

# The Messenger

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December 2011

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

612 Division St.; La Crosse, WI

Church Phone: (608) 782-3468

[www.oursaviorslutheranchurch.net](http://www.oursaviorslutheranchurch.net)

Office Hours: 8:30–3:30, Mon.–Thurs.; 8:30–2:30, Fridays



*“Our mission is to make the love of Christ known to all as we worship, serve and grow together.”*

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*All are welcome in this church! The Good News of God's grace is for all, regardless of age, abilities, physical & mental health, race, sexual orientation, education, income or strength of faith. There is nothing we do, have done or will do that can separate us from the love of God. God makes no exceptions, nor do we. Come join us in praise, prayer and the work of our Lord!*



## **MARK-INGS**

It seems as I age that time moves more quickly. Do others feel that as well? It feels like we move all so quickly from the national celebration of Thanksgiving into the Christian celebration of the Christ Mass and God's arrival among us. The pressure to get shopping and decorating and other tasks done, plus planning trips or hosting events, makes these days seem way too short.

I wonder if the three years of ministry on earth went by as quickly for Jesus. Did He feel the rush of time? I've been here at OSLC about six years, twice as long, and that time certainly has flown by for me. I wonder if thirty-three years of life seemed like a mere blip in the mind of One who knew eternity.

Yet when pain fills our lives, or we are under stress and pressure, or we are struggling to make decisions, or we are looking for work, then time seems to drag much more than fly by.

We all feel the beat of time differently, depending on age or circumstance. This month we celebrate the One who gives us a totally new feel toward time. When we celebrate the embrace of God, when we remember the tremendous gift of God who dwells among us, we are celebrating the One who for all time changes our experience of time. We sense in the angel chorus the joy yet to come, of chorus upon chorus, concert upon concert in God's heaven. We sense in the adoring gaze of shepherds and Wise Men that we too are getting a glimpse of God who is yet to be much more fully revealed to us in God's good time.

I almost feel, when we light candles on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning, that time stands still. In the warm glow of candles and faces lit so beautifully, in the beautiful words and music of "Silent Night", in the sounds of community assembled in mutual adoration, we do not hurry any more. We slow down. It seems that no one wants to rush through to the finish of that song. In fact, doing so would seem so wrong.

The gift of Jesus is a gift that touches all our life, changing our view of time. We don't want to rush through life, too busy to hear God's voice and notice God's presence. We learn about eternity, and cling deeply to the hope that gives us. Then we treat possessions, and land, and creation differently. We are caretakers. We really don't own them. We get to use them, and share them, and then pass them on to others. They are never ours, not even our money. They are God's gift, seen in the light of God's sweep of time.

We treat people differently. We never own them. They are never ours, not even our children. They are gifts. Relationships are God's sign to the world that we foster and treasure what we say we believe, the "communion of saints". We slow down to enjoy this gift and become a sign to the world that God's new kingdom begins among us.

And we move on to a New Year, where God's own Son, full of grace and truth, speaks to us about using each day as a gift. We mark time differently, because God has come to dwell on earth. We have learned to think beyond each hour and beyond each day to God's eternal story. And if we rush at all, it is to be part of that story.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Pastor Mark Jolivette

## The Messenger

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Unapproved Council Minutes for **Thursday, NOVEMBER 10, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Pastor Jolivette, Mark Zellmer, Rebecca Grapes, Dennis Baehr, Lois Losby, Joanne Richmond, Cheryl Olson, Stephanie Van Zee, Gene Linse, Rod Tisthammer

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Scott Swedeen

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mark Zellmer. Pastor Jolivette led us in devotions. Everyone introduced themselves to Joanne Richmond.

**Secretary's report** was reviewed. **MSC to accept (Van Zee/Grapes)**

**Treasurer's report** was reviewed. **MSC to accept (Tisthammer/Grapes)**

- Giving was down about \$2400 on general envelopes.
- Expenses are still running under budget.
- No line of credit was needed; all bills are current.
- Discussion on a "going away" gift for our bookkeeper, Carol Burnett.

**Pastor Jolivette** gave his report...

- New Member/Adult Inquiry will start on November 13. December 11 will be New Member Sunday.
- Pastor Wees has submitted his resignation. December 11 will be the Sunday that he will be recognized for his work here at Our Savior's.
- First Communion will be held on November 13. Confirmation was held on October 16. There were 5 confirmands.
- Community Thanksgiving will be held at St. Paul's this year on Tuesday, November 22, 2011.
- There are 2 outside groups using the building this month. The Chamber Chorale is renting space for a concert on November 13. AMOS recognition will be held on November 20, 2011.

