

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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For the new year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)

Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)

Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

Aim for a perfect, mature faith (Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

--Gus Nichols

Pastor's Corner

Happy New Year!

There are many ways to celebrate the New Year: black eyed peas to bring good luck, a kiss and/or toast at midnight, watching the ball descend over Times Square... What are your own special New Year's Traditions?

Implicit in each New Year is the hope that this year will be better than the last. We all have expectations that we hope will be realized. Maybe *this* is the year that I will *finally* stop _____ or *finally* start _____. New Year's Resolutions are full of intentions and we carry over from year to year. They in themselves are great, and any progress we make to be more healthy, loving, or faithful is a good and decent thing. The problem with resolutions is that deal only with our *intention* rather than our *identity*. What molds and shapes us? What fears do we hold onto? What hurts or grudges do we nurse? These are things that weigh us down and hold us back from being who we want to be.

A New Creation – an altogether new creation is what Christ has made *you* to be. The apostle Paul writes in Corinthians: “See, everything that is old has passed away. Everything has been made new.”

In confession and forgiveness, God digs deeply into us – not for the sake of restoring our good intentions, whatever they may be, but in continuing to remind us of our new *identity* in Christ Jesus through healing and forgiveness. He re-creates us from the inside out. He fills us with life-giving love. As we are drawn deeper into his love, our need to hang onto bitterness, remorse, grief, and grudges lessens until we find one day they are simply gone. This doesn't often happen overnight, but it does happen. In hanging on to us, God allows us to let go.

I invite you to make as many resolutions as you want this year – just remember one thing. God doesn't love you based on how many resolutions you can successfully keep. God loves you because you are his precious and beloved son or daughter, forgiven and free. God's one and only resolution is to love you, forgive you, and fill you with life just as you are: with all your imperfections, your worries, and your failings. For while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Peace be with you in this New Year,

Pastor Kristina

Maternity Leave Update

As many of you know, I'll be going on maternity leave soon. My official due date is Feb. 12. Depending on how the baby is doing, I'll begin leave sometime between Jan. 30 and Feb. 7 and return in early April. In my absence, please be assured that pastoral care, preaching, and the sacraments will remain readily available. Lenten and Holy Week services will continue as regularly planned. Local pastors will be on hand for pastoral emergencies, including funerals. Members of our congregation will be able to visit our sick and homebound members with communion.

During Lent, our Sunday Morning services will feature a mix of lay and ordained folks from Luther Park, Synod Ministers (Assistants to the Bishop), and local ministries such as the Seafarer's Ministry in Duluth and the newly launched "Off the Grid" ministry in Ashland/Washburn. Each will preach on the text appointed for the day and give a 15 minute presentation following the service in the fellowship hall during Coffee Hour. This is intended as an extension of our worship service: we are called and *sent* into the world to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our guests will give us a greater vision for what God is doing in our local area. I thank you in advance not only for welcoming each guest warmly, but also allowing them to present without having to talk over individual conversations at the coffee tables. I have to admit – our congregation is a tough crowd! We like to visit and catch up with one another. A robust and loud coffee hour is a good thing – just as long as we are attentive when speakers are present. Please be assured – there will still be plenty of time to visit following the presentations. We *need* our time of fellowship too. Following the brief presentations, there will be a specially marked table for those who would like to converse with the presenter further about the ministry they represent.

Lay preachers from our congregation will preach on the Sundays before and after Lent and Easter. Lynette Kesler will administer the sacrament of Holy Communion in my absence when an ordained minister is not present at the service. She has the council's unanimous support in this as well as my own. Ordained pastors will preside at Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Morning services in addition to various Sundays throughout Lent.

I will be officially on leave and will not be available for pastoral care, funerals, counseling, or worship leadership during February and March. The council, worship committee and I are finalizing plans on how best to address the needs of the congregation during this time. Following the Jan. 10 council meeting, members will receive a letter detailing how each aspect of pastoral ministry will be handled.

Jonathan and I look forward to continuing to be a part of the life of this congregation during February and March. Don't be surprised to see us occasionally at Sunday Morning services. After all, this is our community of faith too. We want Sophia (yes, are expecting a little girl!) to start getting to know her family of faith as soon as she possibly can. She's got a good one.

