



The Parish *Messenger*

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR
HADDONFIELD, NJ



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship Times; 3:00, 5:00, 8:00, & 10:00

Sanctuary Limited to 150. Livestream Offered at 5:00 and 10:00.

Join the congregation in celebrating the birth of Christ this Christmas Eve at any of the four worship times that best fit your schedule. With the pandemic still an issue, despite vaccination rates, we will be maintaining social distancing in the pews and requiring masks worn during worship. This limits the seating capacity to about 150 per service with overflow seating in the Parish Hall. Both the 5:00 and 10:00 worship services will be provided by livestream as well. Here are the times and a brief description of each.

3:00 & 5:00 Family Worship: A Children's Sermon and anthems sung by both the Cherub (3:00) and Children's Choirs (5:00) as well as the Children's Bell Choir (5:00) ringing are the highlight of these worship services. These are great family-focused worship services and we hope you will invite your friends without a church home to join you. Communion will be celebrated and the service ends with candlelight singing of Silent Night.

8:00 Traditional/Youth Worship: The Youth Choir and Bell Choir continue to be the featured choir at this service and returning college students are invited to join them in singing familiar anthems if they choose. A traditional sermon is preached. Communion will be celebrated and the service ends with candlelight singing of Silent Night.

10:00 Classic "Midnight" Worship: The Adult Choir and Bell Choir are the featured choirs at this service with a traditional sermon preached from the pulpit or aisle. Communion will be celebrated and the service ends with candlelight singing of Silent Night.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 WILL BE ONE WORSHIP ONLY AT 10:30 AM

Advent Brunch and Deck the Halls on Dec 5 at Noon and 5:00PM

Two congregation events will occur on Sunday, Dec 5.

Advent Brunch



Advent Brunch for Adults from Noon-2:00. Advent Brunch returns to Rhoads Ave this year with Pastor Wayne and Kate Zschech hosting the event at the parsonage next door to the church. Adult beverages will be available as well as a ham, and guests are invited to bring a brunch item to share with other participants. This is a great way for members and guests to reconnect after the pandemic and get to know one another in a festive setting and you won't even need to move your car! You can even use the church ovens if needed to keep your entrée warm during the 10:30 worship.



"Deck the Halls" for Christmas from 5:00-8:00. The congregation will work with confirmation youth and parents to prepare our church for Christmas by putting up the two trees in the sanctuary and one in the narthex with lights and Chrismon ornaments. This is a great time for families to learn about the meaning behind the unique Chrismon ornaments that adorn our sanctuary trees each year.

Dinner will be coordinated by Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Jaime Frazier, and the three large artificial pine trees will be put up, strung with lights, and decorated with the handmade Crismons immediately following the meal. Help get our church ready for the Christmas Pageant and Lessons and Carols events in the coming two weeks. Contact Jaime - lcosjaime@gmail.com, if you plan to attend to insure enough pizzas are ordered. Home-made Christmas cookies are always a great treat to share if you would like to bring some.

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.



“Christmas Is Best Celebrated ‘In the Flesh’

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

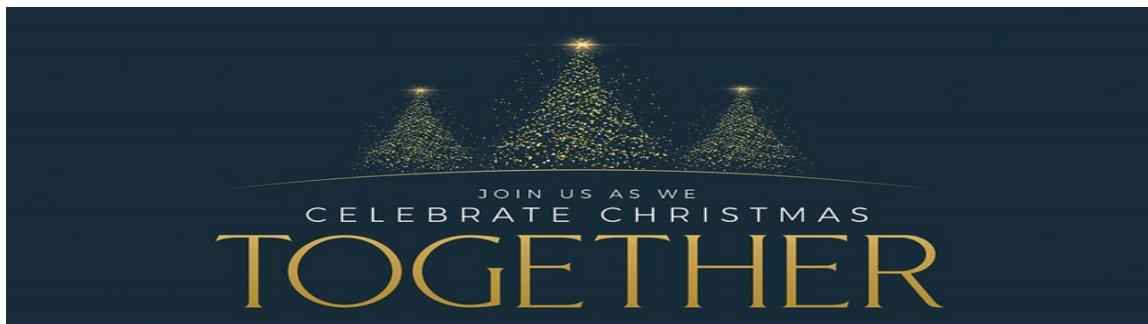
What are you looking forward to most this Christmas? Maybe it’s getting to be with family – all the family – that you couldn’t do last Christmas. Dropping off my sister’s family gifts instead of gathering with them was disappointing. Even more heartbreaking was watching my daughter drop off her fiancé’s and his family’s gifts earlier and only being able to offer a Christmas handshake as he was a potential risk as a school-teacher. Sitting next to my wife and daughter for Christmas Eve worship was something we haven’t done since...ever. We even had a Zoom worship with other family and friends as we played the prerecorded service to get a “feel” of being together. But it wasn’t the same as being next door.

For a pastor, Christmas Eve isn’t the same without the clamor and commotion of multiple candlelight services to a packed sanctuary. I missed celebrating the incarnation of our Lord Jesus with you last year. I missed hearing our voices joined in singing the carols of Christmas. I missed placing the host in your hands at Holy Communion looking into your eyes as I proclaimed, “The body of Christ, given for you.” We may have been together virtually, but there is something profoundly different when we are able to gather “in the flesh” for worship.

