

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 688

68160 South George Street

Iron River, WI 54847

E-mail - osl@cheqnet.net Pastor

oslsec@cheqnet.net Secretary



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.”
(Hebrews 12:1-2a)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since the beginning of November interim ministry (I.M.) has been underway. In this early stage I have been trying to get to know you, to become familiar with some of the groups and ministries, and to attend to the pastoral duties. I've been trying to observe—what makes Our Savior's Lutheran Church uniquely you?

As we move into the interim process there are parts of this work that need to involve all of us, because the wellbeing of this church is the concern of each one of us. In the coming days our church council will bring together a Church Profile Committee that will do the formal work of collecting the information that will aid our future Call Committee in searching for our next pastor. There will also be times over the next four months where the whole congregation will be invited to give their input. By giving everyone the opportunity to reflect on our church's *past, present, and future* we will better understand who we are as a church; our needs; and our hopes for the future. As we do this thoughtful and prayerful prepara-

tion before hiring a pastor, it is my hope that we will find a pastor that will be a good fit for the needs and vision of our church.

This interim ministry (I.M.) time is intended to be a time where each member has the opportunity to express, *“This is what I'M thinking, feeling, and hoping for my church.”* At the same time, these opportunities for sharing give us a chance to benefit from the insight of others, and to lay our concerns, hopes and fears before the Lord and seek his direction.

Inside this newsletter you'll see what is being planned for the month of January. Our focus this month will be on our church's past. As the writer of the book of Hebrews makes clear, we benefit from the *“great cloud of witnesses”* that have gone before us.

Please join us as you are able and include these upcoming sharing opportunities in your prayers.

In Christ's service,

Pastor John

I.M. (Interim Ministry) Update for January 2016

During the month of January we have a special opportunity to reflect on Our Savior Lutheran Church's past.

Consider the following ways of contributing to this conversation:

- On Sunday, January 31st, we will be holding our first I.M. Meeting entitled, *"Remembering Our Church's Past"*. Please see below the special Sunday schedule.
- Our sharing that day will center on the questions at the bottom of this page.
- If you are away and unable to be with us for this meeting, then please write your responses to the questions and email or mail them to the church office before January 31st. We will then be able to include your thoughts in our time of sharing.
- A summary of the collected reflections will be posted, and will be passed to the Church Profile Committee.

Please note the special schedule for Sunday, January 31st:

- 9:00 Worship
- 9:45 Get refreshments and get settled in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 Start I.M. Meeting—Brief instructions and assigning groups
- 10:10 Small Group Sharing
- 10:40 Large Group Time with sharing by small groups
- 10:55 Summary and closing prayer
- 11:10 Close meeting

Questions About Our Church's Past:

- 1. If you can, please name one of the people that you think has made a significant contribution to the life and shaping of this church. What was it that this person contributed or did that was meaningful to you?**
- 2. Have there been special ministries, traditions, groups, events, activities or programs from the past that you feel have had a positive impact on you, our church, and our community? Describe them.**
- 3. What spiritual teachings and practices of the Lutheran Church have helped form a strong faith foundation and spiritual glue for OSLC through its history?**
- 4. Over the past year our church has gone through the Bridge Builder process. The primary objective of the process's result was to improve the communications of OSLC. How can we continue to improve the communication processes in the future?**
- 5. Finally, What one thing stands out to you from our church's history that makes you feel rightly proud of your church?**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Council Minutes – December 7, 2015

Present: Peg Hipsher, Howard Lehman, Kathy Rewalt, Lynette Kesler, Nan Olson, Cindy Knapp, Tammy Sipsas (excused)
Pastor John Peterson, Finance: Doug Thyberg

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

Treasurer's report was presented by Peg. We are again in the black this month. Staying caught up with bills. We are collecting next year's pledges but we only have 43 returned out of the 95 sent out. We can make guesses of income from last year's giving, but it would be a huge help to the finance people if members would turn them in. Please, pray about your pledge, God will direct you.

We have to get a Health Insurance Policy for Pastor John through Portico. After reviewing, we chose the Silver plan at a cost of \$664 per month. This policy will be in effect thru 2016 and used by any interim or called pastor. Pastor John agreed with the selection. A motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Lynette to approve this policy. Motion carried.

