

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1400 South State Street

New Ulm, MN 56073

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

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

November 20, 2011

Greetings Advent people:

What thoughts or images come to mind when you hear the word, "advent"? Perhaps it is the reminder that Christmas is four weeks away. You hear the word Advent and you think of preparing for Christmas and all the activities that will fill the calendar; all the "things" you want to get done before Christmas.

Advent means, "Coming". So, the question for Advent is, "What or whom is coming?" What coming are we preparing for? Sometimes we think of Advent as preparing for Christmas, the first coming of Christ. But Advent is also about Jesus coming daily into our lives to grant us grace, peace, joy, and hope. Advent is also that reminder that Jesus will come; his second coming. Sometimes we lose sight of the daily coming of Christ because we get caught up in the activities and demands of the month.

The theme of Advent is, "*Walking in the light of the coming Savior.*" What is important about that theme is that we are on the move. Walking is an action. Walking not just to activities but walking in a spiritual sense drawing closer to God through prayer and worship. We are all on the move in Advent. Are we walking toward Christ and his presence or away from Christ? The light of Christ is remembering that Christ brings us hope in the midst of despair, grace in the midst of difficulties, and love which never dies.

Here are a few themes of Advent you will hear as we walk together, "keep awake, wait patiently, be at peace, prepare the way of the Lord, repent, come Lord Jesus." Keep your ears and eyes open for the coming of Christ this season of Advent. Advent is important to help us prepare to celebrate the presence of God made known in Jesus Christ.

We invite you to numerous services and activities which will encourage you to walk in the light of coming Savior.

Sunday, November 27th, between services during the Sunday School hour, is the Advent Festival. This is the time for children and parents to make different Christmas decorations. A time to learn together and tell the story of Christ's coming as a child.

Saturday, December 3rd is the WELCA Christmas Breakfast. This will be held at the Country Club and is open to all women of Our Savior's. This will be a time for women to pause in their busy-ness and be together to focus on fellowship and preparing our hearts for Christ.

Saturday, December 10th at 5:30 will be a service of light and healing. December can be a long and dark month for so many people. There are many losses we experience in life and many areas in our life where need the healing presence of Christ. This service will be a time of pausing, acknowledging our losses and needs, and praying.

Sunday, December 18th at the 11:00 service will be the Sunday School Christmas program.

Saturday, December 24th Christmas Eve worship will be at 3:00, 5:30, and 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th Christmas Day worship will be at 10:00 a.m.

Come walk with one another and experience the light of Christ who has come and is with us and will come again.

Ministry Focus

Stewardship Corner

Thank you to everyone who completed a Sharing God's Gift survey to identify areas you are interested in being involved with. If you have not completed a current survey, copies are available at the usher's table or in the church office. We are working on compiling the lists and will distribute them to the appropriate groups shortly.

All members recently received a letter and faith commitment card for the 2012 stewardship campaign. We encourage you to prayerfully consider what God has provided and to express your gratitude by completing the Faith Commitment card and returning it to church on November 19-20. Our goal is to achieve faith commitments from our members that total \$601,000. This will allow Our Savior's to continue to support the ministries within our congregation and outreach activities in our community and throughout the world.

We are thankful for all the gifts that you graciously share at Our Savior's!

Board of Stewardship

Thanksgiving Dinner – *Open to the public*

Thursday, November 24, 2011

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Church – 417 S Minnesota St, New Ulm
Eat In, Take Out & Home Deliveries

Rides Available

Free will donation accepted

Call 359-1479 for reservations

Sponsored by Community Friends

PO Box 834, New Ulm, MN 56073

The Advent Festival will be held on Sunday, November 27 from 9:30-11:00

on the lower level of the church.

Students, parents, and other adults are invited to come and make

Advent and Christmas crafts for all ages. Volunteers are needed to help lead the crafts. Please contact the church office or Bridget Phifer (354-4800) if you would be willing to help.



