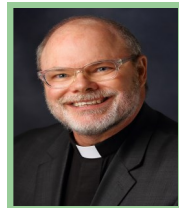




Pastor Peter Jonas



LENT 2023 REFLECTIONS

I was knocked a bit off kilter by the snowstorm that led to our Ash Wednesday services being cancelled. One of the things I really appreciate about Ash Wednesday is the ritual reminder that all human beings stand before God as equals with empty hands. 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. During the COVID pandemic we all learned to give up many things that we took for granted. But I never expected that after COVID I would wind up giving up ashes for Ash Wednesday. Even though we did not celebrate Ash Wednesday in person, it is important that we remember it's message and enter into the season of Lent with intentionality.

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

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-#121Whitehall- 54773
James Windjue

Grandview Nursing Home - 620 Grandview Avenue - Blair - 54616
Marilyn Speerstra, Mavis Mitskogen & Donna Oates

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

The Classic - Eau Claire
Joanne (Selkurt) Martin

In Christian Sympathy

We pray for the family and friends of:

Michael W. Ives—February 5th, 2023



March Birthdays



- 1 - Alyssa Glanzman, Gary Semb
- 2 - Ralph Johnson, Michael Mathson
- 3 - Timothy Lyga, Dawn Mathson, Mitchell Peters
- 4 - Amanda Berg, Jada Moats, Jordyn Moats, Daniel Oates,
- 5 - Maggie Lindberg
- 8 - Amy Klomsten
- 9 - Valerie Pronschinske
- 10 - Megan Kjos
- 11 - Steve Lamberson, Robert Nelson, Kinzleigh Sylla
- 12 - Tess Johnson, Trajan Schaub
- 13 - Aaron Berg, Carl Peterson
- 14 - Vernon Vold
- 16 - Diane Waldera
- 17 - Shiela Feltes
- 18 - Jaclyn Hauser, Mavis Mitskogen
- 21 - Brianna Harvie
- 22 - Sandra Everson, Gordon Fimreite, Dale Herbenson
- 23 - Georgia Hughes
- 25 - John Mathson
- 26 - Kennedy Harms, Charles Herman, Abigail Staff
- 27 - Melissa Frank, Ardell Jacobson, Caitlin Thomson
- 30 - James Larson
- 31 - Braydon Fonstad



5:45 PM at Our Saviours' and at 7:00 PM at Grace in Pleasantville

March 1st - Inheritance of Faith-Natalie Leske

March 8th - Perserverance with Endurance-Augie Hohl

March 15th - Faithful in Prayer—Dave Christianson

March 22nd - Striving for Justice—Valerian Ahles

March 29th - Dying & Rising with Christ-Luke Pederson

Church News



FINANCIAL REPORT

DISBURSEMENT & GIVING RECEIPTS - FEBRUARY 1ST THRU FEBRUARY 26TH, 2023

Disbursements:			
Administration	\$388.46		
Physical Plant	\$4,855.44		
Salaries & Benefits	\$10,372.93		
Benevolence	\$0.00		
Parish Expense	\$0.00		
Dues and Fees	\$0.00		
Total Disbursements =	\$15,616.83		
Giving Receipts			
Simply Giving Total =	\$3,617.30	General Fund Total =	\$7,294.75
On-Going Total =	\$1,177.00	Improvement Fund - Total =	\$215.00
February, 2023 Giving Grand Total =		\$12,304.05	

Members in Service:



MARCH



Altar Guild - Barb Johnson & Karen Witte

Altar Flowers—No Flowers

Ushers - Les & JoAnne Foss

Power Point—Lori Paulson

Acolyte Schedule: Taylor & Riley—March 5th

Brayden & Kade—March 12th

Cash & Travis—March 19th

Colton & Jack—March 26th





More Church News



Please keep the following in your prayers:

*Mary Harnisch Johnson

*Arline Stuve

*Mavis Olson

*Donna Lindberg

*Lisa James

*Helen Halvorson

*Mary Lou Beck

*Dawn Coburn

*Family and friends of Michael Ives



Dear friends,

Our 2023 Lenten medallions are available at Wednesday services at 5:45 at Our Saviour's and at 7:00 at Grace. Please pick one up and carry it as a reminder of this sacred season.

