

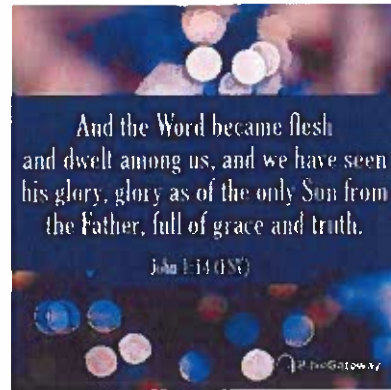
December 2023 Newsletter

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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



December Memory Verse

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

John 1:14

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 (Cell)

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, December 6th, 13th & 20th at 7:00 pm
Advent Services

Saturday, December 9th at 7:00 pm
Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 10th at 10:00 am
Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 17th at 10:00 am
Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 24th

7:30 am Worship

NO 10:00 am Worship

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

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

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

Sunday School –

Please pray for our Sunday school teachers and Bible study teachers each week as we share God's Word. Teachers, thank you for your dedication and love!

Communication – I send out an email each Monday for families to receive ways to review the weekly lesson at home. It is also a good way to give reminders of upcoming events and opportunities.

Singing for Worship – Thank you to our junior choir and chime choir for the special music they provided on Sunday, October 15th. It was a blessing! Thank you to all the students in grades 1-8 that sang with the adult choir on Sunday, October 29th, at both worship services. Thank you for sharing your faith and your beautiful voices!

Mission Project – Operation Christmas Child gives shoe box gifts and shares the Gospel with children around the world. Thank you to everyone who has given offerings or packed a box! Thank you to all the students who helped pack pencil pouches, put together shoe boxes, and set up for our packing party! Thank you to all the students for the great packing they did on October 29th! We have a total of 84 shoe box gifts so far. Thanks to the Martha Society for the \$600 which will pay for shipping 60 of our boxes. The shoe box gifts will be blessed on Sunday, November 12th before starting on their journey.

Bible Buck Store – Our first Bible buck store was October 29th. Thank you to Laura Lorenz for shopping for us and Sara Olson & Linda Stenschke for being our storekeepers.

Birthday Celebrations – Children receive a card, Christian notecard, and small gift on their birthdays. Thank you to Holly Nier for preparing the cards & gifts for the children!

Children's Christmas Service – Our children's Christmas service, "How Many Kings Would Do That?", will be Sunday, December 17th, 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. Our PreK and kindergarten children will be participating at the beginning of the worship service and then sit with their families. We will rehearse on Sunday mornings and grades 1-8 will have two special rehearsals: Saturdays, December 2nd & 16th, 9-11 am. Special thanks to Laura Campbell who is directing our drama team and Carol Litchfield for writing our script.

Snacks – Thank you to the Behrens family for stocking up on snacks at Sam's Club for us. They were great shoppers!

Candy bags – The Board of Christian Ed will provide children with small candy bags after our Christmas service on December 17th. I have small bags and some candy already.

Family Ministry / Cradle Roll –

College Students – Our women's Bible study have been filling care packages for our college students. The students will enjoy practical gifts, Christian encouragement, and snacks.

Women's Bible Study – Our Women's Bible study on the life of Joseph will conclude on November 8th. We are considering an Advent study next.

Faith Legacy Mother/Daughter & Father/Son Retreat – Mike Rieck has been working to find a date for our father/son retreat for 5th/6th grade boys and their dads. The fathers have shown interest in this event! This will probably be a one-day Saturday event.

I'm also in the planning stages for a mother/daughter retreat for preteen girls and their moms. I'm hoping this can be at Camp Luther so I'm waiting for possible weekend options in March. (Spring break is the last week in March, during Holy Week, so March 23/24 & 29/30 will not be options.)

VBS 2024 – I ordered "The Great Jungle Journey" Super Starter Kit from Answers in Genesis. VBS will be July 29th-August 1st, 2024. Pastor and the Servant Event team will return home on Thursday, July 25th. I preordered a large amount of our supplies at a discount with free shipping.

