

FEBRUARY 2023

# THE MESSENGER

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Beloit, WI



## Enough!

*"but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)*

When is it going to be enough? When is enough ENOUGH? I am certain that many of us has asked these questions many many times over the past few years. Whether it be in response to the pandemic or to the countless acts of senseless violence that have taken place it seems like the question of whether we have had "enough" is becoming more rhetorical each day.

This month I will have the privilege to spend four days of continuing education attending the annual ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza. This event is the annual gathering of children, youth, and family ministry leaders from across the ELCA. We will gather in Orange County, California under the theme: "Enough".

The theme is rooted in sitting in a space of true acknowledgement of the things where we all have had enough:

- We have had enough of COVID and its effects on our church.
- We have had enough of polarization and divisiveness.
- We have had enough of racism and the way it marginalizes and dehumanizes.
- We have had enough of not knowing what to do next, or of how to do ministry in the world in which we live.

We are all tired of these things. We may feel weak and insufficient to face the challenges that lie in front of us.

*"My  
grace is  
sufficient  
for you."*

And yet, here we are. We feel called to serve God through Christ's church, and we are looking for wisdom, direction, and guidance. We cling to God's promises, desperate for reassurance and hope.

Three times, the apostle Paul asked God to remove the "thorn" that was causing him pain.

God's response to Paul? "My grace is sufficient for you." Grace is enough. Yes. Grace is enough.

God is reminding Paul (and all of us) that we worship a God not of scarcity, but of abundance. God gives enough, and more than enough. And God reminds us that we are dependent on God's abundance for our ministry, and for our very lives. When we acknowledge

and let go of our weakness, our need to own and control, and we trust in God, we can then recognize God's love for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

God gives enough. More than enough.

In these days of uncertainty and trouble, we are reminded of God's promise that grace is sufficient, and that God provides...enough.

We trust in that promise and through that promise I am looking forward to being in community with hundreds of other leaders in the ELCA and discerning new and exciting ways we can respond as the church. I am excited to learn and bring back my learning to Our Savior's for the future of your ministry together doing God's work in this time and place.

Yes, we have all had enough...of a lot of things, but God's free gift of Grace is enough to get us through.

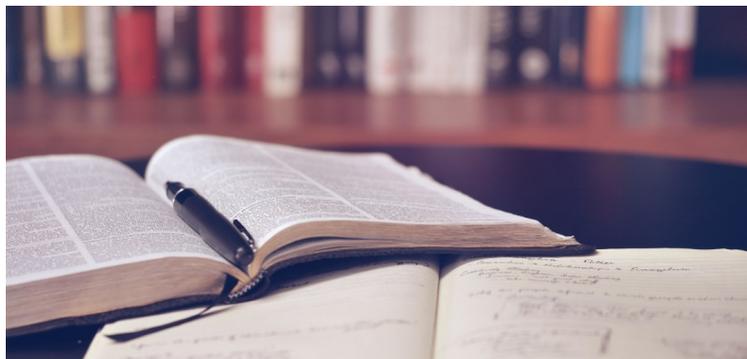
+Pastor Jason

## Welcome Statement

We welcome and encourage the full participation of all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, appearance, or anything else that threatens to divide us. We have all been claimed as God's children, and all are welcome here.

*"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." -Galatians 3:28*

Our Mission Statement: To reflect God's love through service to the family of God.



## Practice Prayer | Reading Spiritually

Recently, I was working at a public library (one of the great, underappreciated treasures of our society, by the way). One bookshelf that caught my attention for it held books on religion and spirituality that were quite diverse: the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, *The Kabbalah for Dummies*, a biography of Pope Francis, *The High 5 Habits*, *The Power of Bad*, and *How to Live a Good Life* are some examples of what I saw. Might one of these be helpful for us as we seek to practice prayer? Some maybe more than others. Not all "spiritual" readings are equal.

