

WORSHIP WITH US!

Thursdays at 6:00pm with Communion
Sundays at 8:00am & 10:30am
9:15am Sundays - Family Bible Hour for ALL ages

JANUARY 2016

OUR SAVIOR'S MESSENGER

Vol. 52 No. 1

Telephone 452-4005 ♦ e-mail oslcsheboygan@gmail.com ♦ oslcsheboygan.com

Christ's Love, Our Security

“What shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword . . . nothing in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (*Romans 8:35, 39*).

The beginning of a New Year is an exciting time as we start to think of all the possibilities for our lives that lie ahead. It's also a time for us to reflect over the past year's events.

As we think about the past year there will likely be certain events that leave us feeling insecure and apprehensive. There are world, national, and local events that leave us feeling anxious. Sadly, we've come to understand that the fight against terrorism is ongoing—not only in the Middle East, but also here at home. Locally, there are the tensions that continue (as of this writing) with the strike at a local manufacturer. Our desire is for security, but these and other events indicate that our security is fleeting at best. So, where can we turn to find the security we desire?

The apostle Paul asks, “What shall separate us from the love of Christ?” His answer is clearly implied—there is no one and nothing that can ever separate us from the love of Christ! God's love shown to us in Christ Jesus is where we turn in our need for security.

The beauty of the message of God's love shown to us in Christ Jesus is the fact that it is meant for everyone—it's universal; no one is to be excluded. “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (*John 3:16*). That means that we need not fear, thinking that we are excluded from God's love. God loved the world—and we are a part of the world!

Another important point of God's love for us in Christ Jesus is the fact that His love is unchanging, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (*Hebrews 13:8*). There is no panic thinking that his love is limited or will disappear at some future time. It is impossible for us to get beyond Christ's loving reach “nothing in all creation” can separate us from the love of Christ.

As we enter a New Year looking for the confidence and security needed to face the future, it is a comfort for us to know that our security is where it's always been—God's love for us in Christ Jesus is our security.

Blessings and Peace for 2016 as you, His child, live in God's love!

Pastor Marcus Powers

Voters' Meeting

The church council would like to encourage everyone to attend the first quarterly voters' meeting held on **January 18th between services in the Church**. All confirmed members 18 years and older are voting members of the church, and have the privilege of being part of the decision-making process of the congregation.

One item on the agenda will deal with the feasibility of adding air-conditioning to our sanctuary. Recently we received a designated offering for this purpose. The church council is interested in your input regarding the matter.

At this meeting, reports will be given by the various boards on the past year's activities. Please set aside time for this important and informative meeting.

OUR SAVIOR'S MISSION STATEMENT

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, is a family of believers growing together in faith as we joyfully **worship** the Triune God-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we willingly **serve** our Lord Jesus Christ and **share** his love with others.

CHURCH OFFICERS INSTALLATION

Our **newly elected and re-elected officers and board members will be installed at the late service on Sunday, January 3, 2016.** We appreciate the eagerness you've shown for service to the Lord and others by allowing your name to stand for nomination. God grant you faithfulness and strength as you serve Him.

On behalf of all members, I'd like to thank those officers and board members who have served the Lord and our congregation during the past year. Your time and talents are a gift from the Lord and you have willingly used them for God's purposes and His glory. Thanks for a job well done! – Pastor Powers

Thank You!!!

