



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

January 2024

Volume 24

Issue 1

office@oslccf.net 715-723-6048

**NEVER
STOP
LEARNING**

Education Hours for January

January 7 New Member Welcome Hour

January 14 Accessibility led by Kari Allen. Is there a way Our Saviour's could be more accessible for you or a family member? Join us for a listening session!! See article with in the newsletter.

January 21 Budget Meeting

January 28 Annual Meeting followed by a Pot Luck



Dathan Boardman designed our new website and the new logo. He had seen the quilt and based the logo on that and all of its symbols and meaning.

The logo has been designed for so many uses and it comes in a variety of colors.

There is a larger picture later in the newsletter, the details are enlarged for better viewing.

*An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
“Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.”*

Matthew 2:13

Within Jesus’ parable about the Judgment of the Nations, Jesus declares,
*“Truly I tell you, just as you did it one of the least of these
who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*

Matthew 25:40

They fled as refugees. Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus fled to Egypt, and they fled for the same reason that so many refugees continue to flee in today’s world. They fled for their safety. Their lives were in danger.

Let’s pause to appreciate how easily we can take for granted the safety we have come to expect in our homes and in our community. Were we to live elsewhere, daily life could be incredibly unsafe.

I have been following the news from Eau Claire regarding World Relief and the intended mission to bring 75 refugee families to the community. The organized resistance has been alarming, and public comments reveal an intense bias against refugees who are not white and not Christian. If brown-skinned Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus were to show up in our community today, what kind of welcome would they receive?

Living in a state and a nation where the voices of those who intend to exclude grow ever louder, how can we use our voices to convey God’s love for all people? And how will our actions convey welcome? Doing nothing and saying nothing may feel safe, but those are not the options Jesus would have us choose. Jesus calls us to speak and to act in order to care for one another no matter how different we may seem from one another, for we are all beloved by God who considers us family one to another.

Peace,

Pastor Karen

ANNUAL REPORT

January Deadlines:

January 4th Reports Due!

January 14th Annual Reports Available

January 21st Budget Meeting following 9:30am service

January 28th Annual Meeting at 10:30am followed by pot luck

OSLC Trustees Report for November 2023

The Board of Trustees would like to report the following results for November 2023:

Revenues: \$26,413.09

Expenses: \$36,126.62

Net Gain/Loss: \$(9,713.53)

Benevolence Given to ELCA, Luther Park and LSS : \$1,030.63

Year to date results (Jan-Nov) were as follows:

Revenues: \$293,336.52

Expenses: \$326,062.77

Net Loss: \$(32,726.25)

Benevolence to ELCA, Luther Park and LSS: \$11,601.86

Our Income was slightly under budget for November. Our expenses were over budget as November had 3 pay periods. That happens twice per year. The current balance in our Unrestricted Operating Funds is \$9,015.70. If you would like to see more detailed financials, please contact a member of the Board of Trustees.

We would like to sincerely thank the members of OSLC for your generous contributions.

Submitted by the Board of Trustees:

Paul Froelich, Fred Kruger and Stacy Olson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30am Lessons and Carols	1 Monday Email OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilters	3 NO MIDWEEK 6:00pm Hand Bells 7:15pm –8:15pm Choir	4 Annual Report Articles Due 8:00am Men's Breakfast 1:00pm Knitters Zoom Session	5	6
7 8 am Service 9:30 Service New Member Sunday 6:30pm Community Conversation	8 Monday Email 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Deacons	9 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilters	10 Midweek Program Dinner-Meatballs 6:00pm Hand Bells 7:15pm –8:15pm Choir	11 8:00am Men's Breakfast	12	13
14 8 am Service 9:30 Service Annual Reports Available	15 Monday Email 6:00pm Church Council 6:30pm Boy Scouts	16 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilters	17 Midweek Program Dinner-Tacos 6:00pm Hand Bells 7:15pm –8:15pm Choir	18 Newsletter Articles Due 8:00am Men's Breakfast	19	20
21 8 am Service 9:30 Service 10:30am –11:30am Budget Meeting	22 Monday Email 6:30pm Boy Scouts	23 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilters	24 Midweek Program Dinner-Pasta 6:00pm Hand Bells 7:15pm –8:15pm Choir	25 8:00am Men's Breakfast	26	27
28 8 am Service 9:30 Service 10:30am –11:30am Annual Meeting/ Pot Luck to follow	29 Monday Email 6:30pm Boy Scouts	30 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilters	31 Midweek Program Dinner-Hot Dogs 6:00pm Hand Bells 7:15pm –8:15pm Choir	1 8:00am Men's Breakfast	2	3

