



The Messenger



DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR



Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship Times; 3:00, 5:00, 8:00, & 10:00 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. 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 Tween Choir and Bell Choir continue to be the featured choir at this service. 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.

9:30 Worship ONLY on Christmas Day and New Year's Day

The Worship and Music Committee agreed the need to hold two worship services on both Christmas and New Year's Day was unnecessary given the likely low attendance on those holidays. Therefore, there will be only one service at 9:30 on Christmas and New Year's Day. It has not been determined if there will be a livestream of the service.

Christmas Pageant Set for Dec 11 @ 9:30 Sanctuary Worship in Lieu of Sermon

This year's Pageant will be a dramatization of the Nativity as narrated by our confirmation youth and acted out by our Sunday school children. The Pageant will be held during the 9:30 worship in lieu of the sermon. *Sabrina LaBelle*



"Knowledge, Wisdom, Worship, Awe" An Invitation to Lessons and Carols

You are cordially invited to this year's Lessons and Carols service on December 18th! Our theme is "Knowledge, Wisdom, Worship, Awe." This line is the closing line of the anthem "The Dream Isaiah Saw" by Rudolph Glenn, with a powerful text by Thomas Troeger. This anthem has accompanied me since my first year of graduate school in 2009 and been on my "bucket list" of pieces to do with my future choir since the first time I performed it. This year is finally the year! Here is some background on the musical centerpiece of this year's service: Rudolph Glenn began composing "The Dream Isaiah Saw" in July 2001 and finished it the end of September. We all know what happened at that time. Glenn, looking at his finished piece and Troeger's text, marrying the dream of peace and harmony and the stark contrast of a violent present world, realized that it had to be dedicated to those who lost their lives on September 11th. As you listen to the six minute anthem, you are taken on a journey of chaos and pain, painted by the harmonies of the orchestra and choir, but with a hope in Isaiah's dream. Each refrain ends with "bring the dream Isaiah saw" and one of the images of the dream: "Life redeemed from fang and claw" for the first refrain, "justice purifying law" for the second, and finally, as the dream has become a reality: "Knowledge, Wisdom, Worship, Awe." At that point of the anthem, all harmony of discord has vanished, and the once dreary minor harmony has transformed into a truly awe-filled major, magnificently composed for both choir and orchestra.

We are coming to the end of a long year of division and wars, sickness and strife. As we enter into the season of Advent and Christmas, may we know what it means to work towards Isaiah's dream and look forward to the arrival of the King of Peace. I hope "Knowledge, Wisdom, Worship, Awe: A Service of Lessons and Carols" will be an hour of your busy season where you can experience God's peace through music and readings. *Pauline Worusski*

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.



“Can’t Santa Perform Miracles?”

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

Believe it or not, I know Santa personally. We’re Facebook friends. And yesterday he sent me an Instant Message with a dilemma. He gave me his number and asked me to call. It turns out Santa was asked to visit a young teenage girl who has cancer, and her wish is to celebrate Christmas early. Santa shared how he was used to meeting children who would ask for a variety of toys and share how they’ve been good little girls and boys, but what does Santa give to a little girl who’s in a battle for her life?

Now I’ve read *The Autobiography of Santa Claus* as told to Jeff Guinn and I remember that the mission God had given Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in modern day Turkey, back in the Fourth Century, was to bring a bit of happiness and joy to children who were experiencing suffering in their lives. At first that was in the form of food and clothing. But those lasted only a short time. Toys could be a source of joy and happiness for a lot longer than an orange or socks.

So, I reminded Santa of his original mission. “Just remember why you do what you do, Santa,” I said. “Ask her what her favorite gifts were that she received from you over the years and why they brought her happiness. Ask her what gift she hopes to receive this Christmas. Have her share what Christmas she remembers best that was filled with joy. Sharing those stories will surely bring her a little bit of light and life in such a dark time.”

But then Santa shared a more challenging dilemma. He said, “Pastor Wayne a lot of people think that because I make all these toys and deliver them in one night that I can perform all kinds of miracles. And sometimes when I meet children who are very sick, they ask for the gift of healing or a cure for their disease. They say, “Can’t Santa perform miracles? Why can’t Santa give me the miracle gift of healing?”

