

January 2024



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - WHITEHALL, WI

The Messenger



We begin a new year with a mixed bag of feelings. It often is very difficult to sort out just what emotion is affecting us at any given time of our day. We can be moving along at home, at work, at school, or anyplace our physical self is and life is good. Then some small trigger may turn the day into one of sadness, sorrow, anxiety, or any type of feeling that is no longer “good”. This is all part of being human and will not define us. It is a time in which we need a little help, a boost, a kind gesture, a temporary change of environment, or maybe a good cry.

I am not attempting to create one of those moments, I am offering the truth that we are not alone when it comes to having “a bad day”. Many of us do not know how to deal with “bad” things that happen and how they affect our emotions. One of the volunteer organizations I am a part of is NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI has numerous resources available to anyone who can access their website. Type in nami.com and you will get a host of resources that may help you. We all have Mental Health, not all of us have Mental Illness. NAMI can help with both. Another excellent resource that is fingertips away is the National Hotline 988. Trained helpers are on the phone at any time you need them in a non-emergency situation. If you experience any issue from, “feeling a little depressed” to “I am feeling like I am going to harm myself” – call and ask: “What can I do to help myself get out of this mental state I am experiencing right now”. Please feel free to call, they are there to help anyone in need.

As Christians we can also pray. God fully understands we are not always feeling really good. He is always there, fully present, unconditionally loving, and wanting us to talk to Him first. 3 John verse 2 says: Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul. Psalm 6:2, Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror. Jeremiah 17:14, Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for you are my praise. Acts 4:29-30, And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of you holy servant Jesus.

Christmas Eve I felt love, joy, hope, and promise for a better future coming from each of the three congregations I attended through the day. God gave us the ability and opportunity of choice. I choose to embrace God’s “Plan” and trust that it will lead me on a wonderful path to a glorious destination.

Thank you for your positive words of encouragement to me as I have begun this journey with all of you! With God’s infinite Love and help, we will be fine.

May God Bless you all richly in this coming New Year.

Scott W. Brown, SAM



Our Saviour's Members in Nursing Homes



Pigeon Falls Nursing Care Center-P.O. Box 310-Pigeon Falls, WI 54760

Jeanette Gilbertson, & Marian Miller

Assisted Living- Pigeon Falls - P.O. Box 310-Pigeon Falls, WI 54760

Richard Eide

Sunrise Manor - 36024 Park Street - Whitehall - 54773

Clinton Larson & Ann Torrason

Trempealeau County Health Care Center-W20410 WI #121--Whitehall - 54773

James Windjue

Grandview Nursing Home - 620 Grandview Avenue - Blair - 54616

Marilyn Speestra, Mavis Mitskogen & Donna Oates

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

*Mary Harnisch-Johnson

*Arline Stuve

*Mavis Olson

*Dawn Coburn

*Mary Lou Beck

*Lisa James

*Gloria Qualley

* Margaret Ausderau



In Christian Sympathy

**We pray for the family and friends who have lost loved ones
especially ~**

***Barbara Nelson—December 5th, 2023**

***Joanne Selkurt Martin MD—December 24th, 2023**



THE MESSENGER

Church News



The Sunday School Children performed their Christmas program during worship service on Sunday, December 17th. Great Job Everyone!!!

Our Noisy Offering for January will be designated to the Middle East Crisis

Due to escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, a severe humanitarian crisis is rapidly unfolding in the Holy Land. Lutheran Disaster Response, working with The Lutheran World Federation, is responding to urgent needs, including medical care for those who have been injured. These words are from our ELCA's Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. "I encourage the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to unite in prayer for the families of innocent civilians whose lives were lost, as well as pray for healing for all the injured, fearful and traumatized. Your gifts designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be used entirely (100%) to provide long-lasting support to those whose lives have been impacted by disasters in the region.

Noisy Offering for December: During the month of December, \$370.51 was collected and designated to the Star & Cross Fund .

W-ELCA NEWS!



WELCA Meeting

The W-ELCA will NOT meet during January, nor in February due to the cold weather. Watch for the announcement of the March 7th, 2024 meeting.

