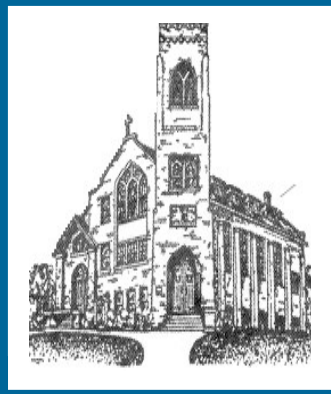


January 2025



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - WHITEHALL, WI

The Messenger

Hello, welcome to the Season of Christmas and Epiphany,

We have no problem understanding Christmas and it's importance to Christians all over our world. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:16-17). God could have sent Jesus as a full grown man, however, it seems that in order to fully understand humans, Jesus had to experience us from birth to death. We have the day for each of us that is a starting point to our lives, our birth day, the first day of the rest of our lives. For Jesus December 25. (Selected by humans as we don't know the exact date of Jesus birth).

The Gospel for the first Sunday of Christmas, Luke 2:41-52 is the story of Jesus at the age of 12. Does anyone else find this interesting that we go from birth to 12 in half a week? We really do not know much about Jesus young life except this event, so it seems to be very important. Every year devout Jewish families travel to Jerusalem to honor and remember that Moses (with lots of help from God) negotiated the release of Jewish slaves from the hands of the Egyptians. Jesus would have traveled with His family every year so was very knowledgeable of Passover. While in Jerusalem at the age of 12, He was moved to go unsupervised to the temple and talk with elders, possibly to find out just how much they know about God and the young Messiah. He was so consumed by this desire that he didn't even think about telling his family that he was going to the Temple. Three days later he still was not concerned when Joseph and Mary came to find him and bring him home. He did go home willingly to "Increase in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor." Luke 2:52

Because the day of Epiphany does not always fall on a Sunday, we don't often celebrate it. Epiphany is defined as "a Christian feast celebrating the manifestation of the divine nature of Jesus to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi, traditionally observed on January 6". So we now flashback to young Jesus and his family being visited by Melchior an older man said to have brought the gift of gold, Gaspar (or Caspar) a young man associated with the gift of frankincense, and Balthazar a middle-aged man who may have gifted myrrh. This is an interpretation as their names are not mentioned in the Gospels. They were the first Gentiles to be introduced to Jesus. As Epiphany unfolds over the weeks of January, We will be reading about Jesus baptism, His first recorded miracle at the wedding in Cana, and the beginning of his Galilean Ministry.

I would like to thank all of you who came to Christmas Eve service. It is truly one of the most beautiful services our Christian churches celebrate every year. Fortunately we do not have to travel great distances like the Jewish families did for Passover. Both churches in our Parish were beautifully decorated, perfect settings for the true "reason for the season" the birth of our Savior. Thank you also to everyone who dedicated time, money, flowers, music, and anything else I am missing, to help enhance the celebration. I was honored to have a front row seat in each Church building, the views warmed my soul.

Many members of our congregations have suffered greatly this past year, illness, death of loved ones including beloved pets, cancer diagnosis, many challenges we do not even know about. Your continued prayers are appreciated by all who ache, please keep those prayers flowing.

God Bless you all.

Scott W. Brown, SAM



Our Saviour's Members in Nursing Homes



Pigeon Falls Nursing Care Center-P.O. Box 310-Pigeon Falls, WI 54760
Deloris Coburn, Jeanette Gilbertson, Marian Miller & Arline Stuve
Richard Eide and Ann Toraason

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

Sunrise Manor - 36024 Park Street - Whitehall - 54773
Clinton Larson, Shirley Wozney

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

Grandview Nursing Home - 620 Grandview Avenue - Blair - 54616
Marilyn Speerstra, Mavis Mitskogen, Donna Oates,
Olin and Jan Feimreit.

Meadowbrook Care Center-1311 Tyler Street-Black River Falls - 54615

Dove Healthcare-51019 Ridge View Road-Osseo-54758
Ralph Johnson, MaryJane Hernes

Oak Gardens Place-342 Twin Oak Dr-Altoona-54720
Clarice Henrickson

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Arline Stuve, Mavis Olson, Dawn Coburn, Mary Lou Beck, Lisa James, Mavis Mitskogen, Norman Nordby, Jane Holen, Paula Hentges, Stella Michels, Dennis Dubiel, Francis Hilgart, Eric Jordahl, and Curt Back.



If you would like special prayers said for yourself or loved one, please contact the church office at osluthwh@gmail.com

In Christian Sympathy

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

***Andrew Berg—December 4th, 2024**



Church News



The Sunday School Children performed their Christmas program during worship service on Sunday, December 15th. Great Job Everyone!!!

Our Noisy Offering for January will be designated for Whitehall Food Pantry .