I shared with Santa that I get a similar question all the time from Christians who ask, “If Jesus could heal so many sick people in the Bible, why can’t he heal me? If God loves me, why won’t God love me enough to heal me?” I reminded Santa that while God and Jesus can and did heal people, and still may, if one isn’t healed it doesn’t mean that God or Jesus doesn’t love them. We were given an even greater gift from God and Jesus in our Baptism. It was the promise and gift of new life through death, that the God who raised Jesus from the dead will also give new life to those who are joined to Christ’s death and resurrection in the waters of baptism. That’s why Jesus was born into this world – to give us hope of new life in the face of death, that death doesn’t have the last word in the midst of our suffering. I told him if the moment seems right, you might share that part of the Christmas story with her as well.

Santa thanked me for my time and counsel. He shared how with all the hype that comes these days from a commercialized Christmas he can sometimes forget the real reason he is a part of our celebration of this season. He was Saint Nicholas, the former Christian bishop and proclaimer of the good news of a risen Jesus Christ, long before he was the symbol of commercialized secular Christmas as Santa Claus. “I guess we all need to be reminded sometimes of the true reason for the season of Christmas, Santa,” I said. “I’m glad I was able to help out as you prepare to visit this young teen who is facing such a difficult time. May God be with you in all your endeavors this season of hope and light. Merry Christmas Santa.” He wished me the same and we hung up.

As we hang our lights, put up our trees, shop for gifts, bake our cookies, and gather at parties, may we keep in mind the true reason for this season of celebration. Christ was born to save. Save us from sin. Save us from death having the last word. Save us from ourselves thinking we can save ourselves, and instead living in the trust and hope that comes from faith in a crucified and risen Christ born on Christmas morn. And let us not be afraid to share that good news as well. Merry Christmas congregation of Our Savior. God bless us all!

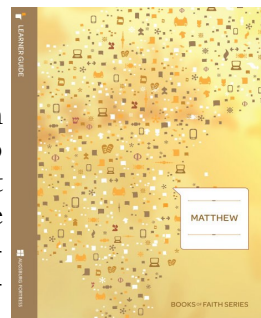
P.S. The conversation above actually happened and is not a work of fiction. I’d be glad to share more over eggnog and Christmas cookies.

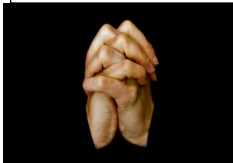
8-Week Bible Study of Matthew Began Week of Dec 31/Nov 2 IN PERSON+ZOOM!

In Advent the Church begins Lectionary Year A in which we hear the gospel according Matthew on most Sundays. Throughout history Matthew’s gospel has played a prominent role in Christian worship and practice, and to this day retains a central place in most people’s experiences of the New Testament and the Christian faith. Matthew’s gospel speaks well to church communities today, identifying the church founded by Jesus and issuing practical instructions for practicing community. Matthew envisions the church as made up of sinners and doubters who struggle with faith, temptation, and forgiveness, but ultimately reflect the ministry and presence of Jesus.

Join the growing Bible Discussion Group for Daily Living in the Conference Room 112 on either Mondays from 7:00-8:30 PM or Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 AM for a lively discussion. Participant books can be obtained in the church office and a \$10 donation will greatly defray the cost of the books. The topics for each date are below.

Dec 5/7	Where Two or Three are Gathered	Matt 18:1-35
Dec 12/14	My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?	Matt 27:32-56
Dec 19/21	I Am With You Always	Matt 28:1-20





Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Janis Rice, Susan Myers, Carolyn Malecka, Louise Bader, Sam Lee, Noelle Corressel, Clive Crosby, Doris Rell, Dick Wilson, Shirley Stambaugh, Caryl Wallace, *Kelly Mosteller, Maggie Koehler, Joe Melchiorre, Angela Melchiorre, Frederick Kluck, Gene Richards, Kody Schneider, Baby Sheamus Joseph Kinnarney, Mike DiMartinis, Shuvanon Shahid, Eric Kelly, Shellee Conley, Steven Alutore, Brenda Jarger, Dale & Maureen Runge, Lois Cummins, Suzanne Ferguson, Rich DeBella, Ralph Volpe, Charles Bakes, Jack Kain, Peggy Miller, Rosemary Dougherty, Caren Kaufman, Colin Lawlor, Amelia Marchese, Albert Kern, Michelle Maris, John Rell, Larry Thatcher, Scott Hansen, Abby Phelps, Bill Getty, Carmela Crawford, Jacob Berard, Keith Maull, Connie Verner, Judy Yerkes, Daniel Mandel, Susan Mazeika, Saunders Family, Barbara Kerrane, Sandy Ferguson, 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, Betty Schurmann, Elva Mastrando, Chuck Atkinson, Sophia Campos, William T family, Ryan Roberts, Ed Miller, David Wenck*

Pantry

Thank your your continuing generosity! We are serving 11 Families: 41 people including, 18 Adults, 14 Teens and 9 Children.

