

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 688

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Iron River, WI 54847

E-mail - osl@cheqnet.net Pastor

oslsec@cheqnet.net Secretary

DECEMBER

2015

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your warm welcome and for helping me to get to know you. I have so appreciated the times I've had to talk with many of you and to begin learning about Iron River and Our Savior's Lutheran Church. My wife, Valerie, was also grateful for the chance she had to join you for a weekend before jumping into her new interim ministry work at Drammen Lutheran Church near Mondovi, WI.

Some of you have been asking about our background. I was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. Val was born and raised in Hudson, Wisconsin. In 1978 we met during our first day of class at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1980 we were married and in August 1984 we were ordained and headed off to Hong Kong to serve with the ALC Division for World Mission. Yes, many humorous details were left out.

For twenty-three years we worked with our dear Chinese colleagues in The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong and with fellow missionaries from the U.S., Norway, Finland, and Germany. Valerie spent many years leading a ministry of care for Filipino domestic workers—women that left their families in the Philippines to work in homes in Hong Kong in order to send money to their families. I worked as a pastor in ELCHK Chinese speaking congregations and with summer camps for ELCHK youth. In my final seven years in HK I was asked to serve as an interim past for three ELCHK churches.

Shortly after our first two years of language study in HK, our son and daughter were born. Noel, our son, is now 28 and lives in Chicago where he works as an Urban Planning Analyst. In the coming May he will marry his sweetheart, Ana. Our daughter, Corissa, is working and attending university in Boulder, Colorado, and is dating a dear guy named Lucas.

At the end of 2007 Val and I returned to the States to be close to our mothers and our kids, and to take up interim ministry work. In 2008 we were asked to become board members of China Service Ventures, a Christian non-profit organization that seeks to serve rural poor children and youth in Henan, China. In 2012 I was hired as the full-time mission coordinator for the work in China and spent four months of each year in China. This October my work with CSV was reduced to half time, which opened the door for this current call to Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

As always, our hope is in God. The twists and turns in life bring their surprises. Sometimes they are not what we expect or want, but God's words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah give us hope. God knows our circumstances, and His plans are not to bring us harm, but to give us a future and a hope. During Our Savior's Lutheran Church's time of interim ministry we will lay hold of God's gift of hope and together seek to discern God's leading for the future.

Pastor John

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Council Minutes – November 9, 2015

Present: Peg Hipsher, Howard Lehman, Kathy Rewalt, Lynette Kesler, Tammy Sipsas, Nan Olson, Cindy Knapp
Finance: Doug Thyberg

Meeting was called to order by President Howard Lehman at 5:00 pm. Howie led us in opening devotions. Secretary's report was reviewed. Motion by Peg and seconded by Lynette to approve minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report was presented by Peg. We are caught up with our bills and have about \$4,500 in the checking account. We will begin paying for our interim pastor this month at the cost of \$3,000 per month. Let's all work to keep our pledges current. We need to get new church credit cards. Evelyn and Howie will have the cards. A motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Peg to get two cards – no monthly limits on either. Motion passed. Discussion concerning the Fig Leaf Fund. A motion was made by Lynette and seconded by Tammy to move \$500 from Fig Leaf to Habitat for Humanity. Motioned passed. A motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Nan to move \$500 from Fig Leaf to VBS. Motioned passed. Time and Talent info has been given out. Next Sunday, Nov 15 will be Commitment Sunday. A motion was made by Tammy and seconded by Cindy to accept the treasurer's report and it will be filed for audit.

Peg also mentioned that we need to get someone to snowplow for the winter. She has a couple of names and will contact them and get prices.

President's report

- We have a Letter of Agreement for Interim Pastoral Ministry that we need to fill out and sign. Pastor John will take it to synod for their confirmation and signature. The next step will be an Installation Sunday with someone from the synod here to preach and install Pastor John as our interim. Date to be determined.
- Parsonage is set up and ready. New bed will be delivered on Nov 12. Internet and phone have been connected. Phone number is: 372-8701. Pastor John will have a cell number for us in a couple of weeks. Please call and leave a message if you need to talk to Pastor.
- Communications is again top priority. Howie will be giving an informational meeting in the next couple of weeks concerning the Letter of Agreement and our financials. He will announce this upcoming meeting on Sunday.

