



The Messenger



DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR



Christmas Pageant

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday, December 10 during the 9:30 service in the Sanctuary. Please join us in supporting our Sunday School pageant participants and Confirmation student pageant narrators. There will be a time for fellowship and refreshments after the 9:30 service. All congregation members are invited to attend the service that day. There will be music, costumes, and general cuteness you will not want to miss!

This Christmastide – An Invitation to Lessons and Carols

You are invited to our annual Lessons and Carols service this December 17th at the 9:30am service! Join us for a service full of music and reflections to celebrate the spirit of the season. The service will include well-known carols such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Joy to the World" that will be sung by all, as well as choir anthems accompanied by organ, strings, and harp, and reflective readings. Invite your family and friends and get into the Christmas spirit with our musical celebration of Christ's birth!



One Spoken Holy Communion Worship at 9:30 Christmas Eve Morning

As the Fourth Sunday of Advent is on Christmas Eve and there will be four Holy Communion services that evening beginning at 3:00, the Worship and Music Committee has agreed to hold one Holy Communion worship service to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent at 9:30 a.m. There will be no musical accompaniment to provide music staff and volunteers time for rest before a long evening of worship services filled with music and song. As such, the morning service will offer no hymns, and the liturgy will be spoken.

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 Tween Choirs (5:00) as well as the Tween 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 Worship: 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.

Office Closed Dec 26, and Jan 2

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



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.



"People Bring People"

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

I recently read this meme on Facebook.

HOW DO PEOPLE START ATTENDING CHURCH?

A Friend Invited Me:	86%
Organized Visitation:	6%
Pastor Invite:	6%
Advertising:	2%



CONCLUSION: PEOPLE BRING PEOPLE!

It is said the best advertising is personal recommendations from someone you trust. And while Our Savior's website is often cited as the reason first-time guests heard about the congregation, imagine the courage it must take to attend an event where you know likely no one. I've seen the excitement in the faces of visitors who recognize a neighbor, coworker, or friend in the congregation they didn't realize worshipped at Our Savior and greeting them with joy. "I didn't know you were a member here!" They might as well have said, "Oh, thank goodness! Someone I know!"

Imagine how much easier it would be for them if they came with a friend in the first place. Someone to guide them in following the liturgy. Someone to show them how to use the worship book and join their cautious voices in singing the hymns. Someone to let them know the procedure for receiving Holy Communion. Someone to answer even some of the simplest questions like, "Where do we park? Or, where are the restrooms?"

December is a month filled with opportunities to bring people you know to worship. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article with suggested words of invitation for various worship services. I invite you to consider first, who might I invite to witness my child or grandchild sing in the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 10? Who might enjoy the Advent Lessons and Carols worship a week later, on December 17, with all the music and singing of Advent and Christmas hymns. Who has asked about where to attend Christmas Eve worship that might find the carols and message of Our Savior's services filled with the joy and spirit of the season.

Then bring them. Invite them and bring them, with you if possible rather than simply an invitation to meet you here. You can "do brunch" after morning worship. That's usually a deal maker! The point is, invite them and bring them. That's how people start attending a church that in time can become a faith community they come to trust and depend on in their journey of faith in the God we have come to know in Jesus Christ, born in a manger on a silent night in Bethlehem. Come, let us worship him, and invite our family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to do the same...with us. Merry Christmas.



Join in Decorating Church & Narthex for Christmas December 3 from 11:00-2:00

Got an eye for hanging ornaments? Know how to "fluff" artificial tree branches so they look almost real? Do you enjoy hanging lights in Christmas tree branches? Come share your Christmas tree decorating gifts with others on Sunday, December 3 from 11:00-2:00 as we decorate the two sanctuary trees and the one in the narthex in time for the Children's Christmas Pageant the following week at the 9:30 worship service. This is a great family event and one you can invite your friends to join in the fun and festivities as well. Lunch will be provided at noon for all who attend.

Church in Waiting Advent Bible Discussion Begins Nov 13/15 IN PERSON+ZOOM!

As the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, the one aspect of life we don't ever seem to have enough of is...TIME! Keeping time according to the church year is a grace, not a requirement. The grace of Advent is best received in community. These sessions offer an opportunity to awaken the gift of time provided by the celebration of Advent. Join the discussion in November and December in this 4-week discussion of the Church in Waiting: Together in Faith on either Mondays from 7:00-8:30 PM or on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 AM in Room 112 if joining in person or clicking on the Zoom link from Our Savior's website home page to join virtually from home.