Elders Meeting – November 8, 2023; 7 - 8 PM

Agenda:

1. Opening devotion
2. 2023 delinquent member outreach update
3. Elder candidates for December voters meeting
4. Bulletin communion statement revision
5. Thanksgiving Eve/Advent services discussion (elders to dim light and take attendance each service)
6. Closing

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

Notes:

1. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer and devotion centered on third article of the Apostle's Creed.
2. Delinquent members were discussed and will be revisited in January 2024.
3. Voters meeting is scheduled for December 3. Elders group is looking to add 1-2 new members to the group.
4. The communion statement in the Sunday bulletin was discussed and will be revised by Pastor. We will review the final draft at our December meeting.
5. CPR/AED training will be held at the church this Saturday, November 11 from 9 AM – 1 PM.
6. Confirmation classes continue as scheduled each Wednesday evening. Some challenges with a few students was discussed and are being addressed as well as possible by Pastor.
7. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Evangelism Board meeting

November 6, 2023

Attendance: Jim Harper, Pastor Kufahl, Marlene Reick, Gary Fawcett.

Old Business:

Trunk-or-Treat was a success. It was estimated that there were 500+ children in attendance. We served: 150 cups of hot chocolate, 12 quarts of apple cider, 1 ½ gallons of coffee, and 315 bags of popcorn.

Veterans Day was finalized with the veterans of our congregation receiving a \$15.00 gift certificate for the Friendship House restaurant. Each certificate was mailed to each veteran along with a letter from Pastor Kufahl, thanking them for their service and sacrifice on behalf of our congregation.

New Business: I will be contacting Pam Zaugg to verify a date for a Northwoods Share dinner in February. We will also be contacting Triggs to prepare this dinner for us to carry to the center for service. Will also be contacting The Incredible Bank as they have been with us, sharing the expense and service of that meal.

Next Evangelism Board meeting is set for:

February 5, 2024

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.

Martha Society News

MARTHA SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2023

Can't believe it's the end of 2023 already! Now we're embarking on the busiest time of year both for the church and Martha Society. First of all I want to thank each and everyone of my amazing Christian sisters for all the work they have done this year with our fundraisers, funeral luncheons, and other mission work. Also, we thank Our Savior Lutheran Church for all the support you have given us for our fundraisers.

In December we're hosting the congregational Christmas party on December 14 at Eagle Waters. Invitations with more information and reservation slips will be available starting on November 19 at the Welcome Center. We are hoping for a big turnout!

Also in December is our annual cookie walk in conjunction with the Sunday School Christmas program. The price will still be \$8 a pound. All women of the church are encouraged to drop off cookies, breads, or other cookie items. Please have your items in the kitchen on Saturday between 9-12 when the children are practicing.

We wanted to remind everyone that we sell cards at the back of the fellowship hall. There are individual ones for every occasion and we have boxed Christmas cards. They are \$10 per box. There is a box for money located on the shelf. Please check them out. This is a service we do for our church. Our card chairperson is Diana Sell and she does a wonderful job of ordering the cards and setting them out.

We held nominations and elections for the office of vice-president and secretary at our November meeting. Dawn Lauber is our new vice-president and Diana Sell will carry on with the office of secretary. Thank you both and a special thank you to Sue Kurth for her many years of dedicated work as vice-president. She will still be chairperson for membership and grants.

We also finished working on our Mission list for 2023. A list of those missions will be posted on our board in the Fellowship Hall. Again, thank you to all who have supported us in our mission of-" answering His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge our willing service wherever and whenever he hath need of us."

Finally, a reminder that we will not be meeting in December. Remember the reason for the season. We are celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Take advantage of all of the events that are going on in our church. Have a very Merry CHRISTmas and a Joyous New Year.

