

# OSLC - SPIRE

Updates for the congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Stanley, Wisconsin



## Pastor's Ponderings

By: Pastor Ken Schmidt



"We are now in the season of Advent, which means we are in the countdown season to Christmas. Each year during Advent, we anticipate the greatest gift given to us by God: Jesus Christ. We remember Jesus' birth, look at Jesus' presence in our lives today, and anticipate his eventual return. Advent is all about preparing for Jesus!

As we listen to the Christmas music, enjoy the Christmas lights, and put up our Christmas decorations, we might also find ourselves reflecting on previous Christmas experiences. We might recall some "Christmas stories" that impacted our lives and reminded us of God's love.

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## Pastor's Ponderings continued

I recall one story in particular. Every year on the 22nd or 23rd of December, during my childhood, our Amish neighbors would stop and visit with us. It became an annual visit and really seemed to kick off "Christmas week" for the Schmidt family.

Although they spent most of their time talking with my parents, I can still remember their yearly stops at our place. I especially remember the delicious white chocolate covered pretzels, Christmas cookies, and homemade candy they would bring us every year!

Most of all, I remember their generosity. Our neighbors didn't have much. They didn't have their own farm, which many Amish folks rely on for a living. They worked small odds and ends type jobs instead. They lived in a small house without electricity and running water. Like others in their community, they did not drive, but relied on a horse and buggy for transportation.

So whenever they came over, it wasn't just the get together that meant a lot to us...it was the incredible effort on their part to make it over to our home that was also significant to us.

With the little they had, they gave us amazing gifts. They came, even though it was a lot of work to get to our house in the cold December weather. We were so important to them that they made it an effort to come over, and had probably spent days preparing for their trip.

This story continues to touch my heart, even after all of these years. What Christmas stories touch your heart? I think the reason these stories impact us, especially during the holiday season, is the connection they make to Jesus' birth. Jesus' birth has and continues to leave such a profound impact on us. This Advent, we are going to talk about Christmas stories, especially in relation to those closest to Jesus: Mary, Joseph, and John the Baptist.

May your Christmas stories bring you closer to Jesus. May the warmth of those stories remind you of the gift of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. May you all have a wonderful holiday season and enjoy all that God has given you! Amen.



## Pastor Ken will be gone

Pastor Ken will be on vacation from Nov. 25-Dec. 2. AND from December 25-30. If any pastoral emergencies arise, please contact our minister on call, Darrel Diers, at 715-709-0193.

# "From Worry to Wonder"

## A Christmas Message from Bishop Laurie

On June 19, 2020 our granddaughter was born. She was born three months into the pandemic. Her parents were worried. Her grandparents were worried. It is challenging enough to be pregnant and give birth in the best of times but to give birth in the middle of a worldwide pandemic is an even greater worry. We worried about the unknown dangers this virus might present to the mother, the unborn baby, and the new born baby. Our worries kept us up at night. Our worries were relieved when she was finally born, perfect in every way. Our worry gave way to wonder-filled joy. Worry transformed to wonder as we looked back to see how God was holding and carrying them through the unavoidable worry. Our worry transformed to gratitude and wonder watching for what God would be up to next in her tiny life.

It's December 2022. We prepare to celebrate the birth our Lord Jesus. This Advent we come with our fears and worries too. We are living in the midst of challenging times in our country. The very foundation of our nation seems less stable. We each come with our own personal set of worries and fears about our families, health, finances, work, safety, the future...What is it that keeps you up at night? What are you worried about today?

Folks across our church are experiencing doubts and uneasiness about the future of their church. Does it keep you up at night? What are the threats to your church's future? How can the conversation move from fear and worry to wonder? As the miracle of Christ's birth is celebrated this season, we can move from worry to wonder. We wonder what God is up to now in this day and age. Together we wonder what God's will is for the future of our church. Together we wonder; how can we use the abundance and blessings, (what we do have and opportunities in front of us), to make a difference in Jesus' name.

*Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. Luke 2:8-10a*

Shepherds living in the fields watched over their sheep to keep them safe. There were dangers that kept the shepherds up at night and plenty of things for the shepherd's to worry about in the cold night like wild animals, predators, thieves, & bad weather. There was so much to worry about, but one night an angel of the Lord, all shiny and bright appeared and transformed their fears and worldly worry to divine wonder.

*To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:11-14*

Friends, you are precious, beloved, baptized children of God. We know that the antidote to worry is to trust in God.

During this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season I pray that your worries will be transformed to wonder at what God **is** doing and promises **to** do in your lives and in our churches. May the miracle of Christ's birth transform your worries to wonder! I am grateful for your partnership in ministry.

Peace be with you,





*We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*1 Thessalonians 1:2*



Dearest Friends of Luther Park,

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday we celebrate, with thankfulness, the ministry of Executive Director Keith Newman. Keith recently resigned from his position at Luther Park to pursue another outdoor ministry opportunity in Minnesota. We celebrate all that we have accomplished during Keith's tenure at Luther Park, including the building of a beautiful new ministry center that will expand year-round programming to serve both young and old for generations to come. The Luther Park Board is currently working to fill an Interim Executive Director position to support the staff and direct operations while we conduct a nationwide search for a permanent Executive Director.

We are also thankful for the inspired work of our year-round staff, the summer staff, and the countless volunteers that have touched the lives of hundreds of God's people, of all ages, through the ministries of Luther Park this past year! Whether it be weeklong summer camps, group retreats, youth recharges, wedding events or a host of other ministry opportunities, the many ministers of Luther Park continue to be a blessing to all.

We give thanks, as well, for opportunities to dream and plan. This past Spring, a group of 20 volunteers, consisting of both board and non-board members, began a strategic planning process to shape the ongoing ministry of Luther Park. The new strategic plan, which will be completed by the end of the year, will outline an extensive list of goals and objectives to focus our efforts as we carry out our mission and ministry into the future. The strategic plan will identify critical needs and opportunities and provide a roadmap of priorities for the most critical objectives. The strategic plan will be used to set annual budgets, approach generous donors, and open new potential for this wonderful ministry.

We also give thanks for YOU! Your ongoing support of Luther Park is what makes this ministry possible. As a partner with us in ministry, it is your financial support, prayers, in-kind gifts, and volunteer hours that make Luther Park continue to grow and reach more people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Together, we face many challenges. In the challenge of leadership transition—pray for the Board of Directors, that we may be led by the Holy Spirit in our search for the next Executive Director. In the challenge of growing the Luther Park ministry following the COVID pandemic—pray for the health, vitality and the confidence of our member churches to return to rich involvement with us as partners in the Gospel. In the challenge of ongoing construction and maintenance needs—pray that our donors, supporters, and volunteers are responsive to calls to action.

Your financial support has never been more critical to Luther Park. We rejoice for the successful capital campaign to build the ministry center, but some debt still remains. If you can continue your pledged giving until the debt is retired, it would be an incredible blessing. Our facilities have pressing maintenance and repair needs. We need to be able to offer competitive salary packages to attract the best candidates for year-round positions as well as summer staff. At the end of this year, with great thanksgiving, please prayerfully consider ways in which you can increase your financial support of Luther Park.

God's richest blessings to you,

Luther Park Board of Directors





# December Events at OSLC

## **Sunday, December 11 - Potluck**

Following Sunday Worship, we will have potluck. Bring your favorite dish and enjoy fellowship with the OSLC family.