### **Board Reports...**

- Music & Worship Highlights
  1. On December 4, 2011 Pastor Vern and Brigitta will be here for the Santa Lucia Festival. (Still waiting to hear back from them for a definite confirmation of the date and time.)
  2. The Sunday School program will be on December 11 at 4 p.m. with a potluck to follow.
  3. Christmas Eve services will be at 4 and 6 p.m. Will use Setting 2 and have brass accompanying this organ (if brass is available).
  4. Poinsettia order forms will be placed in the newsletter. They will be ordered through La Crosse Floral again this year.
  5. Louise indicated that the organ is also in need of tuning, re-leathering and other general upkeep due to its age. The cost will be between \$75,000-\$100,000. This could be a "general" project for congregational members to consider giving too.
  6. Homebound Communion volunteers are needed. Volunteers would go to visit members in their private homes only. There are presently 30 people who are in need of receiving in-home communion. A brief training session would be provided in January.
- Property Highlights
  1. Motion made to set aside up to \$2000 for the Storm Water Sewer Management Project for further work that needs to be done. The funds would come from the Memorial Account #151 Capital Campaign. **MSC (Grapes/Linse)**
  2. Exterior painting & power washing has made a big difference in the appearance of the church. It was brought to our attention that 2 of the doors in the courtyard are going to have to be replaced. They are beyond repair. Motion made to authorize the Executive Committee to get bids from at least 2 vendors. **MSC (Linse/Richmond)**
- Social Ministry
  1. Women's Clothes Closet Fashion Cornucopia was a success. Luncheon was sold out, dinner was half sold.
  2. Band Together-Warm the Heart event held at Boot Hill Pub had great attendance.
  3. Angel Tree starts November 13.
  4. Come for Supper will be celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Tuesday, December 6, 2011. Christmas Give Away will be Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Serving Christmas dinner the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>.
  5. AMOS 4<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will be December 20 at 5 p.m. \$20 per ticket.
  6. Share the Bounty collected 28,000 pounds of food which was up from last year.
- Stewardship
  1. This year's theme is "Where's the Beef" which will kickoff now. There is a special congregational meal on Sunday Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, beginning right after coffee fellowship. Congregational members are doing temple talks.
- Evangelism – no report at this time
- Membership – pictorial directory is moving forward. Will hopefully be done by the end of the year.

The Messenger

- Christian Education
  1. November 13 is 1<sup>st</sup> Communion
  2. November 27<sup>th</sup> is tree trimming with potluck to follow
  3. December 11<sup>th</sup> will be the Christmas program at 4 p.m. with a potluck to follow.

**Task Force**

- 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Making doves to hang in the sanctuary. They are still looking for faith stories.
- Sound System – nothing new to report
- Fireside Room – 4 chairs were returned due to a flaw. They will be replaced.

**Old Business**

- Red House – Motion made to authorize Mark Zellmer to sign the PILOT agreement with the City of La Crosse. **MSC (Grapes/Tisthammer)**
- Audit – The internal audit has been completed. Another more complete audit will take place in January.

**New Business**

- Motion made that this council hereby register Joanne Richmond to be considered for candidacy in the rostered ministry of the ELCA. **MSC (Van Zee/Linse)**
- Motion made that funds be taken from the Ulvilden Seminary Scholarship Fund to help Joanne Richmond pay for expenses incurred in the process of the previous motion. **MSC (Jolivette/Van Zee)**
- Budget process – all chairpersons will be receiving information to help them develop their budget for 2012.
- Received a request for a gift to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Motion made to give \$150 to be taken from Memorial Account #330A. **MSC (Tisthammer/Baehr)**

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. The next council meeting will be held Thursday, December 8, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois E. Losby, Secretary

**Financial Report**

**October 2011**

Category	October Actual	October Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	2010 YTD Actual
<b>General Envelope Income</b>	\$18,641	\$21,063	\$191,406	\$210,627	\$194,222
<b>Special/Loose Offering</b>	\$541	\$1,625	\$10,170	\$16,250	\$10,708
<b>Other Income</b>	\$867	\$894	\$8,922	\$8,940	\$8,003
<b>Benevolence Envelope</b>	\$1,425	\$1,833	\$12,248	\$18,333	\$10,670
<b>Other Benevolence</b>	\$1,212	\$1,335	\$10,757	\$13,354	\$11,142
<b>Total Income</b>	\$22,686	\$26,750	\$233,503	\$267,504	\$234,745
<b>Expenses</b>	\$24,697	\$26,750	\$243,452	\$267,504	\$231,380
<b>Net Income/Deficit</b>	(\$2,012)		(\$9,949)		\$3,364

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:

11/20/11: Gweneth Marie Williams  
- Pastor Mark Jolivette

Funeral:

10/29/11: Eldeen K. Knutson  
- Pastor Vern Skarstad



**December 2011—ALTAR GUILD**

Connie Garson  
Carol Miller  
Sue Staples  
Kim Grapes



**"COME FOR SUPPER!"**

Thank you to all of the volunteers who help serve all of our guests. You do a GREAT job!

December 2011 Sponsors:

12/06/11: OSLC & English Lutheran  
12/13/11: OSLC/Prince of Peace/1st Presbyterian  
12/20/11: OSLC & North Conference Church  
12/27/11: OSLC &

**WELCA NEWS**

WELCA Christmas Luncheon will be Thursday, December 8th with seating at 11:30 am and lunch at Noon. Menu will be 1/4 grilled chicken, buttered red potatoes, green beans, spring salad mix, rolls, desert, coffee and punch served by Premier Catering. Tickets on sale for \$8 from the Board, Martha Sesvold, Dorothy Gray, Sue Staples, Vera Wensole and Doris Modahl. Entertainment by "Sisters in Song". We are in for a good time. See you all there. Merry Christmas.