OSL Council Minutes from December 9, 2012

Present: Pastor Kristina, Peg Hipsher, John Joseph, Howard Lehman, Rozie Maki, Sandy Rau, Doug Thyberg. Excused: Cindy Knapp, Bob Ruef, Ken Tanula

Opening devotions led by Doug, Ephesians Chapter 4

Secretary's report: *Motion to approve November Council minutes, Special meeting minutes Nov. 20th, Congregational Budget Meeting minutes December 9th, by Rozie, 2nd by Doug. Motion carried.*

Financial Report presented by Doug. *Motion to accept the financial report subject to audit by John, 2nd by Rozie. Motion carried.*

Council President, Sandy discussed how she would like to see a more meaningful thermostat settings. Rozie will ask Merv to look at the programmable and see if we can't set it per the schedule of building use.

Motion by Pastor, 2nd by John to give a \$50 gift to the two organist, choir director and secretary and funds from miscellaneous to be used. Motion carried.

Sandy reported that she was getting a web site strip made for the sign outside and the first one they made was the wrong size and will have to have it remade. The cost is \$55.

Motion by Rozie, 2nd by John to have Lynette preside over communion when Pastor is on maternity leave. Motion carried.

Pastor reported that she will be on vacation from December 25 through January 2nd.

Motion to receive Darren, Lori, Andrew and Addison Hansen for membership by John Joseph and 2nd by Howard Lehman. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: The Outreach and Evangelism committee will meet in the 18th. Sandy requested we have some minutes from the meetings.

Education Committee minutes sent out prior to meeting. Advent Craft day Saturday, December 8th went well. Many other things going on then. Children's pageant will be on Sunday, December 16th.

Mutual Ministry – Sandy is gathering names of people who would like to participate in this committee.

Property Committee – Minutes sent to council early. Highlights would be the parsonage walk through. A list of projects and their costs will be compiled and sent to the finance committee for further discussion. January 12, the committee will be cleaning the attic space.

Food shelf reported serving 70 families this month.

Motion by John, 2nd by Howard to accept the committee reports as submitted.

Sandy requested the building use fee discussion be moved to next month.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Congregational Budget Meeting Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 10:05am.

With 67 voting members present, Sandy Rau called the meeting to order.

Copies of the budget were distributed to those who needed them. Doug Thyberg presented the budget to the congregation.

John Joseph moved to approve the 2013 budget. Lynette Kessler seconded that motion.

Sandy Rau called for discussion.

Jerry Peck – We will expect to be short again this year by \$6500.00 This has been a pattern and we need to further find a solution. No increases in salaries again this year.

Dick Rewalt. No salary increases for the last three years. This has been a status quo.

Julie Peck - Memorial funds should only be used for memorials.

Patti Lehman – The funds on which we live on have been decreasing.

Sandy Rau – Gave an explanation about the synod's salary guidelines.

Terry Welty – There was no raise for us in social security.

Doug Thyberg – reviewed our revenues and explained that we were not in a position to give a raise and encouraged the congregation to continue discussion on the subject.

Evie Berge – Wanted to remind us about all of the extra's we pay in housing and such for our pastor.

Ted Callahan – Felt that there is a difference in the cost of living in a rural area versus a urban area and that the synod guidelines do not reflect that.

Cindy Knapp - reported that Pastor informed the council that she was grateful to be working and living here and realizes the financial situation of our congregation.

Dick Rewalt called for a vote. Sandy Rau called for the vote by voice. The majority approved of the budget. Some Nays were heard. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am.



Volunteer Schedule January 2013

Prayer for Families

We will continue this year to include three families or individuals in our Sunday morning prayers. I know there are many of you that pray for individuals and the needs that we know of, but there are many times we don't know when someone is in need of a prayer. This is one more way for us to care for each other placing them in God's hands.

January 6

Shirley Saker
Mark & Melinda Santikko
John Schrock & Mary Berube

January 13

Desi & Tammy Sipsas
Wayne & Lynette Smith
John & Doreen Swanson

January 20

Jerry & Tricia Talso
Ken & Lois Tanula
Dianna Teppo

January 27

Julie Thomosdgaard
Sue Thibideau
Doug & Nancy Thyberg

Date	Coffee	Lector	Nursery
January 6	Dave & Linda Hultman	Kent Getty	Volunteer Needed
January 13	Tim & Debbie Landgreen	Jim Pedersen	Volunteer Needed
January 20	Tom & Donna Trautt	Melinda Santikko	Volunteer Needed
January 27	Doug & Nancy Thyberg	Donna Callahan	Volunteer Needed
Monthly			
Ushers: The Forsythe Family			
Greeters: The Collins Family			
Altar Guild:			



