



# OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

## DECEMBER 2020

### This Too Shall Last!

How often have we heard the saying, “This too shall pass” when we are going through a rough patch? The intention is to comfort us and give needed encouragement. There certainly is truth in these words, but what about the times when troubles just don’t seem to go away? When my prayer for a cure (seemingly) hasn’t been answered, my job disappears when my employer closes its doors, or grief for a lost loved one just won’t go away, it’s easy to feel that I’ve failed God or, even worse, He has failed me. If God loves me, why does He allow so much pain in my life? And, oh, before I forget, Merry Christmas. Wait, what?

We often forget that Jesus told us to expect both peace *and* suffering in life. In John 16:33 Jesus said, “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You *will* have suffering in this world. [Be courageous! I have conquered the world.](#)” (*emphasis mine*) We may wish that Jesus had said, “You won’t ever have to suffer in this world because I have overcome it!”, but that’s not what He said. The real peace of God is not found simply in be-

ing rescued from hard times or being protected from sorrow or illness. True peace is found in the presence of Jesus who holds us up in our sorrow and strengthens us in our weakness. We trivialize our experience of peace in Him when we expect God to rescue us from exactly what Jesus told us to expect.

We tend to think of suffering as something to get past, but the amazing fact is that through faith in Christ the experience of suffering can be the very thing that leads us into a deeper relationship with Him. Suffering often feels like walking in a thick fog, where we can’t see what’s coming. We have to trust that God is not leading us off the edge of a cliff, but rather to safety in His presence. Suffering invites us to a deeper trust in Him when we are willing to just be where we are instead of treating suffering like something to get past as quickly as possible. Real peace happens when suffering becomes the place where we find ourselves at rest in the arms of Jesus.

We in the American Church want to believe that as Christians, as Children of God, we should be safe from pain and suffering. Christians in many places around the world know

otherwise and the reality is that we need to acknowledge how uncomfortable we are with the very idea of suffering and sorrow. Our belief in our own faith and human efforts to achieve the blessings of peace was never part of the God’s plan. We need to acknowledge that we are living in a world where suffering persists, where we cannot protect ourselves from pain. We need to be honest with God about the hurt we feel and see.

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The gospel is always about Christ's power made perfect in our weakness as Paul writes in 2 Cor.12:9-10: "And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, *I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*"

So, what if anything does any of this have to do with Christmas, especially in this year of all years? When we suffer or see the suffering of others, we wonder how a loving God could allow that to be, but the mystery of the kingdom is that God himself chose to enter the world to suffer as one of us for all of us. He chose to come to us in a human body that would feel pain, weep, and die.

It's all too easy to get caught up in a romanticized and dare I say, silly version of the birth of Jesus in that cozy little stable in Bethlehem. The Baby Jesus is usually portrayed lying in a manger, shining with unearthly glory, His haloed young mother and worshipful (step) father kneeling at His side, surrounded by adoring sheep and cattle, and sometimes even some camels, as if the Wise Men had made an ear-

ly appearance. Cute chubby cherubs hover watchfully overhead, the glorious Christmas star shines brightly in the skies above while heavenly choirs of angels sing His praises. A pretty picture, maybe, but definitely not accurate. There is no actual mention of a stable in scripture, but there is a manger, so Jesus' birth probably did take place in a stable, most likely a pretty cold, dark lonely one, with no evidence of heavenly glory shining anywhere. There may have been some oxen present, and maybe even some sheep since some shepherds showed up, but even so I doubt that the livestock were particularly impressed. The Wise Men didn't arrive until sometime between 6 months and 2 years after Jesus' birth, and the only visitors we know of were the shepherds, who were not exactly royalty. We don't even know if the innkeeper bothered to check on how his customers were doing. There is no mention of cute little cherubs, shining stars or heavenly choirs of angels. The only ones present were Jesus' mother, a young girl, perhaps only 14 or 15 years old, and Joseph, an older man, who was probably a bit apprehensive about suddenly being responsible for his young wife and newborn child, earlier angelic visitations notwithstanding. Later, King Herod, in a fit of anger and jealousy, murdered all

boy children 2 years and younger in and around Bethlehem in an attempt to prevent Jesus' arrival into the world. So, in fact, Jesus was born in the cold and dark into a cold, dark, suffering world to redeem that world. That is still the world we live in today, a world of pain and darkness and suffering, filled with sick and fearful people, a world, unknowingly perhaps, yearning for the message of faith and comfort that we are charged to bring them.