Which makes sense since at Christmas we celebrate the Word of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us. God had spoken to us for centuries through Scripture and the prophets. Somehow, we weren’t getting the full picture. We didn’t fully understand what God’s will and love for us truly “looks like.” So, God’s Word became flesh and dwelled among us in the infant Jesus born at Christmas. And I think in some ways that’s true for how the body of Christ maintains our sense of community as well. We need incarnational time together to experience what it means to be the body of Christ as a community of faith. Livestream worship was, and continues to be, a blessing during the pandemic and for those who could not worship with us on Sunday mornings. But there is something experientially different about worshipping together “in the flesh.”

This Christmas Eve Our Savior is adding a fourth worship time at 3:00. We planned to add it in 2020 but, well, you know. It is intended to alleviate the huge crowd at the 5:00 Christmas Eve family worship as well as provide a worship service during daylight hours for those who prefer not to, or cannot, drive at night. We will be limiting the capacity of worship in the sanctuary to approximately 150-200 with overflow seating in the Parish Hall once we hit that number. We will not allow more than 5-6 people in a pew and continue the alternate seating in pews to maintain some distancing. We cannot go back to packing the pews this year as was common prior to the pandemic. The 5:00 and 10:00 services will be livestream services as well for those who still are uncomfortable coming out in large crowds and hope this will enable you to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord with your family at home.

We give thanks for the vaccines that both reduce our risk of infection or severe reactions to the Covid-19 virus and will allow us this year to gather for worship more safely to celebrate the birth of Christ. In my opinion, Christmas is best celebrated “in the flesh” and I look forward to being with you on December 24 as we sing of, pray to, and consume the love of God made flesh in the person of Jesus who is the Christ-child. I truly do hope to see you then. Merry Christmas.

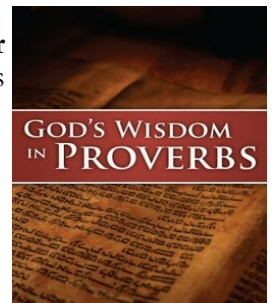


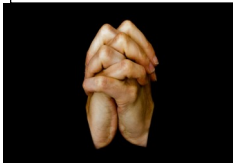
7-Week Bible Study of Proverbs – IN PERSON+ZOOM!

The book of Proverbs is one of the Wisdom writings of the Old Testament and the source of many pithy sayings with a very practical point. Drawn from the everyday life of common people, these proverbs are couched in figurative, poetic speech laced with analogies and similes, which leave a visual as well as verbal impact on the reader.

Join the group **either in person in Room 112 or by Zoom on Monday nights from 7:30-9:00 or Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00** using the links provided on the home page of Our Savior’s website (oursaviorhaddonfield.org). The dates and themes of our discussions are as follows.

Week of	Reading	Group Discussion Theme
Nov 29/Dec 1	Chapters 10-14	Power of Words
Dec 6/8	Chapters 15-19	Relationships
Dec 13/15	Chapters 20-24	Worthy Advice
Dec 20/23	Chapters 25-28	More Relationships
Jan 3/5	Chapters 29-31	Virtuous Woman





Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Yolanda Hales, Walt Haswell, Doris Rell, Arlene Stolarick, Dick Wilson, Randi Gordon, Shirley Stambaugh, Don & Caryl Wallace, Ethel Boyce, *Rich DeBella, Ralph Volpe, Charles Bakes, Jay Keller, Samantha, Jack Kain, Rosemary Dougherty, Peggy Miller, Mark Christman, Caren Kaufman, Colin Lawlor, Amelia Marchese, Albert Kern, Stephen Dempsey, Michelle Mavis, John Rell, Kim, Lynn Hoppe Kaminiski, Larry Thatcher, Scott Hansen, Abby Phelps, Bill Getty, Faith Marum DelPercio, Carmela Crawford, Jacob Berard, Keith Maull, Connie Verner, Judy Yerkes, Daniel Mandel, Susan Mazeika, Saunders Family, Ed Miller, Aasiyah Bey, Barbara Kerrane, Sandy Ferguson, Joanne Horn, Terry Mitchell, Ken Koehler, 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

Our Pantry Families are still in need. **Please continue your generous monetary donations.** When you have the opportunity please continue to donate groceries to the grocery cart to help re-stock the Pantry.



- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Canned Fruit
- Toilet Paper
- Grocery Gift Cards
- Paper Towels



Pantry Thank Yous: "Thank you to the entire congregation ... you are all Angels! I never take the groceries or gift cards for granted. You go out of your way to help me. When I put my groceries away, I think of each item as a present and the folks who donated and packed

are very special people. Thank you!"

Pantry Update: We have added two new families to the Pantry which replaced two families who relocated. Both are single Mom's, one has a teenager and a child. Her husband left her and left with the car. She had to move in with her adult son and so she has no way to get to her job an hour away. The other Mom has 2 teens and one child and works as a Helper in Child Care Center. They are both very grateful for your support.

