

# The Messenger

Newsletter of Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Hastings, Minnesota

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume XXXVII - No. 9

November-December 2020



**In-Person Worship on Sundays changes to  
TWO services on November 29,  
8:30 & 9:30 AM**

**Holy Communion is celebrated  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.**

JAM & God+Life are meeting virtually.

**Please sign up for your choice of service  
each week using the SignUp Genius link  
found at [www.osel.org](http://www.osel.org) or by calling the  
church office, 651-437-9052.**



*Thank You for practicing Social Distancing!*



## Online Worship Services Continue

We continue to offer an online option for our Sunday services. We invite you to join us each week:

- Our website: [www.osel.org](http://www.osel.org)
- Facebook @oursaviours
- Our YouTube channels:  
Our Saviour's Hastings  
and Our Saviour's Youth - Hastings

Visit sites often but especially on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings and Christmas Eve for the most recent service or music project.

For those who don't have access to a computer or internet, please tune in to **KDWA 1460 AM** or **97.7 FM** radio at 6:30pm on Sundays or 6:30pm Wednesdays.

# Pastor's Page

## Celebrate What's Right with the World!

Over the past several years, I renewed my interest in photography. The inspiration to do that came from the National Geographic photographer, DeWitt Jones. DeWitt created an inspiring video entitled, "Celebrate What's Right with the World." Back in 2010, Our Saviour's purchased a copy from Star Thrower Distribution and showed it at several stewardship cottage meetings held at the church. The same video is now available to watch on TEDx. (Here's the link to the TEDx video) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gD\\_1Eh6rqf8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gD_1Eh6rqf8) ). There are amazing photographs in the video as one might expect; he is a National Geographic photographer!



Even more inspiring is his description of how he looked at the world. It is his vision – what he looks for – how he sees the world – that allows him to find and take amazing photographs when all that others might see are dandelion puffballs.

I have been thinking a lot lately about DeWitt Jones and the way he sees the world. I need a counter balance to all the negative news these days. No one has ever accused me of being Pollyanna. I am not suggesting we only look at the world through rose-colored glasses. It is important

to address things that are not right. We cannot do that if we pretend there is nothing wrong.

On the other hand, only focusing on what is wrong can become debilitating. Much of what is wrong I do not have the power to change as an individual. Worse, when I focus on what is wrong, I tend to slip into black/white, either/or, binary thinking that closes me off to seeing in new ways or multiple possibilities. I tend to reduce situations AND OTHER PEOPLE to a single one-dimensional story. When that happens, our picture of life becomes distorted, and we miss all kinds of beauty. Novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie has a wonderful short video talking about the Danger of a Single Story in a TED talk. It is worth watching. (Here is the link if you are interested: [https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_ngozi\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story)) Even worse, at its extreme this thinking fails to see God's involvement in the world. We are people of the cross. We worship a crucified God. Who brings Life of death, Light into darkness, and responds with Love in the midst of hate.

Yes, our world is not perfect. This Thanksgiving, turn off the TV, close Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, Snapchat and other social media. Let God be the voice that shapes your view of the world for a while. When you do, I am confident that you will begin to see beauty around you. You will begin to see other people in their wonderful complexity, variety, and common humanity. You will begin to see what's right with the world.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
Pastor Lloyd Menke



**Our vision:** *Rooted in God's grace, always made new.*

**Our mission:** *Living as the hands, feet and heart of Christ.*

**Our promise:** *Rejoicing together in God's grace, hope and love.*

Our Ministers:  
All members of Our Saviour's

Pastoral Staff:  
Lloyd Menke, Senior Pastor  
Joel Rova-Hegener, Associate Pastor

Our Website: [www.OSEL.org](http://www.OSEL.org)  
Church email: [OSEL@OSEL.org](mailto:OSEL@OSEL.org)





## Lessons & Carols Broadcast Premiere Sunday, Dec. 6

Join us online as we reimagine this beloved yearly tradition for the current digital age: Bible readings and carols, both familiar and new, combine for a reflection on the hope and expectation that is the Advent season. OSEL is blessed to combine the musical gifts of our congregation with our virtual orchestra and soloists, and bring this meditation direct to your homes as we prepare to open our hearts to the joys that Christmas in 2020 can bring.



