

# THE GRAPEVINE

Our Savior & Bethlehem Lutheran

## JANUARY 2022



Sr. Pastor: Chad Trunkhill	chad@trunkhill.org	712-571-9249
Church Office	oursaviorlsb@outlook.com	712-263-3282

### Victims and Heroes

From Lutheran Witness December 9, 2021, By Joshua Theilen  
The Rev. Joshua Theilen is a husband, father, camp director and pastor in Central Illinois.

Victims and heroes. You can hear the laments of victims on the airwaves crying out for justice. You can also see the heroes on television patting themselves on the back for all their hard work. Popular media encourages us to see ourselves in one of these two categories, as either a victim or a hero.

There are certainly people in our world who have been victimized. They have been oppressed, beaten, raped and mugged; in other words, sinned against. There are also heroes, people who have made sacrifices for the greater good and worked hard to earn what they have. This article, however, is concerned with these two *mindsets*. What are the traps of victim and hero mentalities, and how do we avoid them?



Imagine a spectrum that represents a human being's attitude toward life. On one far end you have a total victim mentality. On the other extreme you have a total hero mentality. Depending upon our personal circumstances, we tend to slide to one end of that spectrum or the other.

#### Everyone else's fault

A man in the victim mentality views himself as the passive recipient of the aggression, oppression and ill intent of other men. Things happen to him. Others act upon him. He, however, is not responsible for his circumstances. He tends to think: "Woe is me."

In the victim mentality, a man labels others as oppressors, bullies, dictators, abusers or jerks. Perhaps in certain instances these labels are well-deserved. Labels, though, allow him to dehumanize others, to cast them as the villains in his story.

He is then free to ignore his own sinful contribution to the problem. Is there conflict at work? "Things would be great if the office wasn't filled with jerks!" Is there marital tension? "Life would be wonderful if my wife were not such a nag." He bears no responsibility — or, at least, very little. If he cannot blame another individual person, he will broaden out the blame to groups or organizations: the government, big pharma, immigrants, corporations, the rich, the aliens. Like Adam standing naked before God in the Garden of Eden, he shifts the blame: "The man [Adam] said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate'" (Gen. 3:12).

Consider a different biblical example:


Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food. But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, "Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?" And he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" *1 Kings 21:1-6*

Naboth has good reason to keep his land. It belonged to his father and has been with his family for generations; furthermore, Levitical law forbade the selling of ancestral lands in perpetuity (Lev. 25:23-34). Ahab, however, goes home and sulks; someone else is preventing him from getting what he wants. The story continues as Queen Jezebel frames Naboth for blasphemy and has him stoned to death, thus freeing the vineyard for King Ahab to enjoy.

Neither Ahab nor Jezebel respect the command of God concerning property. Ahab cannot see his own greed and selfish desire. He can only see what he wants and the "villain" who stood in his way. He thinks he is a victim of others.

A victim mentality brings great harm to the Christian; it strangles our ability to repent of our own sins and to forgive the sins of others. We can see clearly what everyone else has done wrong, but not what we have done wrong. Since others are at fault, we do not need to show them grace.

