



FROM THE PASTOR

*“Be kind to one another, tender hearted forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32*

*“And whenever you stand praying forgive, if you have anything anyone, so that your
Father also who is in Heaven, may forgive you of your trespasses.” Mark 11:25*

As Christians, we hear much about forgiveness because it is one of the core principles of our faith. However, it is tricky, because sometimes we may think we have forgiven somebody, yet hours, days or even weeks later, something triggers us and we feel the same anger and resentment all over again. Perhaps we have to forgive somebody seventy times seven.

In scripture, forgiveness is usually talked about using images of balancing scales, just like other material wrongs in life. In relationships, whenever there is an offense, the relational balance is thrown off, and one side is weighted down, and until it is resolved, the relationship is off balance and not quite right. Sometimes the hurt person will think, “I’m going to get even with you somehow.” I don’t get angry, I get even. There is a score to settle.

However, as we all know, Jesus tells us to forgive so that we may draw closer to God, ourselves, and those around us. However, what if this is impossible for us?

During Lent, let’s consider forgiveness and what it means for us, loved ones and even God. I will be offering a Forgiveness study during two different times; Sunday morning during the normal Adult Forum time at 9:00 am and then also at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evening before the 7:00 Lenten Service. I hope to see you!

Peace and Blessings,
Pr. Cindy



Phil and Andy's Pantry – SOUPER BOWL!!

We are getting ready to celebrate the big football game - the NFL Super Bowl!!



We will continue to collect cans of soup for February. The big game is played on February 11, 2024. Soup is a great meal for families now that the cold winter months are coming. For us it is better known as the Souper Bowl! Please let Dorothy know if you have questions.

Fellowship Time After Service

Please sign up for Fellowship Hour after service on Sunday. Pat Ask has graciously offered to make coffee, so we just need treats. This is an awesome time enjoyed by many to catch up with your Christian Family, Sign-up sheet is on our fabulous bulletin board across from Therese's office.

Chili Cook-Off– THIS SUNDAY!!!

Mark your calendars – the date has been set for OSLC Annual Chili Cook-off. Sunday, February 4th right after 10:00- service. This is a fundraiser for the Youth Gathering that is being held in New Orleans this summer. We need as much participation as possible so plan on staying after church to eat and vote for your favorite chili. Thank you!



Adult Forum

Pastor Cindy is leading Adult Forum starting at 8:45 am. Forum will run till 9:30ish so those who need to go to choir practice can do so and won't need to leave early.

Flower Chart – HELP!

The 2024 flower chart is posted on the elevator door. Please sign up to donate. There are still quite a few spots available .

OSLC Book Club



Book club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 after Bible Study in the IMC. Books are chosen from the Cedar Rapids, Marion or Hiawatha Library "Book Club Kit". Please feel free to join us for casual conversation – everyone is welcome. Please contact Lori Hayes if you have questions.

Lenten Services Schedule

Wednesday night services – 7:00 pm

February 14 – **Ash Wednesday** service – 7:00 pm

February 21 – Wednesday night service – 7:00 pm

February 28 – Wednesday night service – 7:00 pm

March 6 – Wednesday night service – 7:00 pm

March 13 – Wednesday night service – 7:00 pm

March 20 – Wednesday night service – 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 24 – 10:00 am service **Palm Sunday** & “Pies for Palms” fundraiser for youth to raise money for Vacation Bible School this summer.

Pastor Dan Kuckuck, Assistant to the Bishop will also be preaching that day.

Holy Week

Thursday, March 28 – 7:00 pm service - **Maundy Thursday**

Friday, March 29 – 7:00 pm service - **Good Friday**

Sunday, March 31 – 10:00 am **Easter Service**

Easter Breakfast will be served by our youth from **8:00 – 9:30 am**

Lenten Study Schedule

Sundays at 9:00 AM

Wednesdays at 6:00PM

Week 1 - Feb. 18 & 21 **Beginnings** *Luke 15:11-32*

Week 2 - Feb 25 & 28 **The Need for Self-examination.** *Psalms 51 & 139*

Week 3 - Mar 3 & 6 **Honesty- Engaging the Inner Struggle.** *Matthew: 5: 43-48, 7: 1-6*

Week 4 - March 10 & 13 **Repentance – Getting a New Mind.** *Luke 23- 35*

Week 5 - Mar 17 & 20 **Forgiving- Embracing Freedom.** *Matthew 18: 23-35*

Week 6 - Mar 24 & 27 **Beginning Again-Forgiveness and Reconciliation.** *Luke: 7:36-47*

Have you checked out our new website?

