



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

SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

January 25, 2015

Happy New Year!!

As we enter 2015, it is cold and dark outside. Many of you will travel to warm weather, but most of us here at OSLC will be bundling up until spring. We have many good things planned to keep us warm at Our Savior's this year. We continue studying "The Story" and following the events of the Bible. Are you amazed how long the Old Testament is? After some dark and dreary battles, we'll finally begin the stories of Jesus. Just about when the warmer weather brightens up our days, we'll be focusing on Jesus' ministry in worship, Sunday school and adult education.

Looking Back

I am very pleased with all the work our incredible staff and volunteer leaders have done in 2014.

Thank you to everyone for sharing your time and talent to glorify God. Last month I reviewed highlights of 2014, and December was no exception. In December we:

- Celebrated Christ's birth in four Christmas services attended by over 900 people
- Sent 42 folks between ages of 10 and 85 to pack 27,000 meals at Feed My Starving Children
- Experienced many "holy" musical moments in the Children's Christmas program and Christmas cantata
- Met our financial giving goal for 2014 with nearly \$70,000 in offerings to the operating fund. Thank you for your generous gifts!

Looking Ahead

In 2015 we will do more planning for our future. As your Senior Pastor, I believe we have two major goals for the future:

- **Grow Deeper and Wider in Faith:** As followers of Jesus Christ in the changing culture we are called to continue to listen to the spiritual needs of our community and create strategies to grow in faith and mission for all ages. We can all grow deeper in our relationship with God, our serving, giving and sharing our faith with the world.
- **Work Smarter:** I believe it is time for Our Savior's to review the leadership processes that govern and manage planning for our future. I expect this will involve creating a long term strategic plan, updating our constitution and reorganizing our board structure. A small team has begun work on this at the direction of the council. More will be shared as plans unfold.

Please join us at the Annual Meeting on February 1 immediately after worship in the Social Hall. At this meeting we will review the budget and look ahead to our future as followers of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Deb

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God!"

***Annual Meeting of the Congregation
of Our Savior's Lutheran Church***

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1st - 11:30 AM

Ministry Focus

*Children's Choirs of
Our Savior's will be presenting
a musical...*

Me Oh My Oh Nehemiah!

On the weekend of February 22nd and 23rd, the children's choirs of Our Savior's will be sharing the story of Nehemiah with the congregation during our Saturday and Sunday worship services.

Nehemiah was a man that cared deeply for his people and knew in his heart that he had to do something about the pain and suffering that was happening to the Jewish people in Jerusalem. This is the story of how Nehemiah overcame many obstacles to restore the walls of Jerusalem and brought his people back to God.

The choirs are having a lot of fun learning the songs and dances, but we've also learned that the real problem was not the destroyed walls around the city. God's people had been unfaithful and had neglected their relationship with God. The Wall was a visual reminder of that and Nehemiah gave the people hope and brought them back to their faith.

Please come and see our children teach us all some important lessons.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!!! BOARD MEMBERS AND LEADERS!!!

Thank you to all the board members who served in 2014. Your willingness to serve and participate in ministry through your leadership has made a difference in our congregation!

The following people are finishing their term in 2015. Please thank them.

Tom Kaehler
Bob Gruenhagen
Brenda Nielsen
Lloyd Julien
Melissa Wick
Jen Lambrecht
John Bauer
Lynda Bauer
Ted Sauers
Betty Sauers
Sharon Nordby
Bert Marth
Larry Hildebrandt
Dave Swenson
Shawn Wilfarht
Greg Leuthold
Colin Leuthold
Kristen Horsmon
Taylor Booth
Mary Dagner



From:
Pastor Deb, Pastor John,
and the entire OSLC Staff

Our Savior's, along with many other congregations, received notification from Augsburg Fortress that they are in the process of reshipping ***Christ in Our Home Devotionals***. Our Savior's shipment should be received by the end of January. Augsburg has posted the January content for *Christ in Our Home* devotionals on their website, which can be accessed and printed for free. Please follow the link *Christ in Our Home*: <http://bit.ly/1BOJAeL>





All are welcome! Congregation Members, Council Officers, Christian Educators, Worship & Youth Leaders, Pastors... Everyone!

