



To Gather | To Send | To Serve

# The Crossroads

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Sun Prairie WI

**Greetings family of Our Savior's!**  
Here is the latest edition of 'The Crossroads' newsletter.

## **December 2020 Newsletter Highlights**

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**Would you like to receive a DVD of our virtual worship services to watch on a DVD player?** If you do not have Internet access to watch our online services and would like us to mail you DVDs of these services, **contact the church office (608-837-3111).**



## ***Christmas Drive-In Worship Services at Our Savior's:***

### **Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)\***

- 3:00 pm (family oriented service, children's sermon)
- 4:00 pm
- 5:00 pm
- 6:00 pm

***\*We request that you sign up in advance for the service you choose to attend. Watch for a Constant Contact e-mail with more information in the coming weeks.***

No services on Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day)



## Prayer Requests & Hospital Notifications

Do you have a prayer request or hospital notification you would like to pass along? You can share your requests with Pastor Tim ([tim@oslc-elca.org](mailto:tim@oslc-elca.org)) or Pastor Seth ([seth@oslc-elca.org](mailto:seth@oslc-elca.org)) or call the church office. When you submit prayer requests, they are sent to the Our Savior's prayer chain via email and are added to the prayers during weekend worship. *If you would like your request to remain confidential to a pastor, or would not like it shared with the prayer chain or included in worship prayers, please note your wishes in your request.*

## Pastoral Acts

### Baptisms:

Maisy Margaret Kahler—  
November 1, 2020

Rylin Pertzy Lauersdorf—  
November 29, 2020

# From Pastor Hecox

## Advent!

We have now officially entered what is perhaps my favorite season of the church year. So I'm delighted to prepare together with you for the coming of Christ.

Advent is a favorite time of year for me for many reasons. Maybe it's because I didn't grow up cognizant of the season or celebrating it. Maybe it's because it gives me something to engage during the long, dark evenings as the weather grows cold. But there are a series of sayings about Advent that make this time feel special, almost magical, for our family.

In Advent, we are the midwives of another world.

In Advent, we join an ancient tradition of keeping watch for the Messiah.

In Advent, we give attention to our innermost thoughts, our most sincere hopes, and our expectation of a God who will visit and take action on behalf of goodness in the world.

This idea that there is a Creator who will come and act on our behalf brings with it an array of emotions. Some may feel comfort, as they discern fears and anxieties within themselves. Some may feel relief, as they sense a coming end to the burdens they've carried so long, and can now cast on Christ. Some may feel hope, as they imagine a new future they hadn't considered before. Some may feel invigorated, as they are energized by the very thought of a God who opens to them myriad possibilities.

I know 2020 has been tough. It's a running joke on social media that 2020 has been the worst year and no bad news seems to surprise anyone anymore. But a follower of Jesus always has reason to hope. Each and every year, we walk together through the process of waiting for the Incarnation, and then it comes to us, born anew as God enters our world. Some feel that entry dramatically, with the noise and fanfare of Christmas. Others feel that entry silently, with the stillness and solitude that the holiday season sometimes brings.

Whether you experience the drama or the stillness of the pregnant Theotokos (Mother of God) and infant Christ, remember that we have each other as we wait. We do not walk the path of Advent alone. We are part of something bigger than ourselves:

- a church family that prays for each other and cares for each other
- a worldwide church that engages in these spiritual practices together

## *From Pastor Hecox—continued*

- a great cloud of witnesses that stretches both backward and forward in time
- a Holy Spirit that indwells us, and will never leave nor forsake us

May your Advent season be filled with holy anticipation, and may you feel the love and warmth of a church family that loves you, and a God who cares and is coming to you to act on your behalf.

Amen.

Peace,

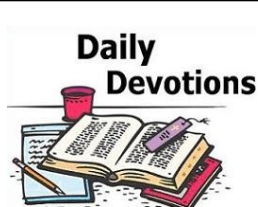
*Pastor Seth*

## Council News

### **November 19, 2020 Council Notes**

- Our property committee has been busy with ongoing building inspections and repairs:
  - \* The church furnaces are currently being repaired and some replaced to keep the heat on for our staff and in preparation for when we eventually return to worship.
  - \* The new worship screen will be installed soon and in the future new lighting options will be investigated to replace the old fluorescent lighting in the sanctuary that is no longer functional.
  - \* The contractor has completed the removal and trimming of trees on the church property, with other Ash trees that will need removal/trimming in the spring.
  - \* Deterrent devices have been positioned around the building in an effort to protect the building from what appears to be damage from woodpeckers. Thank you to the volunteers who continue to care for our building and property.
- Committee chairs—please submit budget estimates to Bonnie for the next fiscal year for planning purposes.
- The socks and underwear drive for Cardinal Closet was a huge success. Thanks to all who donated.
- We are still looking for volunteers to sign up for families for the Spirit of Giving. Sign Up available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B45A8AC2FA31-giving>