Remember what Jesus said in Mark 16:15, "**And He said to them, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."**"

And finally, remember too, His promise, "**Be courageous! I have conquered the world!**"

Peace, and a Blessed Christmas and Hopeful New Year to All,  
Hap

We are SO THANKFUL for you Pastor Herschberger!

**“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” - Isaiah 52:7**

Dear Pastor Herschberger,

I came across this beautiful quote recently while reading my favorite prophet of the Hebrew Scriptures – Isaiah!

Frankly, it made me think of you Pastor Herschberger.

Your compassion and generosity are the feet that bring good news to the poor. Your work in our countries has reduced the suffering and frustrations of the poor and, by doing this, you have brought peace into their minds and into their hearts.

Pastor, at this critical time, families in several Central American countries that Food For The Poor helps now face what officials have called a slow-moving [humanitarian disaster](#) in the aftermath of Hurricane Eta, and an impending storm Iota is on the way. The destruction of bean, coffee, corn and banana crops threatens the food security for an already vulnerable population. Schools, where children sometimes get their only meal have been destroyed.

You have reminded them with your selfless love and kindness that their God reigns! A stranger has reached out to them in their pain and has helped to heal their misery through your recent donation. Pastor Herschberger, your donation will provide food and emergency supplies to these desperate homeless families.

You have remembered them from afar and you have refreshed their faith. They no longer feel invisible to others or forgotten by God. Attached is a Thank You certificate to share with your congregation.

I just don't have the words to properly thank you for that Pastor Herschberger and Our Savior Luther Church.

For the poor,  
Desiree

**Desiree Dan**  
Church Alliances



(Please click on image above for more information.)

**Our Savior Lutheran Church:**

Guiding Star Marshalltown would like to Thank You for your recent donation of \$1000.00

Guiding Star Marshalltown is committed to serving women and families with natural, holistic, pro-life and pro-family care. We offer pregnancy and child-birth, post-partum and family life counseling, including support groups for abortion healing, for miscarriages, and for infant loss.

Thank you, again, for helping us carry out our mission of building a new culture of Life in Marshalltown.

Sincerely,  
Jerald Zeihan, Treasurer

**Our Savior Lutheran Church,**

Thank you for your donation of \$300.00 to The Caring Center. Your generosity helps pay for rent and utilities as well as other expenses of operation.

The Caring Center provides clothing and household goods at no cost to people who can use them. The center is Totally Staffed by volunteers.

The Caring Center is t0IC3 organization and your donation is tax deductible to full extent allowed by law.

We appreciate your help in providing this service to the community.

Coordinators of the Caring Center  
Ruth Pearson, Treasurer

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**

Thank you for your recent donation of \$300 to the Emergency Food Box. Your kindness makes it possible for us to help meet the emergency food needs of people in Marshall County who are referred to us.

LeRoy Jero, Treasurer

**Fourth Quarter Giving Jug  
Oct., Nov., Dec.**

Will be focused on the Adopt-A-Family program sponsored and executed by the House of Compassion. Eligible families will receive a \$25 gift card at Walmart for a household supplies box. Food will be distributed by the Emergency Food Box. Gifts for children 17 and younger will be collected through Our Savior's Angel Tree. We are aware of the great need in our community and want to bring the Love of Christ to families in our area.

**Service & Mission**

**Ice Melt**

The church has Ice Melt for sale. They are 50# pails for only \$50. Smaller quantities are available—bring your own container. Please Contact Danny (641-844-6192) or Barry (641-750-5603) if interested.

Danny Nelson

## December Properties Report

Special thanks to those who volunteered to work a few of the upkeep jobs I asked for help with last month. There are still some jobs available if you are interested. Please call me at 641-844-6192 if you want to donate an hour or two to OSL.

A big thanks to Michael Sills and Gordon Miller for cleaning the church gutters. Nice to have a climber you can tap on. Some people know I do my best work from the ground. Thanks to Barry G. for doing some more bush trimming and to Maury R. for aerating the lawn. You know it is said good things come to those who wait. Well OSL was blessed again as we called and waited for a return call from more than one local tree service. Several call were made to find someone with a bucket truck to remove the damaged branches laying over on the west side of the church roof. No local services returned my calls. Finally luck arrived as through a friend he recommended a tree service working in town from Missouri who was providing work for the city. I talked with them and they said when they were working in our area they would complete the work. Well I waited and they contacted me this past week and said they were in our area and ready to do the work. When I asked them how much this would cost they said "it's free as we will do it after hours"! Simply said I was amazed! A trailer load of brush was hauled off from the limbs they downed. A big thanks to the good folks of PDR from Missouri.

