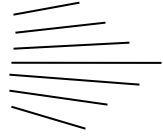




THE

VOICE



The monthly newsletter of Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 N Broad St., Mankato, MN 56001 **DECEMBER 2023**

Holiday Worship Schedule

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th, 20th
1:30pm and 6:30pm

Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 19th
9:00am

Christmas Reception to follow

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24th
Divine Service with Holy Communion
8:00am & 10:30am
Service of Readings and Carols
3:00pm & 5:00pm

Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 25th
Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:00am


Glory
TO THE
newborn
KING

Contact Info:

Church Office: Phone: 507-385-2180
Fax: 507-345-5113
contact@oslcmandato.org
www.oslcmandato.org
www.facebook.com/oslcmandato

Pastor Office phone: 507-385-2183
Rev. Adam Matheny: matheny@oslcmandato.org
Emergency number: 812-449-6866

Deaconess Office phone: 507-385-2185
Lisa Brand: lisa@oslcmandato.org

Secretary Office phone: 507-385-2180
Sue Hendrickson: sue@oslcmandato.org

Custodian Cell phone: 507-327-2922
Bob Baker: rbaker@oslcmandato.org

Music Coordinator Home phone: 507-341-4173
Suzie Gangi: suzie@oslcmandato.org

Office hours are Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 8:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Unless there is an activity or event taking place, please use the Broad Street entrance by the mailbox.

In case of emergency or urgent need, our pastor is available at all hours and all days by calling his cell phone. Please use the office phone for other business. Please also remember that Sunday morning and other worship times are not for bringing church business to other members or staff but for focusing upon the Word and gifts of God. "The seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work." - Exodus 20:10

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

-John 1:14

Rejoice Brothers and Sisters! That is what this season is all about. During Advent we anticipate and during Christmas we consummate the rejoicing that God has come into the world. God is above all things, before all things, greater than all things. He is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. That means not that of all the knowledge we have He has more, but that His knowledge is so much higher than ours that His is of a different sort entirely. That God is Good does not mean that if we pile all of our good into one heap He is incrementally better than it all but that His Goodness is so intense, so immense, so pure that if you were to compare all the goodness of all mankind with His ours would be utter filth. These realities mean that God is wholly other than us. That He is distant and unapproachable. That we cannot reach Him no matter how hard we try and even if we could the experience would be worse than death to us.

But again I say, rejoice! Because in the Christmas season we celebrate the miracle of miracles the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus. We celebrate the fact that our God in His infinite Wisdom, Power, and Goodness deigned to use His immense Power to enter this world on our behalf. And having done so He has even given us to see His glory! We rejoice in the fact that our Lord Jesus took human soul and flesh but even more so in that He has given us to see Him! When we come together as His people, when we hear His Word, when we receive His sacraments here He is with us. We have seen His glory when we see Him offer to us the forgiveness of our sins.

There is much that goes on this time of year. I know the struggles, the distractions, and the business that God's people face. I face it myself. But despite all that rejoice in the incarnation of our Lord. Rejoice together that the eternal Word has become flesh and dwelt among us and that we have been given to see His glory, even now.

Planning Council

Minutes of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Mankato
November 14, 2023

Members Present: Matt Brand, Dan Gahler, Valerie Elliott, Nancy Benson, Rob Hobbs, Doug Haeder, Christine Billiar, Denise Painter, Judy Hendley, Judd Schultz, Steve Annis and Pastor Adam Matheny.

Members Absent: Bev Clark and Missy Schultz

1. President Matt Brand called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.
2. Opening Prayer was led by Pastor Matheny.
3. There was no public/congregational presentation.
4. Bible Study: Psalm 118 led by Matt Brand.
5. Additions/Approval of Agenda: Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.
6. Council Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve the October 10, 2023, Planning Council minutes as presented, motion carried.
7. Pastor's Report: Pastor noted ready for advent. Pastor reported has completed call visit to St. John's in Kimball, MN and Mount Olive/Grace English (Bovey/Marble, MN) have requested a visit.
8. Treasurer's Report: Doug Haeder provided summary of reports. Doug will work with Matt on annual end of the year giving letter to the congregation. Motion made and seconded to approve the report as presented, motion carried.
9. Unfinished Business
 1. 2024 Budget – Motion made and seconded to recommend the 2024 Budget as presented to the congregation at the November 19th Voters' Meeting.
 2. Officer and Board Elections – Changes to the Board of Trustee slate, removing Kirk Yungerberg and adding Chris Anderson.
 3. Capital Improvement Fundraising Update to Congregation – Denise Painter will provide the update to the congregation at both services on Sunday, November 19th.

