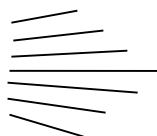




THE VOICE



The monthly newsletter of Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 N Broad St., Mankato, MN 56001 **DECEMBER 2016**

Holiday Worship Schedule

Mid-Week Advent Services

Wednesdays, November 30th, December 7th, 14th, 21st
1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

*Coffee/Fellowship Hour following the afternoon service
Supper served from 5 – 6:15 before the evening service*

Children's Christmas Service

"Christmas Jubilee"

Saturday, December 17th at 4:30 p.m.

Reception following

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th

Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

5 & 7 p.m.

Christmas Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

10 p.m.

Traditional Christmas Day Worship

with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 25th at 9 a.m.

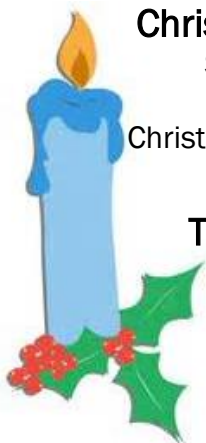
New Year's Eve Worship

with Holy Communion

Saturday, December 31st at 6:30 p.m.

New Year's Day with Holy Communion

Sunday, January 1st at 8 & 10:30 a.m.



Contact Information:

Church Office: Phone: 507-385-2180
Fax: 507-345-5113
oursav@hickorytech.net
www.oslcmankato.org
www.facebook.com/oslcmankato

Senior Pastor Office phone: 507-385-2184
Rev. Paul Lauer: lauer@oslcmankato.org
Emergency number: 507-304-2402

Assistant Pastor Office phone: 507-385-2183
Rev. Adam Matheny: matheny@oslcmankato.org
Emergency number: 812-449-6866

Deaconess Office phone: 507-385-2185
Lisa Brand: lisa@oslcmankato.org

Secretary Office phone: 507-385-2180
Sue Hendrickson: sue@oslcmankato.org

Custodian Office phone: 507-385-2180
Larry Schultz: larry@oslcmankato.org

Music Coordinator Home phone: 507-388-4215
Marcia Gustafson marcia@oslcmankato.org

Office hours are Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 8:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Unless there is an activity or event taking place, please use the Broad Street entrance by the mailbox.

In case of emergency or urgent need, our pastor is available at all hours and all days by calling his cell phone. Please use the office phone for other business. Please also remember that Sunday morning and other worship times are not for bring church business to other members or staff but for focusing upon the Word and gifts of God. "The seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work." - Exodus 20:10

There's something special about December for us folks "up north" that others don't get to appreciate. We may not always like the snow and the cold and the dark of Winter, but a newly fallen snow that "crunches" underfoot in the otherwise silence of a Minnesota Winter highlights a pause in time, or a moment of stillness that gives the heart and mind time to rest and reset from the flurry of activity in everyday life. A deep breath in of cold air and the fog of your own exhaled breath 'hanging' for a moment in the still air is a reminder that I am still warm inside and that the darkness and cold of winter has not overcome me.

Into this stillness of a Northern Winter comes the added silence and pause of Christmas Eve when the only places open are homes and churches. There is no where else to go; and that's good for a change. It's good to pause in silence from the rush of life, from the frantic pace of the season and the demands our modern world. All that is needed is to be together with those we love and to spend this moment together.

Silence, darkness, and aloneness are usually associated with evil. But in this season in our homes and in our churches they represent the peace that exists between God and men and between men and women of goodwill. And in the presence of the Almighty God made man in the infant Christ, a cease fire to pause in silence to consider our place in the world and reevaluate our priorities in life.

Then it becomes clear: into our darkness, God has brought light. Into our cold, barren country, God has brought new life. This is who He is. This is what He does. "In him was life, and the life was the light of men." (John 1:4) At Christmas in Minnesota, nearly everyone seems to get that.

This month will be busy. Here 'up north' it can be hard and cold and lonely. But the message from God this month is exactly the antidote we all need: Life. Light. Salvation in Christ.

If there is one thing that we can all agree on it is that we do not like to wait. Waiting is no fun. We want what we want and we want it now! This is particularly obvious right around Halloween, when people begin to decorate for Christmas. We just cannot wait to celebrate Christmas, so we celebrate earlier and earlier each year.

This makes Advent the forgotten season. In our eagerness for the joys of Christmas we neglect the important time of contemplation and anticipation that precedes it. Advent is the time we set aside each year to wait for Jesus' coming. As with the rest of the Church year, it is a season where we both remember something that God has done for us, as well as anticipate something that God is going to do for us.