**Jen Spredemann**  
Congregation Council Vice President



### **Daily Devotions**

### **Are you receiving the Daily Devotions from Pastor Tim and**

**Pastor Seth via e-mail?**—If not, please e-mail the church office so that we have your most current e-mail in our records ([darlene@oslc-elca.org](mailto:darlene@oslc-elca.org))

If you do not have e-mail and would like to be added to our list of those we send devotions to each week via U.S. mail, contact Darlene at the church office.

### **Poinsettias Update**

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we will not be offering poinsettias for sale this year.

## A Note from OSLC's Finance Secretary regarding Pledges and Electronic Giving

- 1) Please keep in *mind* that if you change your prior year's pledge, it does **NOT** automatically change your electronic giving.
- 2) Any changes to electronic giving should specify if the member will make the change or if Our Savior's should change it. **We need written authorization to go into your account to change your giving, either by an electronic giving form, a note, or an e-mail.** Thank you!

**Support our work and enjoy the convenience of electronic giving**—Our church offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. If you are writing checks and preparing envelopes every week, you will especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church.

Enrollment forms and instructions can be found on our OSLC Website under the **Support Our Work** section. Or, if questions, call Bonnie Shema at the church (837-3111) or e-mail her at [bonnie@oslc-elca.org](mailto:bonnie@oslc-elca.org).



I proudly give electronically through  
*Simply Giving!*

# Stewardship

## Built Up in Love Our Savior's Lutheran Annual Stewardship Drive for 2021

The OSLC Stewardship Board and the Church Council are thankful for the many ways that you have continued to support our ministry during this time of crisis. Together we have learned how to adapt and discover new avenues to do ministry. For this, we are thankful for your offerings, both monetarily and through your volunteerism.

As we approach 2021 and hopefully a vaccine and a return to a new normal, we would like to encourage you to offer a pledge for the year ahead. While we don't want to assume anything, and we are thankful for all of your gifts and pledges so far, we would like to get a better look at the year ahead concerning our spending plan. If you have any questions regarding our new way of pledging this year, please don't hesitate to call the church office.

### Information regarding 2021 pledge forms:

If you haven't yet done so, please remember to submit the electronic pledge form. It can be found on our website—on the revolving carousel—click on "Your Stewardship Pledge" to open the form. Also, we're including the link at the end of this article. (This is a confidential electronic form that only Bonnie Shema, our Financial Secretary, can receive.)

**If you would prefer to have a paper pledge form mailed to you, please contact the church office.**

Here is the link to the Google Doc pledge form:

<https://forms.gle/97ke2EFi7Sk1vGBn8>

Thank you,

The Church Council and Stewardship Committee



## Financial Progress Report for October 2020

1) General Fund:	2) Building Fund:
Giving: \$41,138.94	Giving: \$5,881.50
Expenses: \$12,769.80	Expenses: \$7,103.00
Net Cash Flow: \$28,369.14	Net Cash Flow: \$<1,221.50>
YTD Cash Flow: \$<10,473.72>	YTD Cash Flow: \$2,344.00

**End of Year Contribution Reminder!** Contributions must be in by Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> in order for these to be applied to your 2020 giving.

## Communion Celebration

Attention First Grade Families. We are delighted to announce our fluid plan for this year's Communion Celebration on **Sunday, January 24, 2021**, as part of our Drive-In Worship. All first graders are welcome, as well as any older children who may not have had the opportunity to receive Communion prior to this opportunity. This is an important milestone in the faith life journey of your child.

There will be virtual orientation classes on **Saturday, January 9th** and **Saturday, January 16th** from 9:00 am until 11:00am. Please plan to attend with your child. The class will include teaching by Pastor Tim and Pastor Seth and instructions and time to design and decorate your child's keepsake chalice with Shelly using the kit you will pick up from church. Signing up is easy—simply click on the registration link below.

