



Our Savior's VOICE January 2023

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

Stepping into the River of Change...

Happy New Year!

A famous quote by the 6th B.C. Greek Philosopher, Heraclitus, reads as follows:

No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man. There is nothing permanent except change.

Metaphorically speaking, taking this quote from Heraclitus, I would like to take the word "man" and insert "congregation."

*No **congregation** ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and it's not the same **congregation**. There is nothing permanent except change.*

Looking back at what has transpired in 2022, and looking to "step into the river" of 2023, I am overjoyed that we appear to FINALLY have the most serious threats, and most deleterious affects, of COVID behind us, and that our congregant worship is beginning to pick-up in attendance. But as we come back, with the option to worship *virtually*, do we need to re-examine what it means to be a part of a worshipping community? Are we the same congregation?

And after a difficult hiatus due to COVID, our Sunday school has risen like a Phoenix from the ashes, *Alleluia!* And we have definitely seen more children come up for the Children's Message, and more younger families participating in worship. But where might the Holy Spirit be calling us to invite EVEN MORE PARTICIPATION, and to find ways to yoke the wisdom of silver haired grandparents and the curiosity and energy of grandchildren? Are we the same congregation?

Our congregation has risen to the challenge of raising the funding needed to upgrade our heating system without taking out a loan. Praise God! But now that there is warmth in the building there are other challenges to the brick and mortar of a church building that is over 70 years old. Are we the same congregation?

At this year's **Annual Meeting**, to be held on **Sunday, January 29th @ 10:30 a.m.** there will be two important resolutions that will be brought before the Congregation, one to replace our flat, rubber membrane roof, and another to establish a fund-raising appeal to refurbish our pipe organ. To address the challenges of our church building, and to continue to reach out to our surrounding church community, are we the same congregation?

Finally, as you are well aware by now, our faithful Administrative Assistant, Nancy Samuelson, has announced her retirement.

For four and a half years Nancy has been the backbone of our church office, holding things together during the difficult COVID pandemic, and being the cheerful and reassuring voice on the other end of the phone. We all admire the way that Nancy jumped in to become a part of our Our Savior's Community, and kept our church running smoothly, she will be missed!

And as the Personnel Committee has been looking at resumes, and conducting interviews to replace Nancy, it has become clear to us that the congregation has changed, for no *congregation ever steps in the same river twice*.

As much as we were blessed by Nancy's ministry amongst us, we pray for God to open our hearts to the river of change ahead. It goes without saying that we pray for a smooth and seamless transition in hiring a new Administrative Assistant.

But more importantly we pray for God's direction in an ever-changing world, and how we will grow in the midst of the change. As the Psalmist reminds us: *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. (Psalm 46:5-5)*

God bless, be well, and a blessed Happy New Year in 2023!

Pastor Kevin

Musical Notes



I cannot even begin to imagine how much Christmas music I have sung in church since my early teens. There has never been a year that I have not been at Christmas Eve service or services, which ever might be the case. Many of those years amounted to three services. Church musicians don't have the opportunity to enjoy many performances outside of their own. I do have mixed feelings about that because I love being on the other side of things. I can say that I am very proud to have the opportunity to shape the music ministry here at OSLC. Nadine and I try to balance the continuation of traditions with leading toward new traditions. In December I did try to present something 'special' at each of the services. I am thankful that singers have for the most part been able to avoid any lingering health issues. May I suggest that you take time to listen to the music of this festive season well into the New Year. Let us not be too quick to 'pack up' the wonderful feelings that are generated this time of the year. As parents, we find the greatest joy after the birth. Nadine and I make potica and lefsa for my brother and sister. They remind us of how they appreciate our effort and try to make it last as long as possible. Can't we also treasure what we have experienced this Christmas here at OSLC and savor that into the future? I thank all the singers and ringers, the wonderful support staff that I am privileged to work with and also each and every one of you. God's Blessing on you in the New Year!

Roy

Save the date: Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 29, 2023

Worship Service at 9 a.m. with the Annual Meeting following

Committee Reports need to be completed by Wednesday, Jan. 4th !

Clothes Closet

Our Savior's Lutheran Church has a Children's Clothing Closet with sizes up to 12-14. It is free to use. Usually, you can receive two to three outfits, one of which is new. Shoes, boots, winter outer wear, under garments are also available most of the time. Children's quilts are also available and sometimes twin bed sheets. You must call 263-7422 to request an appointment time to meet with a committee member to help you during regular hours, Monday – Friday 8-4:30pm.



Pastoral Acts:

Funeral: December 19 Milo Sulentic

Happy Birthday

January	6	Donna Monson
	10	Judith Raukar
	16	Dick Hemmersbaugh
	17	Ginny Evans
	28	Gloria O'Brien
	30	Owen Olson



Happy Anniversary



Best wishes to Roy & Ada Hobbs who will be celebrating their 61st Wedding Anniversary on January 13th.

Best wishes to Don and Joyce Schwartz who will be celebrating their 66th Wedding Anniversary on January 19th.

2022 Missionary for a Day Calendar has received \$2,190 to date.

During December gifts were received:

From Sharon & Mitch Cook in celebration of Kali & Brendan's Anniversary, Great Granddaughter Florence's Birthday and in memory of Earl Wollin
In honor of Crego Family Birthdays
By Jan & Dick Gregorich
In honor of Mark Johnson Family Birthdays
In memory of Tom Litchy
In memory of Milo Sulentic
Given in celebration of Torgerson Family Anniversaries

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!

QUILTING 2023

Quilts and more quilts. Cindy L. and Jan G. delivered 36 from OSLC to the Salvation Army just before Thanksgiving. We have also given three to a woman and her daughters who were moving from homelessness to an apartment.

