



News from your church - December 4, 2019

Upcoming events and reminders:

Dates to Save

Children's Program: December 15th

Advent supper, bible study and worship: Dec. 4th, 11th and 18th at 5:30 pm.

Worship 6:30 pm.

Wrap for foster kids and shut ins: Dec. 18 @ 1pm

Christmas Eve worship: 6:00 pm.

Youth Group 7th grade and up: Dec. 29th @ 5pm

Youth bake day fundraiser: January 11th @ 10am

Annual Meeting: January 12th after worship

BasketBall Fundraiser: February 23rd.

Pasor Nikki new local number. Office (269)342-0069

lcokalamazoo@gmail.com, www.lcoskzoo.com

[facebook.com/LutheranChurchoftheSavior](https://www.facebook.com/LutheranChurchoftheSavior)

Pastor, Nikki Smith NEW# (269)816-5469.

pastornikkilcos@gmail.com NEW E-mail

Tiny Houses Of Hope Project.

YOU ARE INVITED!

Sunday, December 8 at 11:30 following Worship Service to attend....

We are excited to welcome the Tiny Houses of HOPE Pilot Project (THoHPP) Steering Committee to Lutheran Church of the Savior this Sunday, December 8, immediately after worship.

The purpose of this free, family-friendly event is to learn more about one of the most innovative and achievable affordable housing projects taking place in the coming year. The pilot project will build a half dozen 400 sq. ft. tiny homes in Kalamazoo's northside neighborhood, based on a model currently underway in Detroit. The project looks at the two most notable contributors to relapse and recidivism, which are housing and employment. The two factors account for 87 percent success rate in adults with criminal history background or substance abuse disorder. The project will tackle both head-on.

Come learn more about this project and consider supporting this organization's mission. In addition to learning more about the project, you will have an opportunity to contribute financially if you feel so moved. We will provide a lunch and dessert to those who attend. We hope to see you after worship this Sunday, December 8.

Warm regards, **Chris Praedel**, Commissioner, City of Kalamazoo

LCS Member

Advent & Christmas Eve. Advent worship: Wednesday, December 4th, 11th, and 18th. Supper and bible study at 5:30 pm with worship beginning at 6:30pm. Christmas Eve candlelight service will be at 6:00pm. Please Join us!

Church Closing Information for Inclement Weather or Emergency. We have signed up with News channel 3 to report LCS closing for weather or other emergency situations. To sign up for a text or email if we are closing you can go to: <http://wwmt.com/weather/closings>, there is a link to sign up for email/text alerts. Our church ID is 5183 and we are located under Kalamazoo County Closings and Lutheran Church of the Savior. If you need help, please contact Jill LeBeau in the Church Office. 269-342-0069.

Annual Meeting. This is notice that our Annual meeting will be held after worship in the fellowship hall on January 12th, 2020.

Teach The Pastor. Pr. Nikki would love to learn from you! If you have a hobby or activity you are passionate about Pr. Nikki would love to get to know you better and learn a new hobby. Whether its stamps, ice skating, hiking, curling, etc. Set up a date/time with Pr. Nikki by email, phone, or in person.

Christmas Program And Movie. This year are program (December 15th during Worship) will be, "A Super Christmas"! **Practices will be held during Sunday School on December 1st and 8th and on Saturday December 14th at 10:00am.** The Saturday practice will include lunch and a movie at church. If you would like to help, please see Jill LeBeau or Karine Carls.

Stars Over Bethlehem. This year instead of poinsettias donations may be given in any amount in memory or honor of someone. Each donation will put a star in the sky on the Nativity artwork which will be displayed in the narthex beginning in Advent. All funds will be donated to a local charity to be determined by the worship service team. Names of those for whom a donation is made will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Day Camp Tentative Date. Day camp is tentatively scheduled for June 22nd to June 26th. Please mark your calendars!

Fundraising Bake Day And Sale. The kids bake for youth fund will be on Saturday January 11th at 10:00 am to 1:00 pm with lunch provided. All welcome to attend and help kids bake for donations to the youth fund. The goodies will be up for donation at the annual meeting held Sunday January 12th following church. **Needs** - we need adults to work the stations the day of baking. Everything you need will be provided. If you are able, please see Jill LeBeau or Karine Carls.

