

September 2023



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - WHITEHALL, WI

Messenger



Pastor Greg Ofsdahl



Dear People of God at Our Saviour's in Whitehall,

To introduce myself, I am Greg Ofsdahl. I serve as pastor at Peace Lutheran of Pigeon Falls and for a short time, I will also be serving as your administrative interim. I grew up in Ettrick and am thrilled to be doing what I love back in my home area! Until the synod office identifies a full-time interim pastor for your congregation, I will be helping to schedule pulpit supply preachers, assisting with church council guidance, and providing hospital, homebound and other essential visitation. Please feel free to contact me when you know of someone wishing to have a visit. I would be glad to bring communion.

Interim periods can be trying for congregations. Anxiety can overwhelm as we look to the future and wonder what is happening?... what will happen?... will we be ok?

Let me share this story:

A carpenter had been in his shop building some crates for the clothes his church was sending to an orphanage in China. On his way home, he reached into his shirt pocket to find his glasses, but they were gone. When he replayed in his mind what he had been doing, he realized what had happened; the glasses must have slipped out of his pocket into one of the crates, which was now on its way to China! The Great Depression was at its height, and the carpenter had six children at home. He had spent \$20 for those glasses earlier that very day. He was quite distraught over the thought of having to buy another pair. Several months later, the director of the orphanage was visiting the United States and planned to stop at all the churches that had supported the orphanage in China. He came to speak one Sunday at the carpenter's church. The director began by thanking the people for their faithfulness and support. "But most of all," he said, "I must thank you for the glasses you sent last year. The communists had just swept through the orphanage, destroying everything, including my glasses. I was desperate. Then your crates arrived. When my staff removed the covers, they found a pair of glasses lying on top. When I tried them on, it was as though they had been custom-made just for me! I want to thank you for being part of that." The people listened, happy for the miraculous glasses story, but thought the director surely must have confused the crates they sent with those of another church as they had not sent any glasses! But sitting quietly in the back with tears streaming down his face, the carpenter realized that the Master Carpenter had used him in an extraordinary way.

What often feels like uncertainty for us can, in the end, be times of learning, growth and new opportunities. Pray, encourage one another, step out in new ways to serve. During this interim period, and forever, remember that Christ is the head of the Church and will always be our solid rock. God is always active and up to something. We have faith that this remains true at Our Saviour's Church too. Hang on...stick together!

Peace,
Pastor Greg Ofsdahl

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

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



"Stitches of Love/Quilters"

Our Saviour's quilting group will be resuming 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! We do not meet in the summer months



Members in Service

≡ *September* ≡

Alter Guild: Mary Speerstra & Karen Witte

Alter Flowers: Barbara Johnson



Upcoming Events:

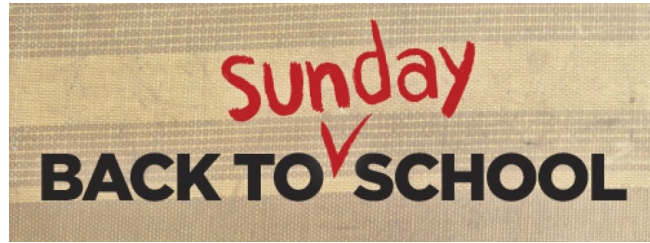
- *W-ELCA - Mystery Meal - September 7th*
- *Sunday School registration—September 10th*
- *Confirmation student and parent Orientation - TBD*
- *Sunday School class begins- September 17th*

More Church News



Sunday School

Sunday School kick-off and registration will take place, Sunday, **September 10th** after worship.



Our first Sunday School Class will be on Sunday, **September 17th** after worship at 10:30 am for all age groups

Our Saviour's will host a Congregational Picnic on Sunday, October 1st after church. The picnic is to celebrate the kick off of Sunday School.

Everyone is WELCOME!!



Our Noisy Offering for September will be going to the relief efforts in LaHaina, Maui after a devastating wildfire on August 17 turned this town to ashes. This has been the deadliest blaze in the United States for years with 115 deaths recorded. Over 300 people are still unaccounted for, and almost 5,000 residents have been displaced. Our donation will be routed through ELCA - Lutheran Disaster Response. Your donations will be greatly appreciated for so many in distress!

The Noisy Offering for August totaled \$336. This will be donated to the Coraliz and Samuel Perez Family. Thank you for your generous donations!

More Church News



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
August 1, 2023

Members Present: Dave Anderson, Marnie Anderson, Barb Mathson, Kay Nelson, 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

Communication/Action:

1. Secretary's Report: Barb Mathson made a motion to approve minutes of July 5, 2023, with a second by Marnie

Anderson. Motion carried.

2. Treasurer's Report: Barb Mathson presented the following fund balances per July 2023 financial reports: General Fund: \$51,753.95; On Going: \$12,480.15; Improvement: \$34,908.24. Kay Nelson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report with a second by Lori Paulson. Motion carried.

