



# The Messenger



JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER  
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

## ANNUAL MEETING



### In-Person & Zoom Congregation Annual Brunch & Meeting Set for

**January 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30; Worship Services Are as Usual.**

The ability to hold a hybrid annual meeting last year enabled people to attend despite their inability to be physically present (one member joined from his hospital room!) The Wi-Fi network has been upgraded so there should be no issue with respect to internet connectivity as we had last year. Therefore, the schedule for Annual Meeting Sunday will be as follows.

**8:00 a.m. – In-Person Worship**

**9:30 a.m. – In-Person/Livestream Sanctuary and Reflections Worship Services:** Use the link on our website homepage to join the livestream or attend in person. Reflections Worship starts in the Parlor and joins the Sanctuary Worship after the Hymn of the Day.

**10:30 a.m. – Congregation Brunch in the Parish Hall:** Families are asked to bring a side dish or a dessert to share.

**11:15 a.m. – Annual Meeting In-Person & by Zoom.** We will begin the Annual Meeting in the Parish Hall at 11:15 regardless of whether people are still eating. Those attending by Zoom can use the link on the homepage of Our Savior's website to join the meeting. The meeting has a somewhat light agenda and should conclude by 12:00.

**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 is 818 6032 9679** and the **Passcode is 343318**, which 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?** Council Secretary Ann Querns will have a paper roll sheet for those attending in person to sign. 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 2023 Financial Plan for Ministry the big topic for discussion and voting of members will be the approval of Our Savior's Memorial Gift Board Bylaw changes that were brought up last year and tabled for approval until this year. The original and revised document will be available in January for members to review prior to the meeting. Memorial Gift Board will also hold a Q&A session on Sunday, January 22 for any who have detailed questions about the change.

**MARK JAN 29 ON YOUR NEW CALENDARS NOW FOR 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ZOOM ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BRUNCH AND MEETING.**



### Undeck the Sanctuary Jan 7 @ 10:00 AM

With the arrival of Epiphany comes the removal of the various Christmas décor from around the church. Volunteers from the congregation are invited and encouraged to assist the Worship and Music Committee in undecorating the sanctuary and narthex on Saturday, January 7, from 10:00-12:30. Pizza and beverages will be provided after the work is completed. **Please contact the church office if you and your family plan to assist** in the removal of the christmons, lights, and trees so enough pizza and drinks will be available to all.

### Boxed Envelopes Available for Pick-Up Until Jan 8

Members of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior are asked to pick up their 2023 offering envelopes in the Narthex by January 8, 2023. If you can drop off envelopes for a friend or nearby neighbor in the congregation please do as the cost to mail each box is \$4.50.



*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.*



## “God’s Extraordinary Love Revealed in the Ordinary”

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

Did you attend December’s Lessons and Carols worship? It was entitled, “Knowledge, Wisdom, Worship, Awe” and I for one was left in awe of how impactful the experience was as we headed into Christmas. As I sat next to my wife, Kate, who I rarely have the opportunity to sit next to and share our faith together in worship, I listened to the Nativity of our Lord from Luke and the reflection adapted from Sarah Bessey following it. I always enjoy when Rebecca reads. She makes the story

come to life. And as I listened to her share the reflection I was drawn into one powerful part of the story. It was the part where the miracle of God’s love and grace are more often not found in the grand displays we might expect, but in the simple ordinary experiences of life. Sometimes, most times, it is in the ordinary little things in life where God’s extraordinary love and grace is revealed.

That’s what Epiphany is all about. Mary and Joseph are changing Jesus’ diaper when Magi from the East knock at the door bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God’s love revealed in an infant. Don’t forget that parents even when that adorable child hits the raging hormone rebellious stage of puberty.

Amidst many being baptized in the Jordan for the forgiveness of sin a cloud opens with sunbeams shining down on Jesus. “This is my son with whom I am well pleased.” Can something as simple as bathing become an experience of the holy?

An ordinary hike up a mountain becomes an extraordinary experience of Jesus transfigured before Peter, James, and John’s eyes. When was the last time a hike in the woods, along the beach, or up a mountain resulted in a transformation experience of God’s extraordinary grace and majesty in our midst?

