
SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

December 2017

Please join us for worship this Christmas season
as we celebrate God's gift to the world, Jesus Christ!



Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24

3:00, 5:30 & 10:00 PM

Christmas Day Worship

Monday, December 25

10:30 AM

Saturday, December 23 & 30

No worship service

Sunday, December 31

One service at 10:30 AM

Ministry Focus

Children's Choirs of Our Savior's donate toys to Southern Minnesota Crisis Nursery



On November 29th, the Children's Choirs of Our Savior's Lutheran Church collected toys for the families involved with the Southern Minnesota Crisis Nursery. The Southern Minnesota Crisis Nursery is a free service in New Ulm that provides a safe and loving 'home' for children ages 0 – 12 temporarily while parents deal with emergencies that arise and when they need support. The children have been donating items from the Crisis Nursery's wish list throughout the year, but during this Holiday Season, we know a small gift to someone in need is a blessing for all of us.



We are now fully into the season of Advent. Finally there is snow on the ground so it surely feels like December. In these weeks, we wait for Christ's birth with anticipation and wonder, celebrating with music, programs, meals and gatherings. This is a very full time of the year for our schedules and for our minds. So much to consider, to decide, to enjoy and to laugh about.

We are now fully into the season of Advent. Finally there is snow on the ground so it surely feels like December. In these weeks, we wait for Christ's birth with anticipation and

In the midst of a busy season, I hope this Advent can be a time of reflection for you about the amazing gift God has given us in the life of Jesus Christ. God alive in a human being is a miracle we cannot comprehend. It is also a gift and a calling to us to live as Christ lived. God wants us to put forth the effort to share his love with others. At the same time we need to be aware of broken nature which means we have need for forgiveness on a daily basis.

I really like these words from Tammy Devine, a Deacon in the ELCA that remind us of how to live in this time of Advent:

"Our call to be Christ's hands and feet in the world is about embodying Christ's presence for one another every day. That starts with letting go of the internal messages of my past and not wasting energy worrying about tomorrow. It means aligning my heart with Christ so I can listen with compassion and care for those around me."

Living into this ... during these weeks before Christmas will take some intentionality. My first step: simplify my expectations and set clear boundaries about what I will and will not commit to. Then, identify those people who could use an extra measure of care, and make time with them a priority."

How will you align your heart with Christ this Advent so you can embody Christ in your life? How will you listen to those around you with compassion and care? This Advent, may you simplify your life, and be grateful for God's gift to us in Jesus Christ. We have been blessed to be blessings for others.

Happy Advent!

Pastor Deb

Farewell Thoughts from Pastor Deb



As I write the words above for the December newsletter, I realize this will be my last Sidelites article as your Senior Pastor. I look forward to saying farewell on my last Sunday, January 14, however some of you have already left for warmer places. I reflect back on the past five years (nearly six if you count the call process time), I have many good memories of my time with the people of Our Savior's.

I'll never forget interviewing with the call committee in January 2012 with a broken wrist. Somehow I had asked for a purple cast on my arm, and I had no idea purple was the New Ulm team colors! My first week here, I recall attending a WELCA event that was all about Aprons! I learned so much about the various types of aprons that are used on farms, in restaurants, for banquets and many other places. A lovely event.

One of my favorite worship services at Our Savior's was in the fall of 2012 when I asked Paul Oman the artist to come and paint during worship. He painted four scenes of the biblical stories that support our mission statement. While he painted our choirs sang, and it was a holy experience together celebrating Our Savior's mission in the world.

I really enjoyed the year we studied the entire Bible through THE STORY. Each week we covered a Bible story in chronological order in worship, Sunday School and Adult Education. You created a timeline of artwork for each story that we displayed in the Social Hall. Thanks for your participation and talent in that special year.

I have enjoyed the music at Our Savior's immensely. So many ages involved in singing and bell playing. Shannon and our choir directors have enhanced my faith with their artistry. The youth and children have been wonderful witnesses to the joy of faith, and I have so enjoyed my childrens' sermons with their hugs, and smiles. Working with Zach on the Lenten services led by our youth has also been a highlight as I witness their enthusiasm to participate in serving.

Visiting and getting to know our "mature" adults have been one of my greatest joys while being at Our Savior's. I'm glad for the coffee time between services, and for the many church events that give time to chat. I dearly love going on home and hospital visits as well. So many good people, with fascinating life stories, strong faith and a love for their church. I will remember you fondly for you have shaped my faith and life as a pastor. It has been my privilege to preside at your funerals, baptisms and weddings.

In Jeremiah 29 we hear these words:

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

I am thankful for all the Lord has planned for Our Savior's and for me. May you be filled with hope for the future, thankful for all God has given us, and trust in God's everlasting love. Thank you for your love and sharing your lives with me over the past five and one half years. God Bless you!

Pastor Deb

Opportunity to support the school in Kikatiti



First of all, a little "School History"....

In 2000, Kikatiti Secondary School was a three room school with dirt floors, sixty students, and unpaid teachers. It was near closing. Doug and Linda Dybsetter were Tanzanian

missionaries with the ELCA. They heard about this needy school and contacted their home church, Our Savior's in New Ulm, asking for support.

With church and individual support over the past 17 years, this school has become alive! Kikatiti now enrolls almost 950 students, learning in permanent structures with cement floors. We have come a long way, but the needs are so great.

Kikatiti is an island of academic HOPE for these young people and you can help keep their dreams alive!

Let's make a difference....

Kikatiti students have little food at home and no money for tuition. A boarded student has two meals a day and a safe place to stay. This is very important for girls. **A boarded student needs \$418/year for tuition.** A Kikatiti day student can walk safely each day to and from school. They might have parents who can help with tuition. **A day student needs \$330/year for tuition.**

Tanzania has been hit with a serious drought. The price of corn has more than doubled. The school is having difficulty feeding the children. A 100 kilogram bag of corn flour costs \$43.

Thank you for your support of this ministry.

If you wish to sponsor/donate, please submit checks and forms in the envelope provided on the display board titled "Kikatiti" and place them in the offering plate or submit to OSLC office. Please make checks payable to Our Savior's Lutheran Church – with Kikatiti in the memo line.

There will be a farewell celebration for Pastor Deb Bergstrand on Sunday, January 14. Please stay tuned for more details!



Endowment Fund Grants Available

The OSLC Endowment committee is now accepting applications for ministry or capital improvement projects that further the mission of the congregation. Approximately \$22,000 is available for distribution by the committee.

The criteria for a grant award is a project in one of the following areas:

1. Outreach into the community and synod including but not limited to: ELCA seminaries, colleges, students attending those colleges; or social service agencies and programs designed for persons in spiritual or economic need
2. Missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in this continent and worldwide.
3. Capital improvements, debt reduction or a building program of Our Saviors Lutheran Church of New Ulm
4. Causes or programs to enhance the mission outreach of Our Savior's Lutheran Church at the discretion of the committee

Application forms are available in the social hall in the information rack. They are due to the church office by February 1. If you have any questions, please contact one of the committee members: Harold Remme, Linda Heine, Marlys Zetah, Charlie Bornhoft, Darlene Meier or Duane Lambrecht.

Feed My Starving Children Trip Saturday, January 20th, 2018

40 spots open, For Families, youth, and Adults of all ages 5 and older! Look on the youth and missions board, website, and bulletin for more information on how to sign up!



WEATHER RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS: If weather is in question, please listen to KNUJ, Z99, or WCCO radio for cancellations and postponements. The church council has determined that as a congregation we will follow weather and travel recommendations. For midweek classes and programs, we'll follow the lead of the public schools. If ISD 88 dismisses early, choirs and confirmation will not meet.

On November 15, our confirmation youth and parents traveled to Gustavus College for an awesome FAMILY CONFIRMATION event.

Ben Glenn, a chalk artist, gave a wonderful message for the Christmas season and drew a beautiful picture on a chalk canvas. It was a great evening of fun, and faith growth!

Young Adult Bible Study!!

Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 for young adults in their 20's and 30's.

This study will be led by our Youth Director Zach Hansen, and will focus on life topics and/or diving deeper into specific books of the bible!

We will attempt to start the study at Perkins but could move onsite if seating is an issue. Childcare can be offered for those who need. Just contact Zach ahead of time at zach@oursaviorsnewulm.org or 507-233-4437.

First meeting is January 21st!



Youth Dates Ahead!

January 3- Confirmation resumes AND High School Youth Group resumes

Check out the new youth board located near the restrooms in the social hall for more information on events, and sign ups!

Check out the church website and visit the youth page for events and to download the Winter 2018 youth calendar!

2018 Ski/Tubing Trip January 28th, 2018

More information to come! Check out the youth board for more details!





gained experience in program development, budget and finance projects, as well as personnel management. Travis is dedicated to the importance of Outdoor Ministries not only at Green Lake, but also throughout the church.

Travis will officially begin his new role on January 1, 2018, though the transition process has already begun. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Mary Toufar and Ann Rosendale – Co-chairs
Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors

Thank you for New Sound System

We have a new sound system that will help everyone hear better in worship! Thank you to everyone who worked hard or gave input on this project over the past year including the Building and Grounds Ministry Team, Scott Kathman, Shannon Stuckey, Zach Hansen, and Pastor Dave. Thank you to all of you who donated generously to the funding of the project at the request of the Building and Grounds Ministry team and via memorials.

If you have a hearing aid, we now have special receivers for you to use to enhance your hearing. Please talk to Pastor Deb, Pastor Dave or Zach Hansen if you would like to use one.

May God's word be loud and clear for all of us!

Pastor Deb

October 2017 Offerings vs Budget Needs

	Total October Offerings	Monthly Budget Needs	Prior Year October Offerings
General	36,525.46	41,610.92	37,707.45
Building	10,323.88	6,247.25	5,598.77
	Total Y-T-D Offerings	Y-T-D Budget Needs	Prior Year YTD Offerings
General	371,840.17	416,109.20	364,414.56
Building	67,883.58	62,472.50	72,033.62

2017 Year-End Contributions

As our year is quickly coming to a close, please remember that in order for your offerings to be credited in 2017 for tax purposes we must receive them in the church office by December 31, 2017. If you are mailing your offerings, it is important that they be postmarked by December 31, 2017. Thank you for your gifts to Our Savior's.

The following is news from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries:

Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry,
The Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors is happy to announce that **Travis Aufderheide** has been unanimously endorsed as the next Executive Director of the organization.

Travis brings great passion and vision for what Green Lake Lutheran Ministries can be. The last two years he has served as the Site Director for the Green Lake site. In that role he has shown leadership skills in key executive roles. He has

Newsletter Deadline: The next issue of *Sidelites* will be in mailboxes **Jan. 21**. Please have items for the newsletter to JoEllen by **Jan. 11**. Thank you.

Thank You Notes

To the Congregation,

I want to thank you for supporting me throughout these last two years as I took on the challenge of being the head coach for the New Ulm Eagles Volleyball Program. I truly felt it was a wonderful way for me to grow professionally, and more importantly, live out my call as a Christian coach in this community.

I do want to acknowledge that while there were many positives, I also realize that there were challenges with carrying both the youth director and head coach roles. I also have a 1 year old at home and so while I could do both jobs well, I needed to make sure I had time at home, thus I have made the decision to end my time as a coach.

I am excited to support our youth by attending their events as a spectator with my family. Again, thank you all for your support, it is a blessing to work for a wonderful congregation.

Zach

Dear OSLC Family,

I want to thank you for the prayers, the beautiful prayer shawl, cards and the visit from Pastor Deb following my surgery. My knees will be like new soon!

Sincerely,
Charlie Bornhoft

Baptismal Towels

A baptismal towel is given to each child baptized at Our Savior's. Many hands have been involved in creating these baptismal keepsakes throughout the years. Thank you to those who have provided material, done the cutting, stitching and pressing of these towels.



Our Savior's worship services are broadcast on Comcast Channel 14; NU Telecom Channel 3 Monday – 7 PM; Thurs.—11 AM & 5 PM

Thank you to our volunteers who make these broadcasts possible.



Annual Report Time!

Church leadership and ministry team reports to be included in the 2017 Annual Report are due in the church office no later than Monday, January 8. Reports may be dropped off in the church office, or emailed to

JoEllen@oursaviorsnewulm.org.

Thank you!



Christ in Our Home

Christ in Our Home is a quarterly devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day. Copies are also available in a large print format.

The Lutheran

The Lutheran offers a balanced, fair presentation of the issues. In addition to the news you'll read nowhere else, the magazine provides inspirational articles that help you on your faith journey.



Copies of both *Christ in Our Home* and *The Lutheran* are available in the social hall. Please help yourself to a copy!

Children's Christmas Program "An Unexpected Christmas"



Presented Sunday,
December 10



2017 Children's Christmas Program – Sunday, December 10

The Children's Ministry team would like to thank everyone that has taken the time to help out with this year's Christmas program. Without your help this would not be possible.

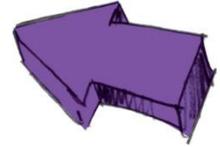
A special thank you to Brenda Nielsen for helping with the play, Carolyn Drexler for helping with the costumes, Angie and Annika Anderson for helping with the music and a huge thank you to Annette Haynes and Shannon Stuckey for all the help to make this program possible!

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

OSLC Bulletin Board



Hey! What's Going On?



DECEMBER 2017

Adult Ministry Team

1. Working on organizing cultural exploration evenings. Learning about a different culture from someone from that culture.
2. Lent Study – Learning about Romans or a different book of the Bible.
3. Thank you for attending the Advent Study!

Children's Ministry Team

1. Finished the Christmas program up!
2. Working on the 2018 rotation lessons for the kids.
3. Children's Ministry is collaborating with the Mission Ministry Team to give some people in Kikatiti a smile by having the kids color some pictures and send letters!

Deacon Ministry Team

1. Looking into live streaming services, but there are complications with copyright
2. Hoping to add members to the Deacon Ministry Team in the new year
3. Please sign up to assist in worship. If you have questions on how to do anything, ask a deacon, usher, or pastor and they can help you.

Facilities & Grounds Ministry Team

1. Sound system installation completed – find tuning settings.

Fellowship Ministry Team

1. Working on Pastor Deb's farewell party Jan. 14
2. Stars were not put up for Advent/Christmas because of the sound system improvements.

Missions Ministry Team

1. Washington School
2. Kikatiti
3. Future projects

Youth Ministry Team

1. Caroling for Sr High Dec 16 and Jr High Xmas Party Dec 13
2. Finalizing Summer 2018 Trip Details
3. Ski Trip Information out soon

Church Council

1. The new sound system will be installed in time to be used for the Christmas season.
2. The council is reaching out to a potential interim pastor for an interview soon.
3. Work continues on a creating an upcoming congregational survey.

Finance Committee

1. Working on budget for 2018
2. YTD financial report in bulletin

Personnel Committee

4. Staff reviews completed
5. Reviewing personnel files
6. Discussing time study

Church Staff

1. Working on staff covenant
2. Planning for transitions



OUR SAVIOR'S

Lutheran Church

NEW ULM, MN

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
New Ulm, MN
Permit #6

1400 South State Street

New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507-233-4430

Website: www.oursaviorsnewulm.org

Worship Services

Saturday worship – 5:30 PM

Sunday worship – 8:15 & 10:30 AM

Education Hour – 9:25 AM

Regular Broadcasts

(Comcast Channel 14; NU Telecom Channel 3)

Mon.–7 PM; Thurs.–11:00 AM & 5 PM

SIDELITES

OUR **SAVIOR'S** is a Welcoming
community, experiencing **God**,
reaching out and raising up followers of
Jesus Christ