Poinsettia Delivery People Needed Dec 26 at Noon

Help is needed on Sunday, Dec 26, to deliver the poinsettias that decorated the church on Christmas Eve and Sunday to our home-bound members. This is a wonderful family ministry opportunity and is a great way to

meet members who are unable to attend worship any more or regularly. Contact Marianne Aponte-maraponte@verizon.net-856-429-3789- if you are able to assist in delivering poinsettias.



They're Back!

Sisters-in-Spirit Christmas Ornaments

This December please join Sisters in Spirit in raising funds to aid the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services as they provide assistance to the Afghan families and individuals who are living at Ft. Dix. These folks, who are trying to start new lives after fleeing their country, face a host of challenges and needs while fearing for the loved ones left behind. In our own small way, here's how we can help meet this humanitarian crisis.

In December, Sisters in Spirit will be accepting donations for this important work. In appreciation for your donation, our gift to you will be a handmade Christmas ornament—great for holiday gift giving or for your own tree. Donate in memory of a loved one or to honor someone special in your life. All ornaments come with gift cards to let recipients know how these ornaments will help others.

Information on when the ornaments will be available and how to get yours will be announced soon, so stay tuned. There's a limited number, and they won't last long! Thank you for helping us help others who are facing a very tough winter.



Boxed Envelopes Available In Narthex for Pick-Up from Dec 12 until New Year's Eve

Members of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior are asked to pick up their 2022 offering envelopes in the Narthex by Christmas Eve. **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 December 31 will be mailed out in the first weeks of the 2022. Please help reduce postage costs by picking up your offering envelopes in the Narthex.

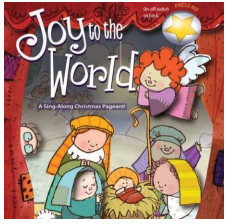
Office Closed Dec 27, 28 and Jan 3

The church office will officially be closed for the holidays of Christmas and New Year's Day.



It is Time to Decorate!!

Calling all Confirmation Youth and Oasis Members! We will be Decking the Halls on December 5th at 5:00PM. Dinner will be provided, please let Jaime know by December 3rd if you will be coming so enough food will be ordered. We will be Undecking the Halls on Jan 2nd after 10:30 service.



Singing Loud For All to Hear!!

Please join us on December 12th for our Sunday School Christmas Pageant. This year it will be a little different. For starters, it will take place in the sanctuary. We are inviting all the families to join us, for a great Sing-Along. We will be singing some of our Christmas Favorites. If your child is interested in having a short speaking role, please let Jaime know by December 5th. Remember that masks are required to be worn during the Christmas Pageant.



Acolytes Needed!

Acolytes are needed for Christmas Eve worship. A Sign-Up Genius was sent out, if you can help out. If you did not receive the sign-up, please email Jaime. Remember that we have worship at 3:00, 5:00, 8:00 and 10:00PM.

Your Impact on the Community!

How can your family make an impact on the community? Over this holiday season, I invite every family to find one way they can make a difference in another person's life. It does not matter what age your child is, they can learn at a young age that they can make a difference. I will never forget my conversation with the Pre-Kindergarten class when I was filling in for their teacher. We talked about how we can share with others, even though they are 4 years old. They told me that they could donate their clothes that are too small for them. They told me that this is their way of showing God's love to the community. I will never forget when I started, Bonnie Richards would always tell me, "As long as they (3 and 4 year old class) know Jesus loves them! We are doing it right!" After teaching them, I can say we are doing it right and some! When I look back over my time at LCOS, either starting as a volunteer with the Youth Group when I was 22 years old, or when I came back to be the Director of Youth and Family Ministry 4 years ago, I cannot thank all of the families that let me be a part of their lives and their families. This position was more than just a job. I will miss teaching and counseling your children. Your children have taught me how to be a friend and parent. I hope that your child feels that I taught them just as many lessons. One thing that I hope that your child always remembers is how to be a good person to everyone, no matter their differences. Thank you all again!

Jaime



Christmas Pageant Set for Dec 12 @ 9:15 AM in Sanctuary

This year's Pageant will be a reprise of the ABC's of Advent our children provided by YouTube videos last year along with a Christmas carol sing-a-long with all those attending. The Pageant will be held in the Sanctuary to provide greater opportunity for distancing and masks will be required by all in attendance.

Due to the use of the sanctuary for the pageant, Reflections Worship will not be held that day and regular attenders are invited to worship at 8:00 or 10:30. There will still be Sunday school during the 10:30 worship as well. Come out and experience how Advent prepares us not only for the coming of Christmas but the coming of our Lord in our lives each and every day.

Thrivent Baptismal Medallions Given on Jan 9

On Sunday, January 9, 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 worship parents and sponsors will renew the promises they made at their child's baptism, the children will receive a blessing by Pastor Wayne, as well as, a gift of a pewter baptismal medallion. The medallion is able to have the child's name and baptismal date engraved on the back as a permanent reminder of God's gracious act. Parents who will be participating in the service are asked to confirm their attendance by contacting the church office either by phone (429-5122) or email the Parish Administrator, Sandy DeDonatis at (lcosandy@gmail.com).



