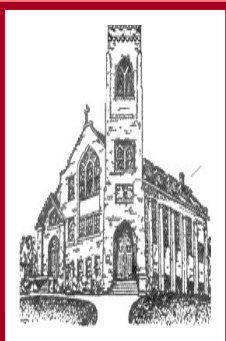
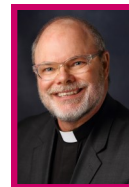




Pastor Peter Jonas

Pastor's Report



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this final yearly report for you, I cannot but think of the ancient Roman god Janus that our month of January is named after. Janus is the god of beginnings, endings, doorways and transitions. In sculptures and pictures Janus is depicted with a face pointing forward and a face pointing backward. You and I are both about to enter a time of transition. So, in this report, like Janus I wish to look both backward and forward.

I entered 2022 still recovering from my cancer surgery. I want to thank you as a parish for your understanding and patience during the early months of the year when I was recovering and regaining my strength.

One area that I focused on throughout the year was the development of RUTH (Rural Unity through Hope) as a faith-based organization. RUTH's first public event was a prayer vigil in March outside the Trempealeau County Courthouse in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Throughout the year RUTH attracted leaders, volunteers, partners and some financial contributions. After the vigil, RUTH recruited leadership for the local Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter and organized a health fair as an outreach effort toward the Trempealeau County Latin American community. RUTH provides a network for congregations to coordinate their various ministries like providing winter clothes for people reentering society from the Trempealeau County Jail. I retire in hope that RUTH will continue to flourish as an organization and find new opportunities to share Christ's love in our rural context.

With sadness, I and the rest of Whitehall and Pigeon said farewell to my colleague Pastor Mary Ann Bowman in late spring. I remain deeply appreciative for the partnership among our churches during her ministry. The current shortage of pastors in the ELCA has revived some old methods and inspired some new approaches to help congregations through leadership transitions. *(continued on page 4)*

Sharing God's Love With All!



Our Saviour's Members in Nursing Homes



Pigeon Falls Nursing Care Center-P.O. Box 310-Pigeon Falls, WI 54760
Jeanette Gilbertson, Marian Miller & Arline Stuve

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

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

The Classic - Eau Claire
Joanne (Selkurt) Martin

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

*Mary Harnisch-Johnson

*Arline Stuve

*Mavis Olson

*Donna Lindberg

*Lisa James

*Dawn Coburn

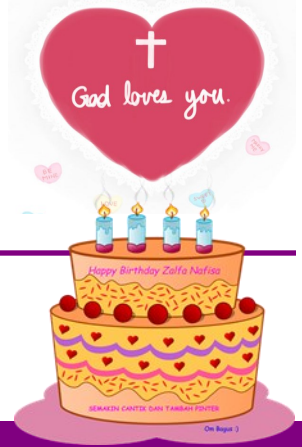
*Jason Semb

*Mary Lou Beck



Church News

February Birthdays



- 2 - Julie Johnson
- 3 - Christopher Demulling, Easton Moats, Jane Olson, Scotrene Ryan, Joseph Sygulla
- 4 - Darcy Goplin, Emerson Pronschinske
- 7 - Tracy Solberg
- 9 - Donna Lindberg, Adam Stendahl
- 10 - Nicole Carlson, Madison Wells
- 12 - Jamie Goplin
- 13 - Huxley Matchey, Halaynna Macharia, Seth Olson
- 16 - Jill Knudtson
- 17 - David Anderson, Daytona Hensley, Tiffany Hensley
- 18 - Darlene Baken, Wayne Harms, Abigail Olson, Scott Schmitt
- 19 - Olivia Schaefer, Richard Waldera
- 21 - Max Pientok
- 22 - Delores Coburn
- 25 - Shad Goplin, Cailyn Kniefel
- 26 - Paul Beck, Adam Kohnert
- 28 - Brennon Metzler, Jason Standish



In Christian Sympathy

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

***Nancy Ann Rutschow—January 13, 2023**

*** Dolores Alice Beardsley—January 13, 2023**



Church News



For Lent 2023 the theme of our round-robin Wednesday evening services will be, "Sing with All the saints in Glory".

Lutherans have a wonderful understanding of sinners and saints, all of us who have through baptism died to sin and are righteous saints of God. We have a rich calendar of saints in the Lutheran tradition—Christians from every age who have pointed to Christ in their living and dying. Through them we find inspiration for our Christian journeys. Celebrated during the five Wednesdays of March, 2023, this Lenten midweek series honors the commemorations that occur during the season this year.