We will, starting on January 9, concentrate on quilts for our church member high school seniors and quilts for LWR.

Our biggest need is to have people willing to come and tie quilts on Monday morning or take home to tie. Quilts and more quilts!! Our ladies layering and sewing are doing an amazing job of getting quilts to this point.

We received a lot of various size polar fleece pieces and these went to Side Lake quilters for Chemo blankets and one of their group for mittens for children. The gals sorting fabric do an amazing job of finding homes for what we cannot not use due to content or print.

Many thanks for all the financial and in-kind support from church members and the community. We will keep on quilting as long as we are physically able and the materials are in stock!

Blessings for a happy and healthy New Year.

Sue Schock and all the quilters



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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.



The Columbarium at Our Savior's offers perpetually endowed care for the remains of those 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 call to make an appointment with Cindy in the church office 263-7422. An optional payment plan is available.

Note to niche owners: Call to select your keyless entry code.

OSLC has an Emergency Food Shelf for those in need in our local community. Open hours are Wednesday and Friday 1-2:30pm

Council Meeting Highlights (December 13 2022)

- The Council met in Room 1.
- The General Fund as of November 30, 2022 was **(\$4,556.85)**. Thank you for your continued generous givings.
- Mark your calendars for another **Gods Work Our Hands** project day: Sunday, January 22, 2023.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023.
- The Council approved two Resolutions regarding church property projects. These will be presented and voted on during the Annual Congregational Meeting.
- The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.



Confirmation News:

7th-9th grades - Wednesday classes resume January 4th
Class dates are **Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25**, Feb. 1, 8, 15

Let begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023.
Midweek Lenten Worship Services will be
Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Our next Bible Study is on Thursday, January 12th at 10am.
We will be looking forward to seeing you!!!



to all who contributed to the Poinsettias and the Mission Project.
These gifts make Christmas beautiful for us and for others.
Your generosity has made this happen!!! Thanks be to God!

Jan & Dick Gregorich
Mark & Judy Johnson and family
Helga Nelson in loving memory of Leo, Brian & Bob Nelson
Clifford & Debbie Lind in loving memory of Pat Koskela & Tom Koskela Jr.
Oliver & Elsie Harle and Delaney & Josie Oberhelman in loving memory of
Papa Pat Geiselman
Marylene Ronne and family in loving memory of Howard & Elaine Myrum
The Rudberg Family in loving memory of Harry & Almeda Rudberg and Ruth Moyer
Tim & Mary Ann Rasch in loving memory of Olive Rasch and Pat Lee
Os & Sue Schock
Mike & Pam Finco
Betty Deyo in loving memory of Ron
Michael & Julie Stagg and Family in loving memory of Arlene Stagg
"Adventures with Jesus" Kids
Mike & Jill Klapatch
Roy & Nadine Berg in loving memory of Alan Berg
Pastor Kevin & Sandi Olson in honor of Pauline Johnson
Clinton & Lois Lind
Suzanne Clark in memory of loved ones
Mitch & Sharon Cook in loving memory of Albert & Ione Wollin
and Clinton & Ruth Cook.
Alan Vine in loving memory of Clifford & Anna Carpenter, William & Phyllis Vine
and Linda Vine
In memory of Carol & Don Severson by their family
Dick & Kathy Anderson

Usher schedule: 2023

January 1	Team 4
January 8	Team 5
January 15	Team 6
January 22	Team 7
January 29	Team 1

Just FYI, we WILL be holding our annual Baby Shower in February.
More information will be in the February VOICE.



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.

Mark your calendars for another **Gods Work Our Hands** project day:
Sunday, January 22, 2023.

Mission Action

We would like to thank anyone who has supported our projects this year. The food shelf, clothes closet, and now our water well Advent project. We have had lower numbers in the food shelf and we feel its because the Salvation Army is doing such a great job helping the community. There is a fair amount of money in that account so we feel some should be spent helping put food on the table in our community and we have donated \$2,000.00 of that to the Salvation Army food distribution in December.

Wishing every one a blessed New Year.

OSLCW UP-COMING EVENTS

The Women of OSLC will meet following worship on Sunday, January 8TH in the Pilgrims Chapel to discuss and distribute funds. If your committee has any special requests for funds for 2023, please make Sue Schock or Sue Stanisich aware before that date. All women are encouraged to be present and give voice to our disbursements.

Happy New Year.
The Sue S.'s x2

Daily Inspiration

Prayer for the New Year

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things.
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.



*HAPPY NEW
YEAR!!!!*



Updates from Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

SUMMER 2023 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Registration is open for Summer 2023! To register go to:
www.vlmcamps.org/registration,

email vlm@vlmcamps.org or call our Duluth office at our new number 218-481-9080

SUMMER STAFF APPLICATIONS ARE LIVE!

Are you or do you know a young adult that would love to work in God's Great Northwoods? We are hiring a diverse team that will gain skills, build lifelong friendships, and share God's love in creation this summer! Head to vlmcamps.org/employment to learn more about the many job opportunities at VLM-Camp Vermilion and Camp Hiawatha!

CAMP VERMILION PADDLE BUILDING

 JANUARY 13-16 

Join us at Camp Vermilion for an extended weekend of building your very own bent shaft canoe or paddle-board paddle. You will craft your own paddle, from gluing the wood blanks to a finished work of art, For more information and to register visit:
<https://www.vlmcamps.org/programs-event> or call our main office at 218481-9080

VLM 'S DULUTH OFFICE IS MOVING!

We are moving our Duluth office to be based out of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. We will be moving in December.

New address:
1325 N 45th Ave E Duluth, MN 55804