Help Build Our Pastor's Help Fund. We are building up our Pastor's Help fund. If you are able to donate please put donation in a pew envelope with the amount you are donating and Pastor's Help Fund.

Amazon Smile Donations. Lutheran Church of the Savior is now set up on Amazon Smile. When purchasing from Amazon simply go to smile.amazon.com and type in Lutheran Church of the Savior Kalamazoo as your charity. Your login information, shopping cart, wish list and other account settings will be exactly the same. The only difference will be that

a portion of your purchase will be donated directly to LCS on a quarterly basis. You can also use link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1902175> to go directly to LCS donation page. If you have questions see Jill LeBeau or Pastor Nikki.

Faith And Flapjacks. A breakfast group that gets together on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. to enjoy food, fellowship and discuss our faith. We meet at Scooter D's restaurant located at: 724 Shoppers Ln, Kalamazoo, MI 49004.

Electronic Tithing. If you are interested in giving electronically through our secure e-giving process, please stop in the Church office for more information, or visit lcoskzoo.com and click the Donate button on the homepage. Thanks you for your generosity

Prayers Needed. Please remember to let the office know if you want someone to be added or taken off the prayers during Worship. Also remember you can always say their name during and those we now name....

Visits From Pastor Nikki. If you are sick, having surgery, in the hospital, or just need a visit from the Pastor, please call the church office and let us know!

New Address - Have You Moved? Please let Jill LeBeau in the church office know if you have a new address.

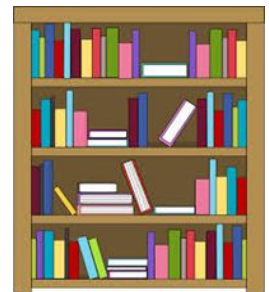
Cans For Camp (& Bottles) Volunteers Needed. If you are interested in helping return the cans (even if just once) please contact Jill LeBeau. The kids have been collecting as well!

Give+ Text Program. This program allows you to use the texting feature of your smartphone to donate to the Church. Text # 269-331-2111 and enter the amount you wish to donate, then press send and follow directions. Quick Guide direction flyers available on Narthex table.

Fellowship Hour Volunteers. The Fellowship Service Team invites you to participate in coffee hour each Sunday following worship. The congregation provides the "sweets" to go with our coffee. Please consider signing up!

Welcome Cart. We now have a welcome cart stocked with mugs, frisbees, welcome packets, and goodies for kids! Its home will be in the Church office but it can be rolled anywhere to welcome new members.

Visit the Library The LCS library has been cleaned and has new materials available to enjoy! Please visit the library, located to the right of the main office, and check out the selection of movies and books available.



Please make sure to sign out anything you want to take home, there is a 2-week limit per item. Also make sure to take good care of the items so that others can enjoy them.

Past events summary/update:

Sunday School News. Children 1st grade to 6th grade may now attend Sunday School with teachers. Infant to kindergarten are welcome in the nursery (Bible lesson included). Youth 7th

grade and above please attend worship. Worship bags are available for children and teens remaining in worship. **Once a month the 7th grade and above will meet on Sunday night with Karine Carls for youth group! First meeting will be December 29th at the Church from 5pm to 7pm.**

Loaves And Fishes Donations. Thank you to everyone who donated, cereal, jelly, or chicken noodle soup! These highly sought after items are greatly appreciated by loaves and fishes!

Shopping for Toys for the Freestore with the Thrivent grant!



Children learning to serve at LCS.



Community Events:

Parchment Community Library has many events and a new Library Ambassador, Karen Woodworth. Check out their website. Parchmentlibrary.org.

African Christian Fellowship:

Worship service is on Sunday's 3pm to 5pm at LCS. Welcome to join!

Church Together Team. Just a reminder that the church together team meets at 11:45 am on the first Sunday of every month. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Sharon Brenn or Pastor Nikki.

Social Concerns:

Thrivent Products. WANTED: Anyone who has Thrivent products. You are eligible for 2 - \$250 grants per year to help sponsor our various projects. Please let Kay Landfair know as we have a growing list of Thrivent people which would allow us to help even more people in our community and others around the world. Thanks

The Christmas Tree Of Love. The Tree will be displayed in the Narthex and the congregation can decorate/donate it with homemade or store bought mittens, hats, and scarfs for the homeless. Items donated will be delivered to Ministry with Community, The Gospel Mission, and Loaves and Fishes.