10. New Business

1. Concordia Classical Academy Letter/Partnership Committee – After discussion, motion made and seconded to form a committee to discuss and plan ways in which we can move toward greater cooperation with Concordia Classical Academy, motion carried.
2. Hymnal Purchase – Discussion occurred; church will receive donation of hymnals from closed church. Will table until we receive the donation and determine if there is still a need.

11. Board Sharing: **Trustees:** Roof repair is on budget; snow renewal is set up; informed insurance packet is non-renewable; fixing paneling above pulpit; and still working on phone system upgrade. **Elders:** Thanksgiving eve service and Thanksgiving morning services coming up, December 17th one service, Christmas Eve divine service at 8:00am and 10:30am and carol and reading services at 3:00pm and 5:00pm, Christmas Day service at 9:00am, no evening service on New Year's Eve and no service on New Year's Day; Ambassadors for Reconciliation to work with staff and provide training for elders; and presenting called staff position descriptions and recommendation to continue with call process from the field at the Voters' meeting. **Education:** Working on ensuring activities/classes align with SMART goals; Serve and Share Saturday went well; and working on ideas for Christmas gifts for children. **Deacons:** Care ministries going well; Youth dinner for Voters' meeting; appreciation for people signing up for Sunday donuts and Wednesday night meals; new members welcome dinner on Wednesday, November 29th; and Sunday school Christmas program on December 17th with one service and snacks after program. **Endowment:** Discussion about potential by-law amendment; and awarded scholarship for colloquy classes.
12. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm. Next meeting is December 12, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Elliott
Secretary, OSLC Planning Council

Treasurer's Report Commentary Period Ending October 31, 2023

Income and Expense Summary

	Current Month	Y-T-D
Income	\$41,291.15	\$427,430.55
Operating Expenses	-\$42,950.30	-\$438,198.72
LCEF Mortgage Principal Payment	-\$1,005.82	-\$11,050.75
Net for Period[†]	-\$2,664.97	-\$21,818.92

[†]Positive net value indicates we received more than our expenses, a negative number indicates that we have spent more than we have received for that period (deficit).

Cash Summary

	Amount	Notes
Checking Account	\$47,035.56	Daily checking account Pioneer Bank
Savings Account	\$151,256.46	Interest Savings account Pioneer Bank
Joyful Response	\$15,734.29	Joyful Response deposits and loan payments
Library Fund	\$20,107.12	Certificate of Deposit
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	
Total Cash Assets	\$234,133.43	
Dedicated Accounts	-\$151,466.20	Amount of our cash balance designated for specific activities
Other Liabilities	-\$2,752.41	Accruals for HSA pmts, youth, etc.
Available Cash Balance	\$79,914.82	\$82,461.71 last month

Long Term Debt (LCEF Mortgage)

Current Balance	\$223,038.23
Monthly Payment	\$1,845.99
Interest Rate (Variable Annually)	4.500%
Pay-off Date	4/2037

Additional Comments: The final bill for the roofing repair, in the amount of about \$13,300, will be paid in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Haeder, Treasurer

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Treasurer's Report September 30, 2023