It is important to fill our minds with words, ideas and thoughts that dwell on the reality of God. It is a key component of both "Lectio Divina" and "the Examen" practices. The Bible is the definitive book on spirituality, but even reading the Bible takes some careful preparations and discipline. Often just starting at the beginning or playing Bible Roulette is not the best option. A well tested reading plan or daily lectionary is a great resource for us.

There are also centuries of spiritual authors who are rich treasures of spiritual thinking. Anthologies like *Devotional Classes* produced by Renovare and the *Philokalia* (which is a collection of reads assembled over two centuries ago) are examples of books that help us engage in several different spiritual writers of many different time periods. When you do find spiritual writers that move your soul deeply, live with their writings and return to them over and over again. People like Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, or Teresa of Avila can become living teachers and mentors for us. Even more recent authors can impact our hearts. Some who have become great teachers for me are Rachel Held Evans, Dallas Willard, Brian Doyle, Cynthia Bourgeault, John Ortberg, Tish Harrison Warren, and Trevor Hudson. Allow the Spirit to guide you and Jesus will give you the teacher you need.

Give it a try... God is ready for you.



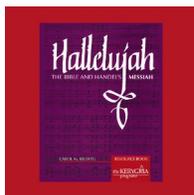
## News from the Board

As we head into the Annual Meeting of the church, I wanted to thank our outgoing Board members Pat Brogan, Jean Lincoln, and Candy Nelson for their time and service to the OSLC congregation. I especially want to thank Jon Lang for his guidance and leadership over the past five years as Board President and President Emeritus. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated and we give thanks to God for their talents and dedication. Please thank these folks as you see them around the church. Peace and God's blessings to you in the New Year, Mark Sorensen



## Annual Meeting

Our Savior's Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 5**, immediately after the late service. In addition to celebrating Our Savior's many ministries in the past year, we will pass our 2023 budget and look to ministries in the future. Copies of the 2022 Annual Report are now available, pick up your copy today. Childcare available, snack and activity will be provided.



## Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah returns Sundays at 9:30 am in the Chapel

After working through the first part of Handel's Messiah, which connects with the Seasons of Advent and Christmas, and taking a break in January, Pastor Tony's Bible study will continue Sunday, February 5 with the second part of Messiah, focusing on Lent, Christ's Passion, and Easter. Even if you missed Part 1, you are welcome to come.



## Receiving God's Wisdom Weekly Meditations from Ecclesiastes Drops every Monday

For everything there is a season, and this winter is the season for us to meditate weekly on passages from Ecclesiastes. Weekly meditations that help us to receive God's wisdom from Ecclesiastes drop on Mondays on Our Savior's YouTube channel. Focusing on passages from this book of God's Wisdom, Pastor Tony will reflect on how they are relevant gifts of grace for our lives today.

Follow Us Online



@OSLCBeloit



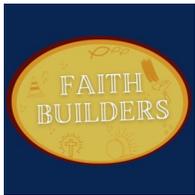
@oursaviorsbeloit



## Show Us What You Know

Our Savior's Trivia Night, presented by the OSLC Fellowship Team will be held **Saturday, February 11 at 6:00 pm.** All proceeds support the 2023 Youth

Mission Trip. Gather your team of 6-8 players, cost is \$10 per person. Added bonus: \$10 for 10 Mulligans may be purchased for answers that you don't know. 10 questions in each of 10 rounds, 1 mulligan may be used per round. The team with the most points will be crowned 2023 Champions. BBQ, Hot Dogs, chips, and snacks will be provided courtesy of a Thrivent Action Team. Gift Baskets will be available as raffle prizes.



## Faith Builders

**Sundays at 10:15am - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

We will be focusing on the Love that Jesus came to share as we prepare for Lent. Join us for our bible story and activities!



## Faith Builders' Birthday!

Happy Birthday to our February kids-- Jacob W., Miles J., Jordy, and Daniel!!! The last Sunday of each month we will celebrate by picking a present out of the prize bucket.



