

The Reporter

January Worship Services

We will continue to hold 2 Divine Services throughout the month of January at 9a and 11a. Masks (covering both the nose and the mouth) will be required for the 9a service with social distancing guidelines followed and masks are optional during the 11a service.

New Congregational Officers

Please welcome and pray for our new congregational officers: Glen Franke - Congregational President, Bob Storm - Chairman of the Board of Elders; Jan Lavicka and Laurie Lingley - Board of Education. In addition, we pray God's blessing upon the following individual who was elected to a second term of office: Dean Lingley - Board of Elders.

Finally, please take time to thank our outgoing officers for their service to the Lord and His Church: Randall Schleef, Congregational President, Brian Neukomm and Courtney Rieches, Board of Education.

Christmas Decorations

Immediately following the 11a service on Sunday, January 3, we will be taking down the church's Christmas decorations. Any and all are welcome to help in this task. Remember, many hands make light work. If you have any questions, please see Jan Lavicka, Brenna Schroeder or Sara Seyfert.

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will be starting a new session starting Tuesday, January 26th. Bible study will be held at the home of Olivia Harms. This is a 9 week study of the book of Hebrews via video study by Jen Wilkin. All ladies are welcome, please RSVP to Olivia Harms (815.471.9072) by Thursday, January 14th to reserve your book.

Voters' Meeting - January 17

Our quarterly Voters' Assembly meeting will be held immediately following the 9a Divine Service on Sunday, January 17, 2021. Please be present to help chart the course of this congregation as we seek to bring glory to God in all that we do. Remember, all communicant members, age 18 and above, are eligible to vote.

Scrip Orders - January 24

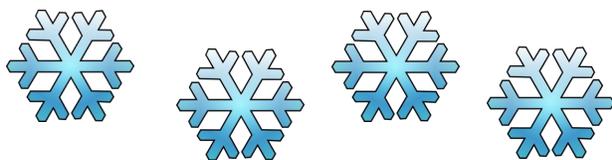
Order forms are available on the informational rack in the Narthex, on the order form you will note that the youth group will receive a certain percentage of the purchase amount of each gift card, ranging from 1% up to 20%. Order forms and payment are due to the Church Office by **Sunday, January 24, 2021**. Gift Cards will arrive and be distributed that same week. Please consider supporting the youth (and future leaders of the congregation) in this simple way!

Sanctity of Life Month

This month marks "Sanctity of Life Month" in many Christian congregations around the country. January is chosen because this is the month when the landmark Supreme Court decision, Roe vs. Wade, made abortion legal throughout the country. Since that decision was handed down, abortions have continued to rise at an alarming rate, to approximately 4,000 abortions a day in this country! Obviously, Scripture tells us that this is against God's will and so the Church, along with its members, work tirelessly to bring about change and to foster a respect for human life. While it may seem that we, as individuals, cannot effect much change, working together as the Church, we can. This happens in many ways, but definitely by supporting organizations that minister to fathers and mothers who find themselves considering an abortion. In our area, the Women's Care Clinic in Danville operates such a ministry. Not only do they minister to these soon-to-be parents and help them reach the decision to bring that baby to term, they then work tirelessly to support those parents as they seek to raise their child, by meeting some very physical needs.

In support of their ministry, we will be collecting diapers (size 4 and 5) and wipes this month that will be donated to the Women's Care Clinic. You may drop your donation in the play yard, located in the Narthex at anytime during this month.

As we focus on the sanctity of human life this month, let us never forget that being pro-life goes far beyond just getting the baby to be born, but it means being pro-life throughout all of life, from the womb to the grave. Thus, you will find on the Life Table, located in the Fellowship Hall, numerous resources that will assist you in that important task.



Did you know?

Did you know that you can receive the monthly church newsletter electronically? If you elect to do so, you can receive the monthly newsletter (along with a printable calendar, birthday list, etc.) in your email box.

To begin receiving the newsletter in electronic format, please provide Kendra Morts (the church secretary) with your email address. Note that all email addresses will be kept private and will not be able to be seen by other recipients. Contact Kendra via her email Kendra@OurSaviorMilford.com

Pastoral Vacancy

During our pastoral vacancy, pastoral care is available during this time for those who desire it. Pastor Tim Hahn (Trinity - Cissna Park and St. John - Ash Grove) has agreed to be on-call for all urgent pastoral needs. If an urgent need arises during this time, please contact one of the Elders (Jon Goldenstein, Dean Lingley, Doug Morgeson or Bob Storm) and they will contact the on-call Pastor.

Worship Services Reminders

As a reminder, the 9a service requires masks to be worn properly (**covering both the nose and the mouth**) by everyone and social distancing guidelines will be adhered to with every other pew available and hymnals will not be used. During the 11a service, masks are optional but the social distancing guidelines will continue to be followed. Please direct questions and concerns to Dean Lingley, Jon Goldenstein, Bob Storm or Doug Morgeson. Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time.

**REMEMBER THOSE UNABLE TO BE WITH US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS**

Phyllis Carter
423 N Dixie Hwy
Hoopeston IL 60942

Delmer and Reatha Henrichs
1257 E 1200 North Rd
Onarga IL 60955

Arlene Hines
503 S Chicago St
Milford IL 60953

Rosalie Lundberg
216 Walnut St
Milford IL 60953

Joanne Sloan
2364 E 900 North Rd
Milford IL 60953

Brenda St. Peter
817 S Hanson Dr
Watseka IL 60970

Gert Wade
IMH Resident Home
200 E Fairman
Watseka IL 60970



Stewards of the Kingdom

In the hope of capturing a renewed emphasis on our role as stewards of God's creation, our monthly newsletters will include a brief article, published by the Synod's Office of Stewardship Ministry, to assist us in living out our baptismal identity as a child of God. It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often, we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So, here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions:

Who are you?
To whom do I give?
And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the *Luther's Small Catechism* informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, and family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties, and our questions arise in giving to the Church.

So, what is our duty as members of the Church with regard to giving? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the Church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are to give:

Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2);
Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12);
Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);
Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and
With a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the Church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: Do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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<http://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorLutheran>

Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Join Us Every Sunday Morning for Service
starting at 9:00 am
Our Savior Lutheran Church
209 West Jones Street, Milford
or listen to the service live on the radio
on WIBK 96.9 FM / 1360 AM or
listen to a live audio stream on our website

Email - OurSavior@OurSaviorMilford.com
Website - www.oursaviormilford.com
Facebook - [OurSaviorLutheran](http://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorLutheran)

