

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Redfield, South Dakota

"Messenger"

December 2023

***"Through the Grace of God We
Are Worshiping, Sharing,
Growing"***

Financial Report

As of November 3, the date of the most recent bank statement as of this writing, our congregation has \$33,069 in available funds. This is the amount of money in our checking account less the amounts set aside for designated interests, such as the building fund, sanctuary fund, Thrivent... We ended 2022 with \$11,000 in available cash. In 2023, we were able to increase our cash balance during the first six months because we were not paying a full time pastor. By June 2023, our balance was \$47,406. Now that we have returned to normal expense levels, we are spending more than we are taking in. I project that we will have a negative amount in available funds by the summer of 2024 unless our operating income increases. I encourage you to give what you can, keeping in mind the good works that our congregation does. This can be done in many ways, including online giving. If you are interested in setting up an online deduction from your bank account, please contact me. Dana Lewis, Treasurer

First Communion

On November 5 fourteen young people received their First Communion. They and their parents met with Pastor Joy on November 3 for a class on the meaning of the Sacrament of Holy Communion in preparation for this step in their Christian faith. Receiving Communion that Sunday were: Ava McMahan, Addison Hulscher, Harper Schade, Tory Betten, Brantley Schwartz, Spencer Evans, Easton Pochop, Carson Jessen, Deagan Maher, Jack Lewis, Braelon Marlow, Braxton Maher, Grady Hulscher, Malachi Zastrow.

CALENDAR

December 3, 10, 17, & 24th – 10 am, Advent Worship & Fellowship hour
December 7 – 11 am, The Food Truck will be at the armory
December 9 – 9:30 am, Cantata practice
December 10 – 4:00 pm, Community Cantata at the Redfield School Theatre followed by a free-will donation light supper
December 13 – 6:00 pm, WOW Christmas program, LYO will meet following the program to make lefse.
December 17 – 10:15 am, WOW Christmas program
December 20, 27 & January 3 – There will be no Wednesday evening activities – Break for Christmas
December 24 – 5:00 pm, Christmas Eve worship with special music, candle lighting and Holy Communion.
December 31 – 10:00 am, worship
Pastor Joy plans to be gone January 2nd thru January 9th.

END of the Year

Because the People program still is not available in the computer, offering postings are still being done with pen & paper. If you need a statement for tax purposes, let the office know.

Several 2023 offering envelopes were not picked up. We will not label 2024 envelopes for those members. If you decide you want them let the office know by December 15.

From the Pastor's Desk

I'm pretty sure that one of the most popular questions throughout the land in Lutheran churches this time of year is "Why aren't we singing Christmas hymns already? They're so pretty and cheerful." Well, to answer the question, reason number one is that you have a mean pastor. She might look sweet, but don't be fooled. The second reason is that our hymns are supposed to fit the gospel and other readings of the day. Are you hearing cheery stories of Jesus' birth during Advent? We get things like "But in those day, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken," If this is our most exuberantly happy day, I think we need to look at how we define "fun." Third, and this might sound amazing, but Christmas isn't nearly so pleasurable without all of the waiting. Once upon a time in a land far, far away, I used to work for Harry and David, and then its sibling company, Jackson and Perkins. I worked in merchandising. Merchandising was the people who decided what to buy and how much, how much catalog space it got, what to charge for it, when to put it on sale, and all that. We were in charge of the company's merchandise. Our companies were hugely dependent on Christmas to have a successful year. If I recall correctly, seventy percent of our annual sales would come during the Christmas season. Christmas would make us or break us. As a result, if you worked there, you ate, breathed, and slept Christmas. All company computers would start up with a message about how many days there were until Christmas, every single day of the year. We had to present our boards with our ideas for the Christmas catalog in January and the rest of the year was spent fine tuning your holiday shopping experience. By the time my boss let me go early on Christmas Eve at 2 PM, I was sick of Christmas. Without anything else, without any lows, without any ordinary time, Christmas was too much. Any meaning was lost and it was simply something to get through. When it was all cheerful tunes, they stopped being so cheerful. And finally, all that happiness, without any darkness, without any waiting, is not how life is. We have moments of brightness, happy togetherness, and real pleasure, but we have a whole lot of time that is not like that. Some days

are dark, some days are hard, some are sad, angry, frustrating, and some seem like they're altogether too much for us. Even life in Christ is not always a bed of roses. Challenges, troubles, and sorrows still come our way. The world can still be a very dark place, just look at the news. The darkness in this world is all too real. It's not just a philosophical construct out there. It's numbness when one hears the evening news. It's a sensation that threatens to crush your soul when such tragedy enters your own life. Despair, apathy, and inaction are so easy in the face of it all. What can one person do in the face of it all? How can one alter centuries or millennia of trouble? What do we do when the darkness is pressing in? When it seems too great for us to fight? When each new thing seems worse than the last? Pretending it doesn't matter or papering it over with a cheery song doesn't seem the thing to do. Sometimes, in the church, we live in the darkness. We sing the songs in minor key and acknowledge where we are, that there is suffering and pain, that we don't have all the answers, and the darkness is pressing in.

