



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Stanwood

Congregational Newsletter

January 2022

Encounter God ~ Encourage Believers ~ Extend His Kingdom

"2022"

**"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem,
not knowing what will happen to me there." *Acts "20:22***

One year ago, heading into the year 2021, who could have called the crazy, devastating events that have taken place in our country and in the world? Recently, nighttime clandestine tornadoes tore through two hundred miles of country, claiming lives climbing toward 100. Townships torn up like match sticks. Loved ones left seeking for family members and grasping at straws, seeking some kind of meaning in it all. Today, there is a tornado watch in the state of Minnesota. They are watching and waiting for an event that was previously, in years past, inconceivable in the month of December.

All across the country, people are still trying to get their heads around the aftermath of untold tragedies. Wildfires, hurricanes, floods, heat waves, cold streaks, droughts, mud slides, let alone, more than 30 mass shootings, sending us in directions uncertain. All of this, without even mentioning that we are moving in on two years of COVID restrictions, hospitalizations, and death. We have had front row seats to financial strains, educational disruptions, fundamental distrust of foundational institutions, not to mention the continual political in-fighting. Additionally, we face the daily reminder of the emotional pressure and mental strain exploding and manifesting itself in countless directions, from airplanes, to townhall meetings to uncontrollable family fights. Many of these mass emotional disruptions and effects will not be seen or monitored for decades to come.

So, here we stand on the cliff of a new year. None of us knows what will happen this next year. If it is anything like 2021, how can we stand and lift up our heads and walk that road?

St. Paul, in Acts: 20:22, states that he does not know what will happen to him. He says that the Holy Spirit has told him to go to Jerusalem but he's not quite sure what he will encounter in his travels. But Paul continues in verse 23, **"I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me."** Wow! Paul received clear direction from the living God, but His message also claimed that he was going to endure great trials. Keep in mind, that this man had already faced some incredible trails, recorded in 2 Corinthians.

"Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea, and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst; and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches." (2 Corinthians 11:24-29)

Paul further describes his suffering to the Corinthians with these words;

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. **We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life.** Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death."

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Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

of Stanwood

1876 — 2022

Street Address:

27201 99th Ave. NW
Stanwood, WA 98292

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 370
Stanwood, WA 98292

STAFF

Pastor: *Mark Bankson*

Office Secretary: *Linda Hammer*

Treasurer: *Linda Mohler*

Director of Student and Family Ministries: *Alex Abdallah*

Contemporary Worship Coordinator: *Steve Dams*

Choir Director: *Erik Ronning*

Organist: *Linda Hammer*

Music Coordinator: *Connie Ronning*

Custodian: *Mario Mendez*

Preschool Director: *Jaimi McCall*

Office email: Office@oslcstanwood.org

Pastor's email: Pastor Mark@oslcstanwood.org

Treasurer's email: Treas@oslcstanwood.org

Alex's email: Youth@oslcstanwood.org

Website: <http://www.oursaviourschurch.org>

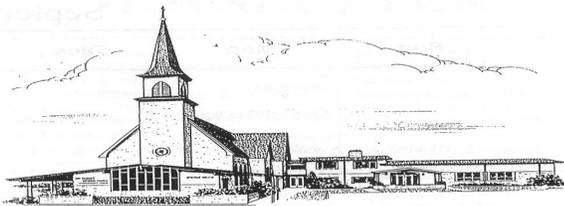
Contact us at:

360-629-3767

New: Office@oslcstanwood.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday, 9 AM—3 PM



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**8:30 AM Traditional Worship—
Sanctuary**

**10:30 AM Contemporary Worship—
Fellowship Hall and FM only Outdoors**

Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays

2022 OSLC

Officers and Council Members

Congregational Officers

President — Karim Khoury

Vice President — Steve Stogner

Secretary — Annette Bowden

Treasurer — Linda Mohler

Council Members

Building and Grounds — Dan Haskins

Education — Mellisa Williams

Evangelism — Sandy Schreiner

Fellowship — Lina Richert

Finance — Randy Zielsdorf

Social Concerns — Julie Freeman

Stewardship — Dimitri Berk

Worship and Music — Donna Cook

Youth — Elsa Schwartz

Pastor

Mark A. Bankson

Remember to Check our Website

*Don't forget to check the website,
<http://www.oursaviourschurch.org>,
for information and events—*



Are You Receiving our Devotions and Letters E-mails?

Devotions and letters from Pastor Mark, and devotions from church members are sent out regularly through Mailchimp.

If you wish to receive these, please let the office know by emailing Linda at Office@oslcstanwood.org

*For those with no computer access/e-mail,
please call the church office and leave a
message with your name and phone number,
and we will return your call.*

“2022”—Pastor Mark (continued)

Yet, in the midst of all the suffering and hardship, listen to Paul’s insight and conclusion: **“But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.”** (1 Corinthians 1:8-9) And listen to his initial perspective: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, **who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.** For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.” (1 Corinthians 1:3-5)

Throughout Paul’s ministry, he survived great hardship, pain, loss and discouragement. Above all else, he held on to the Father, relying upon Him and experiencing a comfort uniquely his coming from His heavenly Father. Through his pain, Paul points to the path for those travelers walking the unknown roads.

