



THE REPORTER

*Solid food is for the mature,
for those who have their powers of discernment
trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.
(Hebrews 5:14)*

We often hear, “Doctrine divides!” We will investigate this between Christmas and Easter as we look at the Lutheran Confessions. From this study, we will see that the doctrine’s divisions are extremely important and necessary for life in a fallen world. It is absolutely important to know **what** we believe and **why** we believe it. After all, OSLC’s identity as a Lutheran congregation is based on it. Just look at Articles II and IV of the congregation’s constitution and your own Confirmation vows. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this study.

There are many ways to study the Lutheran Confessions. My podcast goes straight through the Confessions, covering the book from the front cover to the back cover. You can also track the history of doctrines and teachings through the history of the Reformation. You can also see how important verses in the Bible are used to proclaim the truth in the Lutheran Confessions.

All three of the above options are available at OSLC. The cover-to-cover is available on the podcast. In January, we will look at the most popular verses used in the Lutheran Confessions. In February-April, we will look through the history of the doctrines, especially focusing on the Formula of Concord, the last confession written in the 16th century.

What do you think is the most popular verse in the Lutheran Confessions? I will give you a hint. It’s not John 3:16. You will have to be in Bible Class on the 9th to find out what passages are used almost twenty times.

We seek to enrich Christ’s indwelling Word in our soul so that we grow in maturity in the Word. We have these words from the Epistle reading from the First Sunday after Christmas, “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Colossians 3:16).

The writers of the Formula of Concord conclude their writing with wonderful words:

*In the sight of God and of all Christendom <the entire Church of Christ>, we want to testify to those now living and those who will come after us. This declaration presented here about all the controverted articles mentioned and explained above—and no other—is our faith, doctrine, and confession. By God’s grace, with intrepid hearts, we are willing to appear before the judgment seat of Christ with this confession and give an account of it [1 Peter 4:5]. We will not speak or write anything contrary to this Confession, either publicly or privately. By the strength of God’s grace we intend to abide by it. Therefore, after mature deliberation, we have, in the fear of God and by calling on His name, attached our signatures with our own hands.
(SD XII 40)*

As a congregation and as individual Christians, we should be able to stand before God, the Church, and the world and proclaim these same words.

In Christ,
Rev. Doug Minton

High School and Middle School Youth Group

We had a wonderful time of fellowship at our Ugly Sweater Christmas Party! Thank you for your continued support of the youth at OSLC.

*High School Students - We will meet January 9

*Jr High Students - We will meet January 23

We hope everyone can join us!

Men's Bible Breakfast

Going forward, we will be meeting the second Saturday of each month. Our first meeting for 2022 is January 8. We will continue to meet at 8:00am at the church. January's host will be Pastor Minton. (Let him know if you have a special gourmet breakfast food you want him to prepare! HA!) **If you have been thinking about joining us, now is the time! We encourage ALL men (teenage to 99) of the congregation to join us!**

Opportunities to Serve OSLC in 2022

Check your mailbox for your copies of servant lists for 2022. Thank you for serving in various capacities at OSLC.

Portals of Prayer Update

Portals of Prayer are now being mailed to church, not your home. Pick up your January - March copy today! Pick up an extra one for a friend that may benefit from a daily devotion. We now have a larger size print available for those that need one.

Upcoming Hymn Sing

Get your hymn requests in to Pastor or the church office soon! We are running out of requests and January has a 5th Sunday Hymn Sing. The easiest way to request a hymn is to email it, write it on your communion card, or put a note in Pastor's mailbox. Any hymn from Lutheran Service Book is acceptable as well as the list of hymns from Worship His Majesty found on the request form and the bulletin board.

Scrip Orders - Due January 23

Do you go shopping, eat out, or go to the movies? Do you ever gift someone else with the opportunity to do those things? Most likely, all of us would answer "yes" to at least some of those questions. This is why everyone LOVES the Scrip Card program, available each month at OSLC! Order forms (located on the informational rack in the Narthex) and payment are due to the Church Office by **Sunday, January 23, 2022. To enable the Youth get a donation, we need a minimum order of \$350.** Gift Cards will arrive and be distributed that same week.

Moments of Meditation

Moments this month cover the first proclamation of the Gospel through Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden. Listen weekday mornings at 8am on WHPO.

Remember Those Unable to be with Us on Sunday Morning

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

Gert Wade
IMH Resident Home
200 E Fairman
Watseka IL 60970

Joanne Sloan
2364 E 900 North Rd
Milford IL 60953

Brenda St. Peter
817 S Hanson Dr
Watseka IL 60970

Pat Nielsen
120 W Jones
Milford, IL 60953



Quarterly Church Council and Voter's Assembly Meeting

Thursday, January 13 - Church Council meeting at 7:00pm

Sunday, January 16 - Quarterly Voter's Meeting following service.

Please put this on your calendar now so you can attend and be involved in the decisions of your church.

Backpack Blessings Information

Thank you for your continued support of this outreach! During the school year, Backpack Blessings is ongoing. This is a completely free program to students of Milford Public Schools who qualify for free/reduced lunch. This program is operated solely on donations of money and food. Backpack Blessings began in 2017 and serves on average 40 kids per week. We send easy to prepare food to supplement breakfast, lunch and snacks for each day of the week. If you would like to help support this program, monetary donations can be given to Brenna Schroeder.

Amazon Smile

Do you shop on Amazon? Have you signed up for Amazon Smile? Now you have the option to support OSLC through Amazon Smile while you are shopping! You can easily sign up through the link on the front page of our website at www.oursaviormilford.com. If you have the app, you can add Amazon Smile on there as well, just search Our Savior Milford. Any questions, ask Pastor.

Podcast of the Month!

Podcast of the Month for January is **Wrestling with Theology**, Pastor's own podcast. WWT has a three-pronged focus to help you wrestle with the theologies that surround us. Many things sound wonderful and good, but demonic ideas float beneath the surface. On Mondays, we stand in the Confessional Corner, studying the Lutheran Confessions to find how we can better equip ourselves as Lutherans in our fight against the world. On Thursdays, we are Digging Deeper into the Psalms to see these great words of Scripture as they relate to our own lives. On Wednesdays, Pastor runs a fantasy wrestling promotion for some fun in the middle of the weight of the Scriptures and the Confessions.

Wrestling with Theology has some wonderful programming lined up. Here are the highlights for the regular programming in January.

Week of	Confessional Corner (Monday)	Digging Deeper (Thursday)
January 2	The Saints Pray (Ap XXI 24-44)	Destruction and Restoration (Psalms 79-80)
January 9	Bread and Wine in Communion (Ap XXII)	God's Justice on Display (Psalms 81-83)
January 16	The Scandal of Filthy Celibacy (Ap XXIII 1-25)	Dwell in the Lord's House (Psalms 84-88)
January 23	Marriage Denied by Superstition (Ap XXIII 26-50)	God Remembers the Covenant (Psalm 89)
January 30	Marriage Should Be Strongly De- fended (Ap XXIII 51-71)	Abiding in the Most High's Shadow (Psalms 90-91)



The Reporter

Our Savior Lutheran Church
209 West Jones St
PO Box 188
Milford Illinois 60953

Phone: 815-889-4121
E-mail: secretary@oursaviormilford.com
Facebook: OurSaviorLutheran

Worship Service 9:00 am
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 10:30 am

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 WIQI 95.9 FM or WHPO 100.9 or
listen to a live audio stream on our website**

**Email - secretary@OurSaviorMilford.com
Website - www.oursaviormilford.com
Facebook - OurSaviorLutheran**