OUR SAVIOUR'S



LUTHERAN CHURCH

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT-(2023)

The 2023 Stewardship program was a modification of programs implemented over the past six years. The theme for OSLC was "Journey of Sharing". Team Members included: Toni Eckardt, Marilyn Murphy, Kathy Palme, Dawn Pearson, Pastor Karen, Dwayne Palme and Rich Boardman. Thank you for your commitment. We also invite anyone to join the team for next year.

The program sent lead letters to all OSLC members and had special "Mission Moments" during church services to uplift member testimonials. A special pizza fellowship was sponsored for the launch Sunday of the campaign. A unique "Cookie Share" fellowship event was celebrated during the kickoff of the "Intent Card" return. This was well attended, fun and was a great gathering! A special "Quarter Challenge" was added to the stewardship drive that collected quarters and in turn were donated to the Synod Endowment fund in a check presented to Bishop Laurie at the November 12th congregational meal. The check provided was for a total of \$500.50.

A goal of 125 returned cards was initially identified. A total of 106 were submitted by the deadline of November 5th (115 in total). From the total Intent Cards returned, 23 % indicated an increase in giving this year. It was a fun and successful event.

Note: To finish out the 'budget estimate' a total amount is generated by considering some additional factors of giving. The projected budget estimate reviews the current giving patterns for the previous year including plate offerings and special holiday giving. An additional amount is determined and added to the "intent for giving" to generate a final range for budget preparation.*

Personal handwritten thank you cards were sent to all submitting intent cards.

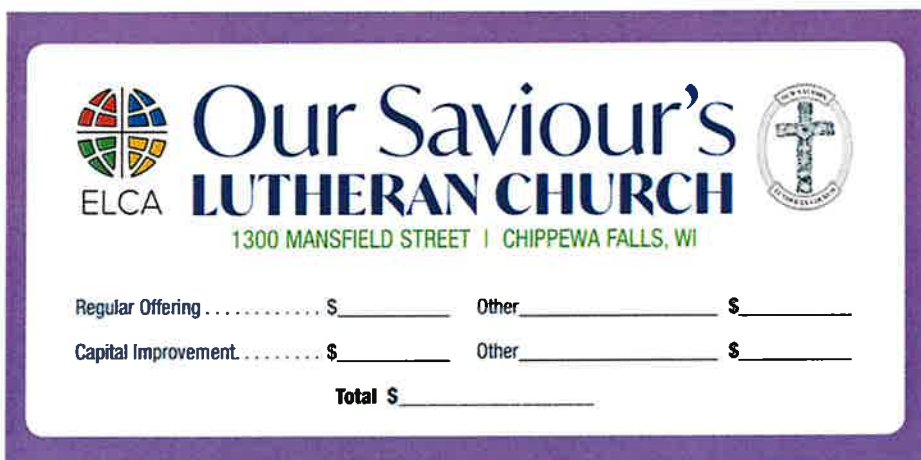
For comparative purposes:

2018 (for 2019 year)	100 intent cards	\$279,604.00
2019 (for 2020 year)	92 intent cards	\$277,322.64
2020 (for 2021 year)	127 intent cards	\$309,708.00
2021 (for 2022 year)	127 intent cards	\$303,352.00
2022 (for 2023 year)	130 intent cards	\$317,578.00
2023 (for 2024 year)	115 intent cards	\$282,148.00

***The final total projected monies for the '2023 budget estimate' was: \$300,000.00-\$310,00.00. Thank you from your Stewardship Team.**

After much discussion with the Church Council and Staff it was decided to try something different when it comes to offering envelopes. In the past there has been a great deal of waste because envelopes were sent to church and many boxes were never picked up. There was also the overlap of envelopes being ordered for people using Simply Giving and those not being used.