WELCA Board

**DORCAS NEWS**

Dorcias Society will meet **Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30pm**. This night is our Christmas party! Please make sure to bring a gift to exchange. We look forward to a fun evening. Everyone is welcome.

Dorcias Board

**Council Members 2011**

President	Mark Zellmer
Vice-President	Becky Grapes
Treasurer	Dennis Baehr
Secretary	Lois Losby
Christian Education	Stef Van Zee
Worship & Music	Cheryl Olson
Evangelism	Joanne Richmond
Membership	Scott Swedeen
Property	Vacant
Social Ministry	Rod Tisthammer
Stewardship	Gene Linse

Since Our Savior's is a consistent donor to WAFER, we want to keep you updated on the services WAFER provides. The following is a summary of the past month's statistics. Remember, a gift of \$20 will help purchase a bag of groceries.



October 2011

Food Service Report

Total Packages	1,486
New Households	78
Total People Fed	4,531
Volunteer Hours	700

**December Items**

Personal hygiene items

Attention families of Servicemen & Women. . . .

Please call the church office if you have a family member in the armed forces. As we pray for peace, we also want to specifically pray for the safety of the sons, daughters and friends of our congregation. Also, if these designations have changed, please help us to change our lists accordingly.  
Thank you!

**MESSENGER DEADLINE:**  
**MONDAY, December 19, 2011**  
Articles for the January Messenger must be turned in to the church office  
**NO LATER than 12:00 p.m.**  
**on Monday, December 19, 2011**

The Messenger will be assembled on **WEDNESDAY, December 28th** at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for those interested in helping.



**‘WHERE IS THE BEEF IN YOUR LIFE?’**

Or, what’s the most important thing in your world?

**WE PLAN A SPECIAL DAY ON DEC. 4<sup>TH</sup> AS WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GOODNESS WITH OUR COMMITMENTS.**

As we continue to reflect on this year’s stewardship theme “What’s the Beef in Your Life?”, we will have an opportunity in worship to re- turn our Plans for Giving, and then eat a special meal together including (what else?) some beef. We will celebrate God’s goodness as a community of faith in this meal that begins a bit before 11 am. All food will be provided. You do not need to bring anything. Sunday School children can join their parents, guardians and grandparents in eating right after class dismisses.

A mailing was sent to all the members with two things, a report of giving to date in calendar year 2011, and a “Plan for Giving” card. Please prayerfully think of your response, and with God’s help, make a plan that involves both faith and joy. Bring that card to worship on December 4<sup>th</sup>, and everyone will present it as part of our Offering response to God.

We thank Gene Linse, Kim and Josh Shively, Myra Smaby and Levi Powers for their inspiring mes- sages and words of encouragement. Their stories have been tremendous to hear.

If you do not have a “Plan for Giving” card, one will be provided at worship on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. If you can- not join us that day, please mail yours to the office or bring it to worship on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. If you do not have a card, please call the church office at 782-3468 for your own. We invite prospective and new members to join us as well.

Finally, if anyone is not receiving offering envelopes in the mail and wishes to use them, please call the church office or email us at [oslcoffice@centurytel.net](mailto:oslcoffice@centurytel.net) . They are sent to your home in two-month in- crements, and we’ll gladly get some mailed to you in the next shipment.

We also have temporary envelopes to use until your shipment arrives.

**Memorials & Special Gifts**

In memory of Emily Bode:

**Come for Supper**

Claude & Judith Mosley    Scott & Patricia Marshall    Jeff & Sharon Yushta    Rich & Colleen Pitz  
Daniel & Darlene Bresnahan    Johns Flaherty & Collins

In memory of Janice Beeler:

**Undesignated Memorial**

Irene Kiefer    Roy & Doris Modahl    Mildred Kneesel

In honor of Delilah Wehr’s 100th Birthday:

**Undesignated Memorial**

Roy & Doris Modahl    Mildred Kneesel

In honor of Darlene Kroner’s Birthday:

**Come for Supper**

Carole Schneider Phillips

In memory of Edna Lietke:

**Building Fund**

David & Sandy Kjos

In memory of Joel Rynning:

**Undesignated Memorial**

Patricia Larson-Rynning



A prayer concern for each day of the month.

December † 2011

**1** On this World AIDS Day, pray for all people affected by HIV and AIDS and for those who minister to them, including the AIDS Circle of Hope of North Texas, located in Wichita Falls.

**2** Pray for the Latin American and Caribbean companion churches and organizations that have developed ministries with individuals living with HIV and AIDS in the region. Grant that their love, compassion, and advocacy on behalf of those living with HIV and AIDS bear witness to a love for all of creation.

**3** Pray for congregations who gather holiday gifts for children in need. Make these gifts a sign of God's loving presence and love for all God's children.

#### **4 Second Sunday of Advent**

God of the nations, we entrust to you the countries of Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. Give hope where there is despair, strength where there is weakness and faith where it is sought.

**5** Give thanks for the 33 ELCA members who volunteered for 3 to 11 months through the ELCA Global Mission Volunteer program in 2011. Thank God for the generosity of these teachers, medical trainers, financial consultants and pastors.