3. Ministry Teams Updates:

a) Life & Growth: No report

b) WELCA: WELCA will meet on Thursday, August 3rd at Grace Lutheran. Reservations are needed for the mystery meal in September. Donations are needed for mission kits, school kits especially.

c) Finance & Property: The new church secretary will be in the office on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday

afternoons. Kay Nelson made a motion to give Sherry Pabst a \$500 bonus for her assistance during the search for a replacement church secretary, with a second by Barb Mathson. Motion carried.

Celebration/Affirmation:

a) The next council meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

b) Olin Fimreite has interest in possibly using the church basement for coffee in honor of his birthday.

c) Pastor Ofsdahl of Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls will begin serving as administrative interim pastor for Our Saviour's on August 15 th . This does not include leading Sunday services, but Pastor Ofsdahl will assist in finding

supply pastors and an interim pastor.

Business Items:

a) Discussion held regarding a new electric sign for the church. Donations are still needed.

b) Discussion held regarding the possibility of the new church secretary maintaining the church website.

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer:

Barb Mathson made a motion to adjourn with a second by Kay Nelson. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Paulson, Council Secretary

More Church News



September Birthdays

- 1 - Kurt Johnson, Jason Pronschinske
- 2 - Kristina Laehn
- 5 - Terry Brekke, Ellen Hauser, Audrey Holtan
- 6 - Charles Kastad
- 7 - Paula Hentges, Karen Witte
- 8 - Brinley Utecht, Brooks Vitse
- 9 - Emily Granlund
- 10 - Lori Paulson
- 11 - Kye Foss
- 12 - Charlotte Beck, Curt Beck, Joanne Jacobson
- 13 - Blake Herman, Debbie Larson, Sarah Toraason
- 15 - Scott Waldera
- 16 - Brandon Foss, Jerry Leque Jr., Cassidy Przybilla
- 17 - Bradley Ivers, Renee Radke
- 18 - Brody Jenson, Eric Jordahl, Fern Moe
- 19 - Tracy Warner
- 20 - Sharon Engen, Ross Sygulla
- 21 - Ellen Koxlien, Anita Semb, Aime Stendahl, Tyler Vitse
- 22 - Bonnie Johnson, Cashton Kulig
- 24 - Charles Gauger, Ella LaBar
- 26 - Andrew Engen, Maddison Webster
- 27 - Renee Hegge
- 28 - Mark Johnson, Randi Lindberg,
- 29 - Nancy Lyngen



DISBURSEMENT & GIVING RECEIPTS - August 1st, 2023 THRU August 27th, 2023

Disbursements:			
Administration	\$611.77		
Physical Plant	\$3,697.05		
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,746.95		
Benevolence	\$0.00		
Parish Expense	\$0.00		
Dues and Fees	\$0.00		
Harvest Dinner	\$0.00		
Total Disbursements =	\$7,055.77		
Giving Receipts			
Simply Giving Total =	\$3,146.30	General Fund Total =	\$4,035.00
On-Going Total =	\$336.00	Improvement Fund - Total =	\$242.00
August, 2023 Giving Grand Total =		\$7,759.30	



WELCA CORNER



Mystery Meal Trip

Grace & OSL Women-ELCA will be enjoying a Mystery Meal Trip on **Thursday, September 7th**. This is in place of our Bible Study Meeting. We will meet in the OSL parking lot at 11:30AM for our Mystery destination. We should be returning about 2 pm. Please contact Kay Nelson 715-983-5760 so we can make the correct reservations & plan for car pooling.

Our Saviour's Mission Kits:

Dear Friends;

Remember our Mission Kit project. All donations are appreciated. If you don't want to shop for supplies, we will accept financial donations & we will do the shopping. A display in the back of the narthex shows the supplies needed for each kind of kit. A list is also available

Thank you and God Bless,

Marnie & Kay, WELCA Missions Coordinators

Food Pantry Needs

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

any type of noodles: elbow, spirals, bow tie, shells

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!

September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am	<u>4</u> 	<u>5</u> Quilting 8:30 am OSL Council at 6:30pm	<u>6</u> WELCA Mystery Meal Carpool at OSL at 11:30am	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School Registration (10:30am/after worship)	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30am	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> Quilting 8:30 am	<u>20</u> Grace Council-7:00pm	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> Autumn Begins
<u>24</u> Sunday Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Food Pantry - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm	<u>29</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>

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

Return Service
Requested

"Sharing God's Love With All"



Pastor: Greg Ofsdahl

Pastor Email:

Office Hours:

Tuesday 8am-12pm and Wednesday 1-5pm



Church Secretary: Cheryl Daffinson

Church Office: 715-538-4334

Church E-mail: osluthwh@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook at: [Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Whitehall, WI](#) and

[United in Faith Parish](#) and [OS Sunday-School](#) and [Sunday School - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Whitehall, WI](#)