During Advent we remember that God promised to rescue his people from death. We remember that for ages he had promised that his messiah would come to rule God's people in perfect righteousness, justice, and peace. We remember that God fulfilled that promise one night long ago in Bethlehem when God The Son himself took on human flesh in order to save his people from their sins.

During Advent we also anticipate that Jesus is coming again. We know that God has made us his people, and that he strengthens and empowers us for our lives. We know that despite this reality, the world is still filled with all sorts of terrible things. But we remember that Jesus' final promise is that he will return to give life to the dead, renewed bodies to the living, and eternal life in his new creation to all that trust in him.

I know that Christmas is exciting, but do not skip over Advent. It is a wonderful season to eagerly wait on the Lord and his coming. We know that he came once, and that he will come again.

PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES - Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1103 North Broad St – Mankato, MN

November 8, 2016

Present: Gregg Marg, Cindy Hobbs, Denise Painter, Matt Williams, Jo Eversman, Rob Hobbs, Pastor Lauer, Pastor Matheny, Matt Brand, Amy Mack, Perry Eimers

1. Meeting was called to order by President Denise Painter at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pastor Matheny opened with prayer.
3. Congregation Public Presentation: none
4. Additions/Approval of Agenda
MOTION was made and SECONDED to approve the Planning Council agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED.
5. Additions/Approval of Previous Planning Council Minutes
MOTION was made and SECONDED to approve the October 11, 2016, minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.
6. Treasurer's Report
Income for Our Savior's for the month of October was \$40,323.01 and expenses for the month were \$32,925.13. The income for the month was for general operating and not from designated funds. St. Peter River of Life church income for the month of September was \$18,294.33 and expenses were \$17,856.89.
MOTION was made and SECONDED to approve the OSLC & St. Peter River of Life Treasurer's Reports as presented. MOTION CARRIED.
7. Unfinished Business
 - a. Designated Funds Forms & Policy
The Council can adopt and approve the Dedicated Fund Borrowing Policy and the Dedicated Fund Policy for Our Savior's. These two forms will be included in the packet for the November Annual meeting, and Matt

Brand will explain the policies and answer any questions from the congregation.

- b. River of Life Congregation update – Charter Sunday, December 11, 2016

River of Life church will have a Mass Meeting in a week. They are getting their own tax ID# and will also extend a Call to Pastor Braun. Forty-four Our Savior members will be transferred to River of Life. ROL will take ownership of the building. Last management meeting is Thursday.

- c. November Ballot opportunities still available

The following positions are still available to fill on the ballot at the Annual Meeting: 1 – Council At Large, 1 – Elder, 2 – Deacons, 2 – Board of Ed and 1 – Treasurer.

- d. Proposed Agenda November 20, 2016 Annual Meeting

- Year in Review Financial
- Our Savior’s 2017 Budget for the Boards (see sheet)
- Lutheran Church Missouri Synod – 3 Constitutional Amendments for vote
- Designated Fund Policy
- Dedicated Fund Borrowing Policy

8. New Business

- a. Chuck Fitzloff will no longer be in charge of decorating the church for Christmas. Matt Williams will find someone to take Chuck’s place. This year’s Christmas decorating will be on Sunday, November 27th at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

9. Board Sharing (additions, questions, or explanations of written reports)

Board of Ed: 110 people attended the October 28th Fall Festival. The Board will serve the November 9th Wednesday night meal. Lisa is forming a committee for the February 25, 2017, Women’s Retreat. Registration deadline is February 12, 2017. Lisa Brand is organizing a

Care Team for the elderly, grieving, inactive and new members. She already has people interested and will be doing the training and organizing.

Deacons: Volunteers are needed to sign up for the three Advent Wednesday night meals in December. The Board finalized the preparation for serving the Wednesday night meal on November 16th. They will also be serving cookies, cocoa, coffee or water after the Children's Christmas program. An Immanuel-St. Joseph's social worker is handing out our Cancer Companion Program brochures to people in her program at the hospital.

Trustees: Final payment was mailed to Restoration Services and ISG for the Tuck Pointing project. Six new signs for the parking lots will be ordered at M&M Signs. There was a fall outside clean up day on Saturday, and Sunday was a work day repairing and fixing things in the Fellowship Hall. A rough draft of the budget was finalized. Items to keep on the list for future projects include organ repairs/maintenance and parking lot repairs.

