

December 2020 Newsletter

Our Savior Lutheran Church

223 Silver Lake Road, Eagle River WI 715-479-6226 (office) 715-479-7890 (fax)
Website: www.oursavioreagleriver.org + Email: oursavioreagleriver@gmail.com

Our Mission...

...is to equip and encourage followers of Christ to share the love of Jesus with people in our community and in the world so that all may have eternal life.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE & ONLY SON SO THAT ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE
JOHN 3:16

December Memory Verse

For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Church Staff:

Peter Kufahl, Pastor
715-479-6226 (Church Office)
507-822-3606 (Cell)

Marlene Rieck, Director of Music & Children's Ministry
715-479-7466 (Office)
715-891-0991 (Home)

Jean Walker, Office Administrator
715-479-6226 (Church Office)

Vicki Holewinski, JuBELLation Director

Gary Fawcett, Congregational President
715-479-6226 (Church Office)

Upcoming Events:

Virtual Advent Services

Wednesday, December 2, 9, 16 at 6:30 pm

Christmas Lessons & Carols

Saturday, Dec. 12, 7 pm & Sunday, Dec. 13, 10 am
(Traditional Worship 7:30 am with Holy Communion)

Children's Christmas Rehearsal

Saturday, Dec. 19, 9-11:00 am (PreK & K 9-9:45 am)

Children's Christmas Service ~ Sunday, Dec. 20, 10 am
(Traditional Worship 7:30 am with Holy Communion)

December 24th ~ Christmas Eve Worship
3:00 pm, 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm

December 25th ~ Christmas Day
Worship with Holy Communion at 10:00 am



From the Pastor's Desk

December Newsletter 2020

Growing up, we seldom had Christmas presents under the tree until the morning of December 24. Even then I remember the presents stacked in the family room where the night before, my father precisely wrapped each gift. It was then the job of my sister and I to carefully place each one of those gifts under the tree. Some years we were blessed with gift tags that enabled us to know how to organize the wrapped boxes, but other years, my father's cruel sense of humor shone through... no gift tags. It was agonizing not knowing which gift was mine! So then throughout the day, whether we sat down by the tree or walked by it, the great guessing game would take place of, "I wonder which one is mine?" I would be filled with this hope that certain gifts would belong to be. After all, I knew what I wanted for Christmas and had a rough idea of the size of box they came in. The suspense would kill me!

So, my question for you is, how are you holding up under the suspense? Now unless you are like Skip Plisch, the suspense of what is beneath that wrapping paper may be no big deal for you. But as a Christian, each day is a day that should be filled with suspense for you. Is this the day when Jesus is coming back? What will it be like? How will everyone on earth witness His descent from the clouds? What will Jesus look like? Will I be afraid of Him? What will He say to me? Who will I see next? The questions are endless! Yet because a few days have passed since Jesus ascended into heaven, our suspense may have deteriorated a bit, and for many the suspense has become non-existent.

Yet throughout the Bible, we have this growing anticipation. From the very beginning with the fall of Adam and Eve, we have God's promise that the offspring of Eve would bruise the serpent's head (Genesis 3:13-15). From there we have the long-running promises of a Savior who would come to rescue God's people. They were not sure when this Messiah would come, but they were told what He would do. The blind would receive their sight, the lame would walk, lepers cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead raised, and the poor have good news preached to them (Luke 7:22, Isaiah 29:18, 35:5-6). Like a Christmas present without a tag the people were held in suspense of who this gift would be.

How blessed are we and so many more throughout time, that have come to know the gift was opened in a manger so long ago. The gift of the Christ child to Jew and Gentile alike. For as this incarnate Word made flesh began to share the Good News to all, Jesus prepared His disciples for the gift that was to come through His death and resurrection (Mark 8:31) for the forgiveness of sins of all. When that was accomplished, a new gift was set before mankind, the gift of Jesus' promised return. This return would mark the final destruction of sin, death, and the devil, and bring to life all who have trusted and hoped in Jesus' redemption.