BIRTHDAYS this month

Jan Modeen 2nd
Lauri Lind 2nd
Marlene Hagstrom 4th
Landen Peck 5th
Jody Forsythe 6th
Evie Berge 7th
Laurel LaBelle 7th
Janelle Armbruster 7th

John O'Brien 11th
Carole Danula 13th
Matthew Berube 22nd
Ted Callahan 30th
Nancy Johnson 31st
Debbie Landgreen 31st



Jerry & Tricia Talso 1st
Richard & Joanne Forsythe 7th
Jerry & Julie Peck 20th
Bob & Gerri Kinblom 25th
Dick & Kathy Rewalt 31st

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

January 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Pastor's Hours of Availability: Monday-Thursday 9:00-1:00 Call 715-372-8701 or 715-813-0830 to reach the Pastor</p>	<p>Secretary's Hours Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7:30-12:30</p>	<p>1 Pastor's text study Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>2 <i>No Bible Study</i> <i>No Wed. Bible School</i> <i>No Confirmation</i></p>	<p>3 6:00-8:00 Peaceful Pet Training 6:30 Choir</p>	<p>4 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Jr. & Sr. High Recharge Luther Park </div></p>
<p>6 Epiphany 9:00 a.m. Worship 5:30 Epiphany Bonfire Service Candlelight walk Peace Lutheran, Poplar Food Shelf Item — Peanut Butter</p>	<p>7 10:00-3:00 Quilting 5:00 Worship Committee 6:30 Education meeting @ Pizza Parlor 7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>8 Pastor's text study Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga 6:30 Council</p>	<p>9 9:30 Bible Study 3:45 Wed. Bible School 5:15 Confirmation</p>	<p>10 6:30 Choir</p>	<p>11 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9:00 a.m. Worship Food Shelf Item — Chicken Soup</p>	<p>14 10:00-3:00 Quilting 7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>15 Pastor's text study Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>16 9:30 Bible Study 3:45 Wed. Bible School 5:15 Confirmation</p>	<p>17 WELCA @ Debbie Landgreen's house 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>18 Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>19 Food Shelf 9:00-11:00 Food Share</p>
<p>20 9:00 a.m. Worship Food Shelf Item — Peanut Butter</p>	<p>21 10:00-3:00 Quilting 7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>22 Pastor's text study Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>23 9:30 Bible Study 3:45 Wed. Bible School 5:15 Confirmation</p>	<p>24 2:00-4:00UW Extension Financial Workshop 6:30 Choir</p>	<p>25 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9:00 a.m. Worship Food Shelf Item — Macaroni & Cheese</p>	<p>28 10:00-3:00 Quilting 7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>29 Pastor's text study Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>30 9:30 Bible Study 3:45 Wed. Bible School 5:15 Confirmation</p>	<p>31 6:30 Choir</p>		

Rejoice in the LORD always! Again, I say rejoice! (Phil. 4.4)

Ushers & Greeters Schedule- In this newsletter you will find the ushers & greeters schedule for the next 6 months. If you have not turned in your Time & Talents sheets yet, there is still time.

Celebrate Epiphany- Sunday, January 6th at 5:30pm at Peach Lutheran in Poplar. *Ski or hike the candlelit trail*Roast hotdogs & marshmallows *enjoy Christmas cookies *sing and pray around the bonfire at 6:00pm.

New Years Tea- Wednesday, January 9th at 7:00pm at Peace Lutheran in Poplar invites everyone to join them for a delightful evening of music and fellowship. They will have a variety of performances by local musicians followed by refreshments.

NHS Choir Cookbooks- Julia Collins is selling cook books for the NHS choir. They are ten dollars apiece, and benefit the choir for the cruise they are taking in the spring this year to the Bahamas. The cookbooks contain 300+ recipes from each student in the choir. The choir will be singing on the cruise ship and spending a total of five days away for the trip. Julia is trying to raise \$1,000 for this trip. If you have any ideas of a fundraiser or would like to purchase a cookbook let Julia know.