**Continued on page 13...**

Our Savior (bold & black)		JANUARY 2022			Bethlehem (blue, bold, italicized)	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Communion will be served during this service ✠	Church Office Hrs Mon - Fri 9:00 – 2:00	 <p><b>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.</b> Psalm 23:1</p>			Dec 31  New Years Eve	Jan 1 New Years Day Happy 2022!  5:30 OS Worship✠ Gary Thies, Missionary
2 9:00 OS Worship ✠ Gary Thies, Missionary  10:30 B Worship ✠ Gary Thies, Missionary	3 9:00 Coffee Crew 9:00 Quilters  7:00 Elders Mtg.	4 3:30 CCHF Backpacks  7:00 AA	5 6:15 – 6:45: 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Worship Skills 6:45 – 7:45: 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord	7	8   5:30 OS Worship
9 The Baptism of Our Lord 9:00 OS Worship After Service: Sunday School TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS 9:15 B Sunday School 10:30 B Worship	10 9:00 Coffee Crew  5:30 Women's Guild Meeting	11 2:00 Ladies Aid 3:30 CCHF Backpacks  7:00 Council Mtg. 7:00 AA	12 6:00 Choir 6:15 – 6:45: 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Worship Skills 6:45 – 7:45: 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	13	14	15  5:30 OS Worship✠
16 9:00 OS Worship ✠ After Service: Sunday School  9:15 B Sunday School 10:30 B Worship ✠  5:00 NYG Meeting	17 9:00 Coffee Crew 9:00 Quilters  7:00 Bethlehem Leadership Meeting	18 CCHF @ Presbyterian Church: 1:00 Preparation 3:00 Distribution 3:30 CCHF Backpacks 7:00 AA	19 6:00 Choir 6:15 – 6:45: 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Worship Skills 6:45 – 7:45: 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	20	21 Feb Grapevine Info Due Rental: 3:00 – 7:00: Riessen/ Thompson Wedding Rehearsal	22 Rental: 7:00 – 4:30 3:00 Riessen/ Wedding  5:30 OS Worship CCRTL Bake Sale
23 SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY 9:00 OS Worship After Service: Sunday School CCRTL Bake Sale  9:15 B Sunday School 10:30 B Worship	24 9:00 Coffee Crew  6:30 Discipleship Mtg.	25 3:30 CCHF Backpacks  7:00 Right to Life Mtg.  7:00 AA	26 6:00 Choir 6:15 – 6:45: 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Worship Skills 6:45 – 7:45: 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	27	28	29  5:30 OS Worship
30 9:00 OS Family Led Service LWML Noisy Offering After Service: Sunday School 9:15 B Sunday School 10:30 B Worship	31 9:00 Coffee Crew		<b>Take Note:</b> January Youth Activities and Our Savior Bible Study schedules are being finalized and will be communicated when they are available.			Updated 12/31/21

Please contact the office directly if you have a new event/meeting in the next 7 days. If it is in the future, please put it on the large calendar posted in the office or contact the office directly.  
To make changes, communicate directly to the office. Thank you!

## **Our Savior Lutheran Church Council Meeting December 14, 2021**

Attendees: Craig Dozark, Rachel Greene, Alan Suntken, Chuck Downing, Rod Bradley, Kathe Schneider, Elaine Gotto, Heather Riessen, Emily Thams and Lorna Desy

The meeting was called to order by Craig Dozark at 7:00 pm  
Craig Dozark led us in an opening devotion.

Minutes from the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting were approved as printed.

Senior Pastor's Report (Pastor Trunkhill)

- Numbers are still up.
- 1 funeral

Elder's Report (Chuck Downing)

- Elders will be doing service till Pastor Chad is back.

Motion by Rod Bradley to accept the Reports seconded Kathy Schneider. All ayes, motion carried.

Youth/Education (Emily Thams and Katie Gehlsen)

- Christmas program practice is going good.
- NYG will be selling cinnamon rolls.
- Storage room is cleaned out.

Missions (Brian & Heather Riessen)

- Christmas Eve offering will go to missions.
- Rachel Greene made a request for \$500.00 for Lay Mission.

Rod Bradley made a motion to approve request, second Chuck Dowling all ayes, motion carried

Discipleship (Rachel Greene)

- Not meeting this month

Parish Fellowship/Public Relations (Doris Neumann and Idamae Fake)

- No report

Stewardship (Kathy Schneider)

- Trisha Fink and Craig Dozark will be new on the board replacing Becky Jacobsen and Reed Reitz.

Property Report (Alan Suntken)

- No report

Treasurers Report (Elaine Gotto)

- Reviewed financials.

Motion by Chuck Downing to accept the Board Reports seconded Alan Suntken. All ayes, motion carried.

Old Business

- There is a new password for the new Wi-Fi.

New Business

- Heating and cooling system is missing a modem, so the system is fixed parttime, getting a quote for new modem.
- Need to do an inspection on heating and cooling system, estimate \$800 to \$1,000 from Carroll Controls. Motion to do inspection by Chuck Downing second Alan Suntken not to go over \$1,000. All ayes, motion carried.
- Thanks to Craig Dozark and Chuck Downing for their services and time to the board.

Motion to adjourn Chuck Downing second Rachel Greene at 7:45 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted—Lorna Desy

## **Our Savior Lutheran Church Women's Guild Meeting December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Eleven members and three guests met on December 13th for our Christmas pot luck and guest night. After joining together in The Common Table Prayer, we enjoyed a delicious array of food, ending with a special dessert served by our hostesses Linda Christensen and Marcia Moeller.