Starting in 2024 if you normally get offering envelopes and have requested envelopes in the past in addition to your Simply Giving Offering, your envelopes will be sent to you in the mail. 2024 Envelopes are in production and should arrive shortly. They are sent in batches, every three months so that if people leave the church, pass away or for whatever reason do not want to receive envelopes, we can quickly go to the web site and change the mailing. **This means that if you have an address change you need to notify us as soon as possible so that the packages go to the right address.** This can also affect snowbirds, if you receive envelopes, you can have them sent to your "warm" address and change it when you return.



As you can see, there are 4 lines to list your offerings. Two that will stay the same, Regular Offering and Capital Improvement. Two lines were left blank so that you may write in where you would like additional money to go. Money for Youth, the Window Fund or whatever you would like. Because of writing in what you would like and how much, you can just write one check and put the total in the total blank.

Your name, address and number will be on the back of the envelope. You may or may not have the same number as in the past, because of changes in membership.

There will also still be special offering envelopes, such as Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving and the others that we have always had included in your mailing.

We are using the same company, as they have always been great to work with, and have made this process very easy.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office at office@oslccf.net, or call 715-723-6048 or contact a staff member.

Noisy Offering Totals 2023

January Ukraine **\$694.57**

July Valley Vineyard **\$598.27**

February Career Development Center **\$382.56**

August Irvine Park **\$841.42**

March Foster Care **\$402.20**

September CDC **\$183.89**

April Feed My People \$ **600.20**

October Family Support Center **\$532.55**

May Malawi **\$862.59**

November Chippewa Valley Street Ministry **\$637.68**

June Care Link **\$251.96**

December World Hunger

Total to Date: \$5987.89



Quilters

The quilters are requesting help again. We can use flat sheets that are in good condition; double, queen, & king size. We also will take donations of material that we can use for quilts, so if you are cleaning out your closets, we will take what you haven't used. If you have any sheets or material, please leave it on the pew in the lounge that we use for our quilting room. We always can use help cutting and sewing quilt pieces for tops and we can also use help tying quilts on Tuesday mornings. Thanks for helping us out.



Knot Just Knitters' January Meeting

To accommodate the "snowbirds", Knot Just Knitters will meet via Zoom on January 4 at 1:00. It's a great time to work on a project and chat with others in the group. If you would like the Zoom link, please contact Marilyn Murphy at mjmurphy1970@yahoo.com.

Midweek Meals Donations

Providing a free Midweek meal has proven to be a wonderful blessing to many students, their families, and others who appreciate this time of fellowship. These home cooked meals are delicious, nutritious and provide a wonderful opportunity for building relationships across generational lines. We are so thankful for those who prepare and serve these meals! To help ensure that these meals remain free for all who come (typically, about 50 people per week), would you be willing to make a contribution to the Midweek Meal fund? We welcome your gifts of any size and appreciate your support of this important ministry.



Book Buddies Resume Meeting

The January Book Buddies meeting will be via Zoom on January 21 at 6:30 PM. If you would like to join the discussion, please request the Zoom link from Heidi Mercer at heidikmercer@gmail.com. The group will be discussing Anxious People by Fredrick Bachman. Anxious People is a character driven novel that uses the plot of a failed bank robbery and hostage situation as the catalyst that brings the various characters together. The novel also continually uses the element of surprise to slowly reveal key facts regarding the secrets and details of the characters and the plot.

Book Buddies' 2024 Reading List

If you would like to join Book Buddies for any of the discussions, here is the list of books that they will be reading this year. They usually meet the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:30 PM. Please contact Marilyn Murphy at mjmurphy1970@yahoo.com if you would like to be added to the email list for updated information.

- Anxious People by Fredrick Bachman
- The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray
- Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt
- Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
- Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants by Douglas W. Tallamy
- The Last Flight by Julie Clark
- When Crickets Cry by Charles Martin
- Take my Hand by Dolen Perkins-Valdez
- Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer
- Mediocre: The Dangerous Legacy of White Male America by Ijeome Oluo

SAVE THE DATE!

