

# September 2023 Newsletter

## Our Savior Lutheran Church

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

fearfully  
&  
WONDERFULLY  
PSALM made. 139:14

### September Memory Verse

I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

*Psalm 139:14*

### 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)

William & Alicia Jackson, Youth Leaders

Jackie Pearce, Choir Director

Vicki Holewinski, JuBELLation Director

Brad Anderson, Congregational President  
715-479-6226 (Church Office)

### Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, September 5th, 7-7:50 am  
1st Day of School Doughnuts & Blessings

Sunday, September 10th, 7:30 & 10 am  
Backpack Blessing during worship

Sunday, September 10th, 8:45 am  
Sunday School Rally Day for whole family, begins in  
fellowship hall

Wednesday, September 13th, 5:30 pm  
Confirmation Class Begins

## **Children's Ministry Report (Birth-Grade 6) August 2023**

### **Vacation Bible School –**

We were blessed to serve 73 children at "Keepers of the Kingdom" Vacation Bible School, July 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to noon each day. At Keepers of the Kingdom, children learned how they are part of God's kingdom through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God's Son. Each day we focused on the armor that God gives us as described in Ephesians 6 to stand strong in today's battle for Truth. Please continue to pray for the children and families that we served. Thank you to everyone who prayed for this outreach event and for Amy Kufahl, our prayer coordinator!

We received this note from one parent: My daughter attended your recent Vacation Bible School and loved it. Even though we are not parishioners we were welcomed, and she was cared for and loved. Thank you for such a wonderful way to share God's love and embrace this community. We wanted to thank all the volunteers, staff, teachers, and those who prepared and provided food/snacks. We were truly blessed.

THANK YOU to the 50+ volunteers who gave of their time and talents during VBS week! Thank you also to those who donated supplies, decorations, or helped in various ways before, during, and after our VBS week. Thank you to our group leaders who sent out follow-up postcards to the children in their group.

In response to God's great love for us, we were able to give offerings of \$1,288 for the Vilas Food Pantry. Please pray that our gifts are a blessing to many!

Many parents, grandparents, and friends came on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 am for our closing assembly. Children shared songs and Bible verses that were learned during the week. We all enjoyed our final drama presentation. Thank you to Miriam Karll,Carolynn Gleisner, Chris Hopp, and our VBS snack team who prepared and served our wonderful Thursday lunch. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped with VBS clean up.

### **Sunday School –**

Curriculum – Our Enduring Faith curriculum Year 2 Unit 4 has arrived from CPH (Concordia Publishing House). Year 2 is an Old Testament overview. I'm currently working on our lesson schedule as well as our memory treasure plan for this school year.

Sunday School Staff – We are blessed to have many returning Sunday school teachers and some new teachers as well! I will continue to reach out to past staff to confirm they are returning. We are currently in need of another 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and a helper for our 2 & 3 year olds.

Rally Day – Our Sunday school year will begin on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 8:45 am. I plan to have families gather in the fellowship hall for snacks and a devotion before children meet teachers and friends.

Mission Project – Our fall mission project will be Operation Christmas Child. OCC, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, sends shoe box gifts to children in need around the world. I will put up a display so families and individuals can shop and fill boxes at home. I will also ask for specific gift donations of new small toys and filler items for a packing party this fall. Date to be determined. Shipping costs are \$10 per box. Go to [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) for more information.

Doughnuts & Blessings – Pastor will be at church on the first day of school (for Northland Pines), Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7 am, giving out doughnuts and blessings. Stop by for this great way to start the school year!

Backpack Blessing – Our backpack blessing will take place on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at both worship services. Pastor Kufahl will give children a special blessing for the school year and a backpack tag.

Children's Christmas Service – I've started reviewing possible children's Christmas service ideas. The tentative date is Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at the 10 am service.

### **Family Ministry / Cradle Roll –**

Home School Chapel – Our homeschool chapels are held on the last Wednesday of each month at 11 am followed by a bag lunch. Our next chapel is Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Faith Legacy Mother/Daughter Retreat – A parent asked if we were hosting another mother/daughter retreat for preteen girls and their moms this year. This event has become even more important with the changes in our culture. I'd like to host the retreat at Camp Luther and have guest speakers instead of using the dated video instruction. The women who have helped in the past are interested in helping again!

Bibles & Catechisms – We currently give a picture Bible to children under the age of 5 and first Bibles (Faith Alive Bibles) to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. CPH has other Bibles and updated children's catechisms available that we might like to purchase and give to families.