Happy New Year from OSL Women - ELCA

QUILTING RETREAT

We are having a Quilting Retreat February 14 th , 15th and 16 th , 8am to 5-6pm each day at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church basement Whitehall, Wisconsin.

Coffee and water will be furnished. Meals will be on your own (possibly delivered from some locations)

There are several eating places – Sweet Temptation, Sub-Way, Dani's Restaurant and Kwik Trip.

Please bring a cushion for the chairs. Show and Tell on Friday. 20 slots available.

The church is not responsible for any loss, damage or injury.

Call Nancy 608/864-0014 by February 7 th to reserve your place. The cost is \$30.00 for the 3 days.

Come and join us for a fun few days.

More Church News



Un-decorating the Church

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the church on Sunday, January 7th, immediately following the 9:30 Worship service. We welcome anyone to come and join our fellowship of workers! All help will be very appreciated!



Poinsettias

Thank you to all who blessed our church with beautiful Poinsettias for our Christmas Services. Please see memorial listing on page 7.

January Birthdays



- 1 - Bonnie Lyga
- 2 - Megan Densmore, James Gilbertson
- 4 - Duane Fimreite, Aaliyah Macharia, Melissa Pientok, Renae Stendahl,
- 5 - Tyanna Beck, Sharon Ringstad
- 6 - Kelly Herness, Anna Kopp
- 7 - Mikailah Lindberg
- 9 - Rick Paulson
- 10 - Janice Fimreite
- 11 - Kiera Kjos
- 13—Annette Clipper
- 15 - Harriet Witt
- 16 - Martha Bruneau, Peter Semb
- 17 - Tammie Coburn
- 19 - Gloria Qualley
- 20 - Kenneth Giese Sr., Randy Olson
- 21 - Jay Coburn, Linda Middleton
- 22 - Andrea Lyga, Kinley Foss
- 25 - Donald Lewis
- 26 - Donald Johnson



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

More Church News



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
December 5, 2023

Board Members Present: Dave Anderson, Scott Brown, Marnie Anderson, Ellen Hauser, Kris Dubiel, Clarice Laehn, Kay Nelson, Barb Mathson, Jacob Paulson, and Lori Paulson.

Dave Anderson, council president, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Preparation:

1. **Opening Devotions:** Meeting opened with devotions by Clarice Laehn
2. **Prayer Requests/Homebound:** Mary Herness; Family & friends of Barbara Nelson; Victims of violence/conflict in Middle East and throughout the world.
3. **Communication from Congregation:** Some congregation members are not able to hear announcements in church. Going forward the mike will be used when making announcements.

Communication/Action:

1. Secretary's Report:

Barb Mathson made a motion to approve minutes of November 7, 2023, with a second by Marnie Anderson. Motion carried.

2. Treasurer's Report:

- a) Barb Mathson presented the following fund balances per November 2023 financial reports: General Fund: \$73,043.82; On Going: \$12,097.55; Improvement: \$35,414.78. Marnie Anderson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report with a second by Kay Nelson. Motion carried.
- b) Funds raised from the Non-Harvest Dinner donations and raffle totaled approximately \$4495 as of Sunday, December 3rd.

3. Ministry Teams Updates:

a) Life & Growth:

There will be an ELCA Good Gifts tree again this year. Gifts/donations are used where most needed in the United States and abroad.

b) Music Worship:

1. November Noisy Offering of \$294.55 was designated to Our Saviour's Improvement Fund; December Noisy Offering will be donated to the Star & Cross Fund.
2. An organ tuning company has inspected the church organ. The replacement value of the organ is approximately \$812,848. The organ is insured. A motion was made by Marnie Anderson with a second by Kay Nelson to contact the organ tuning company regarding the cost to service the organ once a year. Motion carried.

c) WELCA: There will be no meetings in January and February 2024; WELCA will have a hat and mitten tree as well as a box at Ritter's Hardware to collect hats and mittens.

d) Lutheran Brotherhood: No report.

4. Sharing from SAM: Scott Brown reviewed duties as a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM). Pastor Greg Ofsdahl will be Scott's mentor.