Children's Christmas Service

"Long, Long Ago"

Sunday, December 18th at 11:00 a.m.

Please come and join our children and youth as we welcome Baby Jesus this special season!

For kids and parents:

All grade rehearsal (nursery-6th grade/instrumentalists/youth choir)

Saturday, December 17th

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

Program service: Sun., Dec. 18th at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School will meet as usual

9:45-10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary

Great Christmas Gift Idea!

Kwik Trip gift cards continue to be available on Sunday mornings in the social hall and during the week from JoEllen. We have \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 cards available. They may be used at any Kwik Trip for any purchase. You buy the card at face value and the youth group receives 10% of it.



Thanksgiving Service

Thanksgiving Worship Services:

The congregations of Our Savior's and Christ the King will once again be joining together for Thanksgiving worship services. This year, the services will be held at Christ the King.

We will worship together on

Wednesday, November 23rd at 12 Noon & 7:00

PM. There will be a time for fellowship, pie, and coffee following the 7:00 p.m. worship service.

Donations of pies may be brought to the Christ the King kitchen prior to the 7:00 p.m. worship service.

(Extra pies will be donated to the Community & Friends Thanksgiving Dinner to be held November 24.)

“The Envelope Fundraiser”

Our youth have prepared 144 envelopes each numbered \$1-\$144. (These envelopes are on the wall in the social hall.) We invite you to take a numbered envelope and give the amount written on your envelope. Return the envelope in the church offering or to the church office. This fundraiser has the potential to raise right around \$10,000 for our trip to New Orleans!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)

That verse is at the heart of Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers are people like you, who are called to love others going through a difficult time. Whether it be the death of a loved one, loss of job, or difficulties with health, we all go through times when we need someone to listen. Stephen Ministers are members of Our Savior’s who have received training to care for others.

There are four qualities of a Stephen Minister which are key to their ministry.

Compassionate- they are able to share in the suffering of another. Stephen Ministers are trained care givers to empathize, listen without telling another person what to do, and do not judge.

Full of faith- the Stephen Minister is trained to rely on God’s word and allow God to bring healing. Keeping the relationship centered on God, prayer, and the spirit is at the heart of Stephen Ministry.

Skilled- loving caring person who is trained to listen, share resources, encourage, and support.

Trustworthy- a Stephen Minister is reliable, meets with a care receiver weekly, and keeps all conversations confidential.

If you are going through a difficult time, or just need a listening ear, a Stephen Minister is waiting to journey with you. Please contact Pastor Joyce at the church office.

“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” God wants us to care for others--and allow others to care for us in our time of need.”
Galatians 6:2

PASTOR’S PONDERING:

Bethlehem

“O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see they lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” Many love to sing that carol this time of year, but what do you know about Bethlehem?

Bethlehem is five miles south of Jerusalem. Bethlehem is mentioned over 200 times in the Bible. King David was from Bethlehem and was anointed King there. However, long before David, Rachel, the wife of Jacob, is buried there. Naomi, was from there, she and her husband left Bethlehem when there was a famine. Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth returned to Bethlehem and Ruth married Boaz.

At the time of Christ Bethlehem was occupied by the Romans the community numbered 300-1,000 people. There were numerous pine trees, however today trees are sparse in that region. Bethlehem was the dividing line between desert and farmland. Shepherds tended flocks in the east and the farmers were west of Bethlehem. One of the main occupations of men at this time was a stone mason. Luke 2:8 records, “In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.” From that verse in Luke we know Jesus was not born in the winter, because shepherds were not out with their flocks in the field.

Today the population of Bethlehem is 30,000 people. The ELCA has had a presence in Bethlehem since 1893. The congregation of 200 was founded by German missionaries. Today the city of David, the birth place of Christ is surrounded by a 30 foot high wall. When we entered Bethlehem we had to go through a checkpoint. It is difficult for the people of Bethlehem to leave their community. Christ came to bring peace, yet the city of his birth does not have peace. Yet, through the ministry of the ELCA and Christmas Lutheran Church the light of Christ does shine. As we celebrate the birth of Christ let us remember those who do not live with peace but fear. Let us pray for the light of Christ to shine in the dark places in our world.