Jan Jacobsen read an inspiring devotion from "Who Am I in Christ" for Christian Growth. It was about someone who had found a gold watch while on vacation. The outside was broken, but it was found that the inside could still run. The message was that we need to look beyond outside appearances, for it is what is inside that really matters.

Sharon opened the business meeting with the LWML Pledge. Christmas Stocking money was presented with roll call, along with donations of mittens, gloves, and hats for T.A.P. Each person also answered the question "Did you ever want something for Christmas but did not get your wish?"

Treasurer and Secretary reports were presented by Sandy and both accepted as read.

A thank you was read from Crossroads of Crawford County. Information from Gary Thies, Mission Central, was read concerning support of a Missionary. We will discuss further at the next meeting.

Reports:

Greeting cards: Maxine reported good sales

Quilters: Their recent sale was very successful. Some items not sold were donated to Orphan Grain Train and the Veterans.

Eventide: Jan reported that she and Sandy will help with Eventide Bingo on Dec. 21st. Idamae also helped.

Jan Norgaard was not able to find a cart for the downstairs kitchen.

It was decided to donate to Crawford County Right to Life for Christmas. \$100.00 will go to a new RTL sign recently put up north of Deloit. Another \$100.00 will go in support of a scholarship for which Pastor Kluzek is raising funds to present to a Pro-Life student entering a medical profession.

There are two Seminary students in our district. After discussion, Shirley moved to give each student \$100.00, second by Lois. MC

We sang the birthday song to Lois and guest Rachel.

January meeting will be on the 10th. Bring a snack to share. We sang two Christmas Carols to end our evening, Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Secretary,  
Sandy Johnson

### ***Our Savior December Parish Record***

#### **Deaths**

Nancy Lynn Tucker	Born: April 10, 1963	Entered Eternal Rest: December 5, 2021
Funeral Service:	Our Savior Lutheran Church	December 9, 2021, Pastor Josh Keinath

Phyllis Jean Utsinger	Born: February 4, 1929	Entered Eternal Rest: December 15, 2021
Funeral Service:	Huebner Funeral Home	December 18, 2021 Pastor Josh Keinath

#### **Transfer Out**

Justin & Kelli Blair	To Shepherd of Peace Lutheran, Sergeant Bluff, IA
Grayson, Eli, Owen and Preston	Effective: December 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2021

# P R A Y E R S & P R A I S E

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### Prayer Chain Co-Captains

Shelly Wilson - 712-263-4376

Doris Neumann - 402-350-3022

### Various Health Issues:

*Lowell Neumann, Jim Christensen, Shirley Kastner, Tammy Schurke, Davick Gillmor, Kari DeShepper, Denise Buckholdt, Rick Davis, Jerry Blackmore, Carmen Hamilton, Nancy Love, Brianne Schillerberg, Delores Jessen, Todd Hafner, Mary Ellen Hafner, Jeanette Wulf, Don Stehr, Pastor Chad Trunkhill, Pastor Andrew Johnson.*

### REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SHUT INS

*Theonne Kolls, Jean Ellis, Ethel Bockelmann, Ruth Blackmore, Clarion Holdsworth, Paul Clausen, LaVerne Milow, Lyle Hansen, Moselle Loeschen, Harold Kierscht, Andrea Nelson, Ina Knop, Janell Beam.*

*"Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks."  
Philippians 4:6*

### REMEMBER THOSE SERVING AS MILITARY PERSONNEL

*Cody & Sara Vogt – Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vega, NV, son and daughter in law of Mike & Lisa Vogt  
Jeff Storlie – Fort Carson, CO, son in law of Scott & Marcy Larson  
Tanner Krayneski – United States Marines, Camp Pendleton, Grandson of Byron & Pauline Meeves  
Rob Garvey – United States Air Force, San Antonio, TX., son in law of Ron & Catherine Lechtenberg  
Keaton Segebart – United States Army, Honolulu, HI, grandson of Mary Segebart  
Alex Wingert – United States Navy, California, nephew of Larry Gittins  
Daniel Loeschen – Fort Drum, New York, son of Pastor & Deb Loeschen  
Payton Malone – United States Air Force, Ramstein, Germany, Grandson of George & Julie Malone  
Hanna Alexander – Marine Base, Quantico, Virginia, Granddaughter of Lynn & Clarence Hoffman  
Mathew Janssen – United States Navy, San Diego, CA., Grandson of George & Karen Janssen*

