

## February 2024 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

For the Lord your God is a merciful God.

*Deuteronomy 4:31*

### 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)

Jackie Pearce, Choir Director

Vicki Holewinski, JuBELLation Director

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

### Upcoming Events:

Ash Wednesday ~ February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Worship with Communion @ 4:30pm & 7:00pm  
Lenten Supper @ 5:15pm

Midweek Lenten Services  
February 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30pm  
Lenten Suppers @ 5:15pm

## **Children's Ministry Report (Birth-Grade 6) January 2024**

### **Sunday School –**

Children's Christmas Service – Thank you to our students, teachers, and helpers for their awesome work on the Christmas service "How Many Kings Would Do That?" on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>! Thank you for sharing the Good News that Jesus, the King of kings, loved us so much He came to be our Savior! Special thanks to Laura Campbell (drama director and assistant), Dan Scafaro (sound), and Carol Litchfield (script, set and props) for sharing their gifts!

Christmas Party - We had our Sunday school Christmas party on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Students enjoyed snacks, Christmas activities, as well as the Bible buck store. Thank you to parents and teachers who helped in various ways!

Mission Projects - Thank you for your offerings for FORK (Feed Our Rural Kids) in December! Thank you for sharing God's love in our community!

In January & February we are supporting Phil's Friends, a non-profit whose mission is to provide Christ-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer. For a \$100 donation, Phil's Friends will send a care package and 12 months of Cards of Hope to a cancer patient. Our goal is \$300 to provide hope in Jesus for three cancer patients. We will also color Cards of Hope on our Mission Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for sharing God's love through your offerings!

Mission Project Updates – Thank you to all who gave to Operation Christmas Child! Thank you to our students, teachers, and helpers (CJ Forss & Naomi Kadlec) for the great packing they did at our packing party on October 29<sup>th</sup>. We gave 99 shoe box gifts to children in Paraguay and provided \$1000 for shipping costs (Thanks to the Martha Society for \$600). Thank you for continuing to pray for the children that will receive our boxes that they may come to know Jesus as their Savior.

Bible Reading Challenge – Our Sunday school students can take part in a Bible reading challenge until February 25<sup>th</sup>. They will 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.

Bible GameDay/Mission Sunday – On Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, we are having a Bible game day and mission project focus during the education hour. Students will color Cards of Hope for cancer patients that would be distributed through Phil's Friends (See information above). They will enjoy Bible games with their class and the Bible buck store will be open. Anyone interested in helping to make the Bible games, please let me know!

Music Opportunities – Our junior choir (grades 3-8) and chime choir (grades 5-8) will resume on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Choir is 4-4:30 pm and chimes 5-5:30 pm. Junior choir will prepare for worship on January 21<sup>st</sup> and for the Lenten midweek service on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Chimes will play during Lent, date TBD. Sunday school (grades 1-8) will sing on Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. More details to come!

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

Staffed Nursery – We have approximately \$250 left in a grant that helped us support and pay a nursery director. This was discontinued during the pandemic. Should we consider using the funds to support families with infants and toddlers?

Cradle Roll – Each month I send cradle roll materials to families with children from birth to age 3. Families also receive a devotional resource for young children called "Happy Times" starting at age 2. Families with 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders can request to receive "My Devotions", a great devotion book from Concordia Publishing House.

College Students – Thank you to the women's Bible study group for contributing to outstanding college care packages! Eight creative and stuffed boxes were sent to four boys and four girls in November. We received some feedback that these were appreciated! Thanks to the Martha Society for paying for our shipping costs. (We still have \$100 left for additional care packages.)

Faith Legacy Retreat for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade Girls and Moms – One mom expressed interest in this event for her and her daughter this year. I reached out to all the families in this age group to find a time for the retreat at Camp Luther. So far two families have committed to the event on March 15/16 plus four more possible. Camp Luther is available that weekend.

### **Vacation Bible School –**

"The Great Jungle Journey" Vacation Bible School will be held July 29<sup>th</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup> from 9-noon each day for children ages 3-12. Children will take an epic cruise from Genesis to Revelation to discover that history is centered on His Story, the story of Jesus and God's plan of salvation for us. A closing program and lunch are tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11:30 am. Our curriculum has arrived! I'm looking forward to learning more about this theme and program at a VBS conference at the Ark Encounter on January 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.