2015 Equipping Congregations Day
Saturday, February 28, 2015
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Vinje Lutheran Church and
Bethel Lutheran Church
Willmar, MN

This year the event will again be held in Willmar, but we will be using the buildings of both Vinje and Bethel Lutheran Churches to accommodate up to 1000 registrants. Both locations will have the same program elements, the schedules will just be in a different order. The keynote speaker and workshop leaders will move between the two church buildings. Your event location will be assigned after you complete the online registration.

Presenter, Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado and author of the bestselling Theological memoir, *Pastrix: The Cranky Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint*.

Join us to hear Pastor Nadia as she takes a look at creatively engaging the liturgical year and the broader community while staying deeply rooted in tradition.

Contact Pastor Deb or Pastor John for more information.

WORKSHOPS

Attend your choice of 3 of the following workshops:

- Becoming an Effective Treasurer
- Conflict Management
- Mental Health
- The Rise of the "None's" and "Spiritual But Not Religious"
- Abundant Aging
- Tradition & Innovation: Moving Worship
- Forward With Integrity In a Time of Change
- Exploring Alternative Liturgies
- Ministry that Comes with Age
- Living in Stories
- Story of Adolescence
- Story of Faith Community
- Going Green
- Innovating Confirmation - Working Together For Justice And Peace
- Stewardship's Flip-Side: Recognizing and Removing Obstacles to Generosity
- Dealing with Change Dynamics in Congregations
- Mission Trips: Not Just For Teens - And No Need to Travel!
- Inter-generational Gardening: Building Faith and Helping Those in Need
- Revising a Congregation's Constitution
- Insurance Uncovered
- Faith Practices for Everyday Life
- 4 Steps to Preventing and Responding to Abuse in your Congregation
- Facing the Question: Transformation or Closing Gracefully?
- Fired Up or Burned Out: Pathways to Healing, Wholeness & the Call to Ministry
- "Don't You Remember, I Just Told You That!" How to Have Meaningful Interactions with People who Have Dementia.
- PIE: A Recipe for Generosity
- ELCA National Youth Gathering

Stewardship Update
 "They gave themselves first to the Lord."
 Corinthians 8:5



Thank you for the great response to our Stewardship campaign for 2015. Your planning makes our planning for ministry at Our Savior's much easier. We're happy to report an increase in pledges for 2015.

	2013	2014	
Total dollars pledged to operating	\$262,688	\$311,676	+19%
Number of Pledges	142	163	+15%

We continue to need your estimates of giving. In 2014, only 55% of total giving to operating was pledged. The better we understand our financial resources, the more effectively we can plan for our ministries.

The best tool for giving is to sign up for automated giving! Check the website and sign up today!

Your Stewardship board



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.

Memories of Motown

(And other musical performances)

Sunday, February 15, 2015

12:30pm-2:30pm

Cost: \$15.00 per adult; \$8.00 per child

Spaghetti meal, beverages, and musical entertainment based on artists from Motown era.

This is a fundraiser for our 2015 trip to the National Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI.

Tickets are on sale from youth, or in the social hall on Sundays!



Basket Auction Donations

It is that time of year again! Coming up in the spring the youth will be conducting their 2015 Basket Auction to raise money for our Summer Trip to Detroit! If you would like to donate a basket, please bring it by Zach's office! Thanks!

Sr. High Youth Gathering

March 6-7, 2015. Watch for a letter in the mail with details soon!

Acquire the Fire

We return to the amazing event this year on March 13-14, 2015! This year's event is at Grace Church in Eden Prairie, MN. Watch for a letter in the mail with details soon!

Vogel Family Fun Day!!

Sunday, February 22, 2015. Details Soon!

Upcoming Opportunities to Connect

For Everyone:

Potluck on Saturday, January 31

Don't forget to sign up and bring a dish to share at the **Wild Game Potluck on Saturday, January 31 after worship (6:30pm-ish). Any and all foods welcome!** In addition



to sharing a meal, we'll have **door prizes** and a short program featuring representatives from **Isaac Walton Gun Safety, the New Ulm Sport Fishermen & mounts by local taxidermists Doug Radloff and Pat Mehlhop.**

Dinner Groups

You will also have a chance to sign up for **Our Savior's Dinner Groups** at the Potluck. Dinner groups give us a chance to get to know each other, to strengthen and extend the people-connections that make Our Savior's such a welcoming and uplifting place to worship and serve God and neighbor. **Dinner groups are simple: Sign up; Get your group assignment; Eat together 4 times in 2015.** You and your group get to pick the times, places, menus - everything, just the way you want it. Bring the kids or find a babysitter - it's all up to you and your group.