December 15 is the December Fund Raiser Date to Benefit Our Mustard Seed Community Childcare.



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

It is a blessing, honor and privilege to be able to be a part of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior for the coming year. My thanks to you all for your hospitality, generosity and kindness in welcoming me to your community. With the season of Advent soon upon us, I have been wondering quite a bit about this time of preparation, waiting and expectation. With many folks already decking the halls, it can be easy for this most sacred of times to slip our minds as we begin to ponder our present shopping lists! But there is the holiday of Thanksgiving, and of course the Church's season of Advent, before the birth of the Christ child.

Which brings me to wonder, could there be a relationship between the national holiday of Thanksgiving and the Church's season of Advent? I'm going to suggest that, in fact, there is. "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning "a coming, approach, arrival". In common usage, it can refer to the appearance on the scene of all sorts of things deemed important or impactful. In our tradition, it is the coming of Christ that we long after, anticipate and hold of highest importance.

Historically, in parts of the Church, this season of Christ's arrival was a time of preparation for baptism at the feast of Epiphany in January. This preparatory period was for very intentional repentance, including disciplines like prayer and fasting. In general, repentance always means a "turning around" or a "changing of one's mind". It is always God's grace that effects this transformation, this tremendous, radical change of approach. Indeed, Jesus' very first words in the Gospel of Mark are "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." Fulfilled could also be translated as "full" or "pregnant". "These are the birth pangs", as Jesus says elsewhere.

Throughout our lives, the Holy Spirit is working to "turn us around", to remind us just how near the Kingdom of God really is through our Lord, Jesus. Two of the concrete ways in which we see the Spirit at work is in our baptisms and at the Lord's table. In both instances, our response is one of thanks and praise. At table and in our daily lives, we receive the gift that God in Christ has given us! Now, you might be wondering—what does this have to do with the national holiday of Thanksgiving? Well, one tradition that my family practices every year at our Thanksgiving table is the sharing of "What are you thankful for?" It is one of those things that if we somehow forget to do it, someone—without fail—will remind the group and everyone (usually with an uproar of excitement) agrees to participate. There is something perhaps in the nature of offering our thanks that prompts joy while simultaneously praising the Divine who gives us all good things. There is something about that act that is both joyful and hopeful.

As we remember, with thanksgiving, our baptisms during this season of Advent and whenever the Spirit moves us, would that you would experience the exceeding joy and hope of God, ever-present and ever-active to turn us around to see the birth of Christ within our daily lives! With thanks, *Vicar Tom*



Lutheran Church of Our Savior Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden provides a place on the church property for the permanent placement of ashes from cremation for Members and former members of the congregation, members of their families and friends of the church, as well as a retreat for

meditation and prayer for all who wish to use it. A Memorial Garden is an integral part of a church's ministry at the end of life. It provides a beautiful meaningful place where members and their families can proceed directly from a memorial service to inter a loved one at their church home. Additionally, the Garden beautifies and enhances the central focal point of the church property.

Names and dates of birth and death of those interred are placed on a memorial plaque at the head of the interment area.

For additional information and a sample copy of the Interment Agreement and Memorial Garden rules, please call our Parish Administrator, Sandy DeDonatis, 856-429-5122 or email:



lcossandy@gmail.com.



December 2021 Regular Events

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
8:00 & 10:30 AM Sanctuary Worship & 10:30 Facebook Live 9:15 AM Reflection Zoom & in-person 6:30 PM Confirmation & Oasis	5:30-8:00 PM ChildrenSong - Sanctuary 6:30-8:30 PM Possibility Players - PH 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM Bible Discussion	10:30 AM Pastors' Pericope 2:30 PM Staff Meeting	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Bible Discussion 3:00 PM Tai Chi 4:00-4:45 PM Children Choir 4:45-5:15 PM Children Bell Choir	9:00 AM Fix-It Team 7:00 PM Bell Choir 8:00 PM Adult Choir		

December 2021 Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 9:30 AM Mission Quilts 11:00-1:00 Adult Art School	3	4 8:00-11:00 AM ChildrenSong - Sanctuary
5 12:00-2:00 PM Adult Brunch 5:00-8:00 PM Confirmation Serve Event Deck the Halls/Dinner	6 Hanukkah Ends Pauline off	7 7:00 PM Social Ministry Mtg. 7:00 PM Toastmasters	8 10:00-12:00 AM Singing Angels- Sanctuary	9 9:30 AM Mission Quilts 11:00-1:00 Last Adult Art School	10	11
12 No 9:15 Reflection Worship 9:15 AM Children's Christmas Pageant Poinsettia Deadline 3:30-6:30 PM Boy Scouts- PH	13	14 12:00 noon HGC-PH 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM Toastmasters	15 11:00-8:00 AM Mustard Seed Fundraiser at Passariellos	16 Messenger Deadline	17	18 9:00-12:00 AM L & C Choir Rehearsal
19 No Sunday School 9:15 Reflections Worship in Parish Hall 10:30 AM Lessons & Carols 6:30 PM Confirmation Adult Huddle	20 1:00-6:00 PM Red Cross Battle of the Badges	21 12:00 noon EPIC 7:00 Toastmasters	22 10:00-12:00 AM Singing Angels- Sanctuary	23 Messenger Mailing	24 Christmas Eve Worship Services 3:00, *5:00, 8:00, *10:00 PM *Livestream	25 Christmas 
26 Kwanzaa One Worship at 10:30 12:00 noon Poinsettia Delivery No Confirmation, Oasis, Sunday School	27 Church Office Closed No Possibility Players	28 Church Office Closed	29 Pauline	30 Vacation	30 New Year 's Eve 	

The monthly calendar is subject to change. Please check the weekly calendar posted in the Sunday bulletin.

