

# The Common Thread

*Newsletter of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church*

## Faith and Care Signups

We are working on moving many of our sign-up forms online. If you are in the Faith and Care groups for January or February, you can sign yourself and members of your family up for Sunday morning roles by following the links below.

[January Sign Up](#)

[February Sign Up](#)



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

*Mark your calendars for this year's annual meeting on January 19th following regular Sunday service. Reports will be available to pick up and review by January 12th. If you take a full, printed report, please bring it with you to the annual meeting to avoid printing extra copies. All confirmed, active members (those who have communed or financially given in the last 2 years) are asked to attend.*

*Following the annual meeting will be a potluck in the church basement. Bring a dish to share!*

## 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
- Potluck Dishes for Annual Meeting

# From the Pastor's Office

Pastor Kayla will be starting parental leave this month. The timeline on this will depend on baby's arrival but before January ends. Because this is a first for Our Saviour's, to have a pastor on parental leave, here is some information that may be helpful during this time to help members understand who to call during these weeks.

**What does this mean?** Pastor Kayla will be tending to her family and her own healing during this season. While she continues to be a member of our community and will be participating in community events, she will not be actively working in the role of pastor until her leave ends. If you have a question or need during this time, please do not call Pastor Kayla but refer to the list below to get the answers and help you need.

**What if I have an emergency that requires a pastor?** Our conference has wonderful pastors nearby who are on call to help you. Pastor Brooke is your first call in these moments, and depending on the timeline of this need, Pastor Carter or Pastor Jessica will also be available.

**What constitutes as an pastoral emergency during this time?** Pastoral emergencies are things that cannot wait until Pastor Kayla returns. If you or a loved one are hospitalized, in crisis, or are faced with death, please do not hesitate to call one of our on-call pastors to help you. However, know these pastors have their own congregations to tend to, so only use them in the case of emergencies. Desiring a routine visit, having questions about church schedules, or needing the church unlocked are not emergencies. Please use the numbers below to direct those questions.

**When will Pastor Kayla be back?** Pastor Kayla will rejoin us by Palm Sunday.

**Can we stop by the parsonage to visit?** Please call ahead and see how the family is adjusting before dropping by. While the parsonage is a church property, it is important to respect Pastor Kayla's time and space during this leave period and they will not always be open or ready for visitors. However, the family welcomes visits if members call ahead to check on schedules and wellness.

## Who to call?

**Questions about worship:** Church office or Sheryl Kjelland

**Questions about the church calendar or events:** Church office

**Need communion delivered:** Church office or Susan Phelps

**Questions about youth programs:** Molly Flaten (PreK-8th grade) or Jon Dusek (9-12th) -- please use the Remind App or email, if possible, to contact our leaders. Information will be sent out via these apps by our teachers during this time.

**In need of an emergency pastoral visit or funeral:** Pastor Brooke Phelps (Zion, rural Hoople) or Pastor Jessica Merchant (Edinburg)

**Need access to the church on a non-office day:** A member of council (Britt Jacobsen, Davis Thompson, Molly Flaten, Sue Phelps, Patty Dahlen)

# Council & Committee Reports

## Youth and Family

The programming year is flying by us! Our Sunday School presented a play called “Too Many Shepherds and Angels!” on December 15, and I think it was one of our best programs to date. I would like to personally thank Erin Loewen, Nikki Pokrzywinski, Julia Hell, Karin Helmeke, Kayla Hill and Sheryl Kjelland for all of their hard work leading up to the Christmas Program. Without these ladies, the show would not go on, and I am truly grateful for each one of them and the value they add to our program. Also, the children who participated in the program, from our tiniest angels to our Fourth Grade actors, THANK YOU! We ask so much of you during the holiday season, and I am so thankful for you working hard to learn lines, sing songs, and sharing the Christmas story with our congregation. I am so proud of each and every one of you, and thank you for continuing on the tradition of our youth Sunday School program. We are all so thankful for you and your participation. May we all remember to be shepherds and angels this Advent season and share the Good News with all we meet.

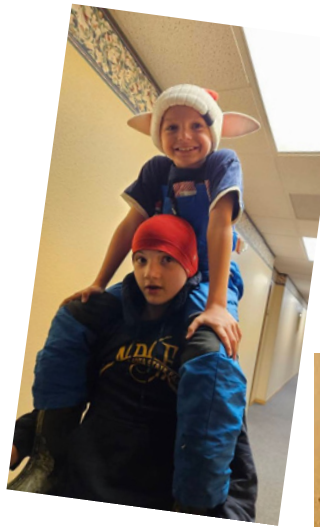
Looking ahead to warmer days, our Vacation Bible School program is scheduled for July 21-25. We will have a different format this year, so please stay tuned for more information. VBS is open to PK-Grade 6, which is a change from previous years.

Submitted by Molly Flaten

On behalf of the Youth and Family Committee:

Erin Loewen, Karin Helmeke, Sidney Bata, Margaret Borgeson, Julia Hell

## Advent Activities





# Too Many Shepherds and Angels

Youth and Family News



Thank you to everyone who helped with our Christmas program this year!

## Youth Led SUNDAY

Sign up now to get your spot in our next youth led service.

This is the same day as Annual Meeting.

Sign up by following this link!

Thank you!



### Volunteers Needed!!

We are looking for volunteers for January - May for the following positions with our older youth programs:

*Drivers for service projects/fieldtrips*

*Meals*

*Youth Group Assistants*



### Contact Us

Pastor Kayla: [pastorkaylahill@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkaylahill@gmail.com)

Pastor's Cell: 701.226.1684

Margaret (office): [oslcp@polarcomm.com](mailto:oslcp@polarcomm.com)

Website: [www.oslcparkriver.com](http://www.oslcparkriver.com)