Vogel Family Fun

Day on Sunday, February 22

Bring the whole family to Vogel Field House on Sunday, February 22, to swim, play board games, eat and use the gym. Fun for all ages!



OSLC at the MN Wild (hockey)

OSLC has reserved tickets to the **MN Wild hockey game in St. Paul, MN, on Friday, March 27th.**

Tickets cost \$40 each.

Reservation/Permission forms can be found on the big bulletin board in the Social Hall or on the Youth Bulletin Board. We will carpool to this event, leaving at 3:30pm. If you can drive for a carpool, please contact Pr John or Zach Hansen as soon as possible.



For Women:

Our Savior's **Separated, Divorced and Remarried Ladies' Group** will meet for **dinner at Lola's Larkspur** (downtown New Ulm) on **Thursday, February 19 at 6:30pm.** This dinner meeting is open to newcomers, *including women who are not members of OSLC*, who want to grow in faith and spiritual maturity through prayer, mutual support and honest, caring discussion with other women who have experienced or are in the midst of separation, divorce and/or remarriage. *(Pastor's note: although discussion in this group often touches on painful subjects, its leaders have a gift for finding joy and hope [and sometimes humor] in tough situations.)*

For Men:

On **February 6 and 7th**, (6:30-9:30pm on Friday, 2/6, and 7:30am-4pm on Saturday, 2/7) Our Saviors is hosting a **men's discipleship and leadership workshop** presented by **Man in the Mirror** (a non-denominational men's ministry partnered with the **Lutheran Men in Mission.**) If you are interested in attending this training as a member of Our Savior's, or helping us host men from all over Minnesota, please contact Pr John or Tom Kaehler.

Sunday School Calendar of Upcoming Events!

Sunday school classes continue throughout the rest of the school year! Please come every Sunday from 9:25-10:25am each week and join in the fun! Also feel free to bring a friend!

Upcoming Milestones:

3 yr old preschool class: Feb. 8th at 8:15am worship

7th graders: Feb 25th at 5:15pm in Upper Room

10th graders: Mar 1st at 9:25am in Upper Room/10:30 worship

5th graders: *Mar 11, 18 and 25 at 5:30pm mandatory classes in Upper Room

April 2nd Seder Supper at 5:00pm in Social Hall

April 2nd First Communion Worship at 7:00pm in Sanctuary

***NOTE: If you are 6th grade or above and have not had communion classes, you are welcome to join this class. Please contact Becky Eikanger by March 6th if you want to register.**

4th graders: Apr 12th at 8:15am worship

12th graders: May 17th at 8:15am worship

Ash Wednesday worship will be on

February 18th at 7:00pm. Please bring your children to this very important service! It begins the season of Lent which leads us to Easter!

Lenten suppers and evening worship will

begin on February 25th. Eat a meal here with your family and come to the short worship service.

Vacation Bible School/Day Camp

registrations for EVEREST! will be out soon!

Mark your calendars for June 22nd-26th, 2015!

Children who attended 3yr old preschool classes – 6th grade are welcome to attend!

Youth in grades 7-12 are needed for crew and day camp leaders!

Come and learn to conquer challenges with God's mighty power at Mt Everest!

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you for the gift of the prayer shawl given to me during my recent knee surgery. It covered me in the warmth of healing prayers. The knee is still a work in progress but continues to improve with each session of exercises.

June Newburg

Thank you to everyone at Our Savior's for their prayers and cards of support, while Les was waiting to have surgery at Abbott. Thank you to Pastor John for his visit and blessing which strengthened our faith that God was with us. Thank you for the prayer shawl and to the ladies that made them. God Bless you!

From Les and Mary Roach

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits and well wishes during my recent surgery and recovery. Your kindness is so much appreciated.

God's Blessings,

Joy Anderson

Eleanor Miller family would like to thank Pastor Deb and Pastor John for their visits, prayers and sympathies during the last 6 months of Mom's life. Thank you to Our Savior's ladies for their time and food at the funeral. Thank you to the pastors and parishioners for keeping Dyan in your thoughts and prayers also.

Thank you Pastor Deb for the final prayer service on Saturday and for your awesome sermon. Miller family

Thank you so much for the lamb and the prayer shawl. Also for all the prayers. Trust God. He is with me always.

Addison Haynes

Thank you to all the volunteers and helping hands who put away the Christmas decorations! Your help and willingness to serve made for a beautiful setting for our worship and fellowship times together. Please thank the fellowship board!

