



The Parish *Messenger*



JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR
HADDONFIELD, NJ

Virtual Congregation Annual Meeting Set for January 31 at 10:30am; Held Using Zoom

Despite a vaccine being on the way it is unrealistic to expect life to be back to normal before Our Savior's Annual Congregational Meeting that is set for Sunday, January 31st. While there will be greater details shared as preparations proceed in January the schedule for the day will be as follows.

8:00 a.m. – Livestream Worship on Facebook. You can worship in real time at 8:00 or later in the day as the worship is recorded and available for viewing after the service.

9:15 a.m. – Reflections Worship by Zoom. Use the link on our website homepage to join the Zoom worship service by your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

10:30 a.m. – Congregation Annual Meeting by Zoom. An email will be sent out in January with the Zoom Meeting link for you to join the meeting. If you are dialing into the meeting rather than using the internet you will need the following information to gain access: **Meeting ID: 871 5408 8771** and **Passcode: 695189**

Why are we holding the Annual Meeting completely by Zoom instead of a mix of virtual and in person? Despite the creation and delivery of a vaccine it is unrealistic to expect life to return to pre-pandemic ways until late spring/early summer. Additionally there is a realistic expectation that the infection rate will spike even higher after the holidays so in order to keep our congregation safe the Council has determined to hold the meeting by Zoom Meeting rather than even a mix of in person and virtual gathering.

Is this even allowed by our Congregation Constitution? Yes. As long as everyone participating can both hear and be heard by all in attendance then it is a valid congregational meeting by our constitution's specifications.

What if I don't have the ability to use a computer? Can I participate if all I have is a house phone or an old flip cell phone? Yes. The Meeting ID and Passcode above are what you will need when dialing into the meeting. Just dial 1-929-205-6099 on your cell and punch in the information when prompted. You will be able to hear the meeting and be heard by everyone in the meeting as well. Your image will simply be your phone number.

How will roll call be taken? We will be recording the meeting so we will have a record of all who are attending. If you are dialing in by phone instead of using the internet you will be asked your name so we can record your name with your phone number that is on the screen.

Why is it so important for members to make the effort to participate this year, especially when it will be so challenging? In addition to the election of Council and Memorial Gift Board members as well as approving the 2021 Financial Plan for Ministry the big topic for discussion and voting of members is the **creation of the New Beginnings Childcare of Our Savior**. This will be a separate 501(c)3 ministry subsidiary of Our Savior that is intended to pick up where Haddonfield Child Care left off after they had to close due to the financial repercussions created by reduced enrollment during the pandemic. There will be a separate informational piece going out in January on this single issue for the congregation to discuss and approve at the Annual Meeting.

MARK JAN 31 ON YOUR NEW CALENDARS NOW FOR 10:30 ZOOM ANNUAL MEETING.

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a faith community that worships Jesus as our Lord, proclaims and shares God's Word, welcomes all people, serves human needs, and nurtures personal and spiritual growth through fellowship all to the glory of God.



“The Magi’s Gifts and Our Baptism – An Epiphany Connection”

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

On January 6 the Church celebrates The Epiphany of Our Lord, the day when the three magi visited the boy-child Jesus bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Symbolically the gifts have great meaning. Gold symbolizes Jesus kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of Jesus’ deity, the Son of God. And myrrh, which was used as embalming oil, symbolizes death, Jesus’ death on the cross. So imagine being Joseph and Mary receiving such gifts after the birth of their first born son from three Zoroastrian star-gazers from the East and pondering their significance. Royalty. Deity. And death? And yet, in such a seemingly insignificant child born first laid in a manger born to an ordinary construction worker and teenage girl who were living far from their backwater home in Nazareth all three gifts signified their son’s identity as king of the Jews, Son of God, and the sacrifice he would make for the sake of the world. Indeed, his death would not be just for the people of Israel, but even for the very Gentiles who knelt before him with their gifts from afar.