Pantry Families Thank You: "Thank you so much for the groceries and the grocery gift card, they make a huge difference. It lets me pay out of pocket expenses for co-pays when I have to see a doctor. It makes me feel God's love. *Christ in Our Home* is on my night table and is very comforting. Bless you all."

One of our Pantry Families had a refrigerator that stopped working. Rich Super, a neighbor of the Pastor's, donated a refrigerator/freezer and carted her old one away. She and her family are very grateful for the on-going support of the congregation and this wonderful gift. *Lynn Block*



- Canned meat
- Rice packets
- Cereal
- Canned chicken, tuna
- Acme or Shop-Rite Gift Cards
- Monetary Donations

Boxed Envelopes Available In Narthex for Pick-Up from Dec 11 until New Year's Eve

Members of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior are asked to pick up their 2023 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 2023. Please help reduce postage costs (\$4.50 per box) by picking up your offering envelopes in the Narthex. *Millie King*



Nothing Says Christmas Like... Sunflowers?

The 2022 Sisters-in-Spirit Christmas ornaments may not be the traditional red and green, but they do express the spirit of the season by welcoming the stranger, caring for the needy and sharing God's love through holiday gifts. This year's blue and yellow sunflower theme is in honor of our Ukrainian guests living with Pastor Wayne and Kate Zschech. Proceeds from the ornaments will help support this family of seven as they move through the paperwork and legalities of building new lives in the United States.

The ornaments will be on display and available in the narthex after both worship services on Sunday, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, and Dec. 11 (if any remain). Sisters in Spirit will be accepting donations in exchange for the ornaments. They make great holiday gifts or will look lovely on your own tree or as a year-round decoration. 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.

There's a limited number, and they won't last long! Thank you for helping us help others to feel welcomed and loved. *Linda Nelson*



2022 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. *Millie King*

Office Closed Dec 26, and Jan 2

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

Our Savior's Library



I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.
~ Charles Dickens

We have many Christmas books for all ages
and Christmas jigsaw puzzles too !

The Library Ladies - Beth Hill, Judy Caravelli & Barb Standke



Memorial Gifts Fund Corner

This month's article will focus on the proposed changes to the Memorial Gift Fund By-laws which will be voted on at the Annual meeting on January 29, 2023.

Change I: Existing Article VI, Section 6. Dissolution of Church

If the congregation ceases to exist, either through merger or dissolution, the disposition or transfer of the FUND shall be at the discretion of the CHURCH COUNCIL in consultation with the President (Bishop, other) of the judicatories to which this congregation belongs at such time. In the event of a merger with another congregation, provision shall, where possible, be made in the merger agreement for the continuation of the FUND, in the merged CHURCH. In such event, this plan shall continue as though it was the plan of the merged CHURCH. Consultation with the national judicatory headquarters Foundation office may be sought where desirable for continuation of trust obligations. The National Foundation may then be appointed to administer the FUND consistent with the FUNDS purposes.

Proposed Revision of Article VI, Section 6. Dissolution

If the congregation ceases to exist, either through merger or dissolution, the Memorial Gifts Fund Board of Trustees, will seek recommendations from Church Council and Church members related to the distribution of Unrestricted Funds within the religious, charitable, benevolent or educational applications permitted under Article I of the Bylaws. Granted overall responsibility for the receipt, management, and distribution of assets within the Unrestricted and Restricted Funds by Articles I, II, III, IV, V and VI of the Bylaws, the Memorial Gifts Fund Board of Trustees will have final authority and responsibility for the distribution of Unrestricted Funds consistent with Article I, Section 2 Purposes. In addition, The Memorial Gifts Fund Board of Trustees will have final authority and responsibility for the distribution of the Restricted Funds, consistent with each Restricted Fund's guidelines, purposes and existing applications. In the case of Trusts, the Memorial Gifts Fund Board of Trustees and Church Council will generate mutually agreeable applications for Trust benefits and make recommendation to the Trustees of each Trust. The final determination on the use of Trust distributions will remain with the Trust Trustees.