## Note of Thanks

It has been an honor and blessing for the last 14 years to watch so many families grow in their faith. All of your children have been a true blessing in my life!

Thank you for the endless support and love over the years! Best Blessings, Amy Smith



## Livestream Schedule

Both of our Sunday morning services (8:30 & 10:30 am) are livestreamed and available on our YouTube channel. For your convenience, links and bulletins are posted on our webpage - visit

[oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/worship](https://oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/worship).

## ✚ Pastoral Acts ✚

**Burial:** Evelyn Schroeder

WELCA invites you to a special coffee hour



BOY SCOUT TROOP #608

58<sup>TH</sup>

PANCAKE SUPPER

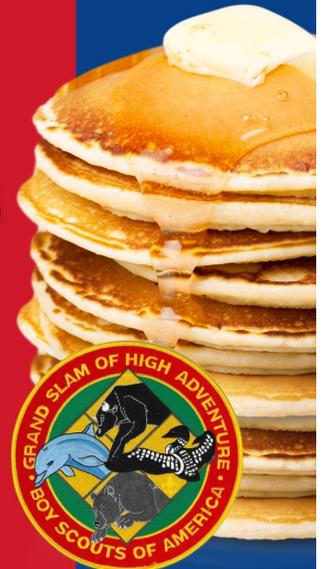
MONDAY  
MARCH 6  
2023

4:00 - 7:00 PM

\$4.00 ADULTS  
\$2.00 CHILDREN  
11 AND UNDER

OUR SAVIOR'S  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

749 BLUFF ST  
BELOIT, WI



## Circle Meetings

**Anna Circle** - Monday, Feb. 14 at 6:30 pm  
Meeting at church.

**Rachel Circle** - Monday, Feb. 13 at 11:30 am  
Hostess: Joyce Cawkins

**Naomi Circle** - Monday, Feb. 13 at 5:30 pm  
Meeting at Jersey's

**Elizabeth Circle** - Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 1:00 pm  
Hostess: Diane Riesen

**Rebekah Circle** - Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 9:30 am  
Meeting at Beloit Country Club | Hostess: Mary Porter

**Shalom Circle** - No meeting this month.

### KNIT WITS

Wednesday, February 8 at 2:00 pm.  
(Meeting at the home of Deanna Feuerstein)

### BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 16 at 4:00 pm in the Chapel.

### SEWING BEE

Every Monday 8:30-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

### SPRING LUNCHEON | Wed., April 26, 2023

**SYNOD SPRING CONFERENCE** (*We are hosting*)  
Saturday, May 6, 2023 - More details to follow.

## Winter

# Youth Ministry 2022/23

### Saturday, February 11

Fellowship Team "Trivia Night"  
6:00 p.m. - Proceeds Benefit Youth Ministry



### Wednesday, March 1

Youth Prepare & Serve Lent Soup Supper  
6:00 p.m. - Freewill Offering Benefit Youth Ministry



### Sunday, March 12

"Amazing Race" Scavenger Hunt  
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



## Key Financials | December 31, 2022

Month	2021 Actual General Offerings	2022 Actual General Offerings	Budget Offering Per Month	Monthly Surplus (Shortfall)	Cumulative Shortfall	Unrestricted Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
January	\$23,017	\$28,154	\$37,500	-\$9,346	\$9,346	\$40,058	\$40,636
February	\$30,176	\$33,252	\$37,500	-\$4,248	\$13,594	\$37,624	\$40,636
March	\$32,857	\$29,779	\$37,500	-\$7,721	\$21,315	\$47,004	\$40,636
April	\$32,859	\$33,348	\$37,500	-\$4,152	\$25,467	\$40,560	\$40,636
May	\$28,367	\$30,540	\$37,500	-\$6,960	\$32,427	\$41,189	\$40,636
June	\$32,831	\$29,030	\$37,500	-\$8,470	\$40,897	\$52,044	\$40,636
July	\$29,024	\$29,627	\$37,500	-\$7,873	\$48,770	\$37,963	\$40,636
August	\$33,584	\$24,616	\$37,500	-\$12,884	\$61,654	\$38,882	\$40,636
September	\$25,191	\$22,173	\$37,500	-\$15,327	\$76,981	\$76,910	\$40,636
October	\$83,484	\$35,948	\$37,500	-\$1,552	\$78,533	\$35,265	\$40,636
November	\$27,279	\$29,293	\$37,500	-\$8,207	\$86,740	\$36,517	\$40,636
December	\$67,747	\$71,284	\$37,500	\$33,784	\$52,956	\$42,832	\$40,636
<b>Total</b>	\$446,416	\$397,044	\$450,000			\$526,848	\$487,632