But we don't stay eternally in the dark. Our answer is not despair. It is not to give up, to stop trying. Our answer is the fine thread of hope, our sure and certain hope in the resurrected Christ. As Jesus says in Mark, "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates."

No matter how much the darkness presses in, the darkness does not have the final word, but rather a light comes into the darkness, a light that the darkness cannot put out. Just as Christ came into the world in human flesh, Christ will come again. Christ will come as the just judge, who rights what has been wronged, who restores that

(continued on page 3)

WOW – Children’s Ministries

Christmas Programs are coming! Mark your calendars for 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 13 and 10:15 am on Sunday, December 17 to hear our WOW kids share their words and songs. Parents, if you know your child will be gone one of those days, please let their teacher, Mallory, or Melissa know asap.

WOW Christmas break - We will not have WOW classes on December 20, 27, or January 3. We will resume classes on January 10, 2024!

We wrapped up our “Fruits of the Spirit” lessons this fall, concluding with self-control on November 29. We hope the kids learned a lot about how to live out the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, generosity, faithfulness, and self-control this fall.

Endowment Committee

Endowment Committee – Based on the calendar year 2022 earnings, \$3000 is available for 2023-2024 college scholarships and \$4000 for grants to further the mission of OSL. Applications were received from Leyton Rohlf, a senior at Northern State University, and Jorgen Hansen, a sophomore at Augustana. They each received \$700 awards. Jorgen will receive an additional \$500 from Augustana as part of their PACT (Parish And College Together) program. Grant applications will be approved in December.

Memorials to the Endowment Fund have been received in memory of Verna Ellenson and Shirley Felchle.

Lutheran Youth Organization

Our youth from grades 7-12 will be meeting on Wednesday, December 13, after the kids' Christmas program. We are hoping to find enough lefse griddles and people who have made lefse in the past to help us make lefse to take to local nursing homes and assisted living centers. If you have a lefse griddle and would be willing to let us use it, or have made lefse in the past, please let me know ASAP. If we are unable to find enough, we will decorate cookies instead.

**DURING THIS SEASON OF GIVING,
REMEMBER THOSE IN NEED. FILL THE
GROCERY CART FOR THE FOOD
PANTRY**

Pastor’s column from page 2 -

which has been taken, who champions those whose voices have been lost. Darkness and despair are not the end.

In Advent, we wait, not for darkness, for a crushing end, but what comes after darkest midnight. We wait through the gray hours for the slow dawn of a new day. And that is what we are called to live in, not in the despair of darkness, but in anticipation of the light. There is a quote attributed to Martin Luther, though he likely never said it. “If I knew that tomorrow was the end of the world, I would plant an apple tree today.” Well, whoever said it, they were on to something. We are called to live in hope of a future that is past the end. We are called to plant seeds, even if we are never to see them grow. We are called to live for a future that we cannot create, but one that God creates. We are called not to despair, but anticipation.

It is easy to be lulled by the darkness, but we are called to resist, to keep awake through the darkest hour. We are called, not simply to see the darkness, but also to witness the dawn of blazing light. We are called to keep up our work, even when we can’t see the reward, in hope of the future, in light of God’s promises. Despair is something we ought to be used to as Christians. Every year we remember the death of Christ upon the cross. We hear of the disciples’ despair. We witness their struggle in their darkest hour. But we know what comes next. We know about the empty tomb and we’re reading the story in the light of the resurrected Christ. In our own times, things may grow darker, but there is no darkness too dark for hope. We await Christ's coming again with glad anticipation.

Church Council Summary November 19, 2023

Meeting called to order by Vice President Melissa and Pastor Joy shared a devotional. October Council minutes were approved, and the financial reports were accepted. The annual meeting of Our Saviors will be Sunday January 21, 2024 following worship. Council members will work on a proposed budget. Committee reports were received. Next meeting is December 17 if needed.