Finally, as Paul prepared to travel his final path to Jerusalem, listen to his final conclusion in Acts 20:24: “I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race, and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – **the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.**”

The year, 2022, will certainly take us down a variety of untrodden roads. We will face uncertainty, trials and circumstances we have not prepared for. But amidst the unknown, let us encourage one another with what we learn from the apostle. Trials are the opportunities to activate our faith and put our complete trust in God. The comfort we receive from God throughout these trials – is to be used to comfort others going through similar adversity. And whatever unknown roads we travel, we are to testify to the gospel of God’s grace, we ourselves have experienced, until our race is finished.

Jesus tells us:

“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time, they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

(Luke 21:25-28)

Lift up your heads, O people of God, we WILL be testifying to the Gospel of God’s grace in 2022!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Mark

The Caring Place

Hi friends,

We are joy-filled to announce that we will be reopening The Caring Place in the new year! We are asking for you to spread the good news to all whom can hear. We will be accepting donations mid-January with anticipation of re-opening in February or early March. This ministry has been operating from its location across the street from our church for 10 years. The only way that we can reopen is through the efforts of our church in collaboration with our community. As most of you know the Caring Place ministry serves clients of all ages. the youngest are newborn and the eldest are 98 years. We are asking for not only your new or very gently used (clean with no stains or mending needs) donations of clothing, toiletries, bedding, etc., but for your help in the day-to-day operations of this ministry. Through unconditional love we offer hope and understanding. Please consider being a part of this ministry and reaching out to Mardi Jorgensen, 360-913-1551.



Women's Wednesday Bible Study

Our Bible Study is taking a break and planning to resume in February. We hope to see you then.

OSLC Women / Martha Circle Wednesday, January 12

Martha Circle will meet January 12, 2022 from 2—3 p.m. following the OSLC Women's meeting in the Olympic room.

We will continue to explore Contagious Joy Chapter 11 Radiant Joy. All women are welcome to share in our Bible studies, now led by Barbara Crow.

If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Templeton at 360-629-4779.

OSLC Mission Quilters Tuesdays, January 4, 18 and 25

OSL Quilters will meet on Tuesdays, Jan. 4, 18, & 25, 2022 from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. in the Olympic Room. We continue to create quilts to bless those near and far in the new year! Please bring a sack lunch if staying for the day.

We are always looking for and welcoming new quilters. We have opportunities for all levels of sewing, even if you don't sew!

If you have questions, please contact Marilyn Templeton at 360-629-4779.

Church Facility Security

Time for a friendly reminder. Please make sure if you are the last person to leave the church that you check all the doors before leaving. We have recently had a couple of occasions where the doors have not been locked. No damage or theft. Also, in the windy wintry weather, doors may not always latch securely. Please let's all do what we can to make sure we have a secure building.

OSLC Prayer Shawl Ministry

The OSLC Prayer Shawl Ministry group has begun meeting monthly on Saturday morning. All are welcome to join us as we discuss the development of this new ministry and share what we have been working on. Even if you don't knit or crochet, there are cards to be written and shawls to wrap for delivery. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet, Carol Jensen has volunteered to teach. Please watch your bulletins and newsletters for the next opportunity.

If you have questions, please call Becky Wietzke at 360-722-4377 or rawietzke@yahoo.com

Coffee, anyone?

We need volunteers to make coffee on Sunday mornings. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen. Anyone who is interested will have help in learning how to make HOPE coffee.



From our Church Treasurer

A New Option!

We can now schedule ACH payments for offerings, which eliminates the fees charged by PayPal. Forms are available in the Treasurer's Office.

Linda Mohler

Consider...Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at no cost to you.

When making purchases at Amazon, login at **smile.amazon.com**, select Our Saviour's Lutheran Church as your charity of choice.

There are many Our Saviour's Lutheran Churches listed, be sure to look for Stanwood, WA to direct your donation to support our church. Thank you!

VROOM

Volunteers Responding to Ministry

Are you looking for a way to connect with OSLC?

Are you looking for an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends?

Are you looking to have fun while serving your church community?

Are you looking to use your talents to achieve Jesus's, Great Commission?

Simply Call

(360) 474-7548

or email

Osle stewardship2021@gmail.com

***Leave a message and we will personally call you back
to discuss opportunities!***

Care Team – Help us find those who need some help...or join us!

A new year has begun with “normal” still looking different than in 2019-21. One “normal” that continues to be the same is our Care Team. Forty plus church family members continue their commitment to the needs of our church family.

Actually, our entire church family are members of our team. Do you know someone that is in need of a prayer; a visit or phone call; needs an errand run for them or in need of transportation for groceries, a doctor appointment, or?; a meal while at home; or a small home repair that needs completion? Please share with us!

We are ready to provide help. Take a few a minutes and email Lois Stahley at stahleyl@gmail.com. A call or text to 206.972.2266 will also begin the process. Keep the email address and phone number close by for future reference.

If you are asking for someone, please be sure you have their permission to share with us.

Join Us!