Please take time to log-in to this website often as the more “clicks” it receives the more popular it becomes for others searching church websites. Tell your friends to check it out, too!! You should be able to log-in to the website from Facebook or use this search address - crsavivors.org

We hope you enjoy the new website. If you have information that should be added to this site or you see things you wish were changed, let us know -we would appreciate your input.

Visit from Pastor Dan – Sunday March 24th

Pastor Dan Kuckuck will be visiting Our Saviors on Sunday, March 24 and preaching at our 10:00 service. Immediately following service Pastor Dan will be available to talk about and answer any questions you may have about the “call -process” and where we go from here. Our Ministry Site Profile has been approved by Synod and is posted for potential candidates to review. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend service – it will be very informative! Please see below for more information about Pastor Dan.



Pastor Dan Kuckuck,
Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership and Congregational Transitions.

Pastor Dan Kuckuck is a pastor in The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and has served as assistant to Bishop Amy Current in the Southeastern Iowa Synod since 2021. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia (B.A.) and the University of Chicago (M.Div.), with a graduate certificate in Spiritual Direction from St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN.

Pastor Kuckuck manages the areas of mobility and call process, rostered minister leadership, wellness, and support, provide leadership and support for synod youth ministries, and clergy coaching. As Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Kuckuck will also be visiting and accompanying congregations of the Southeastern Iowa synod.

Prior to serving in the Office of the Bishop, Kuckuck served as pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Urbandale, Iowa since 2013 and as a pastor in residency at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA. He has also served on many synod committees and as a synod dean. He is a trained ELCA Coach and has also served as a consultant with LEAD, a coaching and consulting ministry. Dan has also served congregations in Fairbanks, Alaska, and Chicago, Illinois.

Pastor Kuckuck is married to Minda Kuckuck, a communications professional in Des Moines. They have two children, Olivia and Zoe, and a 90-lb Labrador named Luna.

Pastor Kuckuck enjoys cooking for others, baking bread, running absurdly long distances, watching sci-fi television shows and movies, traveling, and hanging out with his family in the backyard on sunny days.



Our Savior's
LUTHERAN CHURCH
— ELCA —

Readers

February 4 - Derek Sindelar
February 11 – Dave Sampson
February 18 – Sue Clapp
February 25 – Laurene Case

****Readers can pick up their reading in the
“Reader” mailbox located between the offices
in the back hallway**

Assisting Ministers

February 4 - Hannah Plummer
February 11 – Nancy Greer
February 14 – Jeremiah Miller (Ash Wednesday)
February 18 – Hannah Plummer
February 25 – Nancy Greer
March 3 – Jeremiah Miller

Prayer for Pastor

February 4 - Dave Case
February 11 – Ardy Erickson
February 18 – Therese Plummer
February 25 - Diana Emig
March 3 – Ann Larson

Acolytes

February 4 - Jeremiah Miller
February 11 – Lexy Flockhart
February 18 – Evy Fiester
February 25 - Korver Sindelar
March 3 – Natalie Fiester

Ushers/Greeters

Feb. 4 - Dave Sampson, Marv Houg, Tom Zuber
February 11 – Strottman’s
February 18 – Fiester’s
Feb. 25 – Mark & Suzanne Schmitt, Ann Larson
March 3 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson

Serving Our Congregation

Cindy McKenzie – Interim Pastor
Sue Clapp– Congregation President
David Sampson – Treasurer
Therese Plummer – Parish/Financial Secretary
Forrest Green – Music Director
Terri Hodge – Bell Choir Director
Hannah Plummer – Children & Youth Ministries
Director

