



From the Pastor's Desk

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Luke 1:78-79

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Darkness can be a scary and depressing thing. In the month of November I have noticed how dark it has been outside. Yes, it gets dark early which makes for longer nights, but most of the days have been dark and gloomy as well. I have had a hard time maintaining energy this month and I have heard a lot of people say the same thing. Just a little sunlight can do wonders to brighten our days and our spirits.

As many of you know, I recently had a relapse of sorts. About a month ago following a very busy weekend, I suddenly lost the ability to recover my energy. After going for a treatment, I found out that the area of the brain that controls my sleep is the area that is not working correctly. Following this treatment I am slowly feeling better. It has now been almost 13 months since I have been struggling with the symptoms of a concussion. Many of my days have been very dark and tiring, so this prophecy of Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, speaks to me.

“By the tender mercy of God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness.” For most of us this is a wonderful time of year filled with the joy and wonder of Christmas, but yet for some of us this is a very difficult time of year. For those who are sick and don't have much energy, it is hard to have energy to take in all the Christmas activities. For those missing a special loved one, it is hard to gather with an empty chair around the table and an empty place in our hearts. For some, it is hard to go out in the cold to gather with family and friends. When we watch the news, it is easy for us to see the many things that are wrong with our world. But yet, God promises to break into our darkness and give us hope in the midst of all the chaos.

This hope is Jesus Christ who is the light of the world. This hope is what I cling to when the darkness threatens to overwhelm me. Jesus came into the world to bring light to the world. He says in John 1, *“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. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”* The fact is there is darkness in our world and in our lives. Jesus promises that his light will shine brightly in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it. When we seem to be surrounded by darkness, let us look to Jesus for the light, instead of looking back at the darkness of the world, for Jesus will guide us through every dark corner of our lives. I pray you experience this light, hope, and joy this Christmas season in some way. I am looking forward to celebrating another Advent and Christmas season with all of you!

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Paul Snyder

December 2024 Newsletter Articles

Pastor Paul's Office Hours Pastor Paul tentatively plans to be in the office from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. at OS-TML on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and at First on Thursdays. There may be days the pastor won't be in the office because of visitation, so please make an appointment if you need to see him or stop by if his car is at church. Pastor Paul's email is psnyder100@gmail.com and his cell number 218-230-4081. Pastor Paul would love to hear from you, so don't hesitate to be in touch!!

Worship Times will continue to be OS-TML worship at 9:00 a.m. and First worship at 10:30 a.m. Our Facebook Live service will continue to be at 9:00 a.m.

Communion will be celebrated in both congregations on Sundays, December 1st and December 22nd. We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper on December 24th at the OS-TML Christmas Eve Service and on December 25th at the First Christmas Day Service. We will receive Communion by continuous Communion in person and those watching online are encouraged to prepare elements in your homes. All are welcome to the table!

Coffeehouse Worship there will be no Coffee House Worship this month in either congregation as we will enjoy celebrating the Advent season in our beautifully decorated sanctuaries.

W.O.W. will meet in Ashby on Wednesday, December 4th for Christmas Program Rehearsal. W.O.W. will meet from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. for our dress rehearsal. W.O.W. will also meet on Wednesday, December 11th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. as they plan to sing at the Ashby Living Center. W.O.W. will not meet the last two Wednesdays in December.

Shared Ministry W.O.W. Christmas Program/Hanging of the Greens Service will be held at First on Sunday, December 8th at 10:30 a.m. There will be no service at OS-TML this Sunday. W.O.W. will present a Christmas program and our Confirmation students will be leading the Hanging of the Greens Service. Please join us for this special Sunday!

Little Lights at First will meet Sundays following the children's sermon. There is a sign up in the narthex to teach. Because of the many activities of this time of year, Little Lights will only meet on Sunday, December 15th this month, but will be back in January.

Confirmation class will meet in Ashby on Wednesday, December 4th and 11th with supper at 5:30 p.m. and class from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. for both of these Wednesdays. Confirmation will not meet the last two Wednesdays of December.

Ashby Living Center Bible Study Pastor Paul will be leading on Weds., December 11th at 2:00 p.m.