The first Sunday following January 6 the Church then celebrates The Baptism of Our Lord, when Jesus began his earthly ministry following his baptism by John in the River Jordan. On that Sunday The Lutheran Church of Our Savior will remember and bless the families and children who were baptized in 2020. In baptism we not only pour water over the head of the baptized but we also anoint them with oil during the “Chrismation” portion of the rite. I say their name, dip my thumb in a golden oil stock, and while tracing a cross on their forehead say, “Child of God you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.” What you may not know is that blessed oil contains both frankincense and myrrh, the very gifts presented to Jesus. The fragrance is a reminder that we are God’s children, precious in God’s sight, but we are also mortal. We will one day die. But because we have been joined to Christ’s death and resurrection in those baptismal waters death does not have the last word. The God who raised Jesus, and who will one day raise us in the resurrection, has the last word.

Just as God’s grace and power of new life were revealed in a boy-child Jesus, so too, God’s grace and resurrection power can be revealed through us in our everyday ordinary lives. As we enter into the new year of 2021 (FINALLY!) I think we would do well to remember our baptism and the connection we have to the gifts the Magi laid at Jesus’ tiny feet. We are God’s royal priesthood of all believers. We are children of God, our heavenly Father. And we are mortal. Only death doesn’t have the last word in our lives, both not then, and in 2021. This new year will be filled with new beginnings as the Coronavirus vaccine allows us to resume life where social distancing and masks are no longer required. The work of antiracism and partnerships that were created to work toward that end will continue as the months unfold creating a new life for those whose skin color was the only reason for their discrimination and suffering. Our Savior will begin a new ministry with the New Beginnings Child-care (see related article) by the summer and then in the new school year.

And through it all, I pray we remember our baptism and our chrismation in it. That we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ, the symbol of both death and resurrection, forever. I pray we remember that death does not have the last word for those who trust in the God who raised Jesus from the dead. Maybe that is what we can remember every time we touch our forehead and make the sign of the cross on it. We are God’s children. We are a royal priesthood. And even though we die, yet shall we live, no matter what. With such a focus it will surely be a Happy New Year.



1 & 2 Thessalonians Topic of Bible Discussion for Daily Living Beginning Jan 11

Which New Testament writings are older; the Gospels of Jesus Christ or Paul’s letters to various churches in the Roman Empire? Answer: Paul’s letters. In fact, First Thessalonians is likely the oldest writing in the New Testament written only a decade or so after Jesus’ death and resurrection! If you’ve ever wondered what it must have been like for those first early churches and the words of good news they needed to hear when Christianity was just beginning then you will enjoy our study of both Paul’s first and second letters to the Thessalonians. Join us on Mondays (7:30-9:00 p.m.) or Wednesdays (9:30-11:00 a.m.) for our Zoom Bible discussion of these two short books of the New Testament. The reading schedule is as follows:

Jan 11/13	1 Th 1:1-2:16	Lasting Model of Ministry
Jan 18/20	1 Th 2:17-4:12	Living to Please God
Jan 25/27	1 Th 4:13-5:28	Living in Peace with Others
Feb 1/3	2 Th chapter 1	Perseverance and God’s Judgment
Feb 8/10	2 Th chapter 2	Lawlessness and Christ’s Coming
Feb 15/17	2 Th chapter 3	Idleness and Paul’s Authority





Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Mike & Arlene Stolarick, Walt Haswell, Jeanne Grimes, Dick Wilson, Randi Gordon, Shirley Stambaugh, Ethel Boyce, Don & Caryl Wallace,

