

Our Savior's Lutheran Church - December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tues day	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
www.oursaviorswels.org/ fb.com/WELS.South.Shore					1 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 2:00 PM -4:30 PM Shut in Calls	2
3 9:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class Christmas	4 Meetings By Appointment	5 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 1:00 PM -4:30 PM	6 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 6:00 PM Confirmation NPH Book Fair	7 7:15 PM -9:00 PM Office Hours	8 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 2:00 PM -4:30 PM	9
10 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Bible Class Christmas Eve Practice Christmas Party NPH Book Fair	11 Meetings By Appointment	12 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 1:00 PM -4:30 PM Shut in Calls	13 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Office Hours 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:30 PM Church Council	14 7:15 PM -9:00 PM Office Hours	15 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 2:00 PM -4:30 PM Shut in Calls	16
17 9:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM Bible Class Christmas Eve Practice	18 Meetings By Appointment	19 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 1:00 PM -4:30 PM Shut in Calls	20 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 6:00 PM Confirmation	21 7:15 PM -9:00 PM Office Hours	22 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 2:00 PM -4:30 PM Shut in Calls	23
24 9:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 9:00 AM Christmas Day Service	26 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 1:00 PM -4:30 PM Shut in Calls	27 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 6:00 PM Confirmation	28 7:15 PM -9:00 PM Office Hours	29 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Office Hours 2:00 PM -4:30 PM Shut in Calls	30
31 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School Bible Class	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 210 E Berry Ave - PO Box 68 South Shore, SD Pastor Ken Nelson Office: 605-756-4259 Cell: 605-880-0436					

Our Savior's Lutheran Church - December 2023 Newsletter

As I am writing this, we are anticipating the arrival of two very good friends from Montana. I do not know exactly when they will arrive, but it has been made clear to me that their arrival is **imminent**. I know this because I have been instructed to tidy up all sorts of things in the house. Areas that usually are just fine the way they are, are not good enough for company. I get it, I even agree with it.

Now, let's talk about the upcoming celebration of our Savior's birth. Let's talk about our preparations to celebrate the arrival of a very important guest - Jesus. God had been predicting that he would send a Savior for about 4,000 years. More and more details were revealed as time went on. God revealed he would be from David's royal line, God even revealed the where - Bethlehem. And then God revealed to a woman named Mary that through her God would fulfill His Old Testament prophecy. The Savior would be born of a virgin - her, Mary. Jesus' arrival was imminent.



And what does this have to do with me, one might ask? Everything. Absolutely everything. That child is this world's only hope, our only hope, your only hope to escape the punishment we deserve for every wrong thing we have done and each good thing we did not do. This Jesus is God's own Son. This Jesus brings us life for eternity This Jesus is our Savior. Let's gladly prepare for his arrival.

One small child in a land of a thousand
One small dream of a savior tonight
One small hand reaching out to the starlight
One small Savior of life,

One king bringing his gold and riches
One king ruling an army of might
One king kneeling with incense and candlelight
One King bringing us life,

See him lying a cradle beneath him
See him smiling in the stall
See his mother praising his Father
See his tiny eyelids fall

See the shepherds kneeling before him
See the kings on bended knee
Oh, see the mother praising the Father
See the blessed Infant sleep

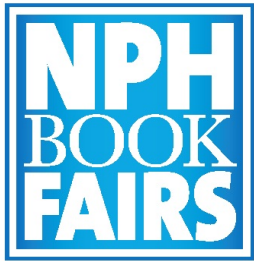
See ya in church.

Christmas Eve

I am going to repeat this one from last month. Here is a heads up for parents with Sunday School age children. We are going to be doing our children's Christmas Eve Program again this year. Please let Pastor Nelson know if your child will be taking part in the program. Rehearsals will be after church the first 3 Sundays of December.



Book Fair



From December 1st until December 10th you have a chance to take a look at and purchase some of the books put out by our own Northwestern Publishing House. There is a 20% discount on anything you purchase. We take the orders here, the checks are written to the church, the books are then shipped to Our Savior's and you can pick them up here. There is a good variety of devotional materials for adults and kids. You can also go to nph.net/virtualbookfair. There are descriptions, pics and in some instances even short videos of additional books for sale with that same 20% discount. Remember to enter the discount coupon code of

V147C703195 when you check out. Books ordered that way will be shipped directly to you. If you wish to save on the shipping, let us know what you want, we will place your order with ours and the books will be shipped here. We will pick up the tab on the shipping - our Christmas gift to you.

Advent

This year we went with Violet as the color for Advent.

The first candle, which is violet, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also violet, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final violet candle to mark the final week of prayer and penitence as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."



The white candle placed in the middle of the wreath is lit on Christmas. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

Christmas Party

The church's Christmas Dinner will be held December 10 following worship and children's practice. The church will provide ham, scalloped potatoes, and green beans. Nelson's are bringing crescent rolls. A cake to celebrate Harold and Pat Tribitt's 60th anniversary will be for dessert. Please bring a side dish if you wish.

Christmas Schedule

Sunday December 24 - Worship Service	9:00 am
Christmas Eve Children's Service	7:00 pm
Christmas Day Song Service	9:00 am

Great Plains Facility Expansion Update

Now that the dust has settled and we are enjoying the blessings of our expanded facilities, we have renewed our discussions in regard to a classroom addition – the piece of our approved facility expansion plan that has not yet been realized. In consultation with our faculty, staff, and board, we have updated a potential floor plan and received a construction cost estimate. This information was shared with our delegates at the November 4 association meeting. As a next step, the delegates voted in favor of exploring the financial feasibility of moving forward with a classroom addition. Watch for more information as this study progresses. More GPL info is in their monthly update.

Finances

Thank you to everyone of you for supporting our Lord's ministry here and throughout the world. I have every confidence that General Fund shortfall will be overcome by the end of the year.

	<u>Needed as of 11/30</u>	<u>Received as of 11/30</u>	
General Fund	\$107,520.38	\$100,432.92	\$ -7,087.46
Missions	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,835.80	\$ +835.80
GPLHS	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,016.54	\$ +16.54

To answer some questions people had about Required Minimum Distributions (RMD). Individuals who are 72 or older that have an IRA or other retirement account that has a Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) have a unique opportunity to share a gift with the ministry of Our Savior's, if they so desire. You avoid having to count your RMD as income if you have it given directly to Our Savior's or any other ministry of your choice. Please remember that if you collect your RMD and then share it with a non-profit organization you will need to count the RMD as income.

Serving you as we all serve Christ



Pastor Ken Nelson
605-756-4259 - Office
605-880-0436 - Cell