Pastor's Report

- November schedule is: Nov 7-9 (Sat, Sun, Mon); Nov 14-16 (Sat, Sun, Mon); Nov 23-25 (Mon, Tues, Wed); Nov 28-30 (Sat, Sun, Mon) Pastor's wife, Valerie, will be here the weekend of Nov 14-16.
- Pastor has been visiting our shut-ins and taking them communion.
- There will be an informational meeting for confirmation students and their parents on Sunday, Nov 15 at 6:00 pm. Confirmation will begin on Sunday, November 29.
- Advent Season is upon us. Pastor's theme this year for the season will be the message of Hope.

Committee Reports

- Education Committee – No report
- Finance/Stewardship/Memorial – No report
- Food Shelf Committee – We had a donation of stuffing, we have the amount needed for Thanksgiving baskets.
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Outreach & Evangelism – Community Thanksgiving dinner is scheduled for Nov 26 at Community Center. We still need more volunteers. Nursery is being updated. Meeting will be held with a rep from Cable to get information about forming our Community Garden. A suggestion was made that our next Mission of the Month

be for Salem Baptist Church in Ashland to show our support after their fire on October 31. Cindy will take this suggestion to their next meeting.

- Property Committee- Work on getting a person to snow plow.
- Worship Committee – We would like to have one Christmas Eve service this year at 5:30 pm. Council approved.
- Executive Committee –No report.

Motion made by Cindy and seconded by Tammy to approve the committee reports. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

~ Suggestion was made that we ask Evelyn to put Pastor Kristina's address in the newsletter/bulletin if any members wish to send them Christmas greetings.

~ We need to change the pastor's name in the Saturday Ashland Daily Press church announcements. We will ask Evelyn to call them.

~ We will store the picnic tables in one side of the garage at the parsonage for the winter.

~ Thank you to Sandy for changing our sign outside.

Motion made by Peg to adjourn. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 7 at 5:00 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

December devotions and communion assistant: Cindy Knapp

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Rewalt, Secretary



Volunteer Schedule December 2015

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.

December 6

Fred Baue
Dick & Evie Berge
Charlene Billingsly

December 13

Robert Bowker
Tom & Karen Boggess
Dan & Nancy Bourassa

December 20

Chuck Buran
Ted & Donna Callahan
Harold & Carole Danula

December 27

Bill & Rita Collins
Dale Carlson
David & Debbie Christensen

Date	Coffee	Lector
December 6	Tammy Sipsas w/ T & D Callahan	Donna Callahan
December 13	K & Linda Watters w/ Carrie DeRosia	Mark Santikko
December 20	Dick & Evie Berge	Dick Rewalt
December 27	Volunteer Needed	Linda Pepping

Monthly

Ushers: Doug & Nancy Thyberg

Greeters: Mark & Himma Santikko

Altar Guild: Lynette Kesler



BIRTHDAYS this month

Rozie Maki -1st
Tyler Forsythe -1st
Lois Tanula -2nd
Mary Berube -4th
Andrew Hanson -7th
Dianna Teppo -9th
Nolan Santikko -9th
Carrie DeRosia -13th
Maureen Johnson -14th

Kari Williams -14th
Kurt Janko -17th
Addison Hanson -18th
MaryAnn Lahti -21st
John Joseph -27th
Dick Rewalt -30th
Amy Gregerson -31st



John & Donna Kramolis -30th
John & Laurel LaBelle -31st

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

December 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga	2 9:00 Peeling Potatoes 9:30 Bible Study	3 9:00 Making Lefse Choir	4 9:00 Cookie Walk Set up	5 9:00-12:00 Cookie Walk, Lefse and Craft Sale
6 9:00 a.m. Worship Informational Meeting following worship Poinsettia Orders Due 6:00 Confirmation Food Shelf Item — Spaghetti Sauce	7 9:00-3:00 Community Quilters 5:00 Council 7:00 Al-Anon	8 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga	9 9:30 Bible Study	10 Choir	11	12 12:00 Yoga 2:00 Christmas Cantata @ St. Michael's Church
13 9:00 a.m. Worship 6:00 Confirmation Food Shelf Item — Canned Fruit	14 9:00-3:00 Community Quilters 9:00 Decorate the Christmas Tree 7:00 Al-Anon	15 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga	16 9:30 Bible Study 6:00 Smiling Faces Child Care Christmas Program	17 11:30 Birthday Party for Jesus WELCA Choir	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 Food Shelf 9:00-11:00 12:00 Yoga
20 9:00 a.m. Worship 6:00 Confirmation Food Shelf Item — Hand Soap	21 9:00-3:00 Community Quilters 7:00 Al-Anon	22 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga	23 9:00 Decorate for Christmas 9:30 Bible Study Food Shelf Produce distribution	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve 5:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed Christmas	26 12:00 Yoga
27 9:00 a.m. Worship Food Shelf Item — Kleenex	28 9:00-3:00 Community Quilters 7:00 Al-Anon	29 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga	30 9:30 Bible Study	31 Choir		

