

# *The* Messenger

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

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume XXXVIII - No. 1

February 2021

## worship WITH US

**Worship In Person Each Sunday**

**8:30 & 9:30 AM**

**in the Worship Center**

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

**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 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

*The time is fulfilled...* Mark 1:15a

For most of my life, I was not a coffee fan. Then I was introduced to European espresso coffee and foamed steamed milk. I was converted. While the coffee I make with my Moka pot is not true espresso, it is the closest thing I can afford to do at home. To use this kind of coffee pot you put water in the bottom, fill a container with coffee that sits over the water and then screw the top on tight with a seal. When the water builds up pressure it pushes up through the coffee into the holder on the top. The interesting thing about making coffee this way, is that when you place the pot on the stove and turn up the heat, it just sits there a while. It looks like nothing is happening as the water heats and builds up pressure. Then, all of a sudden, the coffee bubbles up and quickly fills the top.



I know some of you may be thinking about starting your indoor garden so that you are ready to transplant when



the weather becomes warm enough. Growing up on the farm, I was impatient, as I waited to see if the seed we had planted was actually going to grow. Sometimes if the weather was cold or if it was particularly

dry, it took longer for the little plants to peak through the soil. But, even though I couldn't see it there was a lot going on in the soil out of view.

Both of these I think are great examples of the way that God's Kingdom often works in our world. A lot of the time, exactly what God is up to ends up hidden from our view, or is so unexpected that our minds cannot com-

prehend it. I had a seminary professor who talked about God's Kingdom being "hidden under the cross." What he meant was that the cross was so unexpected, so contrary to how we wanted or expected God to act that God's presence in it "was hidden" – until the time was right – and we were given a glimpse – and we see with new eyes. Suddenly life is reframed, like seeing the cross through the perspective of the resurrection.

This understanding of the hidden activity of God's and God's Kingdom gives me hope, because it reminds me that what I am able to see is not necessarily all there is. Jesus announces, "the time is fulfilled" as John the Baptist is arrested. What? It looked like the forces arrayed against God were winning. It looked like things were falling apart. Certainly, the disciples must have felt that way, when Jesus died on the cross. Hopes dashed. But then came Easter.

As we head into Lent, after living with a pandemic for nearly a year, with all the social, economic, and emotional disruption it has caused, and as we seek to find our way forward in a deeply divided nation, I find hope in trusting that God is at work in ways I cannot currently see. The time is fulfilled, God has ripped open the heavens and come down in your baptism. God's Spirit is planted within you and it has taken root and is growing. The verb used here for fulfilled is in the perfect tense, conveying a sense of past action continuing into the present. The time of God's activity is now. It is not once and done. So be of good courage. Be filled with hope. God is at work. Don't let your eyes deceive you. Wait on the Lord and God will give you the glimpse you need. Little resurrections are still happening all around you if you are given the eyes to see them. Have a blessed Lent as we wait together to see what glimpses God will give us.

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.*

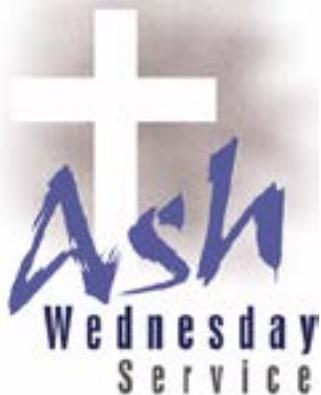
Our Ministers:  
All members of Our Saviour's

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)



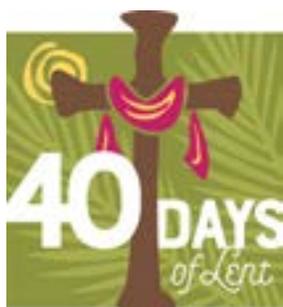
# 2021 Ash Wednesday and Lent



On **Ash Wednesday**, February 17, there will be three worship opportunities:

- 6:00 pm\* – Brief **outdoor** service (by the South doors, tennis court side) that will center upon confession and forgiveness, scripture, special music and the imposition of ashes.
- 7:00 pm\* – **Indoor** service with Holy Communion, confession and forgiveness, scripture, music, and the imposition of ashes. For those who would like to receive ashes, the pastors will impose the ashes outside the main doors (North and South) as you depart the service.
- An online Ash Wednesday worship will also be offered. There will be a time for the imposition of ashes for those individuals and families worshipping at home, and ashes will be available for pickup in a special Lenten bag or by calling the office (651) 437-9052.

\*Please sign up for either of the in-person worship services on the website ([osel.org](http://osel.org)), or by calling the office (651) 437-9052.



**Ash Wednesday** is the beginning of the season of Lent. The word “Lent” originally meant “spring.” It is a time to reflect on our baptism and a time of rebirth and renewal.

The season of Lent lasts forty days, excluding Sundays. The altar colors are purple to reflect the solemnity and somberness of the season. In church history, candidates for baptism would fast during these forty days leading to their baptism at Easter. Ashes, in a Jewish and Christian context, suggest judgment and God's condemnation of sin, our total dependence upon God for life, and repentance. We are reminded of the words of the burial service... “earth to earth and dust to dust.”

Ashes are also a symbol of cleansing and renewal. Just as baptismal water suggests death and life... so do the ashes of Ash Wednesday.

## Lenten Packets

To assist in recognizing the season of Lent throughout the weeks at home, we are offering Lenten Packets, available to anyone who would like one. The Lenten Packet will include: ashes, a devotional written by Our Saviour’s members, a simple cross craft, coloring sheets, and more! The Lenten Packets are perfect for all ages, and will be available for pick-up starting on Monday, February 8, by the North doors off of the main parking lot. If you have any questions or are unable to pick up your packets, please call the church office at (651) 437-9052.



## Online Devotionals

During **Wednesdays in Lent** an online video will be offered, sharing a devotion from one of the pastors and a song from Our Saviour’s musicians. This will be available early evening each of the five Lenten Wednesdays until Holy Week.



The **Holy Week** worship schedule has not yet been finalized, but information will be available as those dates near. As we learned while planning our Christmas celebrations during a pandemic, ‘things’ change, so please be patient, and know we will share the days, times and worship offerings at a later date.

## Financial Update

by Joyce Nelson

The books are closed for 2020 and thanks to your generosity, we finished this crazy year strong but with a slight deficit. Giving for 2020 was \$887,275, a decrease of \$33,664 (-3.7%) from 2019 giving. Expenses were down about \$61,000 or 6.4% over 2019, primarily driven by cost cutting due to Covid 19, offset by an increase in the creation of online services, updated computers and support. Thank you for continuing to support Our Saviour's in these uncertain times.

Even though giving and spending are well below our budget for the year (\$1,053,000), we were still able to fund our mission commitments and support community programs such as Food4Kids, Lewis House, Hastings Family Service, Ally Services and more. Through the creativity of the staff and our volunteers, we were able to adapt and find new ways to provide ministry and support to the community. It's been a year of looking for opportunities and focusing on what we CAN do in spite of a pandemic.

As communicated by the Stewardship Team in the fall, the proposed budget for 2021 includes an increase of 15% over 2020 with the bulk of the increase going to improving our aging Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning system, continuing to provide online worship and ministry options and enhancing our communication

through our new web site. Other areas of the budget have been decreased to be in line with our actual expenses as we see some cost savings due to the pandemic and changes in some of our operations. If you have any questions concerning the budget, please contact Treasurer Jean Lodermeier, Administrator Joyce Nelson or Pastor Lloyd Menke by calling the church office.

### Special Appeal

On June 1, 2016, Our Saviour's entered into a loan with Vermillion State Bank so we could pay off the previous loan and fund the projects attached to the capital appeal (parking lot, elevator & refurbishment of the upstairs education area). The principal amount of the loan was \$210,000 with payments due annually on the anniversary date over a 5-year period (6/1/17 – 6/1/21). The loan was interest free for the first two years, then interest accrues at 4.00%, 4.15% & 4.25% in the subsequent years.

At this time, we have completed the capital projects that were identified under the capital appeal (parking lot, elevator & upstairs refurbishment). We were able to pay \$46,000 on the loan June 1, 2020 leaving a balance as of the end of 2020 of \$30,565 (principal + interest). The last payment on the loan is due June 1, 2021.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry and for your continued financial support of the work we do together as we seek to live the mission statement of Our Saviour's, "Living as the hands, feet and heart of Christ."



Remember, you can always donate online at [www.osel.org/donate](http://www.osel.org/donate) or mail your donation to the church office at: Our Saviour's, 400 9th Street West, Hastings, MN 55033. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of Our Saviour's!

### It's not too late to send in your Plan for Giving card by:

- submitting it online at [osel.org](http://osel.org) (click on the "Give" tab)
- returning it by using the drop box outside the church north doors, or
- mailing it to the church office.

This will be of great help in planning our 2021 budget. Thanks to those who have already turned in your cards.

## Still Accepting 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 each location for these scholarships. We have received \$3,250 toward this \$10,000 commitment.* 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.

### Delegate to ELCA Church-wide Assembly

If you are interested in being a delegate to the ELCA Church-wide Assembly let either the church office or Pastor Menke know.



## The Building Corner

By Thomas Walt  
Tom.Walt@osel.org

Did you finally put on some LONG under WEAR this winter? I guess I can't be word playing on a monthly

newsletter as it leaves you hanging too long. I got the message = DONUT mess with you! 2020 was about visual acuity. What do you see when you look back at it? Obviously, I DONUT see too clearly!

Here's a poignant email I have permission to share with the whole congregation and my answers:

*I have a few questions about the \$150,000 increase in the Facilities budget line. I apologize if I have missed any publications or just forgotten about details regarding the justification for the HVAC Upgrade, so I would really appreciate you just answering my questions. Thank you.*

- 1. Do we have equipment that is malfunctioning and needs replacement?*
- 2. Is the upgrade in large part due to COVID-19 and/or airborne virus spreading concerns?*
- 3. If this upgrade is installed and we are still in a COVID-19 response mode (or another airborne spreading virus), does it mean we don't have to wear masks in church and keep the social distancing protocol?*
- 4. What portion of the \$150,000 increase is due to COVID-19 response mitigation and what portion is due to worn out equipment?*

*Thank you again for your answers. This will help me understand the budget increase much better.*

1) The short answer is yes, we have malfunctioning equipment. The Fellowship Hall controls have failed and can only run by manual control; there are problems with two other roof top unit fresh air intakes, and the last running powered exhaust vent is failing.

Here's a detailed example. Right now, I have to turn ON the Fellowship Hall air handler the night before a group meets the next morning. Recently, I didn't get back into town until late and did not get back to work to turn it OFF until a full day later. With automatic controls in place, I wouldn't have to physically show up to manually move a switch ON or OFF. Some sensors can 'read' if a space is occupied or not and respond. Say that extra day was \$10 in expense. What does the cost of not upgrad-

ing add up to in the coming decades? Consider the cost of just one air handler left ON 24 hours a day for 30+ winters before I got here. (\$10/day x 100 heating days x 30 years= \$30,000). Except we have four air handlers, so better control adds up in the long run.

2) The upgrade is in response to the failed Fellowship Hall thermostat system, the last failing and two failed bathroom Power Roof Vents, the broken air intake controls, the lack of hot water in the kitchen, and wanting more air movement in several other areas. Automating all the heating and cooling equipment will improve the airflow and save energy. It will cost us less over time. The largest part of the upgrade expense is for the labor to wire the many sensors and install automatic damper controls and to create our program interface—the 'brains'—to run all the equipment throughout the building, bringing it all together and fine-tuning our use. Insulating pipes will also help. This upgrade is driven by current problems and the advent of technology to manage it all going forward.

In 2020, we saved \$11,000 in utilities by not running equipment. That's like 30% less than budgeted. That savings was from basic heating and cooling programming to only areas where people are in. It helped that so few have been here due to COVID-19.

Precise tuning is where the long-term savings will continue along with the new LED lighting. It's worth replacing and adding controls to integrate the whole building together, even the hot water. Let's use the energy for where and when people are here precisely. It's why I've solicited six bidders and all six are working on proposals through Xcel Energy to find the best rebates to fix or replace all that is malfunctioning and automate building controls.

3) The COVID-19 response to air quality is bringing in more fresh air and likely adding ionization scrubbers which kill 99% of bacteria and viruses as it passes over the air cleaners as well as clears 99% of other spores, e.g., flu, legionnaire's, and molds, along with COVID-19. The other option is HEPA filters and increasing air exchanges with newer motors. None of this removes the Governor's mandates or clears the air for singing. It increases the air movement and cleanliness of the air you breathe in addition to the other COVID recommendations to reduce the spread.

4) In total, I'd say \$15,000 is a direct COVID-19 response with the ionization or HEPA additions to all the systems. I might forgo ionization if it wasn't a pandemic normally, but we still have a mold potential with the sanctuary humidifier that ionization mitigates for far less

*Continued on page 6*

than what rebuilding the ductwork properly might cost. Ionization is a one-time investment and also reduces the added expense of increasing air exchange rates by replacing blower motors to move more air through the recurring HEPA filter costs. Therefore, I'd peg about 10% of the upgrade cost directly to COVID overall. Still, it is a multi-faceted improvement decision the Building Committee will review before recommending to the Church Council.

I also have figured out a better solution to a moisture problem in the Upper Level classrooms which was not air conditioned back in 2013 when adjacent sections were. The hallway wall along the Music Room is blistering from the moisture variances. While one more air conditioner (AC) should have been the solution in 2013, I've found a better fix is to tie into the existing heating and air conditioning duct from the Roof Top Unit going right through it to the offices below. It's about \$6,000 to add AC in either of two ways, yet using the existing Roof Top Unit eliminates an entire residential furnace in the winter and its additional cost to run AC all summer.

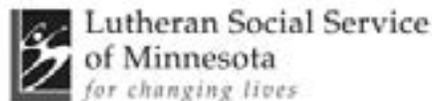
Also included in the upgrade is moving both unused foyer boiler lines into the entryways to use current heat already in those areas to help another long-standing problem. Let us turn problems into solutions.

Bottom line is most of this is repair with a mindset on enhancements. Can we do without some of this? Sure, yet there is a cost of not updating to consider. It's not just about what we must do. I want to consider being better stewards of what we have as well as what we can do.

This covers more than I was asked, but it's the picture I'd like everyone to see more clearly. It isn't a simple fix, yet it's a fix that helps for a long time ahead.



**Roger & Carol Grow**  
became a part of Our Saviour's family  
on December 1, 2020.  
Welcome!



### **Behavioral Health Support for Individuals, Couples, Families and children**

Life's challenges can take a toll on mental health, and this past year has brought with it many unexpected circumstances and hardships. Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's (LSS) behavioral health therapists have skill and understanding working with individuals living with anxiety, depression, grief and loss, among other experiences. If you or someone you know needs support, LSS Behavioral Health is here for you.

Services include: individual, couple and family counseling, dealing with many issues, including grief and loss, trauma, substance use, family relationships and more.

We accept all insurance plans. Sliding fee is available; no one will be turned away for an inability to pay.

To address safety during the pandemic, professional, compassionate care is primarily offered through video conferencing and phone.

To make an appointment:  
Call: **888.881.8261**  
Email: **counseling@lssmn.org**

Learn more at [www.lsscounseling.org](http://www.lsscounseling.org)

### **FREE Online Mental Health Webinars Helping Our Kids Succeed Through COVID-19 & Other Mental Health Challenges**



**February 22 – 26, 2021  
11:00 – 12:00 Noon each day  
5 Days/5 Different Topics**

- Monday** - Mental Health Support for Children & Parents
- Tuesday** - Understanding Mental Health Conditions & Solutions
- Wednesday** - Finding Mental Health Help
- Thursday** - Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Health
- Friday** - Strengthening our Families & Ourselves

Register online: [www.unitedwayofhastings.org](http://www.unitedwayofhastings.org)  
Questions? 651-438-3337

# Children, Youth & Family Ministry

*Amy Hanson*  
Director of Children, Youth  
and Family Ministry  
651-437-9052, ext. 30  
cyf@osel.org



## Youth Programming to Return In-Person in February!

- Sunday, February 7 at 9:30am – JAM (PreK – 6th)
- Wednesday, February 10 at 5:30pm – JAM (5th & 6th) and God+Life (7th & 8th grades) at 7pm
- Wednesday, February 17 at 7pm – 9th graders will be invited to attend the Ash Wed Service or watch online and turn in a service note. 9th grade small groups will meet in the building on Wednesday, March 3.



## Camp Wapo Registration

### Opens February 1st

Registration for Seeds Weekend, Camp Wapo, and Ox Lake opens February 1st to our church members at <http://lwlbc.com/os-hastings>. Please select “Our Saviour’s – Hastings” from the drop-down menu when registering. We have a very limited number of reserved spaces for each session, and registration will open to the general public on February 24. More details regarding the Covid protocols and safety measures at camp are available on their website.



## Mission Trip – Summer 2021

Open to anyone completing 8th grade and up! We are working through options for this summer’s trip and need your input. If you are interested in a Summer Mission trip, please contact Amy Hanson (cyf@osel.org) for more info.



**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.

**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.



**Food with Friends  
Curbside Meal Pickup  
March 4 at 6pm**

Mark your calendars to sign up for the next Food with Friends curbside pickup meal on Thursday, March 4. If interested, call the church office 651-437-9052 or watch for the sign up link in the weekly emails.

**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.

**Missionary Support Opportunity**

Hello, Our Saviour's congregants! My name is Brad Risch. I grew up attending OSEL, but I left Hastings after high school to attend UW-Madison where I studied history and religious studies. I graduated from college last May, and since then I have been support-raising to be a missionary in Zambia, Africa. If you would like to hear more about the work I'll be doing, or if you may have an interest in supporting me financially, please give me a call or message at 651-764-9269 or email me at [bjrisch@wisc.edu](mailto:bjrisch@wisc.edu). Thank you so much!





## 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:

- Patty Kosec - death of father
- Janet Ambright - death of brother
- Family of Lew Linde
- Del Thue - death of wife
- Dave Thue - death of mother
- Jerry Wiegrefe - death of mother-in-law
- Kathy Fox - death of brother
- Julie Schultz - death of mother
- Mike Swanson - death of father
- Roger Swanson - death of brother
- Ray Menard - death of mother
- Nancy Amble - death of husband
- Family of Irv Christnagel
- Bruce Marsh - death of mother
- Janet Holm - death of husband
- Cindy Nestrud - death of father
- Julie Riveness - death of father
- Luke Riveness - death of grandfather
- Aaron Nestrud - death of grandfather
- Kathryn Swanson - death of mother



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



## Baptized at Our Saviour's

### ***Shayna Leigh Kunz***

Born: June 16, 2020

Baptized: November 28, 2020

Parents: Kevin Kunz & Jenna Christensen

Sponsors: Kane Kunz, Kara Kunz

### ***Hazel Kristine Sorenson***

Born: October 9, 2018

Baptized: December 6, 2020

Great Grandfather: Stephen Sorenson

Sponsors: Stephen Sorenson, Peggy Grundman

### ***Love Lee Bialke***

Born: August 20, 2020

Baptized: January 17, 2021

Parents: Alexander & Lacey Bialke

Sponsors: Larry & Melody Bialke

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:

- Bev Samuelson*
- Harlan Swanson*
- Esther Thue*
- Diane Evans*
- Frank Frost*
- Al Berg*
- Roger Youngquist*
- Roma Solberg*
- Earl Molstrom*
- David Wigness, Jr.*
- Jeanne Ptaschinski*



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## 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.



**Note:** Families with students and/or young adults no longer living at parents' address, please provide us with their contact info so they can be added to the church mailings or email/text messages. Send info to [osel@osel.org](mailto:osel@osel.org)