[vbspro.events/p/25160f](https://vbspro.events/p/25160f)



## Baptism Information—

Those who are planning a baptism in the near future should contact the church office.



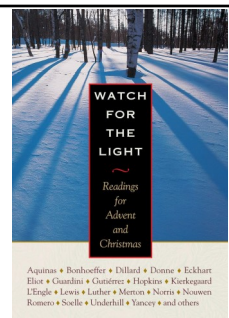
I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

# Christian Education

## Adult Bible Studies Continue in December

**Brown Bag Bible Study** continues, led by Pastor Tim and Pastor Seth. We will continue to meet online each Wednesday at 11am via Zoom. Please contact either pastor or the church office if you would like to be added to this online class, and we will send you the Zoom login information!

**From November 11–December 23**, we are reading together in *"Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas"* during the Brown Bag Bible Study meetings. Copies are being provided by the church.



**Lectionary Text Study** will continue meeting online on Thursdays at noon via Zoom to study the upcoming Sunday's scripture text. (The pastor scheduled to present the sermon for that week leads this study group on the Thursday before.) If you haven't already joined this group and would like to be added, contact Pastor Tim ([tim@oslc-elca.org](mailto:tim@oslc-elca.org)) or Pastor Seth ([seth@oslc-elca.org](mailto:seth@oslc-elca.org)) and they will send you a link.

## Attention Fellow Squirrel Men!

### Men's Bible Study



Squirrel (our Men's Bible Study Group) meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 15th at 8 p.m. If you're interested in gathering via Zoom this month, contact Pastor Tim ([tim@oslc-elca.org](mailto:tim@oslc-elca.org)) or Pastor Seth ([seth@oslc-elca.org](mailto:seth@oslc-elca.org)) and they will send you a link.



# Children & Families

Hello Church! I sure do miss seeing each of you and feeling the warmth of your smiles.



*We are planning a children's program for Christmas! Here are the details:*

- **Performers/Recorders:** Using any smartphone—Record your family/children acting out parts, reading a small section, making animal noises, holding up a sign or prop. There is something for everybody even infants! How fun to have videos of a parent/parents with an infant or toddler! **No memorizing!** Feel free to record the scene with a copy of the family friendly script. Try to ensure the lighting is good in whatever space you use. Make sure to speak loudly. I can lower the volume when I edit, but I can only make it so loud if the recording is faint.
- **Costumes: Not necessary**, but you can create your own costumes, or animal masks/ears etc. These costumes can be contemporary, as if taking place in 2020 or maybe 2019. I don't think the Wisemen brought hand-sanitizer. (Does frankincense have anti-microbial properties?)
- My hope is to have words on the screen also, so upper elementary children and older may want to narrate.
- **CREATE:** edit, splice videos together. I would LOVE some guidance/assistance (read please help!)
- **WATCH:** share with your family and friends once video is completed. This video will probably be posted on Facebook in addition to possibly our website for a time. Links will be sent out once completed in time for Christmas viewing!



Videos due by December 11<sup>th</sup>. [Shelly@oslc-elca.org](mailto:Shelly@oslc-elca.org)



**Watch for Constant Contact e-mail with sign-up genius link!**

**Christmas Blessings! Take Good Care and do your best to keep EVERYONE healthy!**

# Fellowship & Church in Society

## ANOTHER SUNSHINE SUPPER SUCCESS!

Just wanted to give you an update on our participation in Sunshine Suppers. As you know, we have been providing meals on a quarterly basis for years. Up until this year the number we prepared for was somewhere between 120 and 150. We did our first Covid-19 meal in May of this year and we fed 250 people. In August the number went up to 350 and on November 16<sup>th</sup> we fed 406 people. There are so many to thank for this effort. We have a dedicated but very small group of volunteers who have participated each time. With the rules in place because of the virus, we are only allowed to have five people in the building and we can't prepare any food outside of the building. So there were just a very few involved in preparing a meal for 406 people. Pretty amazing!

