

Chronicler

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Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Dear Fellow Redeemed in Christ,

I've been waiting and waiting and waiting for this – to turn the page on 2020! This has been one of the most challenging years that I've had in the ministry. ***Hopefully 2021 will be easier!*** Struggling just to continue Word and Sacrament ministry amidst the uncertainties and fears of the COVID-19 virus. ***Having plans change over and over again;*** losing the opportunities to continue many of the traditions that we've become so accustomed to. Just to name a few: the children's Christmas program here at church, the annual Provost Christmas Open House (cancelled for the first time in 16 years. We even had it during ice storms, blizzards, and -20°F!), Christmas caroling with the choir (although, we were able to kind of have a substitute for it with the caroling parade, much like we did at Easter). Uncertainty about what's ahead: some say we're "rounding the corner", others tell us that we have at least a couple more months of tremendous difficulty. Many of us not able to spend Christmas with our loved ones, or at least not all of them, due to concerns about spreading the virus.

However, instead of focusing on what we don't have, let's give thanks to God for what we DO have! We still have a God and Father that cares for us as His own children, no matter what. We still have a Savior, Jesus, that died and rose again to take away the sins of the world. We have the Holy Spirit that creates and sustains saving faith in our hearts. We still are able to join together for corporate worship, albeit not as "flashily" or "robustly" as we once did, nor with as many of our brothers and sisters in Christ as we'd like. We can still ***receive the gifts of God in Word and Sacrament*** on a weekly basis. We can still spread the Good News of Christ and what He has done to those within our sphere of influence – even though our sphere of getting out and about might be smaller than it was, that doesn't mean it's nonexistent. We can give reasons why we are hopeful even though everyone around us seems despondent and glum – we know that this world is not it, but the world to come is so much better. And, God will continue to give us the strength to get through whatever the devil, the world, and our sinful nature try to throw at us.

You see, we are living in the Last Days. The devil thinks he can win. But we know that God is stronger than the evil one; in fact, Christ has already triumphed over him. The Day of Judgment inspires fear for those without faith; but for those of us who believe, we can rejoice and ***"lift up our heads"***. We know that the Last Day is the triumph of the King of Kings over every force of evil. Things will be difficult leading up to that Last Day – the Scriptures assure us of that. But, the Holy Spirit will give us the power to withstand them, and to rejoice in His coming victory.

In the month of January, we are given a real treat this year. With us having services on Wednesday and Sundays, we will be having a scheduled service on the Day of Epiphany. Oftentimes, this gets rolled into the previous or the succeeding Sunday, but this year, on January 6th, we will have a special service for the Holy Epiphany. On Sunday, January 10th, we will commemorate the Baptism of Jesus, and the institution of Baptism in general for the forgiveness of sins and the birth of faith. The marking of Epiphany on January 6th is the ***oldest point on the Christian calendar***, dating back to at least the 1st Century AD. It was marked in the secular histories, as well as the annals of the church, that this was the date when the Magi came from the East to visit our Lord and King. It took about 2-3 years for them to reach Bethlehem, so long, in fact, that Jesus and His family had already moved out of the stable and into a more permanent house. I'll explain more about Epiphany in the sermon on the 6th, but suffice it to say that this was the ***first Mission Festival of the New Testament church*** – the Magi returned from where they came from, and spread the Good News of great joy that would be for all the people – that Jesus Christ was born.

I hope to see you in church, in Bible study, and around the community (don't be afraid, it's not a violation of "social distancing" to wave). Take care and God bless...

Rev. Daniel M. Provost
Pastor



LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

January 2021 at Our Savior Lutheran Church

January 2021 - new year, new start, right?! It's been such a long time since we've gathered all together for LWML business and bible study - way too long. **Monday, January 18** will be the fresh re-start to LWML Faith Society - and with a new start, there will be a new meeting time - **4:00pm.** (We're going to give this new time a trial run for a couple months.) And the meeting/study will have a hard one hour time limit.

Reminder: All women of Our Savior are members of LWML and are invited to participate in the meeting and bible study. The bible study will be from the Lutheran Women's Quarterly magazine - if you did not receive a Winter issue in your mailbox, there's extras on the table in the narthex.

For your health precautions, the tables will be set up in the fellowship hall to allow for social distancing. We will not pass around materials or the mites collection bags. Collections for mites and offering will be set up in a designated place.

Masks will be required to be worn by everyone attending the meeting.

As the Jan 18 date draws closer, be aware of any changes that may occur due to any holiday covid spikes, governor mandates, etc, that may affect our decision to meet. And in the event of severe weather for that day, if in doubt, stay home!

Tentative Quilting Dates - Wed, Jan 20 and Fri, Jan 22.

The cupboards are brimming with fabric - JoAnn said she just received a shipment of bulk batting - enough for a bunch more quilts! But it takes a lot of preparatory work for a productive quilting day in all stages of the process. Watch the bulletins and emails for any changes to these dates.

Coming up

- January 3 Mitebox Sunday
- January 7 Elders Meeting 6p
- January 18 LWML Faith Society 4p
- January 19 Council Meeting 6:30p
Voters Assembly 7p
- January 20, 22 Quilting 9a

January Worship

Divine Services

Sundays @9am and Wednesdays @7pm



From the Secretary's Desk: I am working diligently to get up to speed with my duties and responsibilities at OSL. After working for almost four decades in the legal community -- beginning a new, part-time position is quite a nice change of pace. I have had steady encouragement from the OSL family and wish to extend much thanks to the continuing support of Julie Dlouhy, my ever-patient teacher.

My husband and I are recent transplants to the City of Newton from West Des Moines, arriving in April amid the uncertainty and isolation of the pandemic. We have seven grandkids -- 4 in the area and 3 in Chicago. We are enjoying our new surroundings and anxious for the Covid-19 vaccine to work its magic so we can all come out of hiding and gather together once again. I am anxious to meet you! Marsha

THANK *You* SO VERY much

Dear Members:

12/4/20

All of us at PCCI want to thank you for blessing us with all of the wonderful baby items! We were so very surprised!

The moms love the fleecy tied blankets best, so it is a joy to have those. All of the other items will be put to good use.

May you all be blessed in return!

In God's Love, Rita Baker



December, 2020 John Maddick of Orphan Grain Train, Central Iowa Branch 23 writes: "They are open on Tuesdays, 8a-12p in Clemons". He goes on to say that Branch 23 has shipped 17 large shipments all over the world to the poor and destitute [thanks to] donors like OSL and others (360 donors) -- "Please realize all the people you have helped!"



Dear Members of Our Savior Lutheran Church Quilters

Thank you for your most generous donation of the two beautiful handmade quilts given to Thomas Jefferson Elementary for our families. I consider your gift among some of the most precious items we've received. The quilts exemplify love and warmth — two things that our families need the most. I wish that you could've seen the gratitude and smiles on the faces of those who received your quilts.

Blessings upon each of you for your kindness.

Sincerely, Denise Townsend, Thomas Jefferson Elementary Counselor



What a Blessing!

Even COVID can't stop the members of OSL. This is our 12th year helping with this project and our highest donation giving. With your prayer and financial support we were able to **raise \$3420 , adopt 14 families , 49 children** from St Nicks Christmas club. New outfits, socks, undergarments, diapers, toys, blankets were provided to so many in need. You are all a blessing. Thank you Gail -- UPS, Fed EX and the USPS appreciate the cement driveway since they make daily stops to your house during this time. Also a big thank you Peggy , Julie and the Roby family for helping with the shopping this year. COVID and 2020 have nothing on God. This just continues to prove

God is good all the time, and all the time
God is good.

-- Mary Ervin