### REMEMBER THOSE WE SUPPORT SERVING AS MISSIONARIES

<i>Jamie &amp; Eddie Bynum</i>	<i>Dr. Stephen Oliver &amp; Family</i>	<i>Rev. Gary &amp; Stephanie Schulte</i>
<i>Rev. James Sharp &amp; Family</i>	<i>Rev. John Bombaro &amp; Family</i>	<i>Rev Vance Becker &amp; Family</i>
<i>Mark &amp; Megan Mantey</i>	<i>Rev. Martin Dicke &amp; Family</i>	<i>Rev. Daniel Vogel</i>
<i>Rev. Carl &amp; Li Hanson &amp; Family</i>	<i>Rev. Mark &amp; Stefanie Rabe &amp; Family</i>	<i>Rev. James Krey</i>

### FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

*We pray for the family and friends of Nancy Tucker who passed away on December 5<sup>th</sup> and was laid to rest on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. May God comfort all who mourn Nancy's passing.*

*We pray for the family and friends of Robert Glau, father of Mary Kuhlmann, who passed away on December 4<sup>th</sup> and laid to rest on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Our prayers are with Mary & her family and all who mourn Robert's passing.*

*We pray for the family and friends of Darlene Day, Pastor Chad's aunt, who was called to her heavenly home on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Darlene was laid to rest on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. May God comfort all who mourn Darlene's passing.*

*We pray for the family and friends of Don Jacobsen, son of Janet Jacobsen and brother of Scott & Pastor Jon, who was called to his heavenly home on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. May God comfort all who mourn Don's passing.*

*We pray for the family and friends of Phyllis Utsinger who passed away on December 15<sup>th</sup> and was laid to rest on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. God comfort all who mourn Phyllis's passing.*



# BE SURE TO STAY CONNECTED...

**Our Savior's Website**  
[www.oursaviordenison.com](http://www.oursaviordenison.com)

**Facebook**  
Our Savior Lutheran – Denison, IA  
Our Savior Denison-Youth Ministries

**Our Savior Prayer Chain**  
Doris Neumann 263-6164  
Shelly Wilson 263-4376

**"The Lutheran Hour"**  
6:30 a.m. Sundays:  
KDSN-FM 104.9 Denison 10:30 a.m.  
Sundays  
KDSN-AM 1530

**"Thy Strong Word"**  
Every Mon-Sat. 6:25 a.m. KDSN-FM 104.9

**Iowa District West**  
[www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org)

**Camp Okoboji**  
[www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org)

**Mission Central**  
[www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us)

**Lutheran Family Services**  
[www.lfsiowa.org](http://www.lfsiowa.org)

**Crossroads of Crawford County**  
[www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.com](http://www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.com)  
3707 Timberline Dr. Denison  
712-263-9950  
[Director@Crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org](mailto:Director@Crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org)

**FCC (Family Crisis Center)**  
712-449-7196  
[michellej@familycrisiscenters.org](mailto:michellej@familycrisiscenters.org)

Additional on-line resources:  
**Lutheran Hour Ministries:** [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

**Lutheran Church Missouri Synod:**  
[www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)

**Lutheran Women's Missionary League:**  
[www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)

**Men's Network:** [www.lhmmen.com](http://www.lhmmen.com)

**Online Bible:** [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

**Concordia Publishing House:**  
[www.CPH.org](http://www.CPH.org)

## CHURCH MAILBOXES

Don't forget to check your church mailbox.

## Thank You!

Please help us keep accurate Church records. If you have any updates or corrections, including birthday, baptism, confirmation, marriage, children or change of address, phone # or email, please communicate to the office.

Send an email to [office@oursaviordenison.com](mailto:office@oursaviordenison.com) or call 712-263-3282.

### **THY STRONG WORD**

Tune in Monday through Saturday, 6:25 a.m. KDSN (104.9 FM)  
3-4-minute devotions sponsored by the local LCMS congregations.