Dec 4/6 Repent and Prepare the Way of the Lord

Dec 11/13 Glorify God through Jesus Christ





Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Susan Myers, Mae & Jon Batchelor, Peg Riley, Bob Heinze, Gail Hoffman, Jay Wallace, Lee Sargent, Carolyn Malecka, Clive Crosby, Doris Rell, Shirley Stambaugh, *Xiu Li, Daniel Reilly, Family of Gil Pineiro, Charles Coffey, Dottie Kelly, Ann (Paulus) Warner, baby Mavis, Suzanne Tracy, Mikael Eliassen, Terri Meibling, Savannah Martin Fox. John Leach, Marie Lattanzi Morris, Pamela Ihes-Goldberger, Shellee Conley, Debbie Hodulik, Kelly Mosteller, Angela Melchiorre, Sheamus Joseph Kinnarney, Mike DiMartinis, Shuvanon Shabid, Eric Kelly, Shellee Conley, Steven Alutore, Brenda Jarger, Dale & Maureen Runge, Lois Cummins, Rich DeBella, Ralph Volpe, Peggy Miller, Rosemary Dougherty, Colin Lawlor, Amelia Marchese, Albert Kern, Michelle Mavis, John Rell, Larry Thatcher, Scott Hansen, Abby Phelps, Carmela Crawford, Jacob Berard, Keith Maull, Connie Verner, Judy Yerkes, Daniel Mandel, Susan Mazeika, Saunders Family, Sandy Ferguson, Terry Mitchell, Bette Roncace, Nicholas Juele, Beckham Williams, Ed Clark, Col. Fred C. Anderson, Fred Moffitt, Lily Gregorio, Julie Bartlett, Jimmy Lombardo, Elva Mastrando, Chuck Atkinson, Sophia Campos, William T family, Ryan Roberts, Ed Miller, David Wenck*

Please keep us updated with the prayer list. If anyone should be removed or added, please let us know. Sandy—lcossandy@gmail.com

Pantry

Pantry: Serving 12 Families: 37 People: 23 Adults, 10 Teens & 4 Children *Lynn Block*



- Acme or Shop-Rite Gift Cards
- Monetary Donations
- Canned fruit
- Oatmeal packets
- Cereal
- Paper Towels & TP

Pantry Thank Yous : Thank you for being so generous, especially during this time of high food prices, it is stretching everyone. I was literally down to no food, just peanut butter and jelly, when the groceries arrived. You made my day/week/year. Just so wonderful. Thank you also for the *Christ in My Home*. "My faith is stronger than my fears."

Boxed Envelopes Available In Narthex for Pick-Up Dec 10 until January 7

Members of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior are asked to pick up their 2024 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 January 7 will be mailed out in the first weeks of 2024. Please help reduce postage costs by picking up your offering envelopes in the Narthex.



Sisters-in-Spirit Christmas Ornaments: Get Yours & Support Lutheran Disaster Relief

We had no trouble choosing the recipient of the proceeds from this year's Sisters-in-Spirit ornament. With the kind of disaster-filled year 2023 has been, Lutheran Disaster Relief was everyone's first choice. We think this year's paint-swirled glass balls are a beautiful way to show your concern for people around the world while helping with your own gift-shopping list. Make a donation for individual balls, and knock a few names off your list.



The ornaments will be on display and available in the narthex after both worship services on Dec. 3, 10, and 17 (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. 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! Dig deep in your wallet or check book, and help us help others. Thanks for your generosity and caring!

Looking Ahead: The annual Sisters-in-Spirit winter dinner will be on Friday, January 12. We're looking to shake up the format a little, and details will be available in mid-December. Please mark your new 2024 calendar, and stay tuned for more information.

And Looking Even Further Ahead! Circle Saturday, March 2 on your calendar, and plan to join Sisters in Spirit for a Women's Lenten Retreat at LCOS. Our speaker will be Pastor Dale Selover, who is affiliated with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Princeton Junction, NJ where she is a spiritual director and retreat facilitator. Our retreat is open to all area women, so think about inviting a friend. More information to come.



Poinsettia Delivery People Needed Dec 26 at 9:30 AM

Help is needed on Tuesday, Dec 26, to deliver the poinsettias that decorated the church on Christmas Eve 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, if you are able to assist in delivering poinsettias.