Doris Iarossi, Joyce Odendahl, Michelle Mavis, John Rell, Kim, Lynn Hoppe Kaminski, Larry Thatcher, Scott Hansen, Tom Levecchia, Abby Phelps, Bill Getty, Faith Marum DelPercio, Glenn Marshall, Carmela Cramford, Natalie Parker, Kathleen Kelly, Jacob Berard, Keith Maull, Ryan Baxter, Connie Verner, Jeffrey Gross, Judy Yerkes, Daniel Mandel, Susan Mizeika, Saunders Family, Ed Miller, Aasiyah Bey, Barbara Kerrane, Sandy Ferguson, Joanne Horn, Terry Mitchell, Ken Koehler, Rocco D'Alessandro Jr., Bette Roncace, Nicholas Juele, Frank Marche, Beckham Williams, Ed Clark, Col. Fred C. Anderson, Fred Moffitt, Lily Gregorio, Julie Bartlett, Jimmy Lombardo, John Daggan, Betty Schurmann, Elva Mastrando, Ryan Roberts, Ann & Len Jones, Chuck Atkinson, Sophia Campos, William T family, David Wenck,



Pantry During Covid-19 Quarantine

Pantry Update: We are continuing the suspension of the Pantry process during the closure of the church. "Depending on the size of the family, we are sending out \$100-\$200 Acme Gift Cards to each of the Pantry Families on a monthly basis. The food items that have been donated are also being distributed.

Pantry Families Thank You: "I greatly appreciate you making my Christmas special with your very kind, thoughtful generosity. I can never thank you enough for helping me survive through tough times. Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Safe New Year! Blessings to all."

"Dear Pantry Angels, Wow, Thank you so much for the Acme Gift card(s). You are my life line, greatly helping me through difficult times... Then you even gave me 3 bags of groceries! on top of that, and 2 cans of cat food. As always, I hope and pray that all of your kind generosity comes back to you. Wishing all of you a Happy, Healthy Holiday season. Many Blessings.



Boxed Envelopes Available In Parish Hall for Pick-Up from Dec 6 until Jan 3

Members of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior are asked to pick up their 2021 offering envelopes in the Parish Hall by January 3. **NOTE: Adult children attending college or those who are otherwise still listed as living at home will not be issued envelopes but are encouraged to provide their offerings in the family household envelope.** Any adult child wishing to have their own envelopes need only request them from the Church Office. If you can drop off envelopes for a friend or nearby neighbor in the congregation please do. Envelopes that are not picked up after Jan 3 will be mailed out in the first weeks of the 2021. Please help reduce postage costs by picking up your offering envelopes in the Parish Hall. **Please note: Anyone whose numbers were over 300 will have a different number for 2021 so please refer to the Contributor sheets with the envelopes to find your number.**



Undeck the Sanctuary Jan 3 @ Noon

With the arrival of Epiphany comes the removal of the various Christmas décor from around the church sanctuary. The Head to the Heart Confirmation Class will be assisting in this task using the same social distancing protocols used to put them up. **Go to the Sign Up Genius link on our website** to sign up your family to assist in the removal of the christmons, lights, and trees. There are time slots for each of the three tasks to be completed for a family to volunteer and help.

Annual Reports Deadline is Jan 4

If you are a chairperson or staff member in a ministry area you are to submit your annual report of ministry to the Parish Administrator, Sandy DeDonatis no later than January 4 so the Annual Report of the Congregation can be completed and mailed by the required January 19 deadline. Please be sure to include highlights of your ministry as this document provides an overview of Our Savior's ministry not only for the benefit of the Annual Meeting but for record keeping purposes as well. Thank you in advance for your attention to content and time constraints.



Baptismal Medallions Virtual Blessing

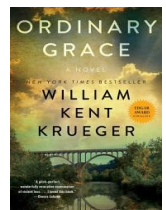
During Livestream on Jan 10

On Sunday, January 10, the Church celebrates the Baptism of our Lord. It is also the day The Lutheran Church Our Savior celebrates the baptisms of all the children who have been baptized in the previous year. At the 10:30 livestream worship parents and sponsors will renew the promises they made at the child's baptism, the children will receive a virtual blessing by Pastor Wayne as well as a gift of a pewter baptismal medallion.