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More Church News



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - December 5, 2023

(continued from page 5)

Celebration/Affirmation:

- a) The next council meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.
- b) Christmas Eve candlelight service will be at 4 p.m. on December 24 th . There will be no Sunday morning service at Our Saviour's on that day.

Business Items: Scott Brown will contact TCC regarding upgrade of phone system.

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer:

Kay Nelson made a motion to adjourn with a second by Clarice Laehn. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Paulson, Council Secretary

Church Finances



DISBURSEMENT & GIVING RECEIPTS-Dec 1-Dec 31			
Disbursements:			
Administration	\$321.47		
Physical Plant	\$3,561.98		
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,138.41		
Benevolence	\$4000.00		
Parish Expense	\$0.00		
Dues and Fees	\$0.00		
Holiday Raffle Exp.	\$300.00		
Total Disbursements =		\$9,621.86	
Giving Receipts			
Simply Giving Total =	\$3,258.30	General Fund Total =	\$16,218.40
On-Going Total =	\$370.51	Improvement Fund - Total =	\$180.00
December 2023 Giving Grand Total =		\$20,027.21	



Christmas Poinsettias

In Loving Memory of:

- Alvin & Esther Nelson by Jim & Kay Nelson
- Helen & Willard Halverson by Jim & Kay Nelson
- Dr. Brad Martin by Jim & Kay Nelson
- Helen & Leonard Foss
- Victor & Samuel Foss
- Francis & Hazel Foss; Roman & Ruby Thomas; Roger Thomas by Joanne & Les Foss & Chris
- Raymond & Alma Loga; Hugh & Alvina Goard; John & Viola Dunham by Dave & Brenda Loga
- Ben Ringstad; Ken & Nat Rusk by Sharon Ringstad
- Bennie & Stella Ringstad; Tina & Clarence Waldera; Emma & August Ringstad by Richard & Bev Waldera
- Fred , Janice, & Marilyn Chamberlain by Karen Witte
- Marv & Ardis Witte by Karen Witte
- John Witte by Karen Witte
- Stella by Karen Witte
- Howard & Carolyn Tjoflat by Jeff & Ellen Hauser
- Ken & Anne Nelson by Jeff & Ellen Hauser
- Nathan Schmitt by Scott & Lisa Schmitt
- Gerald Schansberg by Melanie & Jeff Sygulla
- Tom Toraason by Ann Toraason & Family
- Lorraine & Bob Nehring by Gail (Nehring) & Steve Radtke
- Bud Wozney by Shirley Wozney & Family
- Norbert & Berniece Pulvermacher by Kurt & Barbara Johnson & Family
- Charles & Bonnie Johnson by Kurt & Barbara Johnson & Family
- Duane Halverson , Morgan Halverson, & Blanche Wheeler by Shirley Wozney & Family
- Alfred & Elenora Sesold; James & Ethel Hughes by Jim & Georgia Hughes
- Schorbahn Family

In Honor of:

- Our 4 grandsons: Devin Klomsten; Jackson, Gannon, & Bennett Loga by Dave and Brenda Loga
- Elizabeth & Matthew Edwards by Karen Witte
- Our 15 Grandchildren by Joanne & Les Foss
- Our Godchildren, Mikayla, Chloe, and Darren by Kris & Duane Dubiel
- Dr. Joanne Selkurt by Jim & Kay Nelson
- Ann Toraason by Tom & Kris Matchey
- Josie & Leigha Sygulla by Melanie & Jeff Sygulla
- Great Grandsons, Grayson & Owen Larcan by Jim & Georgia Hughes
- By Dave & Linda Schaefer



