

February 2023 Newsletter

Our Savior Lutheran Church

223 Silver Lake Road, Eagle River WI 715-479-6226 (office) 715-479-7890 (fax)
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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.



February Memory Verse

Great is Your mercy, O Lord.

Psalm 119:156

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)

Jackie Pearce, Choir Director

Vicki Holewinski, JuBELLation Director

Brad Anderson, Congregational President

Upcoming Events:

Ash Wednesday ~ February 22nd
Worship with Communion @ 4:30pm & 7:00pm
Lenten Supper @ 5:15pm

Sunday School Winter Craft Fair
Sunday, February 26th @ 8:45am

Midweek Lenten Services
March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th @ 4:30pm
Lenten Suppers @ 5:15pm

Children's Ministry Report (Birth-Grade 6) February 2023

Sunday School –

New Students – We have been blessed with four new students and one helper in January from three families. Thank you for welcoming them!

Mission Projects - In January & February we are supporting a project to purchase Bible books for families in Ukraine through the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. One book costs \$5. Our students have watched a video to learn more about life for Ukrainians and the great need for God's Word. Thank you for your offerings!

Bible Reading Challenge – Our Sunday school students are invited to take part in a Bible reading challenge. Students fill out a chart that tracks every 5 minutes of Bible reading. They receive a Bible buck for every 20 minutes they complete. Parents/guardians need to sign the chart prior to turning it into teachers. \$1 will be given to our current mission project for every 5 minutes of reading. I'm looking for sponsors who might like to donate to our mission project for Bible reading completed. I provided families with a few Bible reading ideas and resources. We are also having a boy vs. girl challenge to see who reads the most minutes and to determine who will take a pie to the face.

Winter Craft Fair/Mission Sunday – Our winter craft fair will be Sunday, February 26th, during the Sunday school hour. Volunteers are needed to choose and lead Christian crafts. We will have one craft table decorating and making bookmarks and cards for our shut-ins and for those that need encouragement. One table will give families the opportunity to make Resurrection Eggs for at-home devotions during Lent. The Bible buck store will be open. Snacks will be provided.

Music Opportunities – Our junior choir (grades 3-8) and chime choir (grades 5-8) will sing and play chimes for worship on February 12th. The junior choir will also sing for the Lenten midweek service on March 1st. Our young children (ages 2-6) will sing for the 10 am service on Sunday, February 19th. Sunday school (grades 1-8) will sing on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. More details to come!

Family Ministry / Cradle Roll –

Lent Begins – Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Our midweek Lenten services will be held at 4:30 pm and online. On Ash Wednesday two services will be offered at 4:30 & 7 pm.

Chapel for Home School Families – Pastor and I are offering home school families the opportunity to come to a chapel service and a bag lunch on the last Wednesday of each month at 11 am. Our first chapel will be Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, at 11 am. Beverages and dessert will be provided. If any board members would like to help or join us, please let us know!

Family Resources – Each Monday I send an email to families to review our Sunday school lesson and to share the Family Activity Page (families with 5K-8th grade) and the God Talk sheet (families with 2-3 year olds). I also share reminders and upcoming events.

Staffed Nursery – It would be great to offer a staffed nursery occasionally during the 10 am worship service for infants and toddlers. We have approximately \$250 left in a grant that helped us support and pay a nursery director. This was discontinued during the pandemic but I think a few families would appreciate it again.

IF:Gathering – Our local IF:Gathering will be Friday, March 3rd, 5:45-9:30 pm and Saturday, March 4th, 8:45-4 pm. Attendees register online. The cost is \$10 per person through our RightNow Media account. The host committee is: Amy Kufahl (leader), Brenda Husing, Karla Healy, Carol Litchfield, Holly Nier, and me. Please pray for our women and all the women gathering around the world that we are strengthened through the study of God's Word and we encourage and support one another with the love of Christ.

Vacation Bible School –

"Keepers of the Kingdom" Vacation Bible School will be held July 24th-27th from 9-noon each day for children ages 3-12. Children will learn how they are part of God's kingdom through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God's Son, and God equips us with His armor to become Keepers of the Kingdom who stand strong in today's battle for Truth. A closing program and lunch are tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 27th, at 11:30 am. I'm looking forward to learning more about this theme and program at a VBS conference at the Ark Encounter on January 27th-28th. I've given families "Save the Date" reminders via email.