The main difference this year is the families will have already received the medallions prior to the blessing rite so they might virtually participate in the blessing in their homes during the 10:30 Facebook livestream of the worship. Parents who will be participating in the service are asked to confirm so by contacting the church office either by phone (429-5122) or email Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Jaime Frazier (lcosjaime@gmail.com) so we can be sure you get the medallion before January 10.

LCOS Book Club

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 PM. We will be reading *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. Please reach out to Sam Wentz with any questions: sam.wentz@gmail.com, 609-922-4973.





New Beginnings Childcare at Our Savior A Resurrection Opportunity for Ministry

In the fall of 2020 the Haddonfield Child Care (HCC) was forced to close due to pandemic-related financial infeasibility after 37 years of providing childcare services to working parents of kindergarteners in half-day sessions. For the last seven of those years the HCC operated out of classroom spaces on the first and third floors of Our Savior when the Haddonfield School District could no longer accommodate them space in any of their buildings, which has been a blessing to both HCC and LCOS during that time.

With the “death” of the HCC there is also a “resurrection” opportunity for Our Savior to take up the torch of this childcare ministry in the next year so that working parents

might have a place for their children to experience both excellent childcare and educational enrichment both during the school year and when it is not in session. A Childcare Steering Committee was formed in November of both former HCC staff and prior Board members as well as members of Our Savior to create the business plan for the New Beginnings Childcare at Our Savior (NBCOS) under a new 501(c)3 that would enable the existing HCC physical resources to be donated to this new childcare rather than purchasing new. The full proposal will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting for approval on Sunday, January 31, at 10:30 a.m. being held by Zoom Meeting (see related article in this Messenger). Here are the highlights of what NBCOS will offer and operating parameters.

- Two-Pronged Childcare Services: 1. Wrap-around kindergarten childcare and enrichment classes for kindergartners in Haddonfield, initially, and if possible to Haddon Heights and Haddon Township as capacity allows. 2. Childcare for Kindergarten through Grade 5 during non-school operation holidays and summer months.
- Hours of operation would be two sessions from 7:30-Noon and Noon-6:00 or similarly during the summer months of childcare.
- New Beginnings Childcare would be financially self-sufficient and not seek financial support from the congregation’s annual General Fund for ministry.
- The entire third floor would be used for sessions during the school year with other parts used as needed in the summer months.
- The NBCOS Director and Our Savior’s Director of Youth and Family Ministry would collaborate on how both ministries might work in concert with respect to both the use of physical space as well as supporting the mission of both areas of ministry.

Once the Steering Committee has finalized the proposal by mid-January the congregation will have the opportunity to discuss adding this needed and previously successful ministry to our mission in this community. In the meantime please keep the members of the committee in prayer as they work to finalize the details and prepare for your questions and concerns.



Sisters in Spirit Kick Off the New Year with a Devotional Evening

LCOS women and their friends are invited to join Sisters in Spirit in a virtual devotional evening on Friday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m. If the New Year and a continued pandemic have you thinking you could use a little spiritual boost, join us in a discussion of “Saints and Sinners in Sensible Shoes.” We’re all a little bit of both saint and sinner, but do women focus on their perceived errors more than their successes? What does God expect of us? Join the discussion and find out.

Please RSVP to Debbie Tredinnick at dlrtredinnick@yahoo.com to receive the Zoom link. The link and explanatory materials will be sent the week leading up to Friday evening. Late comers may register up to the day of the discussion.

Red Cross Blood Drive Wednesday, Jan 6 from 2:00-7:00

Patients requiring a stable blood supply has increased and coupled with a decline in donors due to the quarantine the demand has never been higher for volunteers to donate blood.

On Wednesday, Jan 6 from 2:00-7:00 The Red Cross will host a blood drive at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in the Parish Hall. Please consider volunteering to be a blood donor that day. Go to the American Red Cross Website to sign up. In order to minimize the risk and fears some may have in donating at this time we ask the following for those planning to donate.

