



Our Savior's VOICE December 2022

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

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Hosted by the Wesley United Methodist Church

7p.m. Wednesday, December 21, 2022

"I'll have a blue Christmas without you. "

We've all heard the song "*Blue Christmas* ", one of the iconic holiday classics sung this time of year. And as I have prompted the lyrics and melody of this song into your consciousness, you are probably hearing Elvis Presley's sultry voice trying to comfort a depressed soul who's unrequited love is not met during the holiday season.

But there can be a deeper meaning, and equally painful experience, in combining the two words *Blue Christmas*. To quote from Michael Gyrua, of *Worship Times*, in an article written on November 15, 2019, we read...

When the Christmas season rolls around, and the first notes of your favorite Christmas songs start to play over Thanksgiving dinner or while walking through the grocery store, it can be both a joyous, yet difficult reminder. The quintessential Christmas experience is one filled with families and friends, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. But, when we see empty chairs around the table, or empty benches during church services, it can bring a deep sadness. For those celebrating, perhaps for the first time, without a loved one, the holiday season can feel very lonely and uncertain.

A Blue Christmas service recognizes the loss and loneliness that can be felt during the holidays due to death, disease, poverty, or abuse. It is a service that specifically enables individuals to experience their grief, as well as express what they are feeling, so they can find a sense of calm and hope. While some churches have foregone this kind of service, many churches choose to hold space for those grieving during the holidays. In Western Christian tradition, a Blue Christmas service has been called the Longest Sleep and was sometimes held on the longest night of the year, or Winter Solstice.

Our Savior's has been invited by our brothers & sisters at the Wesley Methodist Church to participate in a *Blue Christmas Worship Service*. *The Blue Christmas Worship Service* is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21st at 7 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church (303 East 23rd Street). Pastor Michelle Miller ("the new Pastor") will be hosting us and I have been asked to preach at this service.

It would gladden my heart to see a lot of you joining with me at this worship service!

God's blessings, and of course, regardless of our earthly circumstances, a blessed Christmas to all!

Pastor Kevin

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services
Saturday, December 24th
3:30 and 5:30pm



Musical Notes

First serious snowfall and then Thanksgiving tell me of what is just around the corner. I do start working on Christmas music in the Fall with my community group, so I do get a bit ahead of the game with them. So, what do I have in store for you? The second Sunday of Advent, December 4th, we will be singing the most appropriate anthem "Waiting for a King" by Joseph M. Martin. The text asks the question, "Will the world receive Him?". It is a question that still has to be asked. So, the song goes on, to say, "For those who are righteous, hope will be restored. Their eyes will be opened; they will know the Lord". December 11th the Handbells will play once again. We will provide a prelude for the service by playing "O Come, Little Children." It will be very fitting for there will be something presented by the Sunday School children. On December 18th, the Choir and a few Handbell players will join to present an anthem called, very fittingly I may add, "Bells and Noels." Many of you will recognize the Polish carol that makes up the selection. To finish out our season, at the 3:30 PM Christmas Eve service the choir will sing, "The Star is Still Shining," by Dale Peterson. The question is asked if the star will lead us back to Bethlehem. I think for many of us it truly does. If we take time away from all the hustle and bustle, we will possibly find ourselves worshiping at the manger. Please join us at as many services as you can and stream our services if you can't. Our staff and our choirs put in great deal effort to bring the message of hope to you this Christmas!

Roy

Voices of Reason Concert

VOICES OF REASON WILL PRESENT "*THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS*" AS THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT ON DECEMBER 18TH, AT OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, HIBBING, AT 3:00 PM. THE CONCERT WILL SHOWCASE A HARPSICHORD BUILT BY ROY BERG AND WILL INCLUDE STRINGS TO ACCOMPANY THE CHOIR. YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO THIS FREE CONCERT.

Pastoral Acts

Funerals

November 11 Walter Thomas(Tom) Litchy

Happy Birthday!!!

December 1 Bev Dahlen
 5 Lloydine Pietila
 21 Jack Lund
 26 Conrad Mangseth
 26 Betty Wilson
 30 Sharon Cook
 30 Kurt Jopke
 31 Henry Vold



Happy Anniversary!!!

December 18 Dave & Andrea Simonson
 30 John & Penni Tingstad

Council Meeting Highlights (November 15, 2022)

- The Council met in Room 1.
- The General Fund as of October 31, 2022 was **(\$3,953.36)**. Thank you for your continued generous giving.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023.
- The Council approved the spending recommendations for the 2022 Perpetual Interest. The congregation will vote on these recommendations at the upcoming Annual Meeting.
- The Council discussed items to be on the agenda at the Annual Meeting.
- The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar: Annual meeting – Sunday, January 29, 2023

Worship Service at 9 am with the Annual Meeting following

***Committee Reports need to be completed by Tuesday, January 3rd.**

2022 *Missionary for a Day Calendar* has received \$1,740 to date.

