

Our Savior's VOICE November 2022

A community transformed by Christ, to be Christ in the world.

The Great Cloud of Witnesses: Virtually

(And maybe even from the deer stand?)

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us..."

The words quoted above come to us from Hebrews chapter twelve. In Hebrew chapter eleven, the Writer to the Hebrews has laid out a long list of "saints-in-the-faith-who-have-kept-the-faith." People like: Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and David... just to name a few.

And having listed these heroes of faith who have kept the faith, the Writer to the Hebrews begins chapter 12 with this exhorting cheer: *Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us!* And for those whom we loved who have kept the faith, THEY TOO can be added to that list of the *great cloud of witnesses*.

By the time you read this issue of the November Voice, we at O.S.L.C. will be preparing for another **All Saints' Day** observance and worship service (**Sunday, November 6th**). The tradition of commemorating all of the saints on a single day goes back at least to the third century, and we share this tradition with other denominations.

As you are probably well aware, part of the ritual and tradition of the All Saints' Sunday service is to read the names of the faithfully departed within our fellowship over this past year while lighting a candle, and ringing a bell, in their memory. This healing gesture is then followed by opening it up for EVERYONE in the congregation to come and light a votive candle in memory of a loved one.

THIS YEAR WE ARE ALSO going to add the option for *All Saints' Day* worshippers to participate in the service VIRTUALLY if they so choose. If the challenge of COVID has taught us anything it is that we can do this!

For those who wish to virtually participate in the *All Saints' Day* worship service we ask that as you view the service via the OSLC Live Stream link (available every Sunday) and that you type in the chat line the name of a departed loved one whose memory you wish to acknowledge and honor. The collected names will then be read at the end of Pastor Kevin's sermon, this will make for a powerful climax of the proclaimed promise of being *surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses!*

It is no secret that there is another holiday that competes with *All Saints' Sunday* on the first Sunday in November, and that is the opening rifle deer hunting season!

As a fellow deer hunter myself, and as one who has sacred memories of deer hunting with my family intertwined with grief and loss, *I encourage all deer hunters to virtually participate in the worship service from the hunting shack (or maybe even from the deer stand) by means of your "handheld computer device" that doubles as a cell phone.*

You can do this! And if you need help, ask your children or grandchildren to help you; or if you're like me, have your spouse so you know how to do it! By means of your iPhone - and the possible assistance of a wifi hotspot, you can send us your memories - and we can reciprocate with our prayers.

God's blessings to you all, and if it so applies, have a happy and safe hunt!

Pastor Kevin

The Deer Hunter

Thirty Two years ago, this November 12th, my father died coming home from what he loved doing best, going deer hunting with his family.

About two years after my father's - in the fall of 1992 - I wrote an article for a small town newspaper in the rural community where I was serving as a pastor.

Many stories around campfires have been shared since I first penned these words in 1992, but these words still speak to the grief I feel over my father's loss, and how intricately woven that grief is expressed with the love I have for my father, the faith I have in the resurrection, and the crazy rituals we often come up with waiting on the resurrection for the *Dear Hunters* in our life.

As you read this, I invite you to think of someone whom you love who is there around the campfire in spirit, but whose soul has arrived at an even happier home. I'd also like for you to consider some crazy ritual you might do to remember that loved, and help soothe the loss. Here it goes:

On the wind swept prairies of southwestern Minnesota sits a quiet cemetery. Late one Monday afternoon in November, I will place one 30-06 Remington rifle bullet on the top of a tombstone in that cemetery.

The bullet will be facing towards the west.

Before you feel the need to call me at home, and question my sanity, let me explain.

I come from a family in which the words "I love you" were more easily expressed between men as they wore blaze orange jackets and caps out in the woods in northern, Minnesota.

My father loved everything about deer hunting. He loved packing and preparing for the hunt. He loved the drive up north... But I think what my father loved most about deer hunting, is that he could share it. He could share it in such an unencumbered way with his three sons. And we shared the experience with him in a way that was easier to put into feelings than words; that relationship which we so aptly label nowadays as "male bonding."

As dad got older, it became more difficult for him to move about the woods and drag the deer which he would inevitably tag every season.

So dad purchased a Honda A.T.V. to help him get down the major portion of the trial.