1. Enter by the sliding door main entrance on Wayne Avenue.
2. Bring and wear a mask that covers both your mouth and nose.
3. Sanitize your hands as you enter.
4. Enter the Parish Hall to the left and follow the instructions provided by the Red Cross.
5. When finished, please exit by the EXIT door to the left of the stage and exit the building by the doors at the end of the hall.

Thank you in advance for the gift of life you give to your neighbor in need.



**American
Red Cross**



Stewards of God's Love

God's Love Comes Down, God's People Respond

The Stewardship theme for 2020 was "God's Love Comes DOWN," a concept that is reinforced whenever we make the sign of the cross and bring our hands down from our heads to our hearts. The next step is that God's people respond by moving IN to receive that love. Then in trust and faith we respond by sharing what we have received. The people of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior certainly demonstrated "moving in" to God by the pledges given in November and December for 2021 giving.

In the midst of a pandemic and an uncertain economy, you responded with pledges that—while not matching the current year's pledges—have come near those levels. Shown below are the number of pledges and the total pledged as of mid-December for both years:

2020	91 pledges	total pledged: \$253,550
2021	84 pledges	total pledged: \$223,806

Most likely the 2021 totals increased in the second half of this past December. At the end of last year the number of pledges for 2020 increased from 91 to 97, and the amount pledged increased to \$269,754. Will we match that number in 2021?

It's not too late for you to respond to God's blessings by returning a pledge card for 2021 if you haven't already done so. Pledge cards can be obtained by contacting the church office. Return them by mail to the church office or email to the LCOS Financial Secretary, Shannon Foskett, at sgfoskett@yahoo.com. Shannon will directly record your estimate of giving in our church database.

Thank you for responding to God's love in trust and faith through your pledges.

Closing Out 2020

At the end of November, LCOS income was \$39,895 below the expected level for 2020. Hopefully Christmas giving helped close that gap, but if it didn't, the projected deficit was \$45,000 for the year. If you have the ability to meet your 2020 planned giving for Our Savior's ministry or to give a little extra at the beginning of 2021, you will make a wonderful difference in the financial health of the congregation if you do so. Please note that any catch-up giving received after December 31 will be credited to 2021. However, it still will help the LCOS budget climb out of that deficit hole.

Thank you for your caring and concern!

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE

God's Love Comes DOWN, God's People Come IN

Pledge Results

For Year	As Of Commitment Sunday		As Of End of Year	
	#	\$	#	\$
2016	72	\$195,010	106	\$264,362
2017	57	\$145,286	101	\$249,060
2018	62	\$161,068	101	\$262,120
2019	62	\$184,590	100	\$272,360
2020	60	\$181,630	91	\$253,550
2021	56	\$171,426	84*	\$223,806*

* 2021 results are as of December 6th. There is still time to pledge for 2021.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PLEDGED

Congregational Support: January – November 2020

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2018	174	\$ 376,086
2019	167	\$ 380,280
2020	219 *	\$ 352,147 **

* Since church closed in March 2020, weekly attendance is calculated using a formula provided by the ELCA: number of one- minute views on our livestream multiplied by 2 to get the number of people worshipping by livestream. Add the actual number of people joining the Reflections service by Zoom and the actual number of people attending the 8:00 AM service in person to get the total number in attendance for any given week.

** \$39,895 under what was budgeted. The lack of weekly loose offerings and special holiday giving in the collection plate, such as at Easter and Christmas, has contributed significantly to this deficit. Without additional revenue, the deficit is projected to be \$46,000 at year end.

Thank You for Being Stewards of God's Love

Thank you to all those who are mailing in their offering envelopes or giving electronically. In these difficult times, Our Savior's faithful givers are sharing their offerings so that others may know God's love. We may be socially distant, but our faith and commitment continue to be at work in the world.