A Community Conversation
on

January 7 at 6:30 PM
via Zoom.

Topic: An Interview with Sarah McBride

- **LGBTQ+ history-maker**
- **Married to the late Andrew Cray of Chippewa Falls**
- **Delaware state senator and 2024 U.S. Congress candidate**
- **Author**

For further information and/or Zoom access to this event, please request at linktosignup@gmail.com.

CREATING A WELCOMING COMMUNITY



Who is Sarah McBride?

- Previous National Spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign.
- Became the first openly transgender person to address a major party political convention in 2016.
- Highest-ranking transgender elected official in United States history as a state senator in Delaware and currently running for U.S. Congress.
- Married to the late Andrew Cray, CFHS graduate 2004.
- Author of *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss and the Fight for Trans Equality*.

An Interview with Sarah McBride

LGBTQ+ history-maker, married to the late Andrew Cray of Chippewa Falls, Delaware state senator and 2024 U.S. Congress candidate, author



On **January 7, 2024, at 6:30 PM**, the series on Creating a Welcoming Community will continue. The January Zoom session will be with Sarah McBride, who is very familiar with the issues affecting LGBTQ+ people and other marginalized groups. Too often the needs of these people are not realized by members of the community.

Sarah McBride will

- inform us how the issues of marginalized people affect everyone.
- challenge our thinking.
- inspire us to make a difference in our community.
- motivate each of us to take bold new steps.
- encourage us to work together to make tomorrow different.

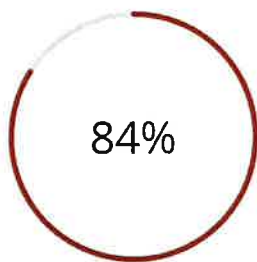
Although not required, reading Sarah's book, *Tomorrow Will Be Different*, prior to the event would be helpful.

Please request the Zoom link for this informative session at linktosignup@gmail.com.

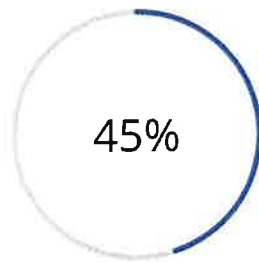
1/14/24 Accessibility Check-in Education Hour

Is there any way Our Saviour's could be more accessible for you or a family member? Let us know! We recognize that many accommodations are not 'one size fits all', so how can our space at OSLC better serve you? Whether it's something like having access to a print bulletin to lessen anxiety, installing a sound system that connects to hearing aids, or adding a handrail somewhere, we want to make sure you feel comfortable and safe here. This education hour will be a dedicated time to listen and will not have a presentation.

DID YOU KNOW?



People with disabilities who say their faith is important to them.



People with severe disabilities who attend a place of worship at least monthly.



Faith communities that do congregation-wide disability awareness.



Parents who changed their place of worship because their child was not included or welcomed.

Learn more at faithanddisability.org

Thank you to those who sent Christmas cards and greetings. I feel blessed to serve amongst you and appreciate your generosity, support, and thoughtfulness.

Peace and Joy, *Pastor Karen*

Cookie Mystery

From the Silent Auction, did you have the winning bid for 3 Dozen Specialty Cookies? Pastor Karen is wondering who you are, and will be glad to fill your order with advance notice.

Dementia 101

Join us as we discuss

- Aging vs. not normal aging
- What to do if you notice changes
- How many people in Wisconsin have it
- how to communicate effectively with a person with brain changes
- how to decrease stigma around dementia
- local support for caregivers
- What the Chippewa Valley Dementia Coalition is

