

It is Advent, the first season of the Christian calendar.

The word Advent comes from the Latin adventus which means "coming" or "arrival."

You can hear this in Advent hymns like "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "Savior of the Nations, Come."

We also celebrate Advent by faithfully awaiting Jesus' return. Advent, then, is a season to practice faithful waiting. We not only remember the story of the coming incarnation of God in Jesus, but we also wait ourselves for his return. Therefore, we live in the already/not yet of the Christian. Advent is a great time to really focus on this, to lean into the **watching and waiting.** 

There are four Sundays in Advent, each celebrating a differing aspect of watching and waiting. Those aspects are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We recognize each of these by lighting the four outer candles on an Advent Wreath. For this reason, I personally prefer having an Advent Wreath at home versus an Advent calendar. Don't get me wrong, I don't begrudge anyone their Advent calendar. There are some really good ones out there, like the annual ELCA World Hunger Advent Calendar found here: <a href="https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/elca-world-hunger/wh-advent">https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/elca-world-hunger/wh-advent</a>

I personally prefer the wreath because I like to focus on the differing aspects of watching and waiting rather than letting myself simply countdown to Christmas. With that being said, here are a few scripture passages to help you wait and watch as well:

#### **HOPE**

Isaiah 8:5-17 Psalm 130 1 Peter 1:3-9 Romans 8:18-25

#### **PEACE**

Isaiah 9:1-7
Colossians 1:13-23
Ephesians 2:11-18
Ephesians 4:1-6

#### JOY

Psalm 105:43
Isaiah 51:1-11
Luke 2:8-14
John 15:9-17
Matthew 5:11-12
2 Corinthians 6:1-10

#### **LOVE**

December 2025

Deuteronomy 6:5 Leviticus 19:18 Luke 6:27-36 1 John 4:7-21 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Our community is also celebrating Advent on Wednesday evenings along with other local churches. Each is hosting a soup supper followed by Holden Evening Prayer. Holden Evening Prayer is another Advent tradition. The watching and waiting for a Messiah to lift up the poor and feed the hungry is found throughout the service, not the least of which we hear in Mary's Magnificat. Please participate with us,

Wednesday | December 3
Zion Lutheran Church
1000 Washington Ave
6p Soup Supper
6:30p Holden Evening Prayer



Wednesday | December 10 Our Saviors Lutheran 612 12<sup>th</sup> Street 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Holden Evening Prayer



Wednesday | December 17
Presbyterian Church of Cloquet
47 4<sup>th</sup> Street
6p Soup Supper
6:30p Holden Evening Prayer

In this way, we can lean into the watching and waiting together as a community of faithful servants.

Singing Advent hymns, lighting candles on an Advent wreath, using meditation and prayer to contemplate hope, peace, joy, and love, eating soup together in community, worshiping on Sundays and Wednesdays, and opening up daily devotions via an Advent calendar; these are all ways to stop rushing to Christmas (and let's face it, there is enough rushing during the holidays). I invite you, rather, into a season of faithful watching and waiting for the coming Christ Jesus.

Happy Advent Everyone!









# YOUR IRA: SAVE TAXES AND GIVE THROUGH A "QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION"

If you are at least age 70 1/2 you have an opportunity to maximize your tax savings while giving!
You can request your IRA custodian to send money DIRECTLY to Our Savior's with NO TAX CONSEQUENCES!
This also works for your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) amount. And there's no need to worry about whether you will itemize your deductions as the distribution is not included in your income in the first place! See your financial advisor today for details.

If you want to make your 2026 Church offering in late 2025 for tax purposes, WE CAN DO THAT TOO!

Simply give the check, or information on the distribution from your financial representative, to Kristen or Bruce in the office. You will then get credit for the contribution on the date it is received (So start that process EARLY if you want your financial representative involved!) on your 2025

(year-end tax summary as long as the funds are received in the office BEFORE Wednesday December 31, 2025. On the Church's books however, your donation will be allocated to whatever time period you want (i.e. 12 months of 2026, first six months, whatever) and to the fund you want (i.e. Envelope Offering, Mission Appeal, etc). But you must let Kristen or Bruce know when and how to allocate your contribution, please don't assume we know!