Council will meet on Monday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Session will meet on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.

OS-TML will be serving a meal for Christmas Fest at the Community Center in Dalton on Saturday, December 14th 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. A free will offering will be taken for the meal. Please join us for delicious food and fellowship!

Christmas Decorating/Church and WELCA Potluck following worship on Sunday, December 1st which is the 1st Sunday of Advent, we will decorate our church for Christmas and have a potluck after we are done decorating. WELCA will not have a potluck on Wednesday, December 4th as scheduled in their annual booklet. Please join us!

Blue Christmas Service will be on Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. at OS-TML. Christmas is a usually a joyful time of year, but it can be a very sad time of year for families who are missing loved ones as they gather together to celebrate Christmas. At this service we will come together to lament—to bring our sorrow and suffering before God. Lament does not indicate a lack of faith; rather it is an essential ingredient to honest faith, in that we are asking God to be faithful and be present. So, we gather to share our hearts and seek comfort and strength from each other and from God. Please join us for this special service!

OS-TML Christmas Eve Worship will be at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24th at OS-TML. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. All are welcome as we celebrate our Savior's birth!!

First Christmas Day Worship will be at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 25th at First. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. All are welcome as we celebrate our Savior's birth!!

Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys will meet via Zoom on Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Paul and a commissioner from First will be attending.

Habitat for Humanity is building a house in Dalton this fall. They are looking for local volunteer builders to help them complete the house. All skills are welcome to help. Everyone is useful. Must be 17 years old or older. They also are recruiting individuals and groups to provide meals for volunteer builders during the lunch hour. They are now in need of volunteers every week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If anybody or group would be interested in helping, please contact Paul Shol. His contact information is paul@ffhabitat.org or (office) 218-736-2905 (cell) 218-205-5739. Let's support this local project!

WELCA Quilters meet Wednesdays at 9:00am in Dalton with coffee & treats except the 25th & 31st.

Prayer Concerns: Al Larson, Val Martin, Ron Breuer, Kristi Krause, Pastor Randy Knuth, Cookie Williams, Wes Kilker, Darcy Rylander, Pastor Paul Snyder, Marilyn Stevens, Darlene Akerman, and Lyle Skinnemoen.

Directory of Contacts

Please take the time to update your contact information to be compiled into a contact list booklet by completing the Google form [HERE](#). There are also paper forms at each church that can be completed and left on the office desks for Jaime to gather.

Jaime is in the process of putting the Booklets together to be available at the Annual Meetings in January. We will continue to update annually. If something changes, maybe you didn't get your information submitted for 2025 and want to be included for 2026, please fill out the form. Thanks!



**Poinsettias that adorn
Our Saviors-Ten Mile Lake Lutheran Church
this Christmas season are given in loving memory of:**

Loved ones by Pat Boe
Loved ones by Jim and Bonnie Borgrud
Loved ones by Shirley Frigaard
Loved ones by Gene and Myrna Hanson
Loved ones by Joan Helgeson
Loved ones by Peggy Lien
Marie and Trevor by Don Moen
Loved ones by Steve and Nancy Moss
Loved ones by Eric and Kathy Mounts
Loved ones by Karen Nelson
Loved ones by Barb Ness
Loved ones by David and Mary Jo Schroeder
Loved ones by Debbie Thormodson
Marcia by Gaylan Thormodson
Loved ones by Steve and Debbie Wilke

Thank you



**Our Saviors Ten Mile Lake Church
Council Meeting—November 7, 2024 at 6:30pm**

Present: Pastor Paul, Kyle, Jerry, Teddy, Julie, Debbie and Stacy

Absent: Danielle and Dave

Devotions and prayer given by Pastor Paul.

The **Secretary's Report** was reviewed, Julie made a motion to approve the minutes, Debbie second, motion carried.

Debbie presented the **Treasurer's Report**. The beginning balance at our last meeting on October 14 was \$2,573.98 total income was \$4,775.01 total expenses were \$2,574.90 leaving a balance of \$4,774.09. Jerry made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Stacy second, motion carried.

Trustee's Report – discussed in Old Business

Deacon's Report – Kyle will help with communion on November 24th and Debbie will help on December 1st.