## **Wednesday, December 14 - "All is Bright"**

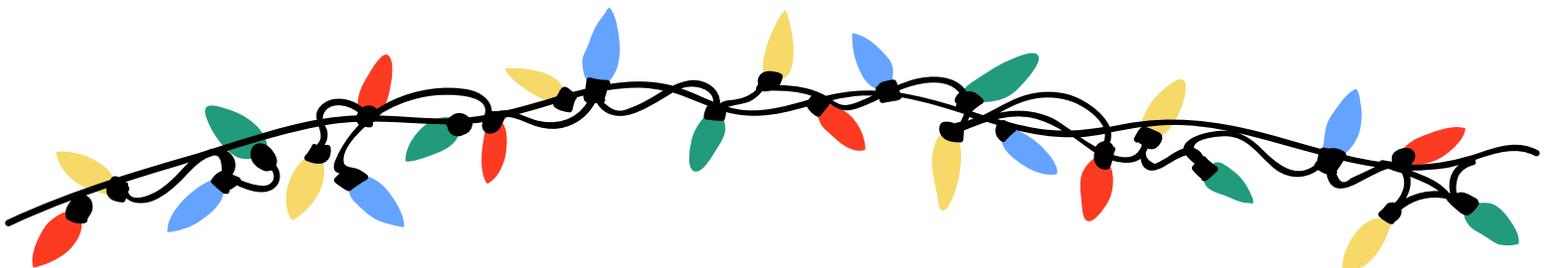
Gene Koch and band will be leading special music for us during Wednesday evening worship at 7:00 p.m. Coffee, juice, and goodies will follow the service.

## **Sunday, December 18 & Wednesday, December 21 - Children's Christmas Program**

Our Sunday School students will be leading the Christmas Program on both Sunday, Dec. 18 at 10:30 am AND Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 pm. Christmas cookies and fellowship to follow both services.

## **Saturday, December 24 & Sunday, December 25 - Christmas with OSLC**

We celebrate Jesus' birth with worship! Worship will be offered on Christmas Eve at 3:30 & 5:00 pm AND on Christmas Day 10:30 am. Join us!



**Partners Love Light Lights are available now. Forms can be found attached to the flyer on the front entry bulletin board or put the names on a sheet of paper. All information is included on the forms. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call Donella Christianson at 715-644-3638.**

## December Readings

### December 4

Gospel - Matthew 3:1-12

First Reading - Isaiah 11:1-10

Second Reading - Romans 15:4-13

### December 11

Gospel - Matthew 1:18-25

### December 18

Sunday School Christmas Program

### December 24

Gospel - Luke 2:1-20

John 1:1-14

Psalm 96

### December 25

Gospel - Luke 2:8-20

First Reading - Isaiah 62:6-12

Second Reading - Titus 3:4-7



## Need a Mid-Week Pick Me up?



Come in for fellowship and coffee on Thursday mornings at 10:00a.m.

All Are Welcome!



## December Birthdays

\*Not Available online\*

# Women of the ELCA

## Harvest Dinner Profits:

Charities helped by this year include:

- Trinity Vineyard Christmas Dinner \$200
- Luther Park Bible Camp \$300
- House of Mercy Loyal \$300
- Family Promise \$300
- Chippewa County Family Support Center \$200
- HUB Homeless Service \$200.

W/ELCA has also chosen the following from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog:

- 1- Share of a well
- 1-Goat
- 1-Pig
- 1-Latrine
- 1- Fish Farm
- 4- Well Filters.

A \$1000 donation will be given towards the new flooring for basement hallway and rooms off hallway.

A \$400 donation has been set aside for new Christmas decorations.

The amount of \$1430 is also set aside for other obligations World Hunger, Synod Offerings, and Confirmation Camp for our youth.

This summer VBS collected donations for ELCA Good Gifts, the W/ELCA group will add to the amount VBS collected to allow them to buy 1-Cow all the Good Gifts together amount to \$1350 donation. Great job everyone.