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Non-Scholar Fund</u>	<u>Scholar Fund</u>
Beginning Principal	\$10,893.79	\$100.00	\$10,793.79
1995-2022 Gifts Received	\$610,264.57	\$436,160.42	\$174,104.15
1995-2022 Int + Dividend Income	\$356,106.82	\$241,916.89	\$114,189.93
1995-2022 Change in Market Value	(\$42,196.57)	(\$52,660.90)	\$10,464.33
1995-2022 Disbursements	<u>(\$446,150.17)</u>	<u>(\$321,456.10)</u>	<u>(\$124,694.07)</u>
Fund Balances: 27 Year Totals	\$488,918.44	\$304,060.31	\$184,858.13
2023 Gifts–OSLC Members	\$1,350.00	\$1,215.00	\$135.00
2023 Int.+Dividend Income	\$10,909.54	\$9,818.59	\$1,090.95
2023 Change in Mrkt Value	\$1,929.24	\$1,736.32	\$192.92
2023 Long Term Capital Gains	\$12,230.91	\$11,007.82	\$1,223.09
2023 Disbursements	(\$22,565.91)	(\$2,065.91)	(\$20,500.00)
Total Fund Balances: 2023	\$492,772.22	\$325,772.13	\$167,000.09

Assett Summary

Wells Fargo Bank Checking	\$12,708.60
LCMS Foundation Account	<u>\$480,063.62</u>

Total Balances: 2023 \$492,772.22

2023 Disbursements:

Concordia Adopt a Student	\$3,500.00
Concordia Classical Academy Together in Mission	\$12,000.00
Concordia Univ. Chicago	\$2,500.00
Concordia University St. Paul	\$2,500.00
Fees – LCMS	<u>\$2,065.91</u>

Total 2023 Disbursements \$22,565.91

Accessions & Losses

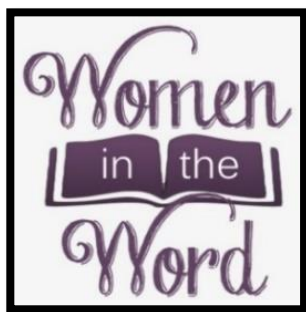
Accessions:

Jeffrey & Kathy Krumwiede; Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Fairmont, MN; LCMS; October 30, 2023

IN LOVING ♥ Memory

Darla Mae Kopischke

October 27, 1932 ~ November 9, 2023



Bible Study Circles

- WELCOME -

Ruth/Lydia Bible Study Circle is Thursday, December 7th in the Fireplace room at 9:30 for fellowship and refreshments with 9:45 Bible study. The lesson is “Sent, Go, Proclaim”, on page 22 of

the Fall Quarterly. Our lesson is written by an 11 year Philipians Missionary. Read her entry and read page 7, “The Way We Were.”

We have been working on our own Personal Mission Statement. This may help us to answer: How can I better share my faith with friends, family, and others in my life? Who has God sent? Where does God tell us to go? What are we to Proclaim? These hymns are reference to these questions: LSB 925, 827, 833.

Christmas lunch will be served at 11:30am with a special dessert.

Mary Circle Bible Study does not meet in December or January. Merry Christmas to all. Stay safe this winter, see in in February.



Music Notes



“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High” Psalm 92:1

December Special Music Schedule:

December 3: Andrew Bittner

December 6: Intro Choir

December 10: Handbells

December 13: Special Music Needed

December 17: Christmas Program

December 20: Special Music Needed

December 24: (Morning) Vocal Choir

December 24: (3:00 and 5:00) Ensemble

December 25: Special Music Needed

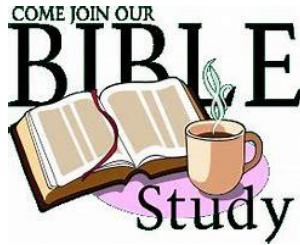
Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal- There will be a dress rehearsal for the Christmas Program on Saturday December 16th from 9:30-11am. Kids participating in the recital will meet at 9am for a run through of the recital.

Kids Recital- The annual kids recital before the Christmas program will be on Sunday December 17th. Please talk to Suzie Gangi if you're interested. We will have a rehearsal before the Christmas program dress rehearsal, Saturday December 16th at 9am.