Shared Ministry Report – nothing to discuss

Old Business:

We had a discussion about chapter 5 in the Sailboat Church.

Habitat for Humanity – blowing insulation in the ceiling, most walls are insulated.

Bell Tower – Chris Ecker will fix the rotten wood and Jerry will add insulation.

New Business:

Decorate for Christmas on December 1st and there will be a potluck to follow.

Blue Christmas service will be Wednesday, December 18th @ First

Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m.

Calendar Items:

Tuesday, November 12th 6:30 p.m. Council, Session, Shared Ministry Meeting

Sunday, November 17th Coffeehouse Worship and W.O.W. sings

Wednesday, November 20th 10:00 a.m. Threshing Disbursements Meeting

Tuesday November 26th 7:00 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Service @ OS-TML

Wednesday, December 4th WELCA Potluck at Noon

The next Council meeting will be December 9th at 6:30 p.m.

We closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Our Savior's-Ten Mile Lake Financial Review

Year to Date as of November 22, 2024

Income

Offerings	\$ 72,055.95	
Lenten Offering/Meals	973.00	
Easter Breakfast	122.00	
Coffee Money	422.35	
Transfer from General Savings	14,556.41	
Transfer from Memorial Fund	438.00	
Otter Tail Power Rebate - lights	2,884.80	
Donations	2,103.00	
Total Income	<hr/>	\$ 93,555.51

Expenses

Staff Ministry	\$ 61,228.71	
Missions	4,756.45	
Worship and Service	982.94	
Church Home	15,520.58	
Maintenance	13,961.54	
Miscellaneous	764.16	
Total Expenses	<hr/>	\$ 97,214.38

Account Balances:	November 22, 2024
Checking	\$ 10,278.22
General Savings	121,631.71
Memorial Savings	4,027.06
Ellen & Pat Welch Scholarship Fund	530.00
Our Savior's Cemetery	52,219.58

Regular Session Meeting November 25, 2024

The regular meeting of the Session of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Ashby met at 7 PM on November 25, 2024 at the church. Present were the Moderator Rev. Dr. Paul Snyder, Ruling Elders: Jim Rylander, Donna Fay Grover, Troy Johnson, Gwyn Risbrudt, Kim Bailey, Treasurer Jim Risbrudt and Clerk Barb Dewey. Absent with excuse Ron Bowman. The meeting was opened with prayer and devotions from Matthew 28 on the mission of the church to go and make disciples. Chapter 5 of Sailboat Church book was discussed. A quorum present. Docket amended and voted approved.

Treasurer's Report: Checking: \$1,780.53; Savings: \$19,964.86; Memorial: \$3,331.88; Music: \$7,962.51; Dishwasher: \$2,034.98; L&L Camp: \$1,481.13; Grover Bible: \$401.77; Build/Maint: \$6,701.00; Starnar: \$2,764.39. Treasurer Jim reported he needed to withdraw \$1,000 of savings account to pay the \$7,100 insurance bill. The Fall Supper brought in \$3,000. A payment to the Shared Ministry in November was not needed because of their good balance on hand. The report was voted approved. The minutes of October 28 and November 12 meetings were voted approved.

Pastor's Report: Communion celebrated at Sunday service with Pastor Snyder on November 3, 2024 with 45 communicants and November 24 with 47 communicants and those on Facebook live. Pastor reports 4 Health Care center visitations, 1 home visit, led Bible Study at Ashby Living Center and attended Pastor's breakfast at Shoreline.

Committee Reports: Shared Ministry: Session and Our Saviors Ten Mile Lake Lutheran Council met November 12. Combined community churches Thanksgiving service will be at OS-TML on November 26 at 7 pm. Hanging of the Greens/WOW Christmas program will be at 1st Presbyterian December 8 at 10:30 AM with no service at OSTML. Blue Christmas at 1st Presbyterian on December 18 at 7 PM. Christmas Eve service at OS-TML at 5 PM. Christmas Day service at 1st Presbyterian at 10:30 AM. Worship times change in January to 9 AM at 1st and 10:30 AM at OS-TML. Shared Holy Week services with community churches if approved by Grue/Peace. Pastor's Compensation for 2025 of \$101,555 which was approved to pass on to churches by Shared Ministry, was voted approved by the Session to be passed on to be approved by the congregation at January Annual Meeting.