And at the end of the day's hunt, as my brothers and I were heading back to camp, quite often we would take a single bullet from each one of our guns, and place it on the seat of that Honda A.T.V.

It served as a sign for our father, when we had called it a day, and headed back to camp, that he need not wait for us or worry about us. That we had gone back home. The bullet pointed towards the west, the direction of camp, where we would be waiting for his return.

Dad's passed away now. He died coming home from one of those deer hunting trips.

And every year, on the return trip home from deer hunting, I try to make it a point to stop at the cemetery where dad now rests, and lay one 30-06 bullet on top of his tombstone. It points towards the west, the direction of camp. The circumstances may have changed, but the meaning hasn't: "We've made it back home dad, you don't have to worry, everybody is safe and sound."

Maybe, in kind of strange way, this gesture parallels Malachi 4:5 "He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers."

At the Vietnam War Memorial, I'm told that every day there are objects left there which express the memory of those who have departed.

I'm told that in certain religions in the Orient, they leave food at the graves of ancestors, with the belief that their spirits need to be fed as well as ours.

But as a Christian I do not believe this. As a follower of the Lord Jesus, I believe, as Luther's Small Catechism reminds me, "dad now sleeps with the company of the saints in light, and will, at the last day, rise to serve God in righteousness and purity forever."

And so, I make the trip out to the cemetery, not for his benefit, but for mine. For some flowers are perfect to lay on the grave. But for me, in November, a 30-06 bullet serves just fine.



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Would you like our congregation to pray for any issues, problems, or health concerns you have? We believe in the power of prayer and know that our petitions are heard and answered. Please call the church office at 218-263-7422 and we will pass your request on to the Prayer Chain.



Musical Notes

When I begin putting together my thoughts for our newsletter, I begin by opening the file from the previous year. This is such an interesting process because it makes me look at where we have come. In most cases I conclude that it is just different. Some things seem better with time and other things not as good. But we still must move forward and make the very best of each and every situation. It is so good to be working with the choirs again! So, on to the business at hand. November gives us two very important services to prepare for, those being All Saints Sunday (11/6) and then Thanksgiving. When I think about it, they actually go hand in hand. For All Saints Sunday the choir will sing Robert Powell's music for Psalm 84, "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place". Jesus also speaks of the place that has been prepared for us. We certainly are allowed to let our imaginations go wild with this, knowing that we will certainly underestimate how 'lovely' it will be.

For our Thanksgiving celebration on Sunday, November 20th we will sing "We Gather Together." In 1626 Adrian Valerius published this hymn in celebration of the Netherland's freedom from Spanish rule. The translation that we know was written in 1894 and then set to the tune know as 'Kresmer' which is a Dutch folk song. The patriotic nature of this hymn is demonstrated in the text which reads "the wicked oppressing' which is a message of pursuing good over evil. It is referred to as "The Thanksgiving Hymn" and often associated with that particular celebration. I like to have the choir sing this hymn in this arrangement because the hymn is not in our hymnal. I am working to have the Handbell Choir perform once every month. That is always dependent on schedules of the players. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Roy

Happy Birthday!!!

<i>November</i>	2	Elaine Anderson
	2	Marietta Allan
	10	Carol Koski
	11	Betty Deyo
	14	Jean Stirewalt
	16	Georgia Christianson
	16	Patricia Harris
	21	Pat Stone
	26	Clinton Lind
	26	Punky Ridlon



Happy Anniversary!!!

25 Jim & Lin Cary

Council Meeting Highlights (October 11, 2022)

- The Council met in Room 1.
- The General Fund as of September 30, 2022 was \$4,994.11. Thank you for your continued generous giving.
- The Council approved the Gold+ ELCA-Primary Health Benefit Plan for Pastor Kevin for 2023.
- Council President Melissa Schwarze signed the Memorial Building Rental Agreement for the White Elephant Sale (W.E.S.). Dates of the rental will be May 1-6, 2023. Melissa will also start drafting up the City of Hibbing Special Events Application for the W.E.S.
- A conversation was held on Pastor Kevin going on a sabbatical in 2023. The current timeline would be June, July, and August. Details will be continued to be worked out.
- The Council Executive Board will be meeting on October 27th to discuss and prepare the 2023 Budget.
- The next Council meeting has been moved to **Tuesday, November 15th**.