Finally, if you make a contribution in late 2025 for 2026 and are filling out your pledge card, please note what will be paid in late 2025 and what you will wait to contribute until 2026.

If you have questions, call Bruce at 218-591-9483.

Just Plain Palanca . . .

"Always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18

The Palanca Deacons team is growing into just plain Palanca. It's still all of us, acting as a spiritual lever to help us all move toward God, but with deeper roots in what we do to support one another through mutual ministry. Palanca Deacons nurture the spiritual life of our pastor, employees, youth workers, members, volunteers and visitors. We endeavor to provide spiritual guidance in everything pertaining to the worship and spiritual growth through things like assisting in leading worship, offering a conduit of communication to the team and the pastor, and as always, offering prayers on behalf of one another.

With that in mind, everyone on Palanca wants to make sure you know they are here to offer mutual ministry and pastoral care. Do you need something brought up to the pastor? Need some prayers? How about confidentiality? We can and DO all that! So please reach out to one of the team members listed below and let us support one another doing good for each other and everyone else.

Pastor Luke Lekander Shannon Matzdorf

Kathy Rye

Denny Painter Thera Wiersma

Sherri Waller Jan Larson

Rob Macaulay

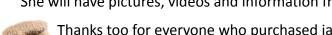
Linda Jankowski

Linda Holmstrand

To Know Christ and to Have Others Know Him



One of our MMM leaders, Marilyn Cluka, a retired public health nurse, went to Haiti in October to support the diabetic education efforts. Thanks for your prayers for her safety during her travels. She will be joining us for a presentation after services on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. She will have pictures, videos and information from her visit.



Thanks too for everyone who purchased jam to support MMM. Once again, if you can save and return the jars and/or rings, it would be appreciated. We sterilize and reuse ½ pint and pint size jars. There's a donation box in the narthex for jars.



Please prayerfully consider helping financially as MMM continues to support Dr. Manno's work in Haiti. If able to help, donations can be given through OSLC by putting Haiti Mission in the memo line of your check or donation, or give directly to Ministry in Medical Missions by contacting Missions Chair, Marilyn Cluka at mcnur@aol.com or 218 390 7264.

Ministry in Medical Missions

Thanks for your continued prayers and support, Mary Krohn for Ministry in Medical Mission (MMM)

Each year the Salvation Army hosts a program that provides gifts for children in the community who might not otherwise receive a gift. Our Savior's has agreed to sponsor 20 children again this year.

## How to Participate - "Adopt a Child"

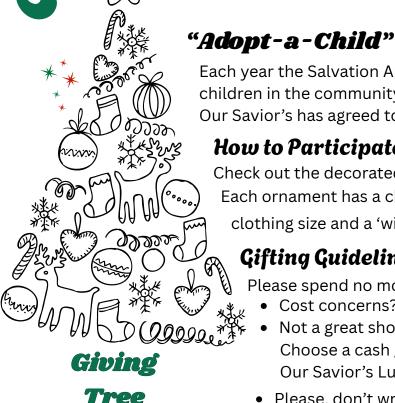
Check out the decorated Giving Tree in the Narthex. Each ornament has a child's number (#) with age, gender, clothing size and a 'wish list' of gifts s/he would like.

## **Gifting Guidelines**

Please spend no more than \$50 for each child adopted.

- Cost concerns? Partner up with someone or even a family!
- Not a great shopper but want to help? Choose a cash gift ornament. Checks can be made out to Our Savior's Lutheran Church with the memo "Giving Tree"
- Please, don't wrap gift; but a gift bag with it would be GREAT!

Our volunteer team will purchase gifts for any unclaimed ornaments and will organize and deliver the gifts to the Salvation Army. For giving a child a very Merry Christmas!









heran (hurch)
30 poinsettias will enhance the church sanctuary this Christmas season! Want to sponsor a plant?

Please fill out this form, drop it in the offering plate, in the mail, or just give it to the church office.