Pastor Joyce

Being a deacon at Our Savior's is an enriching experience that adds greatly to a journey in faith. It is a wonderful way to serve at the church. Please think about your own journey of faith and consider being a Deacon.

Here are some of the things that deacons do.

Attend monthly Deacon meetings to help plan worship

- Deacons meet the third Tuesday of each month to plan worship and discuss other worship issues

Assist with Worship

- Two Deacons assist serving communion at each Sunday service.
- Saturday evening worship - one Deacon assists with lessons, prayers, etc. as the Saturday Assisting Minister (SAM)
- Prepares the altar for each service (wine/bread/hymnal numbers, light candles)
- Prepares the altar for any Baptism service
- Helps with decorating of the Sanctuary for various seasons of the Church Year (e.g. Easter, Christmas)
- Oversees the Worship Planning Committee
- Trains and assigns people to help run the sound system & DVD recording of the service

Welcome New Members

- Helps coordinate "new member" meals and welcoming the new members

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.

Saturday Men's Bible Study Breakfast

Just a short reminder, that on Saturday, the 17th of December, we will be holding our annual breakfast-bible study. This year we will be trying something a little different. We decided to hold it at Joni's Restaurant, downtown. We will meet at 8:00 AM, in the back room, at Joni's, order off the breakfast menu and then conduct our bible study. Please mark your calendars for that time and date. Hope to see you all there!

Yours in Christ, T. Postel

Ladies of Our Savior's

We have had a very busy month. The Bazaar is behind us, we did well, thanks to all of you. Thank you for all the donations we had and all who helped with making pies. This is the first time in a very long time that we sold out all of our pies on the day of the bazaar. This year we are again able to disperse \$3,000.00 to many charities. We will be presenting this to the WELCA Ladies to vote on at our Christmas Breakfast. (See sign up poster in the social hall.)

WHAT: WELCA Christmas Breakfast

WHEN: Saturday, December 3-9:00 AM

WHERE: New Ulm Country Club COST: \$7.50

RESERVATIONS: Please sign up on poster.

This year has had a lot of causes asking for donation, so as a result of the great response to our Bake Sale and Bazaar the WELCA Board decided to make a \$600.00 donation to the ELCA Thank Offering fund and designate \$300.00 to World Hunger and \$300.00 to Disaster Relief so we will not be putting out Thank Offering envelopes this year. If anyone feels they would still like to donate to this cause they can put their donation in an envelope and mark it WELCA Thank Offering and put it in the offering plate or leave it at the office. THANK YOU ALL.

At the next Board meeting we will be planning the 2012 programs, which will be December 7th, 11:00AM. If there is anyone with ideas they would like to see done, talk to one of the board members. We are also still in need of a VICE PRESIDENT, I'm sure there is someone out there that would like to say, I WOULD LIKE TO TRY.

Yours in the Lord,
Linda Postel



Our Savior's youth will be sponsoring a bake sale on Sunday, December 4.

Monies raised will help support youth ministry activities. All families with children and youth involved in Jammin' Juniors and youth activities are asked to bring baked goods. Please have all baked goods to the church by 7:30 AM on December 4. Baked goods may also be brought on Saturday, December 3 and left in the kitchen.

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.

'Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth to Sponsor 3rd-6th Grade Trip to see 'Cinderella' at Old Log Theatre'

On Wednesday December 28th Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth of Brown County will be sponsoring a county-wide bus trip for 40 3rd-6th grade students and 8 adults to see the holiday production of 'Cinderella' at the Old Log Theatre in Excelsior. This will be a wonderful opportunity for children and adults to see professional actors perform the timeless story of Cinderella at one of Minnesota's oldest and most recognized Theatres located near beautiful Lake Minnetonka. Showtime is 10am and a bus will leave from Springfield High School at 7am with stops at Sleepy Eye High School at 7:15 and New Ulm High School at 7:30. Buses will return to locations between 1:30 and 2pm. Everyone who participates must ride the bus for this event.

