

January 2021 Newsletter

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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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.



January Memory Verse

(God says) "I have called you by name, you are Mine."

Isaiah 43:1

Church Staff:

Peter Kufahl, Pastor
715-479-6226 (Church Office)
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Marlene Rieck, Director of Music &
Children's Ministry
715-479-7466 (Office)
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Jean Walker, Office Administrator
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Vicki Holewinski, JuBELLation Director

Tim Kadlec, Congregational President
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*A Blessed
New Year to
All*



From the Pastor's Desk

January 2021 Newsletter

The Lord has richly blessed us in so many ways at Our Savior. One that many of us may take for granted is the music we have that accompanies each worship service. Prior to the service every week, Marlene and her talented group of directors and musicians practice tirelessly the music that accompanies and supports the Word of the Lord for the day. As Pastor, I am very thankful for these God-given gifts and His servants like Marlene and her team, because not all congregations have such musicians in their midst. At the same time, I too find that my mind is so focused on the task at hand of what I need to do within the service, that the music is just something in the background.

One of the times this happens to me is when the service is concluded and I am meeting with people as they depart the sanctuary to head back out into the mission field. Rightfully, my attention is on those whom I am talking with at the time. But every now and then there is a postlude that grabs me in such a way, that I cannot help but say "Wow" under my breath or even make comment about it to those passing through. The music may be a piece that takes me back to a place in time or an arrangement of a hymn whose unsung lyrics speak to me at that moment.

Recently, this happened as Marlene played a postlude from Handel's Messiah. The piece is the first choral work of Handel's masterpiece, as a choir would bring the words of Isaiah 40:5 to life; "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." As Marlene played, my mind was filled with those words ringing out in perfect harmonization God's Words of comfort and hope to a people that were wrestling with the reality of being exiled from their homeland and way of life.

Although we may not be wrestling with the reality of an exile, our world is wrestling with a great deal of things that do not give us much hope of happy days ahead. From the pandemic, to politics, to the economy, to world and social affairs; life can be pretty bleak... and it always has thanks to the work of that old evil foe. People both in and apart from the church are hurting as the devil looks to destroy those whom God loves.

For that reason, the Lord sent His Word of hope for Isaiah to share with those who were struggling. The *glory of the LORD* was to be seen by all in order that the revelation of truth may be known... that the Lord God of heaven and earth has you. God desires that you see and know the wickedness of sin and the devil, and that He has their destruction set. That plan was all put into motion on a night when shepherds were abiding in their fields keeping watch over their flocks. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and *the glory of the Lord* shone around them, and they were filled with fear. (Luke 2:9)

When the glory... the purity, and the power, and the majesty of the Lord God Almighty shines as it reflects off of one of the angels who live in God's presence... you are going to be scared too. The holiness of the Lord causes a fear, not because it is different, but because it reveals that as mere mortals, we are not holy. Thankfully, that angel reflecting the glory of the Lord did not come to destroy those unholy shepherds. Rather, the angel declared "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

We know this account. Combine having heard it thousands of times with the craziness of the holiday season, it is easy to let it be heard as background babble. But this account of the glory of the Lord's revelation is amazing and special for us each and every day. For that which the angel made known was Good News of a Savior's birth for all time. The announcement is just as important for us today as it was to those shepherds; Jesus is born for you, that you may know God has the devil with all of his tricks, schemes, temptations, and scary stuff by the throat. Jesus has come to defeat Him, and by His death, resurrection, and ascension, it is done.

These are days when we await the Messiah's return to restore and finalize all that the devil destroyed. But until that day comes, we have a God who continues to send us His little reminders of a hope that is for all people; a hope that is yours that you can trust in. So, when those little reminders break through to you by music or Word; Rejoice! God's got this! God's got you!

Thanks, Marlene, for that reminder I needed to hear!

A New Year – New Opportunities

Each new day brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there's something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we'll accomplish great things.

God doesn't necessarily call us to do great things, however. He asks that we be trustworthy in small things (Luke 16:10-11). To that end He gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet – and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesman, and scientific farmer – come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we've been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God's praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

That's why God gives us gifts and abilities – that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God's glory and the good of His people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One Who gave the gifts! Just as He was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but His greatest gift, His Son, so we are motivated by love for Him to serve those He calls us to serve.