Proceeds will benefit the Middle School Youth Group. Please return the form before December 17, 2025 and fill in the lines below.

Name(s) of Buyer:				
Quantity:	x \$20 =	Total:		
Please designate and check one: ( FOR:		Celebration of		
FOR:For office use only: G8MList		·O	Messenger	



## PPC Minutes 11/18/2025

Present: Brad Browers (Worship, Arts and Music), Bob DeCaigny (Secretary), Jill Elwood (Youth), Roxanne Frederick (Christian Education), Connor Hecht (President), Linda Holmstrand (Fellowship), Pastor Luke, Kathy Rye (Past President, Palanca Deacons and Church in Society), Marty Rye (Properties), Sue Stahl (Stewardship), Deb Templeton (Treasurer)

Others in Attendance: Lisa Hecht, Pat Luck, Curt Nelson, Jane Oswold, Cindy Raun and Sherri Waller (all here for agenda item Fireside Room furniture and carpet replacement)

Unable to attend: Rob Macaulay (Vice President), Shannon Matzdorf (Welcome), WELCA, NHCP

- 1. Welcome and Sharing of Highs and Lows: Members shared as they desired.
- **2. Devotion and Opening Prayer:** Youth Ministry Centered on a devotion from "Stand Your Ground: Devotions for Teens by Teens" and 1 Corinthians 1:18.
- 3. Approval of October 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Jill made a motion and Deb seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report/ Financials

• Deb presented the following information: for October income was \$20,511 compared to our budget of \$20,107 (\$404 above plan) and expenses were \$21,587 compared to our budget of \$21,257 (\$329 above plan) for a net gain of \$75.YTD we are \$15,349 ahead of plan.

#### 5. Pastor's Report

- Since our last meeting, Confirmation met each Wednesday evening. Twice we had our usual study of scripture and catechism. One other meeting consisted of a Zoom meet-up between multiple confirmation groups around the state and a guest speaker. The other was for Mental Health Night. This was a great evening of fun and information led by Joy Hensel. Our groups are featured in this week's Synod newsletter. Amid that, we had Confirmation Sunday. Our confirmand's faith statements gave powerful witness to God's activity in these students' lives.
- My son and I again helped serve at the annual Lutefisk dinner. It was a great afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. We are so thankful to participate in this long-running tradition.
- I attended the Kettle River Conference gathering and learned more about the upcoming Bishop Election. There currently is a survey that any member can fill out. Paper copies are in the Narthex, or you can go to the website listed on the paper copy and fill it out online. The nomination period will take place from December 8<sup>th</sup> and close on January 14<sup>th</sup>. All rostered ministers (that's me) and voting members must attend the conference assembly on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM, site TBD. Stay tuned for more information.
- We celebrated All Saints Sunday this year along with a baptism.
- I participated in both the WAM and Christian Ed meetings.
- I am excited for shared soup & Holden Evening Worship on Wednesday evenings during Advent. The first Wednesday will happen at Zion, we have the 10<sup>th</sup>, and the final Wednesday will be at Cloquet Presbyterian. There is a flyer posted on Facebook and in the Narthex with the details.
- As stated earlier, I had one baptism this month and I went on one visit.

#### 6. Team Leader Reports

- <u>Christian Education</u>: Adult Ed continues to walk in the church, bible study, and an event for Jan/Feb. Nine confirmation participants this year. Second grade students will receive bibles at the 12-7 worship service. Looking at providing an additional first communion class as we have interested children. Sunday School attendance is low. We had a great discussion regarding the needs/wants of our families concerning Sunday School. Listening sessions will be held to hear more about what families would like to see moving forward and before making any decisions on changing our program. Sunday School/Youth Christmas Service will be 12-21 at the 9:30 service.
- <u>Church Properties:</u> The dishwasher has had an intermittent issue. The van needs repair (tire, sliding door and ABS). Questions have arisen about OSLC property lines, a survey may be conducted. The Scouting America troop requested trailer storage space alongside the garage.
- Palanca Deacons: The Team is emphasizing mutual ministry and will be communicate that to the congregation.
- Welcome: a. Moving Trunk or Treat to the Saturday before Halloween in 2025 has doubled attendance from 2024. A future New Members Sunday to be held in early 2026 is next on our agenda.
- <u>Fellowship</u>: At our last meeting discussed budget for 2026 and the need for team members. We are starting to get more signups for Sunday morning coffee. Thank you to these volunteers!
- NHCP: No report
- Stewardship Team: Mary Krohn is leading work on the development of a narrative spending budget.