Cost for this special trip is \$20 per participant which includes ticket and transportation. Participants should also pack a lunch which can be eaten on the way home. Tickets and seats on the bus

will be reserved on a first come first serve basis. To reserve your spots mail \$20 for each person (limit of two tickets per household) to Cinderella Trip, Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth, 125 South Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073. Parents should include a parental permission note with students name, grade, address and phone number plus email address so that we can confirm your reservation. If you have any questions call Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth of Brown County at 354-8632 or 276-8628 or email hchynua@newulmtel.net. Deadline for registration is December 21st.

Lamp Advent Devotionals – These devotional booklets are available the following ways:

1. Devotion books can be downloaded in print-ready format so congregation members can print their own copy. Please go to www.lampministry.org/Devotions and follow the instructions to download your copy.
2. Congregation members may receive a daily full-color Advent devotion by email. Simply email us at office@lampministry.org to receive an email of each day's Advent devotion.
3. If an individual wishes to receive a printed copy of the Advent devotion book in the mail, simply email office@lampministry.org with your complete name and address. (*Lamp is a cross-cultural ministry sharing Jesus Christ with God's people in remote areas of Canada.*)

Thank You Notes

Many thanks to everyone who sent a card, e-mail or said a prayer for me during my recent cancer surgery and hospitalization at Abbott. Thanks to Pastor Joyce and Pastor Bill for special prayers and for Pastor Joyce and Ron's hospital visit. Also thanks for the beautiful prayer shawls which bring us great comfort. Because of all your prayers, my surgery was successful.

Charlene and I thank you all.

Tom Weilage

Thank-you Thank –you Thank-you!!!

Thank you for taking time to fill about 40 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. These are now on their way to make some children smile this Christmas season. Also thanks to those of you that brought food for the local food shelf. This summer many new families have used the food shelf, so our continued help is necessary.

The noisy offering was over \$600, on Sunday, October 30th. These funds will be given to the Lutheran World Relief, sent to Somalia.

And now we will be selling Fair Trade items in time for your Christmas shopping. Stop by the tables and check the items out. Might be something special just for you!

Thank-you for sharing your gifts!
The Board of Missions

Thank you very much for the beautiful prayer shawl. My recovery is going better than expected and I expect to be back at work next week. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

David Hermann

To the Staff and Congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

The Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota wishes to express their thanks to Our Savior's Lutheran Church for extending the use of your facilities for the Via de Cristo weekends that are being held in November 2011 at your church.

Our check payable to Our Savior's for \$800.00 is intended to cover the purchase of paper products (specifically paper towels and toilet tissue). It is also intended to cover additional electrical usage and one garbage pick-up on Saturday afternoon of each weekend.

Please extend our appreciation to all members of your staff and congregation for working through any inconveniences or extra work involved during the Via de Cristo weekends.

In Christ's Love,
Jim Arend,
Coordinator
Via de Cristo of Minnesota

I want to thank everyone who prayed for me. I am getting help and I feel better. I want to thank Pastor Joyce for all her help.

Cathy Weinkauff

"Behind the Scenes"

Thank you to those who take it upon themselves to help out with various tasks in and around our church. You ARE

appreciated! ☺

- ✓ Trimming bushes
- ✓ Decorating tables in the social hall
- ✓ Spraying/pulling weeds – edging
- ✓ Popping in and tidying up the kitchen
- ✓ Placing pots of flowers at the entrances
- ✓ Decorating the sanctuary
- ✓ Tidying up & refilling the "quiet bags"

Looking ahead...

**Our Savior's Board Members:
Fall Board Retreat**

Date: 12/4/11

Time: Noon

The next issue of *Sidelites* will be in mailboxes December 18. Please have items for the newsletter to JoEllen by 3 p.m., December 13. Thank you!