We also want to thank those of you who have donated to this effort. You have been amazing! Because of your generosity, we have not had to spend a single penny out of OSLC funds. I remember talking about this before the very first meal and wondering how we were going to pay for it because we knew it was going to be expensive. Little did we know at the time how much those numbers were going to grow, and that's probably a good thing. But we should have known better. We should have known that Our Savior's people are always ready for a challenge and you certainly have been up to the task. And while we are very grateful for what you have already done, we have another meal in February and I fear that the need will be even greater by then. So if you have given in the past, thank you so much, and please consider doing so again. And if you haven't given in the past, please give prayerful consideration to doing so this time. This effort is truly another example of, **God's Work, Our Hands.**



**Gary Dalgaard**  
Fellowship Chair



**Seth Hecox**  
**Bill Zimmerman**  
**Gary Dalgaard**  
**Ed Lauersdorf**



**Sara Klemme**



**Bob Frautschy**



**Linda Frautschy**



# Church in Society

## **Socks & Underwear Drive a Success!!**

An enormous thank you to everyone that donated to October's socks/underwear drive. Because of YOU, over 2,000 pairs of new socks and underwear were donated to Sunshine Place C.A.R.D.S Closet. Amazing!!



**Shown above: Alex Klemme and Kathleen from Sunshine Place/C.A.R.D.S. Closet**

**Pictured above:**

**Sara and Alex Klemme**





# Church in Society

## Spirit of Giving (Giving Tree)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is again participating in the Spirit of Giving (giving tree) which provides Christmas gifts to children in Sun Prairie. This year instead of picking tags from a tree we sent out a Sign Up Genius link in an e-mail through Constant Contact for you to pick a child to sponsor. Our church will be supporting 80 children this year. **As of this writing, there are still several names remaining on the list.** If you're interested in signing up to give a gift, please check the link listed below to see if there are still children in need:



*Please remember to call the church office before coming to deliver a gift as our hours are variable now because of the pandemic. (Or, you may bring your gift donations to drive-in worship or drop off at the Svendsen house.) Thank you!*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B45A8AC2FA31-giving>

**Donations for Sun Prairie Food Pantry**—We are continuing to collect for the Food Pantry during our Sunday Drive-in Worship Services. Look for the green barrel outside.

Here are some suggested donation items:

- Cereal
- Cooking Oil
- Catsup
- Salad Dressing
- Paper Towels
- Napkins



# Evangelism

**New Member Classes**—We are planning to hold New Member Classes on Sunday, January 24, January 31, and February 7.

Details are being worked out so that these classes can be held virtually.

New Member Sunday will be Sunday, February 7.

Watch for more information.



**Come Grow With Us**

Interested in becoming a member of OSLC? Email the church office at [office@oslc-elca.org](mailto:office@oslc-elca.org) or call 608-837-3111

# Worship & Music

## Music and the Slow Work of God in Advent & Christmas

An article by Don E. Saliers in the December issue of *The American Organist* magazine caught my eye. The article is entitled *Music and the Slow Work of God*.

In part of the article, Don tells this story: "I shall never forget what an eight-year-old told me when I asked her why she loved the music her little choir performed in church. She said, 'Because the words taste so good.' Oh, that our playing and singing would cause people to experience this. Not the words only, but the sound itself: O taste and hear that the Creator of all is merciful and good! All of this is why we must teach children of every social background to love music-their own local culture's music, but also the whole symphony of the world. As we come to love and enjoy one another's music, so we come to love the musicians and the richness of their traditions. This is what the music of this season offers again, crossing over into many cultures, poets, and composers. God's slow work. Let us promise one another that our music will help reveal the very heart of humanity and all creation." I would add that this story applies not only to teaching children but to teaching all of us.

Don Saliers was the William R. Cannon Distinguished Professor of Theology and Worship at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Although he retired in 2007, he returned to the university as theologian in residence. He is also a gifted musician and poet, and the author of 15 books. Don has also been the chaplain of the American Guild of Organists for the past eight years. His daughter Emily is one of the Indigo Girls, an American folk rock music duo from Atlanta.