Week "A": 'Inheritance of Faith'; George Herbert; John Wesley and Charles Wesley. —**March 1st—Natalie Leske**

George was a renowned English Anglican country priest. The Wesley brothers were Anglican priests, missionaries to America, founders of the Methodist Church and instrumental in the Great Awakening of the 18th and 19th centuries. **Readings; Psalm 145:1-13, 2 Timothy 1:1-14**

Week "B": 'Perseverance with Endurance'; Perpetua and Felicity; Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth. - **March 8th—Augie Hohl**

Perpetua and felicity were early Christian martyrs who chose their faith in Christ and their commitment to each other over life. Harriet Tubman was a Moses to her people, leading slaves to freedom. Sojourner Truth was a New York slave who sued for her freedom and then spent the rest of her life working for abolition, universal suffrage, and preaching Christ throughout the country. **Readings; Isaiah 61:1-4, Hebrews 12:1-2, 12-13**

Week "C": 'Faithful in Prayer'; Gregory the Great; Patrick—**March 15th—Dave Christianson**

Gregory was a sixth century pope known as "the father of Christian worship", revising liturgy and developing church music. Patrick was a missionary to Ireland, famous for bringing the good news of Christ to the Irish and for his defense of the Trinity. **Readings; Isaiah 55:6-12, Ephesians 1:15-23**

Week "D": 'Striving for Justice'; Joseph; Oscar Romero—**March 22nd—Valerian Ahles**

Oscar Romero was martyred while celebrating mass in 1980. As priest and Archbishop, he was an outspoken critic of corruption and the oppression of the people of El Salvador. He was certain that the heart of the Gospel is centered on God's compassion for the poor and the liberation of all people. In Joseph we see how holy family became refugees at the hand of a tyrant ruler. **Readings; Isaiah 58:6-9, Matthew 25:31-40**

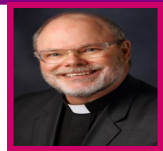
Week "E": 'Dying and Rising with Christ'; Hans Nielsen Hauge, John Donne—**March 29th—Luke Pederson**

Hans Hauge was a 19th century Norwegian lay preacher who reawakened the faith of an entire country and its immigrants to America. John Donne was a 17th century English poet and dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Both were fervent and clear proclaimers of the amazing grace of God. **Readings; Romans 6:3-11, Revelation 7:9-17**



More Church News

Pastor's Report (continued from page 1)



The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin appointed me to serve as the Administrative Pastor for Peace Lutheran until an interim pastor became available. Having a local pastor assist a vacant congregation was not uncommon decades ago, and it is likely this approach will become more common in the future.

Leadership transitions can be times of worry for any organization. As human beings we get used to people who are familiar to us and we even put up with their faults. But transition times can also be times of new vision and creativity. During a pastoral vacancy, a congregation can honestly assess their ministry and health with a little more freedom because the assessment is not about a specific person, but the community as a whole.

Customarily when a pastor leaves you see some turnover in lay-leadership and new people bring new ideas. This is a good thing when it is blended with the wisdom of experienced leaders who have walked through pastoral transitions before and know that the ministry of a church is more than the pastor. In an interim period, congregations' partnership with the synod is intensified because of the synod's role in the call process. The synod ministers can bring a bit of an aerial view to a parish and help them see their ministry in new ways. And your interim pastor and newly called pastor will bring their own gifts and perspective to your ministry. All of these factors together can make a time of transition a time of hope and renewal.

I want to conclude by saying that I give thanks for the honor of serving Whitehall and Pleasantville as your minister. During my time among you I was privileged to witness your love for God, your churches and your community in the way you serve, give and walk together as disciples of Jesus. And this love you have shown to me as your pastor and to each other and a broken world in need is of course a reflection of the love of God. The familiar words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 are often read at weddings. But a closer reading reveals that they are really about life together in the church. "And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love."

Peace, Pastor Peter +



Start 2023 on a generous note!

If you haven't already done so, you can still direct 2022 Thrivent Choice Dollars® to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Directing Choice Dollars online is fast and easy. Log into your Thrivent account and direct your dollars by March 31, 2023! If you need assistance, call our contact center at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt.



