

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

February
2016

A decorative graphic consisting of two stylized birds, one above and one below, facing each other. Between them are several small hearts and floral-like patterns. The entire graphic is rendered in a dotted or stippled style.

*"In (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."
(Ephesians 1:7-8)*

*"In (Jesus) the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in (Jesus) you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."
(Ephesians 2:21-22)*

"Lord, Redeem Us and Build Your Church"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During this month we will enter the season of Lent. This season draws its meaning from our looking ahead to Holy Week—to Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; his last supper with his disciples on Maundy Thursday; and his passion on Good Friday, from his arrest to his burial. During Lent as we look ahead to Holy Week we consider what is our response to be both individually and as a church. I believe that this time of reflection during Lent can be both a renewing time for our faith and for our church, as we seek God's direction forward.

The above verses from Ephesians are a wonderful resource in helping us with this reflection process. Just the phrase: *"In (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood,"* is so packed with meaning. In our busy lives it's often hard to stop and connect the dots—to connect *redemption* with *his blood*; to connect redemption with his pain, his suffering, and his death. It's much easier to connect redemption with *"the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us;"* to skip over Jesus' pain and focus too quickly on the blessings and grace that

are ours. These forty days of Lent give us time to linger at the Cross. As we do we are reminded of the depth of his love.

I hope that you will take some time at the Cross, this Lent. I hope you will ponder the mystery of Jesus' love for you and your own response in return.

As a church we also have this same opportunity to ponder the mystery and magnitude of Jesus' love. One of the obvious ways that we can respond to him is for us to yield our church to him and place ourselves under his workmanship, as the verse from Ephesians describes: *"In (Jesus) we too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."* What better way for us as Our Savior's to show our loving response to Jesus, than to pray: *"Lord, build your Church using us."* As you will see, our Sunday Lenten messages will help us reflect on this theme.

May Jesus speak deeply to our hearts over these forty days.

Pastor John

“LORD, BUILD YOUR CHURCH USING US”

On Sunday mornings during the Lenten season we will explore what it means for us to be God's Church. The message titles listed below give us opportunity to reflect on what the church has historically called the church's five-fold ministry. Hopefully we will see areas where God's building work is well under way at Our Saviors and discover areas where we are in need of God's further workmanship. These message topics will also aid us in our special Sunday morning Interim Ministry Meeting sharing times in February and March. Please see the information below.

Feb. 14—The Church As A Temple
A Worshipping People

Feb. 21—The Church As a Family
A Fellowshiping People

Feb. 28—The Church As Disciple Makers
A Teaching People

Mar. 06—The Church As A Body
A Caring and Serving People

Mar. 13—The Church As Salt and Light
An Outreaching People

Special Sunday Morning I.M. (Interim Ministry) Meetings:

1. **“Remembering Our Church's Past”**—January 31, 2016
2. **“Who and Where We are Now”**—February 21, 2016
3. **“Moving Forward by Faith”**—March 13, 2016

Sunday Morning Schedule for these three Sundays:

- 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

Come and lend your voice and ears to these special sharing times as we consider Our Savior Lutheran Church's past, present, and future.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Council Minutes – January 10, 2016

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

Meeting was called to order by President Howard Lehman at 10:30 am.
Secretary's report was reviewed. Motion by Peg and seconded by Nan to approve minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was presented by Peg and Doug. Thank you to the congregation, more pledges have been received. Finance will meet to finish compiling the budget.

Last year's insurance (Portico) bills have been paid and we are now waiting to receive the bill for Pastor John's insurance. Money is in reserve for this payment.

Per approval at our November 9, 2015 meeting, (*Motion by Cindy and seconded by Peg to get two new credit cards for Council President, Howard, and church secretary, Evelyn*) Doug was asked to order two new cards. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the cards should have a limit of \$500 per day. Motion made by Peg and seconded by Tammy to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried. It will be filed for audit.

President's report

- Howie will call Pastor Tom Wagner to see if he can come on Sunday, Jan 17. (*Note: Pastor Tom has since agreed to come*).
- Howie passed out copies of the Bridgebuilders report that was presented to the congregation last June 2015. Council members were asked to read through the goals in the appendix at the end of the report. A great deal of information was collected from the congregation. The Council is now trying to implement these findings and suggestions from the congregation and focus on the goals that were of particular concern, ie: communication, finances, planning, etc. We also need to uphold those goals that have already been met. More action on this next meeting.

