

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1400 South State Street

New Ulm, MN 56073

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Website: www.oursaviorsnewulm.org

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Worship Services

Saturday worship – 5:30 PM

Sunday worship – 8:30 & 11 AM

Sunday – 9:45 AM Sunday School

Regular Broadcasts

(Comcast Channel 14; NU Telecom Channel 3)

Mon.–7 PM; Thurs.–11:00 AM & 5 PM

Day 1: Sun. – 9:30 a.m. (KNUJ)

SIDELITES

Our Savior's Mission Statement –

Our Savior's Lutheran Church:

- *A Welcoming Community, Experiencing God, Reaching Out and Raising Up Followers of Jesus Christ.*

SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

December 18, 2011

*Psalm 33:22: "Let your steadfast love,
O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you."*

What one word would you use to summarize Christmas? Perhaps joy, love, family, Jesus, or gifts come to your mind. The word I would use is "hope."

Someone sent me this quote:

"Hope means that even when it looks like it's all over, it's not all over yet. That's why the Bible says we can rejoice even in our tribulations. God is working in our hard times to produce proven character and hope in us."
Dr. Tony Evens, Totally Saved.

Christmas is a wonderful, confusing, joyous, uncertain, faith filled, empty and hopeful time. For many people Christmas is a time for gifts, parties, decorations, and time off from work. For many, Christmas is the brief moment in their life when they pause and think about the birth of Christ. For many people, Christmas this year will be different. They have lost a loved one, there is loss of job, loss of relationships, loss of income, and fear of the future.

Hope is "confident expectation." Hope is a firm confidence that even when things are unclear and unknown we have the promise that God is with us. Christian hope is when God has promised that something is going to happen and you put your trust in that promise. Christian hope is a confidence that something will come to pass because God is faithful. I may not be but God is.

We live with hope because on a dark night a child was born; hope was born in the person of Christ. Christ's birth is the bold proclamation that God is with us and will never leave us. Our God continues to come into our lives and we experience His presence over and over as we live with hope and open our lives to Christ.

A hope-filled Christmas to each of you.

Pastor Joyce

***We invite you to join us
as we celebrate God's gift to the world,
Jesus Christ!***

Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, December 24 – 3:00, 5:30 & 10:00 PM

Christmas Day Worship
Sunday, December 25 – 10:00 AM

Ministry Focus

Stewardship Corner

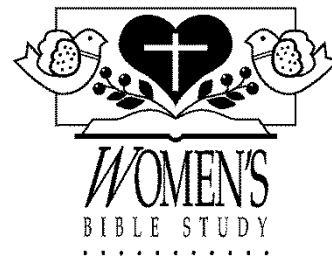
"Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices," is the first line to the familiar hymn "Now Thank We All Our God". The Board of Stewardship thanks you for how you have supported Our Savior's in 2011. We have witnessed people sharing with their hearts by comforting one another in times of loss, by teaching children, and by encouraging one another. We have witnessed you sharing with your hands this past year as you served at funerals, assisted with maintenance items around the church, helped fold newsletters and stuff mailboxes, by playing piano, organ and bells, by serving as ushers, greeters, and by filling shoe boxes for children, and serving coffee. We give thanks for the voices that were raised in praise to God as people have read lessons, sung in the choir, assisted with worship, taught children, cared for others by visiting them, and welcoming visitors.

We also thank God for the financial gifts you so generously shared with Our Savior's. Stewardship is living our whole life in response to God who has first given us the gift of life, hope and peace. As we look ahead to 2012 the Board of Stewardship challenges each of you to continue to look for ways to share your hearts, hands, and voices with others. The theme for stewardship in 2012 is "Sharing God's Gifts." The question each of us must wrestle with is what does that look like and how will I do that?" We believe that when we put Christ first and share of our hands, hearts, and voices, and resources, we will have enough. Stewardship is first and foremost about our own relationship with Christ.

Thank you for the many gifts you share at Our Savior's.