Happy New Year Greetings from Our Savior Lutheran Church Endowment Committee!

With the New Year of 2021 underway, the Endowment Committee welcomes the newest member, Pat Grosse. Pat and his wife Jan have been members of Our Savior for several years and are actively involved in many ways within the congregation. We are excited to have him join this valuable committee and share his talents among us.

As mentioned, with a new year upon us, the Endowment Committee would like to invite each and every one of you to consider the Endowment Fund when planning your estate and/or looking to donate to a valuable fund. This fund, which is managed through a firm known as Lutheran Legacy, yields back to our congregation each year. With that money, the committee puts forth the opportunity to all congregational members to apply for Endowment Fund grants which can aid and benefit activities, groups, or projects within the church. Your investment in this fund will benefit others within the congregation for years to come. If you have any questions about how the fund works, we invite you to contact any of the committee members listed below to have further discussion with you.

Please keep an eye out for the upcoming grant application information which will be available on the church website or in the church office toward the end of the month. It will highlight the dollar amount that will be distributed for 2021, as well as the guidelines to follow. As always, we encourage all of you to get creative and find a project or avenue that could benefit from the grant money.

The Endowment Committee members wish each of you a wonderful 2021

Al Barden, Rick Steinke, Barb Patterson, Pastor Kufahl, Pat Grosse, and Becky Pokrandt (chairperson)

Martha Society News

MARTHA SOCIETY JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

The meeting for January will be held on January 13, 2021. The board meeting starts at 10:30; a luncheon starts at 11:30 followed by the general membership at 12 Noon.

Hostesses are Sally Gibbs and Dawn Shantz. Christian life will be presented by Donna Liedtke.

Our meeting in December was well attended and a good time was had by all. Pizza was served for lunch which is always a big hit. Elections were held for the office of President and Treasurer. Teri Kressin was elected to the office of President and Karla Lokker to the office of treasurer. They will serve a two-year term. At the January meeting we will discuss missions for 2021. Amounts given to support our missions will depend on the number of fundraisers we can hold in the New Year.

Our Martha Society is slated to host the Spring Rally on April 22. Originally, this was supposed to occur in 2020 but got moved to 2021. Praying that we will be able to hold it.

Other items on the agenda will be the budget and fundraisers for 2021. We also need chairs for each of the fundraisers we decide to have.

Last of all, I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year. I look forward to the New Year and working with each "Martha" member. Remember we invite all women to come and visit a meeting to see what we are all about.

God Bless each of you,

Teri Kressin

President

Roster of Elected Officials 2021

ELECTED OFFICES

PRESIDENT	2022	BOARD OF TRUSTEES	2023
Tim Kadlec		Bill Hassey - Head Trustee	2023
		Art Granat	2023
		Tom Mackin	2021
BOARD OF EDUCATION		Steve Favorite	2021
Rick Behrens	2021	Jerry Kurth	2021
Carol Litchfield	2022	Paul Kurth	2023
Susan Schmidt	2021		
Lynn Parker	2022		
Sue Kurth	2023		

BOARD OF ELDERS	2023	Jim Bonson	2022
Tim Kadlec	2022	Keith Kentala	2022
Jacob Husing	2022	Art Granat	2023
Ron Hagen	2021	Pat Grosse	2023
Gary Fawcett	2021	Jack Baer	2023
Richard Cherney	2021		
Pat Crum	2021		

BOARD OF EVANGELISM	2023	ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE	2022
Ron Ritzer	2021	Becky Pokrandt	2022
Janet Nowers	2023		
Gary Fawcett	2021		
Pat Grosse	2021		
Jan Grosse	2021		
Lois Parnitske	2021		
Jim Harper	2022		
Gloria Harper	2022		
Wendy Sisavath	2023		
Jim Schmidt	2023		

Bold names are to be voted on for election or re-election for office.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP	2023
Diane Kuntz	2022
Larry Merritt	2022
Rick Steinke	2022