January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Office hours 8am-12pm Quilters 8:30am Council-6:30 pm	<u>3</u> Bible Study 9:30am Office hours 1pm-5pm NO CONFIRMATION CLASS	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u> Sunday Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Undecorate the Church -10:30	<u>8</u> Yearly Reports due for all Committees	<u>9</u> Office hours 8am-12pm	<u>10</u> Bible Study 9:30am Office hours 1pm-5pm Confirmation—2:30pm	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> Office hours 8am-12pm Quilters-8:30 am	<u>17</u> Bible Study 9:30am Office hours 1pm-5pm Confirmation—2:30pm	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> Office hours 8am-12pm	<u>24</u> Bible Study 9:30am Food Pantry 11:00 - 1:00 pm Office hours 1pm-5pm Confirmation—2:30pm	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> Office hours 8am-12pm	<u>31</u> Bible Study 9:30am Office hours 1pm-5pm Confirmation—2:30pm			

Holiday Raffle

We would like to thank all of you who donated prizes and bought tickets for the Holiday Raffle held on December 3rd, 2023.

This year we again held a cash and gift card raffle. Prizes totaled \$905.00 with 30 lucky winners!

Funds raised for the mission of the church totaled \$1,635.00.

Thank you so much for your support!

Barb Mathson and Karen Witte



Prize		Winner
CASH PRIZES		
\$300.00	Raffle	Gannon Loga
\$20.00	Francis Hilgart	Judy Haralson
\$20.00	Faye Hilgart	Celina Kopp
\$20.00	David & Marnie Anderson	Connie Kastad
\$20.00	David & Marnie Anderson	Julie Crivits
\$20.00	Barbara Mathson	Wayne Lee
GIFT CARDS		
Maple Leaf Meats \$25.00	Jim & Kay Nelson	Wayne Lee
Maple Leaf Meats \$25.00	Jim & Kay Nelson	Kenneth Anderson
Maple Leaf Meats \$25.00	Jim & Kay Nelson	Carol Byington
Maple Leaf Meats \$25.00	Jim & Kay Nelson	Clarice Laehn
Kwik Trip \$25.00	Kurt & Barb Johnson	Linda Middleton
Kwik Trip \$25.00	Kurt & Barb Johnson	Denise Lindberg
Subway \$25.00	Rick & Lori Paulson	Sharon Engen
Kwik Trip \$25.00	Ivers Woodworking	David Anderson
Kwik Trip \$25.00	Ivers Woodworking	Lila Solberg
Holtan's TnC Sporting Goods	Quinn & Audrey Holtan	Les Foss
Holtan's TnC Sporting Goods	Quinn & Audrey Holtan	Pat Larson
Kwik Trip \$20.00	Karen Witte	Tina Peters
Kwik Trip \$20.00	Karen Witte	Julie Demulling
Kwik Trip \$20.00	Karen Witte	Sheila Feltes
Kwik Trip \$20.00	Karen Witte	Mary Lou Beck
Kwik Trip \$20.00	Karen Witte	Olivia Moats
Remember When \$20.00	Karen Witte	Connie Kastad
Randy's Neighborhood Market	Karen Witte	Karl Fernholz
Randy's Neighborhood Market	Karen Witte	Sharon Foss
Consumers Coop \$20.00	Jeff & Melanie Sygulla	Tony Johnson
City Cafe \$10.00	Barb Mathson	Andy Johnson
Kwik Trip \$10.00	Ardell Jacobson	Karen Witte
Consumers Coop \$10.00	Barb Mathson	Sheila Feltes
Subway \$10.00	Barb Mathson	Laura Foss

***"Sharing God's Love With
All"***

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
36197 Main Street
P.O. Box 455
Whitehall, WI 54773

Contact Us

Office Hours:
Tuesday 8am-12pm
Wednesday 1-5pm

Church Secretary: Cheryl Daffinson
Church Office: 715-538-4334
Church E-mail: osluthwh@gmail.com
Church Website: oslwhitehall.org

Check us out on Facebook at: [Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Whitehall, WI](#) and
[United in Faith Parish](#) and [OS Sunday-School](#) and [OSLC Youth](#).



Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **Sunday, February 4th**, following worship services. Items of business will include the election of church leadership positions and the approval of the proposed 2024 budget. Please watch the bulletin for notice when the complete Annual Report will be available for your review.

****Annual reports from Councils and Ministry groups are due to the church office no later than Monday, January 8th! Thank you for your cooperation!**