

Quarterly Ministry Update



23290 Highway 7, Excelsior, MN 55331

www.oslcs.org | 952-474-5181

Spring 2024



100th Anniversary Event
Wednesday, Dec 20, 6:30pm



Christmas Music Celebration

Children, youth and adults joined together to retell the Good News of Jesus' birth on Wednesday, December 21. The readings, the musical offerings and the congregational singing was so uplifting, preparing our minds and hearts for the celebration of our Lord's birth. Then as an extra treat, we enjoyed a beautifully decorated Community Center, filled with scrumptious treats, fellowship and cheer. See the photos on p. 1.

Sunday School News

Following our confirmation series we began a unit on the New Testament. The youth ages 3 through 6th grade spent time learning about how the New Testament is the fulfillment of the promise of a Savior from the Old Testament, that Jesus came to be born a man to fulfill that promise, the 4 Gospels, and about his teaching and being baptized. They are beginning a second unit that will take until the end of our school year focusing on the Ministry of Jesus.

Our children's choir had their first performance at an 8:15am service in January. This small, but mighty group of students ranging in age from 6-13 used their voices to sing praises to God. They have been working with congregational member Ellie Leimer and will be performing one more time this year in March.

Ongoing Activities and Ministries

- ☞ Sunday morning, Monday, Tuesday Women's, Wednesday Zoom, Thursday Facebook and Friday Men's Bible studies in addition to a monthly Men's Breakfast Bible Study
- ☞ Church Leadership and committees: Board of Directors, Elders, Trustees, 100th Anniversary Committee, Mission Committee
- ☞ *A Time for Prayer* (every Thursday) and monthly Prayer Vigils (3rd Saturday). Our Prayer Chain also prays for needs of our members and friends
- ☞ Choir, Chimes and Praise Team practices
- ☞ American Heritage Girls, Troop 409 and a weekly Recovery Support Group meetings
- ☞ Cribbage (2nd Monday)
- ☞ Quilters (typically 2nd & 4th Thursdays)
- ☞ Pickleball (Saturdays when the Gym is open)
- ☞ Blind Fellowship Outreach (quarterly meals)
- ☞ See the calendar in the weekly bulletin for details!

Harvest Pack

We had about 70 people packing meals (including help from a hockey team and Troop 409) that packed 20,185 vitamin enriched meals on Saturday, January 20. The meals went to ICA and Bountiful Basket Food Shelves, staying in our own community! Thank you!

Festival of Lights



Our Savior School raised \$705 at the Festival of Lights at Sovereign Estates on December 12. Thanks for enjoying the lights and for supporting OSS!

Baptisms



We had the opportunity to celebrate the baptism of two children on February 25. It was a special day when kindergartener, Zoe, approached her teacher, Mrs. Limmel and ask if she could be baptized. Mrs. Limmel worked with the pastoral staff and Zoe's dad, Hubert, to bring about this special day. Having Raymond, Zoe's older brother, also join in the sacrament was wonderful.

We praise God for His gift of grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ alone working forgiveness, new life and eternal life in both of these children's lives through the sacrament of Baptism.



We had a wonderful time at Game & Movie Night on Saturday, January 27. We showed the *Paw Patrol* movie, enjoyed popcorn, games and ended with *The Price is Right*! We had about 50 people attend, many from Our Savior School, who enjoyed this evening of fellowship.



Youth Review

We Stepped up to help at the **Our Savior Gala** on February 10 by serving food, helping with clean up, and kept the good vibes flowing.

We had a successful **Parents Night Out** on February 16 with 27 kids! Parents had a blast stepping away for a couple of hours, and the kids had an even better time having fun in the gym, watching a movie and eating pizza. They were entertained and happy.



Immediately following Parents Night Out, we pulled off another successful **lock-in** for the 8th-12th grade crew. The theme was *Big Brother*, with a little *Chopped* cooking thrown in. We had a good time hanging out, playing games, and making memories together. We also continued our walk through the book of John.

On February 19, the youth had a fantastic day of **skiing** at Afton Alps Ski Area.



Sunday Night **Woven and Elevate** continue to meet, keeping it real, fun, and spiritually uplifting with engaging activities and discussions in a relaxed space for youth to grow and have fun together.

100th Anniversary

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On June 16 we will celebrate 100 years of ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church & School. What a joy it is to be able to look back and see what God has done through this congregation over the last 100 years and to look forward to what He will continue to do through us.