Youth of the Month

Youth of the Month: **NATALIE**

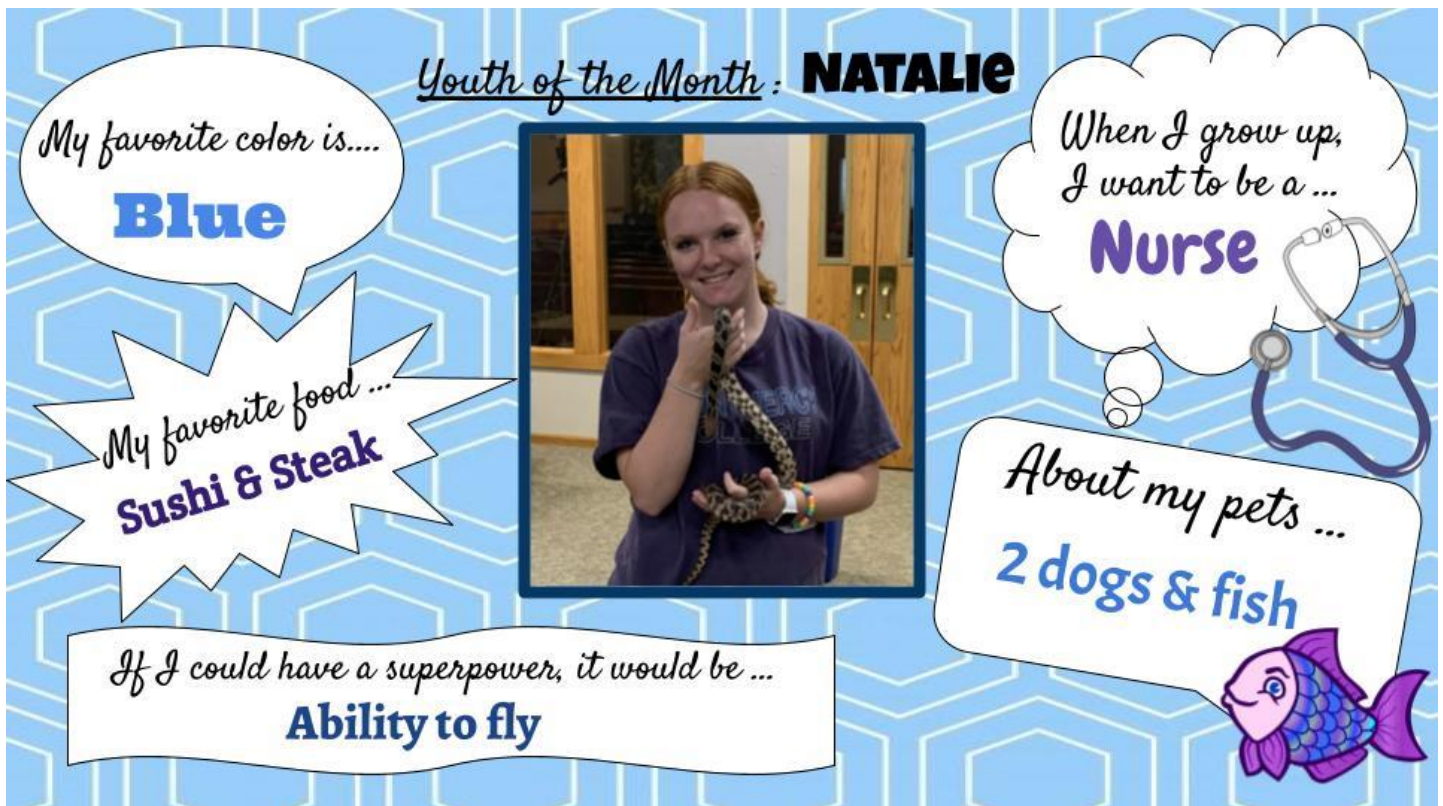
My favorite color is....
Blue

My favorite food ...
Sushi & Steak

If I could have a superpower, it would be ...
Ability to fly

When I grow up,
I want to be a ...
Nurse

About my pets ...
2 dogs & fish



ELCA Youth Gathering 2024 FAQs

When and where?

The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 13th-July 16th, 2024, in New Orleans, Louisiana. This gathering includes youth from Lutheran churches from all different ELCA synods from all around the U.S.

Who is going?

Jeremiah Miller, Natalie Fiester, Leslie Strottman, Eric Strottman, Arnold Strottman, and Hannah Plummer plus youth and adult leaders from Gloria Dei

What is the theme?

2024's theme is **"Created to be"** centered on lessons from Psalm 139:14

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made:
your works are wonderful, this I know full well."*

How can OSLC be involved?

Help us get there! Sending this many participants is going to add up - keep your eyes peeled for fundraising opportunities. Your support is always so appreciated!



Annual Meeting Minutes

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2024

President Sue Clapp announced we had a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m. Pastor Cindy led the devotions.