# FEBRUARY 2023

749 Bluff Street, Beloit, WI 53511 | (608) 362-0716 | [www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org](http://www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:00am Men's Group 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Confirmation	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:00pm Worship
<b>5-EPIPHANY 5</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Bible Study 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:15am Faith Builders 10:30am Worship 11:30am Annual Meeting 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	<b>6</b> 8:30am Sewing Bee	<b>7</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Dartball (Commons)	<b>8</b> 10:00am Second Harvest 2:00pm Knit Wits (Feuerstein) 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 6:30pm Confirmation Mentor Night	<b>9</b> 5:30pm Personnel 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:00pm Worship 6:00pm Trivia Night
<b>12-EPIPHANY 6</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Bible Study 9:30am Hearts of Love Tea/Coffee Hour 10:15am Faith Builders 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	<b>13</b> 8:30am Sewing Bee 11:30am Rachel Circle 5:30pm Naomi Circle	<b>14</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 9:30am Rebekah Circle 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Anna Circle 7:00pm Dartball (Commons)	<b>15</b> 9:00am Men's Group 3:30pm Fellowship 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Confirmation	<b>16</b> 4:00pm WELCA Board 6:00pm Finance (ZOOM) 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Choir	<b>17</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>18</b> 8:30 am LEAD Conference (St. Luke's Lutheran Church (Middleton)) 5:00pm Worship
<b>19-TRANSFIGURATION</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Bible Study 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:15am Faith Builders 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	<b>20</b> 8:30am Sewing Bee	<b>21</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 1:00pm Elizabeth Circle 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Dartball (Commons)	<b>22-ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	<b>23</b> 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Board Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:00pm Worship
<b>26-LENT 1</b> 8:30am Worship 9:30am Bible Study 9:30am Coffee Hour 10:15am Faith Builders 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	<b>27</b> 8:30am Sewing Bee 7:00pm Education Committee	<b>28</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Second Harvest 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Dartball (Commons)				



749 Bluff Street, Beloit WI 53511  
Phone: (608) 362-0716

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Beloit, WI  
PERMIT NO. 167

**Worship with Us.**  
**Saturday - 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday - 8:30 am**  
**10:30 am**

**TO:**

Our Staff:  
Pr. Tony Dusso Senior Pastor  
Pr. Jason Poole-Xiong Associate Pastor  
Valerie Dusso Administrative Assistant  
Cheryl Licary Organist & Choir Director  
Kelly Erdmann Financial Secretary  
Amy Smith Children's Ministry Coordinator  
Natasha Reed Housekeeper  
Grant Dusso AV Assistant



*Remember  
that  
you are  
dust  
and to  
dust  
you  
shall  
return.*

A photograph of a white bowl filled with a thick, orange-colored soup, garnished with green herbs and red peppers. The bowl is on a wooden surface next to some bread.

kick off the Lenten season  
and join us for

# LENT SOUP SUPPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1  
6:00 PM IN THE COMMONS

Followed by Worship  
at 7:00 pm in the  
Sanctuary.

# ASH WEDNESDAY

## February 22

Worship with Imposition of Ashes - 7:00 pm