Epiphany is the season we look for God’s extraordinary love in the ordinary practices and experiences in our lives. It might happen on the commute into work in a casual conversation with someone seated near us on the PATCO train car. It might happen while watching an Eagles playoff game with family, friends, or neighbors while sharing a plate of nachos. It might happen amidst a fight between spouses when true heartfelt reconciliation is realized and felt. It might even happen while listening to a song we’ve heard a million times before on the radio, but this time, there’s a verse that captures where you are and offers THE WORD you need to hear most for healing and hope.

I want to get a copy of that reading Rebecca read from Sarah Bessey. Even more so I’ll probably see if there’s a podcast or an audiobook by her I can listen to while walking the dog in the morning. Who says God’s extraordinary love can’t be revealed while taking care of your pet’s ordinary business? That’s how the God of infinite power and majesty who was born in a lowly stable manger works – God’s love and grace are revealed most intimately in the messy ordinary parts of our lives. In Epiphany we are invited to pay attention to them and like the Magi to worship the Christ child with awe and wonder. Blessings in this ordinary time of the church year.



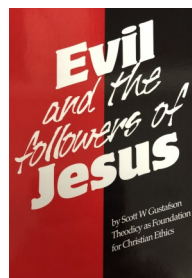
### Bible Discussion for Daily Living Study of “*Evil & the Followers of Jesus*” Begins Jan 9/11

“*Evil and the Followers of Jesus* says that the existence of sin and evil in the world created by a loving God is more of an ethical problem than it is an intellectual problem. It distinguishes between sin and evil arguing that sin is an orientation away from God that is universal to human beings, and evil is a death-dealing force that receives power whenever sins are not acknowledged and confessed. It further contends that Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection gives His followers the power to acknowledge and confess their sins, and, thereby fight the death dealing power of evil in the world.” – Back cover synopsis

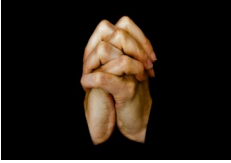
Join the growing number of people who gather on Mondays from 7:00-8:30 PM or Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 AM in Room 112 or by Zoom (the link is on our homepage) for a 5-week study of Scott Gustafson’s book that Pastor Wayne refers to over and over again on the topic of how evil arises when we are unwilling to acknowledge and confess sin. The group will use the information from the book and apply it to modern day manifestations of evil that are present in the world and how as Jesus’ followers, we can play a role in fighting evil in our midst. Join us in the New Year for a meaningful and thought-provoking discussion each week.

Copies of the book were donated by the author and can be picked up at the church office. The following are the dates, chapters, and topics of the discussion for each week.

DATE	READ	DISCUSSION FOCUS
Jan 9/11	Intro & Chapter 1	Toward an Alternative Theodicy
Jan 16/18	Chapter 2	The Character of Sin
Jan 23/25	Chapter 3	The Power of Evil
Jan 30/Feb 1	Chapter 4	God’s Victory Over Sin
Feb 6/8	Chapter 5	Evil and Christian Ethics







### Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Mike Stolarick, Lee Sargent, Janis Rice, Susan Myers, Carolyn Malecka, Louise Bader, Noelle Corressel, Clive Crosby, Doris Rell, Dick Wilson, Shirley Stambaugh, Caryl Wallace, *Shuvanon Shabid*, John Breitling, Debbie Hodulik, Kody Schneider, Dolores Littleton, Kelly Mosteller, Maggie Koehler, Joe Melchiorre, Angela Melchiorre, Frederick Kluck, Gene Richards, Baby Sheamus Joseph Kinnarney, Mike DiMartinis, *Shuvanon Shabid*, 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 Mavis, 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, Bette Roncace, Nicholas Juele, Beckham Williams, Ed Clark, Col. Fred C. Anderson, Fred Mofitt, 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:** "I am permanently disabled and not able to work (I was a Social Worker for over 30 years). My only income is Social Security Disability, therefore I greatly need and appreciate your help. I know that it is not easy to give during these trying financial times. Your kind generosity is never taken for granted. I view each item as a gift. Thank you for caring and sharing. Blessings to all."



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

### Thrivent Baptismal Medallions Given on Jan 8

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 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 can 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 (lccossandy@gmail.com).



### Sisters in Spirit Kick Off the New Year with Dinner Out

Sisters in Spirit invite LCOS ladies and friends to dinner out at Tre Famiglia Ristorante, 403 N. Haddon Ave, Haddonfield.

Join us on Friday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m. for good food, conversation and laughter, guaranteed to get 2023 off to a great start.