2022 Missionary for a Day Calendar has received \$1,485 to date.

During October gifts were received:

From Suzanne Clark in celebration of February birthdays

In honor of Sharon & Mitch Cook's grandson Dylan and son-in-law Pat
on their birthdays

In celebration of Mark, Judith and Mike Johnson's birthdays

In honor of Schock Family birthdays and anniversaries.

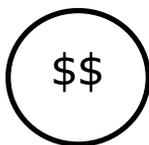
Your support is needed, contributions are running behind previous years.

Thank you for your generous support of our missionary, Dr. Friberg in Tanzania.

Any time is a good time to sign up and contribute to the *Missionary for a Day Calendar*. A gift of \$10 in memory or honor of a special friend or loved one will support our missionary for one day. Dr. Friberg's work in Tanzania is very important, be a part of it!

Confirmation News:

- 3rd grade - Come** to worship **Sunday, Nov. 20th** to receive your Bible
- 4th grade** - If you did not receive your Bible see Cindy in the office.
Help Wanted: families willing to straighten and supply the pew racks
- 5th grade** - During Lent 2023 you will receive 1st Communion Instruction
- 6th gr.** - Welcome to the Communion Rail
Please let Cindy know when you are able to acolyte.
- 7th grade** - Classes: Wednesday, **Nov. 2** Resume Jan. 4
Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hrs. of service, Acolyte
- 8th grade** - Classes: Wednesday, **Nov. 2** Resume Jan. 4
Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hrs. of service, Acolyte
- 9th grade** - Classes: **Wednesday, Nov. 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21**
Taught by Pastor Kevin in the Fellowship Hall
Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hours of service
- 10th grade** - Classes: **Wednesday, Nov. 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21**
Taught by Pastor Kevin in the Fellowship Hall
Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hours of service
- 7th-10th gr.** - NE MN Synod All Youth Gathering
at Cragun's November 18-19, 2022
If interested call the office 218=263-7422



A Note from the Financial Secretary:

By now or very soon you should have received your giving statement for the first nine months of the year. Please check it over for accuracy and please call if you have questions, 218-263-7422. Thank you for your generosity.

It is now possible to make a contribution by mobile app - to get started, download the free "Vanco Mobile" app from the App Store or Google Play. "Vanco Mobile" is Powered by Vanco Payment Solutions. It's simple, convenient and secure.

One-time gifts or recurring gifts can be given. If you wish to make a recurring contribution, without a mobile device, stop in the office and complete a simple paper form. The office staff will be glad to answer any questions.
Thank you for considering contributing to the mission of Our Savior's.

Thanksgiving Worship -

Whether you are traveling this year over the Thanksgiving Holiday, or staying in the cozy confines of home, please know that we at Our Savior's will have a **Thanksgiving Worship Service** on the Sunday BEFORE Thanksgiving on **Sunday, November 20th** at the usual Sunday worship time of **9 a.m.**

Teller schedule:

November 6 Team 1
November 13 Team 2
November 20 Team 3
November 27 Team 4

Usher schedule:

Team 1
Team 2
Team 3
Team 4

All Saints Day



Traditionally, the first Sunday in November for many Christian Churches is designated as All Saints' Sunday. Within our Lutheran tradition, All Saints' Sunday celebrates ALL the baptized people of God who make up the body of Christ, with a particular emphasis on the faithful who have died the last calendar year.

As part of our 9 am worship service on **Sunday, November 6th**, we will remember by name, prayer, and tolling of a bell, our loved ones from Our Savior's who have faithfully taken their heavenly reward. This year we hold in sacred memory the following:

Mark (Bubby) Andrican
Scott Campbell
Dorothy DeMaris
Alice Hollowell
John Knight
Leo Nelson
Renee Schilz
Anders Stone
Linda Vine

Ellen Arthurs
Joyce Carlson
Deanna Draves
Michael Kampsula
Linda Lang
Sharon Phillips
Ciara Sellman
Eileen Verant
Earl Wesley

In addition, as part of the worship service, there will be time for worshippers to light a votive candle in memory of any one whom they so choose. Tears may flow, but even in the midst of grief and loss, God wipes away all tears and makes all things new.

The **Columbarium** at Our Savior's offers perpetually endowed care for the remains of those members and their family who choose cremation. It is a place of peace, solitude, and prayer restoring the ancient practice of church burial. If you would like to learn more about the columbarium, please make an appointment with Cindy in the church office by calling 218-263-7422.

