
SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

December 18, 2016



*Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year
from the staff at Our Savior's!*

When Your Heart Aches at Christmas

Last Saturday, we laid my 24 year old cousin to rest. He was the son of my closest cousin, with whom our family spends our holidays. Hunter was the same age as my children, and he was the victim of a drug overdose. Even though he was clean for over a year, back in school and doing well, the power of drugs and addiction was a trap he was drawn back into. Our family will gather together at Christmas this year, but our hearts will be aching for the smile of this young man among us.

Many of us face the season of celebration and light with heavy hearts due to loss. It can be a spouse, a grandparent, a friend or relative. It may also be the loss of a job or a health crisis that darkens what we've always known as a time of joy. In the book of Matthew, Jesus promises to be with us always, and Psalm 46 reminds us that God is our refuge and strength. God's promises like this matter, and are meant to help us through difficult times.

There are, however a few actions we can take to help us get through the difficulties of an aching heart during holiday times.

Share what is on your mind: talk to family and friends, go to a group at church or in the community, see a professional counselor, journal your thoughts. It's important not to isolate yourself, and to talk with others

Let yourself grieve and weep: Ecclesiastes 3 tells us that there is a time to mourn because to everything there is a season. Grief is painful, but is not meant to last forever. Allow your sadness to surface when it needs to.

Don't succumb to despair or negative thoughts: Philippians 4 tells us to keep our thoughts positive. We have hope because God

created us in his image, and calls us into the light of Christ. Turn away from negativity and find the purpose God has for you in the world. God is always creating new life.

Help others in need: No matter how our heart aches, there is much to be thankful for; and many others in the world who are in need. Hunger, homelessness, sickness, loneliness, lack of education, and many difficulties like this are felt throughout the world. When we find a cause and people who need us, we are able to move through our sadness more easily

Force yourself to get out and be with people: We need to be around others, too much time alone increases our chances of becoming clinically depressed.

Create a new tradition: A new family ritual to honor the one you have lost can help. A friend's who lost her husband last year is making French silk pie with her children as it was his favorite dessert.

Ron Edmondson recommends this last one as important:

Learn to worship in tears: When we worship together often the Spirit is alive and our emotions overflow. God embraces our tears, and in fact Jesus wept at the death of friend Lazarus.

If your heart aches this year, may you know that God's purpose is for all of us know the light of Christ, even in the midst of darkness. We are created to know the warmth of God's love and the strength of God's power so we can follow God's path for us in the world. May you be blessed this year as your heart aches, and may you allow Jesus Christ to fill the void in your life with grace and light.

Pastor Deb

Ministry Focus

Service, fun, and food!

On December 10, 2016, 25 members of OSLC made up of youth, adults, and families traveled to Minneapolis for service, fun, and food! The day began at 11am with a van trip up to the Salvation Army Harbor Lights Homeless Shelter in downtown Minneapolis. While there, the group got a tour of the shelter and got a feel for how the shelter helps the folks of Minneapolis stay warm. They were able to see the cafeteria where meals are served, a room in which folks can get a bed for the night, and transition housing for folks who are gaining employment and looking for a permanent place to live.

Then it was time to work. For 2 hours, the group sorted through winter coats that had been donated from the Salvation Army's Thanksgiving Coat Drive. It was quite the process. Coats had to be sorted through by size, kids, adult small and medium were bagged to be sent to a different shelter; adult large and bigger were hung by gender styles so residents could come in to pick out a coat. It was a lengthy and at times overwhelming process, but in the end filled a desperate need for the shelter. The group then finished their time by decorating one of the hallways of the transitional housing floors with Christmas decorations. It was a fun yet exhausting experience.

The group then enjoyed an evening of entertainment and food. First was to take in the comedy Triple Espresso, a show that has been around for nearly 30 years. It was a perfect mixture of singing entertainment, laughter, and even a little magic! To cap off the night, the group enjoyed a meal at the Old Spaghetti Factory, an Our Savior's Favorite!

Overall it was a great trip and a wonderful opportunity for the group to spread some joy and cheer in this Christmas Season and live out the God's Work, Our Hands mission. And despite the snowy conditions on the way home...everyone made it back safe and sound!

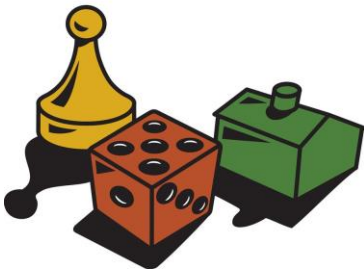


Wild Game and Games!

January 29th at 5:00 PM we will be joining in games and a wild game feed. Starting at 5, we will gather and share in the bounty of wild game. Bring your catches or your favorite wild food from the shop!



After supper, we will be playing cards, board games, maybe even some Gaga Ball! We want our adults to know that OSLC is a place to worship, grow, and have fun.



Bring your own game or join in one of the preplanned ones.