Peace, Pastor Peter Jonas

NOISY OFFERING UPDATE:

Thanks to your generosity, the Noisy Offering for January and February is on its way to help so many others less fortunate than ourselves! January's offering of \$303 went to ELCA World Hunger and February's offering of \$383 went to Lutheran Disaster Response for the earthquake survivors of Syria and Turkey!

March's Noisy Offering will be used more locally in Trempealeau County's New Horizon Program. This program offers shelter and outreach, advocating against domestic and sexual abuse. Your donation will help women and children when they are in dire need of help.



Reminder Daylight Savings Time Begins in the wee hours of Sunday, March 12th. Please remember to adjust your clocks ahead 1 hour.



More Church News



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Council Minutes—February 7, 2023

Members Present: Dave Anderson, Pastor Jonas, Kris Dubiel, Steve Lamberson, Marnie Anderson, Ellen Hauser, Kay Nelson, Clarice Laehn, 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 Pastor Jonas.
2. Prayer Requests/Homebound: Greg and Jackie (Anderson) Pavak whose daughter Sara Jurgella passed away.
3. Communication from Congregation: None

Communication/Action:

1. **Secretary's Report:** Steve Lamberson made a motion to approve January 2023 minutes with a second by Kay Nelson. Motion carried.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** 2023 Budget was presented and approved at the Annual Meeting on February 5, 2023.

3. Ministry Teams Updates:

- a) **Worship & Music:** In light of the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, Noisy Offering donations for February will go to earthquake relief rather than World Hunger.
- b) **WELCA:** Meetings will resume starting March 2nd.
- c) **Life & Growth:** Meeting is scheduled for February 19th. Life & Growth is sponsoring quilting retreat.
- d) **Men's Brotherhood:** Nothing to report.
- e) **Sharing from Pastor:**
 - a) Leadership of worship services is covered from April 30th through July 9th.
 - b) Pastor Jonas will have continuing education March 7th-March 8th.
 - c) Lenten Services will be: Our Saviour's at 5:45 p.m. and Grace Lutheran at 7:00 p.m.

Council discussed possible congregation members to fill board positions.

Celebration/Affirmation: The next council meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Business Items: Cost of phone system was discussed.

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer:

Steve Lamberson made a motion to adjourn with a second by Kay Nelson. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted by Lori Paulson, Council Secretary



The Easter season coincides with the beginning of spring, a time of renewal and rebirth. Spring-blooming flowers sing of hope and carry special religious meaning as we celebrate rebirth through Christ's resurrection.

Flowers for the church at Easter

Members of Our Saviour's may purchase and bring spring plants to the basement prior to the Easter morning services with a tag stating who donated the plant and for whom the plant is in honor or memory of. Easter plants can also be ordered for \$10.00.

Orders should be placed by **March 26th** for delivery. Orders can be taken to the church office or collected in the Narthex.

Easter Flower Order Form

From: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Cost \$10 - Flower preference (tulip, Easter Lily)



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

March W-ELCA Meeting

Our WELCA Meeting will be held at Our Saviour's this Thursday, March 2, at 1:30 pm. Pastor Jonas will lead us in Bible Study. A short business

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH W-ELCA EDUCATION GRANT

COMMITTEE: Kathy Gauger, Kay Nelson, Susie Jordahl

GRANT: \$500.00

APPLICANT:

Must be a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Whitehall, Wisconsin

2. May be of either sex
3. Must submit written evidence of acceptance by an accredited college or university
4. Students may apply for their first year at an accredited school (freshman or transfer student)
5. Should the recipient fail to complete the school year for which the Grant was given, he/she is required to refund the monies, in full, so that some other person(s) may be assisted financially. If this repayment is not completed within one year, interest at the rate of 5% per year will be assessed on the unpaid balance, dating back to the date of leaving school. Any exceptions to the above shall be left to the discretion of the W-ELCA Grant Committee

PROCEDURE:

Applications must be submitted to the W-ELCA Grant Committee by **May 1, 2023.**

Grant shall be paid to the student for college expenses.