Elders: The Board went over their budget. They also reviewed the worship schedule. The three Christmas Eve services will at 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. There is only one service on Christmas Day and that will be at 9:00 a.m. Pastor Lauer reported that the Card Shop space will turn into a Mission area. Wednesday night meals and devotions with Pastor Matheny are going well.

Endowment: The Campus Crusades newsletter, received from Rxxxxx Sxxxxxxx, will be posted by the church office.

8. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
9. Meeting adjourned at 7:58.m.
10. Next Planning Council Meeting – Tuesday, December 13, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Hobbs, Secretary
OSLC Planning Council

OSLC Treasurer's Report Commentary Period Ending October 31, 2016

Income and Expense Summary

	Current Month	Y-T-D
Income	\$40,323.01	\$359,783.52
Operating Expenses	-\$32,925.13	-\$410,027.09
LCEF Mortgage Principal Payment	-\$857.03	-\$10,537.17
Net for Period[†]	\$6,540.85	\$60,780.74

[†]Positive net value indicates we received more than our expenses, a negative number indicates that we have spent more than we have received for that period (deficit).

Cash Summary

	Amount	Notes
Checking Account	\$98,349.77	Daily checking account
Joyful Response	\$28,187.88	Joyful Response deposits and loan pmts
Library Fund	\$20,107.12	Certificate of Deposit
Total Cash Assets	\$146,644.77	
Dedicated Accounts	-\$105,508.44	Amount of our cash balance designated for specific activities
Other Liabilities	\$-1,687.50	Accruals for HSA payments, youth, etc.
Available Cash Balance	\$39,448.83	\$38,944.14 last month

Long Term Debt (LCEF Mortgage)

Current Balance	\$305,426.05
Monthly Payment	\$1,845.99
Interest Rate (Variable Annually)	3.875%
Pay-off Date	7/2036

Additional Comments: This past month we made the final payments on the tuck pointing project of around \$40,000. The proceeds from the Mystery Dinner were used towards the mortgage payment. The donations of \$1,634 paid about 90% of our payment.

River of Life Congregation: Separate checking and savings accounts have been set up for the St. Peter congregation; these are being accounted for separately. There is currently a balance of \$3,820.12 in dedicated funds for the St. Peter congregation. These funds will be transferred regularly in preparation for River of Life becoming an independent congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Brand, Vice President, Acting Treasurer

**RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT COMMENTARY
Period Ending October 31, 2016**

This report is Year-to-Date as of October 31, 2016. It includes the following documents: Income & Expense Report by Account* and Balance Sheet by Account*. The month was closed on November 2, 2016.

Income & Expense Report by Account: Total receipts for the month were \$18,294.33. Operating expenses for this period totaled \$17,856.89 resulting in a positive cash flow of \$437.44.

General Fund performance is presented in the following table.

2016 General Fund Activity:

	Current Month		Y-T-D	
Income-from Income & Exp. Rpt		\$18,294.33		\$248,319.66
Expenses-from Inc. & Exp. Rprt	\$17,856.89		\$160,322.67	
Plus: LCEF Principal Rdction	\$0.00		\$24,000.00	
Total Expenses	\$17,856.89	-\$17,856.89	\$184,322.67	-\$184,322.67
Increase (Decrease)		\$437.44		\$63,996.99

Balance Sheet:

Assets	Current Value
Checking Account	\$220,498.64
Savings Account	\$5,853.09
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Total	\$226,351.73

Liabilities	Amount
LCEF Freitag Loan	\$0.00
Dedicated Funds Payable	\$250.00
Current Liabilities	\$566.65
Total	\$566.65

Additional Received Funds: There is currently a balance of \$3,820.12 in dedicated funds in an OSLC Mankato checking account for River of Life. These funds will be transferred regularly to prepare for River of Life becoming an independent congregation.

Respectfully submitted, Matt Brand, Vice-President

*See Reports on the Church Information bulletin board near the office.



