

The Messenger

Volume 180, Issue 1

January 2012

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

612 Division St.; La Crosse, WI

Church Phone: (608) 782-3468

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.”

Pastor Mark Jolivette

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Pastor Vern Skarstad, Visitation Pastor

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Laura Hoins, Administrative Assistant

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Special points of interest:

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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

One year ago we watched as an above average but not really distinguished team named the Green Bay Packers, with a record of 8 wins, 6 losses, began a winning streak that would take them to the title of Super Bowl champions. Something tells me that the Packer faithful, although never giving up hope, by and large did not see this as a reality or a sure hope a year ago December. We did not see them for what they were or what they would become.

Who could have seen or understood? The Christian Church will enter into the season of Epiphany in a few days, January 6th. This is a season to realize that the neighbors in Nazareth didn't really know who Jesus was or what He would become. Nor did many people in the towns He would visit. Nor did his disciples when He called them to follow him and ultimately to fish for people. Nor would have we.

We begin this month in the warmth of Christmas, with the supporting casts of angels, shepherds, magi, a new and youthful mom and Joseph listening to dreams and visions to guide him in watching over Mary and the baby. Favorite hymns, candles to light the darkness, decorated homes and church, and hushed excitement add to the emotions that warm our hearts. Then we have to figure out who this baby is, and what this child is to become. Who can see and understand?

Is God really among us? Can it be, as the prophets have foretold and the angels announced? Epiphany is the season when we meet Jesus of Nazareth, born in humility, baptized in the Jordan, teaching in new and powerful ways, calling disciples. Can it be that God is dwelling among us, full of grace and truth, as the Evangelist John would write? And might this Jesus, born of Mary, be God for us today?

The invitation will be given: Come and see. Those words run through the story, from Christmas years into the future. This invitation is first given to shepherds, and then a search is undertaken by wise men, all coming into the little village of Bethlehem to see for themselves. They left, worshiping and praising God. Thirty years later the scene shifts north from Nazareth into the region of Galilee with its large lake. The invitation continues: Come and see.

So in worship, at home and in church, we join shepherds and magi and the sick and the hungry and the searching. We come and we see. Like Mary, responding in her heart to the angel Gabriel with the words "can it be?", we bring our questions, our doubts, our searches, our longings to God. We come with open and expectant hearts.

Packer faithful are always waiting to cheer and crown another champion. Some winters are left with more questions than answers. The faithful never lose hope. But what about people living in God's promise? What about people waiting with eager longing for God to bring the Messiah and establish God's rule on earth? What about people waiting for peace and justice and hope and salvation? Come and see.

With peace and joy and open eyes,

Pastor Mark Jolivette

The Messenger

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Unapproved Council Minutes for **Thursday, December 8, 2011**

Present: Mark Zellmer, Rebecca Grapes, Dennis Baehr, Rod Tisthammer, Scott Swedeen, Pastor Jolivette, Stephanie Van Zee, Cheryl Olson, Gene Linse, Lois Losby

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Joanne Richmond

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. Pastor Mark lead us in devotions.

The Secretary's Report was approved with one correction. Rod noted that the AMOS annual meeting was held on November 20, not December 20 as printed in the minutes. **MSC (Grapes/Tisthammer)**

The Treasurer's Report was approved. Dennis reported that all bills are current. It was noted that **Friday, December 30 at noon will be the final date and time for 2011 contributions to be credited to your 2011 giving statement.** Gene will discuss with the accountant the possibility of having a line added to show the monies removed from the memorial account each month. **MSC (Linse/Grapes)**

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Jolivette informed us that there will be six adults joining our congregation on Sunday (12/11/11). A new session of "Got Bible?" will begin in the spring. With Pastor Wess leaving, the number of hours for visitation will be reduced. Pastor Vern has been able to give us five hours a week. He hopes to increase those hours sometime later in 2012 when other obligations have been met with other congregations.

With the increase in cremations, the request for Saturday funerals has increased. As such, a new set of guidelines has been established to cover those requests. The council unanimously affirmed these new guidelines.

The American Red Cross will no longer be using our facility for their community blood drives. This is due to new FDA requirements for confidentiality, so they are in need of a larger space. They will now be held at the American Legion.

Staff interviews will be starting. This is away to help staff grow in their ministry at Our Savior's.

Board Reports:

Worship & Music – On Christmas Eve there will be 3 communion stations set up due to the larger numbers of people in attendance. Worship on Christmas Day will be at 9 a.m. Pastor Mark is starting a New Year's tradition with a baptism on January 1. This year it will be his granddaughter Hannah. Fifteen poinsettias have been ordered so far. There will be sign up sheets on the bulletin board for those interested in signing up to be Homebound Communion volunteers and Communion Deacons. January 29 will be RIC Sunday. Cheryl announced that due to an increase in her work load she will not be able to continue on as chairperson of this committee.

Membership – The directory layout is complete and with Olan Mills for the proof. It will then be gone over by members to make sure there are no errors.

Christian Education – The Christmas program will be December 11 at 4 p.m. followed by a potluck. The group is starting to think about ideas for Vacation Bible School.

Social Ministry – Come for Supper will be celebrating their 15th anniversary. December 20th will be the Christmas giveaway. December 25th they will be serving their annual Christmas dinner starting at 5 p.m. Thanks to a generous donation on December 27th they will be serving beef tenderloin.

Stewardship – The "Where's the Beef" luncheon event went very well. About 125 people were served. They have only received about 80 plan for giving cards. This is down significantly from last year at this same time.

Property and Evangelism had no reports.

Task Forces:

150th – It was wonderful having the Rice's back again and to once again celebrate the Saint Lucia. Thanks to Brigitta and all the girls for this beautiful event. The Dove Recognition is moving forward & will hopefully be done soon. The committee has lutefisk for sale at \$5 per one pound package. There are still plates, stationary, & paperweights for sale. The personal stories booklet is coming along. They would like more stories to add to it. It was suggested by the committee that a church historian be designated. It would make things much easier for the 175th anniversary celebration.

Sound System – The wireless router crashed; so a new one has been purchased. New computers for the main office need to be ordered.

Fireside Room – The final order for chairs has been placed.

Old Business:

Audit Update –After speaking with our accountant, the audit committee will change the wording of their recommendation concerning W-9 and

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1099 forms from vendors.

Budgeting Process – The Executive Committee will meet Tuesday, December 20 to consider staff salaries for 2012. The deadline for submitting budget proposals is Thursday, January 5, 2012. A special church council meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 10 to consider the 2012 budget. The regular January 12 council meeting will still take place.

New Business:

A discussion was held concerning our 2011 benevolence giving. Motion was made to make the benevolence giving whole at the end of 2011 by taking funds from account #331 and the difference from the Cappelen Fund #330A, to include the three additional gifts to be Lutheran Campus Ministry, Transitional Housing and Mobile Meals. **MSC (Grapes/Tisthammer)**

Nominating process for Council positions – Becky has contacted current council members to discuss their interest in continuing to serve on the council in 2012. There will be 5 possible positions that will need to be filled.

Red House Demolition bids – Mark went over the 2 best bids received back. It was recommended that we go with Kammel Excavating at a maximum cost of \$11,200. This could be \$2000 less based on the testing for lead in the exterior paint. **MSC (Grapes/Swedeem)**. Per a recommendation from our accountant, a motion was made to create a new fund #422 under Board Restricted Funds and move the Red House account to the new line item. Write off the Red House mortgage and add PILOT payments to the general fund. **MSC (Jolivette/Tisthammer)**

Review of new members – Per the congregational constitution, the council voted to accept the six new members into our congregation. **MSC (Tisthammer/Grapes)**

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m. Our next regular meeting will be held on January 12, 2011.

Respectfully submitted

Lois Losby

Council Secretary

Financial Report November 2011

Category	November Actual	November Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	2010 YTD Actual
General Envelope Income	\$17,547	\$21,063	\$208,953	\$231,689	\$212,728
Special/Loose Offering	\$870	\$1,625	\$11,041	\$17,875	\$11,788
Other Income	\$932	\$894	\$9,8254	\$9,834	\$8,908
Benevolence Envelope	\$1,506	\$1,833	\$13,754	\$20,167	\$11,597
Other Benevolence	\$502	\$1,335	\$11,259	\$14,804	\$12,082
Total Income	\$21,356	\$26,750	\$254,860	\$294,369	\$257,104
Expenses	\$22,362	\$26,750	\$265,807	\$294,369	\$256,671
Net Income/Deficit	(\$1,006)		(\$10,947)		\$433

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:

12/11/11: Harper Elizabeth Rowling
- Pastor Mark Jolivette

Funeral:

12/16/11: Loretta M. Husmann
12/22/11: Raymond C. Kroner
12/27/11: Ona P. King
- Pastor Mark Jolivette



January 2012—ALTAR GUILD

Cheryl Vieth (Co-Chair.)
Nance Klapper (Co-Chair.)
Jean Lange



"COME FOR SUPPER!"

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

January 2012 Sponsors:

- 01/03/12: OSLC & English Lutheran
- 01/10/12: OSLC/Prince of Peace/1st Presbyterian
- 01/17/12: OSLC & North Conference Church
- 01/24/12: OSLC &
- 01/31/12: OSLC &

WELCA NEWS

There will be no WELCA meeting in January. Look for the Tired & Retired Potluck in February.

WELCA Board

DORCAS NEWS

We hope everyone has been enjoying the holidays.

Dorcas Society will not meet in January. The next meeting will be our annual pot luck supper to kick off 2012. We look forward to seeing you at 6:30pm on Wednesday, February 1st.

Dorcas Board

TO ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS & ORGANIZATIONAL PRESIDENTS please turn in your Annual Report items no later than Sunday January 8th. If your committee or organization has a checkbook please include a financial report as well.

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.

November 2011
Food Service Report

Total Packages	1,577
New Households	85
Total People Fed	4,852
Volunteer Hours	861

January Items

Soup & Crackers

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, January 16, 2012**

Articles for the February Messenger must be turned in to the church office

**NO LATER than 12:00 p.m.
on Monday, January 16, 2012**

The Messenger will be assembled on **MONDAY, January 23rd** at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for those interested in helping.

Worship & Music Notes

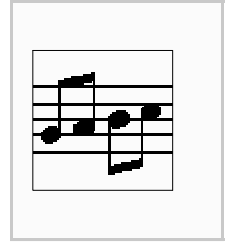
Pastor Mark would like to start a new tradition for our church and is going complete a baptism on January 1 . . . of his granddaughter!

Thank you to our “Church Elves” for the beautiful decorating that has been completed in the church.

Also, thank you to WELCA for their generous support for our beautiful organ with their gift to assist in needed upkeep of the organ.

We hope all were able to attend Pastor Gary’s Appreciation Day on 12/11 and we wish him the best of luck and thank him for all his efforts in his time with us.

Please note in this Messenger and upcoming bulletins, sign-up sheets for training classes that will be held on January 14, 2012 for those that would like to become Communion Deacons and/or to assist with giving communion to our homebound members by being a Homebound Communion Volunteer.



On behalf of your Stewardship Committee I would like to thank all of you who helped carry the “Where’s the beef in your life” message. I hope that each of us found something in the message to remind us of what is important in our life and how our faith in God is nourished by Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.

I am happy to report that over 100 commitment cards have been returned. On behalf of your Church Council I would like to thank you. As you know this is the time of the year your Church Council establishes the budget for next year. The input you provide on your commitment card provides valuable information. If you have not turned in your card there is still time. You can drop it in the collection plate on Sunday or drop it off at the church office. I would also like to remind everyone to take one last look at their 3rd quarter statement and consider providing some additional financial support for Our Savior’s. If you have misplaced your statement or your commitment card please call the church office and Laura can help you.

The Christmas season is the perfect time of the year to express our love for friends, family, those in need and our Savior. It is also the perfect time for your Stewardship Committee to extend our deepest appreciation for all the hard work and financial support you have provided in 2011. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Gene Linse
Stewardship Chairperson



A prayer concern for each day of the month.

January † 2012

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 First Sunday of Christmas

Emmanuel, God-with-us, the birth of the Christ child reveals your presence in our war-torn world. Make your peace known in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

2 Pray for Elizabeth Frey, Jordan Muller and Ian Moreau who are spending a year overseas as young adult volunteers for the ELCA.

3 Pray for the president of the United States and Congress that the Holy Spirit will guide them to remember those most vulnerable in our nation.

4 Pray for the ELCA Conference of Bishops as they gather in San Diego, Calif., for the Bishops' Academy Jan. 4-8.

5 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.

6 Epiphany of Our Lord

Loving God, shine the light of your justice in our hearts and over all lands. Help us to bear your light for the sake of the world and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

7 Pray for the Rev. Dorcas Wang who serves as an ELCA missionary in China, training leaders through the Beijing International Christian Fellowship.

8 Baptism of Our Lord

Gracious God, in baptism you reveal Jesus Christ as your beloved Son and name us as inheritors of Christ's mercy and peace. Bring reconciliation and an end to violence to the war-torn areas of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran and Iraq.

9 Pray for the renewal of the earth and new understandings of what it means to be stewards of your creation for a future of abundance, hope and life.

10 Pray for Dr. Mark Jacobson, director of the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania. The Medical Center just graduated its first class of Assistant Medical Officers.

11 Pray for understanding between Christians, Jews and Muslims throughout the world and for an end to religious violence.

12 Pray for an end to deforestation throughout the world, especially in rainforests.

13 Pray for the Rev. Brian and Christine Palmer who are called by the Lutheran Church in Liberia to train lay leadership for ministry.

14 Pray for the Rev. William Rex who serves as a chaplain of Seafarer's International House in the ports of Philadelphia and southern New Jersey, and for all seafarers who face treacherous winter weather on the seas.

15 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Loving God, be with the people of the lands of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey. Inspire their leaders to bring about economic security and justice.

16 Give thanks for the witness of Martin Luther King Jr. and pray for those who bravely name the injustices of our communities and seek to bring reconciliation and hope for all.

17 Pray for Phillip and June Nelson. Phillip works with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic. June is a nurse in a clinic run by the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons.

18 Join your voice to the confession of Peter saying, "Jesus Christ is Lord," on this day that marks the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

19 Pray for the collaborative work of the World Council of Churches, a worldwide fellowship of 349 churches seeking unity, a common witness and Christian service.

20 Pray for the Rev. Jim and Carol Sack who serve as ELCA missionaries in Tokyo, Japan. Jim is a professor of pastoral theology at the Japan Lutheran College and the Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary. Carol is a music thanatologist, offering palliative care to those in transition from this life to the next.

21 Pray for corporate leaders as they develop policies to protect the human rights of both employees and those in their sphere of influence and seek ways for their companies to be good stewards of God's creation.



January + 2012

22 Third Sunday after Epiphany

God of mercy, be with the people of Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. Raise up leaders who will work for peace, stability and justice.

23 Pray for Patrick and Jacqueline Bencke who serve at Kyushu Lutheran College, a college of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kumamoto, Japan.

24 Pray for the members of the ELCA e-Advocacy network that the Spirit will move them to action for the betterment of their community, their state and the world.

25 At the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, give thanks for the conversion of Paul and pray for all who bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who encounter this good news for the first time.

26 Give thanks for the members of First Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, Co., who sponsored their first ELCA missionary in 1999, which has led to the support of an additional missionary every year since. In 2011, the congregation supported 15 missionaries.

27 Remember all who died in the Holocaust on this International Holocaust Remembrance Day, recognized by the United Nations. Pray for an end to current-day genocide and persecution of people based on religion, sexual identity or ethnicity.

28 Pray for all who are unemployed or underemployed in the United States and throughout the world.

29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

God of love, enliven the churches of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Reveal your love and hope in ways that renew worship and proclamation of the gospel anew.

30 Pray for peaceful elections of leaders throughout the world and for elected leaders who work for justice and economic security for all.

31 Pray for Julie Rossate and Jeff VonWald, newly called missionaries to Palestine where they mentor young adults serving ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

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 for additional information: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Marketing Communications, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.

Memorials & Special Gifts

In memory of Eldeen Knutson:

Sunday School

Paula Knutson

Undesignated Memorials

Our Savior's WELCA

In memory of Janice Beeler:

Undesignated Memorial

Our Savior's WELCA

In honor of Pastor Gary Wees:

Organ Fund

Bob & Martha Sesvold

Undesignated Memorial

Doris Modahl

In honor of Delilah Wehr's 100th Birthday:

Quilters Fund

Bev & Duane Sanborn

Bob & Martha Sesvold

In memory of Loretta Husmann:

Undesignated Memorial



Our Savior's WELCA
Mavis Stafslie

Florence Bateman

Harry & Ardis Bolstad

Mildred Kneesel

January 2012

<p>1 9 am Worship/HC/ Baptism 10:5 am CF</p> 		<p>3 5 pm CFS/OSLC & English 6:30 pm BS Troop 13</p>	<p>4 10 am WELCA Board Meeting Noon Worship/HC</p>			
<p>8 8 am Choir 9 am Worship/HC 10:10 am SS 10:15 am CF/Adult Ed</p> <p>7 pm Got Bible</p>	<p>9 7 pm Priscilla Circle</p>	<p>10 9 am Quilters</p> <p>5 pm CFS/OSLC & Prince of Peace/1st Presbyterian 6:30 pm BS Troop 13</p>	<p>11 Noon Worship 1 pm Got Bible</p> <p>6:30 pm 6th Grade Confirmation Class 7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation Class</p>	<p>12 6:30 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 10 am Communion Deacon Meeting</p> <p>11 am Home Communion Visitors' Meeting</p>
<p>15 8 am Choir 9 am Worship/HC 10:10 am SS 10:15 am CF/Adult Ed</p> <p>7 pm Got Bible</p>	<p>16 MESSANGER DEADLINE!</p>  <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. remembered</p>	<p>17 5 pm CFS/OSLC & N. Conf. Church 6:30 pm BS Troop 13</p>	<p>18 Noon Worship 1 pm Got Bible</p> <p>6:30 pm 6th Grade Confirmation Class 7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation Class</p>	<p>19 7 pm Art & Faith</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 8 am Choir 9 am Worship 10:10 am SS 10:15 am CF/Adult Ed</p> <p>7 pm Got Bible</p>	<p>23 1 pm Messenger Assembly</p>	<p>24 9 am Quilters</p> <p>5 pm CFS/OSLC & 6:30 pm BS Troop 13</p>	<p>25 Noon Worship 1 pm Got Bible</p> <p>6:30 pm 6th Grade Confirmation Class 7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation Class</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 8 am Choir 9 am Worship/HC 10:10 am SS 10:15 am CF 10:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 5 pm CFS/OSLC & 6:30 pm BS Troop 13</p>				

Legend: HC= Holy Communion

CF= Coffee Fellowship

SS = Sunday School



January 2012

1 Amy Atchison Roger Embke Marjorie Galstad Judy Sasse	2 Shirley Atchison	3 Elverda Guberud Jacqueline Holmes	4	5 Todd Balow Vera Wensole	6 Vickie Gartner	7 Randall Gartner Mariah Jendro Britney Oliver Andrew Stingl
8	9	10	11 Ruth Peshak	12	13 Frederic Black	14 Jean Bottcher Maria Schilling Barbara Shulka Allison Smaby
15 Toni Low	16 Tracey Krueger Robert Lieder	17 Kristin Tripp	18 Patricia Kleven	19 Adeline Cremer Sofia Stutesman	20 Ellen Kruser Megan Olson	21 Lesley Stugelmayer
22 Donna Beranek	23 Judith Coryell Kae Deal	24 Carol Rhode Erik Rudrud	25 Laura Lind	26 Aaron Black Diane Olsno Eleanor Richards	27 Benjamin Carlson Travis Malayter	28 Brandon Lun David Paulson Beverly Rubin
29	30	31				

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

- after 9 am worship
- hear leadership reports
- discuss ministry of OSLC
- vote on funding the plan of action (Budget)

Youth & Family Minsirky

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Begins a New Winter Semester, Sunday, January 8th, 2012...

Youth Group is Sunday morning from 10:15 until 11:15 am. We begin with a snack and fellowship followed by a time of learning in the Youth Room (lower level of the church). We will continue to wrestle with the historic Christian faith and the theological questions that the youth asked about in the fall.

As a parent/guardian or OSLC members, there are ways that you can participate in our Youth Group.

Here are some ideas:

1. Worship with your youth.
2. Get to know a youth by name & connect with them by calling them by name.
3. Pray for our youth, their families, their pastor & leaders.
4. Parents/Guardians & other special guest are always welcome to drop-in and learn with us!
5. Talk about the stories that we are studying. Take it a step further and connect the stories to their lives today!
6. Bring a snack! Middle Schoolers love to eat! Stay to help serve the snack and get to know these great youth.

HUNGER IN AMERICA

The number of Americans living in poverty is the highest it has been in 52 years. One in seven households in our nation are food insecure, which affects more than 16 million children. (source: United States Department)

Tackle Hunger With Us in 2012!
January 15 – February 5, 2012

Last year 15,235 groups across the nation worked together in the weeks before and on the Sunday of the Super Bowl football game to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities and generated \$9,583,344 in cash and food items for local charities. 100% of their donation went directly to the local charity of their choice.

This year's goal is \$10 million collected for hunger-relief charities in local communities. Help us grow this grassroots movement and tackle hunger in America!

All middle school and high school youth are invited to join the national movement that is transforming Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Come tackle hunger with us on Sunday, January 15th, in the Youth Room to help come up with a game plan for this year's Souper Bowl. Contact Jessica Zinnel at 782-3468 ext. 7 or zinn6@juno.com for more info.

THE BIG GAME: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

'Souper Bowl' Players Needed
for the Souper Bowl of Caring



On Sunday, February 5th, 2012, after worship in the Narthex, join our Youth Souper Bowl Team! This winter our Youth will be presenting the congregation with the opportunity to join in the fight against hunger in our community and our world.

Last year, 130 cans of soup, 2 packages of crackers, 23 Ramen lunches, 7 soup mixes packets, 1 can of sardines and \$232.68 was collected for the Longfellow Food Pantry. It was a winning day!

We are now looking for 'players' from the congregation to help this year by filling large soup buckets, in the narthex of the church, with cans of soup and/or dollar bills during Super Bowl Weekend, February 5th, 2012.

Soup suggestions include: cream of chicken, cream of mushroom, chicken noodle, chicken with rice, beef noodle, vegetable beef, packets of ramen noodles and any of the "chunky" style soups.

The winners of the Souper Bowl are the many families served by WAFER and each of you who follow the teaching of Jesus to help feed those who are hungry.

MSG (MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERING)

"MSG ME ASAP!"

Saturday, January 28, 1:30pm–
Sunday, January 29, 4:30pm

Messages come from all directions, messages of who we should be and what we should do.

Which ones do we listen to?

Whether the MSG comes from GOD, 303, or your BFF we have the 411 on which MSGs2lisen2.

The LaCrosse Area Synod (ELCA) and Sugar Creek partner to bring you the second annual MSG event. The theme for the event is "MSG ME ASAP!" The retreat runs from 3:00 Saturday to 3:00 Sunday (with registration opening at 2:00 Saturday). Join 100 other synod youth at Sugar Creek for an awesome gathering



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

focused on faith, fun, and friends.

COST: \$40 per person includes overnight stay and 3 meals (\$45 after Monday, January 16, 2012).

THINGS TO BRING:

sleeping bag and pillow, change of clothes, outdoor clothing—boots, coat, hat, and mittens, toiletries AND BIBLE.

Register by turning in \$40 and registration form (⇒) on or before Sunday, January 15th, 2012. Please contact Jessica Zinniel, if you would like to attend, with any questions or concerns at 782-3468 ext. 7 or zinn6@juno.co.

Confirmation

JANUARY ACOLYTES

- January 1–2 NEEDED
- January 8—Kyle H. and Jacob J.
- January 15—Jeff K. and Jonathan K.
- January 22—Scout Z. and Avery L.
- January 29—Sam L. and Cruz M.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Wednesday, January 11th, 18th & 25th, in the Choir Room: 6th Grade: "Worship Life" from 6:30 - 7:20pm; and 8th Grade: "Christian History" from 7:30–8:30pm.

SERVICE ELECTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

- Acolyte on New Year's Day
- Help Jan. 31 at Come for Supper w/adult
- Sing in choir (8am, Sun. morn, Choir Room)
- Performing special music during worship
- Wiping down the chairs and high chairs in the Fellowship Hall

SIGN-UP/REGISTER FOR EVENTS THREE WAYS

1. Call the church at 782-3468 and leave a voice mail by pressing 7 or dialing ext. 106
2. Email youthfamily@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net
3. Talk to Jessica Zinniel

VISIT www.oursaviorslutheranchurch.net
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Middle School Gathering

YOUTH _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT- RELATIONSHIP

HOME _____

CELL _____

WORK _____

I am able to help with transportation:

- Drop-off Sat., Jan. 28th, 2012
- Pickup Sun., Jan. 29th, 2012

of people in car (incl. driver) _____

REGISTRATION FEE \$40.00/YOUTH
(DUE WITH FORM)

AMT PD\$ _____

DATE _____

CASH

CHECK # _____



It may be the middle of winter, but it is the beginning of a new year, and OSLC has lots to kick off! We are already thinking about summer! Check it all out below...

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP

13141 Sugar Creek Bible Camp Rd
Ferryville, WI 54628
608-734-3113 camp@sgrcreek.org
www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

Think Summer! Think Sugar Creek!

Summer Registration now OPEN!

Could it be that it is already time to start thinking about SUMMER camp? YES! Registration for summer camp is now open. Brochures are available online at sugarcreekbiblecamp.org. Sign-up today as the popular programs such as Riverboaters, Family Camp and the Mother/Daughter and Father/Son retreats fill up fast. Don't forget that Our Savior's has camperships to help make camp affordable. Simply submit the registration form and fee and call the church office to let us know who and which week... families, too. We have scholarship money that goes unused every year! Let's get these kids to camp!

Adults, there are even options for you! In addition to two Family Camp options, Mother/Daughter, Father/Son, Grandparent/Grandchild and Parent/Child Horse Ranch—adults can volunteer for a day, a week, or however long you have time. You can even stay in cabins on site. Plus there are adult activities throughout the year for you.

Coming in 2012... Winter Fun Days

January 15, January 29
February 12, February 26
1:00pm-5:00pm

This fun afternoon at Sugar Creek includes snow tubing (we have the tubes), cross country skiing, ice skating, broom ball, snow shoeing, relaxation by the fire, hot chocolate, good food, and fun with friends! Make it a congregational event or come as a family! Make your reservation at 608-734-3113 or camp@sgrcreek.org. Cost: \$4 per person

Couples Retreat

February 10-12

Enrich your relationship with your spouse and enjoy some time away together at Sugar Creek. You will share in some wonderful meals, fun activities, and a program designed to strengthen your relationship. You will stay in one of our beautiful log cabins or a private room in our Koinonia Lodge. Cost: \$180 per couple

Crafter's Retreats

Calling all stampers, scrappers, quilters or whatever your craft! Get away for a weekend to dedicate to working on your craft, and enjoy some of our (optional) programming like campfire, devotions, worship, and more. We'll give you half of an 8ft table, plenty of good food and a place to lay your head. You just need to bring yourself and all your supplies. We'll have morning and evening devotions and a worship service on Sunday. Cost is \$110 per person for Thursday to Sunday or \$85 per person for Friday to Sunday. To register send a registration form with your payment to Sugar Creek Bible Camp.

2012 Dates: February 16-19, May 3-6,
September 20-23 and November 15-18

High School Retreat...

Living Word, March 16-18

Where did the Bible come from? Who wrote it, and why is it so important to our faith? Many people wrestle with these questions. Maybe you have heard of certain texts that were "left out" of the Bible, or maybe you have read something that concerns you. We will have a great time hanging out with friends, and talking about some of these important issues with some of your favorite camp staff! Cost: \$60

3-5 Grade Retreat... Summer Sneak

Peak,
April 21-22

Can't wait for summer to start? We can't either! Join us for a special sneak peak of the summer program, and meet some of the 2012 summer staff members. This great retreat is for both Sugar Creek veterans and for those who are new to camp and want to try it out before summer! Retreat runs from 3:00 Saturday to 3:00 Sunday. Cost: \$40



Sugar Creek Bible Camp Coming in 2012 cont...

6-8 Grade Retreat...

Life as Cons, October 19-21

Designed for confirmation-age campers, this retreat will have young people exploring their faith in a whole new way. Confirmation is more than a couple years of formal instruction. It is a life-long process of growing in faith and understanding our identity as baptized children of God. We will join together with pastors, summer staff members, and our friends for fun camp activities and discussions about our faith journeys. Cost: \$60

3-5 Grade Retreat...

Trick or Treat, October 27-28

The Bible is full of tricksters and shady characters, much like the church of today. Join with friends and summer staff members on this Halloween weekend for some strange and even spooky Bible stories, fun camp activities, and celebrating the "treats" of life, like the goodness of God's grace! There may be costumes and candy, too. Retreat runs from 3:00 Saturday to 3:00 Sunday. Cost: \$40

Middle School Girl's Retreat...

The Body of Christ, November 9-11

You are a beautiful child of God and an indispensable member of Christ's body here on earth. Join your sisters in Christ as we look at our bodies as temples and our membership in Christ's body. Sugar Creek counselors will be here to join in the laughter, fun, and great discussions. Cost: \$60

Next Meeting
Board of Education
Monday, January 2nd
5:30 pm

For more information,
please contact
Stefanie Van Zee

Discovery Kingdom Sunday School

**Sunday School Second Semester
Sunday, January 8th, 2012...**

A new winter semester begins for our Sunday School—Sunday, January 8th, 2012. Sunday School is Sunday morning from 10:15 (approximately) until 11:15 am beginning with music and an opening with Stef Van Zee. After music the children have a snack in the Gathering Room before continuing to the different workshop classrooms in the lower level of the church. We are continuing our year of JESUS and are looking forward to eager children ready to learn more about the Son of God and His love for us.

The Seven Rivers Brass Quintet will be performing a concert on Sunday afternoon, January 15th at Holmen Lutheran Church on Morris Street in Holmen. The quintet has been performing for six years. They play a wide variety of music including classical, swing, Dixieland, and music for children's concerts. They perform at various venues including community events, schools, nursing homes, senior centers and Christmas parties. Members of the quintet are Herb Henning and Arlan Wekseth on trumpet, Jerry Rusch on French horn, Sue Kammel on trombone, and Russ Schrinner on tuba. The concert starts at 3:00. Admission is free. A free-will donation will be taken. The Seven Rivers Brass Quintet concert is being sponsored by the Holmen Area Foundation.

Save those Festival and Quillin's Receipts. This is traditionally the best quarter for those receipts. Please keep saving them and turn them into the trays at the Welcoming Center. All receipts from October, November and December are needing to be turned in by January 9th. I will be tallying them that week as they need to be taken to the store. The youth are planning several trips this summer and will need this fund raiser. Thank you. Colleen Pitz

Passing On Faith

I was recently asked what I needed the Church Council to do to help me achieve success in my ministry as Family & Youth Ministry Coordinator. The answer was to be Triple A Adults to the youth of our congregation. Adults who are **authentic** in the faith, **available** to the young, and **affirming** of the gifts of others.

Authentic is a word that is highly valued. To be authentic is to be *trustworthy* and *transparent*, to be *real* and *reliable*. Authenticity is when a *person's outward actions conform to their inward disposition*. Authenticity for humans is grounded in God's first being authentic with us. The creation that is our home does not play games with us; nature is reliable and sometimes very dangerous. God's faithfulness shines through every nook and cranny of creation. Authentic means that God is not duplicitous or two-faced. God's inner being, God's will is *authentically expressed* in God's creation

Be Authentic...

Be who you are and whose you are... a child of God.
Be willing to share your faith journey.

Available is an attribute of persons that is often in short supply in a world that is so busy and so preoccupied with things. To be available is to value others enough *to make space and time for relationships*. Schedules, commitments, responsibilities all fill our days and consume our energy. Once again, all human availability is finally grounded in God's first being available for us. In Jesus Christ, God says God is *always and ever available to us*. God is not too busy to become incarnate and to get as close to us as possible. God knows our passions and our pains because God lived those passions and pains. And God continues to be available through the eternal presence of God the Holy Spirit, the One who is always with us and never forsakes us. God is closer to us than we are to any others, and God gives us permission and challenges us to be available for others. If God is not too busy, how dare we be preoccupied?

Be Available...

Let it be known you are thinking about them and what

they are doing... in person, by phone, in an e-mail, send a text message, even snail mail.

Listen! Listen carefully as they share with you about the joys and sorrows in their lives.

Come! Come and let them know you care!

Being available opens the possibility of being a person of vital faith in the lives of our youth. Don't miss the opportunity. It's more than quality, it's holy ground.

Affirming is another word that is highly valued, but often missing. To be affirming is *to approach life with a basic 'yes,' to live positively and supportively*. All human 'affirming' is grounded in *God's first affirming us*. The call of Jesus' to each of us is ultimately an eternal affirmation. While human beings are often more at home with rewards and punishments, judgments and even condemnation, God's will is salvation and affirmation. And through the Holy Spirit, God affirms all of life by giving each of us gifts, abilities and a vocation to serve God by serving others. It is because God has - and always is - affirming us, that we see Christian discipleship as living-out that same affirmation in our families and communities.

Be Affirming...

We often start sentences with "kids these days..." and then proceed to mention all the things that are different and therefore wrong with "kids these days." From my experience in this ministry, kids these days care deeply, are willing to take a stand, have big questions, wonder if they really matter, wonder if the church matters, believe deeply and yet feel their leadership isn't needed yet.

You can make a huge difference in the lives of children and youth just by recognizing their gifts, allowing them to be themselves, by telling them how special and loved they all are and by paying attention, take notice, watch - they are praying that you'll notice.

Because God has first been "authentic, available and affirming" for us, we are called to be those same things for others... as we do daily devotions, study Scripture, live in Christian community, and serve our neighbor the Holy Spirit transforms us, and those around us.

Who have been the AAA adults in your life?

To whom are you a AAA adult?

Our Savior's Communion Deacon Training
Saturday, January 14, 2012 **10 am to 11 am**

Please join us by becoming a *Communion Deacon* with this training course. After this training there will be a sign-up sheet for you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Any questions? _____

Please give to usher, drop off at Church office, or mail in.

Thank you,
Worship & Music Committee

Our Savior's Homebound Communion Volunteers Training
Saturday, January 14, 2012 **11 am to 12 pm**

Please assist home bound members *by becoming* a volunteer for Homebound Communion giving. This is *bringing* communion to our homebound members in their private homes (the Pastors handle the Nursing homes). We suggest 2 visits per volunteer on Sundays as needed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Any questions? _____

Please give to usher, drop off at Church office, or mail in.

Thank you,
Worship & Music Committee

Social Ministries January 2012

RIC Sunday

Along with many other RIC congregations across the nation, on **Sunday January 29th**, we will be reaffirming our commitment to being a **Reconciling In Christ** Congregation. We will also have a couple of "temple talks" about the positive effects of RIC and OSLC. Also, we may be learning a new song or two. Please mark this date on your calendars and plan on attending this inspirational Sunday!

Angel Tree Thank You

The Social Ministry Team would like to say **Thank YOU** to everyone who donated gifts for the Angel Tree. With over 125 gifts given to New Horizons, there were a lot of brighter faces on Christmas. We can not explain in words what each gift does to lift the spirits for the clients of New Horizon's. Once again, we say thank you for helping make our community a better place to live!

Come For Supper

For the month of January, CFS is asking for egg noodles that they may use in casseroles. When you purchase some, please put them in the kitchen or give to Nance Klapper, Gretchen Crary or Rod Tisthammer. In the last four weeks, CFS has served over 900 meals! Here's the breakdown by each Tuesday:

November 22 nd	210
November 29 th	268
December 6 th	231
December 13 th	234

...Volunteer Opportunities...

Here are a few opportunities to fulfill that New Year's Resolution to make your community a better place to live. If you do not want to join any one group, you can always join the Social Ministry Team, chaired by Rod Tisthammer. Each group has a description followed by the contact person.

AMOS

AMOS (Advocating-Mobilizing-Organizing in Solidarity) is an interfaith congregation-based coalition working for justice in the La Crosse area. AMOS has formed four task forces to address issues here in La Crosse. The task forces are: Healthcare, Hmong Issues, Restorative Justice and Food Insecurity in La Crosse. Volunteers are needed to maintain a "core team" here at OSLC and/or join one of the task forces. Complete task force information may be found online. Contact: Rod Tisthammer

Come For Supper

A free meal program was started in 1996 for people in our community. It is open to all! We started out serving 50-60 people a week and now serve 175+ a week. There are many opportunities for service with this group – you can cook, serve, clean up, sit and visit with our guests, or whatever is comfortable for you. Contacts: Nance Klapper, Gretchen Crary, Rod Tisthammer.

Coulee Region Transitional Housing

The Coulee Region Transitional Housing Ministry (CRTHM) is an ecumenical group concerned with the well being and dignity of all women. CRTHM works with New Horizons Shelter and Women's Center to provide safe and acceptable transitional housing and financial assistance for women and children who have experienced domestic violence in their lives. Contact: Debbie Dukatz.

HALOS

HALOS (Helping and Lending Outreach Support) partners with La Crosse social workers with resources and tangible goods that will raise their clients self esteem and enhance their life experiences. At this time, HALOS focuses on the needs of children with first priority on children in foster care. Contact: Debbie Dukatz

Kits for Kids

Kits for Kids gives duffel bags to children who are entering foster care for the first time. This project is coordinated through La Crosse County Social Services. Kits include a T-shirt, a sweat suit, hairbrush, toothbrush and toothpaste, a stuffed animal, a night-light and a special book about foster children. These kits help them and their foster parents get through the first night with necessities. Contact: Debbie Dukatz

LICAH

LICAH (La Crosse Interfaith Collaborative for Affordable Housing) is looking for mentors to help guide their mentees through daily rental housing/budget issues. The mentors visit their mentees in pairs and spend 30 to 45 minutes each month for a twelve month period. Complete training is provided along with a mentor support group. Contact: Rod Tisthammer

Women's Clothes Closet

The Women's Clothes Closet was started as a project by a student social worker at UW La Crosse. Its mission is to provide up-to-date clothing for women entering or re-entering the work force. The Women's Clothes Closet Advisory Board works on fundraisers (Fashion Cornucopia) and outreach. Contact: Betty Linse



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Christmas Message 2011

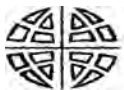
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. — Titus 2:11

- Yes** In this world where God creates with deep beauty and profound mystery. In this world where so many yearn for God’s healing and peace. In this world where some have thought God has forsaken us:
- Yes** Here, in this world, the grace of God has appeared. Not just in this world but for you.
- Yes** For you, weary from trying to meet the expectations of others. For you, worrying about an uncertain future. For you, wondering if you are worthy.
- Yes** For you, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation. Not just for you but for all.
- Yes** For all, salvation has come in the wonder of God in mercy bending low to meet us in our humanity. In the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection. In the power and promise of the gospel’s proclamation, God’s goodness and loving-kindness has appeared in the Savior Jesus.

So with angelic messengers and witnessing shepherds, we raise our voices:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.