## **Elders Meeting – August 9, 2023; 6:30-7:30 PM**

### **Agenda:**

1. Opening devotion
2. August funeral coverage
3. Synodical convention re-cap discussion
4. Shut-in discussion
5. Video system update
6. Church art-work rollout schedule
7. 4<sup>th</sup> quarter service and elder schedule
8. Open topics
9. Closing

**Attendees:** Pastor, Pat C, Pat G, Jake, Art, Jim, Brad, Keith

### **Notes:**

1. Pastor opened with a gospel devotion.
2. Elder coverage for Rubin funeral on August 14 was discussed. Jake is on duty for this.
3. Shut-in list was reviewed and discussed.
4. Recently concluded Synodical convention was discussed. Concordia educational system is being broadly reviewed for any necessary adjustments of refinements.
5. Church video system was discussed. Church will have a YouTube channel, in addition to Facebook once the system goes “live” in the next month or so.
6. Church artwork roll-out was discussed. First art work will be displayed with the September 17 service. Final piece of artwork will be presented at the observance of All Saints Day service.
7. Fourth quarter church service schedule discussed. Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year so we will have one divine service at 7:30 AM only (no 10 AM service), followed by our “Eve” services at 3 and 5 PM. Christmas Day divine service scheduled for 10 AM.
8. Membership roles will be reviewed, once again, this autumn.
9. It was decided, on a go forward basis, to have 2 elders assist Pastor with during those times in the year when we have continuous versus table communion.
10. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

# **Board of Christian Education Meeting**

**Wednesday 8/9/23 – 7:15pm @ Church**

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

## **MEETING AGENDA (Meeting Minutes in Parenthesis)**

1. Opening: Prayer/ Devotional (Led by Rick)
2. Review minutes that were emailed to all after last meeting. (Motion made by Rick, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol. Passed unanimously)
3. Financial Report- Rick (Rick presented, Motion to accept by Carol, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue. Passed unanimously)
4. Children's Report- Marlene (See Marlene's awesome report for more info!)
5. Youth Updates- Youth Leader or Representative (Alicia- Summer scheduling was a challenge to gathering the youth- Ideas are being tossed around to figure out what to do for next summer to get whole families together possibly for a monthly activity. Pastor will be meeting with both Will and Alicia to set up this coming youth group seasons schedule as well.)
6. Old Business items:
  1. Recruiting new board members is ALWAYS on our minds!
  2. Asheville Servant Event- July 7-20<sup>th</sup> Takeaways & Discussion (Pastor and Rick discussed their experiences)
  3. VBS Takeaways & Discussion (Marlene petitioned the board to go forward with pre-ordering the next VBS for next summer. She also asked for our board to allow Carol to accompany her to the VBS Workshop. Rick motioned to accept both, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lynn. Passed unanimously)
7. New Business items:
  1. New Sunday School Season coming! Rally Day (Same format as previous years, September 10<sup>th</sup> along with the Backpack Blessing.)
  2. Alicia spoke about getting the youth parents and their youth together to meet about the upcoming youth group season. Possibly on Rally Day as well.)
8. Next meeting: September 6, 2023 7pm @ church.
9. Close with the Lord's Prayer

# Evangelism Board Meeting Minutes

## August 7, 2023

### **Attendance:**

Pat Grosse, Jan Grosse, Jim Harper, Marlene Rieck, Jim Schmidt, Mandy Rottier and Pastor Kufahl.

Guest Speaker; Debbie Johnson from Sunshine for Humanity homeless shelter.

### **Old Business:**

- The Senior Celebration is set and scheduled for Sunday August 13, 2023 after the service. Pat and Jan Grosse have done an outstanding job of organizing and putting together this event. Help is needed from our board members to set up, serve and clean up before, during and after this event.
- The Welcome Center is in desperate need of being "manned"/attended to before and after each service to welcome our guests and provide them with information about Our Savior. If you attend either service, please consider taking ten minutes of your time, before and after the service, to be at the Welcome Center for our guests. Mandy Rottier has volunteered to do some research for an alternative gift for our guests that stop by the Welcome Center.

### **New Business:**

Debbie Johnson gave a presentation on Sunshine for Humanity, a homeless shelter in Eagle River. She explained their mission and goals and their operations. They are planning to expand the shelter for much needed rooms and space for future operations. They are conducting a cash/monetary fund drive, with a goal of \$20,000.00. They have an anonymous business owner who will match the money collected, up to \$10,000.00. A decision on this fund drive conducted by Our Savior has been "tabled" until more board members attend a meeting for discussion.

Truck-or-Treat is fast approaching and is scheduled for Tuesday October 31st from 4 pm to 6 pm. Board members are asked to arrive at the church on the 31st, at 10:15 am for setup and preparations. Popcorn will be popped and bagged, hot chocolate and cider prepped for the evening and tables collected for installation at 3:00 pm. All Board members are requested to attend and assist for this event.

Mandy Rottier gave a presentation and update on the progress she is making with Embrace Grace. She was interviewed by WRJO, visited the New Dawn Center and Northwoods Share.

**The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2023.**

## The Exalted State of Servanthood

Martin Luther, the author of the Reformation which we celebrate the end of October, wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Perhaps those two sentences appear at first to be contradictory. What Luther was trying to help us understand is that we, as Christians, are called to freedom from an obligation to serve, but that we are called to the freedom to serve joyfully.