**Articles for the January VOICE
are due by Friday, December 16th
at 4 p.m.**

Accessions & Losses

Accessions:

Rhonda Prince, Affirmation of Faith, November 11, 2016

Tanya Nichols, Affirmation of Faith, November 11, 2016

Losses:

Gary, Gloria & Kandace Schuft, River of Life Lutheran Church, St. Peter, MN; LCMS; November 17, 2016

Kristin Mieziako, Klara [age 1]; River of Life Lutheran Church, St. Peter, MN; LCMS; November 17, 2016

Neal Leon Siebenbruner

March 11, 1925 ~ October 30, 2016

Fern A. Siebenbruner

November 3, 1930 ~ November 9, 2016

La Donna M. Brummund

November 27, 1934 ~ November 21, 2016



Christmas Jubilee

Come enjoy our Children's Christmas Service Saturday, December 17, at 4:30pm

There will be a pre-service recital beginning at 4pm. A reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall.

Youth Group

Are you in 9th through 12th grade? If so, please come hang out! The Our Savior's youth group gathers each and every Sunday evening from 6-7:30. We have some sort of devotion or Bible study, then the possibilities are (nearly) limitless. Contact Pastor Matheny (507-385-2183, or matheny@oslcmandato.org) if you have any questions.



Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

Thinking back on Christmases past is a fun way to reflect on the good old days. The wonderful lights and decorations, festive holiday atmosphere, warm family get-togethers, unforgettable melodies, and jovial Christmas cheer all make for pleasant memories. But, of course, our hearts aren't merry for these things alone. Christmas is the believer's celebration of the arrival of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, "who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a Servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:6-7). Take time this holiday season to make Christmas memories that last – memories that lovingly honor the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To download the Christmas Memories Advent Devotion booklet, or have a daily devotion delivered to your e-mail inbox, go to:

<https://www.lhm.org/advent/>

Christmas Cards

Do you enjoy sending Christmas cards? Join us Wednesday, December 14 at 3:00pm as we get cards and envelopes ready to mail to members. If you have some extra cards at home feel free to bring them along, otherwise there will be some here.



Wednesday Night Meals



During Advent, meals will be served from 5 – 6:15pm.



Widowed to Widowed

The Widowed-to-Widowed Ministry here at Our Savior's is gathering on Monday, December 12th at 11:30. We will be enjoying potluck lunch in the Fireplace Room. We invite all widows, quilters, and staff to join us. Our theme will be God's gift of faith – Christ's perfect righteousness based on "He guides me in paths of Righteousness" (Psalm 23:3b). Our group meets once a month for a potluck lunch, Bible study and fellowship. Please use the 4th Street back entrance. Feel free to call Jean Beetsch at 345-5332 or Trudy Wiechmann at 345-2138 for more information.

If a ride is needed, perhaps a family friend could bring you or you may call Kato Cab for a taxi ride to and from. Call the taxi one-half hour ahead. Their number is 388-7433.

Sunday Morning Breakfast

Breakfast will be served from 8:45 to 9:15 each Sunday morning in the Fireplace room. A free-will donation will be accepted to help cover the costs.

Serving in December:



December 4:	Board of Education
December 11:	Kids Choirs
December 18:	TBD
December 25:	No Breakfast

Quilting

Join the quilters on Monday, December 12th in the Youth Room. Tops and backs are sewn together and the quilts are tied. We also make time for coffee/snacks. Good work is done and good times are had by all. For questions or more information contact Julie at 388-7533.



December Music Notes

“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music.”

Martin Luther

Musical Journey to Bethlehem

Come and celebrate Jesus’s birth 30 minutes before the Children’s Christmas Program on Saturday, December 17th and on Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24th before the 5 & 7pm services. Listen to various singing and instrumental anthems that proclaim the birth of Baby Jesus.

December Schedule

December 4 th :	8am - Bells	10:30 – Bells
December 11 th :	8am – Adult Choir	10:30 – Adult Choir
December 18 th :	8am – Solo	10:30 – Solo
December 24 th :	5 & 7pm – 30 minutes prior to both services- Musical Journey to Bethlehem, Adult Choir, instruments	
December 25 th :	9am - instrumental	

Christus Choir Schedule

Wednesday, December 7th - sing in the 1:30 service

Wednesday, December 21st - sing in the 1:30 service

Christmas party at Marcia's Monday, January 2nd at 11:30am

Wednesday Night Schedule during Advent

Meal:	5:00 – 6:15
Kids Ring:	5:00 – 5:30
Kids Praise:	5:30 – 6:00
Adult Bells:	5:30 – 6:15
Worship:	6:30 – 7:15
Jr. Confirmation:	7:15 – 8:00
Adult Choir:	7:15 – 8:00



Our Savior LCMS Women in Mission Lutheran Women's Missionary League

INVITATION AND NEWS
December 2016

Providing you with Christian Friendship and Fellowship •
Exercising and Building your Christian Faith through
Devotion, Bible Studies and Prayer • Opening your life to
new blessings through service to the Lord and His people

Fellowship with Your Sisters In Christ:

Ladies of Our Savior, we welcome you of every generation: 20s,
30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s.