### Music of Christmas

As a way to share the many musical gifts of our community, a special online broadcast of *"The Music of Christmas"* will be available just in time for the holiday. Join us as handbells, organ, singers, and instruments share the beauty of the season. Traditionally a half hour concert that preceded the 10pm candlelight service on Christmas Eve, we've virtually gathered our family of musicians from far and near to create an online version as a gift to our congregation. Played before the Christmas Eve broadcast, or as a backdrop to your own holiday preparations, we hope this will add a festive, meaningful element to your celebrations in this most unusual year.



### Survey says . . .

Thank you to everyone that participated in our Christmas Eve Worship survey. The results were split between those wanting an in-person afternoon worship opportunity and those wanting the 10 pm worship service on Christmas Eve.

#### *Tentative plans for Christmas Eve:*

##### **3:30pm - Indoor Worship Service**

with communion, and message based on John 1

##### **4:30pm - Short Outdoor Candlelight**

**Gathering** - hear the Christmas story from Luke 2 and sing one or two traditional Christmas songs.

##### **9:30 pm - Short Outdoor Candlelight Gathering** (similar to 4:30)

**10:00pm - Indoor Worship Service** with communion (similar to 3:30)

You are invited to attend indoor, outdoor or both! The indoor service will be 40-45 minutes, pre-recorded music, masks required, family units physically distanced. The outdoor gathering will be about 20 minutes with congregational singing, masks required. Dress for the weather! Pre-recorded music from Our Saviour's musicians and congregation members will be played between gatherings.

We will also have **two online services** available, one a traditional Christmas Eve worship service with Diane Pearson leading the music on the organ and the other a more contemporary service with the New Creation Band providing the music.

Watch for more information as we get closer to Christmas as plans may need to change due to Covid restrictions.

## Financial Update

by Joyce Nelson

Thank you to everyone that has continued to give generously to Our Saviour's, even in a pandemic! We know that Covid has affected everyone in different ways and that many have been impacted economically as well as physically, but we appreciate your support of the ministry we are still able to do through your financial support.

Giving to Our Saviour's is only down 2% year-to-date compared to last year through October. Expenses are down about 13% year-to-date compared to 2019. In April we were able to take advantage of the Payroll Protection Program to help with payroll expenses and we expect this amount to be fully forgiven. We are so grateful for all the support we have received from the congregation this year and excited about the opportunities for new ministry!

We've been able to be creative this year and continue to support our mission to the church and the community, even though it looks a little different than in previous years. We quickly added online worship services so now you can worship with Our Saviour's when it's convenient for you no matter where you are. In July, we held outdoor services as long as the weather cooperated and we have now transitioned to physically distanced indoor services for those that prefer to worship in person or are unable to worship online.

We continue to provide programming for our youth and children through JAM (Jesus And Me church school) and

God+Life confirmation programming as well as other family activities and bible study groups. We continue to reach out to the community and your generous donations have supported Hastings Family Service, Ally Services, Lewis House, Hastings Schools and other organizations. Thanks to your support, we continue to support the church and community needs, even in a pandemic!

You should have received information from the Stewardship team about the projects we hope to take on for next year—update the HVAC system and our web site and continue to provide quality online opportunities for worship and connecting with each other. We hope to start our HVAC project soon and complete the project in 2021. Please complete your Plan for Giving cards and return them to the church either in person, in the lockbox installed outside the north parking lot, by mail or online using the link on our web page. **Even if you are unsure of your commitment for 2021, please fill out the card and return it.** This is an estimate and can be changed any time during the year by emailing or calling the church office.