Pastor John's December Schedule-

First Sunday—Dec. 6-8 (Sunday-Tuesday)
 Second Sunday—Dec. 12-14 (Saturday-Monday)
 Third Sunday—Dec. 19-21 (Saturday-Monday)
 Christmas Eve—Dec. 24
 Fourth Sunday—Holiday with family

Pastor John's Contact Information-

Email- osl@cheqnet.net
 Parsonage- 715-372-8701
 Cell- 715-813-7266

Not receiving a newsletter? Either by email or regular mailings? Let the church secretary know that you would like to be added to either the email list or the regular mailing list and one will be sent right to you. You can also access our newsletters and other church information on our website ironriverlutherans.org



Thank you for all the cards, calls, visits and soup after my recent rotator cuff surgery. All of these expressions of caring meant so much to me. I am well on my way to healing as I just completed phase one of my physical therapy.
 Sandy Rau

The WELCA Birthday Party for Jesus- will be held December 17th at 11:30am at the church. This year, our focus is on the New Day Shelter in Ashland which helps in crisis intervention services for the area. Services include: safe shelter and food, 24 hour crisis line, advocacy to help children and adults, access stabilizing resources, such as independent housing away from their abuser, medical care, legal services, and transportation. The following is a "Wish List" provided by the shelter for all interested in donating items to the Birthday Party for Jesus.

- *CASH
- *Paper products- toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, napkins
- *Laundry products- detergent, dryer sheets, bleach
- *Cleaning supplies and garbage bags
- *Disposable plates and silverware
- *Any non-perishable food items- Unexpired boxed foods (cereal, mac & cheese, hamburger helper, etc.) pasta noodles, pasta sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, soup, coffee, coffee creamer, and juice.
- *Personal Products-Women's razors, deodorant, shampoo, body wash, combs, brushes, feminine hygiene supplies, over the counter pain and cold relievers
- *Baby items- diapers (size 4,5 and 6), baby wipes, baby wash and shampoo
- *Women's robes and nightgowns
- *Pull-ups- disposable training pants for toilet training toddlers

Cookie, Craft and Lefse Sale



Saturday, December 5th
 9:00-Noon
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Dear Our Savior's Lutheran Church;

Thank you so much for continuing to support our efforts to sponsor a boy from Honduras and his hard working but needy family. Through your donations of used greeting cards, Jesmin is in 4th grade and is so grateful for the benefits he receives, that includes food, school supplies and health care. I have enclosed a picture of him wearing his new shoes. He previously only wore girls pink flip flops.

The best cards to donate are store-bought used cards. We cannot use just the fronts of cards, we need the whole card and promise not to read any personal notes. If you send unused cards from non-profit groups, please send the envelopes too.

God Bless you all;
 Paula Christensen (a friend of Sandy Rau's)

Informational Meeting- An informational meeting will be held after worship on December 6, 2015.

Poinsettia Order Forms- Each year at Christmas we decorate the church with poinsettia plants. These plants can be given as memorials or in honor of a special occasion or simply given by individuals. Order forms are in the Narthex and will also be in your December newsletter. Deadline for ordering a plant is December 6th.



December Dates To Remember

- Dec. 2 @ 9:00 ~Peeling potatoes for lefse
- Dec. 3 @ 9:00 ~Making lefse
- Dec. 4 @ 9:00 ~ Cookie Walk set up
- Dec. 5 @ 9:00-Noon ~Lefse, cookie, and craft sale
- Dec. 6 ~Informational Meeting
- Dec. 6 ~Poinsettia orders due
- Dec. 12 @ 2:00 ~Christmas Cantata at St. Michael's Church
- Dec. 14 @ 9:00 ~Trimming the tree
- Dec. 17 @ 11:30am ~Birthday Party for Jesus
- Dec. 18 ~Newsletter Deadline
- Dec. 23 @ 9:00 Decorating for Christmas
- Dec. 24 @ 5:30pm ~Christmas Eve Services
- Dec. 25 ~Have a very Merry Christmas-Office Closed
- Jan. 4 ~ Taking down the Christmas Decorations and setting up for Epiphany.

