

Program for the Week of January 7 – January 14, 2024

Sunday:

8:00 Worship
9:00 Coffee Time
9:20 Sunday School
9:20 Bible Class
10:30 Worship
11:30 Take down Christmas
Decorations / Lunch

Monday: *Annual Reports Due*

6:30 Early Bird Bible Study
9:00 Quilting
10:30 Speer Funeral
7:00 Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday:

10:00 Staff Meeting
1:00 Tuesday Bible Study
6:30 Planning Council

Wednesday:

4:45 Introductory Bells
5:15 Pew Sisters Class
5:20 Handbell Choir

5:20 Introductory Choir
5:55 Brass
6:00 Meal
6:45 Devotion
7:00 Jr. Confirmation
7:00 Vocal Choir

Thursday:

9:00 Private Confession
10:00 Bulletin Deadline
7:30 Men's Bible Study

Friday:

Saturday:

Next Sunday:

8:00 Worship
9:00 Coffee Time
9:20 Bible Class
9:20 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
4:30 Book Club
6:30 TSNT

About the Cover: Whether received as an infant, child, or adult, the power of Baptism is in the Word of God, which unites us to Christ's death and resurrection. No matter how long ago, this promise can never be void, and we grasp it through the gift of faith. In Christ, we have a baptismal identity that can never be taken away. We did not choose it. It was given to us by Christ Himself as a gift.

In today's Sunday School lesson, "The Unlikely Ally," the Israelites prepare to enter the Promised Land. Joshua sends two spies to explore Jericho. Rahab, a prostitute, first hides the spies from the authorities, and later helps them escape out her window in the city wall. Because of her faithfulness, the spies promise to spare Rahab and her family when the Israelites come to occupy the city. Confident in their wall, the people of Jericho shut themselves up inside the city. Following God's unusual battle plan, Joshua gathers the priests, trumpets, ark of the covenant, and people. Six days they march around the city, then seven times on the seventh day, giving a shout at the conclusion of the last circuit. The city walls come tumbling down, and the Israelites wipe out the citizens and livestock while plundering precious metals for the tabernacle. Yet Rahab and her family are spared.

Join us this morning, following the 10:30 service as we put the Christmas decorations away for another year. All help will be greatly appreciated. Lunch will be served.

Young Adult Bible Study meets tomorrow night, Monday, January 8th, at 7pm in the Fireplace room. Contact Karee Bless, 507-381-3826, kbless@blc.edu, if you have any question.

Men's Bible Study meets Thursday, January 11th from 7:30 – 8:30pm in the Fireplace Room. We will continue to study St. John's Epistles. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Matheny.

Mission Service will meet on Wednesday, January 17th at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come and help with the projects.

Annual Voters' Meeting & Chili Cook-off: Join us Sunday, January 21st for our Annual Voter's meeting. The meeting will begin approximately 11:45 in the Sanctuary. We will hear annual reports from the boards. Following the meeting is the very popular and much anticipated Chili Cook-off. Come and taste the entries and vote for your favorites. If you would like to contribute a pot of chili, bring your best traditional or non-traditional chili to the kitchen before or after the 10:30 service. Stick around after we eat for Bible Trivia.

Anyone interested in placing flowers for our worship services in January, please contact Gretchen Zellmer, 507-317-2904.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville is hosting a bus to the 2024 Minnesota March for Life. The bus will leave from Trinity at 10:30am on Monday, January 22nd and return approximately 2:30pm. If you are interested in participating, please speak with Pastor Matheny so we can organize a group from Our Savior's to carpool to Janesville and share their bus.

Prayer Shawl: If you, or someone you know, may find comfort in a Prayer Shawl, please call Marcella B. Eilders, 507-317-4127.

