

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH – LCMS

November Newsletter 2017

The GOOD NEWS

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Our Savior Lutheran Church – LCMS

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*“For we know, brothers loved by God, that He has chosen you,
because our gospel came to you not only in word,
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit with full conviction” (1 Thess 1:4-5a).*

Giving Thanks For All The Saints

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ,

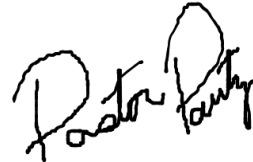
Who and what do you believe, and why? For many, that depends on which way the wind of public opinion is blowing. Have you ever noticed that often when deciding an important issue the question is not whether or not something is true or beneficial, but what the majority of people believe? The apostle Paul warns about this when he says, “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths” (2 Timothy 4:3). Myths or cleverly invented stories or the virtual realities that we have created for ourselves are useless when it comes to the truth of our sin and death. These things happen in reality so the polling data is of no use in these matters. We need to look to Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life so that we can actually deal with them instead of pretending our sin doesn’t matter or that our inescapable death isn’t real. It is Jesus alone who has overcome our sin and death. He did it in reality, with witnesses. People witnessed Jesus’ death that paid for our sins and His resurrection that confirmed that He is the Lord God in the flesh. It happened. His words have authority because what He had said would happen actually occurred. This is still true today. What He says through the proclamation of His Word He does.

This month we celebrate All Saints’ Day. We give thanks for all the saints and for the courage of their convictions that came through faith in Jesus Christ. As William Weedon writes, “Their holiness was always and only the righteousness of the Saint, the Holy One, the Lord Jesus, whose perfect obedience to His Father even to the cross God credited to them by faith. They are holy because the blood of Calvary forgave their sins. They are holy because the Holy Spirit joined them to the Savior in living faith, and so His love shone through their lives (Celebrating the Saints, p. 8). It is the same with us.

Like Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy gave thanks for the people they served, we give thanks for all of you, the saints here at Our Savior. “We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know,

brothers [and sisters] loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction” (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5a ESV).

So as you carry on through these gray and latter days, “Be strong and courageous...for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you” (Deuteronomy 31:6). Follow the example of the saints who have gone before us and, “Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide. Trust and enduring faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love” (LSB #664 vs. 3). In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Tony". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING MATINS SERVICE We will also give thanks to the Lord at our annual Thanksgiving Day Matins Service at 9:00 a.m. on November, 23.

THANKSGIVING EVE SCHEDULE Neither the Women’s Group nor the Weekday School will meet on the Wednesday of Thanksgiving week along with the Wednesday Matins Service.

MEN’S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY will meet the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

NOVEMBER LWML MEETING The November 16th LWML meeting with the theme of “Be Ready” will be held at the Muscatine Center for Social Action, 312 Iowa Avenue beginning at 7 p.m. Our evening will include a tour of the facility, Bible study, business meeting and refreshments. We invite the congregation to help support our mission outreach for the month of November which is food and paper products collection for our local food pantry. A box will be located in the narthex for any donations. Thank you and we hope you can come join us this month.

Those serving for the Month of November: Mary Francis-Bible study leader; Angie Banko-hostess; Susan Eversmeyer-Altar; Kristi Gibson-Communion set up; Hannah Pautz-Communion removal.

MISSION OUTREACH SUGGESTIONS An envelope with paper beside it for your mission outreach suggestions from the proceeds of our Apple Pie Mission Project this fall have been placed on the easel. Please put your suggestions of ways to reach out in the envelope by the end of December. We will vote at our January LWML meeting who we will support! Thank you!

LWML CHRISTMAS BRUNCH The Board of the LWML would like to invite the ladies of the congregation to a Christmas Brunch here at Our Savior on Saturday morning, December 9th beginning at 10 a.m. A sign-up sheet for those planning to attend is posted on the easel along with a food item sheet showing what is needed if you would like to contribute. Food donations are not required but appreciated if you are able to help in that way. The bunch will include food, singing, devotion, skit, Christmas mite offering and Christian fellowship. We hope you are able to come as we prepare for the Birth of the Christ Child in our hearts. If you have any questions please ask any board member Karen Schaub, President; Becky Ernst, Vice President; Mary Francis, Treasurer and Angie Banko, Christian Growth.

LWML ADVENT SOUP SUPPER A sign-up sheet is posted on the easel in the narthex for the LWML Advent Soup Supper held on the first Advent Service Wednesday, December 6th beginning at 5:30 p.m. You don't want to miss it; we promise you won't be sorry! The freewill donations will be given to the Muscatine Center for Social Action. If you can help with any of the needs listed in our serving this meal please sign your name where you can help. The items would need to be at the church by noon on Wednesday, December 6th. Thank you!

Martin Luther quote for the end of the church year: "Behold, therefore, the separation of the sheep and the goats is already made in this life, so that everyone can experience it internally and must indicate and show it externally. For they who have not faith will surely do none of these things, they will neither comfort themselves with the grace of Christ, nor think of exercising mercy; they pass by the Word of God and their neighbor, as though they neither saw nor heard anything; they do no care to know that there is a Lord whom they are to serve and who will demand such service from them. For if they would consider that they must die, and appear before this judgment seat, they would not at the time defraud anyone of a penny. But, on the contrary, they think best to turn their eyes away from death and to keep the heart from thinking of it" (Lenker: Complete Sermons of Martin Luther, Volume 3, page 390, paragraph 25).