Christmas Eve Instrumental Ensemble- Musicians are needed for our Christmas Eve Pre-service Ensemble before the 3:00pm and 5:00pm services. If you play (or even played long ago) a brass, woodwind, or string instrument, you are invited to join us! We'll play simple Christmas tunes. Anyone young or old, advanced musicians or beginners, are all invited to play. We will rehearse on December 17th after the Christmas Program Reception and on December 24th between services from 9:30-10:15 in the chapel. Come to one or both rehearsals. If you can't make it to either, that's ok too. We'd love to have you join us on Christmas Eve. Please contact Suzie Gangi if you are interested at 507-341-4173 or suzie@oslcmandato.org

Suzie Gangi

507-341-4173 , suzie@oslcmandato.org



Young Adult Bible Study Monday, December 11th

Young Adults (late high school college, early-ish workforce) are invited to join us in the Fireplace Room at 7pm on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. In December we'll meet just on the 2nd Monday. Merry Christmas everyone!

Contact Karee Bless with questions, 507-381-3826, kbless@blc.edu.



Prayer Shawl

Two more prayer shawls were distributed the past month. Another very nice Thank You was received:

Sincere heartfelt thanks to all of you for your Christ-centered kindness shown in my time of recovery. What a blessing for us to be surrounded by God's caring and compassionate people! God's richest blessings to you, as a committee, and to each of you!

We have donated yarn if anyone wants to knit or crochet a shawl. If anyone wants a shawl please call Marcella, 507-317-4127.

Mission Service



Mission Service will not meet in the month of December. Thank you for all the donations we have received. We were able to put together 36 Health Care Kits in November. Six were delivered to The Reach; 20 to the Crisis Center, and 10 were delivered to Union Street Place in St. Peter.

We would like to direct your mission giving during the season of Jesus' love to helping those close to you who are in need. Maybe you have a coat or hat or boots to give away. The biggest Mission service that we can do for anyone is to pray for them and make known Jesus as their Savior.

Go First Ministry Conference will be held at Concordia Academy in Roseville on April 19-20, 2024. All are invited to experience the encouragement and inspiration of this two day event focused on one or more of the Go First! Areas of Life Together, Soul Care, International Outreach or Collaboration. Time with brothers and sisters in the body of Christ, learning, growing, and being encouraged in your life of service. Visit: <https://www.mnsdistrict.org/go-first-initiative.org> for more information and to save the date.

Potluck Dinner & Bible Study

Do you like bread? How about the Bread of Life? At our potluck Bible study you can have both! However, we won't be meeting in December due to our regular date's proximity to Christmas. We'll look forward to getting together again in January. See you next year!



LWML Mites

Mites for Missions

Mite Sunday at Our Savior is the 3rd Sunday of the month. December 17th.

Bringing Christ to the people in the world, beginning at home, proclaiming Salvation. "Tell Everyone what He has done."

2023-2025 Mission Grant #3. Serving God's Children with Special Needs - \$100,000, Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI. To learn more, visit: www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-3.

District Mite Grants are found in the WOM (Women on a Mission) newsletter.

Would you like to submit a **Mission Grant proposal?** The directions for submitting a proposal are in the Summer 2023 WOM.



During Advent, beginning December 6th, the meal will begin at 5:30pm with Mid-week Advent services at 6:30pm. All are welcome to join us for a good meal and good fellowship before the service begins. A free-will donation will be accepted (with a donation of \$3 per person suggested.)

Please check the sign-up sheets in the fireplace room to see how you can help with Wednesday Meals or Sunday Coffee Time. Pick up donuts Sunday morning, plan/prepare a meal, furnish deserts, help with dishes and clean-up. Please contact a Board of Deacons member if you have any questions.



Joy to the World

Our Sunday School children will be presenting the Christmas story during worship on Sunday, December 17 at 9:00am.

Come early to hear them share their musical gifts and stay after for fellowship and refreshments.

Everyone is welcome!



Book Club



The Our Savior's book club meets from 4:30-6 in the fireplace room on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. We read good books and then discuss them together from our shared Lutheran perspective. We will be taking a break for the month of December, and we'll resume our meetings in January. If you have questions or interest in any of this please speak with Pastor Matheny.

Bible Reading Plan - December

As we look forward to Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth, we are going to look back at the promises made about the coming of Christ. He will bring light. He comes for all people. He will be a good shepherd. He will be full of wisdom. He will bring justice. He is righteous. He will bring peace. He brings a new covenant of hope. He brings healing. He brings joy. He brings freedom. He is tender.