January 3<sup>rd</sup> – January 8<sup>th</sup>  
January 10<sup>th</sup> – January 15<sup>th</sup>  
January 17<sup>th</sup> – January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
January 24<sup>th</sup> – January 29<sup>th</sup>  
January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 5<sup>th</sup>

Rev. Chad Trunkhill  
Rev. Richard Merrill  
Rev. Nathan Peitsch  
Rev. Mark Kluzek  
Rev. Josh Keinath

Our Savior/Bethlehem  
Multi-Point, Charter Oak  
St. Paul, Ute  
St. John, Kiron/Faith, Deloit  
Zion, Denison

To financially support these broadcasts, please send donations to Our Savior and earmark for "Thy Strong Word."

"I have told you these things,  
so that in me you may have  
peace. In this world you will  
have trouble. But take heart!

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD."

JOHN 16:33

HAPPY NEW  
YEAR  
BLESSINGS

# TAKING A LOOK BACK AT DECEMBER

## OUR SAVIOR CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA December 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

### NOEL



SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

#### A Note of Thanks

What a blessed performance by Our Savior Cantata Choir. God's Word & Beautiful Music. A combination that can't be beat! We thank each and every one of you for sharing your time and talent. We thank and praise our Lord for the gift of music & people who can share it with us in such a meaningful and beautiful way.  
*Praise the Lord!*



#### Our Savior Lutheran Cantata Choir

*Directors: Julie Burhoop and Ben Schauer*

**Narrated Pastor Andrew Johnson**

<i>Sue Bergamo</i>	<i>Mindy Randeris</i>
<i>Jake Boelter</i>	<i>Wyatt Randeris</i>
<i>Troy Gehlsen</i>	<i>Brian Riessen</i>
<i>Rachel Greene</i>	<i>Gabby Riessen</i>
<i>Andrea Johnson</i>	<i>Heather Riessen</i>
<i>Brooke Lambert</i>	<i>Brianne Schillerberg</i>
<i>Marcy Larson</i>	<i>Mica Sergi</i>
<i>Michele Mathies</i>	<i>Alyssa Thams</i>
<i>Michael Phipps</i>	<i>Amber Young</i>



**THANK YOU** to all who volunteered their time to decorate the church.  
**AND A SPECIAL THANKS** to Rex and Wes for putting up the outdoor decorations on a very cold day!



#### Our Savior Adult Fellowship Christmas Party

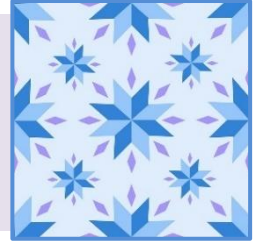




## LOOKING BACK CONTINUED...

### A Note From The Our Savior Quilters

We would like to acknowledge everyone who so generously bought items at our annual sale and let you know what the proceeds were used for. So far we have collected nearly \$1700 from our sale. Proceeds were distributed as follows: \$200 to Goodfellows, Wesco, Denison Crusade for Children, Orphan Grain Train, Right to Life, Crossroads of Crawford County, Hunger fighters and Mosaic. \$150 to Mission Central.



## OUR SAVIOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - "GOD'S PROMISE CAME TRUE" Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Thank you to the talented children who took part in this years program!

And...

To the Sunday school teachers who prepared the children to perform.

To Darin, Emily, Katie, Julie and Kris who provided leadership and music.

To the Technology crew who made sure all ran smoothly with mics, screens, etc.

**THANK YOU ALL!**



Thank you to all the folks that prepared the goodie sack and provided candy and goodies for the children to take home!

**THANK YOU!**

*Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.  
I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.  
Psalm 86:11-12*



## LOOKING AHEAD TO A NEW YEAR...2022

### Confirmation:

6:15 – 6:45: 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Worship Skills  
6:45 – 7:45: 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation classes

*The JANUARY YOUTH ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE is being finalized and will be communicated when complete. Watch for additional information in future bulletins, church emails, Facebook and church service announcements.*



### Senior Center In Need Of Volunteers

“WANTED” Volunteers to deliver meals for the Senior Citizen Center *Meals on Wheels* program. Time 10:30 to 11:30. You can choose one or more days a week. It's easiest if two people work together. One drives and the other one delivers to the door. If willing to help please call the Senior Center at 263-4950. Thank you for your help.