#### DECEMBER 2025

## **PPC Minutes Continued**



#### 7. Team Leader Reports - continued

- Worship, Arts & Music: the team decided to eliminate the 10:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve due to attendance and keep 3 and 5 p.m. the same. The team will reconsider this in 2026 and whether it should be permanent. There will be a Wednesday evening Advent service using the Holden Evening Prayer hosted by Our Savior's 12-10, Zion and Presbyterian churches are invited to attend. The sanctuary pianos will be tuned before Tom Cawcutt's Christmas concert. There has been interest in creating a youth Praise team band.
- Youth Ministry: Desserts and water bottles were provided for the Mental Health Night Dinner 11-5. We are considering purchasing a game called "Granny Pants" which can be played indoors or out, adapted to varying abilities and be fun for all ages. Thinking of hosting a game and/or movie night for January or February. Middle School Youth Group has had as many as 22 kids in attendance! We assisted in making lefse by peeling potatoes and five of us returned Thursday to help with the adults.
- WELCA: No report
- Church in Society: Preparing for the blanket exercise.

#### 7. Old Business

- <u>Community of Hope</u>: Dinners are on the second Sunday of the month, next one 11-9. There will also be one 11-30 since there are five Sundays in November.
- Rental Space: Sarah Klyve's work is on hold until the NHCP Committee hears back from the architect.
- NHCP Steering Committee: Waiting to hear back from the architect, which should be this week.
- Establishing Core Values for Mission: The video will be edited by Thanksgiving.
- Lutefisk Dinner: held 11-1, 218 people served with a profit of \$2,200.
- <u>Fireside Room furniture and carpet replacement:</u> a budget was presented by the Fireside Room Renovation Committee (Lisa, Cindy and Sherri) and is available as Appendix I. Questions and discussion followed. Curt reviewed funds availability from Mission Endowment. He encouraged the congregation be made aware of the project and its availability as a potential giving area. The Committee will be asked by Connor to develop a "vision board" to be used in communicating the project. Sue made a motion and Kathy seconded to approve the Fireside Room Renovation Proposal as presented with the exception of the lighting line item to insert the word possibly in front of the word splitting. The motion carried unanimously.
- Christmas bazaar and program: Both events will be held December 21st
- Advent soup suppers: December 3rd is at Zion Lutheran, 10th at OSLC and the 17th at the Presbyterian church. The worship service will be the Holden Evening Prayer.

#### 8. New Business

- Salvation Army giving tree: Being coordinated by Linda Holmstrand and Lisa Hecht.
- Christmas Carol Service December 28th: No communion that Sunday.
- <u>Property lines:</u> Marty issued a memo summarizing potential property line concerns. An uncontested boundary line can be
  established through long-standing use. The PPC felt this should be addressed by a surveyor setting monuments to establish the
  property lines. Sue made a motion and Kathy seconded to survey all property lines which were raised in his memo. The motion
  carried unanimously.
- <u>Lighting replacement with LEDs</u>: The priority is the office, the library and the remaining areas in the church. MN Power has been contacted to research grants or other financial support programs through them.
- <u>Church van</u>: Marty issued a memo regarding van repairs needed, including, new front tires, ABS and sliding door. The PPC endorsed moving forward with the repairs.
- Annual budget presentation tentatively set for December 16<sup>th</sup> Bruce Larson will present.
- 10. Next Meeting December 16, 2025, 6:30 p.m.: Devotion and opening prayer--Church in Society
- 11. Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer
- 12. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.