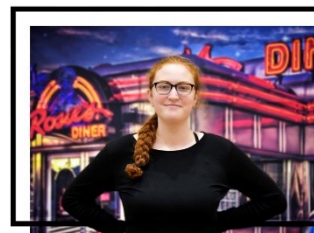
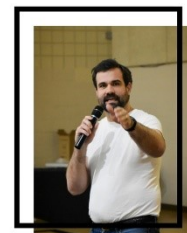
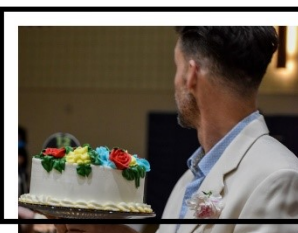
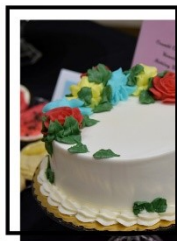
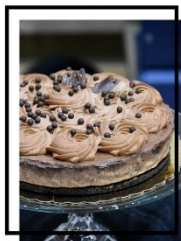
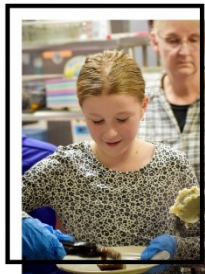
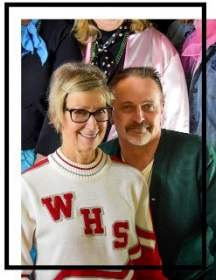
On September 10, 1923, a small group of people gathered together to worship with one another. On June 14, 1924, that group of people were chartered as Our Savior Lutheran Church. Little did these people know what the future would hold. They stepped out in faith and trusted that they were being called by God to serve the community of Excelsior, by shining the light of the Gospel into the southern region of Lake Minnetonka.

God has been faithful to this body of believers from the beginning. He has used Our Savior to spread the Gospel and bring many to faith through Word and Sacrament. He has used Our Savior to build many up in faith and to grow as disciples. He has used Our Savior to serve the community and to help those in need. He has used Our Savior to educate the youth of our community with our school. He has used Our Savior to be a blessing to the community through events like the Easter Egg Hunt, Apple Days and opening our building for organizations to use our space. God has grown His kingdom through the power of the Holy Spirit with the men and women of this congregation throughout these 100 years.

As we approach the 100th year anniversary of Our Savior we remember all God has done for the people of this church and through the people of this church. We look forward to what God is going to do in the future through the ministries of Our Savior Lutheran Church & School. While we do not know what the future holds, we do know that the God who has been faithful in the past will continue to be faithful in the future. Knowing this, we step out in faith, continuing to shine the light of Christ into our community.

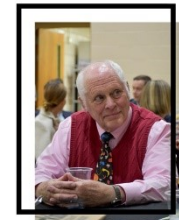
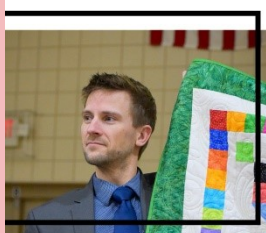
On June 16 we will have an open house, followed by a single worship service in the Gym, and will conclude the day with a banquet at the Chaska Event Center. I pray you will all be able to join us for this day.

In Christ,
Pastor Adam



Thanks for helping!

Laura Kimber, Laurie Bromenshenkel, Gary Schrupp, Janet Renner, Joe Aurich, Kat (Verge41 Productions), Lily Studenski, Jodi Graves, Tammy Limmel, Christine Krienke, Bentley Graves, Marion Klatt, Ally Terpstra, Karla Ramsey, Monica Anderson, God's Guys, the Our Savior Youth and the many others who helped with set-up, clean-up, and more!



Young Adult Gathering



Our young adults got together on Tuesday, January 2 for fun, food and friendship!

Blood Drive

Our Savior will host a Blood Drive on **Saturday, March 23 from 10:00-4:00pm**. www.Redcrossblood.org and search for OurSaviorExc to schedule an appointment to donate blood.

New Member Class

There will be a new member class on **Saturday, April 20 from 8:30-12:30pm**. If you have been attending and would be interested in becoming a member, contact sandy.blumenschein@oslcs.org.

Worship Highlights

- ◆ Please plan to join us in person for Worship. But if that is not possible, please watch the Live Stream. We are continuing the series: *The Idols we Make*.
- ◆ We continue our fresh look at the *Passion of Jesus* through the lens of the Gospel of John as we journey through this season of Lent. Midweek Lenten services are at 4:30 and 6:30pm with a special time for food at 5:15pm.
- ◆ Remember the upcoming Hoy Week Services, listed on p. 7. Please plan to attend in person or join us for the Live Stream.