### Temporary Aid Program Collection at Bethlehem in January



Bethlehem will collect for T.A.P. during January. Especially welcome are paper products, personal care products and Laundry detergent. Other items needed: sugar, flour, peanut butter, soups, crackers, cooking oil, tuna, tuna helper, complete pancake mix, canned tomatoes, hamburger helper, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, macaroni, tomato juice etc. Donations can be left at the back of the Bethlehem church. Cash donations are also helpful. Check should be made out to Temporary Aid Program. Send them to P.O. Box 121, Denison, IA 51442.

Psalm 103:1

*Praise the Lord, my soul;*  
ALL MY INMOST BEING,  
PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME.

# BAKE SALE

### SPECIAL MISSION EVENT

Gary Thies

#### Our Savior Lutheran Church

Denison, Iowa

Saturday January 1, 2022 Worship at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday January 2, 2022 Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Gary brings to you and the congregation an in-person presentation with pictures and artifacts directly from the mission field. He has visited 75 countries and continues to connect weekly with over 100 LCMS missionaries around the world.

- Exciting presentation direct from the mission field
- More information at [www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us)

Gary W. Thies is a Mission Development Counselor with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Gary lives on a farm in Western Iowa and is Director of Mission Central. He would love to share with you the news of what is really happening in missions through the LCMS.

Be sure to invite someone to come with you because you, too, are a missionary!

[Gary will also be at Bethlehem Lutheran, Dow City, IA](#)  
[Sunday, January 2, 2022 Worship at 10:30 a.m.](#)

### CRAWFORD COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE BAKE SALE

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Crawford County Right to Life is planning a bake sale on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, “Sanctity of Life Sunday”. We are asking for donations of baked goods from our church members to make this possible. We are raising money for: 1) \$1000 Pro-Life scholarship for student pursuing a medical career. 2) Expenses toward scholarship award event. 3) New roadside Pro-Life sign.

The bake sale will take place before & after services on 1/22 and 1/23. Baked goods can be dropped off **no earlier than 4:30 on Saturday, 1/22.**

If you have any questions, contact Noel or Sandy Johnson at 263-5579.

## A FEW THING TO TAKE NOTE OF...

**Christmas Decorations** Indoor Christmas decorations will be taken down on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at Our Savior, after Worship Service. Volunteers to help will be greatly appreciated. Thank You!

**January – March 2022 Portals of Prayer.** You can find a copy on the Welcome center in the Narthex, in the office and in the pickup box in front of the church.

Sign up forms for **2022 monthly Communion Assistance** and **2022 monthly Ushers** are located on the welcome center in the Narthex. Please consider volunteering for one of these important support roles for weekly Worship Services. Thank you.

### **Our Savior 2021 Annual Report**

Work will soon begin to put together the 2020 Annual Report. If you are the head of a church board, committee or group, please turn in your 2021 report information to the office by January 31<sup>st</sup> or sooner. If there are changes to your committee or board membership, please provide that information as well.

*Thank you for your help to prepare this document on time for the congregation.*

**The Lutheran Witness Renewals** are due to the office by 2/15/2022. The cost is \$22.68 for an annual subscription. Make checks payable to Our Savior and designate to Lutheran Witness in the memo line. They will send us one bill and it will be paid from Lutheran Witness designated funds.

**National Lutheran Schools Week** is January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is “in all things” and is guided by Colossians 1:15-20.

**Church mailboxes:** Be sure to check your church mailbox. This is especially important if you are the leader of a group, board, committee or you use the church's address to receive mail. Thank you!

## NOTES & LETTERS RECEIVED...

December 22, 2021



Our Savior Lutheran Church, Denison  
500 N 24th St  
Denison, IA 51442-1704

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm amazed at the outpouring of support for people in need, demonstrated by the response to our invitation to "Say YES" to men, women, and children who need our help as we prepare to close out this year and look toward 2022.

Your love and care for people - and your generosity - shine through your gift of \$375.00 received in our office on December 21, 2021, and people will be helped because of you.

You're part of a growing group of partners who are helping to share God's promises with those who need to be reminded of them, and those who need to hear them for the first time.

God's promises are true, for them - and for all of you - through Jesus. Thank you, and may He bless you richly today and in the New Year ahead!