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

SECRETARY	LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE REP.
Jean Walker	Gary Fawcett
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE
Grant Meyer	Todd Otto Chairperson
	Carol Pluedeman
	Marge Favorite
FINANCE COMMITTEE	DECORATING COMMITTEE
Jean Meyer	Carol Duckworth
Margaret Yetter	Andy & Priscilla Ellenberger
Brenda Otto	Gary & Shele Fawcett
	Sue Frank
	Barb Gauger ---> Chairperson
	Kathy Mackin-->Co-Chairperson
	John & Shirley Priefer
	Susan Schmidt
	Jean and Grant Meyer
	Dennis Gauger
	Tom Mackin
	Kathy & Larry Mortimer
	Mary Malinsky
	Kathy Grief
	Margo Granat
ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REP.	
Alvin Barden	
Barb Patterson	
Rick Steinke	
Pat Grosse	

January 2021

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



January Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| 3 | Kathy Mortimer | 17 | Miriam Gillman |
| 6 | Fred Wiedenbauer | | Mitchell Popp |
| | Nancy Steenport | 18 | Amanda Rieck |
| 7 | Anthony Buss | 20 | Alfred Mattke |
| | Bill Reckling | | Robert Johnson |
| | Karen Hassey | | Ryon Ritzer |
| 8 | Kim Sauer | 21 | Brunhilde Petzold |
| | Ralph Schessler | | Laura Campbell |
| 10 | Hannah Forss | 22 | Adam Ross |
| 11 | Abigail Forss | | Chuck Schlueter |
| | Carl Gromoll | | David Warfel |
| | Richard Behrens Sr | | Jerry Gifford |
| | Richard Steinke | 23 | Brodie Crum |
| 12 | Beverly Brunette | | Kirk Campbell |
| | Scott Lea | | Sam Raatz |
| 14 | Gary Fawcett | 24 | Carol Litchfield |
| | Richard Behrens Jr | 26 | James Steenport |
| 15 | James Walker | 27 | Gerhard Becker |
| 16 | Daniel Scafaro | 28 | Barbara Gauger |
| | Rick Mai | 29 | Allison Sauvola |
| | Robert Hopp | | Andrew Ellenberger |
| | Susan Schmidt | 30 | Carla Mueller |
| | | 31 | Loriann Scafaro |

January Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Jacob & Brenda Husing | 6 | Chuck & Lois Schlueter |
| 3 | Arthur & Margo Granat | 12 | Richard & Wendy Pluedeman |
| 5 | Walter & Chris Matthis | 31 | Chuck & Karla Healy |

<u>Date/Service</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Media Operators</u>
January 3 7:30 AM Communion	Dick Cherney Pat Crum	Dick Cherney Debbie Holewinski		Debbie Holewinski	Jonah Walker
Acolyte: Matthew Klein					
January 3 10:00 AM	Keith Kentala	Dave Parker Lynn Parker		Priscilla Ellenberger	Camera:
Acolyte: Alex Gensch					
January 10 7:30 AM	Jim Bonson	Jim Walker Jean Walker		Mary Malinsky	Jonah Walker
Acolyte: EJ Apfel					Camera: Dan Scafaro
January 10 10:00 AM Communion	Jacob Husing Tim Kadlec	Pat Grosse Jan Grosse Tim Forss		Diane Kuntz	Lynn Parker
Acolyte: Addison Rottier					
January 17 7:30 AM Communion	Dick Cherney Jim Bonson	Marv Jarvis Sue Frank Bob Merz		Sue Frank	Vicki Holewinski
Acolyte: Ashton Boehm					
January 17 10:00 AM	Gary Fawcett	Andy Ellenberger Gerald Yetter		Cindy Gauger	Camera:
Acolyte: Evan Wanta					
January 24 7:30 AM	Pat Crum	Del Keup Jim Bonson		Vicki Holewinski	Camera: Dan Scafaro
Acolyte: Cole Crum					
January 24 10:00 AM Communion	Gary Fawcett Pat Grosse	Grant Meyer Jerry Gifford Paul Kurth		Sue Kurth	
Acolyte: Anna Westfall					

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

January 31	7:30 AM	Jim Bonson	Marv Jarvis	Pat Crum	Pat Crum	
Communion		Pat Crum	Jim Harper			Camera: Dan Scafaro
Acolyte: Sam Gensler						
January 31	10:00 AM	Keith Kentala	Rick Behrens		Rick Behrens	
Communion		Tim Kadlec	Karen Behrens			
Acolyte: Matthew Wilson			RJ Behrens			
			Dense Riemer			