A brief discussion followed about insurance. Funding has been a problem in the past. A decision was made to move \$5,400 from the general fund into an Insurance Contingency Fund to be used to pay any insurance bills as they come due. Lynette made a motion to earmark this fund and it was seconded by Cindy. Motion passed. Cindy made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Lynette. It will be filed for audit.

Peg has contacted Ron Michaelis to plow our parking lot again this year. The cost will be \$72/hr or \$1.25/minute. (We paid a total of \$445 last year for plowing.) Motion made by Cindy and seconded by Nan to approve this expense. Motion carried.

President's report

- Letter of Agreement for Interim Pastoral Ministry has been completed and sent to the synod. We are waiting for the Bishop's signature.
- Informational meeting was held on November 29 where Howie, Pastor and Doug Thyberg gave a report on the letter of agreement for Interim Pastoral Ministry. Howie talked about the congregations and pastors responsibilities during the interim time. Pastor spoke about his pastoral duties and expectations, and Doug filled us in on the cost for the interim program.
- We will hold more informational meetings. Possible topics will include our monthly-just to keep the doors open and the lights on-expenses as well as more detailed discussions as to what we can afford for a permanent pastor.

Pastor's Report

- Dec schedule: Dec 6-8 (Sun –Tue), Dec 12-14 (Sat-Mon), Dec 19-21(Sat-Mon), Dec 2 (Christmas Eve), Dec 27 (Pastor gone, Holiday with family)
- OSL Cell Phone # 715-813-7266 or Parsonage # 715-372-8701
- Email – OSL@cheqnet.net
- Funeral for Marge Johnson will be Dec 14 at 1:00 pm.
- Confirmation is meeting on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm. There are 6 students.
- Pastor will be gone January 15-17. He will check to see if the Bishop will give permission for Lynette to give communion.
- Began reviewing with council the ELCA 8 steps stages of the interim ministry process and looked at the 16 steps of the pastoral call process. We will work on this each month.

- Our next step in the interim process is to form a Church Profile Committee who will facilitate the congregation filling out a questionnaire. Pastor will train this committee to lead small groups thru this process one Sunday per month during January, February and March. Committee will be chosen by council and pastor. Those members who have left for the winter will be sent the questions so their answers can be compiled with the members in Iron River.

Due to the lateness of the evening and no pressing committee/old/new business, a motion was made by Lynette and seconded by Cindy to table any further business until next month. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

- Education Committee
- Finance/Stewardship/Memorial
- Food Shelf Committee
- Mutual Ministry
- Outreach & Evangelism
- Property Committee
- Worship Committee
- Executive Committee

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:10 pm. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 10 at 10:30 am following worship in Pastor's office.

January devotions and communion assistant: Peg Hipsher

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Rewalt, Secretary



Volunteer Schedule January 2016

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 3

Rose DeGraf
Jim & Carrie DeRosia
Michelle & Trey Drougas

January 10

Cheri Erickson
Amy Frostman
Jim Jr. & Charlotte
DeRosia

January 17

JoAnn Forsythe
Rick & Jody Forsythe
Howard Fuhrman

January 24

Jens & Amy Gregerson
Darren & Laurie Hanson
Kent Getty & Jane
Bragiel

January 31

Scott & Peggy Hipsher
David & Linda Hultman
Kurt Janko

Date	Coffee	Lector
January 3	Rodney & MaryAnn Lahti	Karlan Williams
January 10	Tim & Debbie Landgreen	Linda Pepping
January 17	Mark & Himma Santikko	Cindy Knapp
January 24	John Schrock & Mary Berube	John Schrock
January 31	Sue Thibedeau & Bonnie Rantala	Lynette Kesler

Monthly
Ushers: Eileen Bentzen & John Johnson
Greeters: Lori & Emalee Anderson
Altar Guild:



BIRTHDAYS this month

Cheri Erickson 6th
Jody Forsythe 6th
Evie Berge 7th
Laurel LaBelle 7th
Janelle Armbruster 7th
Gage Olson 8th
John O'Brien 11th
Jim Olson 11th

Carole Danula 13th
Emalee Anderson 22nd
Gabrielle Raunio 25th
Ted Callahan 30th
Nancy Johnson 31st
Debbie Landgreen 31st