All Envelope Offerings						
Month	3 Year rolling average %	Total Revenue per Budget x Rolling Avg % = 2020 Plan Giving	Actual Monthly Giving 2020	Actual Giving vs Plan Difference Over (Under)	Actual Monthly Giving 2019	Actual Monthly \$ Difference 2020 vs 2019 Over (Under)
January	7.49%	\$ 34,757	\$ 38,641	\$ 3,884	\$ 44,273	\$ (5,632)
February	6.90%	32,027	33,445	1,418	32,308	1,137
March	7.06%	32,761	41,043	8,282	33,620	7,423
April	9.60%	44,556	27,470	(17,086)	40,413	(12,943)
May	7.38%	34,254	31,435	(2,819)	37,875	(6,440)
June	8.57%	39,759	26,379	(13,380)	35,509	(9,130)
July	6.75%	31,324	23,988	(7,336)	28,510	(4,522)
August	7.10%	32,958	30,497	(2,461)	26,152	4,345
September	7.72%	35,799	26,532	(9,267)	35,294	(8,762)
October	7.53%	34,960	27,558	(7,402)	28,114	(556)
November	8.38%	38,886	45,159	6,273	38,212	6,947
December	15.51%	71,958			74,766	
Total	100.00%	\$ 464,000	\$ 352,147	\$ (39,895)	\$ 455,046	\$ (28,133)



Oasis/Confirmation:

Our annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service will look a little different this year. In years past we have done service around the church, this is not an option for this year. So instead, we will be creating Hygiene Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Every kit will need one light weight bath-sized towel, one adult toothbrush in packaging, one sturdy comb (packaging removed), 2 bars of soap, and one metal nail clipper (packaging removed). All of the products will be wrapped inside of the towel. You can make as many or as little kits as you want. I just ask that they are returned to the church by January 24th. If you are interested in doing the kits, please let me know so I can send you all the instructions.

Oasis Schedule: January: 3- No Youth Group
10- Bible Study at 6:30
17- No Youth Group
18- Work on Hygiene Kits
24- Catch up Meeting at 6:30
31- Game Night at 6:30

Remember that Oasis is open to anyone in 9th to 12th grade. If you have never joined us, it is not too late!!



Sunday School:

Thank you, thank you, thank you for everyone who helped make the ABC's of Advent a great success!! Especially to everyone who made the videos; Andy, Charlotte, Julia, Kylie, Gavin, Jack, Liam, Henry, Emma, Chase, Carter, Teddy, Aiden, Miles, Nora, Patrick, Avery, Evan, Easton, Sophia, Timmy, Tommy, Benny, Danny and Alianna. They all turned out amazing!

Since the ABC's of Advent turned out so well! We will be doing the ABC's of Lent. They will start on Ash Wednesday and end on Easter. This one will be a little different, there will be an opportunity for prayer to do with your family after you receive the daily letter.

If your child is interested in Virtual Sunday School, it is still not too late!! You can join every once in a while. We meet every Sunday at 9:30 via Zoom and it lasts about 15 minutes. I know that your children are tired of the internet by Sunday morning, so I try to keep it short. But after they are done with the virtual part, they can go have a discussion with their parents to better understand the story they just heard. If you have any questions or if your child wants to join us, please let me know by emailing me at LCOSJaime@gmail.com.

God Calls Samuel

On January 17th, the Sunday School class will be learning about the story of God calling Samuel. You can find this story in 1 Samuel 3:1-20. To start off we must recognize that Samuel was about 12 years old when God came to him, so if it was current times, he would be in about 6th grade. Samuel lived and took care of a blind Priest named Eli, Eli would teach Samuel about God. One night while Samuel and Eli were sleeping, Samuel heard his name called out, he thought it was Eli. So Samuel went to Eli and asked him what he wanted, Eli said he did not call him and to go back to bed. This happened 2 more times during the night and when it happened the third time, Eli realized that it was God calling out to Samuel. So he told Samuel that the next time that he heard someone call out to him again to say, "God, I hear you and I will do whatever you want." When God called out to Samuel the next time, he did what Eli said and God told Samuel many things.