Thursday, December 1 - 11:30am Ruth & Lydia Circles meet at
Pizza Ranch

Monday, December 5 - 1:30pm Young at Heart/Lutheran
Laymens League in the Fireplace Room

Wednesday, December 7 - Ruth & Lydia Circle serves for
fellowship time following the afternoon Advent Service

Wednesday, December 7 - 3:00pm LWML Board Meeting in the
Library

Monday, December 12: 11:30am Widowed to Widowed meets in
the Fireplace Room

Wednesday, December 14 - Rebekah Circle serves for fellowship
Time following the afternoon Advent Service

Wednesday, December 21 - Volunteers from Circle Bible Studies
serve for fellowship time following the afternoon Advent Service

Future Dates:

January 17, 2017: Installation of 2017 LWML Officers at the
Quarterly Meeting.

June 22-25, 2017: "Jesus Christ Above All" Philippians 2:9 -
Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mankato Zone is not having a Fall LWML Rally. All Fall Zone
Rallies are listed in the Women On a Mission newsletter. (Times,
dates, places, and speakers.) Visit a Rally of your choice.
Mankato Zone is planning a Spring 2017 Rally.

The Card Shop - Watch the bulletin for announcements as we prepare to close the Card Shop. The Card Shop supplies will be sold during the month of December. Plan now for the cards you need during 2017. It is a good time to “stock up”.

MISSION SERVICE has not yet been scheduled for December, the bulletin will alert you when you are needed. Supplies have been depleted and more are needed to make kits. If you are able, please bring any of the following donations to the Card Shop: toothpaste (any size), toothbrush, deodorant, hotel size soap and shampoo, gently used hand towels, cloth diapers, infant onesies, sleepers (no feet), sweaters and socks. Thank you for any donations.

Membership: Please sign the membership book. Bring a friend.

www.oslcmankato.org • www.lwml.org •
www.mnslwml.org

WOM Newsletter • Quarterly • Mite Boxes
Available in the Narthex



A Prayer Shawl, simply put, is a soft warm shawl, knitted or crocheted, which is given to persons who are ill, have suffered a loss or are in the

midst of a crisis. Shawls. . . made for centuries are universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God.

If you know of anyone who you would like to receive a prayer shawl, please contact Nancy Clausen at 345-3063.



GIFT CARD SALES will be available each week in the Narthex during December. This is a fundraising activity for our youth. Like buying gift cards anywhere else, you simply pay the face amount. Order one Sunday and pick up your cards the next. The Youth will be able to keep the proceeds of each purchase which can range from 2% to even 20% depending upon the retailer.

Young at Heart / Lutheran Laymen's League (YAH / LLL) *FOR YOU of every age!!!*

Our next meeting at Our Savior will be the first Monday in December, December 5th at 1:30pm in the Fireplace Room. We invite you to come enjoy fellowship and learning!

Lutheran Hour Ministries began in 1917 when 12 individuals gathered to settle a debt incurred by the church. We will watch a video where Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, the broadcast's speaker, takes us on a journey through more ministry milestones over the past 100 years.

Lutheran Hour Ministries; Bringing Christ to the Nations – and the Nations to the Church.

S.A.G.E.S. Minnesota South Board meets on Tuesday, December 6th at the District Office at 10am

The Lutheran Layman News is available in the Narthex. Men's network: www.lhmmen.org and check out the www.lhm.org for children, www.lhm.org/layman.

Radio – Every Sunday – The Lutheran Hour. 6 p.m. KJLY 107.1



Read the S.A.G.E.S. newsletter Sagacity and other news at www.mnsdistrict.org/sages or www.mnsdistrict.org/publications. Hard copies are available in the Narthex. Get more information at sages@mnsdistrict.org. Our Older Adult Ministry at OUR SAVIOR is the YAH (Young at Heart) and part of S.A.G.E.S. MN South District

The 2017 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade "Echoes of Success" with "Celebrate Jesus" – the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float. The large bells share "Grace Alone," "Faith Alone," and "Scripture Alone". The float also celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the 100th anniversary of Lutheran Laymen's League. The float riders are Lutheran Hour Speakers, Rev. Gregory Seltz, Rev. Ken Klaus, and Rev. Dale Meyer, along with LWML President, Patti Ross. TV viewing tips: RFD TV and HGTV show the parade in its entirety. Check your local listings for time and channel on January 1, 2017.

