

October 2023



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - WHITEHALL, WI

The Messenger



Pastor Greg Ofsdahl



Dear Family of God at Our Saviour's,

The first week of August, my son and I took our annual road-trip. This year we went east and did a "Civil War Battle Sites Tour." While on one of our monument walking tours, we heard this story:

A man named Samuel had these (the monuments we were walking by) erected. Samuel had started out as a hired hand on a farm and by sheer determination and frugality, he managed to amass a large fortune over his lifetime. In the process, however, he did not make many friends. He was not close to his wife's family due to the feeling that they thought she had married beneath her status. Bitter about this, and other negative feelings about his own family, he vowed never to leave any of them a dime. When his wife died, (she being the only person he really had any relationship with) he put up an elaborate statue in her memory. Samuel had hired a sculptor to design a monument which showed both her and him at opposite ends of a love seat. He was so happy with the result that he commissioned another statue, this time of himself, kneeling at her grave and placing a wreath on it. This also impressed him greatly, so he planned a third monument. This one was of his wife kneeling at his future gravesite, placing a wreath. He instructed the sculptor to add a pair of wings on her back, giving her the appearance of an angel. Well, as you can already see, one idea led to another until he had spent no less than \$250,000 on these monuments to himself and his wife. The story continued that whenever someone from the town would suggest that he might be interested in a community project such as the hospital, a park, the church... the old guy would frown and shout back, "What has this town ever done for me. I don't owe this town anything!" After using up all his resources on stone statues and selfish pursuits, Samuel died at 92, a grim-faced resident of the poorhouse. The monuments are now sinking into the ground, quickly becoming victims of time and neglect... sad reminders of a self-centered, unsympathetic life. Only one person showed up at Samuel's funeral; the tombstone salesman!

My prayer for all of us is that we all remember that the monuments worth building in our lives are those of kindness, love and mercy. Nothing else is needed.

Peace,

Pastor Greg Ofsdahl

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

Patricia Giebel, 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

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,
Dawn Coburn
Stanley Johnson

Arline Stuve
Mary Lou Beck
Bonnie Johnson

Mavis Olson
Lisa James



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

Church News



Just an early shout out Daylight Savings Time will be ending in the early morning hours of Sunday, November 5th

Members in Service

October



***Altar Guild** = Nancy Lyngen, Darcy Goplin & Karen Witte

***Altar Flowers**= Nancy Lyngen, Melanie Sygulla

***Ushers** = Richard & Bev Waldera

NOISY OFFERING

Our Noisy Offering in October will be going to the "Christmas is for Kids" program that the Trempealeau County Sheriff's Office sponsors. Your generosity will help make Christmas a joyous time for many children in our county who otherwise wouldn't have much to look forward to. Thank you for remembering these children.

Noisy Offering for September: During the month of September, \$374.48 was collected for the survivors of the wildfires in LaHaina, Maui. These funds will be directed through ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response. Thank you for your generosity!!



More Church News



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Council Minutes
September 5, 2023

Board Members Present: Dave Anderson, Kris Dubiel, Marnie Anderson, Clarice Laehn, Steve Lamberson, Jacob Paulson, Sharon Ivers, Jenny Everson, Barb Mathson and Lori Paulson.

Also Present: Pastor Greg Ofsdahl of Peace Lutheran, Shirley Mathson congregation member, and Dave Nadolny of Graphic House National Sign Firm.

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. Dave Anderson introduced Pastor Greg Ofsdahl of Peace Lutheran Church who is serving as interim administrative pastor, assisting in finding supply pastors and a regular interim pastor.
3. Mr. Nadolny of Graphic House Sign Firm provided information and answered questions regarding the replacement of the existing church sign which is falling apart. There is one person trying to keep the messages updated but it is a difficult task and not feasible to expect this to continue. A new electronic sign could be programmed from anywhere by computer and would be user-friendly. There is power running out to the current sign, however new wiring would be needed. Also, because the sign would be along State Highway 53 the DOT would have to be consulted. The sign company would handle this. The estimated cost of an electronic sign would be \$30,000 to \$50,000 depending on the design. Payment for the new sign would come from fundraisers and those wanting to donate toward the new sign. This cost would not come from regular offerings. So far there is approximately \$5,000 in the sign fund. There were concerns voiced about other structural problems with the church building such as the boiler and roof that need attention, and there was some question as to whether the sign would help to bring more people to church. Council president Dave Anderson appointed a sign committee consisting of Shirley Mathson, Barb Mathson, Kris Dubiel, Marnie Anderson, and Jacob Paulson to gather more information for presentation to the council.
3. **Prayer Requests/Homebound:** Pastor Ofsdahl has visited congregation members residing at Grandview in Blair.