Congregational Support: January – October 2021

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2019	166	\$ 342,068
2020	206*	\$ 315,510
2021	166*	\$ 318,842

* church closed in March 2020, since then weekly attendance is calculated using a formula provided by the ELCA: number of one-minute views on livestream multiplied by 2 to get the number of people worshipping by livestream, add to that number, the actual number of people joining the Reflections service by Zoom. Starting in March 2021, when church reopened, the "in-person" attendance at the 8:00 and 10:30 services is added to the livestream and Zoom numbers to get the total number in attendance for any given week.



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.

Poinsettia Memorials



Each year the altar is decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve services. If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion, please fill out the form below and enclose a check for \$25, made payable to "LCOS". On the memo line please indicate "Altar Guild". The poinsettias are delivered to our homebound members and nursing home residents on Sunday, December 26. The deadline is Sunday,

December 12, 2021.

Given by _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Relationship of donor to Memorialized One(s) _____

Return to church office no later than December 12.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR: OCTOBER 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

NARRATIVE:

Monthly Revenue and Expense are approximately on Plan producing a monthly surplus of \$1,047. This result was anticipated as we draw down on our PPP Loan. We anticipate our Year End Revenue and Expense to be on Plan generating Net Income on Plan. Dedicated Account Summary provided below.

	REVISED		YEAR TO DATE	YEAR END	2021 EST
	FINANCIAL	OCTOBER			
<u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</u>	<u>PLAN</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
REVENUE					
Envelopes	412,300	37,291	318,842	416,200	3,900
<u>Other Income</u>	<u>57,600</u>	<u>1,010</u>	<u>52,518</u>	<u>53,700</u>	<u>(3,900)</u>
Total Revenue	469,900	38,301	371,360	469,900	0
EXPENSE					
Salary & Benefits	310,091	25,846	252,629	310,051	(40)
Property	50,000	1,965	40,317	50,722	722
Administration	41,800	3,231	35,044	43,022	1,222
<u>Program Ministries</u>	<u>68,009</u>	<u>6,212</u>	<u>47,022</u>	<u>66,105</u>	<u>(1,904)</u>
Total Expense	469,900	37,254	375,012	469,900	0
INCOME	0	1,047	(3,652)	0	0



“December a Great Month to INVITE Friends, Family, and Strangers to Church”

December is a time of invitations. We get invited to one party and then another. We get invited to lunch or dinner at one or another friend's home. We get invited to concerts, plays, and ballet performances of the Nutcracker. We do our fair share of inviting others to the same in our weeks leading up to Christmas Day. The big question is, how often do we think about inviting people to join in our celebrating the birth of Christ at our Christmas

Eve worship? Or how often do we think about inviting people to worship during Advent as we prepare for that celebration?

Jesus once told his disciples he would make them fish for people. But if we don't invite people to join us for worship or other ministry events or projects and expect people will simply show up that would be like going fishing and hoping the fish jump in the boat! December is an excellent month to invite people who don't have a church home to worship and various other events focused on Christmas. Here are some examples and opening lines you might try to invite them to join you.

Nov 14 - Dec 5: Advent Giving Tree Shopping: “Say while we're out shopping can you help me buy a gift for my Advent Giving Tree family? Our church purchases over 200 gifts for families in need living in Camden County every Christmas and we picked up several tags from the Advent Giving Tree at our church last Sunday. Want to help me?” (If they ask more about it, invite them to join you for worship on Sunday and pick up a tag or two for themselves to help out.)

Dec 12: Children's Christmas Pageant: “Our Sunday school children are providing a unique retelling of the Nativity story and experiencing the wonder of Jesus' birth amidst all the hustle and bustle of life. There's also a sing-along! With our children being such good friends I think they might enjoy seeing them in the audience. Why don't you come as our guests that day and join us? We'd love to have you!”

Dec 19: Lessons & Carols Worship: “Say, our church is holding a really great musical worship on December 16. It's a Lessons and Carols worship at the 10:30 service featuring all the choirs and guest instrumentalists. It's really a great way to get into the mood for Christmas and easy to follow along as well. Want to join us?”

Christmas Eve: “What are you doing Christmas Eve this year? Our church has a beautiful candlelight worship each year and we find it sets the tone for our celebration of Christmas the next day. We go to the (insert your worship preference here) because (insert your reason). We'd love to have you be our guest. Want to come?”