Note to Niche Owners: The entry door to the Columbarium area has a new lock. This keyless entry system will allow you to visit anytime you wish. Please call Cindy, 218-263-7422, to set up your personal key code. If you previously purchased a key for the door it will continue to work, but if you turn in your key you will be refunded the purchase price.

The Women of OSLC

Bazaar: Yes or No? This major fund raiser supports our Missionary family.

Well, a decision has been made to once again have our usual "baked goodies" and luncheon on the first Saturday in November. But it will be different.

The opinion that we should not call it a "bazaar" has prevailed, since we have not been offering any craft items. So, as of today, we plan to advertise the event as Our Savior's Women's Luncheon and Bake Sale.

Another difference. We plan to use only the Fellowship Hall for both lunch and baked goods sale.

We will not be serving our traditional turkey salad and are so grateful to Linda and Frank Kangas for the many hours and years they have prepared, supervised, and transported the big birds which made such a yearly favorite.

We're breaking with tradition this year and will be offering a Chicken Caesar Wrap for lunch and pumpkin bars for dessert. No pies, since so many were not homemade. It will be a scaled down event, but Lefse and Doughnuts will be made and sold, along with any bakery donations and of course, Cookies!

All women are urged to donate cookies and bakery items. Any pies that are donated for sale in the bakery MUST be homemade and in aluminum pans, since they will not be returned to you. (A tip, when baking pies for sale, please use TWO aluminum pans. They bake much better with a double pan.)

We're counting on you to make our Luncheon and Bake Sale a huge success. We will need everyone to bake and assist with food prep and dining room duties. The Lefse and Doughnut crews are on alert, and they are always happy for more help.

More information will be posted as we get closer to November 5th. We appreciate your enthusiasm and willingness to make this a very special event to fund the missionaries.

We hope and pray that this year's event will continue the fine tradition of OSLC Women.

The Community Thanksgiving Dinner is a GO for this year. It will be held at the Blessed Sacrament Parish hall on Thanksgiving Day Nov 24th at 11:45. Our Mission Action Committee will be donating \$500.00 from the Food Shelf account towards this great community project. If anyone wants to help in the kitchen or delivering meals or with clean-up please contact the Parish office at 218-262-5541 or Stephanie Rancourt at 218-969-3695. Help is needed on Tues. Wed. and Thurs. Everyone is also welcome to attend the dinner.

Property Committee Update

1. Repairs made to one of the Stain Glass Window pictures on South Aisle of Sanctuary (designated funds for this repair if needed).
2. Alley parking lot and entire alley is in need of repaving. The City has been contacted on our concerns.
3. Office door handrail has been resecured.
4. LED Lights: We had designated funds to complete the conversion of the last 6 fluorescent tube types to LED in the shop area. Work was completed.
5. Began discussions on possible larger projects or repairs needed in the next few years. Our facility is over 70 years old and some TLC is needed in some areas.
6. Worked on 2023 budget/spending plan.
7. We are looking for new members for the Property Committee.
8. Next meeting date is 11/8/2022 at 4PM in room 1.

Mike Stavnes/Joe Arthurs Property,
Committee Co-Chairs

Mission Action

This year the Mission Action Committee has decided on an Advent Project that is one of the essentials of life - WATER. The project will be a Simple Water Well. This will be an international project and the money will go towards a well where it is most needed.

A simple water well or spring box can help up to 500 families in a community gain access to clean, safe water. It helps the women especially, because then they spend less time each day gathering water. The communities become healthier and they have more time for school and work. Our goal is \$500.00 and the average cost of a well is \$2,500. Please consider this in this time of giving. A reading from Numbers 21: 16&17 The Lord said to Moses "Gather the people together and I will give them water" Then Israel sang this song: "Spring up O well! Sing about it".

Wesley UMC is planning a new adventure this year. We are inviting the children of our community to join in preparing and presenting a Christmas pageant. For three Wednesdays (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and 14) we will meet from the time school ends until 5 pm to do Crafts, and music related to Christmas. We will have snacks and of course, prepare to present the Christmas play to anyone who wishes to attend on Dec. 14.

Further information will be in the school Friday folders. If you wish your children to be part of this adventure, please contact the church office at 263-3653 or direct questions to Connie Bloom at 929-3255.