Buildings and Grounds: Jim Rylander was able to fix the kitchen faucet, no new materials needed.

Worship: Session agreed to purchase cake for December 8 WOW Christmas program day. Session voted to hold 3rd Sunday service upstairs in December (no Coffeehouse worship day). Christmas Day service will be at 10:30 am with communion, but no coffee that day.

Stewardship: Budget will be reviewed by Jim Risbrudt, Kim Bailey and Troy Johnson.

New Business: Starnar Funds were voted to be distributed as required-50% local, 50% world mission. Local Mission: Union Cemetery: \$250, Pelican Lake Cemetery: \$250, Grant Co Food shelf: \$400, Ashby Backpack program: \$280, Group Cares \$200. World Mission: PEB (Pakistan Student) \$365, Haiti Eye Mission: \$200, Presbyterian World Mission: \$815.

Session voted approval to a request for use of facilities for a piano recital of students of Kris Williams the evening of December 15 at the church.

Next meeting: December 10, 2024 at 7 PM. The meeting was voted adjourned and closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Moderator Rev. Dr. Paul Snyder

Barb Dewey, Clerk of Session

December
OS-TML Worship Leaders
Joan Helgeson

December
First Disciple Team
Jim & Gwyn Risbrudt
Peter & Heidi Hoff

Altar Guild

Nancy Moss

*****Confirmands will assist with reading scriptures during the school year.*****

OS-TML

December 1 – Debbie Thormodson
December 8 – NO SERVICE
December 15 – Aubrey Walvatne
December 22 – Open
December 24 – Open-Christmas Eve
December 29 – Open

FIRST

December 1 – Andie Mickelson
December 8 – Christmas Program
December 15 – Nora Weinandt
December 22 – Open
December 25 – Open-Christmas Day
December 29 – Open

December Birthdays

1 Teresa Akerman
2 Yvonne Breuer
2 Parker Ecker
4 Jim Rylander
15 Lochlann Stevens
19 Chris Ecker
23 Ellie Walvatne
25 David Schroeder
25 Jesus Christ
27 Julie Olson



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
105 South Central
PO Box 158
Dalton, MN 56324
RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED



December

SHARED MINISTRY STAFF

Reverend Doctor Paul Snyder

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105 S. Central Ave, PO Box 158, Dalton, MN 56324

First Presbyterian Church: 747-2744 - 202 Nelson St, PO Box 14, Ashby, MN 56309

Office Administrator: Jaime Sorenson Cell: 507-276-8237

Office Email – sharedministrvashbydalton@gmail.com

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE September-December 2024

9:00am – Our Savior's-Ten Mile Lake Worship

Holy Communion the 1st & 4th Sunday

3rd Sunday Coffeehouse Worship

10:30am – First Presbyterian Worship

Holy Communion the 1st & 4th Sunday

3rd Sunday Coffeehouse Worship

ONLINE SERVICES live at 9:00am on Facebook



First Presbyterian Session Members

Barb Dewey – Clerk of Session
Troy Johnson
Donna Fay Grover
Kim Bailey
Ron Bowman
Gwyn Risbrudt
Jim Rylander
Jim Risbrudt – Treasurer

Shared Ministry Council

Troy Johnson- Vice President
Kim Bailey
Jim Rylander
Jim Risbrudt- Treasurer
Jerry Thormodson- President
David Olson
Joan Helgeson- Secretary
Julie Olson



OS-TML Church Council Members

Julie Walvatne
Danielle Schroeder
Stacy Hansel- Secretary
Debbie Wilke - Treasurer
Dave Olson- Vice President
Ted Frigaard
Kyle Frigaard - President
Jerry Thormodson

Women of the ELCA President

Peggy Lien

Board of Education

Ashley Lee

Endowment Fund Board

Deb Thormodson

Our Savior's Cemetery Board

David Schroeder, Sexton
Kyle Frigaard
Dean Thorsen
Gaylan Thormodson
Larry Sonmor