Finally, as we approach the end of the year, I want to make you aware of a couple things that may affect your charitable giving this year. The CARES Act that passed earlier this year allows individuals to deduct up to \$300 of charitable donations if they do not itemize deductions and up to 100% of their adjusted gross income if they do itemize deductions. There are also tax advantages for those age 70 ½ or older to give directly from your IRA account. Talk to your financial or tax advisor for more information on how these situations affect you.



### Food with Friends Curbside Meal Pickup December 3 at 6pm

We are trying something new!! We really wanted to

bring this event back, but in a safe way, so we landed on a curbside meal pickup.

If you are interested in receiving a meal, please call the church office and let us know 651-437-9052

### Donations Needed

We are looking for some donations to help support the Food with Friends curbside meal pickup event on Dec. 3. The meal is Chow Mein Hotdish and Salad.

There are two ways to donate. You can find the link on our website [www.osel.org](http://www.osel.org) to SignUp Genius, or just call the office, 651-437-9052, and let them know what you would like to donate from the list in the next column.

**Deadline is Monday, Nov. 30.**

### Chow Mein Hotdish:

- 2 bunches celery
- 4 bags chow mein noodles 12oz ea bag
- 2 large bottles soy sauce 10oz ea bottle
- 10 cans cream of chicken soup 10.5oz ea can
- 10 cans chicken and rice soup 10.5oz ea can
- 10 cans bean sprouts 14.5oz ea can
- 2 boxes minute rice 42oz ea box
- 10 cans whole baby corn 14.11oz ea can
- 15 cans SLICED water chestnuts 8oz ea can

### Salad:

- 9 heads iceberg lettuce
- 4 bottles ranch dressing 24oz ea bottle
- 2 bags radishes 16oz ea bag
- 3 bags of shredded carrots 10oz ea bag



By Thomas Walt  
[Tom.Walt@osel.org](mailto:Tom.Walt@osel.org)

**DONUT USE.** That's what I keep reading on the sign.

The public safety reminders are dutifully posted for those who venture in for live worship, Confirmation and Church School.

**DO  
NOT  
USE**

is prominently on the drinking fountain. When I turn down the hallway, however, I keep reading it as DONUT USE. Remember donut holes and coffee? Perhaps what I want to see is more intriguing to my mind than seeing the actual words. I wonder what else I am misreading, or just plain missing. (Hmm, that could be an alarm to take a look at things from a new perspective.) I have to snap from my autopilot mode and take the wheel. Be vigilant on what's going on around me. Be more aware of what I'm doing. Focus. Wake up. Smell the coffee. Hey, did someone say DONUTS?

Time to start my Thankfully List.

Thankfully, there is a lot less being spent on cooling and now heating while you've been away. While it's rather lonely to walk around the church building when most of you haven't been here for months, I'm still looking for more ways to save. I unplugged the commercial freezer and packed its usable contents into the little chest freezer we had in storage. More LED panels are placed in the ceilings as the 75% rebate gets applied at the end of November. And as an experiment, I even turned off the failing Fellowship Hall thermostat system compressor and it's still warm in that part of the building! Experience makes us wise. Applying that experience makes us wiser.

Thankful, and a big shout-out to Troop 503 who showed up just after the odd 8" October snow melted to clean up around the outside of the building, cut back the dead flower heads, and spiffed up the place for winter to settle in. Thankfully, they give back to the community that supports them.

Thankfully, the snow we get keeps melting..., so far.... Yeah, that's not gonna last.

I'm keeping busy working on gathering information for the Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) upgrade bids. I have some 2nd floor hallway ceiling tiles in for asbestos testing as they'll need to remove the old interlocking style. I'm hoping they find none, like the tile from the kitchen that tested negative when remodeled. Had an HVAC group come in and learned what we don't want: a subscription for their monitoring our system with proprietary software. That would mean we are contracting on a monthly fee, and if we wanted out it would leave us with a non-functioning monitor system. It's important to map out the way we want to go so we don't get detoured by what seems to sound good.