Pastor's Report

- Jan schedule: Dec 9-11 (Sun –Mon), Jan 17 – Pastor Gone, Jan 23-25 (Sat-Mon), Jan 30 – Feb 1 (Sat – Mon)
- Our first I.M. Planning Meeting will be held on January 31. After a shortened worship service, we will meet in the fellowship area to "Remember Our Churches Past." The next two I.M. meetings will be on Feb 21 and Mar 13. Publicity will be sent out about these meetings as well as info sent to the snowbirds for their input.
- Lenten Preaching Series will have special topics this year: Feb 10 – OSLC A Worshipping Church, Feb 21- OSLC A Fellowshiping Church, Feb 28 – OSLC A Teaching Church, Mar 6 - OSLC A Serving Church, and Mar 13 – OSLC An Outreaching Church.
- The Synod Winter Theological Retreat will be held on Feb 14-15. Pastor John will go to this retreat. Compensation for this is in the budget.
- ELCA End of Year report should be sent from the synod in about a week. We will need to complete it.

Committee Reports

- Education Committee - Sunday School and Confirmation meets Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm.
- Finance/Stewardship/Memorial – Budget is being finalized
- Food Shelf Committee – OSL's turn this Saturday to give out the food. Need help.
- Mutual Ministry – No report
- Outreach & Evangelism – No report
- Property/Landscaping Committee – Minor repairs – keep checking that doors are locked.
- Worship Committee – Choir not singing on January 31.
- Executive Committee – No report

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Church Profile Committee has been formed. Members are: Mary Berube, Dick Rewalt, Chuck Buran, Reen Modeen, and Kathy Rewalt (Secretary). Training for Committee is January 24.

NEW BUSINESS

- Check with Evelyn that Marlene Hagstrom is on our church membership roster. Also please include her on the alphabetical membership weekly prayer list. Doug has her envelopes and they will be delivered to Marlene.
- Conversation between churches – Howie has contacted Poplar and Oulu about starting conversation with them concerning the possibility of joining the congregations. Three churches/two pastors. This is an option to pursue as we begin searching for a new pastor.
- Evelyn has asked for a holiday request for Feb 22 – 26. A motion was made by Peg and seconded by Tammy to approve the request. Motion carried. Due to the timing of her absence, the March newsletter deadline will be a week later the end of February.
- Lenten soup suppers start Feb 17. We will be the first church this year and sign up sheet will go up on Sunday.
- How many members have email addresses? Evelyn has 74 email addresses for active members.

Peg made a motion and seconded by Tammy of adjourn the meeting. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 7 at 10:30 am following worship.

February devotions and communion assistant: Tammy Sipsas

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Rewalt, Secretary



Volunteer Schedule February 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.

February 7

Jane Jensen
Carolyn Johnson
Pastor Kristina & Jonathan
Jensen

February 14

John Johnson
Peggy Johnson
Maureen & Terry
Johnson

February 21

Nancy Johnson
John & Jeanne Joseph
Dorothy Kangas

February 28

Ray Kangas
Keith & Lynette Kesler
Kevin Kinnon

Date	Coffee	Lector
February 7	Reen Modeen & John Johnson	Eileen Bentzen
February 14	Tammy Sipsas & Karen Wicklund	Ella Skoraczewski
February 21	Dick & Evie Berge	Mark Santikko
February 28	Volunteers Needed	Dick Rewalt



BIRTHDAYS this month

Melissa Paulson 3rd
Cindy Knapp 4th
Bridget Sand 5th
Sophia Jensen 14th
Archie Lahti 21st
Ken Tanula 22nd
Jane Bragiel 23rd
John Schrock 26th
Shane Sipsas 27th

Monthly
Ushers: Ken & Linda Watters
Greeters: Doug & Nancy Thyberg
Altar Guild: Linda Watters & Carrie DeRosia



Archie and Kathy Lahti 14th
Terry and Shirley Welty 24th
Terry & Maureen Johnson 26th

