large
donation to CASDA last month.





Offering


We are 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.



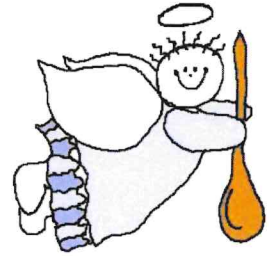
Sharing the Peace



There is an increase again in CoVid and now RSV along with the viruses common in the fall. These variants particularly affect small children and those over 65. We encourage congregants to do only as they feel comfortable for sharing the peace. Masks are optional but are available along with hand sanitizers at the church entrance and in the pews. You may hug, shake hands, touch elbows, wave or simply smile and say the words, as you feel comfortable. Be aware of the other person's preferences as well.



OSLC COOKS:



This month's recipes are for:
Casseroles and Hot Dishes

So what's the difference? By definition both are baked dishes with a hodgepodge of ingredients.

A casserole is named for the dish it is commonly cooked and served in. A casserole can be a main dish or a side dish. It generally has a lighter meat such as chicken or fish. It often has rice.

The term hot dish comes mainly from the Midwest—Minnesota and the Dakotas. A hot dish is generally a main course. It most often has ground beef as its protein and has potatoes or pasta rather than rice.

Potato Pizza Hot Dish

Ingredients:

1/2 cup milk	1/4 teaspoon oregano
1 can cheddar cheese soup	1/2 cup chopped onions
1-1 1/2 pounds hamburger	1/4 teaspoon red pepper powder
4 cups thinly sliced potatoes	1/2 teaspoon salt
1 15 ounce can tomato or herb sauce	1 teaspoon sugar
1/2 cup parmesan cheese	1 package mozzarella cheese

Directions:

Brown hamburger. Mix with potatoes in greased cake pan. Add soup and milk and mix. Add sauce and spices. Bake 45 minutes at 350*. Remove from oven and top with cheeses. Bake another 15 minutes or until cheese melts.

Wild Rice with Pork Chops

Ingredients:

- 1 6 ounce box long grain and wild rice
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1 16 ounce can Chinese vegetables, drained
- 6 lean pork chops
- Black pepper

Directions:

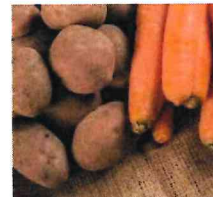
Mix rice, soup and water in a 2 quart casserole dish. Add vegetables. Arrange pork chops on top. Sprinkle with black pepper. Bake 1 hour and 20 minutes at 350*

Veal chops or chicken may be substituted for pork.

6-Layer Hot Dish

Ingredients:

1. 2 medium potatoes, sliced
2. 2 medium carrots, sliced
3. 1/2 cup uncooked rice
4. 2 small onions, sliced
5. 1 pound ground beef
6. 1 quart canned tomatoes plus some liquid.



Directions:

Layer the ingredients in the order given in a 2 quart baking dish, seasoning each layer with salt and pepper. Bake at 300* for 2 2/2 to 3 hours.



Threads of Hope Children's Clothes Closet

Thank you Diane Tomczak & Carol Arthur for continuing to maintain the closet. It is definitely being used by the community. We only collect and distribute children's items. They should be clean and in good condition. The items have now been switched over to fall and winter.

Giving Tree

The giving tree is still up in the St. Paul's Room. Warm winter gloves and mittens are needed in all sizes.

Any used winter boots that are still in good condition would be appreciated. People are always looking for boots and jackets this time of year.





January

Judy Hack	1/1
Matt Little	1/1
Doris Roeber	1/1
John Roeber	1/1
Lauren Krob	1/3
Bev Prescott	1/4
David Kringle	1/5
Neil Thompson	1/5
Sondra Forrest	1/6
Liam Perrault	1/6
Dean Wilner	1/8
Nicole Gregory	1/9
Alexis Johnson	1/10
Doug Magdzas	1/10
Richard Nystrom	1/12
Heather Thompson	1/12
Dawn Heinen	1/14
Craig Hanson	1/15

Jacob Magdzas	1/17
Jordy Stank	1/17
Joanne Emberson	1/18
Troy Breitlow	1/20
Isabella Lisdahl	1/23
Matthew Netland	1/23
Tanner Dahl	1/23
George Bennis	1/30
Owen Gran	1/30
Barb Danielson	1/31

WE PLAN TO
 START LISTING
 WEDDING
 ANNIVERSARIES
 NEXT MONTH.
 (the one's we have
 a record of)



Script Cards

NEXT NEW CARD ORDER WILL go in 1/19/2025. Our total profit for 2024 was \$2107.03. Thank you everyone who helped make that happen.

January 5th is the first Sunday of the month...which makes it **Mission Sunday!** Be generous with your Mission Sunday donations in the basket in the Narthex. All the money collected stays right in our community !!!

We continue to look for fundraising ideas. The pie sale and the Vendor Fair were great successes.

Remember Scrip cards. They are an easy way to give to the church without costing you any more.

If you have any other ideas for fundraising, please contact a board member or the office.

Upcoming Events:

New Member Class January 19, 2025 @ 8:45am
(contact Pastor or Linda to sign up)

Annual Meeting January 26, 2025

The meeting will be right after the service. Please plan to stay so there will be a quorum.



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.

