

DECEMBER 2024

THE MESSENGER

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Beloit, WI



Every Common Bush Afire with God



And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14

One of the great stories of the Scriptures comes to us early in Exodus. Moses, in exile having fled from Pharaoh, came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There he encountered God through the Burning Bush, which defied all logic. Here was a perfectly normal bush, rooted in the ground, and yet it was aflame. Though the fire and the bush were one, the blazing bush was not consumed by the fire. They illogically dwelled together as one. To God all things are possible, and there at Horeb the God of the universe met Moses in the miraculous while still being grounded in the mundane.

This happens again through the incarnation. In Jesus, "the Word became flesh and lived among us." We celebrate the birth of Christ because the Son of God, fully divine, is grounded in the womb of a woman among the most ordinary of earthly scenes (animals and their food and all the mess that goes with that). His divinity

did not overwhelm the humanity. Instead, they illogically dwelt together as one. To God all things are possible, and there in Bethlehem the God of the universe meets all of humanity in the miraculous while still being grounded in the mundane. Truly, all that is mundane has now been redeemed. As the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning puts it: "Earth's crammed with Heaven, And every common bush afire with God."

The church recognizes and celebrates this unity of the divine with the mortal during the Seasons of Advent and Christmas. For four Sundays in Advent we anticipate this unity in the birth of Christ and his promised return. As the light produced by the Advent wreath gets brighter, we know the dawn from on high is upon us.

On Christmas, we tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ has been born of Mary. The traditions of Christmas are many and shared by most of the culture around us. There are songs of praise and rituals that are grounded in the Nativity story. There is deep meaning found in our festivities, for we are celebrating together the fulfillment of God's promise and the birth of the Messiah.

In this newsletter you will find information about many of the worship services and activities we have planned here at Our Savior's. Make sure to include some of them in your celebration of Christmas this year. What a powerful witness it is when generations gather to worship on Christmas Eve. Pass on the good news of Christ birth, especially to the younger generations in your family. Where else will they learn that what is mortal and what is divine have become one for them in Jesus? This unity has also happened within them since they are one with Christ in baptism. Praise be to God!

Rejoice always! Pastor Tony

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

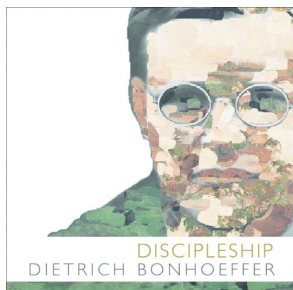
Our Mission Statement: To reflect God's love through service to the family of God.

Congratulations Confirmands!



2024 Confirmation Class

FRONT ROW: Ramon Montes, Callie Parker, Avery Lovejoy
BACK ROW: Pastor Tony Dusso, Kaitlyn Justice, Dylan Van Fleet



Weekly Online Study

"Following Christ with Bonhoeffer"

In-person conversation on Sunday, December 8 @ 9:30 am in the Chapel

Walking through *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pastor Tony is

dropping weekly meditations on Our Savior's YouTube channel. Check them out. On Sunday, December 8 at 9:30 am in-person conversation will be held on the topic of discipleship and why it is that Bonhoeffer insists that it is for everyone. Is the cost of non-discipleship greater than the cost of discipleship? All are welcome to come.



The Giving Tree

We invite you to participate in a Food Drive for Caritas. For your convenience, a Reverse Advent Calendar can be found on page four. Please bring food items to the church throughout the month of December, placing them by The Giving Tree in the Commons.



THE GOOD LIFE

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is GOOD."
- Romans 12:9

The GOOD Life

Commitment Cards for 2025 still available.

Thank you to everyone who turned in commitment cards for 2025 through this year's stewardship emphasis called: The GOOD Life. It's not too late to

turn in your intentions if you have not already. Commitment Cards are available at the church and may be turned in to either the office of left in the offering plate during worship.