REMEMBER: New members start out as first time guests. First time guests start out as friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members who were first INVITED by someone they know and trust to join them for worship or a ministry event. Don't forget to invite someone who doesn't have a church home to join you this Advent as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas.

God's Love Comes Down, God's People Look Inward Looking Ahead to 2022: Thank You for Your Support



Thank you to all who have responded to the 2022 Stewardship appeal by returning a pledge card with their estimates of giving for the coming new year. Responses are still being received. Please watch for announcements of pledge totals throughout December. A final tally will be reported in the January *Messenger*.

In the meantime, it's not too late for you to answer the question, what is God calling me to do to share his love in the world and to help and care for my neighbors, by returning a pledge card if you haven't already done so. Remember, what we give here helps not only our church and our South Jersey neighbors, but also goes

out into the world, helping more and more people as it grows.

Returning a card is more than providing an estimate of giving for what you and your household hope to provide in offerings toward God's work in the world through Our Savior's ministry. It is a symbol of being members of the body of Christ and participants together in the mission we share through baptism, even though we are still somewhat apart because of the pandemic.

Pledge cards can be mailed to the church office or emailed to the LCOS Financial Secretary, Shannon Foskett at sgfoskett@yahoo.com. Shannon will directly record your estimate of giving in our church database.

Closing Out 2021

Thankfully, the LCOS community has been diligent and generous in General Fund offerings, which have stabilized the financial health of the congregation. Current estimates indicate that Our Savior will end the year slightly ahead of our 2021 projected income. While this sounds encouraging, we should keep in mind that 2021 income also includes \$43,500 from a Federal PPP Loan that we will not have access to next year. Without that one-time amount, this year would be ending differently.

We realize some families have suffered financially, and we do not want to add to this hardship. However, if you have the ability to meet your 2021 planned giving for Our Savior's ministry, you will make a wonderful difference in supporting God's work in our community.

Thank you for your caring and concern!



ADVENT GIVING TREE

Be an Angel, Take a Tag!

Beginning Sunday, November 14, 2021, the Advent Giving Tree will be set up in the second floor Narthex outside the sanctuary.

If you would like to participate in helping to bring some Christmas joy to people in need, please take a tag. To participate when at church, take a tag from the table, sign your name and phone number on the sheet, purchase an item on the tag (\$25.00 limit per tag), and return the gift with the tag attached by December 5, 2021 prior to 11:30am.

An online gift registry will also be available for members that may not be comfortable in returning to church in-person following the coronavirus pandemic. The registry will also be available during the week. Gifts to be sent to the church.

The link to Advent Giving Online Registry is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DACAB2FA6F94-advent1>

To participate in the online registry:

1. Select a gift slot from the online registry.
2. Put your name and phone number.
3. Purchase the gift(s) or gift card(s), and mail or deliver to church, \$25.00 per gift or gift card,
4. Indicate slot #, this will help with organizing the gift cards for each group.

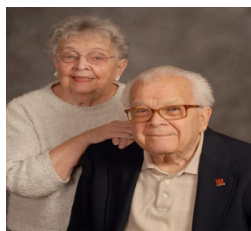
Some slots may show more than 1 gift card, depends on number of family members. A slot may indicate gift cards to more than 1 store

All gift cards must be labeled with the amount, if pre-wrapped, please identify gift card.

Organizations that benefit from your generosity include My Father's House, Urban Promise (for their Christmas Promise Store), Caring Hearts, and our Pantry families.

The tags and envelopes for contributions will be available on Sundays, November 14, November 21, November 28. The gifts must be returned to church no later than December 5, 2021 by 11:30am.

Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to LCOS, and indicate Advent Giving in memo line and mail to the church at 204 Wayne Avenue, Haddonfield, NJ 08033. Donations for the Advent Giving Tree can also be made online thru Simply Giving at <http://oursaviorhaddonfield.org/simply-giving/>. Contact Betsy Kuehn at 856-429-3355 or betsy406@comcast.net with questions.



Help is needed for Don & Caryl Wallace. Caryl is lovingly taking care of Don which is a 24/7 job. If you can help by providing a meal, I know they would greatly appreciate it! Call Sandy in the office if you need any information. 856-429-5122

<https://mealtrain.com/4116v8>



My Father's House

We are in need of volunteers to prepare very simple meals for the 15-20 teens and adults in MFH's substance abuse recovery program. Volunteers are asked to make or purchase a simple meal and take it to My Father's House at 14 N. King Street in Gloucester City. If you are unable to deliver your meal, we will arrange for a volunteer to deliver it to MFH for you! We also need volunteers who can drive the meals to Gloucester City when the meal maker isn't able to. Please contact Kathy and Amelia Wright at 856-325-0496 or kathyandgregwright@gmail.com, or visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0845a4af2ba31-myfathers> to see how you can get involved in this meaningful ministry.

2021 Offerings Must Be Postmarked or In by Dec 31

In order to keep our bookkeeping accurate the Congregation Resources Committee has set Monday, December 31, as the last date offerings can be hand delivered to the office or postmarked if sent by mail. Thank you as always for your generous support of God's work in the world that is done through the ministry at Our Savior.





