

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1300 Mansfield Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Phone: 723.6048

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

8:00 A.M. – Worship
9:15 – Education Hour
10:15 A.M. – Worship



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 269
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

“CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED”

If you received this in error and would like to be removed from our membership list, call 723.6048.

Christmas Worship Services

Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve -- 10:00 A.M.

Christmas Eve Morning Worship with Communion

Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve – 4:00 P.M.

Family Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship with Communion

Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve – 10:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve Candle Light Worship with Communion

Monday, December 25th, Christmas Day – 10:00 A.M.

Christmas Morning Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, December 31st, New Years Eve — 10:00 A.M.

Hymn Sing Worship with Communion

Title	Name	Email	Phone
Pastor			
Administrative Assistant	Ellen Fransway	office@oslccf.net	715.723.6048
Director of Youth and Family Ministries	Shannon Fleischfresser	shannon@oslccf.net	715.723.6048
Christian Education	Toni Eckardt	tonieckardt@gmail.com	715.723.6048
Coordinator of Worship/Music, Technology	Jared Johnson	jared@oslccf.net	715.723.6048
Custodian	Chad Burton	chad4pack@gmail.com	715.577.1630
Choir Director	Ron Buckles	ron_bon23@hotmail.com	715.726.9732

Deacon Listing

Deacon	Last Name
Randy Roseen	A-Bow,
Tony & Kay Beardsley	Boy-Elk
Susan Boyer	Eng-Gub
Lisa Merrill	Gum-Jar,
Mary Blake	Job-Lind
Pat & Jill Carroll	Linhart-Nev
LaMae Rohland	Nun-Rob,
Mary Arntson	Roh-Str
Betty Larson	Svo-Zwi

Deacons will be wearing nametags on Sundays. Please look for your Deacon and introduce yourself.

Pastoral Contact: If you are in need of pastoral contact because of illness, hospitalization, grief, life changes or losses, please feel free to contact your deacon, the executive committee or leave a message with Ellen at 715-723-6048.

Matt Lind-President 715.944.4170
Rich Boardman-President Elect 715.944.4691
Kristi Lund-Past President 715.590.2723

Our Saviour's Voice

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

December 2017
Volume 17 Issue 12

Worship Schedule

Sunday

8:00 A.M. - Worship
9:00 A.M. Educational Hour
10:15 A.M. - Worship

Wednesday

6:30 P.M.

November Noisy Offering
“Warm the Children”
\$209.89 Thank You!
December Noisy Offering is for
“Agnes Table”

Salvation Army

Bell Ringing

Our Saviour's has signed up for bell ringing at **Gordys Downtown on Saturday Dec 9th, 9am-3pm.**

Please help us help our town by signing up for an hour or two. We can have as few as one person, to as many as 10 people. All are welcome to join us!! Sign up by Wednesday Dec 6th!

Young Musicians

We are looking for anyone who is interested in performing Prelude music before the 4:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Worship Service. Any type of musical acts are welcome to perform (violin, piano, flute, solos, duets, ensembles, etc.) Please contact Jared Johnson by December 17th.

Worship with Us This Advent and Christmas

Join in festive and meaningful celebrations of Advent and Christmas at Our Saviour's. Share the Good News with relatives and friends and bring them to our worship celebrations!

Sunday, December 3

8:00 and 10:15 AM *“The Souz Chef in God's Kitchen Brigade”* is the message for this Advent Sunday as we meet John the Baptist calling people to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Sunday, December 10

8:00 and 10:15 AM Bishop Rick Hoyme of the NW Synod of WI will be our guest preacher. He served as pastor of Central Lutheran here in Chippewa Falls prior to being elected bishop 4 1/2 years ago. Bishop Hoyme has announced his retirement June 30, 2018. He will host a “Question and Answer with the Bishop” during Middle Hour on this day.

Sunday, December 24

10am Festival Christmas Eve worship with carols, communion and the message *“Home for Christmas.”*
4pm Festival Christmas Eve worship with carols, choirs, communion and the message *“Home for Christmas.”*
10pm Candlelight Communion worship with Pastor Barry Boyer preaching.

Monday, December 25

10am The Festival of Christmas with Pastor Jim Tallman preaching.

Sunday, December 31

10am The Carol of Christmas, Blessing for the New Year, Rite of Healing and Communion offered as we close 2017. The message will be based on the story of Simeon and Anna: *“Waiting on God.”* This is a great Sunday to bring a friend to worship with you. (Note, one service today and no middle hour).

Poinsettias

The altar guild will be decorating the chancel area with poinsettia plants for Christmas. If you would like to donate a plant in memory or honor of someone please fill in that information on an envelope located at the coffee station. Enclose \$8.00 for each plant in the envelope and place it in the offering plate or take it to the office. The deadline for sign up is **December 17th**. Please pick up your plant after the last Christmas service or the following Sunday. Thank you from the Altar Guild for help making our altar beautiful during this Holiday Season of Christ's birth.



THANK YOU!!

Thank you to Joe and Nola Cook, owners of Traditional Tree Farm, for donating the beautiful Christmas tree in the chancel.



PASTOR'S LETTER/NOTES

What are you waiting for?

It's the quintessential question. Everyone seems to be waiting for something. Or someone.

Are you waiting for the new year? For less stress and anxiety? Renewed health? A sense of peace? Hope? Deeper relationships? Healing? Safety? The treasured gift on your Christmas list? Snow? Love? The birth of the Christ child?

In the life of Our Saviour's I know you're waiting.

Our lives are full of waiting, of endings and beginnings sometimes happening all at once. Our lives know the depth of waiting, lament and hope mixed throughout our days.

We know what it means to wait: To feel uncertain and frustrated and impatient. To be hopeful. To have sleepless nights. To wonder if we'll ever have the answers we need.

In the midst of our waiting, the church invites us to experience the Advent season, to savor the four weeks before Christmas, to wait for the celebration of the Christ's birthday, to wait for Jesus to come again. The church gives us the gift of Advent.

This year I've been asking a different question. Actually, it's not even a question. It's a realization I've come to experience. December is waiting for us. Advent is waiting for us.

I believe there's something hidden in December. Underneath the short days and long nights, the cold and snow, I believe December and Advent hold more for us. December greets us with its Advent hymns, the candles adding light into the darkness, the longing and the waiting. We wait all year for this month. December waits all year for us. The end of the year, the beginning of hope, a lifetime of lessons to unpack.

Advent and the biblical texts in our weekly worship call us to see our world as God intends. Advent stirs in us the justice of a God who stands on the side of the outcast and outsider. Advent compels us to use our voice in bearing hope. Advent waits for us. Like the evergreen tree, green needles gleaming, December's Advent stands tall, arms wide open anticipating our acceptance of the invitation. Advent asking us to be present. Advent asking us to sit for a while. Advent asking us to remember. Advent asking us to remember power in the form of a child in a manger. Advent asking us to be the light for all God's people.

Perhaps, just perhaps, we'll get a hint of the light.

Come and peer into the light—

Advent is waiting for you. I hope you'll be in worship each Sunday this Advent.

Peace,

Kurt Jacobson, Bridge Pastor

Hospitality is Key to Church Growth

"It's pretty clear that the vast majority of visitors don't just walk off the street," says Scott Thumma, a researcher who has conducted on site studies of church hospitality. Thuma says visitors have "been invited by someone in the church."

In a study of congregations, the U.S. Congregational Life Survey, found that, on average, 2 percent of people at church services each weekend are visitors. The study, which analyzed surveys taken by rank-and-file participants at 5,000 congregations, found that

a majority of visitors are women, most of whom are married;

at least two-thirds of those visitors have been attending services elsewhere and may be shopping for a new place to worship; only one of out 10 visitors has never been involved in a worship community.

Church members are the best advertising a congregation can get. Congregations serious about making newcomers feel welcome stand to gain more members.

"If I had a dollar for every church that told me they were friendly I would be a rich woman," says Cynthia Woolever, the principal investigator for the U.S. Congregational Life Survey.

Unfortunately, she adds, "I've been in churches where no one has spoken to me."

Transition News

Intentional steps are underway during this time of change in our congregation. Here are quick updates and information of upcoming events. Keep tuned into oslccf.org and Our Saviour's facebook page for regular updates.

The C.A.T. (Church Assessment Tool) is complete and 191 people participated. Our goal was 120. Thanks to all!

The results of the CAT are being analyzed by Pastor Kurt Jacobson. Kurt owns "Mustard Seed Consulting, LLC" and is a trained interpretive consultant of Holy Cow! Consulting assessments. Kurt is donating his service to OSLC. He will present the findings to the Council, Transition Team, Call Committee and Staff on December 11.

A presentation of the CAT results will be made to the congregation during Middle Hour on Sunday, December 14 by Pastor Kurt. On November 12 the Council concurred with the synod's appointment of Rev. Jeanne Warner to become the Intentional Interim Pastor beginning January 15.

Bridge Pastor Kurt Jacobson will complete his service on Sunday, January 7.

In early January the Transition Team will begin work on the "Ministry Site Profile" the standard ELCA form used by the synod staff in matching pastoral candidates. The evidence from the CAT and the "Vital Leader Profile" generated from the C.A.T. will be key instruments in developing this form.

The Intentional Interim Pastor will immediately begin working with leaders to address the financial challenges, budget issues, staffing review and remedial work to be done prior to the calling of a new pastor.

Please pray for our congregation, it's leaders and staff throughout this transition. Your generosity, engagement, care and support is so important in moving into the future. Thank you!

Year End Giving and A Financial Confession

It's not a secret. This December Our Saviour's finds itself in a financial predicament. But it's one that can be addressed by your generous response by December 31 while it is teamed with wise, careful management of expenses by leaders. Will you please make a special year-end donation in addition to your regular offering?

The 2017 budget passed by members in January was aggressive. It exceeded our historical giving records, but it was affirmed by the majority at the Annual Meeting. We decided to try to achieve success with investment in an increased staff and commitments to supporting many ministries in-house and throughout the community and beyond. But to be honest, we now see our eyes were bigger than our appetite. In addition, pastoral transition often results in decreased generosity and that has borne out this year. So now we find ourselves with expenses far exceeding offerings and we need your help.

Right now, Our Saviour's leaders are looking at ways to reduce spending in 2018 while paying careful attention to continuing ministries. We also know we need to rely on the financial generosity of all members as decisions are made to be better positioned financially to move through this time of change. The task is daunting, but not beyond solution.

All who care about the mission of OSLC and who want our ministries to thrive are asked to join together, pray and offer patience, persistence. Together we can do great things for God, for this community and each other when we give. Thanks for every dollar you contribute to Our Saviour's this December. May you be blessed with joy as you give. Executive Committee

Special Events

December Middle Hour

We so appreciate Pastor Curt Rohland leading weekly middle hour and the large group of participants. Thank you!

This month we give Curt a break after December 3 and offer you two very important opportunities to learn about what's happening in the pastoral transition of Our Saviour's. Please come and bring others with you.

Dec 10 Bishop Rick Hoyme of the NW Synod of WI will provide a Question and Answer time.

Dec 17 Bridge Pastor Kurt Jacobson will present pertinent findings from the Church Assessment Tool and what they mean for congregational health, remedial work to be done during the interim and what OSLC people are looking for in the future and in a new pastor. The findings are in and 191 people participated in the CAT. There's lots to share. Be at Middle Hour on December 17.

Trustees Report

The October 2017 financial report is highlighted in the following table. Thank you for your on-going support. Pastor Paul's three month severance ends on November 30th. The executive committee also agreed to 4 weeks of vacation which will be paid as wages only on his last check the first week of December. Our financials continue to be a challenge. If you have questions or would like more details about the following numbers, please contact a member of the Board of Trustees or the Church Office. The financial data has been submitted by the Board of Trustees which includes the following members: Randy Passint, Gary Fox, Bob Klitzke, and Roger Hunt.

As of 10/31/2017	Oct 2017 Actual	Oct 2017 Budget	Oct 2016 Actual	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
Total Revenues	\$29,653.37	\$33,053.84	\$26,139.46	\$270,625.85	\$313,895.32
Benevolences	\$2,321.05	\$2,230.33	\$1,977.49	\$18,964.98	\$22,303.34
Total Expenses	\$33,700.34	\$30,615.88	\$28,558.55	\$310,051.44	\$317,898.54
Net Income (Loss)	\$(4,046.97)	\$2,437.96	\$(2,419.09)	\$(57,698.59)*	\$(4,003.22)

* Includes transfer of \$18,273 left in sabbatical fund to general unencumbered funds

Unencumbered funds as of 10/31/2017 are \$19,732.62.