I miss the sounds of live singing and music. The holidays will be quite odd as well. Even my own family's gatherings are on hold. We are going to have limited Christmas decorations this year at church. Mostly it will be some trees set up for recording scenarios, yet we are still celebrating the coming of our Savior! While it may look, sound, and feel different, God is still our Lord.

Since it's colder, try this on:

**WEAR  
LONG**

*(It's a play on words...)*

## Tanzania Scholarships

Despite the worldwide COVID outbreak, Tanzania schools are continuing to meet, as they are able. So there is still a need for sponsorship of students for secondary education in Tanzania. Our Saviour's has committed to providing scholarships to 10 students from our sister congregations in Ilambilole and Ihominyi. We are hoping to raise \$5,000 for these scholarships. These students' ability to attend school is dependent upon our generosity. Please indicate on your donation TANZANIA SCHOLARSHIP. Thank you for your willingness to assist those less fortunate.



# Children, Youth & Family Ministry

*Amy Hanson*  
Director of Children, Youth  
and Family Ministry  
651-437-9052, ext. 30  
[cyf@osel.org](mailto:cyf@osel.org)



## JAM (Jesus & Me) & God+Life going virtual!

**In an effort to continue to support the safety and well-being of our community, and to follow with current ISD #200 guidelines, our youth programming will be transitioning to virtual only.**

All JAM programming will be online starting **Sunday, November 29 on the Our Saviour's Youth Youtube Channel**. Each week, you will find 2 new videos to view on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, or whenever works for you! Videos will be a combination of crafts, science experiments, stories, Bible verses, and songs. All materials needed will be simple household products and supplies. Each video will be its own unique theme so you can watch them when and how it works for your family! If you are in need of a Bible or any supplies, please contact Amy Hanson ([cyf@osel.org](mailto:cyf@osel.org)).

Watch for the **Children's Christmas Program** around mid December as we share "The Christmas Story" online.

**God+Life programming details will be communicated directly to 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade families.** There will be a combination of Zoom calls, videos, discussions, and activities each week. Contact Amy Hanson at [cyf@osel.org](mailto:cyf@osel.org) with questions.

**Thank You** to the students who helped pack over 600 meals for the Food4Kids program sponsored by United Way. Thanks to donations from the congregation and to the God+Life and JAM students, weekend meals were provided for students in the Hastings School District. Nearly 200 students benefit from the weekend meals each week.



## **Celebrating Advent with Activity Bags - Pick Yours Up Today!**

This is an amazing time of year and we invite you to celebrate Advent like never before! All families are welcome to pick up Advent Activity Bags from the church office starting Sunday, November 29. Your activity bag will be filled with Christmas crafts, coloring sheets, devotionals, and Advent messaging. The whole family can enjoy this special season! Office hours are 9:00am-4:30pm Monday – Friday, or contact Amy Hanson ([cyf@osel.org](mailto:cyf@osel.org)) to make other arrangements to receive your bag.

# Community Outreach and Events

**Theresa Chatelle**  
Community Outreach and Events  
Coordinator  
651-437-9052, ext. 27  
[theresa.chatelle@osel.org](mailto:theresa.chatelle@osel.org)

**THANK YOU** for your amazing generosity this fall!

We were able to collect over 25 winter coats for Hastings Family Service and over 100 pairs of warm socks which were distributed to the homeless through Ally Supportive Services and/or others in need.

The many handmade Hats & Mittens and Scarves were delivered to Kennedy, Pinecrest, and McAuliffe Elementary Schools and to the Lewis House. 224 items were contributed (134 knit hats; 36 fleece hats; 31 fleece headbands; 8 scarves and 15 pairs of mittens.)



