

## November 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.

JESUS ANSWERED, "I AM THE  
BREAD OF LIFE. WHOEVER COMES  
TO ME WILL NEVER HUNGER, AND  
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL  
NEVER THIRST."  
— JOHN 6:35

### November Memory Verse

(Jesus says,) "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger."

*John 6:35*

### 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:

Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Communion

Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Advent Services

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am  
Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am  
Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

7:30 am Worship

NO 10:00 am Worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am  
Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion

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

### **Sunday School –**

Rally Day – Our church family gathered for rally day in the fellowship hall on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 8:45 am. Our theme for the school year is John 6:35a which reminds us to feed our faith with God's Word. Thank you to Sue K. and Carol L. for providing and serving our snacks!

Sunday School Staff – We have an amazing group of teachers for Sunday school! We are still in need of a part time teacher for our 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders. We have 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders rotating as helpers for our 2 & 3 year old class. Ages 2&3 – Christy Kunze, Kristie Ross; 4-5-K – Karen Behrens, RJ Behrens; Grades 1&2 – Jen Kasmarek, Linda Stenschke; Grades 3&4 – Amy Kufahl; Grades 5&6 – Jaci Larsen, Holly Highstrom; Grades 7&8 Rick Behrens, Lynn Parker; Puppeteers – Vicki Holewinski, RJ Behrens; Openings/Music – Marlene Rieck; Substitute Teachers – Brenda Husing, Laura Lorenz, Carol Pluedeman, Jaclyn Halsey

Curriculum – We are in Year 2 of our Enduring Faith curriculum that focuses on the Old Testament. A weekly Sunday school email is sent to families each Monday which includes ideas for reviewing and reinforcing the lesson throughout the week.

Birthday Celebrations – Children receive a card, memory verse card, and small gift on their birthdays. Thank you to Holly Nier who prepares the cards & gifts for the children!

Singing for Worship – Students, grades 1-8, are invited to sing for worship with the adult choir on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 and 10 am. We will have a special rehearsal with the adult choir on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 9-9:45 am. Our junior choir and chime choir will sing/ring on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at the 10 am service.

Memory Treasures – Bible verses from our curriculum were chosen for our memory verse for each month. Students in grades 1-8 receive Bible pins for memorizing each verse and parts of the Catechism.

Mission Project – Operation Christmas Child sends shoe box gifts to children in need around the world. Please consider shopping for new toys, including “Wow” gifts (soccer balls, stuffed animals, dolls, etc.), for our packing party on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, at 8:45 am. Just a reminder that we cannot send candy, food, or toothpaste. Families and individuals are welcome to fill boxes at home or online. Shipping costs are \$10 per box. The \$10 includes the cost of a Bible book that is packed in each box. Many of the children who receive a box will have the opportunity to attend a Bible class. Go to [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) for more information. Boxes will be blessed on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> before starting on their journey.

Children's Christmas Service – Our children's Christmas service will be Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at the 10 am service. Through drama, Scripture, and special music we will celebrate how Jesus, the King of kings, came in humble ways to be our Savior through His death and resurrection. Carol Litchfield has been working hard on the script which Pastor is now reviewing. I'll make final music decisions soon so we can begin rehearsing. We will rehearse on Sunday mornings and two special rehearsals will take place on Saturdays, December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9-11 am.

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

Bible Blessing – Our Bible blessing event took place on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, at both worship services. Thank you to all those that participated!

College Students – I reached out to families with college students to update addresses. Any suggestions to encourage our college students are appreciated!

New Women's Bible Study – We have about 14 women for our Wednesday women's Bible study “Meant for Good – A Study of Joseph” by Donna Snow. It has been a blessing!

Faith Legacy Mother/Daughter & Father/Son Retreat – A parent asked if a father/son retreat could be planned for preteen boys and their dads this school year. This would be in addition to a mother/daughter retreat for preteen girls and their moms. These are in the planning stages.

**VBS 2024** – I ordered “The Great Jungle Journey” Super Starter Kit from Answers in Genesis for 2024. Tentative dates are July 29<sup>th</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>. Pastor and the Servant Event team will return home on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. I will order all of the VBS supplies this week as they are currently at a discount with free shipping.