EPIC

The EPIC (Experienced Persons in Community) Group looks forward to seeing your smiling faces whenever you can join us; we gather again on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at noon for another enjoyable lunch and afternoon of cards, bingo, Mexican Train, and fellowship. Each month we will meet on the 4th Tuesday, unless highlighted on the schedule. Invite your friends of all ages to join us, the more the merrier!

The schedule for the year is: **Dec. 21**, Jan. 25,

Feb. 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28

It would be helpful for me if you would RSVP a week before the scheduled date so that I can purchase enough food and drinks for everyone.

We are asking each person to make a one-time donation for the year, up to June of 2022, which will help defray the costs of the lunches. Members of Our Savior are asked to pay \$25 and non-members \$35. This can be paid by a check made out to "LCOS" and marked EPIC Group and mailed to the above address or by bringing a check or cash (exact amount please) with you when you attend for the first time. We hope the cost will not be a burden to you but if it is please talk to me. We also hope you will continue to contribute to our Pantry which helps several families in need in our area. Our Book Cart will be available for you to peruse and if you have books to contribute, we will welcome them.

Please RSVP to Peggy Hartmann – 856-745-2459



Justice and Peace Committee Update:

Purpose: *To live out our baptismal commitment to "strive for justice and peace in all the earth".*

We focused on the four areas that we prioritized at the first meeting:

1. **Awareness:** Our first step is to gather, in one document, all our current activities and involvement in peace and justice issues on a local, state and national level. This includes, but is not limited to our Social Ministry outreach programs, programs supported by Memorial Gift Board, support for the Community

Social Worker, and support of the New Jersey State Synod and the ELCA. This information will be shared with the congregation as many of us (including members of the committee) are unaware of all that LCOS currently does in the area of justice and peace.

The second part of our *awareness project* is to canvas the congregation regarding peace and justice activities and groups in which you, the congregation, are participants.

One of our goals is to help you match your passion with a program, whether it is through a donation or membership involvement.

2. **Racism:** We will follow up on our relationship with Mt Olivet and their endeavor to establish a youth drop-in center at the Dunamis House that would involve the renovation and repair of their parsonage. On an educational level, there is an opportunity offered by the NJ Synod called "Transforming White Privilege" workshop in 2022. (Information will regarding how to sign up will be distributed.)

3. **LGBTQIA+:** The first step was approved by the committee; the development of a "Welcome" section on our website. The second step will be looking at our website regarding peace and justice activities.

4. **Environmental:** A subcommittee will be established. One of the first projects will be to refrain from using water bottles at all LCOS functions by repurposing our current water fountain to ones that allow for water bottles to be filled in addition to water fountain spout to be completed in 2022. The book that will be discussed at our mid week Lenten Soup Suppers with Christ the King will be *Laudatory is*. It is the second encyclical of Pope Francis critiquing our consumerism, the degradation of our environment, and global warming.

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 23, 2022, 11:45am in the Parish Hall. If you are interested in joining us or any of the above mentioned projects, please contact Sandy DeDonatis, lcossandy@gmail.com.

Lynn Block





Peace, Be Still: Lessons & Carols 2021

The theme for Lessons & Carols usually jumps out at me early in the process of selecting music. It is usually a phrase in a song or hymn that feels appropriate for the service and the season. With this year's Lessons & Carols, I had five anthems picked out since September, wanted a sixth one, and had no idea what the overarching theme was going to be. I was combing our choir library, going through anthems and playlists online, with nothing fitting what I was going for. As the day for our first rehearsal came closer, I just kept getting more anxious. People were starting to talk about the holidays, about shopping early due to supply issues, about

decorations. I felt like I was running from one potential anthem to the other (physically when it was in our choir library and metaphorically when it was online). Then, just days before the rehearsal, I came upon Mark Miller's anthem "When Angels Sing" and reading the words to it, knew that I had found my anthem and theme. Poet Herb Frombach writes:

Peace in our hearts, peace when angels sing,

peace, be still and listen heart.

Listen when angels sing.

Here is was: "Peace, be still." In a season that feels like we need to make up for not getting a "real" holiday season last year, a fall full of activities that had been put on hold, and a calendar filling up with commitments after a long time off... "Peace, be still and listen heart." In a season where there is so much division and stress... "Peace, be still." In a season when there seems to be so much to think about, we can be reminded to focus our thoughts on the coming of Christ, our Prince of Peace. "Peace, be still."

I hope you can join us on December 19th at the 10:30 service for a Lessons & Carols in person or on the livestream and will join us in song. I hope the anthems will bring you peace and joy after a long and exhausting 1.5 (almost 2!) years. "Peace, be still and listen heart."



Voice and Piano Lessons to Begin at LCOS

Starting January, Jessica Arnold will be offering piano and voice lessons at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior. Jessica holds degrees in both voice and piano and is currently a 3/4 Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Rowan University. She has 18 years experience teaching Voice and Piano lessons. She will be teaching all ages and will even offer a discount to LCOS members! For more information, reach out to Jessica at jessica.arnold.pianist@gmail.com



Waiting

..... for Baby Jesus

Our Savior's Library has Advent books, Christmas books, and Seasonal DVDs !