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Regular Sunday Schedule 9 am – Worship 10 am – Fellowship Additions listed weekly					1	2
3 7 pm – Cantata practice, School Theatre	4	5 1:00 pm – Pastor's Text Study	6	7 7:30 am–Bible Study 11 am – Food Truck	8	9 9:30 am – Cantata practice
10 4 pm – Cantata, Redfield School Theatre, Light meal to follow	11	12 1:00 pm – Pastor's Text Study	13 4:40 pm – WOW Classes 5:30 pm – Supper 6:00 pm – Christmas program 6:35 pm – Youth Groups	14 7:30 am – Bible Study	15	16
17 10:15 am WOW Christmas program	18	19 1:00 pm – Pastor's Text Study	20 NO WOW, supper, Worship or Confirmation	21 7:30 am – Bible Study	22	23
24 5 pm – Christmas Eve Worship	25 Office Closed, Christmas Day	26	27 NO WOW, supper, Worship or Confirmation	28 7:30 am – Bible Study	29	30
31						

2023

1 Doug Dangel
 2
 3
 4 John Spotanske
 Rollie Betten
 5 Sandy Binger
 6 Eileen Crawford
 Robert & Michelle Schmitt
 7 Loyal Schmidt
 Noelle Swanson
 Vince & Ellen Kay Marshall
 8
 9
 10 Sue Schelske
 11 Mary O'Donnell
 12 Dale Stellmacher
 Gail O'Donnell
 13 Danielle Brandner
 14 Deb Curtis
 Lisa Lewis
 15
 16 Karver Swanson
 Tim & Sheila Odland
 17 Dale & Leanna Stellmacher
 18
 19 Carl Sante
 Nick Schultz
 20 Pam Schmidt
 21 Wes Swanson
 Christian Lewis
 Jeff Bankston
 Autumn Rose

22 Nick Abbas
 Brook Stephens
 23
 24 Casey Ann Lewis
 25
 26 Casey Zens
 Braxon Maher
 Roger & Lois Masat
 27 Jim & Verna Ellenson
 28 Todd Harty
 29 Linda Schroeder
 30 Brenda Hansen
 Ashley Masat
 Emily White
 Clae Hoots
 31 Tam Kolar

Please notify the office if there are errors or omissions on the list above so we can correct our records.

Memorial Gifts Received

Undesignated -

In memory of John Solheim from Inez Booze, Herb & Shirley Stellmacher, Alan & Diann Steinheuser, Keith & Linda Schroeder, Vonnie Richter, Clark & Rosa Davis, Gordon & Thordys Blume, Tim & Sheila Odland, Darel & Colleen Rohlf, Carol Lund

Approved Memorial wish list includes:

- Cameroon Roofs
- ELW hymnals
- Endowment Fund
- Library Fund
- Portable microphones
- Projection Equipment
- Radio Broadcast Sponsors
- Tables of various sizes

November 2023 Statistics

Baptism: Hattie May Lutter

Death: John Solheim

There were no marriages, transfers out or transfers in.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1514 E. 1st. Street
P O Box 16
Redfield, SD 57469

Remember OSL pay
camp cost for members th

Non Profit Standard
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 33
Redfield, SD 57469

The "Messenger" is published monthly at
Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship – 9:00 am

Fellowship – 10:00 am

Our Sunday worship service is also
broadcast live on radio station
KNBZ, 97.7 FM, at 9:00 am.
Also on Facebook

Wednesday

WOW Kid's Classes (4 yr-6th) – 4:40 pm

WOW Supper – 5:30 pm

WOW Worship – 6:00 pm

Confirmation – 6:35 pm

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday: 9 am – 3 pm

Church Office – 472-2640

Pastor Joy Proper – 541-255-8455

secretary.osl@midconetwork.com

web site: www.oslredfieldsd.com

Our Savior's Lutheran Staff

Pastor Joy Proper

Thordys Blume, Secretary

Della Osborn, Custodian

Dana Lewis, Treasurer

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**"Through the grace of God we are
worshipping, sharing, growing."**

THANK YOU:

To all those that so faithfully work behind the scenes to keep our church facility a friendly and beautiful place to come to. Helping with both Wednesday and Sunday worship.

Thank you to everyone who has donated food for Wednesday evening suppers. We have regularly served roughly 80 people each week. I currently have enough ground beef and chips, but we struggle trying to line up dessert each week. If anyone would be willing to provide cake, bars, cookies... starting in January, please let me know. Dana Lewis

BIBLE CAMP - 2024

We are gearing up for camp and hope you will join Lutherans Outdoors at Outlaw Ranch, Klien Ranch, and NeSoDak in Summer 2024.

You can find all of the materials to prepare for summer camp at: www.losd.org. Registration is open for individuals and Family now. Contact Lutheran Outdoors at 605-274-5326 if you have questions.

CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY –

Weekly Offerings – November 2023

Operating - \$ 8,444.50

Camperships (*ceramics*) \$ 36.00

Harvestfest - \$10.00

World Hunger - \$ 75.00

VANCO – October 2023

Operating - \$ 1,601.88

Sanctuary - \$ 20.00

FAITHFUL READERS

The book club will meet in the OSL church library at 2 pm on December 21 to discuss the book A Christmas Memory by Richard Paul Evans. We will be making a new list for 2024. Look for it in the January newsletter or in the library. We welcome you to join us for discussion and fellowship.