Thanks, and let us all continue this long, slow work,

John Krueger

**"Live at Five with the Pastors"**  
each Wednesday on *Facebook Live*

**Online Worship Services posted on  
OSLC website and Facebook/our You Tube  
channel each week**

## Drive-in Worship Sundays at 9am!

**See "Latest Worship  
Information" on  
Website & Facebook  
for updates and to  
sign up to volunteer!**



~ December 2020 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00a Staff Meeting 11:00a Bible Study via Zoom 5:00p Live @ Five with the Pastors (Facebook Live) 6:30p Confirmation (virtual)	3 12:00p Text Study via Zoom	4	5 11:15a AA (meeting outside)
6 9:00a Drive-in Worship	7	8	9 9:00a Staff Meeting 11:00a Bible Study via Zoom 5:00p Live @ Five with the Pastors (Facebook Live) 6:30p Confirmation (virtual)	10 12:00p Text Study via Zoom 7:00p Bd. of Finance	11	12 11:15a AA (meeting outside)
13 9:00a Drive-in Worship	14	15 8:00p Squirrel (Men's Bible Study) via Zoom	16 9:00a Staff Meeting 11:00a Bible Study via Zoom 5:00p Live @ Five with the Pastors (Facebook Live) 6:30p Confirmation (virtual)	17 12:00p Text Study via Zoom 6:00p Executive Committee 7:00p Congregation Council via Zoom	18 Deadline for items for January newsletter	19 11:15a AA (meeting outside)
20 9:00a Drive-in Worship	21 Winter Solstice	22	23 9:00a Staff Meeting 11:00a Bible Study via Zoom 5:00p Live @ Five with the Pastors (Facebook Live)	24 12:00p Office Closed @ noon 3:00p Christmas Drive-In Worship 4:00p Christmas Drive-in Worship 5:00p Christmas Drive-in Worship 6:00p Christmas Drive-in Worship	25 Christmas 8:00a Office Closed	26 11:15a AA (meeting outside)
27 9:00a Drive-in Worship	28 Last date for 2020 contributions (in order to be applied to 2020 giving)	29	30 9:00a Staff Meeting 11:00a Bible Study via Zoom 5:00p Live @ Five with the Pastors (Facebook Live)	31 8:00a New Year's Eve - Office Closed	Notes:	

## Staff at Our Savior's

### Senior Pastor

Rev. Tim Hansen  
[tim@oslc-elca.org](mailto:tim@oslc-elca.org)  
 Emergency Phone: (608) 576-2342

### Associate Pastor

Rev. Seth Hecox  
[seth@oslc-elca.org](mailto:seth@oslc-elca.org)  
 Emergency Phone: (608) 576-2342

### Office Administrator

Darlene Thorstad  
[darlene@oslc-elca.org](mailto:darlene@oslc-elca.org)

### Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Matt Weber  
[matt@oslc-elca.org](mailto:matt@oslc-elca.org)

### Finance Secretary

Bonnie Shema  
[bonnie@oslc-elca.org](mailto:bonnie@oslc-elca.org)

### Children & Family Ministries Coordinator

Shelly Perkolup  
[shelly@oslc-elca.org](mailto:shelly@oslc-elca.org)

### Director of Music, Organist

John Krueger  
 Cell: (608) 358-4677

### Director of Adult Choirs

### Director of Chancel Ringers

Angie Schmidt

### Director of Youth & Alleluia Choir

Judy and Breta Saganski

### Director of Cherub Choir

Diane Padrutt

### Accompanists

Kaia Feldman, Diane Padrutt

### Custodian

George Lazar, Jr.

### Church Office Phone

(608) 837-3111

## Congregational Council

**President:** Tim Svendsen

**Vice President:** Jen Spredemann

**Secretary:** Dean Sommer

**Treasurer:** Scott Breitenbach

**Church in Society:** Sara Klemme

**Education:** Brenda Wilcox

**Evangelism:** Ken Sodemann

**Fellowship:** Gary Dalgaard

**Finance:** Emily LaFleur

**Property:** John Gould

**Public Relations:** Dawn Bradley

**Stewardship:** Bryan Loney

**Worship & Arts:** Kathryn Derauf Olson

**Youth & Family:** Tim McCarthy



*Return Service Requested*

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## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



God's work. Our hands.

Worship  
Online worship services each week  
Drive-in worship—Sundays at 9:00 am

**Office Hours**  
Due to the Covid-19 virus health concerns, office hours are variable.  
Please call the church office before coming to church.

550 Lincoln Drive, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590-1399  
Phone (608)837-3111 Fax (608)837-9378 Web [www.oslc-elca.org](http://www.oslc-elca.org)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Sun Prairie WI

# The Crossroads

December 2020



**OSLC Offerings Online**

Visit [www.oslc-elca.org](http://www.oslc-elca.org) or scan this code with your smartphone for instructions to give your offering online!



[www.facebook.com/OurSaviors](https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviors)



The Crossroads is the official monthly publication of Our Savior's Lutheran Church December 2020 edition, Volume 15, Issue 12. Membership is voluntary. We are located at 550 Lincoln Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590-1300, (608) 837-3111.