Join us in using your God-given talents to meet a Care Team need. There are no meetings – just adding your name to the list of those willing to lend a helping hand when available. Let Lois Stahley know where you can help.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works...” Eph2:10 NIV

An encouraging word – to those praying for our youth

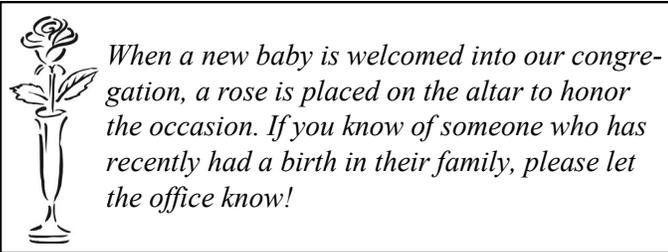
Some of you were blessed in September and became a prayer partner for the youth of our church family. How is it going? Is your prayer rising daily to the Lord naming this young person? The card you received in September has some ideas for prayer.

Continue to take time to mention our church family kids in prayer. Even though you may not know this person, God knows exactly for whom you are praying. Continue the good work begun.

“Be joyful always; pray continually.” 1Thess.5:16-17 NIV

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Eternal God, thank you for bringing us once again to the threshold of a new year. Help us dedicate each day of 2022 to following your will for our lives. Guide us, Lord, in all our decisions and actions, day by day and hour by hour. Help us accomplish all that you desire for us to do, until our mission on earth is finished. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



When a new baby is welcomed into our congregation, a rose is placed on the altar to honor the occasion. If you know of someone who has recently had a birth in their family, please let the office know!

Frank Van Valkenburg, father of Candyce Sylling, passed away December 20. Candyce and Charlie would like to extend their thanks and gratitude for the many prayers offered by the congregation during the days before and after his passing. Your care and concern are much appreciated.

Please pray for the following members and friends of Our Saviour's:

Del and Ardis Larson; Lorraine Van Brocklin; Jane King; Robert MacNeal; Elsie Pritchard, her daughter Diane & son-in-law Paul; Gretchen Mitchell (cousin of Lynn Leese, & friend of Shary Richards & Linda Hammer; Vivi (age 8, great-granddaughter of Del and Ardis Larson); Mary Wolff; Terry Jensen (daughter of Carol Jensen); Jay Slack (husband of Kathy); Jim Quait; Daric (husband of Linda Mohler); Peter (husband of Linda Hammer); Ethan and family (college student); Helen Thayer; Sr. Emma Hofbauer (housekeeper for Fr. William Treacy and friend of Connie Ronning); Duane Rowett (brother of Sandy Schreiner), Marv Hansen; Dale Tetlow; Marylee & Leon Sams; Meg Gray (niece of Bob and Maureen Hitz); Shannah Rodenberger; Eddie Allianic; Marilyn Nienhuis; Bruce Rockwood; Todd Larson; Judy & Paul Anderson; Gracie Miller (age 11 receiving chemo); Judy Waltier (friend of Jon & Jane King); Beverley Klatt; Cameron Ruscha (HS student of Erik Ronning); Amanda Hobbs; Ingeburg Paul; Mick Hanson; Ramona Brodland (sister of Del Fox); Marlene Schuster; Michele Kunzman; Dave Matthewson; Ryker (grandnephew of Judy & Paul Anderson).

Please pray for Dan Haskins and his team, including Pastor Mark, as they travel to Kenya January 13-27, for the Boscovet Project.

Prayers also for:

All those suffering from the effects of COVID-19, and natural disasters.
For our national and community leaders: President, Congress, WA governor, Stanwood mayor and others in leadership.
Pastor Mark, OSLC Staff and Preschool, Our Saviour's Congregation, the Homeless, Armed Forces, Josephine and Warm Beach residents, Safe Harbor

**Please help us keep our prayer list current
by contacting the office with updates.**



Scripture Texts

To better prepare you for worship:

January 2, 2022

Second Sunday of Christmas

I Kings 3:4-15
Psalm 119:97-104
Ephesians 1:3-14
Luke 2:40-52

January 6, 2022

Feast of the Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-15
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 9, 2022

Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Romans 6:1-11
Luke 3:15-22

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 128
I Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 23, 2022

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19:(1-6) 7-14
I Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:16-30

January 30, 2022

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10 (17-19)
Psalm 71:1-6 (7-11)
I Corinthians 12:31b—13:13
Luke 4:31-44

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

P. O. Box 370
Stanwood, WA 98292

Change Service Requested



WINTER WONDER

If you're tired of shoveling snow by now, just be glad you didn't live in what's now Keogh, Montana, in January 1887. Two years before that area became a U.S. state, personnel at an army fort saw a Frisbee-sized flake falling from the winter sky. Scientists say the flake, estimated at 15 inches wide, likely was the result of numerous smaller flakes merging before landing on the ground. That massive dose of winter still holds the title of largest snowflake, according to Guinness World Records.



**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting**



Sunday
January 30, 2022
Fellowship Hall
9:30 AM
(between services)

Regular Worship Service Schedule
8:30 Traditional
10:30 Contemporary