Join us for dinner, games, or both! Childcare will be provided.



January blood drive at Vogel Arena for the American Red Cross

January 11th & 12th, from 1:00pm to 7:00 pm
January 13th from 8:00am to 1:00 pm



A Milestone Celebration of Baptisms in 2016

In 2016, Our Savior's had the joy of welcoming nineteen new members through Holy Baptism.

At those baptismal services the parents and sponsors made promises to bring the child to worship God, place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, and teach them the Creed and the Ten Commandments. A candle was given to be lit on the anniversary date of this baptismal milestone. The members of Our Savior's have promised to keep these children in prayer and provide a place for them to hear the Good News of our Savior, Jesus the Christ.



On January 8th, 2017, at the 10:30 worship service, members of our Savior's will celebrate this milestone with those baptized in 2016 and their parents. We will be reminded of promises made and the Love that God shares through this sacrament. Great thanks to Jim Schmidt and Hillard Johnson for the construction of Faith Chests that will be given to each child.

The OSLC Book Study will meet Monday, January 16 at 6:30 pm at church. This time we will read "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult. It deals with what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person, and also involves medical ethics. If you would like to participate, read the book and come discuss it on Jan. 16. If you have questions or need more information, contact Patty Young 439-6335.

Another way to Give!

Did you know that by donating retirement funds in your IRA to Our Saviors Lutheran Church you can avoid unnecessary income taxes? At the same time, you are helping enhance the ministries of your church.

The IRA Charitable Rollover gives individuals who are 70 ½ or older the opportunity to make “qualified charitable distributions” and not include the IRA distribution as part of their income. It can help you make direct gifts to ministry and save taxes. Congress made this Rollover permanent last year and it will satisfy all or a part of one’s minimum distribution requirement. If you are in this situation, please consider a gift to Our Saviors.

If you have questions on transferring assets from an IRA you can call and talk with Amy Bigot, Regional Gift Planner with the ELCA at 763-443-3750, or email her at amy.bigot@elca.org. There is no charge for this service.

Why not act today and make a difference for tomorrow?

THANK YOU to those who have returned 2017 Pledge Forms! It’s not too late to turn in your 2017 Annual Pledge Form – Forms may be put in the offering plate or deposited in the collection box located in the social hall.

Congregational Annual Meeting Sunday, February 5th Our Savior’s Social Hall

All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend the Congregational Annual Meeting Sunday, February 5 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Church leadership and ministry team reports to be included in the 2016 Annual Report are due in the church office no later than Monday, January 9. Reports may be dropped off in the church office, or emailed to JoEllen@oursaviorsnewulm.org. Thank you!



2016 Advent Festival

2016 Year-End Contributions

As our year is quickly coming to a close, please remember that in order for your offerings to be credited in 2016 for tax purposes we must receive them in the church office by December 31, 2016. If you are mailing your offerings, it is important that they be postmarked by December 31, 2016. Thank you for your gifts to Our Savior’s.

Sunday school calendar

December 17	9-10am	Christmas program rehearsal for everyone and instrumentalists
December 18	9:25-10:15am	Sunday school for everyone at 9:25am
December 18	10:30am	Children's Christmas program
December 25	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Merry Christmas!
January 1	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Happy New Year!
January 8	9:25-10:15am	Sunday school resumes
January 8	9:25 class/10:30 worship	Anniversary of Baptism Milestone for those baptized in 2016
January 22	8:15 worship/9:25 class	Preschool Milestone for age 3 <u>OR</u> new to PreK Sunday school



**Mount Kato
2017 Trip!!
Sunday, January
22, 2017**

→ Jammin' Juniors Tubing—1:00-6:00 PM
→ 7-12th Grade Skiing—1:00-9:00 PM
**Pick up a registration form on the
youth board today!**

Summer 2017 Dates Announced!!

June 5 – VBS Training
June 12-16 VBS 2017
June 18-23 Sugar Creek Bible Camp
June 25-30 Green Lake Bible Camp
July 30-August 4 Boundary Waters

Boundary Waters 2017 Summer Trip July 30 – August 4



For youth in completed grades 7-12.
Registration is now open! Pick up a form
from the youth board or download it off the
youth page of the church website.
**Registration forms and deposit are due
January 15!**

**Vogel Family
Fun Day!!
Sunday,
February 26,
2017!**



More details to come!


Save the Date

2017 Equipping Congregations Day

Saturday, February 25, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Vinje Lutheran Church and Bethel Lutheran Church, Willmar, MN. All are welcome! Congregation Members, Council Officers, Christian Educators, Worship & Youth Leaders, Pastors...Everyone! Watch for further information!



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.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Advent Festival Thank You!