The purpose of this revision is to provide consistency on the management of the Memorial Gifts Fund even in the event of the dissolution of the church. The Memorial Gifts Fund Board of Trustees in consultation with Church Council has this responsibility under the current bylaws and this revision is being proposed so that the control of the funds remains the same even in the event of the dissolution of the church.

Change II: Proposed revision to the Patterson-Plotzke Scholarship Fund- Existing language.

The purpose of the scholarship fund is to provide scholarships to promising high school graduates from the City of Camden.

New language:

The purpose of the scholarship fund is to provide scholarships to promising high school graduates who are affiliated with agencies based in Camden such as LUCY (Lifting Up Camden Youth) and Urban Promise. Reason for the change: Some excellent candidates for the scholarships who are affiliated with LUCY and Urban Promise live in the nearby town of Pennsauken. Both of these agencies are based in Camden and fulfill the intent of the Patterson-Plotzke Scholarship Fund. Memorial Gift Board will be holding a question and answer session on these Bylaw changes on Sunday, January 22, 2023

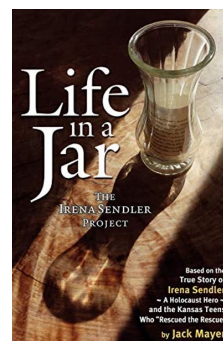
@ 10:45 after the 9:30 service. *Rich Windle*

LCOS Book Club

Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project
by Jack Mayer

Next Meeting: January 25, 2023


Laura Oakes



December 2022 Regular Events

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
8:00 AM Sanctuary Worship, 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship & Facebook Live, 9:30 AM Reflections Worship in Parlor 9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:40-11:00 AM Cherub Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation	4:30-6:30 PM Jess 5:30-8:30 PM ChildrenSong 6:30-8:30 PM Possibility Players - PH 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Bible Discussion	10:30 AM Pastors' Pericope 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:00-6:15 PM Tween Choir	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Bible Discussion 3:00 PM Tai Chi 7:00-9:00 PM Jess	6:45 PM Bell Choir 7:45 PM Music Theory 8:00 PM Adult Choir		

December 2022 Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00 AM Fix-It Team 9:30 AM Mission Quilts	2	3 8:00-11:00 AM ChildrenSong
4 Hammond Baptism 10:45-2:00 Advent/Christmas Intergenerational Brunch and Decorating Extravaganza	5 3:00-6:30 PM Fred Stine/Boy Scouts - Kitchen	6 5:00-8:30 PM ChildrenSong Choir Room 7:00 PM Social Ministry Mtg. 7:00 PM Toastmasters	7 5:00-8:30 PM ChildrenSong Sanctuary	8 9:30 AM Mission Quilts	9 6:30-8:30 PM Holiday Pajama Family Game Night	10
11 9:30 AM Children's Christmas Pageant 1:00-5:30 PM ChildrenSong Concert Sanctuary Poinsettia Deadline	12	13 11:30-2:30 PM HGC 3:30-5:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM Toastmasters	14 10:00-12:00 AM Singing Angels-Sanctuary	15 Messenger Deadline	16	17 9:00-12:00 AM L & C Choir Rehearsal
18 Hanukkah Begins No Sunday School 9:30 AM Lessons & Carols 10:45 AM J&P Mtg. Play/Serve Caroling	19	20 12:00 noon EPIC 7:00 PM Toastmasters	21	22 Messenger Mailing	23	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Worship Services 3:00, *5:00, 8:00, *10:00 PM *Livestream
25 Christmas One Worship at 9:30 AM No Confirmation, Oasis, Sunday School	26 Hanukkah Ends Kwanzaa Church Office Closed 12:00 noon Poinsettia Delivery	27 3:30-5:00 PM Girl Scouts	28	29	30	31 New Year 's Eve 

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



Stewards of God's Love: God's People Reach Out Looking Ahead to 2023: Thank You for Your Support

Thank you to all who have responded to the 2023 Stewardship appeal by returning a pledge card with your 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 reach out to share God's love in the world and to care for our neighbors by returning your 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.

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 2022

Thankfully, the LCOS community has been diligent and generous in General Fund offerings this year, and we are hopeful that if the congregation remains faithful in their giving through December, we will end the year in good shape. At the end of November we were approximately \$6,500 behind offerings and income versus expenses and hoping to end the year even. However, this is possible in 2022 only because we received a \$31,000 grant from the Memorial Gift Board to help cover the General Fund. This grant is *not* included in the 2023 Financial Plan for Ministry, so we'll need a little extra push to make up the difference next year.