As one year ends and another begins, we look back and reflect on the past year. Our Savior's has been truly blessed by the countless hours of volunteers that we know of and those who quietly work behind the scenes. We thank all of you, known and unknown! **Thank You to**

- All who donated and helped with the soup and sandwich suppers. It was delicious!
- Our Savior's Sunday school children for their participation in the Children's Christmas Service.
- All our Sunday school teachers and staff for their time and talents used for the Children's Christmas Service and your weekly commitment to teach the Gospel.
- Those who put together the Christmas treat bags and refreshments after the Children's Service.
- The Decorating Committee for their talents and time to beautify our building.
- The Church Choirs, choral and hand bell, our directors, instrumentalists, and vocalists who enhance our worship services.
- Our ushers for their ongoing service to the Lord and for helping to keep things running smoothly.
- The Food Pantry Committee for showing the love of Christ in helping to gather and distribute items for seasonal food baskets.
- Our Social Action Group for promoting opportunities of fellowship and service within the congregation.
- The Altar Guild for their devotion in helping with the Lord's Supper each week.
- The church secretary, Kory, for her dedicated work and service to the Lord.
- Our custodians, Bill and LouAnn Stroo, and countless others who keep our facility in top-notch shape.
- All church board members who work so hard to keep our church functioning.
- Not least of all, our Lord, for enabling each of us to use our time, talents, and treasures for His Kingdom work. We thank you Lord!

THANK YOU

Linda and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to those members who remembered us with cards, gifts and prayers this Christmas season. Your kindness and generosity is truly a reflection of Christian faith active in love. We pray the Lord will continue to keep you in his grace and abundantly bless you during this New Year.

Additionally, we thank the Lord for the privilege of serving the people of Our Savior's and we look forward to ongoing opportunities for sharing the Good News that a Savior has been born for you; He is Christ the Lord.

In Christian love and service,

Pastor Marcus Powers

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus."
(1 Cor. 1:4)

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please stop in the lounge in the back of the narthex to pick up your packet following worship services, if you haven't done so. We hope you will assist us in this process by picking up your offering envelope packet as soon as possible. Your 2015 year – end financial statement that will be mailed to your home in mid-January.

Additionally, for those who are interested in giving your regular offerings by electronic funds transfer, there is a program available for you called "**Simply Giving.**" If you would like to consider this method for your offerings, please contact the church office (452-4005) for information and an application form. There is no cost to you for this service.



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

January 31, 2016
Our Savior's
Fellowship Hall

ALL YOU CAN EAT!!!
FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN

Do you think you have a good chili recipe that can't be beat, and you want bragging rights for the next year? Then enter Our Savior's "Chili Cook Off" on January 31st. Bring your chili to the Fellowship Hall already cooked in a crock pot (5-6 qts.) by 11:00am. Everyone attending will judge who has the best chili. Judging will take place from 11:30am-12:15pm, followed by the eating of the chili. Prizes will be awarded for the top three places, with top prize holding the trophy for a year. Please sign the sign up sheet in the narthex before January 24th so we can get a count of who will be attending and for **donations of bake goods**. You **DO NOT** need to make chili to participate, just come out for a fun afternoon of good food, friends and fellowship. A free-will offering will be taken.

We are also asking for **donations of bars and cakes**, please sign up in the narthex. Any questions contact Robyn @918-6165

SIGN UP TODAY!!!!

FLOWER CHART POSTED

The flower chart for 2016 is in the narthex, next to the ushers' room in the cabinet. Members wishing to donate flowers are asked to select a date by placing their name on the appropriate line. Flowers may be given to the Glory of God in observance of special events, anniversaries, birthdays, many blessings or in memory of Christian loved ones.

The flowers are supplied by Caan's Floral Co. The cost of for the two vases is \$26.00 and the centerpiece is \$24.00. Kory will contact each donor about mid-week before the specified Sunday to determine the occasion for acknowledgment in the Sunday bulletin.

On your Sunday, simply place the amount for the flowers in a plain envelope marked "Altar Flowers" with your name, on it in the offering plate.

PLEASE NOTE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

1. We appreciate the tremendous response of our people over the years to beautify the chancel altar with flowers. However, we can only accommodate so many donors per Sunday, so note carefully the designated spaces, and do not add your name when spaces are full!
2. It is the responsibility of the donor to pick up the flowers in the chancel immediately following the late service. If this is not possible, you may get them on Monday morning.
3. All flower payments should be made no later than the Sunday the donor selected.

