

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.

Some Winter Reading Ideas from Book Buddies

The cold Wisconsin winter months are a great time to curl up with a good book. Even though Book Buddies won't be meeting until February 18, they have selected their books for 2018. Here's a sneak peak at what they have chosen to read and discuss. Perhaps you would like to put some of the titles on your winter reading list and join Book Buddies when they reconvene. They usually meet the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:30 PM. Watch upcoming newsletters, Grace Notes or the church website for particulars. All are welcome, even if you don't get the book read!

- February - The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Holloway
- March - When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi
- April - Ghost Boy: The Miraculous Escape of a Misdiagnosed Boy Tapped Inside His Own Body by Martin Pistorius
- May - Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman
- June - Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks
- July - A Fall of Marigolds by Susan Meissner
- August - The Life She was Given by Ellen Marie Wiseman
- September - The Lost City of the Monkey God: A True Story by Douglas Preston
- October - Before We Were Yours: A Novel by Lisa Wingate

| 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

| <u>Deacon</u> | <u>Last Name</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 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

January 2018
Volume 18 Issue 1



**Congregational Annual Meeting
And Potluck...January 28, 2018**

You Are Invited! On Sunday, January 28th at 11:30 a.m. (following 10:15 worship) Members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church will gather for our 2018 Annual Meeting. We will break bread together, share in conversation, do some visioning for the coming year, elect our leaders, and address some business. Please plan to attend.

Budget Meeting~~Middle Hour~~January 21, 2018

Typically the week before the annual meeting we try to meet during the Middle Hour to review and address the budget along with various questions and concerns. Since we have had concerns related to the budget for this past year, including the added costs of a transition and many other factors we really are hoping for a good turnout this year as we “present our current situation to the congregation”. With your help in being present we look forward to providing insights and looking at the options. We are very optimistic that we can figure our way through the budget issues.

We also have generated some possibilities regarding the Committee structure for OSLC. A motion was made at last year's annual meeting to have discussion at the council level and try to reduce the number of people for the committee commitments and do some restructuring. A handout is to be prepared and made available. We hope to begin discussion on this topic, too.

We look forward to your presence and participation.

Matt Lind, Rich Boardman, Randy Passint and Kristi Lund

Epiphany Worship on January 7

Join in worship on Sunday, January 7 as we begin the season of Epiphany. The word “epiphany” means “to make known” and on this day we read the account of the magi searching and finding the young Jesus. This season lasts until Ash Wednesday (February 14) and throughout we read biblical accounts of Jesus making himself known as God's son. Think about whom you will invite to come to worship with you as this new year starts. Personal invitations are proven to be the best way people become part of a church.

Knot Just Knitters January Meeting

We had so much fun knitting, crocheting and gabbing by the fireplace in the cozy living room at Stitch Supply Co. and Retreat that we are going to do it again! Please join the KJK group on Wednesday, January 10, with your project for a relaxing afternoon. We are working on easy hats, headbands, scarves, or cowls to distribute next fall/winter or our own projects. First, we will meet at Deb's Cafe, 1120 122nd St. Chippewa Falls, at noon for lunch. Then from 1:00 - 3:00 we will be at Stitch Supply, 913 S. Hillcrest Pkwy, Altoona. If you need yarn, knitting needles, crochet hooks, or patterns, please get in touch with Marilyn Murphy (715-239-6277) and she will show you the huge stash of supplies at church. Feel free to get some supplies from church and work on projects at home if you can't make the January 10th meeting.

**Worship Schedule
Sunday**

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

Wednesday

6:30 P.M.

December Noisy Offering
“Agnes Table”

\$274.71 (thru 12/17) Thank You!
January Noisy Offering is for
“Lighten Your Load”

**TRANSITION NEWS
UPDATES &
OPPORTUNITIES**

On January 7 during Sunday Middle Hour Pastor Kurt and Congregation President Elect Rich Boardman will present information about the pastoral transition underway and the plans with Intentional interim pastor Jeanne Warner who starts January 15. This is Pastor Kurt's last Sunday and he will share final thoughts and insights from his time with us as well as the CAT (Church Assessment Tool) outcome. Please plan to attend and bring others with you!

The Evidence is In: The CAT Speaks

A report from Mustard Seed Consultant Kurt Jacobson

Thank you to all who completed the CAT (Congregation Assessment Tool). 191 persons participated, representing 125% of average worship attendance. There are two primary benefits from this figure:

191 people accepted leadership's invitation to provide input. This is an excellent first step and shows members there is a developing openness to their input.

There is strong confidence in the data with this level of response.

What follows is a partial summary of my presentation of the CAT data/evidence to Council, Trustees, Transition Team, Call Committee and Staff on December 11. A full copy of the report is available in the church office.

The Vital Signs report (generated from the Church Assessment Tool – C.A.T.) is a step in the direction of the congregation establishing a vision for the future. The period of interim can be important to prepare the congregation for fresh priorities. The evidence indicates the following steps may be helpful:

Improve the worship experience

Explore worship styles proving to be fruitful in other communities.

Help members discover their gifts and calling to ministry

Look at the degree to which leaders are representative of the congregation and open to the input of people.

The evidence shows the level of conflict in the church is high enough that it could make the recruitment and start-up of the next pastor difficult. Leaders may need some professional resources in dealing with the conflict in the transition and will benefit from the service of the Intentional Interim Pastor who starts January 15.