A Note from WELCA

The WELCA Board would like to say "Thank You" to all volunteers and church staff who helped make our Fall Harvest Festival a success. Also, circles for donating Raffle Baskets, those who donated to the Household, Craft, Bake and

Jewelry sales, Gloria Wallace for the wooden Barn Quilt and Barn Quilt Side Table, Mary Fellner for the Afghan, Dave Konowal for the Garden Bench. A special "Thank You" to the kitchen crew who helped prepare and cook for the lunch on Friday and the luncheon on Saturday.



Young @ Heart

Join us on **Thursday, December 12** from 12:00-2:00 pm for a festive meal of ham balls, salad, potato, veggie, roll and dessert.

We'll ring in the holiday fun with a few games and great fellowship!

In order to prepare lunch, please sign-up on the sheet located on the counter in the Commons by Sunday, December 8.

Follow Us Online



@OSLCBeloit



@oursaviorsbeloit

Staff Christmas Gift

Our Board invites anyone who wishes to make a contribution to the Staff Christmas Gift to do so by **December 15**. Contributions may be mailed to the office (labelled "staff gift") or dropped in the gift box located outside the

sanctuary by the elevator.



Kids Connect

Grow your child's faith with Jesus! Children will learn about HIS love while exploring, stories, crafts, music, and games. Kids Connect is offered **Sunday morning from 10:30 am - 11:15 am** for children pre-k through 5th grade. *Kids*

Connect will not meet on December 22 and 29. Reach out to Kellie @ kellie@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org for more information.



Youth Connect

Join us for Youth Connect every Sunday at 9:30 am. It's a fantastic chance for fun, fellowship, and deepening your faith! *Youth Connect will not meet on December 29.* Reach out to Molly for more information -

molly@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org.

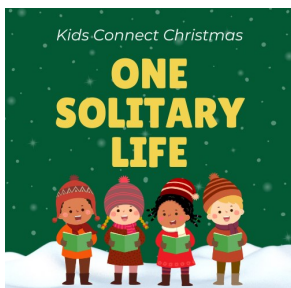
Mark your calendar for upcoming special events:

Ice Skating | Sunday, December 8 from 2-4 pm
Christmas Party | Sunday, December 22 at 11:30 am

KIDS Connect Christmas Program

Join us for a joyous and inspiring service, as our children and youth present "One Solitary Life" on **Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 am**. You don't want to miss this

special message of Christmas through readings, music, and songs.



ADVENT NIGHT



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us for a simple meal, followed by fellowship and fun activities! This is a night for families of all ages!

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Using fresh greens, come and make a lovely Advent wreath to use this season.



HISTORY OF CHRISMONS

Let's learn the tradition of making Chrismons. Help us create and decorate the Giving Tree.



FOOD DRIVE FOR CARITAS



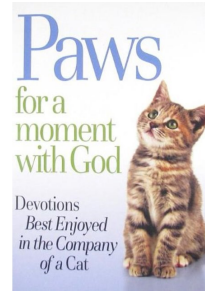
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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1
BOX OF CEREAL | 2
PEANUT BUTTER | 3
CANNED FRUIT | 4
BOXED POTATOES |
| 5
MAC & CHEESE | 6
100% FRUIT JUICE | 7
PICKLES | 8
CANNED TUNA |
| 9
CREAM OF CHICKEN SOUP | 10
SALSA | 11
CANNED CORN | 12
CANNED CHICKEN |
| 13
PACKAGE OF PASTA | 14
BOX OF CRACKERS | 15
INSTANT RICE | 16
BOX OF OATMEAL |
| 17
HAMBURGER HELPER | 18
PASTA SAUCE | 19
GRAVY MIX | 20
TOMATO SOUP |
| 21
SALAD DRESSING | 22
DRIED FRUIT | 23
BABY FOOD | 24
JELLO |

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Please bring food items to the church throughout the month of December, placing them by the Giving Tree in the Commons.



Our Savior's
Lutheran Church



In the Spotlight

This month's "In the Spotlight" book review is presented by Lynette Rust, be sure to check out the Library's featured display.

A new book in the library is full of the sweetest words. If you're a cat lover you will most likely love

this book: *Paws for a Moment with God: Devotions Best Enjoyed in the Company of a Cat*.