Elders Meeting – January 11, 2023; 7-8 PM

Agenda:

1. Opening devotion
2. New member classes – Elder attendance
3. Best Practice conference – February 16-18
4. Shut-in update
5. Vicarage program update
6. General duties reminders ... collection deposits; sanctuary, sacristy and altar guild room doors
7. Q1 and Lent midweek service coverage
8. General discussion, open topics
9. Closing

Attendees: Pat Crum, Art Granat, Jim Bonson, Keith Kentala, Pastor, Jake Campbell, Tim Kadlec

Notes:

1. Pastor opened with prayer.
2. New member classes have begun. Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM. 5 individuals attending at the moment.
3. Best Practice conference upcoming in mid-February in Phoenix. Pastor and Amy will be attending.
4. Elders should walk through brief worship service to become familiar with how to perform in the event Pastor is not available.
5. Shut in numbers are growing. Pastor will continue to visit as much as possible.
6. Still working with seminaries on the vicarage program.
7. We will have one single midweek service during Lent (excluding Ash Wednesday). Service time set for Wednesday at 4 PM.
8. Contemplating offering a monthly (last Wednesday only) chapel service for home schooled families at 11 AM, followed by a light lunch.
9. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Board of Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday 1/04/23 – 6:45pm @ Church

**In Attendance: Rick Behrens, Sue Kurth, Lynn Parker, Carol Litchfield, Marlene Rieck,
Pastor Kufahl**

MEETING AGENDA (MINUTES IN PARENTHESIS)

1. Opening: Prayer/ Devotional (Pastor led our prayer)
2. Review minutes that were emailed to all after last meeting. (Rick motioned to accept, 2nd by Carol. Passed unanimously)
3. Financial Report- Rick (Rick presented November's financial activity. Rick motioned to accept, 2nd by Sue. Passed unanimously.)
4. Children's Report- Marlene (See Marlene's awesome report for more info!)
5. Youth Updates- Youth Leader or Representative (Pastor had talked with William in a meeting and updated us on a few things that are going on or are upcoming.)
6. Old Business items:
 1. Paintings of the 1-2nd grade and 3-4th grade classrooms (Most likely to paint background/base coat over Christmas break. Looking into design ideas including decals)
 2. Recruiting new board members is ALWAYS on our minds!
 3. Ladies Bible study (Carol and Marlene originally planned to start in fall, but are reconsidering that to start in winter going into spring, due to holiday busy times)
7. New Business items:
 1. Camperships (Our board gives (1) campership for grade 3-8, with the possibility of another being donated privately, as well as (1) for an 8-10th grade for Impact Camp. (2) Every Kid to Camp certificates will be sponsored through Camp Luther. Possible drawing date by January 22nd.)
8. Next meeting: February 1, 2023, 6:45 @ Church
9. Close with the Lord's Prayer

Have a Heart

February: the month devoted to love. Stores are filled with heart-shaped boxes of candy and heart-shaped cards and vases of flowers with heart-shaped gift tags. All this is available for the consumer so that he can find the appropriate expression of his devotion to his loved one. If that expression of love has been preceded by a year of thoughtful and loving words and deeds, it is welcomed and cherished by the recipient. If not, it is just an empty ritual, done out of duty rather than true devotion.

Our relationship to the Lord is similar. He, too, desires our sincere devotion, not empty lip service. *"The Lord says: 'These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me' "* (Isaiah 29:13).

Stewardship is serving, helping, giving, but love is the basis for stewardship. Without love, our good deeds are empty and without merit. The first act of true stewardship is to *"love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength"* (Deuteronomy 6:5). Jesus called this the most important commandment (Mark 12:29, 30). With that love for the Lord in us, we are enabled to be good stewards. Then we can do acts of good stewardship, acts of true devotion. We are enabled to . . .

- *"Give generously to Him and do so without a grudging heart"* (Deuteronomy 15:10).
- *"Carefully observe [His decrees and laws] with all your heart and with all your soul"* (Deuteronomy 26:16).
- *"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality"* (Romans 12:13).
- *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men"* (Colossians 3:23).