## **Board of Christian Education Meeting**

**Sunday 01/07/2024 after Late Svc @ Church**

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

### **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 to accept, Second from Lynn- Passed unanimously)
3. Financial Report- Rick (Carol motioned to accept, 2<sup>nd</sup> from Sue. Passed unanimously)
4. Children's Report- Marlene (See Marlene's awesome report for more info!)
5. Youth Updates- Youth Leader or Representative (Prayers are always appreciated! Confirmation and youth group going well, with a few hiccups. In youth activities, William brought the youth to do the Escape Room here in town. A Confirmation retreat is planned April 12-13. Lenten Supper proceeds will be used to offset cost. Volunteers are also needed for the Snowmobile Derby. Proceeds help offset costs for the NC Youth Servant Event. Registration is now open for NC. )
6. Old Business items:
  1. Recruiting new board members is ALWAYS on our minds!
7. New Business items:
  1. Camp Certificates to be Drawn on Jan 14<sup>th</sup>
  2. March 2<sup>nd</sup> is the new date for Father Son Retreat. Possibly looking at Camp Luther or here at Church for the one day event.
8. Next meeting: February 4<sup>th</sup> after Late Svc
9. Close with the Lord's Prayer

## Elders Meeting – January 10, 2024; 7 - 8 PM

### Agenda:

1. Opening devotion
2. Bulletin communion statement revision update
3. 1Q Lenten/Easter services discussion
4. Confirmation instruction update
5. Additional elder candidate(s) discussion
6. 2024 elder monthly “on-call” schedule
7. Closing

Attendees: Art, Bob, Pat, Pastor, Keith

### Notes:

1. Meeting opened with a devotion from 2 Peter.
2. Pastor revised bulletin and website communion statement was reviewed and approved by the board.
3. First quarter worship schedule support was discussed. Concordia Publishing House devotion series will be used for our Lenten theme this year. Elders will host the midweek Lenten supper on February 28.
4. Confirmation class was discussed. All is going well. However, 2 students have dropped out due to outside conflicts.
5. A parishioner has approached the board with interest in becoming an elder. Board has approved this and it will be presented to church council on January 17 for consideration and adoption.
6. Pastoral elder support for 2024 was discussed and agreed upon.
7. Pastor provided a detailed update on our congregational shut-ins.
8. Meeting closed 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 2024

**Our next meeting will be on Ash Wednesday and also Valentine's Day, February 14.**

**Hostesses will be Dawn Shantz and Donna Liedtke. Christian Life will be given by Marianne Braun. The Board meeting starts at 10:30 followed by a luncheon at 11:30 with Paston Kufahl leading devotions. The meeting will start at 12 Noon.**

**At our last meeting Dawn Lauber was installed as our new Vice President. Her term is for two years; she fills in for the President when necessary, and helps with programming.**

**We started talking about the Spring Rally on April 25 that we will be hosting for all 8 LWML groups in our Zone 5. We have come up with a tentative theme and possible guest speaker. We will discuss further at the meeting along with some other details for that day. Pastor Kufahl plays a large part in the Rally and Marlene provides the music. Along with other items a general election will also be held for the office of President of our zone.**

**A major fundraiser we have coming up in May is our annual card party/salad luncheon. We will have to pick a date. Look for more information in future newsletters.**

**At the last meeting we discussed hosting a Lenten dinner. It was brought up about doing the Ash Wednesday because we will be at church for our meeting. The group decided against it. We will pick out another date and let Sharon Gifford know.**

**I thank all the ladies for everything they do and have accomplished in 2023. We were able to add new missions to our list and add the amounts we gave to our other missions.**

**Remember all ladies of our church and other Lutheran Churches may join our membership. Ladies from other churches are welcome to visit our meetings. We conclude every meeting with saying the LWML PLEDGE, which clearly states our mission. Please come and visit a meeting. Also, all women and men are invited to attend our Spring Rally. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.**