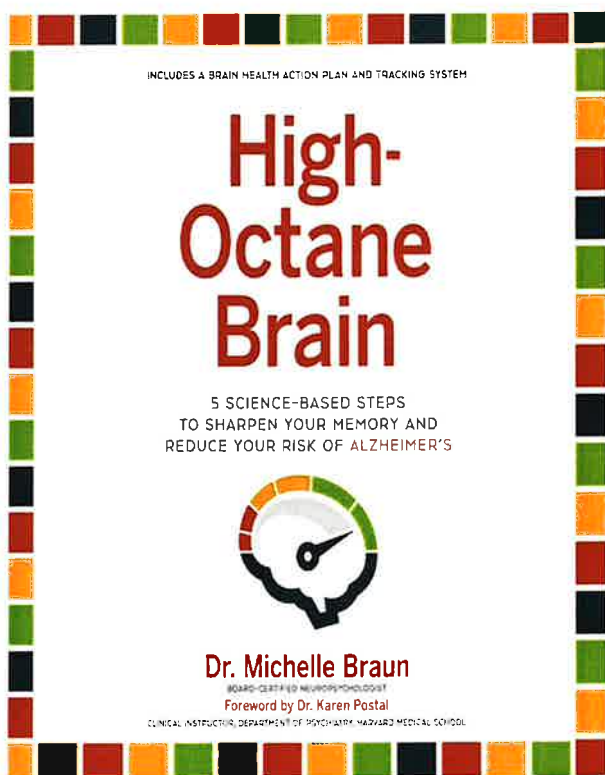
February 25 @ 10:30 am

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1300 Mansfield Street, Chippewa Falls



Healthy Brain Book Club



January 18th –

March 7th, 2024

Thursday 11am-Noon

We will discuss 1 chapter per week. Learn what you can do to protect your brain as you age

We will meet virtually once a week.

.....



All participants will receive a free copy of the book



For more information or to register contact Kim Bauer at Kimberly.bauer@sccwi.gov

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Chippewa County Presents

Virtual Book Club

Stories related to journeys of Dementia

What is this book club about?

Join us from the comfort of your own home. We will discuss caring for someone living with dementia and all that it entails. We will discuss one chapter per week. Books are available through the ADRC.

Thursdays

1/19/24—

3/14/24

3:00-4:00p.m

Virtual (Webex)



PAULINE BOSS, PhD

Loving Someone Who Has Dementia

How to Find Hope While Coping with Stress and Grief

BY THE AUTHOR OF *Ambiguous Loss*

"A gift to caregivers, in particular 'boomers' who find themselves in a role for which they are unprepared ... Intelligent and sensitive ... a fine contribution."
—GAIL SHEEHY, best-selling author of *Passages in Caregiving*

Presented by: *Carla Berscheit, Dementia Care Specialist*

Register by 1/11/24:
www.co.chippewa.wi.us/adrc/events
Or call the ADRC at 715-726-7777



Happy New Year ! The deacons have enjoyed our coffee break times at church. Thank you to all who have attended and everybody who hasn't - try it in 2024.

We decided not to schedule coffee breaks in January and February (so people can stay warm at home) and start up again in March - watch for the date to be announced.

If any church member would like a phone call or a visit during the winter (or any season) feel free to call your deacon or call me , Toni 715-726-2100, and we will arrange that for you. God bless you.

Little Pantry

Thank you for the regular donations that keep appearing to stock the Little Pantry at the Mansfield entrance. The most popular items continue to be granola or breakfast bars, easy-to-microwave meals, nuts, fruit snacks, cans of soup with a pull-top, meat sticks, etc. Hand warmers also seem popular on extra chilly days.

To support this effort, you may place your donations directly in the Little Pantry, or leave them with Pastor Karen who has a designated corner of her office for such items, or order on-line and have your donation shipped to the church address: 1300 Mansfield St.

Synod Book Study with the Bishop

Pastor Karen invites others to join her in an engaging book conversation via Zoom on Thursday, January 25 at either Noon or 7 p.m. Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson will lead the discussion of the book

When Church Stops Working: A Future for Your Congregation

beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation

by Andrew Root and Blair D. Bertrand

This book is written intentionally for congregational leaders who find themselves weary from seemingly endless pressure to do more and be more. With a closer look at scripture, these authors invite us to make space for more listening in order to discern the path forward for living God's mission.