Jerry & Tricia Talso 1st
Jerry & Julie Peck 20th
Dick & Kathy Rewalt 31st

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

January 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:00 a.m. Worship Food Shelf Item — Kleenex	4 9:00-3:00 Community Quilters 5:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Al-Anon	5 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 1:00 Bingo @ Willow Manor 5:30 Yoga	6 9:30 Bible Study	7 Choir	1 Office Closed New Year's Day	2 12:00 Yoga
10 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 Council 6:00 Confirmation Food Shelf Item — Port 'n Beans	11 9:00-3:00 Community Quilters 5:00 WELCA @ Debbie Landgreen's house 7:00 Al-Anon	12 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga	13 9:30 Bible Study	14 Choir	8 15	9 12:00 Yoga 16 Food Shelf 9:00-11:00 12:00 Yoga
17 9:00 a.m. Worship 6:00 Confirmation Food Shelf Item — Paper Towels	18 9:00-3:00 Community Quilters 7:00 Al-Anon	19 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga	20 9:30 Bible Study	21 Choir	22	23 12:00 Yoga
24 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 Church Profile Committee Training Session 6:00 Confirmation Food Shelf Item — Cans of Fruit	25 9:00-3:00 Community Quilters Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Al-Anon	26 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS 5:30 Yoga	27 9:30 Bible Study	28 10:00 Food Shelf Produce Distribution Choir	29	30 12:00 Yoga
31 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:50am I.M. Meeting- "Remembering Our Church Past" 6:00 Confirmation Food Shelf Item — Veggies						

Pastor John's Contact Information-

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

Pastor Johns January Schedule-

First Weekend-- Jan. 2-4 (Sat.-Mon.)
Second Weekend-- Jan. 9-11 (Sat.-Mon.)
Third Weekend-- Peterson family Christmas in Seattle
Fourth Weekend-- Jan. 23-25 (Sat.-Mon.)
Fifth Weekend-- Jan. 30- Feb. 1 (Sat.-Mon.)

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

Phone Number Change- Reen Modeen's phone number 715-813-0796

Binge at Willow Manor- There will be Bingo at Willow Manor on Tuesday, January 5th at 1:00. Come join the fun.

January WELCA Meeting- Monday, January 11th @ 5:00pm. Pot-luck and business meeting at Debbie Landgreen's lovely holiday house.

Thank You! Thank you to Our Savior's for the Christmas gift given to me. It is my pleasure playing the keyboard for such a wonderful congregation. God Bless you and be with you in 2016. Love, Linda Hultman

January

Mission of the Month



Salem Baptist Church

In the early 1880's, Swedish missionaries conducted a preaching mission in northern Wisconsin. On July 8, 1883, a Swedish Baptist Church was organized in Ashland.

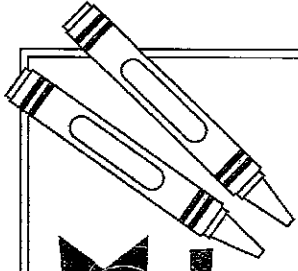
From 1893-1908 Salem fostered 7 sister churches. From 1945-1953, the Sunday Schools branched out into several rural areas using the one-room school houses to meet in. In 1953, a bus/auto ministry began to bring adults & children from these outlying areas to Salem. The present property was purchased and in 1982, Salem moved into their new facility. Reflecting on this time, one member shared that "one of the greatest things to happen during the building was the oneness of spirit--getting to know each other, working together and sensing God's presence and leading."

Our donations will go towards rebuilding their church.

1616 Beaser Avenue
Ashland, WI 54806

Mission of the Month is supported by our coffee fund

**Welcome
2016!**



Just for **KIDS**

Make a joyful noise

People often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. Be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship



* * * * *

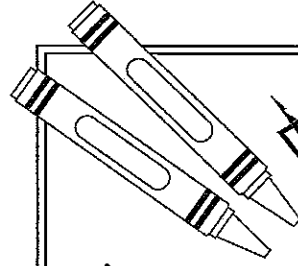
_____ the _____;



_____.



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.



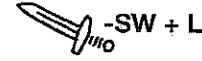
PUZZLE

LET THERE BE LIGHT

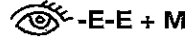
In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his ways.

Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.

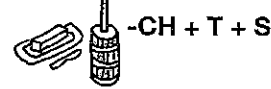
"Y O U , _____ , A R E





_____ ; T H E



M Y



D +  +  - T + S

I N T O _____ ."



2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV