

September, 2024



A publication of

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Rev. Timothy Kern, Pastor ▪ Timothy.Kern@OSLMarlette.com

Weekly Services: Sunday at 9:00 a.m. ▪ Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

In this issue —

Pastor's Corner	Page 2
Special Events Schedule	Page 4
Our Prayer Concerns	Page 5
Serving the Lord in September	Page 6
Reasons to Rejoice	Page 7
Council Minutes	Page 8
Circuit Convocation	Page 10
Remembering Dan Fischer	Page 11
Board Members and Staff Directory	Page 12

September 2024

THE LOGOS

Ὁ ΛΟΓΟΣ



“I just don’t feel like it...”

As time goes by, many people who have joined a church stop attending for one reason or another. Sometimes, they have been hurt by something a fellow Christian said or did. Sometimes, when they were in need, they felt abandoned by their church family. Maybe they disagreed with a decision that was made by the pastor, a board, or in a voter’s meeting. And still, sometimes people just stop attending because they lose their desire to attend. They just don’t feel like going to church anymore. People in this situation might say something like, “I can be a Christian and not go to church.” They come up with holier-than-thou sounding excuses like “I like God and the Bible and all, I just don’t like ‘establishment’ religion.” Or “I’d rather be out in the mission field than stuffed away in a stuffy building with stuffy people...” Or “I’m not really that bad of a sinner. Do I really need to go to church this week?” Ultimately, it all boils down to “I just don’t feel like it.”

This is a very similar phenomenon to when a person is starving. At first, when a person begins to starve, they suffer great hunger. However, after a little while the person’s body is so weak that they stop feeling that hunger altogether. The body loses its desire to eat or even to drink. Often times, starving people who are rescued require force feeding or an IV and a feeding tube just to get a person to want to eat again.

Hearing God's Word and going to church is like this. The more we go to church, the more we hear God's Word, read God's Word, eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus, the more we will want to do those things. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**" (Matthew 5:6) Those who are hungry are the ones who seek out food. Those who thirst seek out something to drink. And Jesus also says, "**Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you.**" (Matthew 6:33) and again, "**Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.**" (Matthew 7:7)

The devil wants to convince you that you do not need to go to church. He wants to convince you that you are not hungry. That is because the devil seeks your destruction. He wants you to starve. If you know someone who is in this situation, invite them back to church. Offer to sit with them. And maybe even suggest to go out to lunch with them afterwards. They not only need the Word of God; they also need the communion of the saints. You can help them

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receive both of those things. If you find yourself in a situation where you just don't feel like going to church, the best thing to do is to go anyways. Put in the feeding tube and hook up the IV. Teach your heart that it is hungry for the Word of God and His righteousness. Tell the devil to take a long walk off a short pier, and go to receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. A lack of desire for God's living Word or for His precious body and blood is a bright red flashing light, a warning in your heart and soul. Break the evil plans and purposes of the devil. Go and receive the Bread of Life. When you do this, God will use His living Word to give you a new hunger and thirst for His good gifts. God will work through His Word to

Pastor's Corner, continued

create and sustain faith in you and give you a new life. Your old Adam will be drowned. A new man will rise within you. The Holy Spirit will work through this new man in order to prevent you from starving spiritually. God will restore your hunger and desire for Him, and then you who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be blessed even as you are satisfied.



Note: Due to limited space this month, the "Hymn of the Month" article had to be omitted. "**LORD, THEE I LOVE WITH ALL MY HEART**" is a beautiful hymn that we'll sing at each Divine Service throughout September. A link to a YouTube video recording of the hymn as it's played and sung will be included in the weekly E-Bulletin. 🎵 Enjoy!

+Mark your calendar for some special events+

Sunday, September 15th

- Sunday School & Youth Group resume meeting weekly at 10:30 AM
- Sunday School Pot Luck Picnic at 11:30 AM

Thursday, September 19th

- The LWML will meet at 10AM followed by a luncheon at 11:30
- The regular meetings of church boards will be held that evening

Saturday, October 5th

- Circuit Convocation at Immanuel Lutheran in Sebewaing, 12:30-4:30. The theme is "Glad Hymns Forever, Alleluia!", celebrating 500 years of Lutheran hymnody. *A mass Choir is in the planning too. To learn more, please contact the OSL church office.*

Friday, October 18th

- Euchre Night at Our Savior—7:00 PM

Saturday, November 9th

- "A Holy Conversation" with Rev. Will Weedon at Grace Lutheran Church in Fairgrove, 9:30-1:30.
- "Marriage Bootcamp" at Zion in Harbor Beach, 8:30 AM to 7PM.

Sunday, December 22nd

- *Tentative:* Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:30 AM

Prayer Concerns

Church Members

Bob Gaiser, John Hollenbeck, Keith Donley, Jeff Eager, Brenda Fifield, Lela Gilroy, Ashton Jones, Carmen Kinney, Bob & Pam Mutschler, Jerry Priebe, Ellen Romosier, Neil Schaudt, Gus Schumacher, Kathy Tallieu, Mike Wettstein, Virginia Woudstra, Mary Lou Champion, and Fran Clemens

Please remember the family of Dan Fischer in your prayers

Extended Family and Friends

The family of Carl Mutschler

Deborah Durham—Chris' step-mother

Conrad Brooks—Son-in-law of Dan & Judy Fischer

Rev. Martin Hagenow—retired Thumb Area pastor

Scott & Carol McCready—friends of the McGarvie family

Angie Robison—Mother of Pastor Kern's sister-in-law

Mary Kay Bell —relative of Judy Fischer

Dennis Ondrajka—Adam's father

Donna Ferguson—Adam Ondrajka's grandmother

Mary Mitchell—sister of Lela Gilroy

LaVerne Heath—Godmother of Chris Durham

Linda Fraley—Lela Gilroy's daughter

Gary Engel—friend of Aaron Fischer

Meredith Stewart—cousin of Chris McGarvie

Glen Phillips—former employer of Adam Ondrajka

Nick Steen—friend of Mike & Linda Harm

Heather Strolis—friend of Earl & Gwen Hulett

Ruth Balzer—friend of the LWML

Danica Willis —a friend of Mary Brief

Carol Gillis—John Hollenbeck's sister

Joan Kuhne—Mary Brief's mother

Don Johnson—Adam Ondrajka's friend and coworker

Cathy Khoury—Bob Mutschler's sister

Cathy Mutschler—Bob's brother and sister-in-law

DorisAnn Brief—Mary's mother-in-law

Randy Kasdorf—Shauna Lester's Baptismal Sponsor

Ken and Pam Wood—parents of Kelly Ondrajka

Harvey Kaltz—Debie's husband

Family & Friends of Virginia Woudstra: Heather Sunday & Ivy, Kimberly Randall, Dennis Davis, Jeanette Lasko, Raymond Randall, Quinn Adamczyk,

Robbie Kuechenmeister, Valerie Martin, Eugene Rushlow, Melinda Glover,

David Glover, Russel & Terri Strauchman; Stephanie, Zachary, & Dahlia Adamczyk,

Please help us keep this list up to date. If you have a family member or friend listed here who is no longer in need of prayer, please call the church office and let us know.

Give thanks too, to the Lord who answers prayer!

Serving the Lord in Gladness



September Elders

- 9/1 Marty Brandt
- 9/8 Jerry Priebe
- 9/15 Bob Stoick
- 9/22 *Unassigned*
- 9/29 Jerry Priebe

Altar Guild

Linda Harm

Service Music

September 1, 8, 22, 29—Caleb Storm
 September 15—Renea Lambert



Sunday Morning Greeters

- 9/1 Adam & Kelly Ondrajka
- 9/8 Jerry & Verna Priebe
- 9/15 Bob & Jeannie Stoick
- 9/22 Randy & Brianna Haas
- 9/29 Jerry & Verna Priebe

Acolytes

Sam and Carter Schank



Reasons to Rejoice!

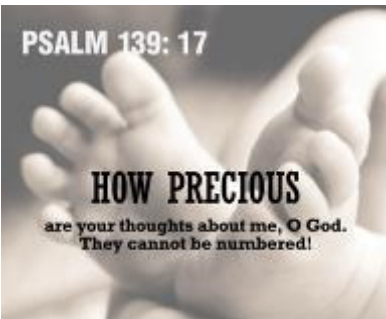


*Ryan McGarvie
and
Haley Putman
were joined in
Christian Marriage at
Our Savior on
August 11th.*

*Maid of Honor—Ann Putman
Best Man—Declan McGarvie*

*Welcome,
child of God!*

*Lucas James McGarvie
received Holy Baptism
on August 11th.*



*On Saturday, August 17th,
Elijah Allen Justin
was born to parents
Randy & Kelsey (Fischer) Justin.*



Congratulations to the family!

Church Council Minutes

The meeting of the OSL Church Council was called to order by President Adam Ondrajka at 7:31 p.m. on Thursday, August 15, 2024.

Present were: Adam Ondrajka, Kelly Ondrajka, Christopher Durham, Randy Haas, Karen Forsys, Karrie Forsys, Kathy Tallieu, Pastor Kern, and Renea Lambert.

Pastor opened the meeting with a devotion from the Gospel of Mark, focusing on the healing of a deaf man. This was followed by a reading by C.F.W. Walther that focused on the passage. Pastor then led the group in prayer.

The **Treasurer's Report** was distributed and reviewed. A motion to accept the report was made by Karrie Forsys and seconded by Chris Durham. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report

Since the last report:

- 1 Baptism, 1 Wedding, 9 Services, 11 Shut-in visits, and 3 hospital visits.
- New Bible Study underway – “The Miracles of Jesus”.
- Pastor attended the Bugenhaugen Conference in Wisconsin.
- The fall quarterly edition of the “Thumb Lutheran” newsletter will be published and available soon.
- The Circuit Convocation will be held on October 5th at Immanuel Lutheran in Sebewaing. The Convocation will celebrate 500 years of Lutheran hymnody. There will be a number of speakers that day along with activities, learning opportunities, a hymn sing, and more. All are encouraged to attend.
- This year's Advent Theme will be “The Image of the Invisible”.

School Board Report – presented by Chairman Randy Haas

- The Board approved a motion to repair the fire alarm system by the end of September.
- Any funds left after the conclusion of the school year will be transferred into the church account.
- Following discussion, the issue of the continuance of the School Board was tabled until after the Constitution Revision Committee meets in September.

Elders' Report – given by Pastor Kern

- The Elders may be adding two or three new Elders to the Board of Elders. Installation at a later date.

Board of Christian Education Report – given by Chairman Randy Haas

- The Board will meet on August 18th.
- Plans continue for the Sunday School Picnic on September 15th. Games and activities will be part of the day along with a Salsa Tasting Contest.
- Sunday School and Youth Group resume on September 15th. Installation of teachers will take place during the Divine Service that morning.
- Confirmation classes are expected to resume on September 22nd.

Facilities Trustees Report – given by Head Trustee Karrie Forys

- Trustees are working on an Audit for all building keys.
- New forks have been ordered for the kitchen.
- Working on an inventory of kitchen supplies and equipment.
- Two more magnetic closers were added to kitchen cabinets.
- Trustees are reviewing the Key Policy.

A motion to accept all reports was made by Chris Durham and seconded by Karrie Forys. Motion carried.

Old Business

- The Constitution Revision Committee will meet after Fellowship time on September 8, 2024.

New Business

- A new person to serve as the Primary card holder is needed for the church credit card account. Chris Durham volunteered to become the new authorized card holder and paperwork to make the change was completed.
- Trunk or Treat is coming up in October. A sign-up sheet to donate needed items will be made available for volunteers. A list of things needed to make the event a success will be provided soon.

The **Secretary's Report** from this meeting was read back to Council. A motion to accept the report was made by Karrie Forys and seconded by Chris Durham. Motion passed.

Following a motion to adjourn, the meeting concluded with The Lord's Prayer at 8:44 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19th at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Renea Lambert, Secretary



Glad Hymns Forever: Alleluia!

Celebrating 500 Years of Lutheran Hymns

This Fall, on **Saturday, October 5th**, will be the 2024 Circuit Convocation of the seventeen LCMS Michigan District Thumb churches. 2024 marks the 500th Anniversary of the first Lutheran hymns and Lutheran hymnals! Our gathering will be at **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sebawaing** from 12:30 pm until 4:30 pm. We will celebrate, learn, and sing about the heritage of God's Word set to music.

Pastor Steve Starke, a composer of Lutheran hymns and the hymn editor of Lutheran Service Book, will be our keynote speaker. **Deaconess Sandra Rhein**, Sacred Music Education in Asia of LCMS World Mission, will also speak on the making of new Lutheran hymnals in various countries around the world. There will also be sectionals in which we will learn more about our hymnody. There will be child care and opportunities for our children to learn also! And we will close the afternoon gathering with a **hymn festival and fellowship!**

As a **mission outreach**, the Thumb congregations will be challenged to give and pray towards the completion of a hymnal for another language group that lacks a Lutheran hymnal in their own tongue! What an opportunity to share "glad hymns forever!"

As part of this celebration we will sponsor an **art competition for children and youth**. The contest is an opportunity for LCMS young people to celebrate our church's long legacy and history of Lutheran hymns by sharing their creative expressions of a hymn in an artful way. Submissions may be two-dimensional (e.g., drawing, painting, collage, graphic design, or a poster) and will be accepted in three age categories:

- † Kindergarten through fifth grade;
- † Sixth through twelfth grade; and
- † College (ages 18–22).

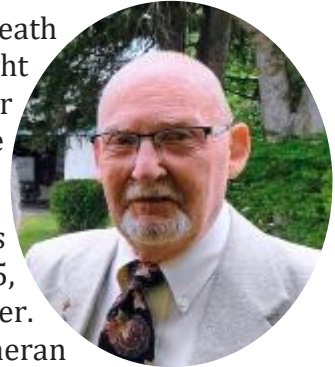
In each age category winning entries will receive:

- † K–5: \$25 gift card
- † 6–12: \$50 gift card
- † College: \$100 gift card

Please plan to attend our Circuit Convocation!

Remembering John Daniel Fischer

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant, Dan.



John Daniel Fischer was given life by his creator and was born on July 30, 1935, the child of Clarence and Agatha Fischer. On August 18, 1935, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Kitchener, Ontario, he received the gift of Holy Baptism and became a child of God. On June 2, 1949, at Hope Lutheran Church in Detroit, Michigan, he publicly confessed his faith and was confirmed. Thereafter, Dan received the precious gift of the Lord's life-giving body and blood regularly throughout his life. On February 15, 1969, he received the gift of a beloved companion in his wife, Judith nee Wright Fischer. They were blessed by God with a fruitful marriage and welcomed four children: Jill (Ron) Borek, George (Ann) Fischer, Caryn (Conrad) Brooks, and Paul (Michelle) Fischer. God continued to bless Dan and Judy, and they now have 15 grandchildren and 25, soon to be 27, great-grandchildren. God blessed Dan's life with many special people as he served God in his vocations at home, at church, at work, and in the community. Finally, on August 22, 2024, God blessed Dan with a holy death and took him home to rest in the arms of Jesus to await the resurrection of the dead.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our brother John Daniel Fischer.

A memorial service was held at Our Savior on Monday, August 26, 2024. There was a great outpouring of love and support shown by the congregation. We continue to keep Judy and all the family in our prayers.



Serving the Lord and Our Congregation
Staff Directory and Board Members

Church Office: 989-635-7994 ▪ School Office: 989-635-0115

Rev. Timothy Kern, Pastor ▪ 989-635-7994 ▪ Timothy.Kern@OSLMarlette.com
Kelsey Justin, Secretary ▪ 989-635-7994 ▪ ChurchOffice@OSLMarlette.com

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Adam Ondrajka, President
Chris Durham, Vice President
Karen Forys, Treasurer
Renea Lambert, Secretary
Bridget Storm, Financial Secretary

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Randy Haas, Chairman
Chris Durham, Secretary
Caleb Storm
Renea Lambert
Ryan McGarvie

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Christopher Durham
Aaron Fischer
Karrie Forys
Randy Haas
Katie Laur
Kathy Tallieu

SCHOOL BOARD

Randy Haas, Chairman
Hanna Kern
Chris Durham
Kelly Ondrajka
Adam Ondrajka
Randy Wansadel
Gail Denton, Barnabas Club Rep.

BOARD OF ELDERS

Chris McGarvie
Aaron Fischer
Marty Brandt
John Hollenbeck
Jerry Priebe
Gus Schumacher
Bob Stoick

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

Hanna Kern—Superintendent & Music
Nursery Class—Hanna Kern
Elementary Grades—Debie Kaltz
Youth Leaders—Chris & Leslie McGarvie