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Endowment Fund Treasurer's Report
September 30, 2016**

	Total	General Fund	Scholarship Fund
Beginning Principal	\$10,893.79	\$100.00	\$10,793.79
1995-2015 Gifts Received	\$515,301.97	\$372,767.78	\$142,534.19
1995-2015 Interest Income	\$240,306.93	\$163,168.20	\$77,138.43
1995-2015 Change in Market Value	\$10,697.09	\$7,263.32	\$3,433.77
1995-2015 Disbursements	(\$262,481.88)	(\$202,714.68)	(\$59,767.20)
Fund Balances 12/31/15	\$514,717.60	\$340,584.62	\$174,132.98
2016 Gifts Received	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2016 Interest Income	\$12,825.58	\$8,486.59	\$4,338.99
2016 Change in Market Value	\$20,171.15	\$13,347.09	\$6,824.06
2016 Disbursements	(\$13,115.04)	(\$7,354.43)	(\$5,678.93)
Long Term Capital Gain	\$1,994.74	\$1,354.43	\$640.31
+			
Fund Balances - Current	\$536,594.03	\$354,982.19	\$179,617.10
Asset Summary			
Wells Fargo Bank Checking		\$16,203.87	
LCMS Foundation Account		\$520,390.16	
Total Fund Balances		\$536,594.03	
OSLC - for St. Peter		\$6,000.00	
Nicollet Co. Treasurer - RE Taxes		\$0.00	
Nicollet Co. Assessments		\$0.00	
Scholarships		\$5,000.00	
Attornies fees & recording costs		\$0.00	
Fees - LCMS		\$4,115.04	
Total 2016 Disbursements		\$13,115.04	

The Heart of Jesus

The Heart of Jesus: Women in the Gospel of Luke is the theme for our Women's Retreat February 25. If you're interested in the book that goes along with our topic, you can purchase it ahead of time. We'll be collecting orders until December 4. Maybe you would like to give one as a Christmas gift. The cost is \$7. You can sign up on the Adult Education bulletin board, contact Deaconess Lisa, or order yourself from Concordia Publishing House.



From the Stewardship Committee December 2016

Every Christmas present that sits wrapped under your Christmas tree will wear out. It will break or go out of style. This fact was there, somewhere, in the back of your mind even as you bought them, but you bought them anyway. For you love the person you bought them for, you wanted to see that look of joy it brings to their face.

So also God gives to you. But greater. What He gives will never wear out, break down, or go out of style. For what He gives is His eternal and only-begotten Son, wrapped in your flesh, and placed upon the tree of the Cross. He gives His Son for you. He gives that you may have everlasting joy. He gives because He loves you. This is why the Word became flesh to dwell among you.

And that is who is given to you. The Word who is God yet was with God from all eternity. The Word through whom all things were made. The Word who is the only-begotten Son of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, being of one substance with His Father. The One who called all things into existence, the One who spoke to Moses from the bush that burned yet was not consumed, the One whose glory filled the tabernacle to dwell among His people, God Himself, has taken on your flesh.

Even though the Word is made flesh, even though God became Man, His Divinity is not lessened. His Divinity is not changed. His Divinity remains, pure and unchanging, but your flesh, your human nature, is exalted. Your flesh and humanity is assumed into God. God became man so that you would become like unto God—holy and righteous, without sin, without death.

And so it is that the Son given to you wrapped in your flesh is placed upon the tree of the Cross. And no tree was ever adorned more beautifully. Its ornaments were nothing less than the Blood of God, poured out as an atoning sacrifice for your sins. Its garland the Body of God, hanged in death that you may have life. Its light the incarnate Light of the world, strung up to call you and all men unto Himself, to enlighten you, to make you His own. He gives you His life, He gives you joy and peace—peace with God in heaven and peace with one another on earth.

And from the tree of the Cross the Lord Jesus places another gift for you upon the Altar. It is the Fruit of the Cross, His crucified and risen, living Body and Blood, the Fruit of the Tree of Life, wrapped in bread and wine and given to you. He fills you with His Glory. He makes your mouths and your hearts His manger. He abides in you and you in Him.