Sincerely,

Rev. Max Phillips  
Executive Director

*A great blessing!*

"For all the Promises of God find their Yes! in Him." 2 Corinthians 1:20

## Christmas Crusade for Children

December 20, 2021

Our Savior Lutheran Church  
500 N.24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Denison, Iowa 51442

On behalf of the Christmas Crusade for Children I would like to thank you for once again allowing us to use your facility for our annual wrapping party. The kindness and generosity of your congregation helped ensure that 219 needy children throughout our county had gifts to open this Christmas.

The efforts of your church are certainly representative of the spirit of this time of year, that of giving. Please share with all of your members our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,

Rod Bradley, Treasurer

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40 NIV

## NOTES & LETTERS RECEIVED continued...



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement

12/6/2021

In Reply Refer To: 636/135 O

Our Savior Lutheran Church Quilters  
500 N 24<sup>th</sup> Street  
Denison, IA 51442

Dear Members:

On behalf of the NWHCS - Omaha Division (636) patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of beautiful quilts.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Servant, Voluntary Services Assistant



We pray you and yours are safe and well. Thank you for your continued faithful service during challenging days – that are also filled with great hope.

Thank you for your donation of \$200.00 to Mosaic in Western Iowa (Logan, Denison, Council Bluffs) in support of Partners in Possibilities. As specified, your generosity has been directed to Denison. During this season of thanks and giving, your gift will help bring joy to those we serve.

Mosaic was founded in the Church, and our work is a ministry of service. May your celebrations be blessed!

Sincerely,

Pastor David deFreese

Our Savior Lutheran Church  
500 N 24th St  
Denison, IA 51442-1704



Dear family in Christ,

We are writing to wish you a Merry Christmas and to thank you for your support of the Gospel in Puerto Rico this year. Thank you to the Communication and Mission Advancement teams in the LCMS for helping us send this letter to you.

What a year!

- We transitioned as a family to serve long-term on the mission field.
- In the summer we received new missionary orientation in St. Louis, and traveled through the U.S. and Canada, sharing about the Lord's work in Puerto Rico. Seeing many of you in person was a huge encouragement.
- In the fall, we returned to Puerto Rico and were blessed with a safe delivery of a baby boy, Isaiah.

We have served in Puerto Rico the last four years, arriving after the hurricane in 2017. The church had a few members then and we gained some and lost some over the years. The work is sometimes challenging, but we trust God and pray that more people of Puerto Rico will turn their hearts to Him. We continue to share His word at every opportunity, through fellowship events, English classes and the radio.

Mikhaela just turned 2 this year. She is very loving to her brother. She knows that Jesus loves her, and she tells her brother "Jesus loves you". Isaiah, who just turned two months old, is growing chubby and is very calm.

Thank you for your continued prayers.

Pastor Gustavo, Ruth, Mikhaela and Isaiah Maita

**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 receive  
from God.**

NIV

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4



Continued from page 1...

### **Hero of my own story**

The hero mentality, at the opposite end of the spectrum, brings other stumbling blocks. When a man thinks this way, he sees himself as the active achiever of all that is good. Who is responsible for his success? He is. How did he get to where he is? Hard work. Heroes *achieve* success; it does not just happen to them.

A man who slides down to the hero end of the spectrum also labels others. He calls them couch potatoes, lazy or undeserving. Why can't others reach the same heights that he has? They just aren't willing to work for it, of course. They are not smart enough or strong enough.

While the victim mentality is rarely praised, the hero mentality comes straight out of the heroes of ancient myth. C. S. Lewis points out, "Homer's Achilles knows nothing of the demand that the brave should also be the modest and the merciful. He kills men as they cry for quarter or takes them prisoner to kill them at leisure" (C.S. Lewis, "The Necessity of Chivalry," in *Present Concerns*, [Harper One, 1986], 2–3). The ancient world expected a hero to revel in his victories and rub others' faces in it.

The man stuck in the hero mentality fails to see his success as a gift of God. Not seeing the grace of God active in his own life, he does not see a need to offer grace and compassion to others who have not had the same victories in life.

The hero mentality leads to destruction. Consider this passage from Acts:

Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

*Acts 12:20–23*

Herod was consumed by the hero mentality. Whether he believed the shouts of the people or not, he allowed them to call him a god. That is blasphemy. God sent His angel to humble Herod with a painful death.

### **Our victim and hero**

Christians see the world with different eyes. We do not merely look at the world around us with the lens of culture, media or other popular influences. We look to Christ, and that dramatically changes the way we view life in God's creation. We see ourselves and others, not in terms of victimhood or heroism, but repentance, humility and compassion.