Teri Kressin

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 7:30am Early Service 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service/Comm	27 6pm Instrumental Cantata Rehearsal	28 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	29 9am Women's Bible Study 11am Homeschool Chapel 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 4:30pm Jr. Choir 5pm Chime Choir 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7pm High School Youth Group	30 7pm Choir	1 Office Closed	2 7am Men's Bible Study 9am Rehearsal Gr. 1-8 Sunday School
3 7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service 11:15am Voters Meeting	4	5 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	6 9am Women's Bible Study 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 5pm Chime Choir 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7pm Advent Worship 7:30pm High School Youth Group	7	8 Office Closed	9 7am Men's Bible Study 9am Cantata Rehearsal 7pm Christmas Cantata
10 7:30am Early Service 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Christmas Cantata	11	12 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	13 9am Women's Bible Study 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 5pm Chime Choir 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7pm Advent Worship 7:30pm Elders Meeting 7:30pm High School Youth Group	14 11am Congregational Christmas Party	15 Office Closed	16 7am Men's Bible Study 9am Rehearsal Gr. 1-8 Sunday School

<p>17</p> <p>7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Children's Christmas Service Martha Society Cookie Walk</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am Women's Bible Study 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7pm Advent Worship 7:30pm High School Youth Group</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>24</p> <p>7:30am Early Service 3pm Candlelight Service 5pm Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10am Worship/Communion</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>31</p> <p>7:30am Early Service/Comm 10am Late Service/Comm</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7pm High School Youth Group</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7am Men's Bible Study</p>

<u>Date/Service</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Media Operators</u>
December 3 7:30 AM <i>Communion</i>	Art Granat	Sue Frank Jim Harper	Sue Frank Kris Secord	Kris Secord	Jackie Pearce
Acolyte:					
December 3 10:00 AM	Ron Hagen	Dave Parker Lynn Parker	Lynn Parker	Cindy Gauger	
Acolyte: Blake Joslin					Camera: Dana Lind
December 6 7:00 PM Advent	Ron Hagen	Need volunteer			
December 9 7:00 pm Christmas Cantata	Pat Crum	Bob Arndt			Jean Walker
December 10 7:30 AM <i>Communion</i>	Keith Kentala	Bob Arndt Rhonda Arndt		Mark Olson	Sharon Gifford
Acolyte: Connor Clark					Camera:
December 10 10:00 AM Christmas Cantata	Tim Forss	Christian Forss	Hilda Rozga		Jean Walker
Acolyte: Kayden Halsey					
December 13 7:00 PM Advent	Tim Kadlec	Need volunteer			
December 17 7:30 AM <i>Communion</i>	Pat Crum	Bob Merz Sue Frank	Bob Arndt Rhonda Arndt	Sue Frank	Vicki Holewinski
Acolyte: Izzy Stenschke					Camera:
December 17 10:00 AM	Jake Campbell	Andy Ellenberger Gerald Yetter	Priscilla Ellenberger	Diane Kuntz	
Acolyte: Tirzah Kunze					Camera:

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

December 20	7:00 PM	Jake Campbell	Need volunteer				
Advent							
December 24	7:30 AM	Jim Bonson	Chuck Healy Karla Healy	Dawn Shantz	Vicki Holewinski		
Communion							
Acolyte: Piper Gensler							
December 24	3:00 PM	Tim Forss	Need 2 volunteers				
Candlelight Service							
Acolyte: Hannah Forss							
December 24	5:00 PM	Tim Kadlec	Need 2 volunteers				Camera:
Candlelight Service							
Acolyte: Jessica Kadlec							
December 25	10:00 AM	Art Granat	Grant Meyer Paul Kurth				Camera:
Christmas Day							
Communion							
Acolyte: Adalynn Kufahl							
December 31	7:30 AM	Pat Crum	Chuck Healy Karla Healy		Kris Secord		Jackie Pearce
Communion							
Acolyte:							
December 31	10:00 AM	Brad Anderson	Paul Kurth Jennifer Kasmarek	Dawn Shantz	Rick Behrens		Camera:
Communion							
Acolyte: Kamryn Boehm							