The Word became flesh to be placed under the Cross for you. You are forgiven. This is why we give. We give because He has first given to us. And just as it was a joy for Him to give all He had to us. It is a joy for us to give to one another and His church so that this message of forgiveness, life, and salvation may be proclaimed.

Watch Our Savior's Sunday Worship anytime on KTV (Public Access)

After Our Savior's worship has been uploaded for viewing on KTV, it may be viewed on their web-site at your convenience. Go to: www.accessktv.org, hover over "Watch KTV", then slide down and click on "Public Access". Scroll down to the calendar and click on the original date aired (Tuesday or Wednesday). Select "Our Saviors Lutheran Church" from the schedule. Then click on the arrow to start play.

The Voice
Our Savior Lutheran Church
1103 N Broad Street
Mankato, MN 56001

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THANK YOU ALL CONTRIBUTORS

STAFF:

Karen Fischer
Bernice Wilson
Mary Eckhardt
Jean Beetsch
Karen Slipy
Marcella Eilders
Marion Brunz
Priscilla Fladland
Katie Wilson
Katelyn Wilson

December 2016

Address Service Requested

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DECEMBER 2016

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Our Savior's Worship Service is aired Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday at 2 p.m. on KTV.	Sunday Matins is aired at 8:03 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each Sunday on KTOE 1420AM.			1 11:30 Ruth & Lydia Circles @ Pizza Ranch	2 11:30 Mary Circle	3 10:00 Children's Christmas Practice Grades 1-6 6:00 Worship
4 8:00 Worship 8:45 Breakfast 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Bible Class 9:30 Bible Class 10:30 Worship 11:30 Sunday School Teachers 6:00 Youth Group	5 6:30 Early Bird Bible Study 1:30 LLL/YAH	6 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Board of Deacons 7:00 Board of Elders 7:00 Board of Trustees	7 1:30 Advent Worship 2:15 Coffee Hour 5:00 Kids Ring 5:00 Meal 5:30 Kids Praise 5:30 Adult Bells 6:30 Advent Worship 7:15 Adult Choir 7:15 Jr. Confirmation	8	9	10 10:00 Children's Christmas Practice Grades PreK-6 6:00 Worship
11 8:00 Worship 8:45 Breakfast 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Bible Class 9:30 Bible Class 10:00 River of Life Charter Service 10:30 Worship 6:00 Youth Group	12 6:30 Early Bird Bible Study 9:00 Quilting 11:30 Widowed to Widowed	13 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Bible Study 5:00 Board of Education 7:00 Church Council	14 1:30 Advent Worship 2:15 Coffee Hour 5:00 Kids Ring 5:00 Meal 5:30 Kids Praise 5:30 Adult Bells 6:30 Advent Worship 7:15 Adult Choir 7:15 Jr. Confirmation	15	16 4:00 The Voice Deadline	17 10:00 Children's Christmas Practice Grades PreK-6 4:30 Children's Christmas Service 5:30 Christmas Reception
18 <i>Mite Sunday</i> 8:00 Worship 8:45 Breakfast 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Bible Class 9:30 Bible Class 10:30 Worship 1:00 Fireplace Room Rental 6:00 Youth Group	19 6:30 Early Bird Bible Study	20	21 1:30 Advent Worship 2:15 Coffee Hour 5:00 Kids Ring 5:00 Meal 5:30 Kids Praise 5:30 Adult Bells 6:30 Advent Worship 7:15 Adult Choir 7:15 Jr. Confirmation	22	23	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 Christmas Candlelight Worship
25 9:00 Christmas Day Worship	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31 6:30 New Year's Eve Worship