OSLC Board of Stewardship

Morning Doves and Lunch with the Lord



"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in work or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:16-17

Those are two of my favorite verses. The image of the word dwelling in us as together we grow in faith. That happens as we engage in Bible Study and conversation.

I invite women of the congregation to consider coming together and dwelling together in the word as we study women of the Bible. We will meet **Thursday, January 5th and Thursday, January 26th**. Morning Doves will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn and Lunch with the Lord will meet at 11:30 a.m. at D.J.'s. Please join us. We will be discussing themes for the coming year and what to study. Join us as we study "Eve: Following God after Failure."

Looking forward to dwelling in
the word with you – Pastor Joyce



Capital Campaign Committee Forming:

There will be a Capital Campaign Meeting at 9:45 on January 22, 2012. We are looking for ideas and any help that anyone would care to offer. A chairperson for the Capital Campaign Committee will be picked at the January 22, 2012 meeting. Up until that date, please send your ideas regarding this to Pat Lang - patdlang@gmail.com

Sunday, January 1

One worship service -10:00 AM

No Sunday School

Confirmation Students!

Don't forget that classes begin again on January 4. We will not meet on January 18, due to finals. Other than that, we will meet each Wednesday through February 15.



Board of Missions Update:

We hope you are enjoying the coffee, tea, chocolate, and gift items from the Fair Trade sales! Thank you for your support of this project.

Reminder: Items still available to purchase!

The Mission Board



All Board & Committee Chairpersons:

Board and Committee reports to be included in the 2011 Annual report are due in the church office **no later than Sunday, January 15**. Reports may be dropped off in the church office, or emailed to JoEllen@oursaviorsnewulm.org.

Volunteers needed to learn and operate the audio-video system on Sundays

Want to learn a new skill and be creative? Want to help broadcast our services for those who cannot attend a Sunday service? Please consider becoming an audio-visual person at Our Savior's.

There are a number of volunteers are needed. One-on-one training and written instruction are provided. Please contact Ken Varland (354-2123) or Pastor Joyce if we want to participate in this enjoyable experience.



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.

PASTOR'S PONDERING: Epiphany

Epiphany, January 6th, is when we remember the magi's visit to Jesus. Epiphany is also the season of the church year that follows Christmas and takes us up to Ash Wednesday. Epiphany comes from the Greek word which means, "to appear," or "revealing." So what is appearing or being revealed to us? God is being made known in Jesus Christ. We celebrate the baptism of Jesus during the season of Epiphany because Jesus is revealed as God's son. The season of Epiphany reminds us if you want to know God – look to Jesus, for in the words and actions of Jesus, God is made known.

Family prayer for Epiphany:

God of light, as the magi followed a star which led them to Christ; we pray your blessing on our home and family with the light of your loving presence. May your love surround us, may your wisdom guide us, and may your peace be within us. Amen.

May the light of Christ shine upon you.

Pastor Joyce

A Note From The Library Board.....

The Library Board would like to invite you into the library to check out some of our new books. With winter here, it's always a good time to read. Curl up with a good book instead of watching TV. The Library Board is also looking for new members that would be willing to help out on rotating Sundays. Leave your name with JoEllen in the church office, or with any Library Board member.



We are looking for people interested in helping with the Our Savior's booth at the New Ulm Home Show March 23-25, 2012.

If you are interested in helping with this please contact the church office.

BOARD OF MISSIONS

Just a reminder that in your offering envelopes are special envelopes designated for World Hunger. Here is some information you may find helpful as you consider supporting this vital ministry.

ELCA World Hunger responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world by addressing root causes. Through a comprehensive program of relief, development, education, and advocacy People are connected to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Between 70-75 percent of ELCA World Hunger funds are spent internationally, and 20-25 percent are spent domestically. Your gifts support hundreds of food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and community programs tackling hunger and its causes. Many of these ministries are organized by Lutheran organizations and congregations.