During November gifts were received:

From Shirley Angen – As a gift of gratitude for God’s many blessings

In memory of Lillian Basarich

In honor of Sharon & Mitch Cook’s grandchildren, Noel, Jake, Kaili, and Winter
on their birthdays and in celebration of Sharon’s birthday

In celebration of Lipke Family birthdays

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!

Teller schedule:

December 4 Team 5
December 11 Team 6
December 18 Team 1
December 24 – 3:30
 5:30
December 25
2023
January 1 Team 4
January 8 Team 5
January 15 Team 6
January 22 Team 7
January 29 Team 1

Usher schedule:

Team 5
Team 6
Team 7
Team 1
Team 2
Team 3
Team 4
Team 5
Team 6
Team 7
Team 1

Note from our Financial Secretary:

If you wish to have a donation recorded for the fiscal year 2022 please have your contribution into the office on or before Friday, December 30, 2022

Thank you for your generosity.

Confirmation News:

3rd grade - Sunday, Nov. 20th the 3rd graders were presented their Bibles

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 resume Wednesday, Jan. 4

Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hrs. of service, Acolyte

8th grade - Classes resume Wednesday, Jan. 4

Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hrs. of service, Acolyte

9th grade - Classes: **Wednesday, Dec. 7, 14, 21**

Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hours of service

10th grade - Classes: **Wednesday, Dec. 7, 14, 21**

Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hours of service

Wishing each and everyone a "Merry Christmas and A Blessed New Year!"

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.

We are selling Inspirational Calendars this Advent season!

Calendar costs are the same as in the past:

1 calendar - \$8 2 calendars - \$15 each additional calendar - \$5

We also have sets of 12 **Inspirational Greeting Cards for \$6.**

Proceeds from these sales help pay the fees for our youth to go to Camp Hiawatha or Camp Vermilion.

8th Community Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner



Ignore the risk; try Lutefisk!

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Cook, MN
231 2nd Street SE
218-666-5965

Saturday, December 3, 2022 — 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

PLEASE JOIN US for a traditional Scandinavian dinner! Lutefisk, white sauce and/or melted butter, meatballs, potatoes & gravy, green beans, rutabaga, lefse, homemade bread, cranberries, pickled herring, desserts and more...

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Adults — \$18.00 Children under 10 — \$7.00 Take-out meals available.

Net proceeds will be donated to Cook Community Food Shelf .

The Women of OSLC

Once again, we must thank our wonderful Women of OSLC for your generous contributions of time and donations which made our November 5th Luncheon & Bake Sale so memorable. If I begin to mention names, I surely wouldn't have the space, but you all have earned extra stars on your crowns! We don't have all the numbers yet, but stay tuned...

We will continue to meet in December on the 8th (Thursday) at 10am in the Fellowship Hall to discuss the devotional study from the November/December issue of the Gather magazine. It posts some very thought-provoking questions and I'm sure we can expect our usual unusual responses from our honest and forthright members. You're all invited to join us. It's not necessary to be a subscriber to the magazine to attend. Come and have coffee, relax, and enjoy an hour or two with friends.

I'm wishing you all a most beautiful and meaningful Advent and Christmas season.
Sue Stanisich



We are making Christmas Fudge again!!! OSLC youth will make fudge in 5 varieties. Our fudge still sells for \$5.00 per half pound. Pick-up in the Fellowship Hall, Sunday, December 18th, between 10-11am. Please put your order form in the offering plate or bring it to the Church Office. To place a phone order, call the Church Office, 263-7422.

Also, please place your orders by Friday, December 16th.

Quilt Update

"It's cold outside!" Yes, and thoughts turn to nice warm quilts to wrap up in. Our quilters on Monday morning have been busy getting quilts ready for both Salvation Army and Lutheran World Relief. Due to the fact certain colors and prints cannot be given to LWR we make sure these get to Salvation Army. Our goal is usually 50 to SA each year.

Come join our eclectic group each Monday from 9-noon in the Fellowship Hall to help tie quilts or put the three layers together for the sewers to complete for tying. I am amazed at the beautiful tops that come from our vast array of squares cut and arranged into tops by members. Our group consists of ladies from Lutheran, Catholic and Ecumenical Churches. Coffee and goodies at ten each week.

Our last 2022 quilting will be on December 12th with a potluck about 11:30. I have heard we will have baked carrots (thanks Helga) and a green olive hotdish (thanks Patty R.) and I know a vast array of other great food. We will resume quilting on the second Monday of January 2023.

We wish everyone a blessed, safe and healthy holiday season as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord, Christ Jesus.

Let us do unto others as we would want them to do unto us.