Thank you for being stewards of God's love this year and in these remaining weeks of 2022. *Linda Nelson*

EPIC (Experienced Persons in Community)



The EPIC (Experienced Persons in Community) Group looks forward to seeing you whenever you can join us; we gather again on Tuesday, November 29 & Tuesday, December 20 at noon for another enjoyable lunch and afternoon of cards, Mexican Train, and fellowship. Each month we will meet on the 4th Tuesday, unless otherwise noted in blue, on the schedule below. Invite your friends of all ages to join us, the more the merrier!

The schedule for the year is: **Nov. 29, Dec. 20**, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27

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.

Please RSVP to Peggy Hartmann – 856-745-2459 or mamahart16@comcast.net

We are asking each person to make a one-time donation for the year, up to June of 2023, 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. Once again, we look forward to seeing you soon! *Peggy Hartmann*

Poinsettia Delivery People Needed Dec 26 at 9:30



Help is needed on Monday, Dec 26, to deliver the poinsettias that decorated the church on Christmas Eve and Sunday to our homebound 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

Thrivent Baptismal Medallions Given on Jan 8

On Sunday, January 8, the Church celebrates the Baptism of our Lord. It is also the day The Lutheran Church of Our Savior celebrates the baptisms of all the children who have been baptized in the previous year. At the 9:30 worship parents and sponsors will renew the promises they made at the 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 lcossandy@gmail.com.





Advent Giving Tree: Be an Angel, Take a Tag!

The Advent Giving Tree is 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 in the narthex, 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 4, 2022 prior to 10:30am.

An online gift registry will also be available for members not able to be in church, or that may still not be comfortable in returning to church in-person following the coronavirus pandemic. Gifts to be sent to the church. The link to Advent Giving Online Registry will be included thru the church website and Facebook page.

To participate in the online registry: Select a gift slot from the online registry.

Put your name and phone number.

Purchase the gift(s) or gift card(s), and mail or deliver to church.

\$25.00 per gift or gift card,

Indicate slot # of gift selected, this helps 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: My Father's House, Urban Promise (for their Christmas Promise Store), Caring Hearts, and the Pantry families including the Ukrainian family living with Pastor Wayne and Kate. Many of the recipients prefer gift cards as it gives them the dignity to be able to purchase gifts.

The tags and envelopes for contributions will be available on Sundays, November 20, November 27. The gifts must be returned to church no later than **December 4, 2022 by 10:30am**.

Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to LCOS, Advent Giving Tree 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/>. Then go to link to donate to the Advent Giving Tree. Contact Betsy Kuehn at 856-429-3355 or betsy406@comcast.net with questions. *Betsy Kuehn*



"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.

Dec 4-11: 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 11: 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. 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 join us for the 9:30 worship and after we can go out for brunch."

Dec 18: Lessons & Carols Worship: "Say, our church is holding a really great musical worship on December 18. It's a Lessons and Carols worship at the 9:30 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? Here's a card (available at the Usher's Tables) in case you want a reminder or are interested in a different time. They're all great."

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. *Pastor Wayne*

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR: OCTOBER 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

NARRATIVE *Paul Knauer*

October Envelop Offering of \$35,344 was above the plan of \$29,971, generating an anticipated year end estimate of 10,000 above plan.

Other Income is slightly below plan (less needed from Partch/Davis), generating Total Revenue to be estimated \$7,000 over plan.

Expenses are anticipated to be above plan by \$7,000 due to the negotiated salary of the Director of Youth & Family,

We have resources from the Dedicated Accounts to fund any year end Deficit if needed.