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

February 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>*The secretary will be out of the office February 22-26</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:00-3:00 Community Quilters</p> <p>5:00 Worship Meeting</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>9:00 TOPS</p> <p>5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 M.S. Profile Committee Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Yoga</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>10:30 Council</p> <p><i>No Confirmation or Sunday School</i></p> <p>Food Shelf Item — Chicken Noodle Soup</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00-3:00 Community Quilters</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>9:00 TOPS</p> <p>5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Choir</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00 Yoga</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>6:00 Sunday School</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Valentine's Day</i></p> <p>Food Shelf Item — Tomato Soup</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00-3:00 Community Quilters</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>9:00 TOPS</p> <p>5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>6:15 Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00 Lenten Service @ OSLC</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Choir</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Food Shelf 9:00-11:00</p> <p>12:00 Yoga</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>9:50 I.M. Meeting II</p> <p>“Who And Where We Are Now”</p> <p>6:00 Confirmation & Sunday School</p> <p>Food Shelf Item — Paper Towels</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00-3:00 Community Quilters</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>9:00 TOPS</p> <p>5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>6:15 Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00 Lenten Service @ Hope Lutheran, Oulu</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Choir</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:00 Yoga</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p>6:00 Sunday School</p> <p>Food Shelf Item — Cans of Fruit</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00-3:00 Community Quilters</p> <p>7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>March 1</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>9:00 TOPS</p> <p>5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>March 2</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>6:15 Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00 Lenten Service @ Trinity Lutheran, Lake Nebagamon</p>	<p>March 3</p> <p>Choir</p>	<p>March 4</p>	<p>March 5</p> <p>12:00 Yoga</p>

Pastor John's Contact Information-

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

Pastor John's January Schedule-

First Weekend—Feb. 6-8 (Sat. 10 a.m.-Mon. 1 p.m.)
Feb. 10 (Ash Wednesday Service)
Second Weekend—Feb. 13-14 (Sat. 3:30 p.m.-Sun. 1 p.m.)
Feb. 14-15 (Sun. 5 p.m. to Mon. 3 p.m. attend pastors'
Winter Theological Event)
Feb. 17 (Midweek Lenten Service)
Third Weekend—Feb. 20-22 (Sat. 3:30 p.m.-Mon. 5 p.m.)
Fourth Weekend—Work for China Service Ventures

***NOTE-** The secretary will not be in the office February 22-26.

THE CHRISTMAS MANGER

The Christmas manger we have at Our Savior's Lutheran Church was made for the Our Savior's Lutheran, by Wayne Saker in the early 70's. He used recycled plaster lathe from his home in Duluth. When the Congregational Church was being demolished, to be replaced by Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Elsie Maki found the manger on the junk pile. She took the manger home to be used as a wood box. The following Christmas people started wondering where the manger was and Elsie returned it. It sure is a good thing she saved it.

We store the manger, along with the rest of our Christmas decorations, in our attic. It is a tight squeeze to fit the manger up the stairway and one year the top slat broke. We fixed it with masking tape and used it that way for many years. Last year the masking tape and slat broke. Ken Watters took the manger home and did a great job to replace the slat and even stained the manger to look good as new. So now the manger can continue to serve us for many more years. Thank you Ken!

Sandy Rau, Altar guild President

2016 Lenten Midweek Service Schedule

6:15 Soup Supper

7:00 Service

Wednesday, February 17 "Open My Eyes, Lord"	Our Savior's Lutheran, IR
Wednesday, February 24 "Open My Hands, Lord"	Hope Lutheran, Oulu
Wednesday, March 2 "Open My Ears, Lord"	Peace Lutheran, Poplar
Wednesday, March 9 "Open My Heart, Lord"	Trinity Lutheran, Lk. Neb
Wednesday, March 16 "Open My Life, Lord"	First Lutheran, Port Wing

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

You are Invited!!

To be a Lenten Prayer Partner

(A secret until Easter Sunday)

Don't miss out, be part of this special prayer celebration.



Lent is a time for reflection and prayer. As we enter this six week period, we want to uplift one another in prayer and love. On February 14th you are going to have the opportunity to do just that. We will have slips that we will fill out and put into a basket. At the end of the service, we will each draw out a name and this will be your secret prayer partner for the six weeks of Lent, the person you will pray for each day. Now don't tell anyone the name, it will be a secret until Easter morning.

At Easter breakfast we will all bring Easter cards for the person we have been praying for. (You could also add a chocolate bunny/egg/small gift as a special surprise!) At the breakfast find your partner and let them know you are the one who has been praying for them and give them the card. This is for everyone at the church and we want the children to participate as well in this event. Praying for one another brings strength to the whole. Please plan to get involved with our Secret prayer partners and join your church family in prayer. What a great way to start our Easter celebration of new life.

Note: If you cannot be at church on the 14th, we will have the slips available on February 7th so you could put them in the basket ahead of time. Please let Kathy Rewalt know that you need her to draw a name for you. The names will be mailed to you, so you will have your prayer partner's name for the first week.