Please RSVP to Deb Tredinnick by emailing her at [dltdredinnick@yahoo.com](mailto:dltdredinnick@yahoo.com) or calling 856-287-9878. Hope to see you there! Linda Nelson



### Annual Reports Deadline is Jan 9

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 9 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.

### Newcomer Class & Tour Offered January 15 from Noon-3:00

On Sunday, January 15, from 10:45-2:00 there will be a Newcomer Orientation offered in the Parish Hall for those interested in learning more about the ministry at Our Savior and how you can get involved. Each person/family will receive a Congregation Information Binder that contains:

- A Pictorial Directory
  - A Congregational History overview
  - A Time & Talent survey to assist in getting you connected to ministry
  - A Leadership Contact Page
- Membership Form (for those interested in becoming Voting Members).

Then prepare to learn some new faces and names in the congregation on January 22! New members will be received into the congregation of Our Savior at the worship service they normally attend with a photo taken of each family to help in putting names with faces.





## Memorial Gifts Fund

Reminder: Upcoming vote at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Existing Article VI, Section 6. Dissolution of Church Revision to the Patterson-Plotzke Scholarship Fund. See the November Newsletter for more details on these proposed changes to the Memorial Gift Fund By-laws or attend an informational meeting to explain the changes and answer any questions. This meeting will take place on Sunday, January 22, 2023 @ 10:45am after the 9:30 service. *Rich Windle*

### Council Question and Answer Session Scheduled for January 22

On Sunday, January 22, 2023, representatives of Church Council will be available in the Narthex prior to and after the 9:30 Service to field questions about the 2023 Annual Budget. Representatives from the Memorial Gifts Board will also be available at the same time and place to field questions regarding the changes in the MGB by-laws. Both the Annual Budget and by-laws need to be approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023 at 11:15AN in the Parish Hall..

Please call John Drozdal at 612-804-7324 with any questions.

## LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR: NOVEMBER 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

### NARRATIVE

November Envelop Offering of \$28,996 was below the plan of \$37,286, generating an anticipated year end estimate of \$7,000 above plan.

Other Income is slightly below plan (less needed from Davis to balance budget), generating Total Revenue to be estimated \$2,500 over plan.

Expenses are anticipated to be above plan by \$2,500 due to the negotiated salary of the Director of Youth & Family,

<u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</u>	2022	NOVEMBER	YEAR TO	YEAR END	ESTIMATED
	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	<u>YE VARI-</u>
			<u>2022</u>		<u>ANCE</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Envelopes	418,000	28,996	356,841	425,000	7,000
Other Income- Ex MGB Sup- port	37,652	1,182	41,772	33,152	(4,500)
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	32,825	422,433	489,912	2,500
<b>EXPENSE</b>					
Salary & Bene- fits	310,312	25,264	285,635	315,437	5,125
Property	54,600	3,621	46,283	54,100	(500)
Administration	47,900	3,467	41,636	47,425	(475)
<u>Program Min-</u> <u>istries</u>	<u>74,600</u>	<u>7,784</u>	<u>63,063</u>	<u>72,950</u>	<u>(1,650)</u>
Total Expense	487,412	40,136	436,617	489,912	2,500
<b>INCOME</b>	0	(7,311)	(14,184)	0	0



## Justice and Peace: Looking Behind the News at Anti-Semitism

A recent article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* noted that anti-Semitic comments by public figures are normalizing hate and ramping up the risk of violence. Public comments that at one time would have been condemned are now part of normal political discourse. The newspaper pointed out that this normalization of hate speech is not only a political problem, but a societal one. Many thanks to LCOS member Linda Harrington for her focus below on the scope of this issue.

### Anti-Semitism is increasing across the country and the world at a shocking rate.

The Anti-Defamation League, a leader in combatting hate, records incidents of anti-Semitism. The compilation is extensive. Public figures and politicians voice hostility and prejudice against Jewish people, denying the Holocaust. Banners hung from highway overpasses express racist, anti-Semitic language. Fliers containing anti-Semitic tropes are distributed clandestinely in neighborhoods and left on parked cars and in mailboxes. Protestors stand outside arenas distributing anti-Semitic propaganda. Jewish people are verbally and physically harassed, and their property, including homes, buildings, schools and cemeteries, is vandalized and defaced with hateful graffiti. Synagogues and Jewish community centers receive terroristic threats. And all of these hate-fueled acts occurred in our country—*just in the last month!* Imagine the pain and fear suffered by our Jewish brothers and sisters as a result.

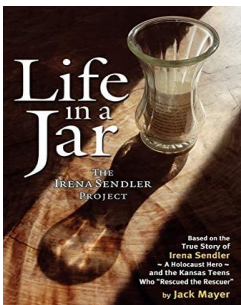
Recently, FBI Director Christopher Wray addressed the pervasive anti-Semitism in the United States: "Jewish people continue to face repeated violence and very real threats from all kinds of actors ... simply for being who they are." He added that 63% of hate crimes in the U.S. involving religion were motivated by anti-Semitism. "The threat of violent extremism is real, and it's urgent," the Director said.

### What Can We Do?

- Read the ELCA Declaration to the Jewish Community (rev'd 11/2021)—an expression of the church's continual opposition to rising anti-Semitism, a measure of accountability within our church and to our Jewish partners for the church's troubling legacy of anti-Jewish bias and complicity, and a commitment to build a relationship with the Jewish people based on love and respect. The Declaration can be found at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).
- Study the Declaration and Lutheran-Jewish resources available on the ELCA website under "Jewish Relations" to strive toward understanding and respecting our neighbors' beliefs.
- Explore the deep common historical and scriptural roots we Christians share with Jews. Learn about the history of Judaism since New Testament times and about their faith community today.
- Cultivate relationships and build mutual understanding. Ask to join your Jewish friends at their houses of worship and religious observances and ceremonies, and welcome them to yours. Together, attend lectures and discussions on topics of mutual interest, and tour places of historical or religious significance to each tradition.
- Be an active bystander! Respond to prejudiced or stereotyped views about Jewish people, derogatory expressions and "jokes" by calling out and denouncing the speaker's anti-Semitic comments, or, at the least, removing oneself from the conversation. Guard against, interrupt, and condemn anti-Jewish threats and acts of violence. Report hate speech, threats, property damage and violence to authorities, and be supportive of the victims.

**Be attentive to opportunities to oppose all bigotry, as individuals and together as the church.**

**Looking to do more?** On January 25 the LCOS Book Group will be discussing *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project*, based on the true story of a Polish Catholic social worker who saved 2,500 children from certain death and the Kansas teens who discovered and shared her story with the world. The Book Group meets at 6:00 pm in the Narthex. All are welcome! Linda Harrington



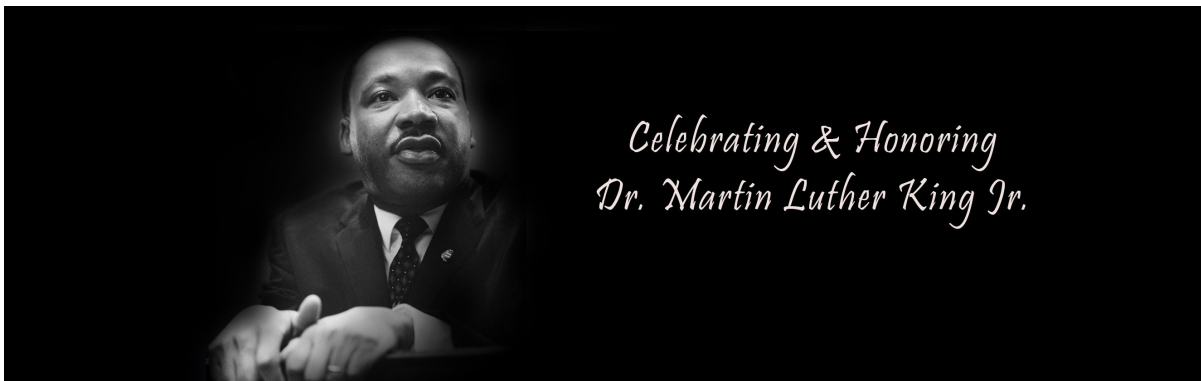
### LCOS Book Club *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project* By Jack Mayer

*Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project* is a Holocaust history and more. It is the inspirational story of Protestant students from Kansas, each carrying her own painful burden, each called in her own complex way to the history of a Catholic woman who knocked on Jewish doors in the Warsaw ghetto and, in Sendler's own words, "tried to talk the mothers out of their children." Inspired by Irena Sendler, these students are living examples of the power of one person to change the world and models for young people everywhere.