We are not sure when, but the gift is there, waiting for the right time to be opened once again. May this Advent and Christmas season be a blessing to you and your family, as we renew once again our anticipated awe and wonder of when the gift of Christ's return will come to fruition, and we may see the greatest gift we could ever imagine face to face. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Covid and Christmas

This will be a Christmas like no other. In a year that has been so odd with closures and social distancing, sadly it carries through into the holiday season. We at Our Savior look to make this time of the year special for you and your family. This Advent we have wonderful devotions for you that go with our theme of Jesse's Tree. There are Advent kits available for families for use in sharing the hope that is ours with our children. And although our mid-week services will be virtual, we invite everyone to take part. Our traditions of a Christmas cantata will change a bit this year, but the Good News will still be offered through special Lessons and Carols services.

With that being said, we are expanding our worship services on Christmas Eve to accommodate more people with social distancing. A 3:00 service will be added to the 5:00 and 7:00 services in order that more people may attend and sit in the sanctuary. We ask that if you normally attend the 5:00 service on Christmas Eve, if you would please consider attending either the 3:00 or 7:00 service.

This is most certainly not ideal as we would love to have the sanctuary packed full of people, elbow to elbow, singing their favorite Christmas carols, and hearing the Good News of God's love made flesh once again. Although the virus is making things difficult, it cannot take away our need to be with God's people on such a special night.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

December Worship Opportunities

WEDNESDAY ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

As you prepare for Christmas, take time out of your busy schedule to prepare your heart with virtual midweek worship opportunities at 6:30 pm: December 2, (Jesus, the Seed of Jesse's Tree), December 9, (Jesus, the Root of Jesse's Tree), December 16, (Jesus, the Life of Jesse's Tree).



CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

SATURDAY, DEC. 12TH 7 p.m. &

SUNDAY, DEC. 13TH 10:00 a.m.

Come celebrate the Christ child through Scripture and beloved Christmas carols! Join a choral ensemble, JuBELLation choir, and instrumentalists as we worship our King and Savior, Jesus! A traditional worship service with Holy Communion is offered at 7:30 a.m. on December 13th.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

SUNDAY, DEC. 20TH, 10 a.m.

What is a Jesse Tree? Find out at the children's Christmas service, "Jesse Tree: Jesus' Family Tree". Join us in person or online as the children will help us behold the baby Jesus, the promised Messiah, who came to save us! A traditional worship service with Holy Communion is offered at 7:30 a.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH,

3 p.m., 5 p.m. & 7 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

(with Holy Communion)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 10 a.m.

Council Meeting November 19, 2020

Attendance via Zoom: Pastor Kufahl, Marlene Rieck, Teri Kressin, Grant Meyer, Becky Pokrandt, Don Secord, Rick Behrens, Gary Fawcett, Bill Hassey

1. Opening Devotions by Pastor. Based on Advent theme, "Jesse Tree: God's Family Tree". We remember that Jesus was the promised Messiah (the branch from Jesse) who came to save us. Jesus is the Light of the world who defeated sin, death, and darkness. He is the seed, the root, and the life of Jesse's tree. All of Scripture points to Jesus. Our hope is in Him!
2. Attendance see above
3. Minutes of the 9/2/20 Council Meeting. Grant made motion to approve minutes. Rick seconded. Motion was approved.
4. Treasurer's Report. Grant commented that we are on track for offerings in 2020. Our expenses for 2021 is projected to be higher. Teri made motion to approve report. Don seconded. Motion was approved.
5. Pastor's Report. Circumstances have been unique. Pastor appreciated patience as he has been home while Amy has been sick. Technology upgrades (for example, new router) have been helpful to stay connected and to give offerings online. We had one adult baptism in October. Pastor, the Elders, and staff have been making decisions how to move forward while dealing with pandemic.
6. President's Remarks. Gary commented that it has been a hard year. He would like to see the church open. He thanked the staff and council for the efforts this year to serve our church family.
7. Staff, Board and Committee Reports
 - a. Director of Music and Children's Ministry – See reports for children's ministry. A small choral ensemble and the bell choir are getting ready for a Christmas Lessons & Carols service on Saturday, Dec. 12th, at 7 pm and Sunday, Dec. 13th, at 10 am. The children's Christmas service will be Sunday, Dec. 20th, at 10 am.
 - b. Decorating committee will be decorating the church on Saturday, November 28th.
 - c. Board of Elders – Christmas Eve worship will be at 3 pm, 5 pm, and 7 pm. The Board of Elders have been meeting regularly with Pastor to make decisions with the challenges of Covid.
 - d. Board of Trustees – The Board has been meeting to address issues. Some boiler repairs will be done on Friday, November 20th. It is expected to not be a major cost.
8. Business to be acted on:

Housing allowance for Pastor and Marlene will be the same percentages as last year. Gary made motion. Don seconded. Motion approved. Gary & Jean will sign next week.

DCE intern for fall of 2021. The income for a DCE intern is estimated to be about \$10,000. If we split an intern with Camp Luther, housing for the intern is provided at camp. If it is not a split with Camp Luther, we would need to provide housing which might be an additional \$800-1000 a month (possible start in Aug/Sept). There was discussion, especially about the cost. Rick commented that many members were moved to help cover the cost of our previous intern. Pastor reminded us that we would have an intern for only part of 2021 which helps the budget. Becky made motion that we present to the voter's assembly our desire to acquire a DCE intern for the fall of 2021. The current budget includes the cost of an intern. This is a wonderful opportunity for an intern to support our ministry and for us to encourage and equip a church worker. Rick seconded. Motion approved.

Slate of candidates for 2021. A president is still needed. Gary Fawcett will be the LLL representative. Rick made motion to approve slate of candidates. Teri seconded. Motion approved.

Circuit Business. Pastor is our interim Circuit Visitor, taking the place of Pastor Cluppert who took a call. Pastor Kufahl has been nominated to be our permanent Circuit Visitor which needs to be approved by our congregation before being voted on at the upcoming District Convention. This will be presented at the Voter's Meeting.

Gary asked about a photo directory to get to know new members. Discussion included ways to make our own directory using our current software.
9. Letter/communications: None
10. Adjournment & Closing Prayer by Pastor
11. Next meeting dates: Council meeting TBD (possibly February)
Voter's Meeting Sunday, December 13th, after the 10 am service in the sanctuary

Overjoyed by the Star

In Matthew 2, we read about the Visit of the Magi. Following the star, inquiring at the king's palace, informed by the priests where to find the Child, they trudged with determination to Bethlehem, bringing with them the gifts they planned to present as they worshiped Him. *"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh"* (Matthew 2:10-11).

What did the Wise Men from the East know about this Baby or His family? Not much. Yet they came in faith, bringing gifts with them to honor Him. How far did they travel? How long was their trip? We can surmise, but what's important to know is that, for them, the trip with all its drudgery was worth it. "They were overjoyed."

How long a trip are we prepared to make this Christmas to worship the Christ Child? Are we willing to put up with inconvenience and sacrifice in order that we might come before Him with our gifts, offering them in faith, as the Wise Men did?

What causes our joy this Christmas season? Is it seeing the eyes of little children light up when they open their presents? That's good. Is it finding exactly the right gift for someone special? That's good, too. But are we "overjoyed" when we see the star? Contrary to the messages we hear in the commercials and even the seasonal songs, the only thing Christmas is about is the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Along with doing all the wonderful things that are good to do at this time of the year, including the visiting of sick and the shut-in, the baking of goodies for food banks, the sharing of financial resources with those in need, and all the shopping and caroling and everything else, let's find our joy in seeing the star. That star points us to Jesus and leads us to the Cross. Let us "open our treasures" and worship Him with our best and most precious gifts as the Wise Men did.

Board of Christian Education Meeting

Thursday 11/05/20 – 7:00pm @ OSLC (Changed to online/emails)

MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening: Prayer/ Devotional was not done as a group due to meeting being through emails)
2. Review minutes from October 2020 Meeting (Emailed to all)(Minutes submitted for approval)
3. Financial Report- Rick (Rick presented, nothing to report that needed discussion.)
4. Children's Report- Marlene (Please see Marlene's report for more info)
5. Youth Updates- Youth Leader or Representative (Pastor talked about an upcoming service project for confirmation youth helping some congregation members with some yard work)
6. Old business Items: Successful Trunk or Treat for 2020! Great turnout, thankful families in our community, and safety and guidelines were followed to keep everyone safe.
7. New Business:
8. Next meeting: December 3rd, 2020? 7pm @ Church? TBA
9. Close in Prayer (Not done as a group due to email meeting)

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM
NOVEMBER 2, 2020**

Present: Pastor Kupfahl, Teri Kressin, Gary Fawcett, Pat and Jan Grosse, Ron Ritzer, Jim Schmidt, Holly Nier

Teri called the meeting to order with prayer by Pastor.

We are excited to welcome new member, Jim Schmidt.

Teri discussion:

-the trunk or treat was a great success! We had 15 cars and gave out candy, popcorn and literature to approximately 378 kids. It was very orderly and everyone followed social distancing, gloves and masks.

-Sunday, Nov 8th we will be honoring our Veteran members at both services. We have thank you packets for each Veteran. We thank our Sunday School kids who made personal notes for each Veteran, and Ron Ritzer for making Cross necklaces. These will be included in each packet.

- the Harvest Table is set up in the Narthex for donations to the Vilas Food Pantry.

Pastor discussion:

-we will be setting up a Christmas tree in the Narthex for monetary donations to the FORK Program (Feed Our Rural Kids). Board members are asked to meet at 5PM on Monday, November 30th to decorate the tree.

There will not be a December meeting; next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2021.

Pastor led us in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned by Teri.

Submitted by
Holly Nier

Martha Society News

MARTHA SOCIETY DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

As we start the preparation for Jesus' birth, it's a little bit different than what we do usually. Maybe, it's a little like the 4 Christmas' that happened during World War II. Families were separated by war and distance. Today, we're separated by Covid but we can keep in touch by zooming, facetime, skype, echo show. Many of us did this for Thanksgiving and maybe will be doing it at Christmas. For those of us in Martha who have grandchildren, we will miss not seeing them open their presents and eating their candy canes and Christmas cookies. But we will still celebrate the birth of Jesus with advent wreaths, calendars, telling the story of Joseph and Mary and the birth of their son, our Jesus, our savior.

For our December meeting, the executive board will be your hostesses. Marlene Rieck or Sue Kurth will present Christian life. The Board will meet at 10:30 AM, luncheon served at 11:30, and general meeting at 12 noon. Because we had to cancel our November meeting, we will have nomination and election for the office of President and Treasurer.

Missions will be looked at for this year and for next. Updating the handbook for 2021 by filling in email addresses, phone numbers of all members is going to be done. Also, think about which month you would like to be a hostess and/or present Christian life.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Teri Kressin

President

Martha Society



December Birthdays

1	Kayden Halsey	19	Patrick Heck
2	Arthur Granat	21	Mark Rehorst
	Sherri Congleton	22	Denise Riemer
5	Gerald Yetter		Jay Numrich
	Willie Lorenz		Kenneth Alft
6	Julia Schilling	23	Justin Scafaro
	Larry Merritt		Logan Lorenz
8	Denise Voss	24	Chris Wise
10	Jennifer Messner	26	Marilyn Campbell
	Kelly Skarbek	27	Beth Wernhart
11	Ashley Mai		Gabriel Welch
	Sally Gibbs		Jessica Parling
12	Connie Plisch	28	Jessica Shifra
13	Jacqueline Pearce	29	Carrie Holewinski
15	Elaine Peters		Tina Warfel
16	Carla Klein	30	Brian Voss
	Dave Goddard		Chris Matthis
	Eliyanah Welch		Lily Campbell
17	Holly Nier	31	Karla Healy
	Raymond Hutts		Shawn Uttech
	Shirley Merz		Stewart Jackson

December Anniversaries

27	Robert & Beverly Ginnow
28	Scott & Angie Koritz
29	William & Barbara Hummel

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilters 6pm JuBELLation	2 9am Aging with Grace 4pm WOW 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Advent Worship - Virtual	3 9:30am Quilters	4 Office Closed	5
6 7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service	7	8 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilters 6pm JuBELLation	9 9am Aging with Grace 10:30am Martha Board 11:30am Martha 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Advent Worship - Virtual	10 9:30am Quilters	11 Office Closed	12 7pm Christmas Lessons & Carols
13 7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Christmas Lessons & Carols 11am Voters Meeting	14	15 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilters 6pm JuBELLation	16 9am Aging with Grace 4pm WOW 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Advent Worship - Virtual	17 9:30am Quilters	18 Office Closed	19 9am Children's Christmas Rehearsal
20 7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Children's Christmas Service	21 9am Newsletter Articles Due	22 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilters 6pm JuBELLation	23 9am Aging with Grace	24 3pm Candlelight Service 5pm Candlelight Service 7pm Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed 10pm Worship/Communion	26
27 7:30am Early Service 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service/Comm	28	29 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilters	30 9am Aging with Grace	31	1 Office Closed	2

<u>Date/Service</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Media Operators</u>
December 2 6:30 PM Advent	Virtual				
December 6 7:30 AM Communion	Dick Cherney Jim Bonson	Dick Cherney Debbie Holewinski Bob Johnson		Debbie Holewinski	Jackie Pearce
Acolyte: EJ Apfel					Camera:
December 6 10:00 AM	Tim Kadlec	Dave Parker Lynn Parker		Jan Toivonen	
Acolyte: Anna Westfall					Camera:
December 9 6:30 PM Advent	Virtual				
Christmas Lessons & Carols	Gary Fawcett				
December 13 7:30 AM Communion	Pat Crum Jim Bonson	Jim Harper Jim Bonson		Pat Crum	Camera:
Acolyte: Ashton Boehm					
December 13 10:00 AM	Keith Kentala	Pat Grosse Jan Grosse Tim Forss		Cindy Gauger	Camera:
Acolyte: Matthew Wilson					
December 16 6:30 PM Advent	Virtual				
December 20 7:30 AM Communion	Pat Crum Dick Cherney	Marv Jarvis Sue Frank Bob Merz		Kris Secord	Camera:
Acolyte: Coleman Crum					
December 20 10:00 AM	Tim Kadlec	Andy Ellenberger Gerald Yetter		Diane Kuntz	Camera:
Acolyte: RJ Behrens					

IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE WHEN SCHEDULED, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO GET A REPLACEMENT!!!

December 24 3:00 PM Candlelight Service	Keith Kentala	Dave Parker Lynn Parker		
Acolyte: RJ Behrens				
December 24 5:00 PM Candlelight Service	Pat Crum Jacob Husing	Marv Jarvis Gary Fawcett Jim Bonson		Camera:
Acolyte: Coleman Crum				
December 24 7:00 PM Candlelight Service	Tim Kadlec	Jerry Gifford Grant Meyer		
Acolyte: Alex Gensch				
December 25 10:00 AM Christmas Day <i>Communion</i>	Gary Fawcett Pat Crum	Grant Meyer Jerry Gifford Paul Kurth		
Acolyte: Matthew Wilson				
December 27 7:30 AM	Jim Bonson	Del Keup Jim Bonson	Kris Secord	Camera:
Acolyte: Sam Gensler				
December 27 10:00 AM <i>Communion</i>	Keith Kentala Jacob Husing	Grant Meyer Jerry Gifford Paul Kurth	Rick Behrens	Jackie Pearce Camera:
Acolyte: Christian Forss				