God, through Ezekiel, promised, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws"* (Ezekiel 36:26-27). This promise He has fulfilled in His Son, Jesus, Who has followed His Father's decrees and kept His laws for us. As we strive to live fruitful lives of stewardship, at the same time, we rest in Christ Who has been the perfect steward for us.

Martha Society News

MARTHA SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2023

The meeting will be held on February 8, 2022. The executive board meets at 10:30 followed by a luncheon at 11:30. The general membership meeting starts at 12 noon. Hostesses for the meeting are Dawn Shantz and Teri Kressin. Christian life will be given by Angie Koritz.

We have a new child through India Transformed. She is only 4 years old so we can look forward to her growing in the Christian faith. The yearly cost for supporting a child has increased to \$540.

We will be discussing our missions for 2022 and amounts. Lists were passed out at the January meeting.

It's not too late to sign up for the National LWML convention in Milwaukee this year. Our district is one of 3 involved in different aspects of the convention. They need more workers. Any questions you can ask me. So far, we have members going, possibly five.

Please remember any woman of our congregation is welcome to join us. Come to a meeting and find out what we do.

Teri Kressin

President

Martha Society

Date/Service	Elders	Ushers	Greeters	Readers	Media Operators
February 5 <i>Communion</i>	7:30 AM Art Granat	Debbie Holewinski Jim Harper	Kris Secord Debbie Holewinski	Kris Secord	
Acolyte: Emily Sauer					
February 5 10:00 AM	Keith Kentala	David Parker Lynn Parker	Lynn Parker	Jan Toivonen	Camera:
Acolyte: Jessica Kadlec					
February 12 7:30 AM	Pat Crum	Chuck Healy Karla Healy		Mark Olson	Vicki Holewinski Camera:
Acolyte: Connor Clark					
February 12 <i>Communion</i>	10:00 AM Tim Kadlec	Tim Forss Christian Forss	Hilda Rozga	Marianne Braun	Jackie Peace
Acolyte: Adalynn Kufahl					
February 19 <i>Communion</i>	7:30 AM Keith Kentala	Bob Merz Sue Frank		Bonnie Jozowski	
Acolyte: Izzy Stenschke					
February 19 10:00 AM	Tim Forss	Andy Ellenberger	Holly Nier	Cindy Gauger	Camera:
Acolyte: Bristol Parling					
IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE WHEN SCHEDULED, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO GET A REPLACEMENT!!!					
February 22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Communion	4:30 PM Keith Kentala	Chuck Healy Karla Healy			Camera:
February 22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Communion	7:00 PM Pat Crum	Jim Bonson Paul Kurth			Vicki Holewinski Camera:

February 26	7:30 AM	Jim Bonson	Bob Merz	Vicki Holewinski	Camera:
Acolyte: Emily Sauer					Jackie Pearce
February 26	10:00 AM	Brad Anderson	Grant Meyer Gerry Gifford Paul Kurth	Dawn Shantz	
Communion					
Acolyte: Jack Westfall					

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 4pm W.O.W. 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7pm HS Youth Group	2	3 Office Closed	4 7am Men's Bible Study
5 7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service	6 5pm Evangelism Meeting	7 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting	8 10:30am Martha Board 11:30am Martha 4pm W.O.W. 4:30pm Jr. Choir 5pm Chime Choir 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm HS Youth Group	9	10 Office Closed	11 7am Men's Bible Study
12 7:30am Early Service 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service/Comm	13	14 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 6pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	15 4pm W.O.W. 4:30pm Jr. Choir 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm HS Youth Group	16	17 Office Closed	18 7am Men's Bible Study
19 7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service	20	21 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 6pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	22 4pm W.O.W. 4:15pm Middle School Youth Group 4:30 Ash Wednesday Worship /Comm 5:15pm Lenten Supper 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship /Comm 7:30 HS Youth Group	23	24 Office Closed	25 7am Men's Bible Study
26 7:30am Early Service 8:45am Winter Craft Fair 10am Late Service/Comm	27	28 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 6pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	1 4pm W.O.W. 4:30pm Lenten Service 5:15pm Lenten Supper 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm HS Youth Group	2	3 Office Closed	4 7am Men's Bible Study