**MEETING**  
**JANUARY 25, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Questions? Contact Linda Nelson 908-400-2413 [lnelson824@gmail.com](mailto:lnelson824@gmail.com)  
Laura Oakes 609-238-9186 [lauraoakes102848@gmail.com](mailto:lauraoakes102848@gmail.com)





**Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship 4:00 p.m. on Jan 15 at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church;  
Day of Service Begins at 9:00 a.m. on Jan 16 at Our Savior.**

The congregation of Mount Olivet Baptist Church along with The Haddonfield Council of Churches invites area residents to join in a worship service commemorating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 at Mount Olivet Baptist Church located on the corner of Lincoln and Douglas Avenues in Haddonfield. In a time when racial conflict and tensions are still heightened in our nation we look to those leaders who have inspired us with a mission and ministry of peace as a means to resolve differences and tension among all peoples.

On Monday, January 16, youth and adults alike are invited to a Day of Service rather than a day off as we remember the work and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Please gather in the Parish Hall of Our Savior at 9:00 where participants will be provided with different opportunities to spend three hours in service to those in need. Please contact Pastor Wayne Zschech for more details on either the worship service or day of service activities.



**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, January 24 at noon for another enjoyable lunch and afternoon of cards, Mexican Train, and fellowship. Each month we will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Invite your friends of all ages to join us, the more the merrier!

The schedule for the year is: 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*

**Congregational Support: January – November 2022**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2020	204	\$ 360,669
2021	166*	\$ 351,136
2022	171*	\$ 356,846

\* 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**





## Holiday Food Drive 2022

Thank you to all who donated holiday food bags or made monetary donations. This year's Holiday Food Drive benefitted the Peace Center at Bridge of Peace Lutheran Church in Camden, a ministry to the poor and homeless in Camden, and the LCOS Pantry families. This year, a total of 53 bags of food were delivered to Bridge of Peace, and 10 food bags to our Pantry families. At last report, a total of \$1144.82 in donations were received, which will be divided between the Peace Center at Bridge of Peace and the LCOS Pantry.

This year, Bridge of Peace also requested \$25 Acme gift cards, 8 were received so far. Thank you to all for your donations.  
*Betsy Kuehn*

## God Bless LCOS Angels: Advent Giving Tree 2022 Update

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

Once again, the people of Our Savior have put their faith into action with their generosity. A huge thank you and well done from the Social Ministry Committee to everyone who took Advent Giving Tree tags in-person at church or thru the online registry, and bought the gift cards or donated money to purchase gift cards. We started with 200 tags and ended with 135 tags taken and 65 tags left. Also, in addition to the \$1000.00 budgeted for the Giving Tree, \$816.38 was contributed so far to the Advent Giving Tree fund to purchase gift cards for all of the leftover tags. The gifts are given to children, teenagers, young adults, adults and families through the following organizations.



1. Urban Promise – 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 pantry.

Gift cards were preferred over wrapped or unwrapped gifts as it gives the recipients the dignity to provide for children or other family members, it is a more meaningful gift.

You can still contribute to the Advent Giving Tree 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. *Betsy Kuehn*



**The Social Ministry Committee** is looking for a volunteer to take over LCOS's My Father's House Meals Ministry, as Kathy and Amelia Wright will be stepping down from the role on June 1. Please contact Betsy Kuehn ([betsy406@comcast.net](mailto:betsy406@comcast.net)) if you are interested, or Kathy Wright ([kathyandgregwright@gmail.com](mailto:kathyandgregwright@gmail.com)) if you have questions about what's involved.

**My Father's House** Volunteers are needed to prepare and deliver simple meals for 16 teens and adults in MFH's substance abuse recovery program. If you are unable to deliver your meal, we will arrange for a volunteer to deliver it to MFH for you! Please contact Kathy Wright at 856-325-0496 or [kathyandgregwright@gmail.com](mailto:kathyandgregwright@gmail.com) for more information, or visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0845a4af2ba31-myfathers>.

**Snack Sacks for My Father's House:** Volunteers are needed to assemble 24 brown lunch bags with one salty and one sweet non-perishable, factory-sealed snack for the teens and adults who are receiving substance abuse counseling at MFH. Please feel free to add a note of encouragement, draw a picture, or decorate the bags with stickers! Individual drinks (water, iced tea, gatorade) are also very much appreciated, but please keep them in their original case for easier delivery.