Wednesday | December 3 Zion Lutheran Church 1000 Washington Ave 6p Soup Supper 6:30p Holden Evening Prayer



Wednesday | December 10
Our Saviors Lutheran
612 12<sup>th</sup> Street
5:30p Soup Supper
6:30p Holden Evening Prayer



Wednesday | December 17
Presbyterian Church of Cloquet
47 4<sup>th</sup> Street
6p Soup Supper
6:30p Holden Evening Prayer

## Happy Birthday

#### Dec 1

· Avery Motzko

#### Dec 6

Jordan Peil

#### Dec 8

Julie Lyytinen

#### Dec 9

- Daniel Gilchrist
- Roger Lyytinen
- Nancy Singpiel

#### Dec 10

· Richard Bloom

#### Dec 11

Andrew Korby

#### **Dec 12**

Robert Carroll

#### Dec 13

· Irene Rudnicki

#### Dec 14

· Richard Krikava

#### Dec 15

Amanda Hietala

#### ec 16

- · Leighton Hanson
- · Tim Heren

#### Dec 19

- Duane Buytaert
- Cindy Stein

#### Dec 20

· Conrad Kiehn

#### Dec 23

· Katie Nisula

#### Dec 25

· Jennie Bryant

#### Dec 26

· Cortland Roe

#### **Dec 27**

· Peggy DeCaigny

#### Dec 30

Azalyn Lust

#### Dec 30

Madelynn Young

#### Dec 31

- Trish Johnson
- Dean Lembke



## **December Volunteers**



Altar Gu	<u>Altar Guild</u> <u>Communion Servers (Palanca Deacons):</u>			<u>ers (Palanca Deacons):</u>		
12/07	9:30	Rob Macaulay	12/07		9:30 Denny Painter, Ron Stahl, Roy Ober	
12/14	9:30	Sherri Waller	12/14		9:30 Jan Larson, Deb Templeton, Dave Templeton	
12/21	9:30	Linda Boyd	12/21		9:30 Curt Nelson, Dean Haglin, Cindy Haglin	
12/24	3pm/	Christmas Eve	12/24		3:00p Christmas Eve	
<b>12, 2</b> 4	5pm	Ciristinas Eve	12/24		5:00p Christmas Eve	
12/28	9:30	No Communion	12/28		9:30 No Communion	
<u>Readers</u>					4	
12/07	9:30	Bob DeCaigny	<u>Ushers</u>		* * * *	
12/14	9:30	Becky Anderson	12/07	9:30	Hagen Family *	
12/21	9:30	Sunday School Program	12/14	9:30	Randall Family	
12/24	3:00p	Keith Matzdorf	12/21	9:30	Matzdorf Family	
12/28	5:00p	Scott Elwood	12/24	3pm/	Christmas Eve	
12/28	9:30	Kathy Rye, Marty Rye, Kirsten	-	5pm		
		Rye, Will Buytaert, Gavin Painter,	12/28	9:30	Linda and Jim Boyd, Sherri Waller	

<b>Sound Board O</b>	perators
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BC

Harper Elias, Avery Elias,

**Connor Hecht** 

12/07	9:30 Terry and Sue Nanti	<b>12/07</b> 9:30 Kelsey Rye / Kelsey Rye
12/14	9:30 Randy and Amy Stahl	<b>12/14</b> 9:30 Bruce Larson / Brad Browers
12/21	9:30 Terry and Sue Nanti	12/21 9:30 Bruce Larson / Kelsey Rye
12/24	3:00p Terry and Sue Nanti	12/24 3:00p NEED VIDEO VOLUNTEER! / NEED EDITOR!
12/24	5:00p Need a Volunteer!	12/24 5:00p NEED VIDEO VOLUNTEER! / NEED EDITOR!
12/28	9:30 Randy and Amy Stahl	12/28 9:30 NEED VIDEO VOLUNTEER! / NEED EDITOR!

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm at Our Savior's in the Fireside room to discuss various books of interest for both men and women.

For more information contact Jan Larson or Mary Krohn.

The December book is "Family Tree" by Barbara Delinsky.