More Church News



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Council Minutes—January 3, 2023

Members Present: Dave Anderson, Pastor Jonas, Kris Dubiel, Marnie Anderson, Ellen Hauser, Barb Mathson, Clarice Laehn, 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: None
3. Communication from Congregation: Need sign up sheets for ushers, communion servers, and Power Point

Communication/Action:

1. **Secretary's Report:** Item d) under Adjournment and Lord's Prayer on Page 2 of the December 2022 minutes corrected to say: The Star and Cross Fund pays for electricity for star on Boy Scout Hill. Pastor Jonas made a motion to approve December 2022 minutes as corrected with a second by Marnie Anderson. Motion carried.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Clarice Laehn made a motion to approve treasurer's report with a second by Ellen Hauser. Motion carried.
3. **Ministry Teams Updates:**
 - a) Worship & Music: Noisy Offering donations were \$332 which will go to Star and Cross Fund. Next month the Noisy Offering donations will go to World Hunger.
 - b) WELCA: Nothing to report.
 - c) Life & Growth: Will be collecting Good Gifts donations; Christmas gifts were given to youth after the Sunday School program.
 - d) Men's Brotherhood: Nothing to report.
 - e) Board of Education: Sunday school Christmas program went very well.
4. **Sharing from Pastor:**
 - a) Reverend Randy Olson of the Northwest Synod will be meeting with the Parish Board on January 24th to review the call process to find a pastor to replace Pastor Jonas when he retires. Pastor Jonas will not partake in the call process.

Celebration/Affirmation:

1. The next council meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
2. Annual meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2023, after church service.
3. The Christmas decorations looked wonderful for the Christmas service, and the choir was very good. Thank you to all who participated.
3. Support of the confirmands at their breakfast following the Christmas program is very much appreciated.
4. Thank you to Karen Witte for all her work, including Altar Guild and help in serving communion.
5. \$450 collected for poinsettia orders.

Business Items:

1. Once complete the 2023 proposed budget will be sent by email to council members. Council will meet to approve the proposed budget for presentation at the annual meeting.
2. Need to review Church Board positions and seek committee nominations.
3. Need to schedule audit of 2022 financials.
4. Ad will be placed in the paper for church office secretary position.

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer:

Unspoken: Need to keep access to water shut off clear.

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

Meeting adjourned. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Paulson, Council Secretary

DISBURSEMENT & GIVING RECEIPTS-JANUARY 1st, 2023 THRU JANUARY 26th, 2023

Disbursements:			
Administration	\$1,755.32		
Physical Plant	\$2,502.82		
Salaries & Benefits	\$10,502.10		
Benevolence	\$0.00		
Parish Expense	\$0.00		
Dues and Fees	\$0.00		
Harvest Dinner	\$175.00		
Total Disbursements =		\$14,935.24	
Giving Receipts			
Simply Giving Total =	\$3,981.65	General Fund Total =	\$8,123.20
On-Going Total =	\$759.00	Improvement Fund - Total =	\$165.00
Januray, 2023 Giving Grand Total =		\$13,028.85	

More Church News



Quilters Retreat

We are having a Quilting Retreat February 16th and 17th, 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. We will have a "Show and Tell" on Friday. Please note, the church is not responsible for any loss, damage or injury.

We only have 20 slots available so please call early to reserve a spot! Call Nancy 608/864-0014 by February 10th to reserve your place. The cost is \$20.00 for the 2 days. Come and join us for a fun few days.



More Church News

Members in Service:

Alter Guild -Barb Matson & Donna Lindberg

Ushers - Tom Richter

Power Point—Melanie Sygulla

Acolye Schedule: Jack & Travis—February 5th

Brayden & Taylor—February 12th

Cash, Kade, Jack & Riley—February 19th Transfiguration Sunday

Colton & Travis—February 26th



Ash Wednesday Services Feb 22nd - 5:45 at Our Saviour's and at Grace



Each year on Ash Wednesday ashes are smudged on our foreheads in the sign of the cross as we hear the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Old and young come forward. Even little babies receive the mark—though it seems impossible, they too will one day die.

The 40 days of Lent begin with a ritual which reminds us all that indeed our days are counted. We all will only have so much time on this earth, and then we will return to it.

These 40 days are a season of repentance. As I count the days to Easter, I must ask myself, “What must I begin doing that I have left undone? What must I stop doing that I have done now that I realize that my days are counted?” I have been living as if I have all the time in the world, when I know that I only have the time that God has allotted me.