Very early on God promises a king. God even promises an unending kingdom. God promises that his offspring will bring blessing. He comes to conquer death. He came to save us from our sin. They waited as we wait. Our hero comes humbly. He comes as promised. He comes among us. He comes as one of us. Jesus is the promised one.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John 1:9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Jer 33:15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gen 17:16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mt 1:20-21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 2:10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 32:17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gen 35:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Zech 9:9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 40:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 42:6-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 11:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Micah 5:2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Micah 5:4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 35:5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1Chr 17:11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 2:11-12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 11:2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Is 29:18-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 1:31-33 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 1:14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 52:13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 61:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gen 28:14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Joel 2:27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 42:1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 42:2-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 25:8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Is 25:9 |



Check it out...

Our Savior's Library



“Love the Lord your God with all your mind.”

Book Review by Laura Matheny

Never Forsaken: God's Mercy in the Midst of Miscarriage

By Kathryn Ziegler Weber

Never Forsaken strives to be a source of support, validation and encouragement for women navigating miscarriage and infant loss.

Nine chapters, written by nine different women, detail the various ways women struggle in their grief and learn to lean on Christ following the death of their babies. These nine women share their struggles with unbelief, their doubt as they ask, “Why me?”, finding strength in their identity as children of God, etc.

Each chapter concludes with a section called “Scripture Discussion and Reflection.” This section helps the reader process their experiences in light of God’s Word. Never Forsaken brings to light the suffering of many of our sisters in Christ, making it an important book to read.

You can find Never Forsaken in our church library.



TSNT meets Sunday December 10th at 6:30pm in the Fireplace room. We will begin with time in God’s Word, and then play games together. All youth in grades 7 - 12 are invited!

Widowed to Widowed

JOY

“Joy to the World” LSB 387

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Public domain

That which
was from the
beginning
And we are
writing these
things so that our
joy may be
complete.

1 John 1:1-4

Ladies of Our Savior

God has blessed Our Savior Lutheran Church with awesome women serving their Savior and making Him known. Thanks be to God. Beginning within their families and prayer. The fruit of their labor for the Lord extends outward. Pray that God would lead you to where He desires you to serve within the home and the church. It is exciting to begin the month of December after being with our Sisters in Christ on November 30th!!

Advent Event

Who: Women of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

What: Advent Event – Social, fellowship, Spiritual

Where: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall

When: Thursday, November 30, 2023, beginning at 4:30pm.

The OSLC Advent Event is planned especially for the fellowship and spiritual enrichment of coming together with Sisters in Christ. This will include a time for prayer. Please bring a snack to share.

Podcasts – LWML President Eden Keefe

Get the LWML App

Welcome to Bible Studies and all activities!

All Ladies welcome, Always.

Men's **Bible Study**



ATTENTION MEN! The men of Our Savior gather in the fireplace room on the second Thursday (December 14th) from 7:30-8:30 of each

month for study together. In December we will continue to study St. John's Epistles. If you are interested in this please speak with Pastor Matheny.

Young at Heart / S.A.G.E.S.

Young at Heart is Our Savior older adult ministry and
S**A****I****A****L****I****V****E****S****A****L****I****V****E****S****A****L****I****V****E****S****A****L****I****V****E****S**
(S.A.G.E.S.) is the District older adult ministry
LHM Lutheran Hour Ministries
LLL Lutheran Layman's League



S.A.G.E.S.



(S.A.G.E.S. = Saints Alive, Growing, Ever Serving)



LUTHERAN
HOUR
MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

Highlighting the Activities prepared for our readers:

- The Lutheran Layman Magazine – Spiritual growth for children and adults
- Rose Bowl Parade – Petal Pushers, for more info: www.petalpushers.org. The Petal Pushers will be working on the flowers on the float during the month of December. The parade will be Monday, January 1, 2024 at 10am.
- This is the Life (DVR on Sunday), for more info: www.mainstreetliving.com, select the “Twin Cities” tab
- S.A.G.E.S. October-December Sagacity is on-line, copies in the narthex. Sagacity is a quarterly publication to encourage and connect older adults with God and each other. Email: minnesotasouthsages@gmail.com to be added to the newsletter distribution list.
- 2024 Gathering is May 6 and 7. Older Adult Ministry – Encourage the “older adults” 55+ to enjoy these years by experiencing the workshops. Mark your calendar. Bring your parents, bring your older adults. It is with great joy to announce that Rev. Dean Nadasdy will be the featured presenter at the Gathering!