Communication/Action:

1. **Secretary's Report:** Barb Mathson made a motion to approve minutes of August 1, 2023, with a second by Clarice Laehn. Motion carried.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Steve Lamberson and Barb Mathson presented the following fund balances: General Fund: \$55,986; On Going: \$12,270.25; Improvement: \$35,155. Marnie Anderson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report with a second by Clarice Laehn. Motion carried.
3. **Ministry Teams Updates:**
 - a) **Board of Education:**
 1. Sunday School registration is scheduled for September 10th and first day of Sunday School is September 17th. Jenny Everson will be the teacher. A congregational picnic is scheduled for October 1st. All are invited to attend.
 2. Board of Education will consult with Pastor Ofsdahl to see if it would be possible to combine Our Saviour's and Grace Lutheran confirmation classes with Peace Lutheran.
 3. Third grade and Pre K bible handouts on hold for now.
 4. Bible study on hold for now.

More Church News



- b) Music & Worship:
1. Maren Spencer played for Sunday, September 3rd service. She asked not to be paid and wanted it to be a birthday present from her to her dad Phillip Thomte.
 2. Noisy Offering for September is going to residents of LaHaina, Maui after wildfires swept through their town. It will be routed through ELCA-Disaster Relief. Noisy Offering for August of \$336 is going to the Coraliz and Samuel Perez family.
 3. Dave Anderson will clarify to congregation that the Noisy Offering is separate from regular offering.
- c) Life & Growth: Continue to work Mission Kits.
- d) WELCA: Continue to work on Mission Kits; mystery meal is this Thursday, September 7th.
- e) Lutheran Brotherhood: Church sign discussed earlier in this meeting.
- f) Finance & Property: Sunday offerings are down substantially.
- g) Letters will be sent out asking for donations in lieu of Harvest Dinner. The Harvest Dinner raffle will still be held.
- h) Pastor Ofsdahl confirmed there are supply pastors for Sunday services through October.

Celebration/Affirmation:

- a) The next council meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Business Items:

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer:

Council president Dave Anderson called the meeting adjourned.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Paulson, Council Secretary

The community is invited to **"Steering into the Skid", a One-Act Dementia Play at the Whitehall High School Auditorium on Friday, October 20th at 11 am**

The free event is designed to shine a light on the importance of brain health and to help raise awareness about dementia and the most well-known form of memory loss, Alzheimer's disease.

The program includes lunch, the performance and community conversation. Registration is required by calling the ADRC at 715-538-2001 or at Trempealeau-Skid2023.eventbrite.com

For those 60+, a \$5 suggested donation is requested for the Senior Meal lunch. Those under 60 will be requested to pay the cost of the meal.

Steering Into The Skid

by Arnie Johnston & Deborah Ann Percy,
The MemoryCare Plays Anthology



Through 12 short scenes, this play takes you on a one-year journey with Tim and Amanda in their car, bearing witness to the early progression of dementia. This event includes the performance and a facilitated conversation to help you learn more and increase awareness, as well as provide valuable resources for you, your family or friends who are experiencing the effects of memory loss.

JOIN US! FREE LIVE EVENT!

Friday, October 20, 2023
Whitehall High School Auditorium
19121 Hobson Street, Whitehall

Doors Open & Lunch: 11:00 am
Play & Community Conversation
11:45 am - 1:30 pm

Reserve tickets and get additional details:
call ADRC of Trempealeau County (715) 538-1930
online <https://Trempealeau-Skid2023.eventbrite.com>
Reservations required, attendance is limited

Local Host and Sponsors:



More Church News

October Birthdays



- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 - Thomas Richter | 16 - Skylar Ehrat |
| 3 - Nathan Larson | 17 - Stanley Johnson |
| 4 - Linda Schaefer | 18 - Dawn Hegge |
| 6 - Jeffrey Radke, Michael Sylla | 19 - Douglas Oates |
| 7 - Gregory Webster | 21 - Kayley Blaha, Leslie Foss |
| 8 - Quinn Holtan | 22 - Taylor Sylla |
| 9 - Cassidy LaBar, Kevin Miles | 23 - Rita Hegge |
| 10 - Jennie Everson, | 26 - Avvia Herman, Peter Koxlien, Dagny Lund |
| 12 - Donna Oates | 27 - David Loga, Wanda Peters |
| 13 - Carsten Peterson | 28 - Benjamin Webster |
| 14 - Stephanie Kopp | 30 - Clarice Laehn, Sharon Lamberson |
| 15 - Shirley Mathson | |

DISBURSEMENT & GIVING RECEIPTS -Sept. 1st, 2023 THRU Sept. 24th, 2023

| Disbursements: | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Administration | \$388.64 | | |
| Physical Plant | \$897.01 | | |
| Salaries & Benefits | \$2,403.25 | | |
| Benevolence | \$0.00 | | |
| Parish Expense | \$0.00 | | |
| Dues and Fees | \$0.00 | | |
| Harvest Dinner | \$0.00 | | |
| Total Disbursements = | | \$3,688.91 | |
| Giving Receipts | | | |
| Simply Giving Total = | \$3210.30 | General Fund Total = | \$5073.00 |
| On-Going Total = | \$374.48 | Improvement Fund - Total = | \$300.00 |
| September, 2023 Giving Grand Total = | | \$8,957.78 | |





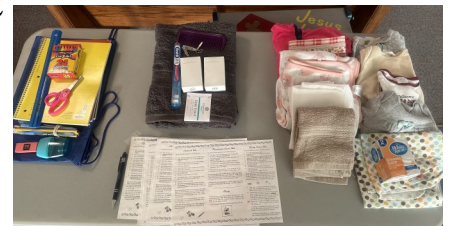
More Church News



WELCA CORNER

MISSION KITS

Thank you to all who have donated to our Mission Kits for Lutheran World Relief! So far we have 40 health kits, 10 baby care kits & about 25 school kits ready to go. There have been more donations so we will be making more kits next week & packing them for shipment the **second Saturday in October**. What a wonderful project to help those in need around the world!!



BIBLE STUDY

We will host Grace W-ELCA here at Our Saviour's on **Thursday, October 5th at 1:30 pm**. Lay Minister Scott Brown will lead our Bible Study. Thank you Scott!! Coffee & dessert will be served along with fun fellowship. Please join us!

"STITCHES OF LOVE/QUILTERS"

Our Saviour's quilting group resumed Tuesday, September 5th. Anyone that can iron, tie a knot, pin, measure or cut fabric (sewing is not necessary) is welcome to join the quilters on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month** from fall through to spring. Bring a snack, bring a friend, and come join the fun!

Everyone is welcome!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The Whitehall Food Pantry is seeing a rise in families in need and is short on the following food items:

- * noodles of any kind
- * soups
- * personal care items

Donations can be left in the narthex of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church or dropped off at the church office Tuesday mornings or Wednesday afternoon. Any and all donations are very appreciated by all those in need in our community.

Thank you for your generosity and God Bless!

October 2023



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <u>1</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am with Mr. Scott Brown Congregation picnic after worship | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> Church office open 8am-12pm Quilters 8:30 am Parish Council 6:30 pm | <u>4</u> Church office open 1-5pm | <u>5</u> WELCA - 1:30 pm | <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> |
| <u>8</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am with Pastor Kermit Solem Sunday School 10:30 am | <u>9</u> | <u>10</u> Church office open 8am-12pm | <u>11</u> Church office open 1-5pm | <u>12</u> | <u>13</u> | <u>14</u> |
| <u>15</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am with Pastor Kermit Solem Sunday School 10:30 am | <u>16</u> | <u>17</u> Church office open 8am-12pm Quilters 8:30 am | <u>18</u> Church office open 1-5pm | <u>19</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>21</u> |
| <u>22</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am with Mr. Scott Brown Sunday School 10:30 am | <u>23</u> | <u>24</u> Church office open 8am-12pm | <u>25</u> Church office open 1-5pm Food Pantry 11am- 1pm | <u>26</u> | <u>27</u> | <u>28</u> |
| <u>29</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am with Pastor Kermit Solem Sunday School 10:30 am | <u>30</u> | <u>31</u> Church office open 8am-12pm  | | | | |

***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](#).