November 2017

Dear Our Savior Lutheran Church and Friends,

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are upon us once again. As your shepherd under the Shepherd Jesus Christ, I thought this an especially appropriate time to write to you in order to encourage you in the faith. Unfortunately, this can be a very hectic time of year as we attempt to meet everyone's expectations of us. Often, we end up wearing ourselves out running after the things of this world, with little energy left for our Lord and one another.

The message of Advent and Christmas is that our Lord comes to bring us together with Him and one another through His Word and Sacrament. Real life and peace are not found in the things of this world but in our Lord Jesus Christ and the life He has given us to live together.

Our **Christmas schedule** is printed on the back of this letter which details the dates and times of services and events through the Epiphany of our Lord observed on January 7th.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me or your elder a call. I look forward to receiving the Lord's Gospel gifts with you this Advent and Christmas season.

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Butz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Christmas Season at Our Savior Lutheran Church - 2017

First Sunday in Advent <i>Sermon: Jesus' Triumphal Entry – Matthew 21</i>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday, December 3
Midweek Advent Service 1 <i>Sermon: Christmas according to Isaiah 7:14</i> <i>Advent Supper starting at 5:30 p.m.</i>	7:00 p.m.	Wednesday, December 6
Second Sunday in Advent <i>Sermon: The Coming of the Son of Man – Luke 21</i>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday, December 10
Midweek Advent Service 2 <i>Sermon: Christmas according to Isaiah 9:6</i> <i>Advent Supper starting at 5:30 p.m.</i>	7:00 p.m.	Wednesday, December 13
Third Sunday in Advent <i>Sermon: John the Baptist, are you the One? – Matthew 11</i>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday, December 17
Children's Christmas Program	2:00 p.m.	
Midweek Advent Service 3 <i>Sermon: Christmas according to Isaiah 61:1</i> <i>Advent Supper starting at 5:30 p.m.</i>	7:00 p.m.	Wednesday, December 20
Fourth Sunday in Advent <i>Sermon: The Testimony of John the Baptist – John 1</i>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve Service <i>Sermon: Joseph Listens to the Angel - Matthew 1</i> <i>Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols</i>	7:00 p.m.	Sunday, December 24
The Feast of Christmas Day <i>Sermon: Luke 2</i> <i>Hymn Sing with Holy Communion</i>	9:00 a.m.	Monday, December 25
First Sunday After Christmas <i>Sermon: The Word is Jesus – Luke 2</i>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday, December 31
The Feast of Epiphany (observed) <i>Sermon: Wise Men worship the Word – Matthew 2</i>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday, January 7

2018 OFFICERS & BOARDS
Installation on Sunday, January 14, 2018

Officers

Chairman	Phil Schliesman
Vice Chairman	Jean Dragon
Secretary	Megan Francis
Treasurer	Nancy Natvig

Board of Elders

Joel Hirschfeld	2018-2019
Aaron Eversmeyer	2018-2019
Bob Husband	2018-2019
John Buttke	2018-2019
Seth Francis	2017-2018

Board of Trustees

Karen Schaub	2017-2018
Bob Husband	2017-2018
David Lord	2018-2019
Scott Natvig	2017-2018
Jay Fegley	2017-2018

Board of Finance

Sandy Throm	2018-2019
Rex Krueger	2018-2019
Mary Francis	2018-2019

Board of Long Range Planning

Carl Egger	2017-2018
Phil Schliesman	2018-2019
Denny Dunbar	2018-2019
Seth Francis	2018-2019
Bob Husband	2018-2019

Board of Education

Rex Krueger	2017-2018
Betsy Hirschfeld	2018-2019
Kristi Gibson	2018-2019
Gina Schliesman	2018-2019

Board of Stewardship

Katie Ball	2018-2019
David Lord	2017-2018
Kurt Krueger	2018-2019
-	

Board of Evangelism

Becky Ernst	2017-2018
Jim Gibson	2017-2018
Brenda Husband	2018-2019
Kathy Prussman	2018-2019

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
			1 6:30am Men's Group 9:00am Matins 9:30am Women's Group 4:00pm Office Hours 6:15pm Catechism	2
5 All Saints' Day (observed) 08:00am Absolution 09:00am Divine Service 10:30am Sunday School	6 10:00am Stonybrook 04:00pm Office Hours 06:00pm Divine Service 07:00pm Board of Elders	7	8 6:30am Men's Group 9:00am Matins 9:30am Women's Group 4:00pm Office Hours 6:15pm Catechism	9
12 3 rd Last Sunday of the Year 08:00am Absolution 09:00am Divine Service 10:30am Sunday School	13 10:00am Stonybrook 04:00pm Office Hours 06:00pm Divine Service	14 9:30am Matins with Circuit Pastors	15 6:30am Men's Group 9:00am Matins 9:30am Women's Group 4:00pm Office Hours 6:15pm Catechism	16 7:00pm LWML meeting at the MSCA
19 2 nd Last Sunday of the Year 08:00am Absolution 09:00am Divine Service 10:30am Sunday School	20 10:00am Stonybrook 04:00pm Office Hours 06:00pm Divine Service	21	22 6:30am Men's Group 9:00am Matins	23 9:00am Thanksgiving Matins Service
26 Last Sunday of Church Year 08:00am Absolution 09:00am Divine Service 10:30am Sunday School	27 10:00am Stonybrook 04:00pm Office Hours 06:00pm Divine Service	28	29 6:30am Men's Group 9:00am Matins 9:30am Women's Group 4:00pm Office Hours 6:15pm Catechism	30