Only Jesus Christ was a truly innocent victim. He alone suffered unjustly, without sin, at the hands of His enemies. And it was our sin that necessitated His brutal death.

Remembering this helps us to avoid applying dehumanizing labels and instead see one another as sinners — a label that we all share. We can take the plank out of our own eye (Matt. 7:5) and be ready to forgive not "seven times, but seventy-seven times" (Matt. 18:22).

Likewise, Jesus Christ is the only true hero who deserved to be elevated and exalted. "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9–11).

Knowing Jesus is exalted, we are humbled. We repent of our arrogance and acknowledge that all good things are gifts of God's fatherly provision. Martin Luther says as much in the [Small Catechism](#): "All this [God's daily provision and protection] He does out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

If we have succeeded in life, it is because we have a loving Father in heaven. Seeing everything as an undeserved gift from God, we are then moved to have, not contempt, but compassion for the poor, distressed and weak.

As Christians we do not think like victims or heroes. Rather, we are unworthy servants, merely doing our duty (Luke 17:10). We are sinners living among other sinners, all who need God's grace, all who must repent and be forgiven.

### **1 thought on "Victims and Heroes"**

*John J. Flanagan*

"Self" is a very demanding god, always looking for advantage, full of deception, and fully prepared to justify sin and unrighteousness. "Self" often wears an outward appearance of humility, can be narcissistic while claiming to be the victim, will secretly resent the success of others, and resides to some degree in the hearts of all of the sons and daughters of Adam. "Self" is tireless in trying to nudge Jesus off the throne of human life. "Self" will always seek its own way, and only the Holy Spirit can keep it in check during the life of the struggling, hard pressed, devout believer. To keep "Self" from sitting on the throne of our lives, we need the word of God and prayer. A good verse to always acknowledge is John 3:30, "He must increase, but I must decrease." Soli Deo Gloria.

From Lutheran Witness December 9, 2021, <https://witness.lcms.org/2021/victims-and-heroes/>

By Joshua Theilen, The Rev. Joshua Theilen is a husband, father, camp director and pastor in Central Illinois.

## Operation Barnabas

Yes, I've been alone for Christmas several times during my life. While I was on active duty with the Army stationed in Germany, I was by myself on Christmas day. We were nonetheless very blessed. Christmas is celebrated in many wonderful ways in Germany. The Christkindl Markets in Germany are very colorful and festive. And we always had a delicious Christmas Day turkey dinner in the dining hall. But with the festivities concluded, I would be alone for Christmas.



Looking back, I consider those years of Christmas past to be blessings. With the "busyness" of my ministry and with busy family schedules that always come with Christmas, I'm quite fine with being alone in the peace and quiet. This has instilled in me a genuine love and appreciation for so many of our young servicemen and servicewomen who spent this Christmas alone and separated from their families.

If you have loved ones who were (and are) far away and have spent Christmas alone this year, let me offer this brief prayer.

Gracious Lord and Heavenly Father,

I ask for Your special blessings to be with all our servicemen and servicewomen who spent this Christmas far away from their families as well as for their families who keep the homefires burning all year long. Assure them of Your constant presence and promise that You are always with them. We are humbled and blessed by the sacrifices they make so that we may freely and peacefully live our lives and worship our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. In His name always and only we pray and thank You. Alleluia! Amen.

I pray for you and your family a richly blessed new year of 2022.

Rev. Dr. Keith Schweitzer (Sergeant, United States Army)

My contact information:

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Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Greenfield, Iowa  
641-745-5143



*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.*

*Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:4-7*



**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
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Denison, Iowa 51442

**In This Issue:**

- 1) Victims & Heroes, Article from the Lutheran Witness
- 2) January Calendar
- 3) OS December Church Council Meeting
- 4) OS December Women's Guild Meeting, Dec. Parish Record
- 5) Prayers & Praise
- 6) Stay Connected, Thy Strong Word, A devotion
- 7) A Look Back at December
- 8) A Look Back Continued,
- 9) Looking Ahead to a New Year...2022
- 10) A Few Things to Take Note Of, Notes & Letters Received
- 11) Notes & Letters Received,
- 12) Victims & Heroes continued from page 1
- 13) Operation Barnabas, from IDW The Messenger

