

FEBRUARY 2025

THE MESSENGER

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Beloit, WI



GOD is Faithful



*We have heard with our ears, O God, our ancestors have told us,
what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old.*
– Psalm 44:1

In the Old Testament (the Hebrew Scriptures) we can find history, wisdom, prophecy, and poetry; all pointing to God's relationship with the Hebrew people. Expressions of hope and frustration, fear and joy are all expressed. The Hebrew Scriptures often look back to the story of the exodus as the definitive event of God acting on behalf of God's people. They look back with both gratitude and nostalgia. They look back with assurances of God's faithfulness while also questioning why God isn't with them now as he used to be for the generations of old.

It's a complicated set of emotions and experiences that goes into discerning God's purpose and will for today. It's that way for us as individuals and it certainly is that way for us as a community. Our Savior's has been discerning God's will for us over the past year through professional audits, forums, meetings, and one-on-one conversations. Often our thoughts go back to the past, which can be a mixed bag in terms of its helpfulness. When we fall into the sweet syrup of fuzzy

memories, it's easy to idealize things past and paper over the struggles. The Hebrews often did that when they looked back at their heroic ancestors and the times of Moses and King David while forgetting the moments of faithlessness, idolatry, and sinfulness that was just as present during those ideal "days of old." Because of that pattern, the prophets were called to proclaim God's word to them in their present situations to set them straight.

The spiritual writer Joan Chittister once wrote that "Everyone has to be open to being formed again. The only thing that can possibly deter the new formation is if we ourselves refuse to let go of what was. If we cling to the past, the future is closed to us." This is the spirit behind Jesus' teaching, "The time if fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15). God is up to new things and challenges us to be formed into that new thing.

Christ manifested the lessons from the Hebrew Scriptures in his life, ministry, and teachings. Even if we do not cling to the past, we must not forget the past either because the past can open us up to reassurance and hope. An honest look at the past reminds us that God has been faithful and promises to always be faithful. Psalm 22 for example moves from "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" to words of trust by the end through a remembrance of how God was faithful for those in generations past. "Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it" (Psalm 22:30-31).

Recall seasons of your life, even all the way back to childhood, where God was faithful to you. Don't simply dwell in the sweet "days of old" but in those times of struggle and suffering. Often you will find that it is in those seasons where God faithfulness became the most powerful... and in hindsight, even more evident.

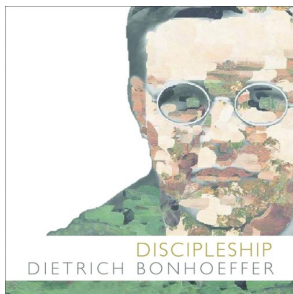
Rejoice always! Pastor Tony

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.



Weekly Online Study

"Following Christ with Bonhoeffer"

Final in-person conversation on Sunday, February 9 @ 9:30 in the Chapel

This month we will conclude our series, "Following Christ with Bonhoeffer" as we walked together through *The Cost of Discipleship*. Pastor Tony's final mediation will drop on Our Savior's YouTube channel on February 10. All are welcome to attend an in-person conversation on Sunday, February 9 as we look to reconcile our call to follow after Jesus as his disciples, with our identity as members of a church. All are welcome to come.



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. 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.**



Young @ Heart

On **Thursday, February 13 from 12:00-2:00 pm**, come out for fellowship. Lunch will be lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and ice cream. In order to prepare lunch, please sign-up on the sheet located on the counter in the Commons by

Sun., Feb. 9. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Lincoln or any member of the Fellowship Team.



Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 2 @ 11:30 in the sanctuary.

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

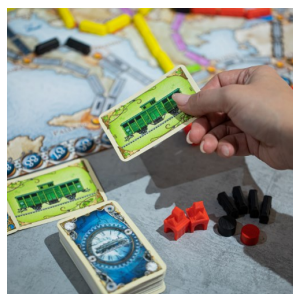
and elect new members of the Board and to represent Our Savior's in various other ministries. The Board will also use time to present a update on the visioning process of the past year and an updated Mission Statement for the congregation. Look for the written Annual Report, that follows the new "narrative" format from last year. Our Savior's Foundation will hold its Annual Meeting immediately following the congregation's meeting.



First Communion

According to the Lutheran Church document *The Use of the Means of Grace*, the appropriate time for a child to begin receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a decision made between the child, parents, and pastor.

Generally, we aim for Grade 3 here at Our Savior's, but not always. Pastor Tony will be offering First Communion classes after the late service on March 30 and April 6 to prepare students to receive the sacrament for Easter. Please speak with Kellie Carrier or Pastor Tony if you have any questions and/or want to sign up.



Game Day

'Tis the season for warm soup! Join the Fellowship Team for a cozy afternoon featuring warm soups and some friendly competition! Come for the games, or just the good food and good vibes!

When: **February 2, beginning at 12:30 pm**

Bring: Dessert and your favorite games!



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.

Follow Us Online



@OSLCBeloit



@oursaviorsbeloit



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.

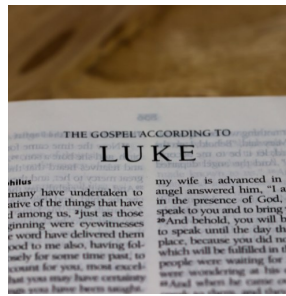
Mark you calendar for upcoming special events:
Henry Dorrbacker's | Sunday, February 16 @ 11:30am



Lutherdale Camperships

Registration has opened for camp at Lutherdale this summer and once again Our Savior's will offer camperships thanks to the generosity of several donors,

including our WELCA ladies. Look for those Campership applications to be available this month. Last year Our Savior's awarded twelve camperships to our students and families.