Together, in Christ's name, we experience the transforming power of connection. As individuals, congregations, and synods, our humble offerings and actions are gathered, blessed, and multiplied. Together, we are ELCA World Hunger. The international work of ELCA World Hunger is carried out through ELCA companion relationships as well as through trusted partners like Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Because of these long-held connections to partners around the world, ELCA World Hunger efforts are efficient and effective.

ELCA World Hunger responds to Christ's call to "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37), serving with compassion people who are most vulnerable, paying focused attention to the full participation of women and the needs of children. ELCA World Hunger provides individuals and communities with immediate access to food, shelter, clothing, medical supplies and care. Whether providing meals to people who are homeless in New York City or providing survival kits to refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, this work ensures that the most basic of human needs are met.

Prayer: Creator God, grant that we might shed your light on the needs of those who suffer from hunger, poverty and disease. Bless the efforts of all who work to bring healing and opportunity to those in need. Amen.

Women of Our Savior's

Advent is upon us, the time to prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas. Let us not have the commercial part of Christmas overshadow the true meaning. "Oh Come Emanuel".

December 3rd we spent the morning at the Country Club. The Redeemer circle hosted the annual Christmas breakfast. We had a very good turnout. We shared last year's Prayer Partners and drew new ones for next year. It is good to know that you have someone praying for you.

For the program, ladies shared some of their memories of how quilts or other objects tied our past with today. Nancy Seim and Kay Simpson shared some of the beautiful work they do. What a great gift they have. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this a great event.

This will be my last newsletter as president of the WELCA Board. I want to thank the ladies on the Board and all the women of Our Savior's for being there to help me and having patience with me. It has been a joy. Thank you all.

Yours in the Lord
Linda Postel

Looking ahead...

Sunday, January 8 –

- **8:30 Worship – 3rd Grade Milestone**

Sunday, January 15 –

- **9:45 AM – Preliminary Budget Meeting**
- **11:00 Worship – 7th Grade Milestone**
- **Annual Reports Due in church office**

Sunday, January 22 –

- **9:45 AM – Capital Campaign Meeting**

A Note from

Pastor Kathy Ulland-Klinkner:

Words cannot express my deep gratitude for all you did to provide for a beautiful farewell and ordination. First of all, the farewell. I was touched by the many notes you wrote. I hope you know you have also made a difference in my life. You have impacted my ministry past, present, and future. Thank you for the beautiful gifts. They are each so special. On my first Sunday at Augustana/East Sveadahl Ministries I wore the beautiful stole the children and youth of Our Savior's gave me. It was a privilege to wear it for my first baptism here. Although we shed many tears that day, I could feel your encouragement and support for the next chapter of my ministry. I loved being in ministry at Our Savior's and will cherish you always.

As for my ordination, what a festive day for Our Savior's and for me! It was great to have so many of you participate and to have many of our former pastors there as well. And to have two former youth there as current pastors is a testament to how you have raised up strong leaders for the ELCA. Thanks for the beautiful stole and for providing and serving a delicious meal in a beautiful setting! I had many family members and friends from out of town here, and they enjoyed the time of fellowship following the service. It was the culmination of a long journey for me and it meant so much to have you there as participants and witnesses to the promises I made.

I also thank you on behalf of Gregg, Tyler and Adam. Our Savior's is the only church home Tyler and Adam have known. And it is the first church Gregg and I joined after our marriage. It is a special place for all of us, holding very special memories for us as a family. They too, appreciate the gifts and all you did to make these days a celebration. Thank you for the cards, gifts, and prayers at the time of my ordination. Thank you for all of the support and encouragement during my time at Our Savior's. God gave us each other for twenty-three years of ministry together. I'm so glad we had this partnership! Now, I have been at AES Ministries for two weeks and am grateful for this new challenge

of serving God in a new place, in a new calling. It is exciting to now being doing what I spent so many years working towards! Of course, I also miss all the wonderful people of Our Saviors! But as I said in my final sermon at Our Savior's, we are still partners in ministry in the mission to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are just partners in different ways now.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:3-5

Your Friend in Christ,
Pastor Kathy Ulland-Klinkner

Thank You Notes

Dear All,

I would like to thank you very much for the wonderful donation of \$3,000.00 for our Crisis Nursery Program! We serve many children and families each during their time of crisis/stress. We have received much positive feedback from families that we have been able to help through their difficult time. Thank you so much for your support!