**6** Pray for those living along coastal lines, that they may be protected from the devastation of annual typhoons and hurricanes, and those living in arid places that they may be saved from drought and famine.

**7** Pray for Robert Kasworm who serves the Machame Lutheran Hospital in Moshi, Tanzania. He is strengthening health-care delivery by creating strategic alliances between Tanzanian and U.S.-based health providers.

**8** Pray for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, which provides mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease throughout the world.

**9** As we give thanks for the gift of God's Son and the growing presence of Christ in our world, pray for missionary children who live, learn and grow in their faith in a variety of settings around the world.

**10** Pray for the continued advocacy of human rights as we celebrate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that we might engage and remind people of the internationally recognized rights.

#### **11 Third Sunday of Advent**

We pray, O God, for the people of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. Give strength to the churches in these lands as they witness to your peace and joy in the midst of great challenges and changes in their countries.

**12** Pray for the Rev. Philip, Lou-Marie Knutson and their family, who serve with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. Philip works as a resource person for the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa's Christian education program. He also serves ELCA Global Mission as regional program assistant for Southern Africa.

**13** Pray for your local, state and federal elected officials, as they consider decisions that will affect you, your community and all of God's people.

**14** Give thanks for the ministry of presence that young adults serving through ELCA Global Mission provide throughout the world. Bless Megan Bucholz, Alma Gast, Lautin-Whitney Gottbrath, Sara Nobbs, Michelle Steiner and Courtney Weller, young adults serving in Jerusalem/West Bank. Bless Julie Rossate and Jeff VonWald, the country coordinators.

**15** Pray for Welcome Home, a cooperative ministry of welcome between Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Philadelphia and Lutheran Children and Family Service that provides transitional housing for refugees who have just arrived in the United States.

**16** Give thanks for the ministry of the regional representatives as they accompany ELCA companion churches in various regions around the world. Pray for Phillip Baker in Asia and the Pacific; Lou Marie and Philip Knutson in Southern Africa; Andrew and Barbara Hinderlie in East Africa; Anne and Willie Langdji, and Viking and Marissa Dietrich in West Africa; Arden Haug in Europe; and Kathryn Lawler, David Wunsch and Stephen Deal in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**17** Pray for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, which serves to empower, provide relief and educate for future preparedness in response to devastating situations.

#### **18 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Gracious God, look with favor upon the churches in Ghana and Nigeria, that, in the midst of great challenges of witnessing to your mercy, they may find strength and nourishment in your word.



December ✦ 2011

**19** Pray for Mary Borgman who serves as an HIV and AIDS worker at the Diakonia Aids Ministry in Soweto, South Africa, a program of the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

**20** Pray for ELCA World Hunger, which supports people who live with chronic hunger and poverty around the corner and around the world, through relief, development, education and advocacy.

**21** Pray for Katie Miyamoto who teaches English at Luther Gakuin High School in Kumamoro, Japan. She also is engaged in ministry at Kengun Lutheran Church and at the English-language gathering of Kumamoto Lutheran Church.

**22** Pray for all who suffer loneliness and heartache during the holiday season.

**23** Pray for David Vikner, as he engages supporters of the International Christian University in Japan through his leadership of the Foundation of the university.

**24** Pray for peace in Bethlehem and all of the Middle East on this holy night.

### **25 Christmas**

Almighty God, give to all your people the love of peace and guide the leaders of all nations so that your kingdom will go forth in peace and the earth will be filled with your love.

**26** Give thanks for the example of Stephen the first martyr, who looked to heaven and prayed for his persecutors. Pray for an end to the continued persecution of the Christian church.

**27** Pray that churches throughout the world find ways to cooperate in love and trust in the common goal of pointing to the in-breaking reign of God in Christ.

**28** Remember today the slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Pray for God to receive into the arms of mercy all innocent victims and to frustrate the designs of evil tyrants establishing God's rule of justice, love and peace.

**29** Pray for an end to the greed and sexual exploitation that creates the demand for the trafficking of women and youth for exploitation and profiteering.

**30** Pray for the Turnaround Synod Initiative of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA, which seeks to equip congregations for ongoing renewal.

**31** Give thanks for the year past and pray that in the new year we may more fully know God's presence, see God's love at work and live in the light of Christ that grants us joy forever.




*This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Prayer Ventures is produced by ELCA Mission Advancement in cooperation with other units of the ELCA. Contact [info@elca.org](mailto:info@elca.org) for additional information: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Marketing Communications, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.*

## **CHRISTMAS AT ST. OLAF 2011 REJOICE, GIVE THANKS AND SING**

One of the oldest holiday musical celebrations in the United States, the annual St. Olaf Christmas Festival marks its 100th offering this year with a live broadcast to movie theaters nationwide presented by National CineMedia.

The live simulcast on Sunday, December 4, 2011 will be broadcast direct from the campus of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota and shown locally at Marcus La Crosse Cinema. A preview program will begin at 2:30 followed by the 2-hour live concert performed by more than 500 St. Olaf College student musicians.