Thanks again to all our people for this extra loving act.

A BIG THANK YOU FOR ALL THE DONATIONS:

We want to express our appreciation for your generosity in support of this year's Giving Tree for the Salvation Army. Your generosity directly benefited many families. Thank you again for the many, many donations which meant so much to the Social Action Group but even more to The Salvation Army. Thank you from all of us.

Wishing everyone a blessed 2016,

The Social Activities Committee

Mary Martha Guild News

December 1st arrived, and the ladies of Mary Martha enjoyed a Christmas gathering at Rupp's restaurant for lunch and fellowship. We played games, exchanged gifts and sang Christmas carols.

A short business meeting was held. It was then decided that we would reserve Rupp's for next year's Christmas party.

The ladies are all preparing for the Christmas Cookie sale on Sunday, December 13th. They will gather at the fellowship hall on Saturday, December 12th at 10:00am to prepare the packages of cookies. Two dozen cookies in each box. Cost \$8.00 per box. The sale will take place before early service and between the early and late services.

One next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 5th, 2016 at 1:00pm, weather permitting. Each member attending should bring four prizes: two new (cost a dollar plus) and two white elephant prizes. We will be playing Bunco.

Hostesses will be Lou Ann Stroo and Ethel Schumann.

We are inviting anyone interested in joining our group to come!

Marcie Sorenson – Committee Member

Pastoral Acts

FUNERALS

Mr. Kenneth Gesch
Age: 68
Died: December 4, 2015
Laid to Rest: December 8, 2015

Volunteers Needed

Dear Fellow Christians:

Pastor has approached me with a request for a quarterly service for shut-ins that are able to attend church with the help of transportation. Before we can evaluate who and how many would be able to attend, we would need volunteers for transporting to and from service.

This would involve approximately three hours every three months to start and if all goes well, we would like to do it monthly. I pray that you would look into your heart and see if this is a way to serve God and your fellow Christians.

The tentative plan is for a Monday service about 11:00 or so. I will have a sign up list in the narthex.

We cannot do this without your help.

God's blessings

Deb

Parish Nurse News

Dear Friends in Christ:

New Year Blessings!

Another year has passed. I was reminiscing with friends about how quickly time passes and through back to the beginning of 2000. How some thought the world might end because everything was going to fall apart. How people stocked their safe rooms to prepare for the end. We then discussed how we pray for the Lord to come quickly. As humans, we are caught in both the earthly and the spiritual worlds and this can cause a lot of stress.

Along with the pressures of every day life, one may develop pain, especially in the neck. This can be caused by sleeping in the wrong position, cradling phones too long, spending hours working at a computer, carrying a heavy suitcase, or simply the strain of holding up a 10-12 pound head year after year.

It is not wise to rush off to the doctor's office for test or injections. Mild neck pain usually clears up in two to three weeks. You should, however, seek medical care for moderate pain lasting more than six weeks or if you have a history of cancer, fever, chills, unexpected weight loss, numbness or loss of strength in your arms or hands, or a recent infection. Visit an ER if pain comes after a recent fall or car crash.

Some treatments include over the counter medication. Heat, applied 10-15 minutes at interval through the first day or so, sleeping correctly on your back with one or more pillows under your legs and a small pillow under your neck. A cervical collar may help you to sleep, but should not be worn during the day as this may weaken neck muscles. You can also have physical therapy, "talk" therapy were you can learn stress-reducing and relaxation techniques, or acupuncture.

Two Easy Exercises to Try

Do each exercise 10 to 15 times, once in the morning and again before bed.

1. *Neck Tilt* - Tilt your head to the right, trying to touch your ear to your shoulder. Hold your head gently with your fingertips for a few seconds. Repeat on the left.

2. *Neck Bend* – Try to lower your chin to your chest, relaxing your neck and back muscles with each bend. Hold for a few seconds.