I read out loud from it when my cat, Zoey, is (usually) napping in my in my lap, although I believe she's listening. There are descriptions of a cats antics and personality quirks but also meaningful scriptures.

It's truly a joy to read... you may just want to purchase your own copy, it's that calming, inspiring and just a treasure to share with your pet while spending time with the Lord.



Choir Welcomes You

If you love to sing the Choir welcomes your participation during the Advent and Christmas season. Contact Cheryl or just show up on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm (check calendar for meeting dates).



Let's Go Bowling!

Everyone is invited to an afternoon of bowling on **Sunday, January 19** from 1:00-3:00 pm at Cougar Lanes in Clinton, WI. Cost is \$10 per person - includes, shoe rental, lane cost, pizza, and soda! Please sign up by January 5 on

the bulletin board in the Commons. Fun for all ages!

Circle Meetings

Anna Circle - Tues., December 3 at 6:30 pm
Meeting at church/Fellowship Hall

Naomi Circle - Mon., December 9 at 5:30 pm
Hostess: Dori Vollmer | Christmas Party

Elizabeth Circle - Tues., December 17 at 12:30 pm
Christmas Luncheon @ local restaurant

Rebekah Circle - Thurs., December 12 at 11:30 am
Christmas Brunch @ Beloit Family Restaurant

Shalom Circle - Wed., December 18 at 12:00 pm
Christmas Luncheon @ The Club

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

TASTE OF CHRISTMAS | Sunday, December 1
Between services in the Commons.

ANNUAL MEETING | Sunday, January 5
At the 9:30 am in the Chapel.

No Knit Wits or Board Meeting this month.



Taste of Christmas

WELCA INVITES YOU TO A
SPECIAL HOLIDAY COFFEE HOUR.

Sunday, December 1
at 9:30 am

Key Financials | October 31, 2024

Month	2023 Actual General Offerings	2024 Actual General Offerings	Budget Offering Per Month	Monthly Surplus (Shortfall)	Cumulative Shortfall	Unrestricted Expenses	Budgeted Expenses
January	\$25,392	\$33,122	\$35,417	\$ (2,295)	\$ (2,295)	\$33,133	\$38,074
February	\$34,853	\$30,057	\$35,417	\$ (5,360)	\$ (7,655)	\$33,157	\$38,074
March	\$29,382	\$35,334	\$35,417	\$ (83)	\$ (7,738)	\$35,386	\$38,074
April	\$37,155	\$26,590	\$35,417	\$ (8,827)	\$ (16,565)	\$36,069	\$38,074
May	\$22,532	\$29,958	\$35,417	\$ (5,459)	\$ (22,024)	\$33,379	\$38,074
June	\$30,728	\$30,906	\$35,417	\$ (4,511)	\$ (26,535)	\$33,207	\$38,074
July	\$28,455	\$24,822	\$35,417	\$ (10,595)	\$ (37,130)	\$36,613	\$38,074
August	\$23,479	\$22,910	\$35,417	\$ (12,507)	\$ (49,637)	\$32,737	\$38,074
September	\$25,713	\$24,930	\$35,417	\$ (10,487)	\$ (60,124)	\$40,288	\$38,074
October	\$34,779	\$32,017	\$35,417	\$ (3,400)	\$ (63,524)	\$35,477	\$38,074
November	\$25,513						
December	\$89,490						
Total	\$407,471	\$290,646	\$354,170			\$349,446	\$380,740



CHRISTMAS

At Our Savior's Lutheran Church

December 1	9:30 & 11:30 am	Taste of Christmas & Decorating Day
December 4	6:00 pm	Advent Night
December 15	10:30 am	Kids Connect Christmas "One Solitary Life"
December 21	5:00 pm	Longest Night Service
December 24	4:00 & 10:00 pm	Christmas Eve
December 25	10:00 am	Christmas Day
December 29	10:00 am	Lessons and Carols



December 1: Our Savior's WELCA will hold its annual Taste of Christmas celebration between services in the Commons. Come and enjoy the abundance of homemade goodies and refreshments as we enter this season of good cheer. Later, after the late service, we will be decorating our sanctuary for the season.