Special thanks to Jane Youngquist for her vision in organizing this very worthwhile project that has continued and grown for the past six years.

## Still Accepting Birthday Party For Jesus Donations

of baby clothing up to size 2T, diapers, baby blankets through the end of November. These will be distributed to Hastings Family Service soon after Dec. 1.



## Hastings Family Service

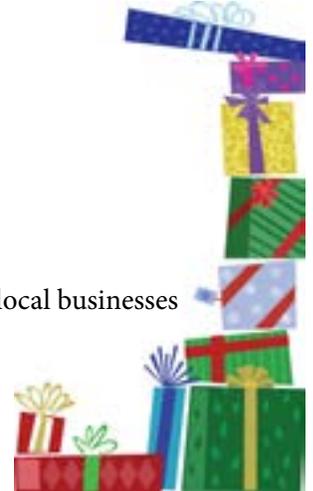
### Santa's Secret Workshop Donations

In coordination with Hastings Family Service we will be offering project share families the opportunity to sign up to receive a Family Gift Bag this holiday season. In the bag we are hoping to have a small gift for each member of the family and also some family fun items that they can share as a family.

To pull this off we really need your help! We are looking for donations of NEW items (\$10 or less) to go into these gift bags.

Here are few ideas:

- Family games/card games
- Puzzles
- Family movies
- Small toys
- Fun sock
- Microwave popcorn
- Cookies
- Hot cocoa
- \$5-\$10 dollar gift cards to local businesses
- Bags or boxes of candy
- Crayons, markers
- Playdough
- Small tool kits
- Candles



**Deadline for donations: Sunday, Dec. 13.**

Drop off at church or contact Theresa for more info,  
[Theresa.chatelle@osel.org](mailto:Theresa.chatelle@osel.org)

**Adopt a Family** will look a little different this year. Hastings Family Service is asking everyone to use SignUp Genius to select a family to sponsor. Here is the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0544adac23a2f58-adoptafamily2> or you can go to [Hastingsfamilyservice.org](http://Hastingsfamilyservice.org) to find the Project Share link. New families are added daily!!



**SMALL GROUPS - You're Invited!**

**Did you know there are weekly Bible studies you can join? Each Bible study is different, and meets at different times. Feel free to explore which study you might want to join, please know you are invited!**



All studies are meeting via Zoom video-conferencing at this time.

**Women's Tuesday Bible Study**

Each Tuesday morning at 9:00 women from the congregation gather together with a pastor to read the scripture for the coming Sunday's worship, read commentaries concerning the scripture and then discuss, learn and grow in understanding, and faith. All women are invited to join this study. If interested, please contact the church office or one of the pastors to be put on the list to receive a Zoom invitation.

**Men's Thursday Bible Study**

Each Thursday morning at 9:00 men from the congregation gather together with a pastor to study the scriptures for the coming Sunday's worship. As a group questions are asked, the text is read and discussed, and all have the chance to learn and grow in their understanding and faith. This Bible study is open to all men. If interested, please contact the church office or one of the pastors to be put on the list to receive a Zoom invitation.

**What was the first Christmas really like?  
Monday Topical Bible Study with Pastor Joel**

Did Mary ride a donkey to Bethlehem? Who were the Wisemen? Was the manger comfortable? Have you ever wondered what the first Christmas was really like? I have! Let me share with you some of what I have discovered.



Christmas might look a bit different afterward, but perhaps be even more meaningful. A 2-night Zoom session begins Monday, Dec. 7 and concludes on Monday, Dec. 14. You will need to receive a Zoom invitation in order to join; please contact Pastor Joel, or the church office.

This Bible study is open to everyone. Anyone can join the group. If you can only come once, or every time we meet, you are welcome! Come and see what it's all about. Led by Pastor Joel, the study group meets periodically to study different topics and biblical themes.

If you are interested in receiving an email invitation, please contact Pastor Joel at: [joel.rh@osel.org](mailto:joel.rh@osel.org).