And oodles of Jigsaw Puzzles including Christmas ones too !

Check out the FREE BOOKS in the Library !
Take and Enjoy !



~ The Library Ladies

Environmental Happenings



For God's People and God's Planet and God's Animals Watch your waste !!

Try Cooking A One Pot Meal

By using one pot to cook your meal, you can save on electricity, gas, and water; which will reduce your footprint and may even give you leftovers for the week !

Be The CHANGE God's World Needs !!

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

John Drozdal	Vice President/Personnel	john.drozdal@gmail.com	612-804-7324
Paul Knauer	Treasurer	prknauer@gmail.com	856-427-6595
Shannon Foskett	Financial Secretary	sgfoskett@yahoo.com	856-904-1828
Ann Querns	Secretary	ahodulik@gmail.com	856-905-5115
Rich Morris	Christian Education	richardmorris2073@gmail.com	856-429-1175
Barbara Standke	Communications	barjon302@gmail.com	267-474-3566
Laurie Eason	Seniors	laurielovesquilting@gmail.com	609-238-3155
Scott Goldthorp	Church Property	goldthorp@gmail.com	267-218-4683
Lourdes Starr-Demers	Social Ministry	lourdes.starr.demers@gmail.com	215-219-4444
Jean Bridges	Outreach	ijeanieb@yahoo.com	609-634-0993
Millie King	Congregation Resources	mmking0105@gmail.com	856-669-7794
Samantha Wentz	Fellowship Together	sam.wentz@gmail.com	609-922-4973
Cathe Bare	Worship & Music	b45away@gmail.com	609-238-6527
Rachael Simpkins	Youth Representative	rachaelsimpkins1924@gmail.com	856-287-0525

MEMORIAL GIFTS BOARD

Nancy Gulick	President	nv gulick@gmail.com	609-238-0184
Karin LaBarge	Financial Secretary	klabarge160@gmail.com	856-428-4709
Jeanette Jones	Secretary	gljjones@comcast.net	856-795-5294
Danielle Deery		danielledeery@gmail.com	317-414-7906
Gary Visconti		volsconti@yahoo.com	856-419-8235
Jack Berrigan		jberrigan@comcast.net	609-471-0069
Bobbi Newsham		bcn71@aol.com	609-828-5244
Rich Windle		r.windle@southwarkmetal.com	215-416-7417
Paul Knauer	Ex-officio	paul_knauer@pmagroup.com	856-427-6595
John Drozdal	Vice President/Personnel	john.drozdal@gmail.com	609-238-0184
Pastor Wayne Zschech	Advisory member	wzschech@yahoo.com	856-429-7851

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS

The Rev. Wayne Zschech, D. Min	Pastor	wzschech@yahoo.com	856-429-7851
Vicar Tom Natalini	Intern	tnatalini@uls.edu	484-682-9320
Sandy DeDonatis	Parish Administrator	lcossandy@gmail.com	856-429-5122
Jaime Frazier	Director of Youth & Family Ministry	lcosjaime@gmail.com	856-429-5122
Pauline Worusski	Director of Music	pworusski@gmail.com	404-931-2317
Bob Dempsey	Bookkeeper	robertdemp@verizon.net	856-246-8543
Nick Heinze	Communications Tech.	nicholasheinze1@outlook.com	856-616-0052
Shirley Clinkscales	Nursery Attendant		856-365-5392
Don Richards	Custodian/Sexton	dldrich1@msn.com	856-577-1149
Eva Shaw	Altar Guild	eslohboy@verizon.net	856-428-9434

**NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cherry Hill, NJ
Permit No. 164**

Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed November 18, 2021

December
BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday
to everyone born in
December!

Dec 10	Ethan Roncace
Dec 11	Noelle Quanci
Dec 12	Susan Myers
Dec 13	Carrie Haney
Dec 14	Sandra Cheeseman
Dec 14	Lauren Parker
Dec 15	Michael Riley
Dec 16	Erin Schaffer
Dec 16	Cara Stine
Dec 16	Eleanor Woodworth
Dec 17	Charlotte Brown
Dec 17	Benjamin Gonzalez
Dec 17	Amanda Lamprey
Dec 17	Kathleen Pensabene

Dec 17	Jen Rhodes
Dec 17	Pauline Worusski
Dec 18	Garrett Needham
Dec 18	Reese Qualls
Dec 20	Jason Angelone
Dec 20	Noelle Corressel
Dec 20	Ryan Ewing
Dec 21	Rex Cottone
Dec 22	Nicholas Brandinelli
Dec 22	Max Campbell
Dec 22	Ava Remphrey
Dec 23	Morgan Sehdev
Dec 25	Minka Bleistein
Dec 27	Paul Knauer
Dec 28	Jessika Joy
Dec 28	Valda Rishel
Dec 28	Aiden Visconti
Dec 29	Justin Bleistein
Dec 29	Yo Hales
Dec 30	Wendell Gulick
Dec 31	Paul Demers