Family Of: Tom Donaldson, Jeff Rengel

Worship Support Congregation Members: Bev Donaldson, Jim and Marcy Rigstad, Pat and Amanda Shaw, Roger Prescott, Lynne Hoff, Ralph Rolson, Russ & Jan Hendrickson, Meri Will

Family Member: Mike Klawitter, Jeanne David, Joel Dykema, Casey, Bill Mullens, Beth, Chuck Korn, Dave Kangas, Dorothy Huffman, Jennifer Spring, Mickie, Paulette Jokela, Jerry, Gene
(Keeping Names on for 3 months. Let the office know if you want them put back on.)

Friend/neighbor: Sue Weber, Cindy Terhar, Mike Brinwall, Robert O'Dell, Ruth Ann, Sue Ann, Bob & Renita Sutherland

(Keeping Names on for 3 months. Let the office know if you want them put back on.)

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





Rummage Sale Reminder!

A list of what we ask for when leaving items:

- **Put items in a box for easier stacking.**
- **No clothing**
- We only want things **that work.**
- If something has an **operator's instruction book** please include if you have it.

Don't give us things that we would have to **PAY** to get rid of. That includes analog TVs, microwaves, computers, computer printers, mattresses, etc. *The only exception is if you talk to Linda Gran in the office or me about it.*

Thanks

Kandee Rosburg

OSLC Council Minutes – December 17th, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Len Wicklund at 5:35 pm. when the required eight arrived. Our Savior's Vision Statement was said.

Present: Linda Clark, Ben Gaard, Pastor Sean Koos, Kandee Rosburg, Stephanie Shaw, Steve Shaw, Jim & Cheri Splinter, Diane Tomczak, and Bonnie Wentzel.

Devotions/Prayer: Pastor read a devotion and said a prayer.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made, seconded, and passed (M/S/P) to accept the November council minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Income for November was \$8,235.49. Expenses were \$13,400.84 with a loss of \$5,165.35. Expenses included another church insurance payment. M/S/P to accept the treasurer's report.

Board Reports:

Board of Education: The Sunday School Christmas singing program went well. Sunday School students are off for two weeks. The Council then discussed a music leader for Sunday School after Brad Nelson leaves. Pastor will talk to the person who was suggested. Council also discussed purchasing a keyboard using the money given to OSLC for youth.

Deacons: The Deacons discussed the Christmas week, tree decorating, and the Sunday after Christmas service with no Pastor. That Sunday will mainly be singing songs with Len Wicklund leading service. Dave Kringle is Deacon in January.

Mission & Outreach: Mission & Outreach collected for CASDA in November and December it will be St. Vincent de Paul. They thanked Len W, for putting up the tree. 124 items were given out of the clothes closet in November.

Stewardship: Stewardship received 67 responses during the Pledge Drive. Pledges received were: General Fund \$75,080 and Mortgage Fund \$35,900.

Trustees: Trustees are working on the 2025 budget. The Trustees part of the budget will be \$45,100, that is an increase because insurance went up this year, utility bills are going up in 2025, and overall costs have gone up. Next year they plan to look for a new insurance company and try to lock-in a quarterly payment plan. Our new custodian is Rick Gran.

M/S/P to accept all board reports.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Sean will be on vacation after Christmas.

Vision Victories:

- Tom Donaldson's funeral was very nice.
- Vendors/Craft/Bake sales went well with earning to date \$4,255.51. The basket Chance drawing made \$100, with Cheri Splinter winning it.
- Sunday School Singing worked well

New Business:

- Rick Gilbertson wants to rent the basement south east corner room in the education wing. It was discussed. M/S/P to rent for \$200 a month starting January 2025.
- Secretary Linda Gran is taking on additional work, including doing the payroll which we had someone else doing. So, her hourly salary will increase from \$15 to \$18 an hour. M/S/P to accept this.
- Brad Nelson our guitarist will be moving. We will be having dessert and coffee farewell on January 5th after service.
- The Synod would like OSLC to increase our contribution. We discussed it and since we increased that contribution not that long ago, we decided to hold steady.

Upcoming events: December 24th – 5 pm and 10 pm Christmas Eve Services; January 14th – 5:15 pm All Boards meeting; January 21st – 5:15 pm Council meeting; January 26th – Annual Meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn at 6:25 pm. Council prayed the "The Lord's Prayer".

Respectfully submitted, Kandee Rosburg, Sub-Council Secretary

January

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NO NP service 10:30 a.m. Bible Study NO HH service NO Pre-confirmation NO Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Choir	2	3	4
5 8:45 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Service (in house and online)- 9:30 a.m. Sunday school	6 9:00 a.m. Quilting	7	8 9:00 a.m. NP service 3:30 p.m. pre-confirmation 3:30 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Choir	9 10:30 a.m. Bible Study Concordia	10	11
12 8:45 a.m. Choir 9:30 a.m. Service (in house and online) 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	13 9:00 a.m. Quilting	14	15 9:00 a.m. NP service 10:30 a.m. Bible study 3:30 p.m. pre-confirmation 3:30 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Choir	16	17	18
19 8:45 a.m. Choir 8:45 a.m. New members meeting 9:30 a.m. Service (in house and online) 9:30 a.m. Sunday School	20 9:00 a.m. Quilting	21 5:15 p.m. Council	22 9:00 a.m. NP service 10:30 a.m. Bible study 3:30 p.m. pre-confirmation 3:30 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m. Music Committee	23	24	25
26 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	27 9:00 a.m. Quilting	28	29 9:00 a.m. NP service 10:30 a.m. Bible study 1:30 p.m. HH service 3:30 p.m. pre-confirmation 3:30 p.m. Confirmation 4:30 p.m. Choir	30	31	