I think the season of Lent is especially hard for us in this northern climate. Ash Wednesday usually begins when the cold winter winds show no sign of letting up. We celebrate Easter in mid-April when spring has barely established a foothold against the grip of winter. Even our climate seems to be teaching us that holding out hope for the future requires faith.

“For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” Romans 8:24-25

The days of Lent are numbered to remind us that the days of our lives are numbered too. A prayer I find very meaningful reads:

“Speak to us once more your solemn message of life and of death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are accomplished, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in you, and that nothing in life or in death will be able to separate us from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.”

Peace
Pastor Peter



WELCA NEWS

The first W-ELCA meeting of 2023 will be at Our Saviour's on the first Thursday, March 2, at 1:30 pm. We will be hosting Grace W-ELCA. We will have a Bible study led by Pastor Jonas and a short business meeting. Coffee & dessert will be served. All are welcome to join us! Hope to see you there!

Please note, the April W-ELCA meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday of April, on the **13th** as the first week is Holy Week. Grace W-ELCA will host the April meeting.



You are invited to Immanuel Lutheran's Prayer Breakfast

Where: Strum, WI

Date: March 8th, 2023 (2nd Wednesday of March)

Time: 9:30 am

Guest Speaker: Moira Kneer

Topic: Who is that Woman, or Person in my Mirror?

Note: Please bring a small hand-held mirror, like a compact

RSVP: by March 1st

Contact Info: Church - 715-695-3511; Karen Franson - 715-695-3553 or email franson-karen17@gmail.com



Moira will be using cartoons and humor to look at the many roles we fulfill as we travel through life. Covid and the pandemic have challenged us in unforeseen ways. Moira has recently retired from Sacred Heart Hospital after fifteen years of service, nine as Chaplain and six in the Community Outreach program. Moira is a co-author of two books, Singing My Sister to Sleep and A Year of Memories. Moira has been a Lay Minister for 22 years, is married and has 4 adult children and 8 grandchildren.



A huge thank you to all who helped take down the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 8th after the church service. Many hands certainly made short work!



Special shout out to Kris Dubiel for taking the orders, purchasing the poinsettias and the beautiful arrangement of flowers and lights in our church this Christmas Season. Thank you! Your creative efforts are very appreciated!

February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Bible Study 9:30am Confirmation Class - In Person w/Quilters- 2:45 to 4:45 pm			
Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Annual Meeting- 10:40 am	R.U.T.H. AT 6:30— Peace in Pigeon Falls	Quilters-8:30 to Noon Sunrise Manor-1:30 pm Council—6:30 pm	Bible Study 9:30am C.J.C.C. at 11:00 Confirmation Class - At Home			
Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Installation of Officers		<i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	Bible Study 9:30am Confirmation Class - In Person - 2:45 pm Grace Council 7:00 pm	Quilting Retreat- 8:00 to 5/6:00 pm	Quilting Retreat- 8:00 to 5/6:00 pm	
Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	<i>HAPPY President's DAY</i>	Quilters-8:30 to Noon	Bible Study 9:30am Confirmation Class - At Home Food Pantry 11am-1:00pm Ash Wednesday Services: 5:45 at OSL and 7:00 at Grace			
Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am						

Sharing God's Love
With All"

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



Pastor: Peter Jonas
Pastor Cell Phone: 608-323-2006
Pastor Email: pastoroslc@gmail.com
Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Church Secretary: Sherry M. Pabst
Church Office: 715-538-4334
Church E-mail:
osluthwh@gmail.com
Church Website: oslcwhitehall.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](#).



Galesville LTC
PHARMACY

ADRC
Trempealeau County

**Free Covid Vaccine Clinic
for ages 18+**

February 16th, 2023
Brookside Apartments
35924 Claire Street, Whitehall
9am to 11am

New Bivalent Booster now Available
(Pfizer or Moderna)

Flu vaccine
While Supplies Last - May not be available
(with insurance card)

Administered by Galesville LTC Pharmacy
Please bring your vaccine card and insurance card

**You're eligible if it's been at least 2 months since your last
dose or 3 months since a covid infection**

**We can come to your home to administer the vaccine if you
are unable to travel to the Clinic Site**
Within a reasonable distance

**Any Questions, please call the Galesville LTC Pharmacy at
608-468-6226 or the ADRC 715-538-2001**