December 4: Families and all members of the family of God are welcome to attend this year's Advent Night. We'll be having a meal together, making Advent wreaths for the season, and learning about and making Chrismos for the Giving Tree.



December 15: Our Kids Connect students will share the message of Christmas with us during the late service at 10:30 am. Hear what is shared from the mouths of children and babes as we all join in to celebrate the birth of Christ.

December 21: At the point where the nighttime is longest and the light of the sun seems scarce, we gather in worship, facing our sadness and struggles with honesty and care. We give to Christ, the Light of the World, our burdens and find both healing and hope. This service is particularly appropriate for those finding it difficult to join the culture's yuletide spirit.

December 24: Our Savior's continues the great tradition of celebrating the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve through our special services that are grounded in Word and Sacrament and express our delight through the carols of Christmas and the beauty of candlelight. The 4:00 pm service will also include a special Christmas message for our children.

December 25: On Christmas Morning we celebrate the coming of new hope, grounded in Christ who is the Word made Flesh. God has moved into the neighborhood and lives among us.

December 29: Our Savior's will hold a Lessons and Carols service with Reflections from Martin Luther that continues the joy of the 12-day Christmas season. Note the special time and that this is the only service for Sunday morning.





749 Bluff Street, Beloit, WI 53511 | (608) 362-0716 | www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ADVENT 1 8:30am Worship 9:30am Taste of Christmas 9:30am Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:30am Youth Connect 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 11:30am Christmas decorating, pizza and Christmas movie 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	2 8:30am Sewing Bee	3 9:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Anna Circle 7:00pm Dartball	4 9:00am Men's Group 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 6:00pm Advent Night 7:00pm Confirmation	5 5:30pm Education 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Board Meeting 6:30pm Choir	6 9:00am BAREA Board	7 5:00pm Worship
8 ADVENT 2 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am Bonhoeffer Forum 9:30am Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:30am Youth Connect 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 2:00pm Youth Connect Outing: Ice Skating @ Edwards Ice Arena	9 8:30am Sewing Bee 5:30pm Naomi Circle	10 11:00am Staff Christmas 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Dartball	11 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Confirmation	12 11:30am Rebekah Circle 12:00pm Young @ Heart 5:30pm Personnel 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Choir	13	14 9:30am Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 5:00pm Worship
15 ADVENT 3 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am Youth Connect 10:30am Worship & Christmas Program 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	16 8:30am Sewing Bee 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	17 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Second Harvest 11:00am Pastors Text Study 12:30pm Elizabeth Circle 6:00pm Boy Scouts	18 9:00am Men's Group 12:00pm Shalom Circle 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Confirmation	19 6:00 pm OA 6:30pm Choir	20	21 5:00pm Longest Night Worship
22 ADVENT 4 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am Youth Connect 10:30am Worship 11:30am Youth Connect Christmas Party 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	23 8:30am Sewing Bee	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 10:00pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY <i>Office Closed</i> 10:00am Christmas Day Worship 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27	28 5:00pm Worship
29 CHRISTMAS 1 10:00am "Lessons & Carols" Worship 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	30 8:30am Sewing Bee	31				

Updated: 11/19/2024



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

TO:

Our Staff:
Rev. Anthony Dusso Pastor
Valerie Dusso Administrative Assistant
Kellie Carrier-Richards Children's Ministry Coordinator
Milton Dodson A/V Assistant
Grant Dusso A/V Assistant
Kelly Erdmann Financial Secretary
Cheryl Licary Organist & Choir Director
Jean Lincoln Lay Pastoral Assistant
Molly Rosenbloom Youth Ministry Coordinator



CHRISTMAS

At Our Savior's Lutheran Church

CHRISTMAS EVE | December 24
4:00 pm Candlelight Worship
10:00 pm Candlelight Worship

CHRISTMAS DAY | December 25
10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
Sunday, December 29
10:00 am "Lessons & Carols" Worship



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