Care Ministry

The spiritual care needs of our congregation is a team effort. Pastor Adam, Pastor Fred, Joe, the Elders and a variety of members work together to provide spiritual care to members and the community at large. Care takes many forms, but most recently it looks like: meals provided to the homebound, rides to church, funerals or doctor appointments, home visits, and times of conversation and prayer. Watch the bulletin for opportunities to use your gifts and abilities to care for someone in your Christian family.

SMP Program

I am beginning my fourth and final year of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. This quarter's class is Lutheran Reformation History. I know this will be a fascinating class. I will return to St. Louis in late June for a week-long intensive. September will bring another quarter of study on-line followed by my final trip to St. Louis in January of 2025, when I will graduate from the SMP. I continue to thank all of you who remember me in your prayers as God continues to shape me through this pastoral formation program.

Pastor Fred



Early Childhood Center

- Students celebrated our Savior's birth in song and story for the parents called "Little Jesus Born for Me" on December 14.
- We celebrated National Lutherans Schools Week by singing in church and having some fun themes and dress up days.
- We collected 400 pounds of food and \$172 for Bountiful Basket food shelf in Chaska.
- Our staff has grown. We hired Xin (Seen) Shen as a Koala Room aide. Naomi Johnson returned and is now an aide in the Ducky Room. Sarah Score has also returned and will be substituting where needed. We are thankful to have them on board.
- We are still seeking a Toddler Room teacher or asst. teacher.
- We are beginning to plan for the upcoming Spring Program and all of the end of year excitement.
- Current enrollment included 5 infants, 17 toddlers, 20 Lambs, 18 Whales and 8 Kindergarteners.

Extended Care

- Effective March 1, Extended Care is now officially recognized as a state-licensed classroom at Our Savior School.
- We are excited to share that 49 students have registered for our summer EC program. This speaks to the trust and confidence parents have in our approach. Limited spots are available, so secure your child's place today!
- We are excited to announce the return of Niki to our summer EC staff and will be adding another teacher for the summer for the additional students we will have.



100th Anniversary Event Sunday, March 10

**10:00AM
WORSHIP
ONLY**

Worship
in the Sanctuary
followed by
the Fish Fry in the
Community Center

FOLLOWING
WORSHIP
**FISH
FRY**



HOSTED BY:
GOD'S GUYS

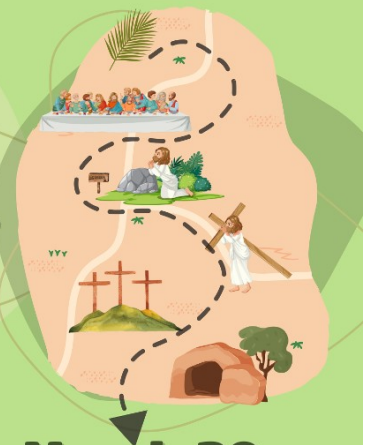
A free will offering will be taken

*Meal includes fish with tartar sauce,
baked potato with butter & sour cream,
cole slaw, roll and dessert*



Community Easter Egg Event

**Travel
to
Easter**
with Indoor
Obstacle
Egg Hunt



**Saturday, March 30
9:00-11:30am**

ExcelsiorEggHunt.com

A free family event!
Please register for an
arrival time!



Our Savior
LUTHERAN
Excelsior, MN

**Maundy
Thursday
6:30pm**



Good Friday

Readings & Prayer

12:00pm

Service of Darkness

7:30pm



Easter Morning

Sunrise 6:00am

Traditional 8:00am

Blended 9:30am

Contemporary 11:00am



Participants are asked to register **ONE ADULT PER FAMILY** for an arrival time on **Saturday, March 30 beginning at 9:00am.**

Parents will travel with their kids throughout the event. There will be stairs involved with elevator access for those that need it.

Follow the map to collect stickers and do fun activities throughout the Extended Care rooms, the Fellowship Hall, basement classrooms and second floor classrooms. Families will finish their travels in the Gym with a snack and an Indoor Obstacle Egg Hunt. **This event is FREE! Please invite your friends!**

Help is Needed

As soon as all the volunteer positions have been finalized, we will need your help to fill many roles. You could help with set up on Friday. You could help during the event by being at one of the six stops, either dressed in costume, handing out stickers or assisting with the crafts along the way. You could help in the gym with the snack or the obstacle egg hunt. Or you could help with clean up after the event.

You will play an essential role in sharing the Easter story with our community! Please prayerfully consider how you can help!

OMELET BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 7 from 8:30-12:30pm
Community Center (Door #5)

Start your Sunday off right. Pick your favorite ingredients and watch as your omelet is cooked right in front of you!