Skip These Treatments

Spinal manipulations, or chiropractic care, helps ease lower-back pain but isn't a proven remedy for neck pain. And in rare cases, it can trigger potentially deadly strokes.

Cervical tractions (when a physical therapist pulls your neck) doesn't help reduce discomfort, studies have shown.

Injections. Repeated injections of corticosteroids can weaken your neck muscles. And Botox injections are no more effective than placebo injections.

Surgery. It won't help if the pain is only in your neck or is caused by arthritis. If pain radiates down your

arms, surgery may provide some relief, though physical therapy seems to be as effective after two years.

Want more? For the lowdown on treating back pain, go to ConsumerReports.org/cro/backpain.

Prayerfully submitted,

Deb

Blood Pressure: 7:30-10:30am, January 3rd

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:45-4:45pm
Thursdays, 3:45-5:50pm

Our Savior's Night at Lutheran High

As a small thank you for the support Our Savior's gives Lutheran High School by being a member of the Lutheran High School Association, all members of will be admitted free of charge to the Tuesday, January 12th girls' basketball game against Mishicot.

The JV game starts 5:50pm and Varsity at 7:30pm.

LCMS Stewardship Article January 2016

"In all things I have shown you that . . . we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35). And indeed it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself, sparing not even His life in death, in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving, you get more because in giving joy is multiplied: the one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. What is more the one who receives is thankful and only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously.

So also with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of the gift of His Son which we receive through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving. Now our tithes and offering are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin? After all the Church is the place where God not only gives to us once, but continually again and again. And what gifts He gives! He gives us the forgiveness of sins, generously pouring out His grace and mercy because He loves us. So why does the church struggle?

It is because sin still clings to us. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it too. Because of sin we want to receive, but not give. We want God's blessings, but we don't want to share them with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives, without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but also to use you to bless others. Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights and heat and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism and bread and wine for the Holy Communion. Everything the Church does, she is able to do by and through the generosity of the members of the Church.

So remember the words of the Lord Jesus. It is more blessed to give than to receive. And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.

~ January 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 7:30-10:30 Blood Pressure 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship w/installation of new officers	4 10:00am Bible Study 2:45-4:45pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Board Meetings	5 1:00pm Mary Martha	6 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	7 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	8 5:00pm Harry Wedding Rehearsal	9 3:00pm Harry Wedding
10 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship with Communion	11 10:00am Bible Study 2:45-4:45pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Council	12 5:50pm & 7:30pm Our Savior's Night at Lutheran High basketball games	13 9:00am Quilters 3:30pm CEP 5:00pm Youth Night 6:45pm Choir	14 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	15	16
17 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:15am Voters' Meeting 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship	18 10:00am Bible Study 2:45-4:45pm Parish Nurse	19	20 3:30pm CEP 5:00pm Parent Teacher Conferences 6:45pm Choir	21 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	22	23
24 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship with Communion	25 10:00am Bible Study 2:45-4:45pm Parish Nurse	26	27 3:30pm CEP 5:45pm Handbells 6:45pm Choir	28 3:45-5:50pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	29	30
Notes:						
31 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Family Bible Hour 10:30am Divine Worship 11:30am Chili Cook Off						

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN 53081

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**WORSHIP WITH US
EVERY WEEK**

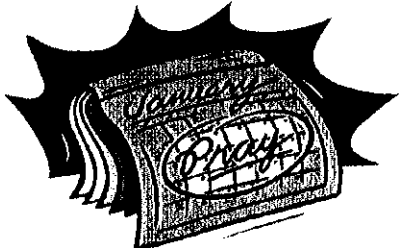
Every Thursday at 6:00pm
With Communion

Every Sunday at
8:00 & 10:30am
Communion 1st & 3rd at 8am
2nd & 4th at 10:30am

Sunday School
9:15am

Sunday Adult Bible Study
9:15am

Monday Morning
Adult Bible Study
10:00am



Start the New Year with
Prayer