

JANUARY 2025

THE MESSENGER

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Beloit, WI



I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me



When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

– Matthew 2:16

There are reasons for there being twelve days of Christmas that go beyond maids-a-milking and turtledoves. The story of Christ's birth is too big for one day and so much more than a little town of Bethlehem. There is Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John. There are Joseph's dreams, wise men from the east, and a nervous King Herod seeking to kill. There is Joseph, Mary, and Jesus' flight to Egypt as refugees and the slaughter of the innocents under the orders of a power-mad king. Christ our Lord, born of Mary, was born a refugee within a world of violence. Jesus was a Nazarene who called Bethlehem and Egypt his first homes.

I had the blessing of attending a gathering in December hosted by our Lutheran brothers and sisters at *Parroquia San Jose* and St. Paul Lutheran. Bishop Joy and several members of her staff participated, but it was the members of *Parroquia San Jose* we listened to. They shared stories of coming to the United States from Mexico in the 1980's and 90's, without documentation, and what life has been like for them here in Beloit and the Stateline area. They have gotten married, raised children, and have worked in the community for years and years. I learned the term "sacrificial generation," as they have been the ones to do any job and do whatever it takes for their children and grandchildren to be cared for, receive an education, and be safe.

They shared that anxiety is high among our immigrant neighbors. Pastor Dan Gonzalez-Ortega asked for prayer, support, and the confidence to know that they are not alone as they face the fears of deportation that are before them. Jesus, who began life as an immigrant refugee and who's life ended upon an imperial instrument of execution (the cross), is the Son of God who meets us... indeed meets all people... in our struggles and despair. Christ calls upon us to be his hands and his voice in reflecting God's love through caring service to the church, the community, and the world. Using parables, Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of God

Article continues on page 2.

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

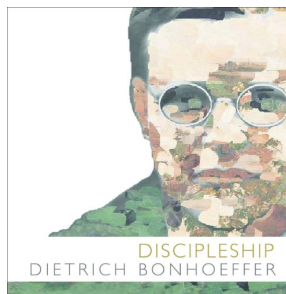
Our Mission Statement: To reflect God's love through service to the family of God.

and what is expected of us by God in the Parable of the Judgement of Nations that he shares in Matthew 25:31-49:

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer him, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Rejoice always!

Pastor Tony



Weekly Online Study

"Following Christ with Bonhoeffer"

In-person conversation on Sunday, January 12 at 9:30 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, January 12 at 9:30 am** we will talk about obedience, which Bonhoeffer says must go with being a follower of Jesus. What can we learn from Jesus' example of humility and obedience that took him both to the cross and to resurrection life? All are welcome to come.



The Giving Tree

This year's Giving Tree was decorated with beautifully handmade Chrismons created by members who attended Advent Night on December 4 - thank you for your artistic creativity! Also, thank you to everyone who

participated in our Reverse Advent Calendar by provided non-perishable food items going to Caritas! The spirit of generosity was abundant this season! Thank you!



Thank you from the Staff

Thank you for your generous Christmas cards and gifts! We are grateful for all of your support this past year and are blessed to be called by God through you to serve in this place. The OSLC Staff,

Milton Dodson, Grant Dusso, Valerie Dusso, Kelly Erdmann, Cheryl Licary, Jean Lincoln, Kellie Carrier-Richards, Molly Rosenbloom, and Pastor Tony Dusso.

Follow Us Online



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WELCA Meeting

On **Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 9:30 am**, WELCA will hold their annual meeting in the chapel. All women of Our Savior's Lutheran Church are members of WELCA, even if not a member of a circle, so everyone is welcome to attend

the meeting. The main order of business will be disbursement of the Harvest Festival profits, so all input is welcome. See you there!



One Solitary Life

A special thank you to all of the Kids Connect students and youth for sharing the message of Christmas with us on Sunday, December 15. You all did a wonderful job in sharing the story of Jesus and spreading the Christmas spirit to everyone! Kelly Carrier-Richards and Molly Rosenbloom, thank you for your leadership and organization of this production. Thank you to Amanda Van Fleet for capturing photos of the this inspiring service. Additional photos can be found on page 5.



Young @ Heart

On **Thursday, January 9 from 12:00-2:00 pm**, come out for fellowship and guest speaker, Pastor Tony Dusso. Lunch will be BBQ, chips and dessert. In order to prepare lunch, please sign-up on the sheet located on the

counter in the Commons by Sunday, January 5. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Lincoln or any member of the Fellowship Team.



Super Bowl Sub Sale

Enjoy a sub sandwich while watching the Super Bowl, and let the youth do the work for you! Your choice of ham or turkey sub, chips, and a cookie for \$10. We will be begin taking orders beginning **Sunday, January 12**,

order forms can be found in the Commons. The last day to order is February 2, 2025. Pick up your subs on game day, **Sunday, February 9 between 9:30-10:30 am**.



Let's Go Bowling

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

board in the Commons by Sunday, January 5. Fun for all ages.



NEW ORLEANS

September 27 - October 5, 2025

Do you love to travel yet want to go with a group of people you know or would feel comfortable traveling with? Then Lutherans on the Move is the perfect opportunity for you. The trip is for 9 days and 8 nights, with the total cost of a double occupancy at just \$1149.00.

See flyer on the bulletin board in the Commons for details.