Please email Amelia Wright ([ameliaewright11@gmail.com](mailto:ameliaewright11@gmail.com)) with questions, or visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4eaaa82aa0f9cf8-snack> to sign up. Thank you



## A Journey Of a Thousand Miles Begins With a Single Step

Are you making resolutions for 2023? I used to make big resolutions up there with the rest of them and usually fail. The few I did meet and am proud of to this day are getting into grad school and running a half marathon, and this year I am just a few books shy of meeting my ambitious reading goal for the year, and with 11 days left as I am writing this and all Christmas gifts gloriously taken care of, I think I may just meet that one. My only resolution for 2023 is to grow our little family by one as we are expecting a baby girl in April! (Well, the secret resolution is to have Easter Sunday be my last Sunday before maternity leave, as she's due 9 days after Easter, but I hear babies have their own timing on that one...)

So often we think of changes and resolutions as these big, fast, radical steps. And yet, it has been proven that most changes take time and patience and require small steps. My elementary school teacher had a sign in her classroom that said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step," and though it took me decades to follow, understand and appreciate that saying, I now try to live by it. Instead of expecting choir mem-

bers to learn how to read music overnight, we have been doing weekly 10–15-minute sessions, and since September have learned a lot! Instead of thinking about changing the world in one session, our Justice and Peace team has been meeting faithfully every month and planning ahead, and the changes that are happening one by one have been one of my favorite things to watch happen in our church. Instead of reading a whole book of the Bible at once and expecting to understand it all, our Bible study members have been breaking it up into weekly chunks to discuss and study, and we have made it through the entire Gospel of Matthew in under two months! One of my personal goals as we were getting ready to move this fall was to donate as many clothes as I could, and instead of doing it all at once, I would just drop off whatever I had done that week in a clothes donation bin on the way to church, and as I look into my closet at my new house, I would estimate that at least four big bags have been donated to those who need the clothes more than I do.

What are the smaller changes that you can make this coming year? What is a small step God is calling you to do? Maybe you want to say hello to two families you haven't previously talked to, either in church or in your neighborhood. Perhaps you want to sing just a little louder when we're singing hymns in the service! Maybe you want to make sure every birthday present you buy this year supports a local store. Perhaps you want to contribute one monthly meal to one of the pantry families or shelters LCOS supports. Maybe you want to join a new committee at church, even if it may not be a new leadership position. Maybe you want to do the \$1 a day challenge that Pastor Wayne suggested for our giving. Whatever it is, I hope you will take that journey that begins with a single step, sing that first note of a new song, and see where God will lead you on your journey. *Pauline*

## Join the Daily Donation Challenge in 2023 to Aid Fully Fund Ministry

First things first. Why is a giving Challenge even needed? The short answer is we don't have the outside \$30,000+ funding we had in the previous two years. In 2021 Our Savior received a \$37,500 Payroll Protection Program loan during the pandemic that made up the shortfall in giving and the increase of the Director of Youth and Family Ministry to full time. In 2022 the Memorial Gift Board provided a \$31,000 grant to again make up the difference, despite the fact the DYFM position was only funded for seven months due to a search process to fill the position. In 2023 the position is fully funded for a year. However, in 2023 there is no PPP loan or Memorial Gift Board grant available to fully fund all staff positions and maintain all other regularly funded ministry and support as in past years. Cuts had to be made, including

- A reduction in ELCA Mission Support from 10% to 5% of envelope offerings
- Elimination of Bott Major Repair Fund contributions
- Postpone a financial review by auditing firm for another year
- Certain other non-critical line items that could be cut for a year.

Those cuts equal about \$35,000 that had to be eliminated to provide a balanced financial plan for ministry in 2023.

Hence the challenge. If all 206 giving households were to give an extra dollar a day the total increase in giving by New Year's Eve 2023 would \$74,000! So, this is the challenge. Take a jar and put it on the table or wherever you'll see it every day. Then put a dollar, or whatever works for you, in the jar every day. Next time you come to worship empty the jar into your offering envelope. It's that simple. We will even add a Daily Donation Challenge line item to our Simply Giving platform for those who give online if that works better for you. It is the Council's hope that the response is so widespread among the congregation that we can increase our Mission Support to what the Synod has requested as well as partially or even fully fund other cuts made.

**Remember! This Challenge is above and beyond what you would normally put in your offering.** Thank you for your support of time, talent, and treasure toward God's work in the world through the ministry of Our Savior. Your generosity makes a difference!