Barry G. And I are working the same contacts we used this spring to do some more derecho tree work on an all volunteer basis - no charge heavy equipment job. Stay tuned for that update. Just remember good things happen to those who wait. I've learned it's best not to expedite a volunteer.

We just completed a new copier contract that will save OSL \$15/month and replace our four year old copier. This contract is the same as the old contract and remains with Access systems. The cost savings includes replacing the new machine and renewing our old five year contract with them. We also are changing pest control services to a local company, versus the Ames based supplier. This savings supports a local service and saves us a few dollars every quarter on the service. There are plans in place to re-lamp the kitchen lights converting over to the latest LED style using the same fixtures. Until we meet again thanks for all the support!

Danny Nelson

### PHOTO OF LIMBS HAULED AWAY FROM THE CHURCH WEST SIDE ROOF



DECEMBER 2020



## Merry Christmas from LSI!

*“The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not  
overcome it.” — John 1:5*

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! This year has been challenging for all of us, and we are grateful for the lowans who have stepped up just for the sake of giving and helping LSI in 2020. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family to love them.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our neighbors who are so often overlooked in our society. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. If you would like to learn more about how you can

support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI’s director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563.676.2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org). LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

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### Continuum of Care

As she prepared to celebrate her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, Sam was also preparing to age out of foster care. She had lived with her foster mom, Marty, for years and Marty wanted to ensure Sam had a smooth transi-

tion into adulthood. That’s when they signed up for LSI’s Host Homes program.

Provided through LSI’s Services for People with Disabilities, Host Homes provides personalized care for lowans with disabilities who find greater success living in a private family home instead of a busier community living environment with roommates. Individuals are carefully matched with a Host Homes mentor and live with them in their home, where they can build strong relationships and become better engaged with their communities.

Marty became a Host Homes mentor so Sam could continue living in her home and receive the same care and support she was used to. Sam is thriving and Marty gets to continue walking alongside her as she builds a bright future full of independence. They work on Sam’s goals every day, including cooking and planning meals. Marty especially loves fishing and going on picnics with Sam and as a Host Homes mentor, she can continue serving as a foster parent to other Iowa teens.



The Emergency Food Box continues with its adjusted schedule. The open hours are 1:00 - 4:30 Monday through Thursday. If you have friends or family who are struggling due to job loss, reduced hours, or increased food needs, please inform them we are here to serve anyone for whatever reason.

Marshall County families can be served once a month. They only need to show a valid **photo ID**. The Emergency Food Box address is **109 S. 3rd Street, Marshalltown (in parking lot of Elim Lutheran Church)**. Phone number if you have questions is **641-753-0486**.

Monetary donations are always appreciated. It is suggested they be sent to Emergency Food Box, PO Box 391, Marshalltown, IA 50158. The Emergency Food Box especially wants to thank the community for its generous support during this difficult time.

**We are always looking for Food Box volunteers. We have many different types of opportunities that are available, and we are very flexible in arranging times to fit your schedule! Contact: Cindy Staron, 752-4868.**

## THE WEATHER IS CHANGING NEW ITEMS NEEDED

**Caring Center  
132 W. Main St.  
Mon. & Wed. 10-1**

### We need:

- Men's tennis shoes and work boots.
- Socks of all sizes
- Men's jeans size 38, 40 and 42
- Misses jeans in size 4,5,6,7,8

### Any household items including:

- toasters
- coffee pots
- silverware
- plates
- drinking glasses
- pots and pans
- curtains
- sleeping bags (for the homeless)

Donna Patton

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Linda Whaley      | 12/03 |
| Denise Stucky     | 12/08 |
| Julaine Duimstra  | 12/08 |
| Jarred Carlson    | 12/09 |
| Evelyn Auld       | 12/09 |
| Lois Eige         | 12/09 |
| David Whaley      | 12/10 |
| Stacy Oltrogge    | 12/10 |
| Stephen Van Buren | 12/14 |
| Dale Wilson       | 12/18 |
| Stacy Heil        | 12/20 |
| Libby Russell     | 12/20 |
| Landon Auld       | 12/22 |
| Sarah Auld        | 12/22 |
| Joe Duffy         | 12/24 |
| Judy Dale         | 12/24 |
| Mika Massa        | 12/26 |
| Erin Herschberger | 12/26 |

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES!