# December 2011

				1	2	3  Caroling 3-5 pm Christmas Caroling
4 8 am Choir 9 am Worship/HC 10:10 am SS 10:15 am CF/Adult Ed 11 am Stewardship Luncheon 4 pm Adult Inquiry 7 pm Got Bible	5	6 10 am WELCA Board Meeting 5 pm CFS/OSLC & English 6:30 pm BS Troop 13 6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting	7 Noon Worship/HC 1 pm Got Bible 6:30 pm 4th Grade Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Dorcas Society 7:30 pm 7th Grade Confirmation Class	8 11:30 am WELCA Christmas Luncheon 6:30 pm Council Meeting	9	10 10 am Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal
11 8 am Choir 9 am Worship/HC/New Member Sunday 10:10 am SS 10:15 am CF/Adult Ed 4 pm SS Christmas Program 5 pm Potluck 7 pm Got Bible	12 7 pm Priscilla Circle	13 9 am Quilters 5 pm CFS/OSLC & Prince of Peace.1st Presbyterian 6:30 pm BS Troop 13	14 Noon Worship 1 pm Got Bible 6:30 pm 4th Grade Confirmation Class 7:30 pm 7th Grade Confirmation Class	15 7 pm Art & Faith	16	17
18 8 am Choir 9 am Worship/HC 10:15 am CF 3-5 pm Cookie Baking	19 <b>MESSENGER DEADLINE!</b>	20 5 pm CFS/OSLC & N. Conf. Church 6:30 pm BS Troop 13	21  Noon Worship	22	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 3 pm Choir 4 pm Worship/HC 6 pm Worship/HC
25  9 am Worship/HC 10:5 am CF	26 <b>OFFICE CLOSED!</b>	27 1:45 pm Hillview Chapel 5 pm CFS/OSLC & 6:30 pm BS Troop 13	28 Noon Worship 1 pm Messenger Assembly	29	30	31  NEXT YEAR!

Legend: HC= Holy Communion  
CF= Coffee Fellowship  
SS = Sunday School

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR YEAR END GIVING.** Any amount you wish to be credited to your 2011 Giving Statement must be in the office by Noon on December 30th.



# December 2011

				1 Anna Lieder	2	3 Christine Kofta
4 Elizabeth Lasee	5 Emilia Kenow	6 Jessica Brantner Elaine Lee Martha Stuckey Isaac Stutesman Michael Vaaler	7 Jonas Willard	8	9 James Balow Mysterie Hodges Steve Kramer Gary Larson	10 James Anderson Taylor Murphy
11 Avery Laffey	12	13	14 Taylor Riniker Robert Thiele	15 Carma Coon Mildred Fortun Adele Johnson Cynthia Vieth	16 Justin Vaaler	17 Brittney Dolan Emily Flottmeyer Morgan Miller
18 Jack Low Kevin Smaby Mark Smaby	19 Leslie Buck Tyler Deal	20 Marie Brieske Gordon Buchner Carol Carlson Eugene Linse Linda Nelson	21	22 Milton Mosher	23 Miranda Anderson Richard Moyer	24 Lois Kathan Matthew Linse
25 Charles Coon	26 Tiffany Blowers Hannah Smaby	27 Donna Betthausen Jill Buck Debra Burch Amy Wells	28 Beverly Burand	29 Serina Jolivette Karina Richards Allie Vaaler	30 Bernice Christianson Ava Lange	31 Kimberly Hanson Stephanie Novak

### **CHRISTMAS IN HOLMEN**

Holmen Lutheran Church and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church's Christmas in Holmen, is Sunday, December 4. The Home Tour is from 12 noon to 4 pm. The Cookie Walk and Lunch are from 11:30 am to 3 pm at St. Elizabeth's. Home Tour Tickets are \$10. Advanced tickets will be available at St. Elizabeth's (608-526-4424), Holmen Lutheran (608-526-3621), or Ethel's Attic (608-385-9364). Tickets will be available at St. Elizabeth's the day of this event. Tickets will not be available at the homes. For more information contact: ehesselberg@gmail.com or 608-781-2238.

### **Catholic Charities' Christmas Store will be**

opening on Dec. 6 for families needing help during the Holiday Season! New or gently used toys, sweaters, household items, towels, cologne sets (especially for men), wallets, candles; jewelry, really anything that would make a nice Christmas present for seniors, adults, children or teens can be brought to our "store". Gift cards to Festival or Woodman's for Christmas dinner, gas cards, or Wal-Mart are also welcomed and greatly appreciated! Items may be dropped off at Catholic Charities offices, 3710 East Avenue South, La Crosse Monday-Thursday from 8:30-4:00 p.m. God Bless you.



## UPCOMING YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY EVENTS

### **Sunday School Sings in worship**

Sunday, December 11th – 9:00am  
Our Sunday School children will sing during worship on Sunday, December 11. Come here a special preview of the Sunday School's Christmas Program.

### **Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal**

Saturday, December 10th, 2011—10:00am  
The Sunday School children will have a dress rehearsal for the Christmas Program on Saturday, December 10th. All Sunday School age children and youth helping/participating in the program should meet in the Sanctuary at 10:00am.