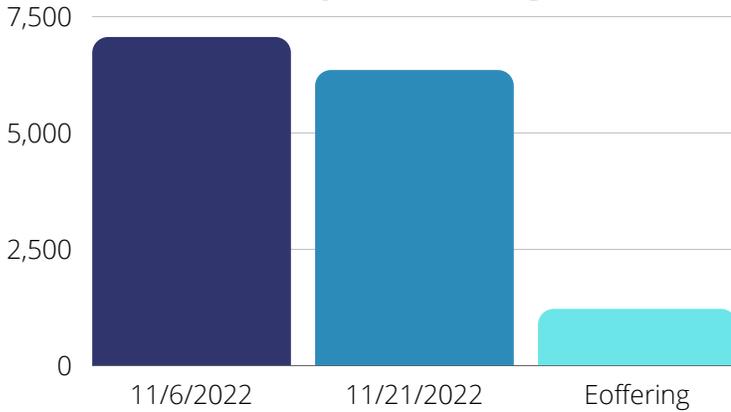
## THANK YOU!!!

we collected 64 boxes for  
Operation Christmas Child.  
Thank you for all your help.



# November Giving Totals

## Weekly Giving



Total: \$14,612.97

11/6/2022

General	6,178.00
Loose	123.00
Capital Improvement	20.00
Furnace	650.00
Jar (Christmas Boxes)	20.00
Jar (Good Gifts Goat)	67.94

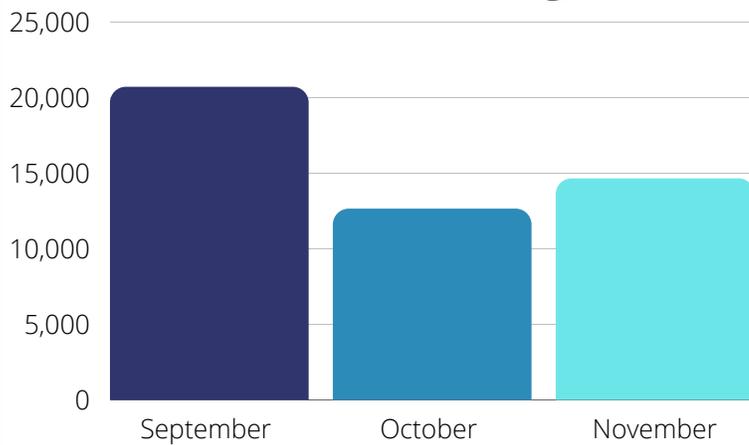
11/21/2022

General	5,635.35
Loose	37.00
Furnace	550.00
Jar (Good Gifts Goat)	125.88

9/25/2022 - 10/24/2022

Eoffering Deposits	1205.80
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## 3 Month Giving



*Thank you!*

## October 2022 Memorial/Honor Donations

A memorial donation in memory of Ted Vinger from Margie Ragatz

**Thank You!**

*December*  
**Giving  
Focus**



*Give*  
**Back**



## Angel Tree

This year we are sponsoring 2 local families.

Tags are on the Tree in the Narthex.

Grab a tag, purchase the gift, and return to the office.

We would like all the gifts returned by Dec. 21 so we can deliver them to the families.

Collected jar money will be used to purchase local gift cards and given to the Angel Tree Families.

A festive holiday wreath with red, green, and gold ornaments, surrounded by a green garland with red berries. Text overlays include "ARK Holiday Wreath Drawing", "Winner drawn Dec. 18th", and "Tickets: \$2 Per ticket or \$5 for 3 tickets".

**ARK  
Holiday Wreath  
Drawing**

*Winner drawn  
Dec. 18th*

*Tickets:  
\$2 Per ticket  
or  
\$5 for 3 tickets*

**Members Present:** Norm Christianson, Jean Ketterhagen (Treasurer), Joe Waichulis, Richard Jacobson, Hillary Anklam-Fitzsimmons, Dave Zschemitz, Kathy Sessions and Barb Samuelson.

**Absent:** Todd Wundrow, and Gabrielle Wilichowski.

Meeting was called to order at 6:57 pm by Christianson. Devotions and Prayer led by Christianson.