The twelve days between December 25 and January 6 are often called "The Twelve Days of Christmas. Epiphany, January 6, celebrates the visit of the magi to the Christ child." (taken from 2 Minute Tuesday, by Kathleen Brandt on December 26, 2023)

From the Stewardship Committee: Mark 1:7 – "And [John] preached, saying, 'After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.'" John is right — Jesus is immensely greater than any of us, yet behold how He came to serve! That is the upside-down, outlandish grace of God: the innocent Jesus takes our sinner's place. This is the greatest act of giving the world has ever known or will know: the Father gives His Son to die in the place of sinners.

Listen to KFUE.ORG, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. All programs are archived at www.KFUE.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUEradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. This week we wish you a Blessed Epiphany! Begin studying 2 Corinthians on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8am), begin a new series on the history of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod with Dr. Cameron Mackenzie on The Coffee Hour (January 10 at 9am), and begin studying Ephesians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11am).

Main Street Living airs each Sunday at 9am on WFTC Channel 29/9-2. This week's *This is the Life* episode, "The Other Wiseman" features another Magi, making his journey to the Christ child, who encounters others and shows kindness along the way. The worship service begins at 9:30am with Rev. Paul Sajban from The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Windom, who will present a message titled "The Blessed Exchange" based on Mark 1:4-11. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities" tab.

The Winter Quarterly 2023, Lutheran Woman's Quarterly is here for you. The theme for this quarter is Equipping Women.

Pick up your copies in the Narthex of all the District Synodical publications. The LHMS, The Lutheran Layman Fall Issue. Use the website: <https://www.mnsdistrict.org>

Follow One Voice for Public Policy: Go to the website: <https://www.mnsdistrict.org/public-policy>. Read the information from Rev. Fred Hinz. Don't have access? Hard copies are in the Narthex.

Orphan Grain Train – amazing giving and donations. Go to: <https://www.OGT.org>.

December District Mission – St. Paul Outreach Center. The primary focus of the District St. Paul Outreach Center is to serve and share God's love with new immigrants to St. Paul and other neighbors in the Midway area, as well as partnering with Concordia St. Paul's International student ministry. We invite you to pray for the Outreach Center in your personal and corporate prayers, that those who lead & serve would be strengthened in their efforts to reach people with the good news of Jesus.

FYI – The District eNews December 26 issue (find on-line, or a copy in the Mission Center) articles of interest: 1) Go First; 2) District Mission Gifts; 3) Camp Omega – Plunge 2/25/24, Man Up Retreat 3/15 – 3/16/2024; 4) MN South Convention LLL 4/13/2024. Mark your calendars for these dates.

Lutheran Women in Mission – a new prayer guide for January when you are feeding your mite box. Copy in Narthex entitled January.

Welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran Church! We are Christians gathered around the unchanging Word and Gifts of Jesus Christ which give forgiveness and salvation now and forever. Our Savior has more than enough blessings for everyone and promises that He will turn no one away. Please let us know who you are and how we can serve you by completing a registration card found in the seat backs and placing it in the offering plate at the entrances to the sanctuary.

At Our Savior Lutheran Church we live to make Christ known.

Monthly Memory Verse:

There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing. - Proverbs 12:18

Weekly Discussion Question:

What does it feel like to be on the receiving end of harsh words?

Holy Communion: The Nunc Dimmitis is called the “song of Simeon”. As he saw the Baby Jesus in the temple, he spoke words that meant he was now ready to die – “Lord, now let your servant depart in peace”. In the Lord’s Supper this same Jesus has given His body and blood to us. We, too, have seen the Lord’s salvation and are prepared to depart this life at peace with God! With deep thankfulness for His gift to us here, we also express our deep desire to celebrate the sacrament according to His Will. Those who understand the meaning of communion and wish to receive it today are asked to review the statement on the back of the registration card.

Serving today:

Liturgist & Preacher Rev. Adam M. Matheny
Organist Susan Klute
Elder of the Day [8:00] Tom Benson; [10:30] Mike Holub
Acolytes [8:00] Dalton Ling; Jesse Matheny
..... [10:30] Peter Bittner; Jimmy Bittner
A/V Tech Zak Tess