### **Thank you!**

To our Discovery Kingdom Sunday School workshop leaders for our rotation: The Disciples

Raider's of the Lost Art—Katherine Sandy and Suzanne Lindner

Antioch's Arcade—Courtney Laffey

Noah's Notes—Andy Stutesman

Divine Discovery—Kristine Von Ruden

The Red Sea Cinema—Sherry Taylor and Becca Taylor

Large Group Opening—Stef Van Zee

Shepherds—Katlin Grapes, Gabrielle Oliver and Samantha Klingelhofer

Thank You for your faithfulness and service!

### **Christmas Break**

There will be NO Sunday School or Middle School Youth Group on Sunday, December 18th and 25th, 2011 and January, 1st 2012. Enjoy Christmas Break with you family and friends. We'll see you in the New Year, Sunday, January 8, 2012.

### **CONFIRMATION**

#### **December Acolytes**

December 4—Karissa and Katlin G.  
December 11—Brandon and Cherie L.  
December 18—Ava and Ella Shively  
Saturday, December 24  
4pm—2 NEEDED  
6pm—2 NEEDED  
December 25—2 NEEDED

#### **Congratulations Communicants!**

Remember in your prayers the following young people that received their First Communion on Sunday, November 13th, 2011. We ask that you pray for them in their journey of life and faith... Megan Hanson, Morgan Klingelhofer and Fox Zinniel.

#### **December Confirmation Classes**

Wednesday December 7th and 14th, in the Choir Room: 4 grade: "Know Your Bible" from 6:30—7:20 p.m.; and the 7 grade: "Prayer" from 7:30—8:30 p.m.

A reminder to the 4th grade confirmation class... you will recite from memory the books of the Bible on Wednesday, December 14th.

#### **December Service Elective Opportunities**

Angel Tree

Acolyte on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

Caroling—December 3rd

Christmas Program—December 11th

Cooking Making—December 18th

(for more details please look on the next page)

### **Christmas Program Dates to Remember**

- *Sunday, November 27th – Christmas Program rehearsal during Sunday School hour*
- *Sunday, December 4th – Christmas Program rehearsal during Sunday School hour*
- *Saturday, December 10th, 10:00 a.m. – Christmas Program rehearsal*
- *Sunday, December 11th, 9:00 a.m. – Sunday School kids sing during worship*
- *Sunday, December 11th – Christmas Program dress rehearsal during Sunday School hour*
- *Sunday, December 11th, 3:00 p.m. – call/rehearsal*
- *Sunday, December 11th, 4:00 p.m. – Christmas Program: A Noisy Night*
- *Sunday, December 11th, 5:00 p.m. – potluck supper*
- *Sunday, December 18th, 25th, 2011 and January, 1st, 2012 – no Sunday School*
- *Sunday, January 8th, 2012 – 2nd semester of Sunday School begins*

## Next Board of Education Meeting

Join us Monday, December 5th for our next Board of Education Meeting. We will discuss the Christmas Program, the 2nd semester of Sunday School and upcoming Youth & Family events. We need you! People who care about our youth's future and would like to invest in their lives. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the team, please contact Jessica Zinniel at 782-3468 (church), 782-8291 (home), or zinn6@juno.com. Hope to hear from you soon or join us Monday,



### A Noisy Night

A Children's Christmas Program  
ProgRiley Ram

Please join the children and youth of our Savior's Lutheran Church for this very special retelling of the very first Christmas. How it was really noisy and loud the night Jesus was born.

Sunday, December 29th  
4:00—5:00 pm  
Potluck Dinner  
5:00—6:00 pm

Please joining us afterwards, in the Fellowship Hall, for a potluck. There will be lots of great food and fellowship.



God's Son, Jesus, is coming! Get Ready!  
Prepare for the glory and the wonder....



OSLC will be Christmas caroling Saturday December 3rd to our homebound and we want YOU, and your family and friends to join us.