Motion was made by Waichulis, seconded by Zschemitz to approve the September 26 meeting minutes. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Anklam-Fitzsimmons, seconded by Sessions to transfer \$1000.00 from the checking account to the debit card account, approve Treasurer's Report and bills to date. All Ayes. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Education Committee: (Gabrielle Wilichowski)**

Story Bibles were given out to PreK students on October 16th. Bible Study is on Tuesdays 10:00 am except for November 8 due to voting. The study leader is Darrel Diers; it will be available on Zoom or attend in the church library as a group on zoom. Advent Fair will take place November 27. Dates for this years Christmas program are Sunday December 18 and Wednesday December 21. Practice for Wednesday night program will be 5:30-7:00.

#### **Youth: (Hillary Anklam-Fitzsimmons)**

Confirmation students are helping with Wednesday night service. Each Wednesday in the month of October a group of Confirmation students along with Norm went to Homeplace to play Bingo with the residents. On November 2 the students will rake leaves for members of our church who have asked for help. They will be served a supper when finished. Quotes for a bike rack are being sought; the Youth group will purchase the rack when one is ordered.

#### **Stewardship & Evangelism: (Todd Wundrow)**

Apparel orders for the Furnace Fundraiser will be completed by October 30. Trunk or Treat event is October 29. Hillary and Toni are taking charge of the event. November 13 Curtiss will hold their Harvest Dinner. The Welcome Team is following up with new members.

#### **Worship: (Kathy Sessions)**

The white altar linens that were stained have been removed and given to the sewing team to use in quilt making. All Saints Sunday is November 5. Trinity Men's Band will be here for Service Sunday November 13; also on November 13 we will honor our Veterans and have the blessing of the Orange for hunting season. Poinsettia orders are due by November 13. When you order please put your payment in an enveloped marked Poinsettia order and place in the offering plate. Cost is \$20.00 Alden and Pat Dahl are on Altar duty for November. W/ELCA quarterly meeting is November 7 10:00 am in the church Library. There will be a Thanksgiving eve service Wednesday November 23 at 7 pm.

#### **Social Concerns (Richard Jacobson)**

Operation Christmas Child boxes are due by November 13. The November giving focus will be ELCA Good Gifts. A bike was given to the youth that had his bike stolen. We continue to check on our home bound members.

#### **Property Management (Dave Zschemitz)**

The following maintenance issues were addressed and completed. Bulbs were replaced in Exit signs in basement hallway, and out side light at the rear entrance. Furnace filters were dated and replaced in all five furnaces in church. Contact will be made with City of Stanley Public Works to replace outside light on pole by rear entrance. Dave spoke with Pam from Xcel Energy and Eric from Algers Electric regarding Service Request #01334176 for adding new service to gazebo. Due to impending frost the council decided to wait until spring of 2023 to work on this request. The council discussed and a motion was made to accept the proposal from Bartingale to replace existing water heater with high efficiency power vent heater. This would allow for the old chimney to be capped off and a 50 gallon natural gas power vent water heater to be installed. This would provide on time hot water for the kitchen. The proposal specified was for the sum of \$3,456.00. An electrical outlet would need to be installed near the water heater by an electrician. Contact will be made with Algers Electric for this service which is excluded from the proposal. All Star Elevator came in and adjusted the time delay for the first floor door to remain open several seconds longer to avoid the door closing on occupants entering elevator. Jimmy Lane from Bartingale came in on Monday October 24 and replaced pump in office and now all work regarding our new furnace installation is complete. Dave contacted Jeff Bomber and Chuck Nielsen from Bartingale and expressed our gratitude for a job well done and to pass this along to Technicians Jimmy and Nick

#### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Ken officiated one wedding and two baptisms in October. Pastor gave communion at Oakbrook on October 7. There are 8 home bound members that receive communion regularly. Homeplace service held October 21. Pastor Ken attended a synod training event on intercultural development on October 18. Chequamegon Conference pastors and deacons are teaming up to host a Health Fair at St Paul's in Curtiss on November 5. Pastor Ken will be on vacation November 25-December 2.