## January 2023 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	4:30-6:30 PM Jess  5:30-8:30PM ChildrenSong  6:30-8:30 PM Possibility Players - PH	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 Zoom & in-person  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		
9:00 AM Coffee Hour	7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Bible Discussion Zoom & in-person					
10:40AM Cherub Choir						
6:30 PM Confirmation						

## January 2023 Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>New Year's Day</b>  One Worship@9:30AM  No Confirmation	2 <b>Church Office Closed</b>  No Possibility Players	3 <b>7:00PM Church Council</b>  7:00 PM Toastmasters	4	5 <b>9:00 AM Fix-It Team</b>  <b>9:30 AM Mission Quilts</b>	6 <b>Epiphany</b>	7 8:00-11:00 AM ChildrenSong  <b>9:00 AM Undeck The Halls Coffee/Donuts</b>
8 <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b>  Presentation of Baptismal Medallions  12:30-3:30 PM Piano Recital - PH	9 <b>Annual Report Deadline</b>  No Possibility Players  <b>Bible Study Begins</b>	10 11:30-2:30 HGC  3:30-5:00 PM Girl Scouts  7:00 PM Toastmasters	11 <b>Financial Plan Deadline</b>  10:00-12:00 Singing Angels  <b>Bible Study Begins</b>	12 <b>Messenger Deadline</b>  <b>9:30 AM Mission Quilts</b>	13	14
15 <b>Hammond Baptism</b>  10:45 AM Newcomer Orientation  10:45 AM J & P Mtg.  No Confirmation	16 <b>Martin Luther King, Jr.</b>  <b>9:00 MLK Day of Service</b>  No Possibility Players	17 7:00 PM Toastmasters  7:00 PM Social Ministry Mtg.	18	19 <b>Messenger Mailing</b>  <b>Annual Report Mailing</b>  <b>9:00 AM Fix-It Team</b>	20	21
22 <b>New Members Recvd.</b>  No Confirmation	23 10:00-3:00 Art Class  <b>6:00 PM Congregation Resources</b>	24 <b>12:00 EPIC</b>  <b>3:30-5:00 PM Girl Scouts</b>	25 10:00-12:00 Singing Angels	26 11:00-1:00 & 7:00-9:00 Art Class	27	28   Sandy Vacation
29 <b>10:45 AM Brunch</b>  <b>11:15 AM Annual Mtg.</b>  No Confirmation	30 10:00-3:00 Art Class	31				
Sandy vacation	1-28 to 2-4					

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



### **Sabrina LaBelle, Director of Youth and Family Ministries**

2 Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!"*

I don't like New Year's Eve. I never have. I don't like making resolutions. I don't like staying up till midnight. I don't like the "Year in Review" nostalgia pieces that play on TV and radio. I'm definitely more of a "plan for the future" person than a sentimental look back at the past person. So I usually just bah humbug my way through New Year's Eve (watching the ball drop around the world until around 9:00pm and in bed by 9:10) and New Year's Day (taking down Christmas decorations and replacing them with Winter/Valentine's decorations). And generally staying out of the way of those who really get into this particular celebration.

But as I was thinking about the New Year and resolutions and all of that hype this year, it occurred to me that there is a theological reason not to enjoy resolution-making – or at least the way it is done in our contemporary society. The resolutions we make tend to be all about us. The top three resolutions every year made by people in the United States are: 1. Eat healthier, 2. Lose weight, and 3. Spend less/save more. It seems like a lot of the time, we make resolutions based on what we think identifies us. We think we are identified by our weight, or our eating habits, our bank accounts.

What if we spent New Year's Eve and New Year's Day thinking about this verse from 2 Corinthians: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!"* Of course there is nothing wrong with wanting to be healthier and stronger and better, starting January 1 or any other time of the year, but what if we remembered every day that we are new, that we are given another chance, that we can start again – not because of anything we do or promise to do, but simply because we are children of God? What a wonderful thought to keep in mind as we begin 2023.

Happy New Year!



### **Sunday School**

Sunday School will be on break January 1 (New Year's Day) and will resume on January 8. We will have new registration forms available if you haven't registered your child yet or if your child has turned 4 since we had registrations in September.

*We are looking for 1 more Sunday School teacher (on a rotational basis).* Please email me if you are interested in helping out, just for the winter/spring as one of our regular teachers recovers from surgery.