Our Noisy Offering for December was designated for Our Saviour's Improvement Fund. Your contributions of \$851.41 will help us prepare for repairs and replacements!!

Holiday Raffle

We would like to thank all of you who donated prizes and bought tickets for the Holiday Raffle held on December 8th, 2024.

This year we held a cash, quilt and gift card raffle. The quilt along with three table runners were donated by Our Saviour's Quilters. The cash prize and gift cards totaled \$960.00. A total of 32 lucky winners!

Funds raised for the mission of the church totaled \$1,581.00.

Thank you so much for your support!

Barb Mathson and Karen Witte

Un-decorating the Church

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the church on Sunday, **January 12th**, 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.

More Church News



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



WELCA

Greetings to all the Women of the ELCA at Our Saviour's. All women of the congregation are members & we thank all who have supported our projects through the year, especially our Mitten Tree, gifts for TCHCC & Pajama Gramma at Christmas time.

Our Bakeless Bake Sale letter & serving lunch at funerals brings many donations to us that help us give to several causes in Whitehall & around the world! (See our 2024 annual report for more details.)
The Food Pantry Box & the Birthday Box for Head Start's project will remain in the narthex throughout the year. We will begin collecting for Mission Kits for Lutheran World Relief again in the spring.
Thanks again for your support.

W-ELCA will NOT meet in January & February. We will begin our monthly meetings & Bible Study for 2025 on THURSDAY, March 6 at Our Saviour's. We will host Grace W-ELCA at 1:30 pm in our fellowship hall. There is always Interesting conversations & inspiring Bible study. Please join us.

More Church News



**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
December 3, 2024**

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

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

Preparation:

1. **Opening Devotions:** Devotions by Scott Brown
2. **Prayer Requests/Homebound:** Paula Hentges; Linda Middleton; Dennis Dubiel
3. **Communication from Congregation:** none

Communication/Action:

1. **Secretary's Report:** Marnie Anderson made a motion to approve minutes of November 12, 2024, with a second by Kris Dubiel. Motion carried.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** The following fund balances were presented per November 2024 financial reports: General Fund: \$92,255.26; On Going: \$11,603.58; Improvement: \$40,617.47. Lori Paulson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report with a second by Ellen Hauser. Motion carried.
3. **Ministry Teams Updates:**
 - a) Music & Worship:
 1. Noisy Offering of \$459.56 for November went to Christmas is for Kids; December will go to Improvement Fund.
 2. Motion was made by Ellen Hauser and seconded by Lori Paulson to raise music accompanist pay to \$90 per service which is an increase of \$20 per service. Motion carried.
 3. Scott will invite/welcome new members during his welcome at the beginning of Sunday service.
 - b) WELCA: No report
 - c) Lutheran Brotherhood: No report.
 - d) Life & Growth: There will be a Good Gifts tree again this year.
 - e) Finance & Property:
 1. Still need to find members to serve on Finance and Property
 2. Also need members to serve on audit committee.

Sharing from Scott Brown (SAM):

1. Scott will look into placing an ad in the Ad Delite or Trempealeau County Times/Arrow Shopper for the Christmas Eve Service.

More Church News



2. Scott will be on vacation next week. Pastor Greg Ofsdahl will be the emergency contact and Rev. Diane House of the Northwest Synod will fill in for Scott on Sunday, December 15th.
3. Scott and Dave Anderson will be meeting with Pastor Paul Sannerud from Blair Lutheran Church on December 19th to discuss Blair Lutheran's possible interest in joining Our Saviour's and Grace Lutheran in the United in Faith Parish.

Celebration/Affirmation:

1. The next council meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Business Items:

1. The Parish Board met with Scott Brown regarding the renewal of his SAM contract. Scott's annual salary for 2025 will be \$36,000. The contract will expire in December 2025.
2. Someone left a mess on the third floor of the Sunday School building. The group has been notified.
3. There is someone that may be interested in cleaning the church part time. Ask Steve Lamberson to contact Steve Brekke (maintenance) to see if he needs help.

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer:

Barb Mathson made a motion to adjourn with a second by Kris Dubiel. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Church Finances



DISBURSEMENT & GIVING RECEIPTS-Dec 1-Dec 31

Disbursements:			
Administration	\$616.45		
Physical Plant	\$3,887.70		
Salaries & Benefits	\$4,056.11		
Benevolence	\$0.00		
Parish Expense	\$0.00		
Dues and Fees	\$0.00		
Holiday Raffle Exp.	\$0.00		
Total Disbursements =		\$8,560.26	
Giving Receipts			
Simply Giving Total =	\$2,963.00	General Fund Total =	\$18,038.20
On-Going Total =	\$851.41	Improvement Fund - Total =	\$30,425.00
December 2024 Giving Grand Total =		\$52,277.61	



Christmas Poinsettias

In Loving Memory of:

- Alvin & Esther Nelson by Jim & Kay Nelson
- Helen & Willard Halverson by Jim & Kay Nelson
- Mary P. Johnson by Andrew Johnson
- Howard & Carolyn Tjoflat by Jeff & Ellen Hauser
- Helen & Leonard Foss; Victor & Samuel Foss by their family
- Bennie & Stella Ringstad; Emma & August Ringstad by Rich & Bev Waldera
- Clarence & Tina Waldera by Rich & Bev Waldera
- Francis & Hazel Foss; Roman & Ruby Thomas; Roger Thomas by Joanne & Les & Family
- Alfred & Elenora Sesold; Jim & Ethel Hughes by Jim & Georgia Hughes
- My Parents, Dragan & Anne Pantovich by Barb Mathson
- Richard Carlson; Andrew & Margaret Carlson; James & Martha Allen; Joseph & Eleanor Pederson by Mark & Diane Carlson
- Nathan Schmitt & Loren McRae by Scott & Lisa Schmitt
- Fred, Janice, & Marilyn Chamberlain by Karen Witte
- Marv & Ardis Witte by Karen Witte
- John Witte by Karen Witte
- Stella by Karen Witte
- Tom Toraason by Tom & Kris Matchey
- Bob Vollendorf by Kris & Duane Dubiel
- Raymond & Alma Loga; Hugh & Alvina Goard; John & Viola Dunham by Dave & Brenda Loga
- Lorraine & Bob Nehring by Gail & Steve Radtke
- Elden, Elilora, & Debra by Their Family
- Norbert & Berniece Tulvermacher Parents of Kurt & Barb Johnson & Family
- Charles & Bonnie Johnson Parents of Kurt & Barb Johnson & Family
- Fred & Millie Guse by Roger & Carol Guse



In Honor of:

- Our 4 Grandsons: Devin Klomsten; Jackson, Gannon, & Bennett Loga by Dave and Brenda Loga
- Great Grandchildren, Grayson & Adeline Brunner, Owen Frelick, Loren Blaha & one more by Jim & Georgia Hughes
- Our Godchildren, Mikayla, Chloe, and Darren by Kris & Duane Dubiel
- Our Saviour's Choir by Jeff & Ellen Hauser
- S.A.M. Scott Brown by Jim & Kay Nelson
- Our Children and Families Joanne & Les
- My grandchildren, Wyatt & Lorna by Donna Lindberg
- Family & Friends by Barb Mathson
- Barb & Roger Schmitt; Thea McRae; Our Children: Adam (Mollie), Joel (Sydney), & Alicia; Our Grandchildren: Natalie, Parker, Cora, Jack, Landon, & Elle by Scott & Lisa Schmitt
- Ann Toraason by Tom & Kris Matchey
- Elizabeth & Matthew Edwards by Karen Witte

Thank you for blessing our church with Christmas Poinsettias. You are welcome to take your flowers home. Plastic to cover the flowers is available in the sacristy.

January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			No Bible Study Office closed NO CONFIRMATION CLASS			
Sunday Worship ⁵ 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am	6	7 Office hours 8am-12pm Quilters-8:30 am Council Meeting	Bible Study 9:30am ⁸ Office hours 1pm-5pm Confirmation—3:30pm	9	10	11
Sunday Worship ¹² 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Undecorate the Church –10:3	13	Office hours 8am-12pm ¹⁴	Bible Study 9:30am ¹⁵ Office hours 1pm-5pm Confirmation—3:30pm	16	17	18
Sunday Worship ¹⁹ 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	20	Office hours 8am-12pm ²¹ Quilters-8:30 am	Bible Study 9:30am ²² Food Pantry 11:00 - 1:00 pm Office hours 1pm-5pm Confirmation—3:30pm	23	24	25
Sunday Worship ²⁶ 9:30 am No Sunday School	27	Office hours 8am-12pm ²⁸	Bible Study 9:30am ²⁹ Office hours 1pm-5pm Confirmation—3:30pm	30	31	

December 17, 2024

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
PO Box 455
Whitehall WI 54773

Dear Members:

The Trempealeau County Sheriff's Office would like to take this opportunity to thank you for contributing to the 2024 Christmas Is for Kids Program. This year's gifts and monetary donations provided us with the opportunity to ensure a joyous Christmas for 105 children throughout Trempealeau County. We are excited to be able to sponsor this program once again.

Your support and dedication have contributed to this program's success, and we hope you will consider our program again next year during the holiday season. Again we thank you for your generosity.

Sheriff Brett Semington
and the
Trempealeau County Sheriff's Office Staff

***“Sharing God’s Love With
All”***

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

SAM: Scott Brown

Cell Phone: 715-538-3048

Email: pastoroslc@gmail.com

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 2nd**, following worship services. Items of business will include the election of church leadership positions and the approval of the proposed 2025 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 as soon as you can! Thank you for your cooperation!**