#### **Old Business: None**

#### **New Business:**

Motion was made by Waichulis, seconded by Jacobson to approve bid for new gas water heater and cap chimney in the amount of \$3456.00. All Ayes. Motion carried. Motion was made by Anklam-Fitzsimmons, seconded by Waichulis to give Pastor Ken a card and gift of appreciation celebrating Pastor Appreciation month, which is October. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Next Council Meeting is November 28 Executive Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting 7:00

Motion was made by Waichulis, seconded by Jacobson to adjourn the meeting All Ayes.

Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Pray.

# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> Sunday School @9:30am Worship @ 10:30am	<b>28</b> Sewing Team @ 9am Ministry Planning Meeting @ 1pm Church Council	<b>29</b> Bible Study @ 10am Cub Scout Meeting	<b>30</b> Youth Group @5pm Confirmation @6pm Wednesday	<b>1</b> Sewing Team @ 9am Food Pantry - Food Pick Up @ 4pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Pastor Ken Vacation - Please call Darrel Diers for pastoral care 715-709-0193						
<b>4</b> Sunday School Program Practice @9:00am Worship @ 10:30am 4-H Meeting Girl Scout Meetings	<b>5</b> Sewing Team @ 9am Ministry Planning Meeting @ 1pm	<b>6</b> Bible Study @ 10am Cub Scout Meeting	<b>7</b> Youth Group @5pm Confirmation @6pm Wednesday Worship @7pm	<b>8</b> Red Hat Meeting Sewing Team @ 9am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Sunday School Program Practice @9:00am Worship @ 10:30am	<b>12</b> Sewing Team @ 9am Ministry Planning Meeting @ 1pm	<b>13</b> Bible Study @ 10am SCA Meeting	<b>14</b> Youth Group @5pm Confirmation @6pm Wednesday Worship @7pm	<b>15</b> Sewing Team @ 9am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Sunday School @9:30am Worship & Sunday School Program @ 10:30am Boy Scout Meeting Girl Scout Meetings	<b>19</b> Sewing Team @ 9am Ministry Planning Meeting @ 1pm	<b>20</b> Cub Scout Meeting	<b>21</b> Youth Group @5pm Confirmation @6pm Wednesday Worship & Sunday School Program @7pm	<b>22</b> Sewing Team @ 9am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Worship @3:30pm Christmas Eve Worship @5:00pm
<b>25</b> Worship @ 10:30am	<b>26</b> Sewing Team @ 9am Ministry Planning Meeting @ 1pm Church Council Meeting @ 7pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Sewing Team @ 9am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
Pastor Ken Vacation - Please call Darrel Diers for pastoral care 715-709-0193						

## Join us for weekly Worship!

### In-Person

**Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday Worship at 7:00 p.m.**

### Online Worship

Available Every Sunday @ 9:00 a.m. on Facebook  
and YouTube or [www.oslutheran.com](http://www.oslutheran.com)

## Join us for our weekly Ministries!

**Sunday School - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

**Sewing Team - Mondays & Thursdays @ 9:00 a.m. -  
Sewing Room**

**Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays**

**Coffee Time - 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays**

**Youth Group - 5:00-6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays**

**Confirmation - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.**



### December Readings

Dec. 4 - Matthew 3:1-12

1st Reading - Isaiah 11:1-10

2nd Reading - Romans 15:4-13

Dec. 11 - Matthew 1:18-25

Luke 1:26-38

Dec. 18 - Christmas Program

Dec. 24 - Luke 2:1-20

John 1:1-14

Psalm 96

Dec. 25 - Luke 2:8-20

1st Reading - Isaiah 62:6-12

2nd Reading - Titus 3:4-7

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
*Spreading God's Word. Sharing God's Love.*