www.lhm.org ● www.mnsdistrict.org/sages

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Hosanna Lutheran Church
105 Hosanna Drive, Mankato

Join Hosanna for their annual Christmas Celebration featuring the Celebration Choir and Hosanna Worship Team! A yearly production that includes drama, music, and worship to spread the good news of Jesus birth!

Wednesday, December 6th at 6:15pm

Saturday, December 9th at 5:00pm*

Sunday, December 10th at 9:30am & 11am*

**Livestreamed service*

Christmas Crochet Along **Saturday, December 9th, 10am**

Make plans to attend the Christmas Crochet Along! Create unique handmade gift or make a beautiful addition to your holiday décor.

All levels welcome! Cost is \$15, includes yarn, crochet hook, and pattern of your choice of candy cane or tree hot pad with pattern and live tutorial with refreshments.

*St. John Lutheran Church
137 S. Houk Street
Good Thunder*

Registration appreciated but not required as supplies are limited. Text or call Wendi to reserve your spot at 507-381-7340.



“In view of God’s display of love in Advent and Christmas, we gladly unite to praise Him. Christmas brings out that unity as we join with Mary and Joseph and shepherds and angels to glorify our Savior as one united family. For this reason, we pray as Paul did, ‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.’” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quite from Lutherans for Life · www.lutheransforlife.org*

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you’ll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.” But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you’ll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn’t have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the

details of the Third Commandment were part of the “shadow” of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is “letter” in the Old Testament law and “spirit” (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God’s Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism’s explanation to the Third Commandment: “We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.”

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God’s house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you’ve given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: “The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel.”

The New Testament church’s job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn’t even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

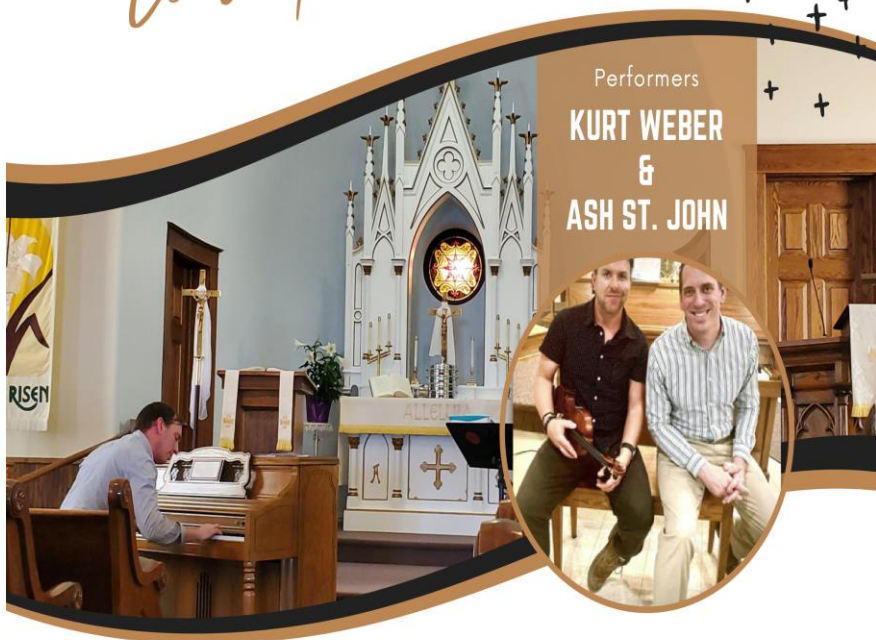
CLASSIC PIANO & VIOLIN

Concert



GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

7:00 PM



Performers

KURT WEBER
&
ASH ST. JOHN

2101 Lor Ray Drive, North Mankato, MN

DEC | **7th** | **2023**

Free Admission (Donations Appreciated)

Proceeds will go to the Concordia Classical
Academy building project





The Joy of Christmas in Concert

Saturday, December 16th
7pm

The Martin Luther Jr./Sr. High School Music Department will present “The Joy of Christmas in Concert” on Saturday, December 16th at 7pm in the high school gymnasium in Northrup.

The band will give a debut performance of a special piece commissioned exclusively for MLHS written by Kurt Heinecke, Veggie Tales composer. Heinecke will be the guest speaker at the concert and will give insight to the design of the piece. Elementary and high school musicians in band and choir will be under the direction of Mr. Phil Schult. Admission is a free will donation.

Martin Luther Jr./Sr. High School, 315 Martin Luther Drive,
Northrup, MN



The Voice
Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 N Broad Street
Mankato, MN 56001

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THANK YOU ALL CONTRIBUTORS

Marion Brunz
Marcella Eilders
Doris Emich
Karen Fischer
Mel Hendrickson
Rhonda Rastedt
Julie Schlichting
Dianne Schmidt
Bernice Wilson

December 2023

Address Service Requested

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Matins is aired at 9:00am each Sunday on KTOE 1420AM Our Savior's Worship service is aired Tuesday at 7pm and Wednesday at 2pm on KTV (Public Access).						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:00 Worship 9:00 Coffee Time 9:20 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship	6:30 Early Bird Bible Study	8:30 Circuit Pastors 10:00 S.A.G.E.S. Zoom Meeting 5:15 Board of Education 6:00 Board of Elders 6:30 Board of Deacons 7:00 Board of Trustees	1:30 Advent Worship 4:45 Introductory Bells 5:20 Handbell Choir 5:20 Introductory Choir 5:30 Meal 5:55 Brass 6:30 Advent Worship 7:30 Jr. Confirmation 7:30 Vocal Choir	9:00 Private Confession 9:30 Ruth/Lydia Circle 10:00 Bulletin Deadline		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:00 Worship 9:00 Coffee Time 9:20 Sunday School 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship 4:30 Book Club 6:30 TSNT	6:30 Early Bird Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 7:00 Young Adult Bible Study	10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study 6:30 Planning Council	1:30 Advent Worship 4:45 Introductory Bells 5:20 Handbell Choir 5:20 Introductory Choir 5:30 Meal 5:55 Brass 6:30 Advent Worship 7:30 Jr. Confirmation 7:30 Vocal Choir	9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 7:30 Men's Bible Study	4:00 The Voice Deadline	9:30 Christmas Service Rehearsal
<i>Mite Sunday</i> 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:40 Pre-Service Recital 9:00 Children's Christmas Service 10:00 Christmas Reception	6:30 Early Bird Bible Study	10:00 Staff Meeting	1:30 Advent Worship 4:45 Introductory Bells 5:20 Handbell Choir 5:20 Introductory Choir 5:30 Meal 5:55 Brass 6:30 Advent Worship 7:30 Jr. Confirmation 7:30 Vocal Choir	9:00 Private Confession 10:00 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 Stephen Ministers		
24	<u>Christmas</u> 25	26	27	28	29	30
8:00 Worship 10:30 Worship 2:40 Pre-Service Recital 3:00 Christmas Eve Worship 4:40 Pre-Service Recital 5:00 Christmas Eve Worship	Office Closed 9:00 Christmas Worship 10:30 Fireplace Room Rental	Pastor Matheny Vacation Lisa - Vacation		10:00 Bulletin Deadline		10:30 Fireplace Room Rental
31						
8:00 Worship 9:00 Coffee Time 9:20 Bible Class 10:30 Worship Pastor Matheny Vacation						

Staff, Officers, and Board Members

Staff

Pastor Rev. Adam M. Matheny Office: 385-2183 Cell: 812-449-6866	Deaconess Lisa Brand Office: 385-2185 Home: 389-9088	Music Coordinator Suzie Gangi Home: 341-4173	Secretary Sue Hendrickson Office: 385-2180 Home: 388-3557	Custodian Bob Baker 507-327-2922
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Congregational Officers and Elected Board Members

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