Sincerely,

Candy Picka

Crisis Nursery Coordinator, Lutheran Social Service

Thanks for the beautiful prayer shawls and for all the prayers for my recent surgery. Thank you to Pastor Joyce for her visit and special prayers. My surgery was successful and again thank you for all the prayers and the comfort of the prayer shawls. Ken and Jan Johnson

Thank you for your donation to the New Ulm Area Emergency Food Shelf. We will use it to help fill the need of our clients. Your donation of \$1,300.00 is very much appreciated. The need of assistance is very high to many families. We also thank you for your help of donations throughout the year and the ones who volunteer their help!
New Ulm Area Food Shelf

Thanks for the donation that you gave to the New Ulm Area Emergency Food Shelf. It was very thoughtful of you to think of the people in need of assistance at this Christmas season. Thanks again!

The family of Dallas Krengel would like to express a sincere thank you for the cards and memorials received at the time of our loss. Thank you to the ladies who served lunch at church and to Shannon and Joleen for the beautiful music. A special thanks to Pastor Joyce for the hospital visits and the Celebration of Life Service. We will always remember your kindness.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me while I have had health issues these past months. I am so grateful for all your prayers, cards and help. Everyone has been so kind. I am fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful church family!
Jan Iverson

Thank you to all who helped in any way with Kathy's farewell and ordination. Some of you baked, helped with set-up and take-down, and helped serve the meals. It was fun to work together for these special occasions in the life of our church.
Brenda Ruch –
Board of Fellowship

Thank you!
Perhaps you called or sent an e-mail, or sent greetings with Doug, stopped to visit or pray or read the Scripture with me, helped me decorate for Christmas, brought a meal or "treat", taped the church services, made a greeting card and sent it each month, sent or delivered a beautiful plant, or most importantly, **prayed** for me.
For all these things, and many more, I thank you and ask that God bless you for your loving spirit. Thanks to Pastor Joyce for visiting and giving me communion. I feel really blessed to be part of a caring, community of believers. May you experience all of the peace, joy, hope and love of Christmas all year long.
Winnie Ladd

EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS DAY

February 11, 2012 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Calvary Lutheran Church, Willmar, MN

Congregation members, council officers, christian educators, worship & youth leaders, pastors, everyone!

Keynote Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Jessica Duckworth,

Professor at Luther Seminary: "A Catechetical Shape and Practices for a Missional church"

Rev. Jon V. Anderson,

Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

A wide variety of workshops with interests that fit you!

An Experiment in Community Pastoral Care in Congregations

The Ministry of Community Meals

What's Up in Finances in 2012

How Shall We Worship Children and Music

Paz Y Esperanza: Your Local Mission

Who Is My Neighbor? Getting to Know Your Muslim Neighbor

Care of Creation: Going Green

ELW Unplugged: Traditional Worship Music "Outside The Box"

Registration:

Registration Fee: Includes all materials, refreshments and lunch. Download Registration Form Online at www.SWMNELCA.org - Events

BEFORE JANUARY 24TH: \$15/person -or- **A GROUP BARGAIN! (no limit of participants)** \$50/congregation with average attendance of 100 or less. \$100/congregation with average attendance of 101 or more.

AFTER JANUARY 24TH

\$25/person and NO Group Bargain

Gather Congregation Leaders, Complete registration and mail with payment to:
SW MN Synod PO Box 499, Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Please make check payable to SW MN Synod.

***For more information – see poster in social hall.**