Hash browns, sausage, cinnamon rolls, fruit and beverages will also be served.

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Suggested Donation
\$15 Youth (10+) & Adults
\$6 Kids (9 and under)



No Bible Study, Confirmation or Sunday School

All proceeds will go toward youth attending the 2025 National Youth Gathering



Spring Scrapbooking Retreat



**Saturday,
April 27
9:00am-9:00pm**

\$65 per table

\$10 discount before March 1, 2024

Includes help
hauling your
projects in,
work space,
meals and
snacks



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Proceeds benefit Our Savior Youth
Mission Trips and the upcoming
National Youth Gathering



100th Anniversary Event Sunday, May 5



**Single 10:00am Worship Service
followed by a Salad* Luncheon
in the Community Center**

Sunday, May 5

***Please Bring a Salad to Share**

**Ice Cream will be
Provided for Dessert**



A Mite offering will be taken for 2024-2025 Mission Grants.

Entertainment by "We Three Kings"

singing a variety
of music in three
part harmony.

Jeff & Renee King love to
share how God allowed their
son, Justin, who is blind and
developmentally disabled, to
be a part their lives.



Church & School Staff

firstname.lastname@oslcs.org 952-474-5181

Rev. Adam Hengst—Senior Pastor (x225)

Rev. Fred Limmel—Worship, Care & Discipleship (x226)

Joe Aurich—Youth & Missions (x234)

Laura Kimber—Family & Children's Ministry

Andy Bowyer—Building Operations (x216)

Sandy Blumenschein—Membership Secretary (x242)

Laurie Bromenshenkel—Administrative Director (x210)

Director Team—Early Childhood Center Director (x222)

Joe Aurich—Extended Care Director (x234)

Renae Hoernemann—School Secretary (x218)

Boards & Committees

President—Josh Pratt Joshuajasperpratt@gmail.com

Vice President—Larry Hasse LarryHasse@gmail.com

Secretary—Kent Heins Kent.Heins@gmail.com

Treasurer—Dave Fine dave.fine@ngc.com

Other Members—

Lisa Gunhus lisa@youthenrichmentleague.com

Nancy Zittergruen NancyZittergruen@gmail.com

Alycia Breiter Alycia.Breiter@gmail.com

Mark Kroll mark@kroll.name

Lead Elder—Roger Martin rogerpmartin@gmail.com

Child Care Committee Chair—Christina Sullivan

Trustee Chair—Brian Grandstrand Grandstra@aol.com



Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



March	
5	New Session of the Women's Tuesday Bible Study begins: Unshakable
6	Lenten Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: Youth)
9	Change clocks before going to bed ... Spring Ahead
10	100th Anniversary Event: Single 10:00am Worship Service and Fish Fry
11	Cribbage 7:00pm
13	Lenten Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: Bloom GG)
16	Prayer Vigil 9:00-10:00am
17	National Youth Gathering Parent/Student Informational Meeting 5:45pm
20	Lent Worship 4:30pm and 6:30pm Lenten Dinner 5:15pm (Host: TBD)
23	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 8:00am Women at Feed my Starving Children 9:15-11:15am Blood Drive 10:00-4:00pm
28	Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30pm
29	Good Friday Worship Readings and Prayer 12:00pm Service of Darkness 7:30pm
30	Travel to Easter with Indoor Obstacle Egg Hunt
31	Easter Sunrise Worship 6:00am Resurrection Celebration 8:00am, 9:30am & 11:00am

April	
7	Omelet Breakfast (No Sunday School Confirmation or Bible Study)
8	Cribbage Challenge
13	LWML Spring Celebration at Our Savior 9:00am
14	8th Grade Confirmation Meeting
20	Prayer Vigil 9:00-10:00am New Member Class 8:30-12:30pm
27	Men's Breakfast Bible Study Community Scrapbooking Retreat Youth Fundraiser

May	
2	National Day of Prayer
5	8:30am Congregational Meeting 100th Anniversary Event: Single 10:00am Worship Service and Salad Luncheon
12	Mother's Day
13	Cribbage Challenge 7:00pm
18	Men's Breakfast Bible Study 8:00am Prayer Vigil 9:00am
19	Confirmation Service 10:45am
22	Early Childhood Center Spring Program
26	Single Holiday Worship Service 10:00am

June	
16	Father's Day 100th Anniversary Event: Open House Single 10:00am Worship Service Banquet to follow at the Chaska Event Center
20-22	LWML Minnesota South Convention in Mankato

July	
8-12	Vacation Bible School
15-31	Elevator being replaced