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to Barb Wurtzberger for the lovely table decorations in the social hall each season. The colors and creativity help our space feel welcoming and inviting each week.

Special thanks to Shannon Stuckey, Gary Maki, and Becky Eikanger for the wonderful Christmas music at the Children's program and Cantata. Thanks to all the musicians, soloists, readers and singers as well!

Thank you to Avery Wills for making Our Savior's faith chests, and to Linda and Tom Postel for putting the lining in the faith chests.

Thank you to Lloyd Julien for polishing the eternal candle and some of our other brass pieces.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining our mission and collecting shoes for those in need! We know that this required a lot of effort and commitment on your part and want to assure you that your work will help improve the lives of many hurting people around the world. It is only because of compassionate people like yourself that we are able to expand our mission and realize our goals, which has always been to simply help those in need. We are truly blessed to have friends like you. We want to assure you that your donation will enable individuals in the United States and around the world to step out of poverty. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and your personal involvement with our cause is tremendously important. You should be proud of your humanitarian efforts. We invite you to keep our mission in mind, should the opportunity arise to continue to donate to our cause. Thanks again for helping us with our mission of ***"Wearing out Poverty"***TM! **Buddy Teaster, CEO**

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

Newsletter Deadline: The next issue of *Sidelites* will be in mailboxes February 15. Please have items for the newsletter to JoEllen by 3 p.m. February 5. Thank you.

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS: HELP US RECEIVE THRIVENT DOLLARS

In 2013, Our Savior's received \$11,000 in Thrivent dollars because you designated Our Savior's as the recipient of their benevolence dollars. In 2014, we only received \$3500. Please let Thrivent know you wish your dollars to go to Our Savior's. They have changed their paperwork for this process, so please contact Carl Enck or the church office for assistance if needed. Thank you!

Life Living Series 2015

On Monday, February 9, author Laura Sobiech will share the story of a mother's love, a son's battle with cancer, and the hit song that touched the lives of millions. Sobiech is the mother of Zach Sobiech, singer/songwriter of "Clouds." Her book, "Fly a Little Higher: How God Answered a Mom's Small Prayer in a Big Way," will be available for sale.

Heart to Home Furnishings is currently short on a few items.

We currently are in need of:

- full size or twin size beds (box spring and mattress sets) in good condition; Bed frames to fit are helpful as well.
- lamps (floor lamps or table lamps);
- night stands and end tables;

We have one family requesting a refrigerator, which Heart to Home does not generally accept, but we could be a go-between if someone has one in good working order.

Your assistance is appreciated and we thank you for your on-going support.

Dick Embacher 507-359-9675 and
Steve Gehrke ,507-217-6951

Redwood Area Hospital Adult Grief Support Group Beginning February 2, 2015

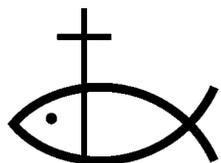
How can a support group help with my grief? The adult grief support group can offer support, friendship, information and an opportunity to talk or listen with others who are grieving.

The group explores topics such as sharing your story, identifying and expressing feelings, exploring unfinished business and more. Talking through these topics often helps participants begin to work through their grief.

Schedule: The group will meet on Mondays, February 2-March 9, 2015 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the hospital's west conference room. There is no cost to participate. It is important that participants attend all six sessions if possible.

For more information on the support group or to register, please call Lacey Bruns at Redwood Area Hospital at 507-637-4617

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Luther Memorial Home Annual Meeting – February 24, 2015: Our Savior's is allowed to send two delegates on behalf of our congregation to this annual meeting. **If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor John for further information.**

ELCA World Hunger

More than 800 million people — that's 1 in 8 people in our world today — are hungry.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our [congregations](#), in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. [Learn More.](#)

(Special "World Hunger" envelopes are included in your quarterly offering envelope mailing and/or you may designate funds to "World Hunger" through your automatic/online giving.)

Hunger facts

- 868 million people – that's 1 in 8 – are chronically hungry and cannot lead active daily lives.
- 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 per day.
- In the United States, more than 50 million people do not know where their next meal will come from.
- 46.2 million Americans are living in poverty.

See more at: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger#sthash.MFyKLXxy.dpuf>

Give each other the best Valentine's gift possible! Register for the February 14-15 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org for a listing of additional retreats or call 651.454.3238.