<u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YEAR TO</u>	<u>YEAR END</u>	<u>ESTIMATED</u>
	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	<u>YE VARIANCE</u>
			<u>2022</u>		
REVENUE					
Envelopes	418,000	35,344	327,875	428,000	10,000
Other Income-					
Ex MGB Support	37,652	2,952	37,944	34,652	(3,000)
Memorial Gift					
Board Support	<u>31,760</u>	<u>2,647</u>	<u>23,820</u>	<u>31,760</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Revenue	487,412	40,943	389,639	494,412	7,000
EXPENSE					
Salary & Benefits	310,312	28,286	260,367	316,537	6,225
Property	54,600	3,237	42,659	55,000	400
Administration	47,900	4,242	38,165	48,025	125
<u>Program Minis-</u>					
<u>tries</u>	<u>74,600</u>	<u>6,196</u>	<u>55,283</u>	<u>74,850</u>	<u>250</u>
Total Expense	487,412	41,961	396,474	494,412	7,000
INCOME	0	(1,019)	(6,835)	0	0

Congregational Support: January – October 2022

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2020	206	\$ 315,510
2021	164*	\$ 318,842
2022	169*	\$ 327,880

* Since March 2021, when church reopened, the in-person attendance at all services is added to the livestream FaceBook numbers to get the total number in attendance for any given week. Livestream 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.

Thank You for Being Stewards of God's Love

Thank you to all those who put their offering envelopes into the plate in person, mail them to the church office, or give electronically. Our Savior's faithful givers are sharing their blessings so that others may know God's love. *Carol Maniaci*





Lutheran Church of Our Savior
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Holiday Pajama Family Game Night

Friday, December 9, 2022

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Wear your Pajamas

Come join us for:

**Games, Face Painting, Cookie
Decorating, Refreshments, Gift
Basket Silent Auction**

*Get into
the
Holiday
Spirit*



*Fun
for all*



Interfaith Caregivers
needs
DOCENTS
for
HADDONFIELD HOUSE TOUR
December 8, 2022

5 shifts
11:00-1:00, 1:00-3:00, 3:00-5:00, 5:00-7:00, 7:00-9:00

If you can help Interfaith Caregivers with their biggest fundraiser of the year, contact Laura Oakes at 609-238-9186 or email at lauraokes102848@gmail.com.



Advent, the season before Christmas, is one of waiting and preparation. We wait for the coming of the Savior. We prepare, not just for the birth of the baby Jesus, but also for Jesus to come again in glory. Waiting and preparing. Waiting and preparing. But I would add one more action that we engage in during this beautiful season of Advent – hoping.

We have a lot to be hopeful about here in the sphere of youth and family ministries at Lutheran Church of Our Savior that I have noticed just in the six months that I have been part of this church. We have a wonderful Sunday School ministry where anywhere from 12-31 kids gather on any given Sunday to learn, to interact, to make things, and to start to gain a wonderful foundation in Bible stories and understanding what it means to have Jesus in their lives.

We have a group of parents who are reaching out to one another for fellowship, conversation, and support, and who have just started a Parents Fellowship Group at the church.

We have the beginning seeds of a high school youth ministry that I hope will continue to grow in the coming months and years. The high school youth are busy and committed and talented and smart, and they are also interested in giving back, in being part of their community, and in reaching out to people, organizations, and other ministries where they might make a difference, not just in their community, but in their world. That gives me hope.

And finally, I'm hopeful about the intergenerational ministry that is growing and thriving at LCOS. There is nothing more beautiful than watching seniors giving high fives to the cherub choir members, having adults whose kids have grown come to the back pews of the church and encourage the parents of active toddlers, and watch high school and confirmation students taking part in events planned by the social justice committee and other ministries.

Advent is hope. Hope abounds at LCOS. *Sabrina LaBelle, Director of Youth and Family Ministry*

Advent/Christmas Intergenerational Brunch and Decorating Extravaganza on Dec 4:

“Deck the Halls” for Christmas from 10:45-2:00. This is a great opportunity for the entire congregation to come together to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. Adults, along with confirmation and high school youth will put up the two trees in the sanctuary and one in the narthex with lights and Chrismon ornaments. Younger children can also help, and there will be crafts for young children to do, as well. This is a great time for families to learn about the meaning behind the unique Chrismon ornaments that adorn our sanctuary trees each year. Brunch will be served in the narthex. Help get our church ready for the Christmas Pageant and Lessons and Carols events in the coming two weeks. All are welcome!

LCOS and Mustard Seed Family Christmas Cookie and Craft Night

In conjunction with Mustard Seed Childcare, LCOS is hosting a family Christmas event on Friday, December 9 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. There will be snacks, crafts, and Santa will be there to talk to kids and read a story.

Sunday School Schedule for December:

Sunday, December 4: Sunday school will meet. The Second Sunday of Advent.

Sunday, December 11: No Sunday school. The Christmas pageant will take place at 9:30am.