# **Board of Christian Education Meeting**

**Sunday 10/08/23 after Late Svc @ Church**

**In Attendance: Rick Behrens, Sue Kurth, Carol Litchfield, Marlene Rieck, Alicia Jackson**

## **MEETING AGENDA (Minutes in parenthesis)**

1. Opening: Prayer/ Devotional (Rick led a prayer)
2. Review minutes that were emailed to all after last meeting. (Rick Motioned, Carol 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously)
3. Financial Report- Rick (Rick didn't have paperwork, so will email info later if necessary)
4. Children's Report- Marlene (See Marlene's awesome report for more info!)
5. Youth Updates- Youth Leader or Representative (Alicia presented. New student in Confirmation, youth is going good. William looking into high school youth for a local servant raking job. Confirmation- possibly looking to have an overnight day retreat at Camp Luther. Team building, activities, sessions, etc.)
6. Old Business items:
  1. Recruiting new board members is ALWAYS on our minds!
  2. Student Helpers/ Sunday School (Marlene was sending out emails to parents of high school students to check for interest)
7. New Business items:
  1. Budget (Rick presented and discussion was had about budget needs. Budget was decided upon.)
  2. TBD
8. Next meeting: TBD (Emails are going to be sent by Rick to determine what day will work best for all/most.)
9. Close with the Lord's Prayer

## **Elders Meeting – October 10, 2023; 7 - 8 PM**

### **Agenda:**

1. Opening devotion
2. 2023 delinquent member outreach
3. Pre-service sanctuary noise – organ prelude quiet time “signal”
4. Saturday funeral coverage
5. Embrace Grace discussion
6. Advent/Christmas discussion
7. Closing

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

### **Notes:**

1. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Shut-ins and general congregant care was discussed.
3. Delinquent members will be contacted by the Elders to encourage them to return to regular church attendance.
4. Pre-service sanctuary noise was discussed. A plan will be developed to address this issue.
5. Volunteers are needed to operate the video and sound systems.
6. Advent season discussed. Mid-week Wednesday evening service will be offered.
7. Pastor Lueck will preach at both worship services on November 5, which is All Saints Day observed. This will also be the final Sunday of our church artwork reveal.
8. The Embrace Grace program was discussed in great detail. Pastor will take the lead on next steps to be taken with this endeavor.
9. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

# Board of Evangelism meeting

## Attendance:

Marlene, Gary, Greg, Jim S., Jan, Pat, Jim H., and guest Jake.

## Old Business:

- Pat and Jan Grosse are in the process of selecting the visitor's gift. Coffee cups will again be purchased with our web site included on the cup.
- Veterans gift cards for Veterans Recognition were increased to \$15.00. Jim H. will purchase the gift certificates from The Friendship House.
- Trunk-or-Treat was finalized. Board members are to meet at the church at 10:15 am on Tuesday, October 31st, to pop and bag popcorn and stage items for hot cider and chocolate, gather tables and utensils. Members will again return to the church at 3:00 pm for the final setup of tables and church banners. Trunk-or-Treat will go from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

## New Business:

- The Evangelism Board annual budget was discussed and approved. Budget sheet will be submitted to Jean. Gary will request an itemized budget from Jean.
- Jake discussed and proposed a foreign mission sponsored by Our Savior. The proposal was tabled, requesting additional information from the District and Synod.

The next meeting of the Board of Evangelism is scheduled for Monday, November 6th at 5:00 pm.

## Part of God's Plan

*"In those days . . ."* So begins a well-known passage of Scripture. Do you know what comes next? *"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree . . ."* (Luke 2:1). Some of us can quote the whole story by heart. Even though we've heard it year after year, some of us for many years, the story is still precious to hear, still warms our souls, still excites our minds, still calms our fears.

Two seemingly inconsequential people of little means obeyed that decree and traveled to the town of Bethlehem to register for the census. The woman, Mary, was about to have a child. She knew that her child was the Son of God, a child to be named Jesus. Joseph, her husband, knew he was not the father of the child, although that was how the world saw him. These were two of God's faithful. They knew the prophecies regarding the Messiah. They had been visited by the angel and learned that they were to be part of the fulfillment of those prophecies. They didn't know how things would turn out. They didn't know all that God had in store for them. They just *"obey[ed their] rulers and submitted to their authority"* (Hebrews 13:17) as they trusted God to guide and protect them and His Son each step they took on His path.

Of course, God did just that. He provided a place for the Child to be born (Luke 2:7). He sent angels to announce the birth of the King and moved the shepherds to respond to the joyful news and go to worship the new Baby (Luke 2:8-20). He sent *"Magi from the East"* who brought *"gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh"* and then believed the warning God gave them in a dream and avoided the evil King Herod on their return trip (Matthew 2:1-12).

How many of these people involved in this most wondrous story realized the important and memorable parts they played? We cannot say for sure but surmise none could really comprehend the eternal significance of the events as they unfolded.

We, too, are involved in God's plans. Certainly none can equal in importance the birth of Christ, but nothing God does is without purpose. Are we listening for the voice of the Spirit as He speaks to us through God's Word? Are we, as we go about our daily routines, obeying our rulers, cognizant of being God's feet and hands and voice to carry out His plan? Do we bring our gifts, aware that God may use them according to a purpose we can't even imagine? How exciting it is to think and know that we are God's instruments! What a loss of blessing to us if we refuse to let God use us and another gets the opportunity instead (Esther 4:14)!