There are many times that God is calling us and we either ignore God or just do not hear Him calling out to us. During the month of January and February, I am going to challenge you to listen for God. This may mean to take 10 to 15 minutes a day to be in deep prayer to actively listen to God. In this time of prayer, you do not have to have a certain prayer. When I do my daily deep prayer, I just have a conversation with God. I talk to God like I am talking to a friend. One thing we can take away from this story is it does not matter your age, God can be calling out to you at any age. Take Samuel he was just 12 years old! After he heard from God he knew he wanted to serve God. God guides us on how to be a Christian and how we can help our family and community. I hope that over the next few months and for times to come that you can hear God calling out to you.

Please join us for a daily prayer during our ABC's of Lent. The videos will start going out on Ash Wednesday, if you are interested in joining us for this great series, please let me know by February 15th. I look forward to sharing this series with the congregation like we did for the ABC's of Advent. I hope you had a great holiday season! Here is a picture of Joseph in his Christmas outfit!

Miss you all!

Jaime



Oh Rest Beside the Weary Road and Hear the Angels Sing

December 24th, 1818, in the small Austrian town of Oberndorf, a hymn text was hastily penned by young priest Joseph Mohr, with a guitar accompaniment by schoolmaster and organist Franz Xaver Gruber, as they were dealing with a flood that had silenced the church organ, needing a hymn for that night's Christmas Eve mass. The hymn they wrote under these unprecedented circumstances was "Stille Nacht" which we all know as "Silent Night."



Two centuries later, with the exception of "Silent Night," we prefer our Christmas hymns to be joyful (think "Joy to the World," "Go Tell It On the Mountain," and "Angels We Have Heard On High"). Christmas most years is filled with lots of baking, many presents, holiday gatherings, and celebrations that feel like the sugar high that you got after you eat all those Christmas cookies you made. But this year, our holidays are quieter, our gatherings (hopefully) small and safe, and on Christmas Eve, we won't be in a sanctuary filled with many people singing carol after carol. We can still celebrate together over Facebook Live, but it truly will be a silent night for most of us. So maybe this is a year to turn to the quieter carols.

One of the calmer carols, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," has a third verse that I always remember at the end of Christmas Eve, having finished all services. Its words seem even more appropriate after a year full of hardship for some, struggles for many, and a hope needed by all of us:

*And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:*

*Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.*

Church, we need to rest beside the weary road a little longer as we are waiting out this pandemic. We are in for some more silent nights, but the "glad and golden hours" will return soon. For now, let us listen and look for those angels. Let us look for the ones and be the ones who live out the "God's work, our hands" motto, by serving with their hands and their words. Let us sing to the weary souls around us, be it with actual carols, or through service.

Until we meet again safely:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen. Pauline



HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE by Betsy Kuehn

Instead of having holiday food bags available this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic, a donation cart was inside the sliding doors of the church during the month of November to drop off donations of non-perishable foods. Donations benefited the Peace Center at Bridge of Peace Church in Camden and the LCOS Pantry families. Anyone still wishing to make a monetary donation, please

make checks payable to LCOS, and indicate Holiday Food Drive in memo line and mail to the church. Donations for the Holiday Food Drive can also be made online thru Simply Giving at <http://oursaviorhaddonfield.org/simply-giving/>. 39 bags of groceries were delivered to Pantry families, and 24 bags of food to Bridge of Peace. As of 12/1, received \$650 in monetary donations. Thank you to all who made donations.

God Bless LCOS Angels - Advent Giving Online Registry Update by Betsy Kuehn

"I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least of these, you did it for me." (Matthew 25:40)

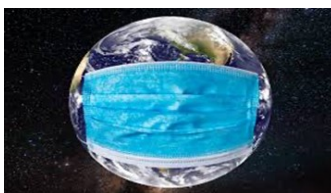
Thank you from the Social Ministry Committee to everyone who signed up on the registry and purchased the gift cards or donated money to purchase gift cards. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, participants were not able to sign up for a "tag" from the Advent Giving Tree in the narthex, but signed up online via the Advent Giving Online Registry. We started with 213 available gift cards and ended with 88 gift cards taken and 125 gift cards left. Using money budgeted for the Advent Giving Registry, and monetary donations contributed to the Advent Giving Tree fund, we were able to purchase gift cards that were not taken from the registry. The gifts are given to children, teenagers, young adults, adults and families through the following organizations.