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Joe & Shirley Gregor | 12/10 |
| Ken & Barb Rasmussen | 12/21 |

DECEMBER 2020

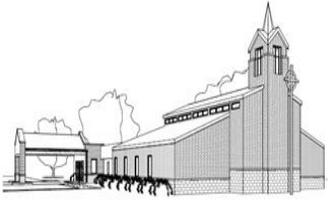


**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
Balance Sheet  
as of 10/31/2020

| Account Number                          | Account Name                           | Amount       |
|---|--|--------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                           |  |              |
| 1000                                    | Checking                               | \$37,222.10  |
| 1005                                    | Debit Card Account                     | \$601.14     |
| 1007                                    | Thrivent Fixed Settlement Option       | \$18,237.65  |
| 1010                                    | Fern Thompson Scholarship              | \$44,936.06  |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                     |  | \$100,996.95 |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                      |  |              |
| 2600                                    | Federal Withholding Taxes Payable      | \$118.00     |
| 2602                                    | State Withholding Taxes Payable        | \$40.06      |
| 2604                                    | Social Security Withholding            | \$128.44     |
| 2606                                    | Medicare Withholding                   | \$29.98      |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                |  | \$316.48     |
| <b>Equity</b>                           |  |              |
| 3000                                    | General Fund - Fund Balance            | \$-7,362.53  |
| 3100                                    | Building Fund - Fund Balance           | \$14,929.57  |
| 3101                                    | Ice Cream Social Fund Balance          | \$1,496.56   |
| 3102                                    | Fellowship Fund Balance                | \$871.40     |
| 3103                                    | Memorial Fund Balance                  | \$14,403.34  |
| 3104                                    | Bible Fund Balance                     | \$100.00     |
| 3105                                    | Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund Balance   | \$10,870.54  |
| 3108                                    | Riverside Scholarship Fund Balance     | \$221.75     |
| 3109                                    | Alter Flowers Fund Balance             | \$699.39     |
| 3111                                    | Fern Thompson Scholarship Fund Balance | \$44,936.06  |
| 3112                                    | Bonnie Riemenschneider Fund Balance    | \$18,193.39  |
| 3117                                    | Lenten Offering Fund Balance           | \$1,171.00   |
| 3118                                    | Lawnmower Replacement Fund Balance     | \$150.00     |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                     |  | \$100,680.47 |
| <b>Total Liabilities + Total Equity</b> |  | \$100,996.95 |

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

|   |   |   |  |  |                  |
|---|---|---|--|--|------------------|
| <p><b>Sun</b></p> <p><i>December<br/>2020</i></p>               | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>  | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>6:00 pm Worship Taping<br/>7:00 pm Bible Study</p>   | <p><b>3</b></p>  | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>  | <p><b>5</b></p>  |
| <p><b>6</b> Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:00 am Worship</p>  | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>  | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>12:00 pm Noon Colleague - Pastor Mike<br/>6:00 pm Worship Taping<br/>7:00 pm Bible Study</p>                       | <p><b>10</b></p>   | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>   | <p><b>12</b></p> |
| <p><b>13</b> Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:00 am Worship</p>  | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>10:00-4:00 pm Craft Group</p> | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:30 am Wednesday Wonders<br/>6:00 pm Worship Taping<br/>7:00 pm Bible Study<br/>Newsletters<br/>Articles Due</p> | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>12:00 pm Optimist - Pastor Mike<br/>1:00 pm Dominoes</p> | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>   | <p><b>19</b></p> |
| <p><b>20</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:00 am Worship</p> | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> | <p><b>23</b></p>  | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>Christmas Eve<br/>5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service</p>      | <p><b>25</b></p>  | <p><b>26</b></p> |
| <p><b>27</b></p> <p>9:00 am Worship</p>                         | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> | <p><b>30</b></p>  | <p><b>31</b> New Year's Eve<br/>12:00 pm Optimist<br/>1:00 pm Dominoes</p>   | <p>Church Office Closed</p>  |                  |



## OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Address Service Requested**

Pastor Michael Herschberger  
3001 South Sixth Street  
Marshalltown, IA. 50158  
Phone: 641-753-4108  
Email: [oslpastor@outlook.com](mailto:oslpastor@outlook.com)

**[** We're on the web!  
[www.oursaviorlutheranmarshalltown.com](http://www.oursaviorlutheranmarshalltown.com) **]**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!**

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

9:00 AM Worship

### **CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

Secretary: Carol Fuller  
Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Office: 753-4108

Email:  
[oslmtown@outlook.com](mailto:oslmtown@outlook.com)



*2020*