Sue Schock, LWR quilt chair

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. So, if 50 people give \$10.00 the goal will be reached. So a challenge would be to get 100 people to give \$10.00 and that would be close to 1/2 of the average cost of a well. Please prayerfully consider this at 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".

Children's Quilt Project: 2022 Update

It has been another busy year for the children's quilt makers at Our Savior's. We were able to make and donate 100 quilts this year. All of these quilts were donated locally. 12 quilts have been given to the Salvation Army for Christmas gifts; 50 quilts were given to the local hospital for newborns; the "You Matter" project for children entering foster care received 26 quilts and our local public schools received 12 quilts. In addition to making quilts for Fairview Hospital, we were able to make use of many yards of flannel by sewing and donating burp cloths. We received generous funding this year from some very kind and generous individuals. We also received some beautiful fabric donations.

Property Committee Update

Date/ Time: 11/15/2022 4:00PM

Attendee: Pastor Kevin Olson, Mike Stavnes, Joe Arthurs, Roy Berg, Dan Ellefson, Fred Fawkes, Os Schock.

1. Opening Prayer by Pastor Kevin.
2. Repairs made since October: None
3. Kitchen Repairs: Still waiting on The Oak Shop to do the last 2 countertops. We are all **eagerly await completion** of this update.
4. Fireside room East wall repair: Joe and Mike worked on repair of the wall which blistered out due to steam leaks in the alley tunnel, and a broken pipe at the property directly across the alley from OSLC. That property has now been converted to gas and it appears the South end of the alley is free of steam temperatures. Repatching and painting completed 11/11/2022. Hopefully the end of that repair area, which was where the steam lines entered and exited our building.
5. Parking lot and alley repaving: It is a waiting game. Joe is hoping to get with the new Mayor, who Joe has a good relationship with, to see his insight on the steam/ alley situation. It appears that most of those on steam in the alley have changed over to gas, thus what is the process or the intentions of the HPUC to vacate the alley of steam piping and then repairs to the alley.
6. New Modem: Mediacom came and installed the new updated modem in church office. Modem was shipped to us months ago, with no instructions of what needed to be done. Old one shipped out.
7. Dishwasher in kitchen: a couple of issues have come up with the operation of the auto dishwasher in the kitchen. Joe made contact with Hobart, to get a serviceman to look at it. Unit is still operational. Serviceman has on schedule to be here by end of the month.
8. Roof Repairs: We have received an updated preliminary quote for 3 areas (Library, Office Area and Baptismal Fount) of the church roof which are in dire need of repairs. We had to make 2 repairs in 2022. Joe has been in touch with Range Cornice and Roofing, who have made minor repairs in the past, and there is a need for replacement soon. There are areas where you can stick your fingers in, which should not even have cracks. Motion by Pastor Kevin to seek bids and to move forward with a resolution for 2023 Annual Meeting, for this roof repair. Second by Os Schock, motion carried. Pastor Kevin to present the item to the Church Council.

9. Led Lights: Last of the fluorescent change out to LED lights has been completed. Thanks Mike and Joe and the anonymous monetary donors who helped complete this project. Sanctuary change-over to LED's to be reviewed as part of future Sanctuary work.
 10. HPUC Facility Services Expenses: Mike continues to monitor the expenses and we are right on spending plan target for 2022.
 11. Pipe Organ Renovation: Roy to address this with the Church Council later tonight.
 12. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
 13. Next Meeting Dec 13, 2022, at 4PM
- Meeting Adjourned: 5:00 PM.
Respectfully Submitted, Mike Stavnes

Celebration of Light and Music

December 11th 2 pm - 6:30 pm at Camp Hiawatha

Join VLM at Camp Hiawatha to celebrate the Advent Season with family activities, music filled worship service and a festive meal. Some activities include, sledding, skating, broom ball and food demonstrations.

Afternoon activities are Free! Space is Limited for the meal at 5pm.

To get tickets visit <https://CLM22.givesmart.com>

Dear OSLC,

It is with mixed emotion that I am writing this letter of resignation effective December 30, 2022.

Although it has been my pleasure to serve you for the past 4+ years, I feel I must move on to retirement and spend more time with my family.

My sincere gratitude to you,
Nancy Samuelson

A recognition celebration of Nancy's ministry among us will take place immediately after worship on December 18th in the Fellowship Hall.

The Personnel Committee is in the process of considering resumes' for the position of Administrative Assistant for the congregation. This is one of several crucial roles in our congregation. It requires strong organizational skills, accounting and word processing expertise and utmost attention to care and confidentiality. If you or someone you know would be interested in being considered for the role, please submit a resume' to the personnel committee via email (oslchibb@mchsi.com), by mailing it to the church or placing it in the Ministry and Personnel mailbox outside the office. See www.oslchibbing.org for the complete job description.