A board will be in the Narthex with the name of teens/young adults from Samaritas that LCS will be adopting. The Independent Living (IL) program empowers older teens in foster care to grow and develop through specialized programs that build on each person's strengths. The program is designed to help them learn to live independently as adults. These young adults are highlighted on the social concerns board and table in the hallway.

Please choose a square on the board (pull the yellow sticky note off the board and write your name in the white square) and purchase items and place items **unwrapped** with donation square attached under the tree by **Sunday, December 15, 2019**. Items not donated will be purchased after Church.

Everyone is welcome on **Wednesday, December 18th at 1:00pm** in the Church fellowship hall to help **wrap** all of the wish list items and make gift baskets for shut ins.

Pastor Nikki Newsletter

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being." – John 1:1-3

Grace and peace to you!

It seems appropriate as we prepare to celebrate the Word made flesh on Christmas Day that the next part of worship, I want to discuss is the reading of God's Word in worship. During worship: the reading of God's Word. During our worship service we usually have four

readings from Holy Scripture. We have a reading from the Old Testament, we chant a Psalm, we hear from one of the Epistles (letters) in the New Testament, and then we have a reading from one of the Gospels.

This might not sound unusual but for parts of Christian history where only certain selections of the Bible might be read or very little Scripture at all! Before the printing press Bibles were rare because they had to be handwritten and were very expensive. Bibles were also only written in Latin until Martin Luther translated the Bible into German. Later after the printing press made books inexpensive to produce the Bible would be translated in thousands of different languages.

During worship we have four Bible readings. We have an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, a reading from one of the Epistles (letters) of the New Testament, and a Gospel reading. This means over the course of a three-year cycle we get through most of the Bible. It is important to spend time reading and hearing the Bible because the Bible is God's love letter to us.



Holy Scripture helps us grow in our relationship with God, it helps us learn how God calls us to live in the world, it guides us in how we worship, and it helps us learn our identity as disciples of Jesus.

One interesting thing to be aware of is that there is no such thing as THE Bible. Christians use different Bibles which can have different books or stories in them, and there are thousands of translations of the Bible out there that different groups use. For example, most Protestants have 66 books in their Bibles, Ethiopian Orthodox Christians have hundreds of books in their Bibles, Roman Catholics have 7 more books than most Protestants, and Lutherans did not formally dismiss the 7 books that Roman Catholics use and occasionally some of them come up as options for worship.



Sometimes the Bible can have challenging or uncertain meanings and that can cause division and tension on what to do with the reading. As you read the Bible and come across

challenging stories or passages remember above all that God loves and desires all people to be part of God's family.

We are called to struggle and wrestle with hard Bible passages knowing that sometimes it will not be as clear or easy as we would like, but we can always look to the Nativity or Crucifixion stories if we ever have doubt about how much God loves us. I am also more than happy to talk about the Bible and especially about difficult passages anytime.

I hope that if you have not before you will take time to read the Bible cover to cover. I have included a helpful Daily Bible Reading Program if you would like to join me in reading the whole Bible in 2020 (attached). Each day has a few chapters of the Bible to read so that it does not get too overwhelming, and you can do it alone or with a group of friends!

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Nikki, OCC

Council update:

Minutes from the November 18, 2019 meeting will be printed once approved. Next Council Meeting is December 16, 2019 at 5:00pm.

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR December 8th

Minister: Pastor Nikki

Organist/Pianist: Deborah Rafferty

Assisting Minister: Diane Hansen

Crucifer: Emily Burns

Acolyte: Rashawnda Dick

Reader: Erin Praedel

Greeter: Erin Praedel

Ushers: Barb Wright, Tom Norton, Wilma Cool

Children's Sermon: Karine Carls

Sunday School Teacher: Karine Carls

Altar Preparations: Kay Landfair

Offering Tellers: Jane Norton and Chet Hills

Information:

If you have information or pictures you would like me to include please email me at lcoskalamazoo@gmail.com.

Church Calendar:

Available at www.lcoskzoo.com under the calendar tab.