**Pray Out Loud Together**

We currently meet via group phone call, weekly Wednesday at 5pm, to pray for our church and where the spirit leads us! All levels of prayer experience welcome as all participants have prayed out loud for the first time in a group at sometime, too! This can be intimidating, we get it, but it's also very fulfilling. Curious? Join us! Please contact [annerickson.64@gmail.com](mailto:annerickson.64@gmail.com) if interested.



## Do You Have Prayer Concerns?

Let us know so that we can pray with you. As Christians we are called to intercede for one another in prayer, in other words, to pray for one another. We always have prayer concerns—either for ourselves, our families, friends, or for the issues of the world. Let your church pray for you, and for those whom you are holding in prayer. The pastors, the prayer chain, and the OSEL staff will uphold you in prayer!

To share your prayer concerns with us at Our Saviour’s please email one of these addresses:

[oselprayerchain@gmail.com](mailto:oselprayerchain@gmail.com)

[osel@osel.org](mailto:osel@osel.org)

[lloyd.menke@osel.org](mailto:lloyd.menke@osel.org)

[joel.rh@osel.org](mailto:joel.rh@osel.org)

or call the church office at: 651-437-9052.

### Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended to:

Jennifer Peerboom - death of brother

Sarah Giefer - death of brother

Nancy Marquette - death of son

Bob Solberg - death of wife

Mike & Barb Swanson - death of grandson

Harlan Swanson - death of great-grandson

Garrick Olsen - death of mother

Family of Carol Almquist

Amy Grimes - death of mother

Tim Samuelson - death of mother



This is an extremely difficult time for grieving families. Please remember them in prayer.



## Baptized at Our Saviour’s

### **Hendrix Paul Schnell**

Born: April 22, 2020

Baptized: October 24, 2020

Parents: Joseph & Talli Schnell

Sponsors: Michael Schnell, Emily Gottfredson

### **Theodore Ray Schafer**

Born: March 9, 2020

Baptized: November 8, 2020

Parents: Kyle & Katherine Schafer

Sponsors: Logan Schafer, Betsy Stocker, Benjamin Montag

If you wish to be baptized or have a child baptized, you must first attend a seminar, currently by Zoom. Please call Ann Traeder at 651.437.9052, x10 for more information.



We are grateful to receive the following memorials and gifts given by family and friends in memory of those listed for Christ’s work through our congregation:

*Ellsworth Johnson*

*Dorothy (DoDo) Swanson*

*Don Woodward*

*Roma Solberg*

## Are you receiving weekly emails from Our Saviour’s?

We have been sending emails on Thursday or Friday each week to keep you updated with what’s happening at Our Saviour’s and to provide the SignUp Genius link for worship sign-ups. If you have not been receiving them, you may need to:

- 1) provide us with your best email. Call the office, 651-437-9052, or email: [osel@osel.org](mailto:osel@osel.org)
- 2) add this email to your contacts: [noreply@simplechurchcrm.com](mailto:noreply@simplechurchcrm.com)
- 3) check your spam/junk mail to see if the email came there.



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## Gift Cards for the Holidays

Purchase your Holiday gift cards right here at Our Saviour's! We have a variety of stores and restaurants in \$5-\$100 increments available. Just call (651) 437-9052 or stop in the office Monday – Friday 9:00am-4:30pm. Happy Holidays!

**Deadline to order for Christmas gifts: Dec. 13**

Merchants include:

Cub, Target, Amazon, Kwik Trip, Speedway, Holiday, Caribou, Starbucks, American Eagle, Abercrombie, Subway, Chipotle, Coborn's, Applebees, Dominoes, and many more!

Benefits:

- Convenience – pick up from the church office when it works for you!
- No extra fees – \$20 gets you a \$20 gift card!
- Giving back – a percentage of your purchase will go to our Children, Youth and Family area!