Thank You for the monetary Christmas gift! We appreciate your thoughtfulness and enjoy serving you musically! Linda and Patty

Thank you! Dear Council Members and all Members of Our Savior's,
Many thanks for the gift of \$50. The Our Savior's choir and congregation have been an important part of my life since we moved to Iron River twelve years ago. Not only have I made some lifelong friends but I've also found a place where I feel God is able to use me in a productive way. I appreciate your gift and note of appreciation. Both Jerry and I pray for our church and for all of you to have a year full of many blessings.
Thanks again.
Julie Peck, Choir Director

Thank You Everyone for the warm holiday wishes and for the gift I received in your Christmas card. I have some home repairs that need looking after and your thoughtful gift of money will surely help out. Merry Christmas and Happy 2013. Evelyn Pamer

Results of Cookie/Craft/Lefse Sale-

Amazing! I am always so delighted when I see the people of Our Savior's Lutheran pull together on a project. You've done it again! Thank you so much to everyone who baked cookies, breads, candy and a wonderful assortment of other yummy items. The craft contributions and items donated for the White Elephant table were also very significant. Many stepped up to make lefse, set-up, work at the sale and clean-up. I know that many people volunteered that didn't sign up but based on the sign-up sheets at least 39 people were involved. What a wonderful example of how much we can accomplish when many individuals pitch in and do what they can. Our financial profits from the sale also reflect an all-out effort. Here is the break-down of sales:

Cookies & other baked items:	\$1052.10	(up \$70.20 from last year)
Lefse	252.00	(up \$68)
Crafts	467.00	(down \$26.25)
White elephant items	179.05	(up \$104.05)
Card/Napkins	46.00	(up \$16)
Rada Cutlery	8.50	(down \$40)
Fair Trade Coffee	128.50	(up \$79.95)
Gift Wrap	10.00	(new this year)
Other?	25.00	
Donations	<u>92.40</u>	
Total Sales	\$22.60.55	(up \$200.99 from last year's sale)

If we exclude what the youth sold last year, our increase was even more. \$399.35!
Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed in any way!

Julie Peck



Ushers and Greeters- The volunteer list for the Ushers and Greeters has been set up 6 months in advance so that you have time to switch months with those listed here or find other replacements . Monthly reminder letters will continue to be sent out and the list will be on the bulletin board. If you are unable to help during the time you have been assigned, please find your own replacement and let the church secretary know of the changes as soon as possible.

Greeters

Jan~ Collins Family
Feb 3-10~ Merv & Rozie Maki
Feb 17-24~ Ken & Linda Watters
Mar~ Laurel LaBelle & Jane Jensen
April~ Mark & Melinda Santikko
May~ John & Jeanne Joseph
June 2-16~ Nan & Jim Olson
June 23-30~ Ken & Linda Watters

Ushers

Jan~ Forsythe Family
Feb~ Tim & Debbie Landgreen
March~ Karen Wicklund & Dick Rewalt
April 3-17~ Nan & Jim Olson
April 24-31~ Merv & Rozie Maki
May 5-15~ Doug & Nancy Thyberg
May 19-26~ Merv Maki & Dick Rewalt
June~ Donna & Ted Callahan

The following people have volunteered to be greeters this year:

Ted & Donna Callahan, Collins Family, Rick & Jody Forsythe, Kent Getty & Jane Bragiel, Laurel LaBelle, Merv & Rozie Maki, Jim & Nan Olson, Dick & Kathy Rewalt, Mark & Melinda Santikko, Ken & Linda Watters, John & Jeanne Joseph, John & Donna Kramolis, and Karen Wicklund.

The following people have volunteered to be ushers this year:

Ted & Donna Callahan, Laurel LaBelle, Tim & Debbie Landgreen, Merv & Rozie Maki, Jim & Nan Olson, Dick Rewalt, Mark & Melinda Santikko, Wayne & Lynette Smith, Doug & Nancy Thyberg, Ken & Linda Watters, and Karen Wicklund.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING.

IT IS A LARGE COMMITMENT AND WE ARE GREATFUL FOR YOU.



PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Want to start the new year off right?
Remember to always ask God for guidance.

Directions: Write each word (or word part) in the correct numbered box to complete Proverbs 16:3, NIV.

JANUARY 2013						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

14 - tab 18 - Pro 7 - ever 6 - what 15 - lish 8 - you 4 - the
21 - :3 16 - your 9 - do 1 - Com 20 - 16 11 - he 10 - and 22 - NIV
3 - to 12 - will 19 - verbs 13 - es 2 - mit 17 - plans 5 - LORD

Answer: "Commit to the LORD whatever you do and he will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3, NIV



CHARACTER THAT PLEASES

The New Year is a time for renewed commitments and changes in our behavior. Complete the puzzle below to see whose example is worthy of imitating or copying.

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to finish the NIV Bible verse.

Y		M		L	L	O	W	F	O
A	S	E		A	M	P	L	E	X
		O	W	F	O	L	L	I	
O	F	E		T		H	E		
.		S	T	A	M	P	L	E	X
:	1	1	1	C	H	R	I		
				C	O	R		1	

Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1