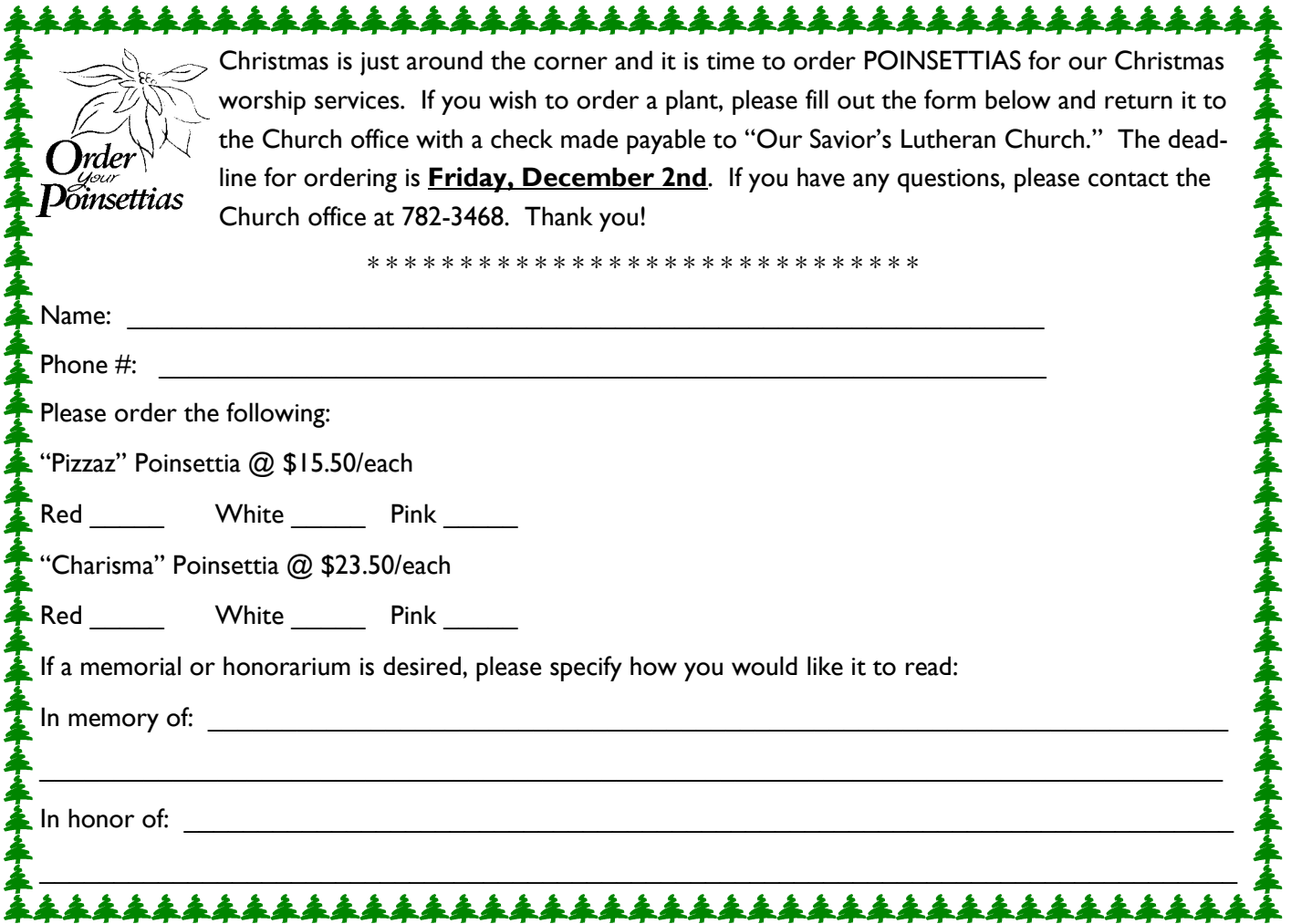
We will meet at church at 3:00 pm and car-pool to church member's homes. Join us afterwards for pizza and pop, board games and great fellowship back at the church (around 5:00 pm).

Anyone 0—103 is welcome to join us spread the joy of Christmas and have a lot of fun, too!

## COOKIE BAKING

You are invited to join the Youth & Family Ministry Team for an afternoon of baking member's of OSLC's favorite Christmas Cookie on Sunday, December 18th. Each family will go home with a plate of cookies and a handmade card for one of our homebound members and a their own plate of cookie to help celebrate the Christmas season. We will start baking at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall kitchen and end with a potluck meal at 5:00pm. Please RSVP with Jessica Zinniel by Wednesday, December 14th at 782-3468 ext. 7 or e-mail at zinn6@juno.com.

The Messenger



Christmas is just around the corner and it is time to order POINSETTIAS for our Christmas worship services. If you wish to order a plant, please fill out the form below and return it to the Church office with a check made payable to "Our Savior's Lutheran Church." The deadline for ordering is **Friday, December 2nd**. If you have any questions, please contact the Church office at 782-3468. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please order the following:

"Pizzaz" Poinsettia @ \$15.50/each

Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_

"Charisma" Poinsettia @ \$23.50/each

Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_

If a memorial or honorarium is desired, please specify how you would like it to read:

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Style Show Update**

Fashion Cornucopia, the 2011 Women's Clothes Closet Style show was a success again this year. Our profit for the show was \$4,347.66 plus an additional \$673.00 from the sale of quilt raffle tickets. The winner of the beautiful quilt was Aubrey Kroner. She was thrilled to have won the quilt. The style show of course would not be possible without the hard work of many too numerous to list. I would like to thank everyone who gave their time and talent so generously to our great mission. I would also like to thank all members here at Our Savior's for their continuing generous support over the years. The profit from the style show is the WCC primary means of support and our mission would not be possible without many loving, devoted and hard working folks. Women in need are so blessed to have the support of so many dedicated people and a congregation that cares.

God Bless, Betty Linse

**"Living our Legacy, Driving the Movement"** hosted by Church Women United is their final program of the year. It is being held at First Lutheran Church, 410 Main Street, Onalaska, WI. This year the service looks at the history of the movement, and encourages us to continue to drive our movement forward as we honor individuals who have supported the cause of Human Rights in our communities. Please join us for this celebration! It is being held on **December 2, 2011 at 9:30 am**. The cost is only \$5.00 (delicious food to be served). Reservations are encouraged (but drop-ins welcomed). If you would like to make a reservation, you may call the First Lutheran Church office at 783-2236 or Marilyn Rudser at 608-451-0003. We hope to see you there!!

# “Walking with Our Savior”

1861 – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 2011

**December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 am** “Santa Lucia” with Pastor Vern & Birgitta Rice  
Dove Recognition

This is the last activity of our 150th Anniversary Year. We thank all who have served together on the Anniversary Committee.