Sunday school Break: *No Sunday school December 18 - January 1. We will resume on January 8.*

We are also looking for 1-2 more Sunday School teachers, especially for our younger group, the PreK/K students. The kids are tons of fun and the curriculum is all planned out so that teachers don't have to do as much work. If you would like to volunteer, even on a rotations basis (not every Sunday), please let the Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Sabrina LaBelle, know: smgvasta@gmail.com



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 Altar Guild." The poinsettias are delivered to our homebound members and nursing home residents on Thursday, December 26. The deadline is Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Given by _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Relationship of donor to Memorialized One(s) _____

Return to church office no later than December 11

December 2022

Messenger

page 10

Environmental Happenings



The planet is literally drowning in plastic.

Over the holidays, the amount of wrapping paper thrown out could circle the world nine times.

Metallic foil wrapping paper cannot be recycled. Wrap gifts instead in reusable cloth bags, old newspapers, festive magazine scraps, your kid's old art projects, or a roll of recycled brown paper.

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 8:00 AM Traditional in Sanctuary, 9:30 AM in Sanctuary + Facebook Live

Interactive Reflections Worship 9:30 AM in Parlor + Zoom

CHURCH COUNCIL

John Drozdal	Vice President/Personnel	john.drozdal@gmail.com	612-804-7324
Paul Knauer	Treasurer	prknauer@gmail.com	856-427-6595
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Millie King	Congregation Resources	mmking0105@gmail.com	856-669-7794
<u>Volunteer Needed</u>	Fellowship Together		
Cathe Bare	Worship & Music	b45away@gmail.com	609-238-6527
Rachael Simpkins	Youth Representative	rachaelsimpkins1924@gmail.com	856-287-0525

MEMORIAL GIFTS BOARD

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John Drozdal	Vice President/Personnel	john.drozdal@gmail.com	609-238-0184

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Sandy DeDonatis	Parish Administrator	lcossandy@gmail.com	856-429-5122
Pauline Worusski	Director of Music	pworusski@gmail.com	404-931-2317
Sabrina LaBelle	Director of Youth and Family	smgvasta@gmail.com	609-560-0003
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Shirley Clinkscales	Nursery Attendant		856-365-5392
Don Richards	Custodian/Sexton	dlrich1@msn.com	856-577-1149
Eva Shaw	Altar Guild	eslohboy@verizon.net	856-428-9434

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior
204 Wayne Avenue
Corner of Wood Lane and Wayne Avenue
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

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December 2022 Messenger

Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed November 17, 2022

Address Service Requested



Dec 1	Sandy DeDonatis	Dec 10	Troy Adams	Dec 18	Garrett Needham
Dec 1	Ben Hintz	Dec 10	Ryan Gallagher	Dec 18	Reese Qualls
Dec 1	Nathan Speas	Dec 10	Ethan Roncace	Dec 20	Jason Angelone
Dec 4	Dawson Floyd	Dec 11	Noelle Quanci	Dec 20	Noelle Corressel
Dec 4	Morgan Hammond	Dec 12	Susan Myers	Dec 20	Ryan Ewing
Dec 4	John Laughlin	Dec 13	Carrie Haney	Dec 21	Rex Cottone
Dec 4	David Leeds	Dec 14	Lauren Parker	Dec 22	Ava Remphrey
Dec 4	Hannah Stauss	Dec 15	Michael Riley	Dec 23	Morgan Sehdev
Dec 5	Samantha Prepsel	Dec 16	Erin Schaffer	Dec 25	Minka Bleistein
Dec 5	Fred Willis	Dec 16	Cara Stine	Dec 27	Paul Knauer
Dec 6	Brian Bogina	Dec 16	Eleanor Woodworth	Dec 28	Jessika Joy
Dec 7	Deborah Ely	Dec 17	Charlotte Brown	Dec 28	Valda Rishel
Dec 7	Jim Frazier	Dec 17	Benjamin Gonzalez	Dec 28	Aiden Visconti
Dec 7	Julianna Martinsen	Dec 17	Amanda Lamprey	Dec 29	Justin Bleistein
Dec 7	Cheryl Schaffner	Dec 17	Kathleen Pensabene	Dec 29	Yo Hales
Dec 9	Joan Candia	Dec 17	Jen Rhodes	Dec 30	Wendell Gulick
Dec 9	Vivien Lechler-Ottens	Dec 17	Pauline Worusski	Dec 31	Paul Demers
Dec 9	Sophia Pineiro	Dec 18	Matthew Berrigan		