1. **Urban Promise (for their Christmas Promise Store)**— provides Christian outreach and education programs for children and youth of Camden.
2. **My Father's House** – a court mandated substance abuse counseling center for male and female teenagers and adults.
3. **Caring Hearts Ministry** – provides support for individuals with HIV/AIDS and their families.
4. **Pantry Families** – families in our area who are regularly provided with groceries from the LCOS pant

You can still contribute to the Advent Giving Registry project. There are two ways to contribute.

1. Mail a check made payable to "LCOS" with "ADVENT GIVING TREE" in the memo line to 204 Wayne Avenue, Haddonfield, NJ 08033.
2. Make an online donation through the Simply Giving app on our website <http://oursaviorhaddonfield.org/simply-giving>. Indicate your gift is for the ADVENT GIVING TREE in the Outreach section of the page.

Thank you for participating in God's work of spreading hope, peace, love, and joy this Advent season for those who are less fortunate in our midst.



For God's People and God's Planet and God's Animals

Go for Seconds

Recycling doesn't mean only separating your cans and bottles.

It can mean using things a second (or a third) time.

That nice padded envelope you got in the mail, for example?

Instead of throwing it away, scratch out the address,

tear off the stamps, and use it again !!

Be the CHANGE God's world needs !! Have the faith and make a CHANGE !!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior

204 Wayne Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033 (856)429-5122 (voice) (856)429-7245(fax) www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org

Worship 9:15 AM Zoom Reflections, & 10:30 AM Facebook Live

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Corner of Wood Lane and Wayne Avenue
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

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January 2021 Messenger

Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed December 22,2020

Address Service Requested



Jan 1	Beth Hill	Jan 10	Tracy Stiefel	Jan 24	Easton Nemeth
Jan 2	Jeffrey Martinsen	Jan 11	Brett Ainsworth	Jan 25	Joan Hall
Jan 4	Ethel Boyce	Jan 11	Patrick Ainsworth	Jan 25	Michael Turner
Jan 4	Warren Reintzel	Jan 12	Edythe Austermuhl	Jan 26	Luke Fabian
Jan 5	Chase Atkinson	Jan 12	Michael Newton	Jan 26	Dave Foster
Jan 5	Millie King	Jan 13	Courtney Mills	Jan 26	Sandy Hoffman
Jan 5	Peg Olt	Jan 13	Sue Windle	Jan 26	Donna Mirabello
Jan 5	Kimberly Shaw	Jan 15	Wayne Roberts	Jan 27	Judy Caravelli
Jan 7	Chase Adams	Jan 15	Dave Wyche	Jan 27	Christian Gross
Jan 7	Patrick Lynch	Jan 16	Ava Cottone	Jan 27	Kimberly Vasallo
Jan 7	Jill Qualls	Jan 16	Nicole Fallon	Jan 28	Bob Dempsey
Jan 8	Charlotte Lynch	Jan 17	Cleo Cottone	Jan 29	Zachary Hugo
Jan 8	Heather Oakes	Jan 17	Lila Cottone	Jan 30	Kali Williams
Jan 9	Samuel Chaiken	Jan 17	Cindy Jentsch	Jan 31	Jessica Martinsen
Jan 9	Michael Wolf	Jan 19	Emily Demers	Jan 31	Julia McKeever
Jan 10	Betsy Kuehn	Jan 21	Nancy Frazier	Jan 31	Kylie McKeever
Jan 10	Barbara Standke	Jan 22	Nicole Speyerer	Jan 31	Debbie Tredinnick