Are you looking for a special Christmas gift? We still have plates and mugs of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church for you to share with others.

## Summer Programs at Sugar Creek Bible Camp

The 2012 Summer Programs brochure will come out the first week of January!

**In-Camp Camping**—Overnight programs at Sugar Creek for campers entering 3rd to 12th grade.

**Explorer Days**—Campers entering 1st—5th grade can come to camp for a one day camping experience. Parents attend free!

**Family Programs**—Camp is not just for kids! We have many special family events, including *Family Camp, Grandparent/Grandchild Camp, Mother/Daughter Retreat, Father/Son Retreat, & Parent/Child Horse Ranch*. Join us for all the usual fun camp activities, Bible study, campfires, horseback riding, swimming and lots of other cool stuff!

## Coming in 2012...

**Middle School Gathering**

January 28-29

**High School Retreat**

March 16-18

**3-5 Grade Retreat**

April 21-22 **Crafter's Retreats 2012**

February 16-19

May 3-6

September 20-23

November 15-18

*..take some time to get away.*

*Bring a Friend!*

# Social Ministries December 2011

## Angel Gift Tree

The Angel Tree for New Horizon's is currently set up in the Narthex. There are still a few gift tags available. Please take a tag off the Angel Tree, buy the requested item, wrap your gift and then re-attach the entire tag to the package. Please bring your gift back to the church by **Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>**. The Social Ministry Team will deliver them to the New Horizon's Women's Shelter for Christmas. Every year we have requests for children's clothing, games, dolls, art sets, twin sheet sets, snow pants (sizes 6X - 14), stamps and stationary/ journals, cleaning products, pillows and much more. Gas cards, gift cards for hair cuts, disposable cameras with a gift certificate to process the film and movie passes are always big hits at the shelter. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact Rod Tisthammer (608.386.5976). Thank you for your support of this great outreach ministry!

## Come for Supper

On Tuesday **December 6<sup>th</sup>**, CFS will be celebrating their **15<sup>th</sup>** anniversary! **All** are invited to come and share in this momentous celebration. If you would like to celebrate the **"Spirit"** of Christmas, then please come on **Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup>** and help us serve and give Christmas gifts to our guest. This is truly an inspirational time for the CFS team and the memories they make will last for years to come. Also, we are accepting shampoo/toothpaste/tooth brushes for gifts to be given that night. You may give these items to our CFS Leadership team of Nance Klapper, Gretchen Crary or Rod Tisthammer.

For the month of December, CFS is asking for gift cards from Festival Foods, the Food Coop and/or Kwik Trip. These cards are used to purchase additional items used every week (such as apples, oranges, bananas, milk). You may also give the gift cards to Nance Klapper, Gretchen Crary or Rod Tisthammer. In the last four weeks, the CFS Team has **served over 1100 meals**. Here is the breakdown by each Tuesday:

October 25	318
November 1	268
November 8	233
November 15	291

## "Sponsor A Meal"

**Fact:** Christmas is coming! **Fact:** There are relatives/friends you just don't know what to buy for Christmas. **Solution:** **"Sponsor-A-Meal"** for Come For Supper! When you sponsor a meal, you are helping someone less fortunate get a hot meal and usually another meal to take home. With this gift, you are expressing the love and appreciation towards that special relative/friend while at the same time giving the same gift of love/appreciation towards someone you don't even know. What could make a better Christmas gift?

When you **"Sponsor A Meal"**, you will receive a professional grade linen card with the name of the recipient (In Honor of -or- In Memory of) and sponsor level printed on the inside of the card along with a matching envelope. Here are the different levels you can sponsor a meal:

\$10.00	Beverage
\$25.00	Appetizer
\$50.00	Soup de Jour
\$100.00	Main Entree
\$250.00	Crème Rue Le
\$500.00	Celebration

You may purchase your Sponsor-A-Meal gift from Nance Klapper, Gretchen Crary, or Rod Tisthammer. They will also answer any questions and/or concerns you may have. Have a GREAT Christmas Season!

## LICAH/Win-Win

Are you thinking of making a New Year's resolution of volunteering more in 2012? Then consider volunteering to be a mentor within the La Crosse Interfaith Collaborate for Affordable Housing (LICAH) Program. No experience is necessary and the commitment involves approximately 2 hours each month. Presently, there is a waiting list of individuals in need of support and encouragement who have applied and been accepted as participants within the LICAH program but cannot move forward until a mentor is available. The role of a mentor is to provide guidance, information and support through monthly visits (made in pairs) to these individuals. If you are willing to volunteer as a mentor within this worthy program or would like more information, please contact Rod Tisthammer.



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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*DECEMBER 24, Christmas Eve*

*4 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion*

*6 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion*

*DECEMBER 25, Sunday, Christmas Day*

*9 a.m. Festival Worship with Holy Communion*

*No Sunday School*

*JANUARY 1, First Sunday After Christmas*

*Worship with Holy Communion at 9 a.m.*

*No Sunday School*

*JANUARY 8, Second Sunday After Christmas*

*Worship with Holy Communion at 9 a.m.*

*Sunday School and Adult Education Resumes !*