The Grant will be announced on Senior Recognition Sunday at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

4. Applications will be judged on CHURCH PARTICIPATION AFTER CONFIRMATION (ie. attendance at worship, sing in choir, serving on a committee etc.) as the primary criteria. All applications being equal, the earliest application will be chosen. The committee has the right to not award the scholarship if no applicant meets the criteria.
5. The Grant will be awarded when the committee receives proof of the satisfactory completion of one semester. Your grant monies will be mailed to you at the address you provide in this applications unless you notify otherwise. Mail a copy of your grades 1st semester grades to **Kay Nelson**, N38314 Fitch Coulee Road, Whitehall WI 54773.
6. The Grant committee shall place announcements of availability of Grant in March and April Messenger and in church bulletins.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH W-ELCA EDUCATION GRANT

COMMITTEE: Kathy Gauger, Kay Nelson, Susie Jordahl

GRANT: \$500.00

OUR SAVIOUR'S WOMEN OF THE W-ELCA GRANT FUND

Application for grant from Our Saviour's Women of the WELCA

To the Student: If you have been accepted to attend an accredited college or university, please complete this application form and return it to the Church, P.O. Box 445. ATTN: Secretary, Whitehall, WI or Kathy Gauger, 35595 Claire Street, Whitehall, WI 54773 or ckmlgaug@gmail.com by May 1, 2023.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Parent's Name: _____

Date when I will graduate from high school (Month- Year): _____

Name of accredited college or university by which I have been accepted: _____

Address: _____

Please attach written evidence of acceptance.

Date of grant application: _____

Church activities in which you have been involved: _____

Write a personal statement why you want to further your education: _____

Why do you feel you need this grant? _____

Academic standing: _____


List what citizenship/community activities you have been involved in throughout high school (use back side of this form to list).

Please submit two (2) letters of recommendation. One to come from a previous Sunday School teacher and one from a community or school individual.

Date received by church/WELCA representative: _____

March 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<u>1.</u> Bible Study-9:30AM In-Class Confirmation at 2:45 pm Lenten Services-OSL-at 5:45 pm Grace at 7:00 pm	<u>2.</u> WELCA at OSL 1:30 pm	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>
<u>5.</u> Sunday Worship-9:30 am Sunday School-10:30 am	<u>6.</u> R.U.T.H. at 6:30 pm Peace Lutheran In Pigeon Falls	<u>7.</u> Quilters—8:30 to Noon Pastor out of Office OSL Council at 6:30 pm	<u>8.</u> No Bible Study Pastor out of Office At Home Confirmation-2:45 pm Lenten Services: OSL-at 5:45 pm Grace at 7:00 pm	<u>9.</u>	<u>10.</u>	<u>11.</u>
<u>12.</u> Sunday Worship-9:30 am Sunday School-10:30 am First Communion Meeting—Parents & Students-10:30 am 	<u>13.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>15.</u> Bible Study-9:30 am In-Class Confirmation at 2:45 pm Lenten Services-OSL-at 5:45 pm Grace at 7:00 pm Grace Council at 7:45 pm	<u>16.</u>	<u>17.</u> 	<u>18.</u>
<u>19.</u> Sunday Worship-9:30 am Sunday School-10:30 am First Communion Class 10:30 am	<u>20.</u>	<u>21.</u> quilters—8:30 to Noon	<u>22.</u> Bible Study at 9:30 am Tri-County Nursing Home at 10:00 am In-Class Confirmation at 2:45 pm Lenten Services-OSL-at 5:45 pm Grace at 7:00 pm	<u>23.</u>	<u>24.</u>	<u>25.</u>
<u>26.</u> Sunday Worship-9:30 am Sunday School-10:30 am First Communion Class 10:30 am	<u>27.</u>	<u>28.</u>	<u>29.</u> Bible Study at 9:30 In-Class Confirmation 2nd year students only at 2:45 pm Lenten Services-OSL-at 5:45 pm Grace at 7:00 pm Food Pantry 11am-1pm	<u>30.</u>	<u>31.</u>	

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

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

Return Service

Requested



Pastor: Peter Jonas

Pastor Cell Phone: 608-323-2006

Pastor Email: pastoroslc@gmail.com

Office Hours: Are Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday 10:00 to 2:00 pm

Church Secretary: Sherry M. Pabst

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](#).



Please remember to **always** include the post office box number **(P.O. Box 455)** when mailing items to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church or church office. Items not containing the po box # in the church address may be returned to the sender by the US Postal Service.

Food Pantry

The Whitehall Food Pantry is always in need of, and accepting, paper items, such as

***Facial Tissues**

***Toilet Paper**

***Paper Towel**



Parent and student meeting for First Communion will be
Sunday, March 12th at 10:30 am

**Senor Recognition is scheduled for
Sunday, May 21st, 2023.**

