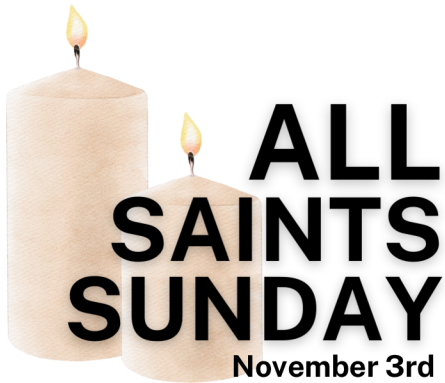


The Common Thread

Newsletter of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

REJOICE ALWAYS,
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING,
IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 3rd

During this service we will read the names of all our beloved who have gone before us into eternal life in the past year. Join us as we honor their lives and their memory.

Thanksgiving Community Meal:

It is our year to host and we are looking for people to help prepare and serve the meal. If you are interested, please let the church office or a member of council know.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

2nd Tuesday of the Month at 7pm

This group is for anyone who has or is currently processing grief of any sort and would benefit from a confidential and supportive group who "gets it." The group is open to anyone in our community, so please invite anyone you think might benefit.



Your Gifts are Needed!

Can you help in one or more of these places?

- Communion Bread Bakers
- Sunday School, Connect, & Youth Teachers
- Meals for Youth
- Thanksgiving Meal



Thank you to everyone who has donated to the food pantry this fall!





From the Pastor's Office

Throughout this fall, our congregation has a group of parents reading along with our book club book for the season: *The Sandbox Revolution*. This book, while profound in its own writing and questions, has sparked deep and meaningful conversation among those of us who are taking time to participate together. As a pastor, I read lots of books that are work related. This book, however, has been one of the most powerful ones for me to digest. Each chapter has its own author on its own topic of raising kids in the current world circumstances, ranging from spirituality to racism and family structures. And while the book is meant to reflect on how we parent or otherwise interact with younger generations, I cannot help but think so much of this wisdom applies to adults as well.

It's that time of year again. The time where votes are being cast for political candidates and measures. The time of year that has the potential to just be a day on the calendar where we get to exercise our freedom to be part of a democracy. Yet, this day seems to hold so much more power than it ever intended to - it's no longer a joyous day of celebrating our freedom to have a voice, it's a day that tears our communities apart. It's a day that we fight about and make accusations of others on. It's a day that we get riled up about winning, regardless of what the impacts might be for the country. It's a day that brings out the worst in our society and causes division to deepen.

In her chapter about spirituality and allowing children to make their own paths, providing support and guidance but not answers, Dee Dee Richer writes this profound statement that I cannot help but think we all need to hear this month. She writes:

"We stressed that some people felt differently from us and were not bad people. We said that resistance is a freedom in our country and that many people have fought for that freedom.....It is important for children to realize from an early age that people are not good or bad but a complicated mix....my enemy might carry a piece of truth that I cannot see and without which I cannot be whole. This is the cornerstone I use to break my rocks of certainty and judgement."
(*Sandbox Revolution*, "Entrusting our Children to the Path", Dee Dee Richer, 72-73)

Regardless of how you vote this month and regardless of how your neighbors vote this month, we must remember that those who feel and think differently from us are not bad people - in fact, their perspectives are part of the diverse and whole society that we dwell in. Rather than fight, name call, and accuse our neighbors in these weeks, may we seek the way of love, mercy, and justice, as we are called to seek through Christ. May we keep in mind that we are all one body of Christ, with diverse and many parts. May we not fail to see Christ in our brothers and sisters, even those we disagree with. Let us rejoice that we live somewhere with such freedoms to use our voice and accept the great responsibility that comes with using our voice and vote to care for neighbors, to fight for justice, equity, and peace, as led by the Spirit.

Grafton Conference Fall Gathering with Synod Staff
November 2nd, 4:30-6:30pm at PRBC

Council & Committee Reports

Worship & Music

The small but mighty committee continues to meet monthly to select hymns and plan special worship services for the congregation. This month, we looked ahead to Advent and Christmas services. Advent services will continue to be held on Wednesday evenings in December, but will include more hands-on family-friendly events for all ages, such as caroling, crafts, and cookie decorating. We are hopeful to see better attendance this year than years in the past.

The committee rejoices with the 10 confirmands who were confirmed this month and wish them all the best as they continue to grow in their faith. It was wonderful to see so many people gathered to celebrate with them - over 250 filled our church and it was delightful to be together. Davis did a great job leading music. If any youth have musical talents and want to help with youth Sunday music, please let Davis know for future dates.

All Saints Sunday is November 3rd. Names need to be submitted the week beforehand. We will be remembering all those who have died this year as well as celebrating those who have been baptized.

Harvest Sunday will be November 24th and we will have regular worship service with a special emphasis on creation and thanksgiving and then gather downstairs for a potluck to follow. Please join us.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for midweek Advent meals and services beginning the week after Thanksgiving, the Christmas Program on December 15th, and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5pm on Christmas Eve.

Committee Members: Susan Phelps, Sheryl Kjelland,
Lorie Clemetson, Davis Thompson, Pastor Kayla

Next Council Meeting: November 13th, 7:30pm

*** If you would like a copy of the council meeting minutes,
please request them in the church office or by email.***

Home Communion Volunteers

In preparation for Pastor Kayla to be on parental leave this spring, she is hoping to train and lift up a handful of members who would be willing and able to bring communion to our homebound or hospitalized members in her absence. If you are interested in being trained for this important ministry, please sign up on the clipboard in the narthex or call the church.



Financial Snapshot

as of October 9

2024 Revenue

\$161,302.14

2024 Expenses

\$157,948.82

Youth and Family News



Congratulations to our 2025 Confirmands!

Thea Thompson
Bailee Seim
Maddux Jorgensen
Sawyer Herfindahl
Jace Rosinski

Benjamin Schatz
Reeves Jorgensen
Aubree Sherlock
Terry Borgeson
Henry Holand



TRICK OR TREAT

Thank you to all our youth who trick or treated for the food pantry! They collected nearly 500 pounds of food and personal care items!



Contact Us

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Pastor's Cell: 701.226.1684
Margaret (office): oslcpr@polarcomm.com
Website: www.oslcparkriver.com