**February
Mission of the Month**



Community Caring Group

The Community Caring Group is a group of women dedicated to meeting the needs of the poor and hurting among us and abroad, through the sharing of our talents and resources representing area communities. We are 'faith-based' and rely on God for our support though the generous and faithful giving of friends and groups in our area. Group meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at the Fire Hall in Port Wing beginning at 9:00 am.

Jill Corr, Director, 83145 Washington Ave., Port Wing WI 54865

Mission of the Month is supported by our coffee fund

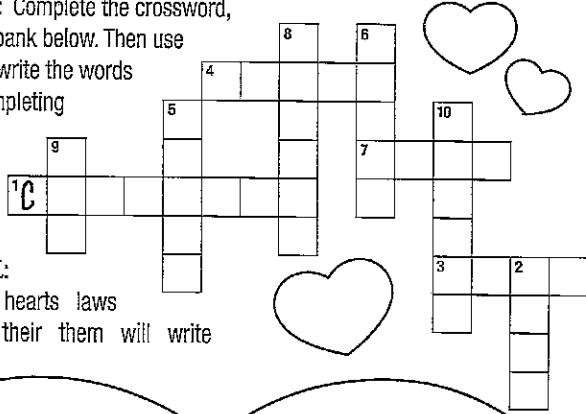
Free, In-Person, Tax Preparation Service-IRS-Certified and led by a team of volunteers who understand the needs of lower-income older taxpayers. Visit aarp.org/taxaide or call toll free 1.888.227.7669. Where: Bayfield Co. Courthouse. When: Feb2-April 13. All ages and income levels under \$100,000 welcome. Questions: Jim@715.779.3999



ON THEIR HEARTS

God made a special promise about a relationship he wants to have with people who love him.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the crossword, using the word bank below. Then use the numbers to write the words in the heart, completing God's promise.



WORD BANK:
 covenant God hearts laws
 minds people their them will write

"This is the 1) _____ ... | 2) _____
 put my 3) _____ in 4) _____ 5) _____ and
 6) _____ 7) _____ on 4) _____ 8) _____
 | 2) _____ be 4) _____ 9) _____,
 and they 2) _____ be my
 10) _____."

HEBREWS 8:10, NIV

Answer: "This is the covenant ... I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."
 Hebrews 8:10, NIV



True Friendship

What makes someone a good friend?
 The Bible offers lots of advice about true friendship.

Directions: Starting at the *, connect the dots clockwise and complete the words using the word bank. Then fill in Proverbs 27:9, NIV.

WORD BANK:
 heart prings ir verbs vice ness end

27:9, NIV pleasant _____

• PRO _____ * • OF

 The

• ad _____ • a

_____ felt • • Fri _____

 the _____ s _____

 From •

_____ 27:9, NIV

Answer: The pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.
 Proverbs 27:9, NIV

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 . The list will also be posted 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

February~ Doug & Nancy Thyberg
March~ Bonnie Rantala & Judy Pohjonen
April~ Ken & Linda Watters
May~ John & Jeanne Joseph
June~ Wayne & Lynette Smith
July~ Lori Anderson & Laurel LaBelle

Ushers

February~ Ken & Linda Watters
March~ Mark & Himma Santikko
April~ Merv & Rozie Maki
May~ Reen Modeen & Karen Wicklund
June~ Doug & Nancy Thyberg
July~ Dick & Kathy Rewalt

The following people have volunteered to be greeters this year:

Ted & Donna Callahan, Kent Getty & Jane Bragiel, Laurel LaBelle, Merv & Rozie Maki, Dick & Kathy Rewalt, Mark & Melinda Santikko, Ken & Linda Watters, Bonnie Rantala, John Johnson, Wayne & Lynette Smith, Doug & Nancy Thyberg, Shirley Saker, Eileen Bentzen, Reen Modeen & family, Judy Pohjonen, Fred Baue, Lori & Emalee Anderson and Karen Wicklund.

The following people have volunteered to be ushers this year:

Ted & Donna Callahan, Laurel LaBelle, Merv & Rozie Maki, Dick & Kathy Rewalt, Mark & Melinda Santikko, Wayne & Lynette Smith, Doug & Nancy Thyberg, Ken & Linda Watters, , Eileen Bentzen, Reen Modeen & family and Karen Wicklund.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING.

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