Transition and Change

Your Vital Signs report indicates that your church is somewhat settled (inflexible) in its approach to change. If reaching new people and improving the morale of the church are important priorities, you may want to consider taking some steps during the interim to help the congregation become more open to change. You should also consider the following evidence:

Members have a very strong desire for a significant change in the direction of the church compared to recent past. The transition can provide a good opportunity to explore a variety of strategic options.

Members have a very strong desire for a significant change in the skills and responsibilities of the next pastor. The interim period can provide good opportunity to explore a variety of leadership styles.

Your membership roll is three times larger than your worship attendance. There may be names of people who are no longer active and should be removed during the transition.

It has been my honor to be with you for the past three months. Thank you for the kind expressions shared with me and for the high degree of interest I've seen in you and in the response to the CAT – all aimed to seeing Our Saviour's move into a hopeful future. With the evidence from 191 voices and the direction provided by the Vital Signs report, you are better prepared to undertake some key steps during the time ahead with your Interim Pastor. Know my prayers accompany you and I will remember with fondness my time with you all.

Grace and peace,
Kurt Jacobson
Bridge Pastor and Mustard Seed Consultant

Interim Pastor Jeanne Warner

Pastor Jeanne Warner joins us on January 15, 2018. She writes the following:

Wausau, WI, is my home town. I attended a Lutheran school through the eighth grade, then public high school. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Psychology from UW-Madison and studied nursing at UW-Oshkosh, though I did not test for my license. In between college and seminary, I worked as an addiction counselor. I was ordained in 1994 as a graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary. I have been in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin since 1995, serving First Lutheran in Eau Claire for five years and then Colfax Lutheran Rural Parish for four. In 2004, I began interim ministry and have specialized in that for the past 13 years.

My mother still lives in Wausau in the home where I grew up. My two brothers live in Verona, WI and Wausau. My son, James, lives just south of Eau Claire with his wife, Angie, and my two grandsons – Orion, turning 5 in January and Anakin who is 20 months. My dog, Hildi, is a labradoodle.

My hobbies include sewing and knitting, reading, cooking, digital photography and all variety of hands-on craftiness. I LOVE to travel! I am a certified SCUBA diver and try to take at least one annual trip to warm, deep water.

I am looking forward to getting to know you as we discover together God's plan for mission through Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. I ask for your prayers as we walk together through this discernment process.

In Christ,

Pastor Jeanne Warner



PASTOR'S LETTER/NOTES

Dear Our Saviour's friends:

Happy new year! This is the beginning of an exciting year of opportunity to anticipate God providing for Our Saviour's! As I finish my service with you on Sunday, January 7 I want you to know how much I have appreciated this time with you. You have been gracious and I leave sensing that together we have made positive contributions for the future. Thanks to Rev. Barry Boyer for being a partner in this bridge period. I hope you will be looking for the new ways God is about to bless your mission and extend the reign of Christ throughout the Chippewa Valley.

Right now, several things are taking place as the intentional interim period begins. The Council, Transition Team, Staff and Call Committee has received my interpretation of the CAT (Church Assessment Tool). This is work I do as Mustard Seed Consulting. The congregation received an overview of the findings on December 17. A summary report is contained in this newsletter. A more comprehensive report will be included in the Annual Report.

In the new few months, the Council and Transition Team, in cooperation with the Interim Pastor, will begin to consider what recommendations from the assessment to undertake. They will:

Select recommendations I've given from the CAT data to raise the level of satisfaction and energy in the congregation, develop greater flexibility and open decision-making processes;

Dedicate energy to increase the vitality of the Sunday worship experience for all people;

review the staff structure and propose changes to you, in order to be strategically prepared to increase your effectiveness in mission and service to people;

take initial steps to develop the Ministry Site Profile (ELCA document used in calling a pastor);

The CAT evidence (191 people participated) shows that the people of Our Saviour's have a very strong desire for a significant change in the direction of the church compared to the recent past. This includes a very strong desire for a significant change in the skills and responsibilities of the next pastor. During this interim period, leadership and Pastor Warner will be exploring a variety of leadership styles.

Meanwhile, the staff and leaders will be working to maintain ongoing ministries. Please pray for them. Please be faithful in weekly worship and sharing weekly offerings. The interim period is an opportunity for all who care about Our Saviour's to invest, be involved and be hopeful about the future.

May the fresh and life-giving grace and mercy of God in Christ be yours in abundance in 2018.

Yours in Christ,

Bridge Pastor Kurt Jacobson

Trustees Report

The November 2017 financial report is highlighted in the following table. Thank you for your on-going support! Pastor Paul's three month severance ended on November 30th. Please consider donating to Our Servants of OSLC fundraiser. Thank you! 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 11/30/2017 | Nov 2017 Actual | Nov 2017 Budget | Nov 2016 Actual | Year to Date Actual | Year to Date Budget |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Total Revenues | \$29,930.34 | \$30,030.84 | \$23,967.67 | \$300,556.19 | \$343,926.16 |
| Benevolences | \$2,029.90 | \$2,230.33 | \$1,777.45 | \$20,994.88 | \$24,533.67 |
| Total Expenses | \$33,183.18 | \$29,778.23 | \$31,553.64 | \$343,234.62 | \$347,676.77 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$(3,252.84) | \$252.61 | \$(7,585.97) | \$(42,678.43) | \$(3,750.61) |

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