LUTHERANS ON THE MOVE



Spark Story Bibles

Awarded to Preschoolers on Sunday, January 19 at 10:30 am

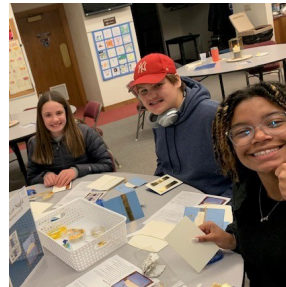
Our Savior's presents copies of the Spark Story Bible to preschoolers in January of every year. We will be presenting these story bibles to 3-year-olds on

January 19 during the late service. Reach out to our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Kellie Carrier-Richards, if you have any questions about who receives bibles or would like to be included. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever" (from Isaiah 40).



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! Reach out to molly@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org for more information.



Youth/Education Task Force

All Parents, Youth and other interested adults are invited to join a new group to help the Education Committee's mission to grow our youth's faith formation.

The task force will help to plan and execute fellowship outings, service projects and explore ways to further youth involvement here at OSLC. We will meet on the last Sunday of every other month between services. Our first meeting will be **Sunday, January 26 at 9:30 am** in the Martin Luther Room. Bring all your great ideas and your calendars. See you there!



Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 2 11:30 am in the sanctuary

Our Savior's will hold its Annual Meeting on **Sunday, February 2 at 11:30 am**. The order of business will be to receive nominations from the Nominating

Committee and elect new members of the Board and to represent Our Savior's in various other ministries. The Board will also use time to present a update on the visioning process of the past year and an updated Mission Statement for the congregation. For several weeks in January, there will be Board members seeking input and answering questions regarding the proposed updated Mission Statement. Do look for the written Annual Report, that follows the new "narrative" format from last year, near the end of January. Our Savior's Foundation will hold it's Annual Meeting immediately following the congregation's meeting.



2025 Flower Chart

A new Flower Chart has been posted in the Commons. To sponsor Altar Flowers please write your name next to the date on the sign up sheet, take an Altar Flower envelope, and return the completed envelope with

payment in the offering plate or to the church office. The cost to sponsor flowers is \$50.00 per week.



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. Contact

kellie@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org for more information.



Serve as a Greeter

Greeters play a vital role in welcoming every person who comes through our door. As a greeter, you help guest form their first impression even before the first hymn begins. Would you like to become better acquainted

with those in your church family? For more information on how you can become a greeter, please contact the church office at 608-362-0716.



Kids Connect Christmas

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

Sunday, December 15, 2024

An illustration of four diverse children standing in a snowy landscape. They are wearing winter hats and coats, and each is holding a green book. The background is a dark blue sky with white snowflakes.

Library Spotlight

Our library has a very nice selection of biographies. These books are in the 921 section. We have chosen two biographies to share with you.

Don't Bet Against Me!

By Deanna Favre with Angela Hunt

Deanna Favre, wife of Brett Favre, has had many rough spots in her life. Throughout these very difficult times, she has emerged a survivor. This is her story of faith and hope that helped her deal with a breast cancer diagnosis.

Ana's Story: A Journey of Hope

By Jenna Bush

Jenna Bush Hager, daughter of former President Bush has also written a story of hope. This is Ana's story as told to Jenna Bush. Ana was born into a life of abuse, poverty and disease, much like many other children in our world. Thanks to organizations like UNICEF, now called United Nations Children's Fund, children like Ana can have hope for a better life.

Circle Meetings

Anna Circle - Tues., January 7 at 6:30 pm
Meeting at church/Fellowship Hall

Naomi Circle - Mon., January 13 at 5:30 pm
@ Buffalo Wild Wings

Elizabeth Circle - Tues., January 15 at 1:00 pm
Hostess: Shari Larson

Rebekah Circle - *No January meeting*

Shalom Circle - *No January meeting*

SEWING BEE

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

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, January 5 at the 9:30 am in the Chapel

KNIT WITS

Wednesday, January 8 at 2:00 pm

BOARD MEETING

Key Financials | November 30, 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	\$47,249	\$35,417	\$ 11,832	\$ (51,692)	\$36,555	\$38,074
December	\$89,490						
Total	\$407,471	\$337,895	\$389,587			\$386,001	\$418,814



JANUARY 2025

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 CHRISTMAS 2 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am WELCA Annual Business Mtg. 9:30am Youth Connect 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	6 8:30am Sewing Bee	7 9:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Anna Circle 7:00pm Dartball	8 10:00am Second Harvest 2:00pm Knit Wits 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Confirmation	9 12:00pm Young @ Heart 5:30pm Personnel 6:00pm OA	10	11 5:00pm Worship
12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am Youth Connect 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	13 8:30am Sewing Bee 5:30am Naomi Circle	14 9:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Dartball	15 9:00am Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Men's Group 1:00pm Elizabeth Circle 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 6:30pm Confirmation Dinner 7:00pm Confirmation Mentor Night	16 4:00pm Caritas Board 4:00pm WELCA Board 5:30pm WMA 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Choir	17	18 5:00pm Worship
19 2 EPIPHANY 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am Youth Connect 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 1:00pm Bowling 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	20 8:30am Sewing Bee	21 9:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Dartball	22 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Confirmation	23 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Board Meeting	24	25 5:00pm Worship
26 3 EPIPHANY 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am Youth/Ed Task Force Meeting 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	27 8:30am Sewing Bee 2:00pm Care Team,	28 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Second Harvest 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Dartball	29 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Confirmation	30 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Choir	31	

Updated: 12/18/2024



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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

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!

SUPER BOWL SUB SALE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025

PURCHASE A SUB FOR SUPER BOWL SUNDAY! YOUR CHOICE OF A HAM OR TURKEY SUB, CHIPS, AND COOKIE FOR \$10.

Pick up your order on **Sunday, February 9** between 9:30-10:30 AM.