**Teri Kressin**

**President**

<u>Date/Service</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Media Operators</u>
February 4 7:30 AM Communion	Art Granat	Debbie Holewinski Jim Harper	Debbie Holewinski Kris Secord	Pat Crum	Jackie Pearce
Acolyte: Connor Clark					
February 4 10:00 AM	Keith Kentala	David Parker Lynn Parker	Lynn Parker	Priscilla Ellenberger	Christian Forss
Acolyte: Kamryn Boehm					Camera: RJ Behrens
February 11 7:30 AM	Jim Bonson	Linda Stenschke	Kris Secord	Kris Secord	Vicki Holewinski
Acolyte: Izzy Stenschke					Camera:
February 11 10:00 AM Communion	Tim Forss	Christian Forss Paul Kurth	Hilda Rozga	Marianne Braun	
Acolyte: Hannah Forss					
February 14 4:30 PM Ash Wednesday Communion	Art Granat	Jim Harper Bob Merz			
February 14 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Communion	Jake Campbell	Bob Arndt Jennifer Kazmarek			Camera:
<b>IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE WHEN SCHEDULED, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO GET A REPLACEMENT!!!</b>					
February 18 7:30 AM Communion	Pat Crum	Bob Merz Sue Frank	Bob Arndt Rhonda Arndt	Mark Olson	Vicki Holewinski
Acolyte:					Camera:
February 18 10:00 AM	Bob Olson	Andy Ellenberger	Priscilla Ellenberger	Cindy Gauger	
Acolyte: Jessica Kadlec					Camera:

<b>February 21</b>	<b>4:30 PM</b>	Bob Olson	<i>Need volunteer</i>			
<b>Lent</b>						
<b>February 25</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b>	Keith Kentala	Bob Arndt Rhonda Arndt		Vicki Holewinski	Joanne Hartman
<i>Acolyte:</i>						<b>Camera:</b>
<b>February 25</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Jake Campbell	Jennifer Kasmarek Paul Kurth	Dawn Shantz	Diane Kuntz	
<b>Communion</b>						
<i>Acolyte:</i>		Adalynn Kufahl				
<b>February 28</b>	<b>4:30 PM</b>	Keith Kentala	<i>Need volunteer</i>			
<b>Lent</b>						



# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 7:30am Early Service 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service/Comm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	<b>31</b> 9am Women's Bible Study 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 4:30pm Jr. Choir 5pm Chime Choir 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Women's Bible Study 7pm HS Youth Group	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b> 7am Men's Bible Study
<b>4</b> 7:30am Early Service/Comm 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service	<b>5</b> 5pm Evangelism Meeting	<b>6</b> 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	<b>7</b> 9am Women's Bible Study 4pm 5th/6th Grade W.O.W. 4:30pm Jr. Choir 5pm Chime Choir 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Women's Bible Study 7pm HS Youth Group	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Office Closed	<b>10</b> 7am Men's Bible Study
<b>11</b> 7:30am Early Service 8:45am Education Hour for all ages 10am Late Service/Comm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9am Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 5:45pm JuBELLation 7pm Choir	<b>14</b> 9am Women's Bible Study 10:30am Martha Board 11:30am Martha 4:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship /Comm 5:15pm Lenten Dinner 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Women's Bible Study 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship /Comm 7pm HS Youth Group 7:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Office Closed	<b>17</b> 7am Men's Bible Study

<p><b>18</b></p> <p>7:30am Early Service/Comm        8:45am Education Hour for all ages        10am Late Service</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9am Bible Study        9:30am Quilting        5:45pm JuBELLation        7pm Choir</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>4:30pm Lenten Service        5:15pm Lenten Dinner        5:30pm Confirmation        5:30pm Women's Bible Study        7pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>7am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p>7:30am Early Service        8:45am Education Hour for all ages        10am Late Service/Comm</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9am Bible Study        9:30am Quilting        5:45pm JuBELLation        7pm Choir</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>11am Homeschool Chapel        4:30pm Lenten Service        5:15pm Lenten Dinner        5:30pm Confirmation        5:30pm Women's Bible Study        7pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>7am Men's Bible Study</p>