Secretary's Report: Semi-Annual Meeting minutes were included in the Annual Meeting packet for review. Al Johnson moved to approve the minutes as published, Ron Barth seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Sampson presented the Treasurer's Report, which was included in the meeting packet. As of December 31, 2023, our general accounts balance was \$92,058 and our designated accounts balance was \$103,408; \$195,466 in total. Our total contributions for 2023 were \$191,321 and our total expenses for 2023 were \$184,383. It left the church with a net positive on the year of \$6,938. Laurie Strottman moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as published, Joann Kohl seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Property Board Report: Rick Rogness reported for the Property Board. A couple of big projects in 2023 were fixing the siding that was damaged during the derecho and painting the wood on the side of the building. They made various upgrades around the church. Overall, the church is in pretty good shape. Ardy Erickson asked what needs to be done soon. Rick said we have designated funds to go towards a new air conditioner for the offices. The air conditioning system is probably 30 years old and needs new freon sometimes, but we can't keep filling the freon. We have to replace that to a different kind of cooling agent, which is why the offices are getting switched now. It was postponed from last fall to spring 2024. Ardy also asked what the cost is for the replacement. Rick said it must be retrofitted, so roughly \$6,000 to replace. The cost of the air conditioner replacement will be covered with funds from the Bill & Anna Anderson Memorial Fund. No other big plans at this time. Still have some work to do on the sign but may need to wait until it's warmer.

Old Business:

- a. Comments from Ministry Teams: Team annual reports were included in the meeting packet. Nothing else to report.
- b. Call Committee Report: Al Johnson gave an update for the Call Committee. The Call Committee has completed the MSP (Ministry Site Profile). It was submitted to the Bishop and was approved and is now posted. Potential applicants will not see the entire MSP until after interviews with Pastor Dan. Pastor Dan will be here March 24, 2024 to minister and answer questions of the congregation. Ardy Erickson asked about reaching out to candidates. Al explained that we cannot reach out to individual applicants as a congregation. If there is a specific candidate we are interested in, we need to tell Pastor Dan and he can reach out to the potential candidate from there.
- c. Website Report: Sue Clapp reported the website is up and running: www.crsaviors.org. Mark Schmitt, Nancy Trout, and Sue are continually working on updates needed to the site. We have already received a message from a family who could potentially join the church and have their child's baptism here.
- d. Constitution Revision: Marv Houg reported on the Constitution review. He thanked Marcia Adix, Laurie Strottman, and Arnold Strottman for their hard work. The changes are ready to go to the Synod, so as soon as they fix a formatting issue they will send it. They had to include the bylaws in the new Constitution instead of as a separate document. Dave Sampson asked for a brief synopsis on the process. Marv said we have to send it in to the Synod and wait a few weeks for their comments. There is a back and forth between the committee and the Synod. After that it will go back to the council. Once the council approves, it will make its way to the congregation for approval. Hoping to have it ready for congregation approval by the June semi-annual meeting.
- e. Other Old Business: No other old business.

New Business:

- a. Synod Assembly Representative Selection – May 17 & 18, 2024 in Coralville: Sue Clapp reported that we need three representatives at the assembly. Pastor Cindy will be going. Sue and Al Johnson both volunteered to be the other representatives. Sue suggested Jeremiah Miller might be an alternate but will have to check with him. Dave Sampson moved to approve the representative selection, Therese Plummer seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. Nominating Committee Selection: Sue Clapp reported we need to find six nominees to be on the committee to find replacements for five council/team members whose terms are complete in June 2024. Suzanne Schmitt, Laurie Strottman, Marv Houg, Tom Zuber, Ardy Erickson, and Lori Hayes all agreed to be on the committee. Dave Sampson moved to approve the selected nominee committee, Ron Barth seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- c. Approval of 2024 Budget: Sue Clapp presented the proposed 2024 budget to the congregation. It was also included in the meeting packet. Ardy Erickson asked about receiving offering envelopes. There was a small delay in ordering, but we will have them soon to give to congregation members. No other questions or concerns about the budget. Arnold Strottman moved to approve the proposed budget, Laurie Strottman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- d. Audit Committee Selection: Nancy Greer, Betty Goehring, and Al Johnson all volunteered prior to the annual meeting to be on the three person audit committee. Nancy Trout moved to approve the selected audit committee, Joann Kohl seconded. All in favor, motion carried.
- e. Other New Business: No other new business.

Hannah's Youth Report: Hannah Plummer's written report is included in the meeting packet. She could not be at meeting to present. Therese Plummer reported for Hannah that we are continuing our youth group partnership with Gloria Dei church.

Pastor Cindy's Report: Pastor Cindy included a written report in the packet. Nothing else to add.

Ron Barth moved to adjourn, Al Johnson seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 11:46 a.m.

Note: If you see any corrections to the Annual Meeting Minutes (above), please send them to Nicole Flockhart at nicoleamy27@gmail.com