This call to joyful servanthood is understood and often scoffed at, simply because we have confused servanthood with servitude. Servitude conveys the idea of bondage and even slavery. Servanthood, on the other hand, connotes voluntary service, joyful giving of ourselves, a willing choice to help others, and selfless commitment.

One who is involved in servitude serves unwillingly out of a sense of fear and has no hope of entering into a different state, while one involved in servanthood lives in an exalted state, a healthy and uplifting climate of helping others. Even though challenges must be overcome and problems may abound, the joy of servanthood is the overriding experience.

How do we get from a state of servitude to a state of servanthood? This transition is made when we properly understand the Word of God which clearly defines servanthood by explaining Christ's purpose in coming to Earth: ". . . *the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many*" (Matthew 20:28). Jesus has lived the perfect life of the servant in our places, so we no longer are constrained to try to "measure up" to what God expects. The Law never saves, never enables us, only shows us our shortcomings.

When we look at Christ, though, and how He lived His earthly life and what He has done for us, we are freed to respond with heartfelt, sincere, loving service to those He has placed around us. The acts of service we render are the same; the motivation and attitude are what make the difference. Through Christ, we are elevated to the exalted state of servanthood.

# Martha Society News

**MARTHA SOCIETY**

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 13. The Board meeting will be held at 10:30 followed by a luncheon at 11:30 and the meeting starts at 12 noon. Our hostesses are Angie Koritz and Donna Liedtke. Christian life will be presented by Sue Getzel.**

**It's so hard to believe summer is over already! But, fall is a beautiful season in the Northwoods. Summer is such a hectic season and now comes cooler weather, leaves turning color, the smell of campfires and the pine trees. The loons will soon be leaving but we'll still get to hear a few calls.**

**The LWML Fall Rally will be held on October 12 in Boulder Junction. The Christian Life theme is "Steadfast in the Spirit" presented by Donna Liedtke and Teri Kressin. Please come and enjoy the company of fellow Christian women who are all about Missions and serving our Lord with gladness. We will be hosting the Spring Rally for 2024. We need to come up with a date to present at the Fall Rally.**

**It's that time of year to start thinking about the Missions we will support. Bring your ideas to Martha!**

**The date has been picked for the Harvest Dinner. It will be on October 22, with Angie Koritz and Dawn Lauber serving as co-hosts. Look for the flyers that will be posted and where you can get tickets.**

**Lastly, we have several Martha sisters dealing with health issues and surgeries at this time. Please pray for all and for those recovering from surgeries and illnesses. We need everyone back to 100%. Our meeting in October will be on October 11, the day before the Rally!**

**God Bless each one of you,**

**Teri Kressin**

**President**

# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9am Sunday Worship/Communion	28	29 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting	30 11am Homeschool Chapel 6:30pm Sunday School Teacher Meeting 7pm HS Youth Group	31	1 Office Closed	2 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Saturday Evening/Communion
3 9am Sunday Worship	4	5 7am Donuts & Blessings 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 7pm Choir	6 7pm Board of Education Meeting 7pm HS Youth Group	7	8 Office Closed	9 7am Men's Bible Study
10 7:30am Early Service 8:45am Rally Day 10am Late Service/Comm	11 5pm Evangelism Meeting	12 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	13 10:30am Martha Board 11:30am Martha 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7pm Elders Meeting 7pm HS Youth Group	14	15 Office Closed	16 7am Men's Bible Study
17 7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service	18	19 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	20 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7pm Council Meeting 7pm HS Youth Group	21	22 Office Closed	23 7am Men's Bible Study
24 7:30am Early Service 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service/Comm	25	26 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	27 11am Homeschool Chapel 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm HS Youth Group	28	29 Office Closed	30 7am Men's Bible Study



<u>Date/Service</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Media Operators</u>
September 2 7:00 PM Communion	Art Granat	Debbie Holewinski Jim Harper	Debbie Holewinski Kris Secord	Debbie Holewinski	Jackie Pearce
September 3 9:00 AM	Tim Kadlec	Bob Arndt Rhonda Arndt	Dawn Shantz	Diane Kuntz	Camera:
September 10 7:30 AM	Jim Bonson	Chuck Healy Karla Healy	Bob & Rhonda Arndt	Mark Olson	Camera:
September 10 10:00 AM Communion	Ron Hagen	Tim Forss Christian Forss	Dawn Shantz	Cindy Gauger	Dawn Lauber
September 17 7:30 AM Communion	Pat Crum	Bob Merz Sue Frank		Debbie Holewinski	
September 17 10:00 AM	Pat Grosse	Andy Ellenberger Gerald Yetter	Priscilla Ellenberger	Marianne Braun	Dawn Lauber
September 24 7:30 AM	Brad Anderson	Jennifer Kasmarek		Mary Malinsky	Camera:
September 24 10:00 AM Communion	Jake Campbell	Grant Meyer Paul Kurth	Hilda Rozga	Priscilla Ellenberger	Jackie Pearce

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