Serving in December

Date	Elder of the Day		Comm. Team		Assistant Usher		Usher Team		Acolyte		Greeter		Breakfast
	8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30	
12/4/16	Gregg M.	Chuck S.	A Early	A Late	Gordy W.	Kurt A.	1st Early	1st Late	Katelyn W.; Naomi B.	Sydney N.; Kaitlyn H.	Jay & Cindy J.; Lorraine K.	Dave & Pam B.; Dianne W.	Board of Education
12/7/2016 <i>Advent 2</i>	[6:30] Chuck S.				[6:30] Kurt A.		[6:30] 2nd Early		[6:30] Khai B.; Alexis A.		[1:30] Chuck & Bev F.	[6:30] Pete & Jobi P.	None
12/11/16	Nick M.	Mark W.	B Early	B Late	Kevin H.	Steve J.	2nd Early	2nd Late	Derrick S.; Evan H.	Desiree L.; Julia J.	Matt & Lisa B.; Marcella E.	Steve & Wendy J.; Betty M.	Kids Choirs
12/14/2016 <i>Advent 3</i>	[6:30] Mark W.				[6:30] Gary R.		[6:30] 2nd Late		[6:30] Sydney N.; Kaitlyn H.		[1:30] Larry & Jan D.	[6:30] Orville & Renee Z.	none
12/17/2016 <i>Childrens Svc</i>	[4:30] Mike H.				[4:30] Mark S.		[4:30] 3rd Early		[4:30] Silas S.; Caleb M.		[4:30] Volunteer		none
12/18/16	Russ J.	Mike B.	C Early	C Late	Gary R.	Mark S.	3rd Early	3rd Late	Riley S.; RJ H.	Khia B.; Alexis A.	Perry & Jan E.; Clarence B.; Doris E.	Larry & Nancy H.; Chuck & Bev F.	TBD
12/21/2016 <i>Advent 4</i>	[6:30] TBD				[6:30] Steve J.		[6:30] 3rd Late		[6:30] Desiree L.; Julia J.		[1:30] Gwen C.	[6:30] Lisa M.	none
12/24/16	[5pm] TBD	[7pm] TBD			[5pm] Dave H.	[7pm] Gordy W.	[5pm] 4th Early	[7pm] 4th Late	[5pm] Evan H.; Derrick S.	[7pm] Katelyn W.; Naomi B.	[5pm] Bev C. Rhonda R.	[7pm] Jay & Cindy J.; Chuck & Bev F.	none
12/24/16	[10pm] TBD				[10pm] Kurt A.		[10pm] 1st Early		[10pm] Riley S.; Caleb M.		[10pm] Volunteer		none
12/25/16	[9am] TBD				[9am] Kevin H.		[9am] 1st Late		[9am] Katelyn W.; Naomi B.		[9am] Jim & Barb L.; Chris & Beth T.		None
12/31/16	[6:30] Mark W.				[6:30] Mark S.		[6:30] 2nd Early		Khia B.; Alexis A.		[6:30] Chuck & Bev F.; Becky K.		None

Staff

Senior Pastor Rev. Paul A. Lauer Office: 385-2184 Cell: 304-2402	Assistant Pastor Rev. Adam M. Matheny Office: 385-2183 Cell: 812-449-6866	Church Planter Rev. Tom Braun Office: 519-1204 Cell: 507-329-5384	Deaconess Lisa Brand Office: 385-2185 Home: 389-9088	Choir Director Marcia Gustafson Home: 388-4215	Secretary Sue Hendrickson Office: 385-2180	Custodian Larry Schultz Office: 385-2180
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Congregational Officers and Elected Board Members

President Denise Painter 387-4963	Vice President Matt Brand 389-9088	Secretary Cindy Hobbs 243-3232	Treasurer Vacant	Financial Secretary Vacant			
Council Members at Large		Board of Elders		Board of Trustees	Board of Education		
Rob Hobbs	243-3232	Gregg Marg-Chair	387-5096	Matt Williams-Chair	995-0350	Amy Mack - Chair	469-0989
Mark Nelson	469-0191	Chuck Stensrud	507-234-5409	Tim Hobbs	380-2131	Dianne Willett	420-4010
Ron Meyer	387-3969	Mike Blomquist	351-5051	Barb Anderson	388-6491	Brook Ling	380-1781
Larry Dalluge	625-7128	Nicholas Mack	508-5414	Chris Anderson	388-6491	Cindy Wintheiser	351-2302
Board of Endowment Fund		Mark Wellner	341-1393	Bruce Anderson	327-8559	Jan Karels	382-9804
Perry Eimers-Chair	387-1650	Roger Schwanke	340-6182	Jerry Clausen	345-3063	Heather Johnson	382-2432
Dave Kroells	345-4423	Dennis Heyen	514-4040			Board of Deacons	
Denny Zellmer	387-6939	Russ Johnson	720-8076			Barb Lindsay	388-6748
Dave Borchert	931-1511	Immanuel Mueller	993-2953			Jo Eversman	934-6161
Brian Schroeder	625-6153	Lon Whitehead	388-4891			Nancy Clausen	345-3063
Janet Timm	388-9213	Roger Asleson	947-3535			Dianne Schmidt	345-1030
Jan Eimers	387-1650	Mike Humburg	507-525-1130			Katie Wilson	514-4847
						Vacant	