2025 Lent at Our Savior's

"The Parables of Luke"

Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, with Lenten Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer services on the

Wednesdays following. This year we will be focusing on the Parables from Luke's Gospel, including the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the parable of the Prodigal Son. Pastor Tony will also be leading a weekly Bible study on Sunday mornings between services to examine more closely these parables. The new Bible study will begin March 2. Learn about God, yourself, and what a living faith looks like at the feat of our Lord, our teacher, and Our Savior.

Sign-up sheets for our Lenten Soup Suppers are now available on the counter in the Commons, please consider signing up to provide soup and/or bread.

Come for the games, or just the good food and good vibes!

Game Day

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING

Bring a dessert and your favorite games!



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.



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.



In the Spotlight

This month we are spotlighting a section of the library instead of an individual book. The children's section was moved into the library last year. These books are located on the shelves to the right as you enter the

library. There are a good variety of books for children of preschool and elementary school ages. The books are stored in plastic containers and these boxes may be lifted from the shelves and placed on the table or floor to make it easier for your child to look through and choose books. The books are in no special order, so they can be placed in any container. When the choice has been made, the child or parent needs to sign their name on the card which is on the inside front or back cover. The date is optional. The card should then be placed in the small basket on the library desk. The book can be kept as long as the child shows an interest in it. When returning the book, place it in the large basket by the library desk. Thank you for encouraging your child to use the OSLC library.

YOUTH CONNECT

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
YOUTH MINISTRY

Join us for Youth Connect every Sunday at 9:30 am.

It's a fantastic chance for fun, fellowship, and deepening your faith!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:

Mini Golf & Fun
AT HENRY DORRBAKER'S

FEBRUARY 16
11:30AM - 1:00PM



THIS MONTH @ KIDS CONNECT



"HE COMFORTS US IN ALL OUR TROUBLES SO THAT WE CAN COMFORT OTHERS. WHEN THEY ARE TROUBLED, WE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE THEM THE SAME COMFORT GOD HAS GIVEN US"
(2 CORINTHIANS 1:4)



1 Kings 17:1-6

GOD PROVIDES FOOD FOR ELIJAH

↳ "God is our Provider, so we depend on Him.



1 Kings 17:8-16

A WIDOW SHARES HER LAST BREAD

↳ "God is generous, so we are generous.



1 Kings 19:1-18

GOD COMFORTS ELIJAH

↳ "God is comforting, so we comfort others.

For more information
contact:



kellie@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org



COME JOIN US DURING COFFEE HOUR

WELCA

HEARTS OF LOVE

VALENTINE TEA

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY 9 9:30 AM

2025

WE WELCOME YOU TO BRING YOUR FAVORITE VALENTINE TREATS.

Circle Meetings

Anna Circle - Tues., February 4 at 6:30 pm
Meeting at church/Fellowship Hall

Naomi Circle - Mon., February 10 at 5:30 pm
@ Bravos

Elizabeth Circle - Tues., February 18 at 1:00 pm
Hostess: Karen Van Fleet

Rebekah Circle - Thurs., February 13 at 9:30 am
Hostess: Ann Schleis

Shalom Circle - Wed., February 19 at 9:00 am
Hostess: Pat Brogan

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

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL AND WELCA OFFICERS
Sunday, February 2 at 11:30 am

KNIT WITS
Not meeting in February or March.

Key Financials | December 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	\$47,249	\$35,417	\$ 11,832	\$ (51,692)	\$36,555	\$38,074
December	\$89,490	\$35,290	\$35,417	\$(127)	\$(51,819)	\$41,676	\$38,074
Total	\$407,471	\$373,185	\$425,004			\$427,677	\$456,888



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

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am Youth Connect 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 11:30am Annual Meeting 12:30pm Game Day 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	3 8:30am Sewing Bee	4 9:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Anna Circle 7:00pm Dartball	5 9:00am Men's Group 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Confirmation	6 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Choir	7 9:30am BAREA Board	8 9:00am Youth Subs 5:00pm Worship
9 5 EPIPHANY 8:30am Worship 9:30am Bonhoeffer Conversation (Chapel) 9:30am Hearts of Love Tea 9:30am Youth Connect 9:30am Super Bowl Sub Sale (Pick-up) 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	10 8:30am Sewing Bee 5:30pm Naomi Circle	11 9:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Dartball	12 10:00am Second Harvest 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Confirmation	13 9:30pm Rebekah Circle 12:00pm Young @ Heart 2:00pm Fellowship Team 5:30pm Personnel 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Choir	14	15 5:00pm Worship
16 6 EPIPHANY 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am Youth Connect 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 11:30am Youth Outing: Henry Dorrbacker's 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	17 8:30am Sewing Bee 9:00am Newsletter Deadline	18 6:00am Election/Polling Place 9:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Pastors Text Study 1:00pm Elizabeth 6:00pm Boy Scouts	19 9:00am Men's Group 9:00am Shalom Circle 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 6:30pm Mentor Night Dinner 7:00pm Mentor Night	20 4:00pm WELCA Board 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Choir	21	22 5:00pm Worship
24 7 EPIPHANY 8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:30am Youth Connect 10:30am Worship 10:30am Kids Connect 1:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992)	24 8:30am Sewing Bee	25 9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Second Harvest 11:00am Pastors Text Study 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Dartball	26 5:00pm Televised Worship (Ch. 992) 7:00pm Confirmation	27 6:00pm OA 6:30pm Board Meeting	28	

Updated: 1/15/2025



749 Bluff Street, Beloit WI 53511
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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



ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2025
11:30AM



2024 Annual Report