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service**

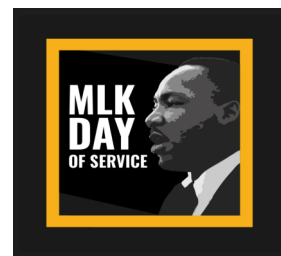
MLK Day is a great opportunity for intergenerational family service projects. LCOS will be sponsoring two important service projects to help Ronald McDonald House of South Jersey. They are in need of snack packs and personal care items for families who have to stay at Ronald McDonald House due to the illness of a child. On Monday, January 16 from 9am – 12pm families are invited to come to the church to pack snack packs and to pack bags of personal care items.

We are looking for the following donations for snack packs:

Fruit cups  
granola bars  
individual bags of pretzels, chips, or popcorn  
cheese crackers  
fruit snacks  
small boxes of cereal  
and gallon size plastic storage bags

And we need the following personal care items:

Full size shampoo/condition  
Soap  
Deodorant  
Brushes



All donations can be dropped off to the church any time before January 16.



### **Parents of Young Children Fellowship Group**

With the start of the new year, let's gather together for a casual afternoon of bowling on Saturday, January 28 at 2:00pm. More details to come very soon! Email Sabrina if you are interesting in taking part in this group or with any additional ideas: [smgvasta@gmail.com](mailto:smgvasta@gmail.com)

### **High School Youth News**

Come out on Monday, January 16 to help pack snack packs and toiletry items for families staying at Ronald McDonald House of South Jersey in Camden. What a great way to give back on MLK Day!

If high school students have ideas for what they would like to do in the winter/spring of 2023, please reach out to Sabrina LaBelle at any time: [smgvasta@gmail.com](mailto:smgvasta@gmail.com).



**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](http://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**

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<b>Millie King</b>	Congregation Resources	mmking0105@gmail.com	856-669-7794
<b><u>Volunteer Needed</u></b>	Fellowship Together		
<b>Cathe Bare</b>	Worship & Music	b45away@gmail.com	609-238-6527
<b>Rachael Simpkins</b>	Youth Representative	rachaelsimpkins1924@gmail.com	856-287-0525

### **MEMORIAL GIFTS BOARD**

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<b>Pastor Wayne Zschech</b>	Advisory member	wzschech@yahoo.com	856-429-7851

### **STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS**

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<b>Shirley Clinkscales</b>	Nursery Attendant		856-365-5392
<b>Don Richards</b>	Custodian/Sexton	dlrich1@msn.com	856-577-1149
<b>Eva Shaw</b>	Altar Guild	eslohboy@verizon.net	856-428-9434



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***January 2023 Messenger***

***Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed December 22, 2022***

***Address Service Requested***



Jan 1	Beth Hill	Jan 11	Brett Ainsworth	Jan 22	Nicole Speyerer
Jan 2	Jeffrey Martinsen	Jan 11	Patrick Ainsworth	Jan 24	Easton Nemeth
Jan 5	Chase Atkinson	Jan 11	Sabrina LaBelle	Jan 25	Joan Hall
Jan 5	Millie King	Jan 12	Edythe Austermuhl	Jan 25	Michael Turner
Jan 5	Peg Olt	Jan 12	Michael Newton	Jan 26	Luke Fabian
Jan 5	Kimberly Shaw	Jan 13	Courtney Mills	Jan 26	Dave Foster
Jan 7	Chase Adams	Jan 13	Sue Windle	Jan 26	Sandy Hoffman
Jan 7	Patrick Lynch	Jan 15	Dave Wyche	Jan 26	Donna Mirabello
Jan 7	Jill Qualls	Jan 16	Ava Cottone	Jan 27	Thomas Atkinson
Jan 8	Charlotte Lynch	Jan 16	Nicole Fallon	Jan 27	Judy Caravelli
Jan 8	Heather Oakes	Jan 17	Cleo Cottone	Jan 27	Christian Gross
Jan 9	Samuel Chaiken	Jan 17	Lila Cottone	Jan 27	Kimberly Vasallo
Jan 9	Michael Wolf	Jan 17	Cindy Jentsch-Russomano	Jan 28	Bob Dempsey
Jan 10	Poppy Greene	Jan 19	Emily Demers	Jan 29	Zachary Hugo
Jan 10	Betsy Kuehn	Jan 20	Lukus Hammond	Jan 30	Kali Williams
Jan 10	Barbara Standke	Jan 21	Nancy Frazier	Jan 31	Jessica Martinsen