The January book is "The Berry Pickers" by

Amanda Peters.

Video Booth Operator / Video Editor





**Offering** 

Needed



## **Church Records**

**Date** 

	October 25 Budget	October 25 Actual	YTD 2025 Budget	YTD 2025 Actual
Income	20,107	20,511	205,947	203,203
Expenses	21,257	21,587	212,008	193,914
2025 Net Income	(1,151)	(1,075)	(6,061)	9,289
2024 Net Income	(3,679)	1,680	(4,303)	29,790

203	October 26	161	2,704	4,904
014	November 2	161	9,238	4,123
	November 9	110	3,820	4,123
39	November 16	129	3,678	4,123
90	November 23	123	4,375	4,123
	Totals	684	23.815	21.396

Attendance

Offering

### **Gifts & Memorials:**

- Peter and Carolyn Pierson in memory of Susan Bryant to the Cloquet Salvation Army.
- Dale and Marilee Mielke in memory of Susan Bryant, Jan Beberg's sister, to the Cloquet Salvation Army
- · Carole Balow in memory of Susan Bryant to Second
- Richard and Cindy Raun in memory of Harry Berg to the Gift and Memorial Fund
- Curtis and Mary Jo Jackson to the Gift and Memorial Fund for maintenance of the organ with fond memories of being the choir director and building the pipe organ and in memory of Mona Brown Anderson for her gifts of music in worship at OSLC

#### Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

- Dennis Morreim in memory of Jeanne Morreim
- Linda Eastgate in memory of mother Marlene Hilton and Steve Jankowski
- Sharon Lavan in memory of Tom Lavan
- Randy and Amy Stahl in celebration of Shirley Tremblay
- Jane Oswald in memory of of Robert Oswold, Parents, and Grandparents



## FOOD SHELF SUNDAY The first Sunday of the month is

designated as Food Shelf Sunday.

NOND HAPL Monetary gifts collected help

BOTH

Second Harvest and SALVATIO Cloquet Salvation Army.

Every \$1 donated ensures 3 meals for

families, children, and seniors in need.

Let's share our blessings.

Thank you from Katie Nisula, Irene Rudnicki, and Jen Behrens

A·M·A·Z·I·N·G

Contributions 10-27-25 to 11-23-25

\$2,330.00



Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the members of our congregation that are former or current military. Please contact the Church office for any other members we may have missed or if any of these names should be removed.

**Tim Schlenvogt Tim Larson** 

Erika Blesner River Krikava





https://www.facebook.com/oursaviorscloquet

**Pastor:** 

Pastor Luke Lekander (ext. 11) pastorluke@oursaviorscloquet.org

**Visitation:** 

visitation@oursaviorscloquet.org (218) 879-1535

**Administrative Assistant:** 

Kristen Adams (ext. 10) email@oursaviorscloquet.org

**Accounting:** 

Bruce Larson, Bookkeeper bruce@oursaviorscloquet.org

Sr Choir/Praise & Worship:

Ryan Hanson, Director ryan.hanson77@gmail.com

**Church Website:** 

oursaviorscloquet.org

Sat-Sun: CLOSED

**Church Office Hours:** 

Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Friday: 8 am - Noon



Deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of the month.

Articles submitted after the 15<sup>th</sup> will be published in the next issue. If possible, e-mail your article to: email@oursaviorscloquet.org.



## Join us for Worship!

## In Person and on

Sundays at 9:30am



By 3:00 pm Sundays



## **CAT-7 Broadcast**

2:00pm - Tuesday 3:30pm - Wednesdays 3:30pm - The Following Sunday 9:00am - Monday



Please remember the following friends below not always able to join us on Sundays:

Mabel Clemens Carolyn Watson Robert Fountain Sharon Harney

Ray Manisto Lyle and Candy Hultgren

Joan Essen Carol Maki Bob Fuller Karen Splett Donna Gillmor Donna Redding

Jeanne Brenna



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 615 12<sup>th</sup> Street

Cloquet MN 55720

Phone: 218-879-1535



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Address Service Requested
November 2025