Join the Zoom Synod Book Study [HERE](#)

Dear Partners/Companions,

CHRISTMAS WISHES AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS

As a year is drawing to an end, and as we are celebrating Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ, on behalf of the Presiding Bishop of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi, Rt. Rev Dr Joseph P Bvumbwe and the Acting General Secretary, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year 2023.

The year 2023 will go down in history as one of the most difficult years we as a nation in general and as a Church in particular faced enormous challenges such as cholera, cyclone Freddy, economic meltdown and so far El Nino which will associate with dry spell in Malawi. Almost 90% of the country has not yet started receiving rains. The dry spell will lead to next year's food shortages. We all know too well how negatively these have affected our daily life spiritually as well as physically.

Despite all these challenges you have been with us. This celebration of coming and the birth of Christ reminds us how God has been faithful during these difficult times. 2023 has been a difficult year worldwide due to the Ukrainians and Russians war, now Israelites and Palestinians in Gaza. This has affected all of us globally. May this holiday season be a time of rest filled with peace, love, joy and all the things that make life worth living.

From miles away, no matter how far we are as companions/partners, the warmth of Christmas should bring us closer. The birth of Christ should let the light of faith and warmth of our partnership make this season a time of reflection.

The most consoling and encouraging message of Christmas as in Luke, the angel told shepherds, ***"Do not be afraid."*** God is also speaking to us during this time that we should not be afraid. He is the God of hope. The coming Christmas should bring us hope. Romans 15: 13: ***"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*** Luke 1:14: ***"And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth."*** Luke 2:14: ***"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace."***

Once again, we send all our blessings and good wishes to you. May Jesus coming strengthen our partnership and bring peace, health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming New Year of 2024.

Mphatso Thole

DIRECTOR - Property and Investments, Communication, Information and Technology
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MALAWI (ELCM)

P O Box 650

Lilongwe, MALAWI

Opposite: Kaufulu Primary School

Along: Chidzanja Road

Area 22/22

+265 999 063 044/265 884 105 564

Dear Mphatso,

Thank you for your Christmas greetings on behalf of the ELCM. Please convey to Bishop and Maria Bvumbweour greetings as well, and our sincere wishes for all the church in Malawi a joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.

We know of all the tribulations our brothers and sisters in Malawi have suffered this past year, and continue to do so, from the ongoing weather catastrophes, lack of rainfall, the ever present dangers of illness, etc. We know this and we grieve for those who are enduring these calamities and yet remain firm in their faith and trust in God and in His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, whose coming into this world and into our lives we are reminded of in this season of Advent and in our celebration of his birth at Christmas.

We also need you, Mphatso, to give our direct greetings to our companions at the Lilongwe Cathedral Parish. We hope that the leaders of the Parish will soon provide us the name of their Companionship Coordinator so that we can maintain regular communications.

On behalf of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin
LaMae and Curt Rohland

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH
1300 MANSFIELD STREET
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 269
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Important Dates:

**January 1 Happy New
Year!!**

Office Closed!

**January 4 Annual Reports
Due!**

**January 14 Annual Report
Available**

January 21 Budget Meeting

**January 28 Annual Meeting
with pot luck to follow**

Deacon

Ron Buckles 715-579-0879

Kristi Lund 715-590-2723

Deb Olson 715-577-4745
Good

Sheryl and Dale Shipman

Dale's Phone 715-557-6544

Sheryl's Phone 715-577-3356

Mary Blake 715-723-5743

Bonnie Buckles 715-579-3933

Toni Eckardt 715-829-9555

Dawn Pearson 715-226-5627

Donna Meade 715-864-5493

Last Name

A-Blo

Boa-Cut

Dob-

Gos-Ive

Jac-Lie

Lin-Mus

Naz-Pla

Por-Sta

Ste-Zwi

Noisy Offering

Ukraine



Our Saviour's Staff

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Toni Eckardt-Volunteer Coordinator tonieckardt@gmail.com 715.723.6048

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Ron Buckles-Choir Director ron_bon23@hotmail.com 715.579.0879

Lisa Carter-Office Manager office@oslccf.net 715.723.6048

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SCAN ME