First of all, I'd like to thank **Bridget Phifer** so much for her ability to come up with such beautiful crafts for everyone to make! Thank you for all the time you spend shopping for and organizing materials, and all of the time setting up in the classrooms! Many thanks, too, for all of the **craft leaders** who took time in each of the rooms to help people put their craft together so wonderfully! Also, thank you to **Scott** for his time and effort before and after the festival! Our Savior's is so blessed to have this beloved tradition!
Becky Eikanger

I would like to thank everyone who sent a card or called. Thank you also for the beautiful prayer shawl; it is a great comfort to me. Thank you Our Savior's.
Virginia Benson

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.

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!



IDEAS Group – Scarf Making – Dec. 4

Newsletter Deadline: The next issue of *Sidelites* will be in mailboxes January 22. Please have items for the newsletter to JoEllen by January 9. Thank you.

Thank you to IDEAS Team & Fellowship for decorating.....



Community News...

Save the Date

**Spend an evening with
Patty Wetterling**

**As she tells her story and talks about
“Creating A Better World For Our Children”**

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

6:30 PM

Springfield High School

12 S Burns Ave

Springfield, MN

NO ADMISSION FEE

(Free will donations appreciated)

On Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m., Patty Wetterling will be in Springfield to share her story about Jacob’s disappearance and her family’s journey these past 27 years.

While Jacob was taken in what we think of as the typical ‘stranger abduction’, Patty knows this kind of scenario happens in a small percentage of cases. She understands that teaching children about ‘stranger danger’ is counterproductive since most children are sexually abused by someone the child knows and trusts. Instead of just focusing on what she could do to find her son, Patty has tried to provide protection for all of our children. Her family’s grief turned into action and they created the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center. She advocates for better laws, for better policing, for better education, for more prevention and, as she said in her community presentation in Redwood Falls this past April, “for a world that is worthy of its’ children”. Through her own grief, sadness, and despair she marched on. Patty never looked for honors or accolades for her work. She does it for Jacob and for children everywhere.

Sunday Morning Bus Service

Are you or someone you know in need of transportation to church on Sunday mornings? If so, call on the friendly, reliable and courteous drivers of the Brown County Heartland Express Bus Service. They can pick you up at your home or apartment, take you to church, and take you home again.

The cost is reasonable, the service is convenient and easy to use, and it’s for all ages. For further information or to arrange for a ride, call Brown County Heartland Express by 3:00 p.m. the Friday prior to the Sunday you’d like your ride (359-2717). In case you need to cancel a ride that you’ve scheduled on a particular Sunday morning, just call Heartland Express by 7:30 a.m. that Sunday morning and leave a message on the answering machine.

Advent Festival 2016



Advent Festival 2016



Advent Festival 2016





OUR SAVIOR'S

Lutheran Church

NEW ULM, MN

JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Sunday School 9:15 AM Fellowship Ministry Team 10:30 AM Worship	2	3 5:15 PM Personnel Committee 7:00 PM Youth Ministry Team	4 11:00 AM WELCA Board 11:15 AM Luther Memorial Home Service 3:10 PM Wed. Choir, Faith & Fun 5:10 PM Hosanna Handbell Choir 5:45 PM Youth Choir 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:15 PM Adult Choir 7:15 PM Confirmation	5	6	7 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Worship
8 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Recognition of Holy Baptism Milestone	9 3:00 PM Ridgeway on German Service 4:00 PM Oak Hills Service 7:00 PM Adult Ministry Team Meeting	10 6:30 PM Children's Ministry Team 7:00 PM Church Council	11 9:00 AM Cards of Caring 1:00 PM Beautiful Savior Circle 3:10 PM Wed. Choir, Faith & Fun 5:10 PM Hosanna Handbell Choir 5:45 PM Youth Choir 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:15 PM Adult Choir 7:15 PM Confirmation	12 9:00 AM Immanuel Circle	13 1:00 PM Ridgeway on 23rd Service	14 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Worship
15 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Facilities/Grounds Team 10:30 AM Worship	16 6:30 PM Book Club	17 6:15 PM Missions Ministry Team 6:30 PM Deacons Ministry Team	18 6:30 AM Men's Study Group 3:10 PM Wed. Choir, Faith & Fun 5:10 PM Hosanna Handbell Choir 5:45 PM Youth Choir 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:15 PM Adult Choir 7:15 PM Confirmation	19	20	21 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Worship
22 8:15 AM Worship - 3Yr Old Milestone 9:25 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 1:00 PM Jammin' Juniors Tubing Trip 1:00 PM Mount Kato Ski Trip	23	24 9:00 AM Mission Quilting Day 4:00 PM Prokinship	25 3:10 PM Wed. Choir, Faith & Fun 5:10 PM Hosanna Handbell Choir 5:45 PM Youth Choir 6:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:15 PM Adult Choir 7:15 PM Confirmation	26	27	28 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study 5:30 PM Worship 6:00 PM High School Culture Keepers Meeting
29 Children's Choirs sing at both worship services Noisy Offering Sunday 8:15 AM Worship 9:25 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Budget Meeting 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Wild Game Game Night	30	31 7:00 PM Church Council				



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