As we live out our daily lives as stewards, *"let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith . . . so that we will not grow weary and lose heart"* (Hebrews 12:2-3), but instead look forward with eagerness and anticipation toward the unfolding of God's plan in our lives.

# Martha Society News

MARTHA SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2023

**Our next meeting is scheduled for November 8. Our hostesses will be Dawn Shantz and Carol Smith. Christian Life will be presented by Diana Sell. The Board meetings starts at 10:30, followed by a luncheon served at 11:30. The meeting is scheduled to start at 12 Noon.**

**We are coming upon a busy season. Our Harvest dinner is over and onto our Cookie Walk in December in conjunction with the Sunday School Christmas Program scheduled for December 17. We are also hosting a Congregation Christmas dinner on December 14. More details to follow. Watch for it in your bulletin and on posters in the fellowship hallway.**

**In November we hold nominations and elections. This year it is the office of Vice-President and Secretary. Our terms are for 2 years. The office of Vice-President is open to fill and Diana Sell has indicated she will stay on for another 2 years.**

**Another item of business is our Mission List, deciding who will be on our list and how much we will donate to each mission. It was voted on at our October meeting to give \$600 to Operation Christmas Child to pay for shipping 60 boxes. This money has been dispersed. If any member of our church would like to see a mission added to our list, please let any of the officers know.**

**As I write this the Harvest Dinner has not happened yet. It will be this Sunday, October 22. Meals can be dine in or take out. Hopefully we have a great turnout. On October 12, we celebrated our fall LWML Rally at Trinity Lutheran in Boulder Junction. The Christian Fellowship was wonderful, as well as the luncheon. Donna L. and myself presented the Christian Life topic-The Apostles Creed. We were fortunate to have our District President, Joan Berquist, in attendance. Our own society of LWML will be hosting the Spring Rally on April 25, 2024. Mark your calendars!**

**As we enter this busy season of the year, celebrate Thanksgiving and be so thankful for all you have and remember where all of our blessings come.**

**All ladies of our congregation and other Lutheran churches are welcome to attend our meetings and become a member.**

**Teri Kressin**

**President**

**Martha Society**

<u>Date/Service</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Media Operators</u>
November 5 7:30 AM Communion	Art Granat	Debbie Holewinski Jim Harper		Bonnie Jozwowski	Sharon Gifford
Acolyte: Connor Clark					
November 5 10:00 AM	Keith Kentala	Dave Parker Lynn Parker		Priscilla Ellenberger	Shele Fawcett
Acolyte: Adalynn Kufahl					Camera:
November 12 7:30 AM	Jim Bonson	Chuck Healy Karla Healy		Mary Malinsky	
Acolyte: Kaylynn Klein					Camera: Dan Scafaro
November 12 10:00 AM Communion	Ron Hagen	Tim Forss Christian Forss		Diane Kuntz	Jackie Pearce
Acolyte: Bristol Parling					
November 19 7:30 AM Communion	Pat Crum	Bob Merz Sue Frank		Sue Frank	Vicki Holewinski
Acolyte: Izzy Stenschke					
November 19 10:00 AM	Pat Grosse	Andy Ellenberger Gerald Yetter		Rick Behrens	Jackie Pearce
Acolyte: Jack Westfall					Camera:
November 22 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Communion	Jake Campbell	Bob Arndt Rhonda Arndt			Camera:
<b>IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE WHEN SCHEDULED, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO GET A REPLACEMENT FROM THE USHER LIST ONLY!! ANY PROBLEMS, PLEASE CALL PAT OR JEAN.</b>					

<b>November 26</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>	Pat Grosse	Linda Stenschke	Pat Crum	Vicki Holewinski
Acolyte: Piper Gensler					Camera: Dan Scafaro
<b>November 26</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Tim Kadlec	Grant Meyer Paul Kurth	Sue Kurth	
<b>Communion</b>					
Acolyte: Ellie Wilson					

# November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service/Comm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 4pm Trunk or Treat 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	<b>1</b> 9am Women's Bible Study 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 4:30pm Jr. Choir 5pm Chime Choir 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm HS Youth Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b> 7am Men's Bible Study
<b>5</b> 7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service	<b>6</b> 5pm Evangelism Meeting	<b>7</b> 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	<b>8</b> 9am Women's Bible Study 10:30am Martha Board 11:30am Martha 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 4:30pm Jr. Choir 5pm Chime Choir 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm Elders Meeting 7pm HS Youth Group	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Office Closed	<b>11</b> 7am Men's Bible Study
<b>12</b> 7:30am Early Service 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service/Comm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	<b>15</b> 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 4:30pm Jr. Choir 5pm Chime Choir 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm Council Meeting 7pm HS Youth Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Office Closed	<b>18</b> 7am Men's Bible Study

<p><b>19</b></p> <p>7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>7:30am Early Service 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service/Comm</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>7pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>11am Homeschool Chapel 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>7am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>7am Men's Bible Study</p>
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