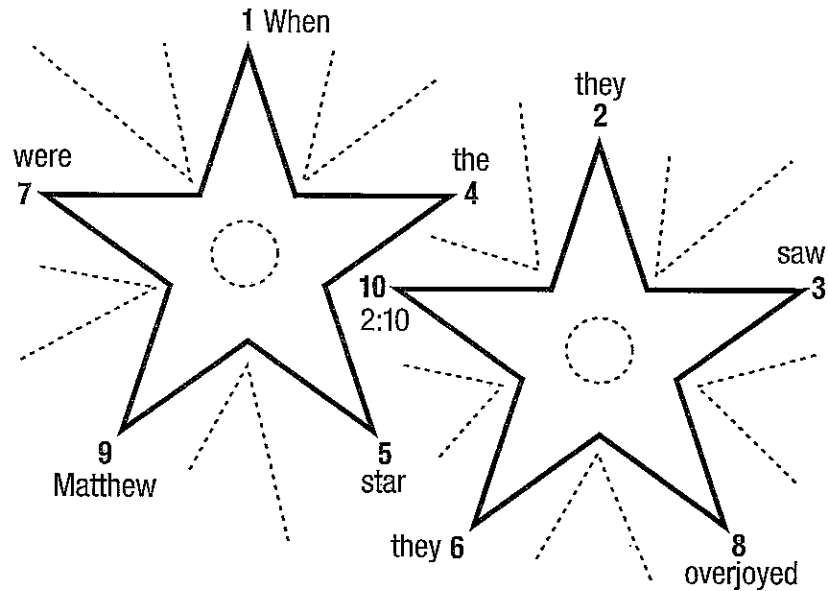


PUZZLE

The star of Christmas

When Jesus was born, a star led the wise men to him.

Directions: Place the words in order, by their numbers, on the blanks below to complete Matthew 2:10, NIV.



“ _____ , _____ , _____ : _____ , NIV”

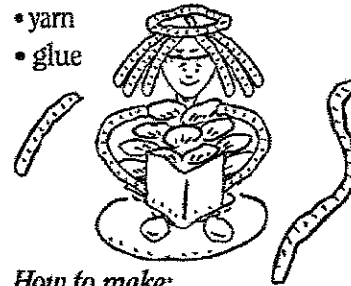
Answer: “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.” Matthew 2:10, NIV

Make a Pine Cone Angel



You need:

- a pine cone
- an acorn
- cardboard
- 2 beans or seeds
- black marker
- 1 white pipe cleaner
- small piece construction paper
- gold pipe cleaner or piece of foil
- yarn
- glue

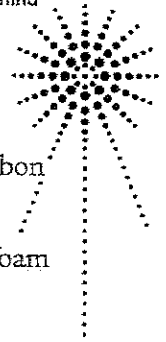


How to make:

1. Cut circle from cardboard for the base.
2. Glue the wide part of the pine cone to the cardboard.
3. Glue the beans or seeds to the cardboard for feet.
4. Glue the acorn to the pine cone for the head.
5. Make eyes with marker.
6. Wrap pipe cleaner around for arms.
7. Glue yarn on for hair.
8. Use gold pipe cleaner for halo or make one from foil.
9. Make book in hands from paper and glue.

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Make a mobile to remind you of Jesus' birth.



What you need:

- Paper plate
- Hole punch
- Thin blue ribbon
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Yellow craft foam
- Marker

What you do:

1. With the paper plate upside down, punch evenly spaced holes along the rim. Gently fold the plate and punch a hole in the center.
2. Cut pieces of ribbon, thread them through the holes as desired and tie the ribbons securely.
3. Trace several small stars and one larger star on the foam and cut them out. Punch a hole atop a point of each star.
4. Tie one small star to each outer-rim ribbon.
5. Thread a longer ribbon through the center hole and tie the large star to the other end.
6. Write a verse on the plate or large star. Hang the mobile from the ceiling with another piece of blue ribbon.