Come, See, Gather, and Hush – Noticing the Present Moment

This weekend I took Millie, who is now 6 months old, to see Santa at the Haddonfield Library to get some pictures. In one of the pictures, she holds out her little palm, as if to say “Stop, mom, it’s not even Thanksgiving!” I’ve heard many comments this season about how the Christmas decorations were out before Halloween was over, I’ve seen memes of a big turkey sitting on Santa Claus saying “not before I am done.” I have friends who put up their tree already, and obviously now I am the one who took her kid to see Santa six full weeks before Christmas. As someone who tries to plan hymns and choir anthems months ahead, it doesn’t register for me as that hurried – aren’t we always looking to the next big thing? And yet, as I was reading through the texts for our anthems for Lessons & Carols, I noticed the text to Sally Ann Morris’ “Christ’s Lullaby,” written by Mary Louise Bringle, and it felt like the spinning world stopped for a moment:

Come, see the small one cradled in straw.

God’s whole creation gathers in awe.

*Worlds hushed in silence hear from on high
morning stars singing Christ’s lullaby.*

The words *come, see, gather, hushed, and hear* stood out to me. All those things that we forget to do when running around from one thing to another, skipping seasons getting ready for the next one. When do we intentionally take the time to hush and hear? When do we simply come and gather? I am thinking of the Thanksgiving dinner where we sit together and so often share what we are thankful for, but often the hours and days leading up to that moment are filled with stress, food shopping and preparing, and cleaning – and I won’t even mention the stress and chaos that ensues immediately after Thanksgiving as Black Friday and all the other newly made up “shopping holidays” follow and don’t stop the stress until Christmas Eve.

I know that probably nobody reading this will have a completely stress and hassle free holiday, or will be able to not think about Christmas until after Thanksgiving. But what would it mean to find moments to come, gather, hush, and hear in this busy every day? What is it that helps you to gather, to hush? Is it sitting down with a cup of hot coffee in the morning and meditating on a reading (whether from the Bible or somewhere else)? Is it through making or observing art? Is it stepping outside on a clear night to see the starry sky? A walk through the woods? Is it (shameless plug here) letting yourself listen to the choir sing anthems like “Christ’s Lullaby” and “This Christmastide” and the reflections in between, and singing along to hymns? Whatever it is, I pray that you will find these moments that ground you in the present and in presence this season and beyond. *Pauline Worusski*

“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 the 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 10: 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 17: Lessons & Carols Worship: “Say, our church is holding a really great musical worship on December 17. 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.





Justice and Peace Round Up

- **Mark Your Calendars: Sunday, January 14, 10:45 a.m., LCOS Parlor, *Be Smart Program***
If the statistic that firearms are now the leading cause of death for American teens and children frightens you, please don't pass up this invitation because you don't own a gun. *Be Smart* offers tips for all of us, whether gun owners or not, in how to keep our young people safe. The half-hour presentation after Sunday worship will be time well spent. Childcare will be available. Stay tuned for registration information.

- **50 Years of Celebrating Life!**

Signed by Richard Nixon on December 28, 1973, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects plants and animals at risk of going extinct, in part by mandating the creation of a list of endangered and threatened species. According to a 2019 study the ESA has prevented the extinction of some 291 species. Examples of reintroduced species include the Gray Wolf, American Alligator, Bald Eagle, California Condor, Grizzly Bear, Monarch Butterfly, and lesser-known species like the Oregon Chub (a minnow). Reintroducing endangered species, not only affects that species, but other species that rely on them and the general ecosystem.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), a new bi-partisan bill introduced in 2023, would increase the funding to states, territories, and to Tribes that have historically been left out of reliable sources of funding for wildlife conservation. One of the act's most important goals is to keep common species common and to protect at-risk species through "proactive conservation." Please join us in celebrating the preservation of God's creation.

Information from National Wildlife Magazine

- **Join us in person or by Zoom for the next meeting of the Justice and Peace Committee**

on January 21, 10:45 a.m. in the LCOS Parlor. Please contact Lynn Block, committee chair, if you need the Zoom link (blockstar59@hotmail.com). *Justice & Peace Committee*



Blood Drive

Lutheran Church of Our Savior Parish Hall

204 Wayne Avenue Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Friday, December 8, 2023 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code:

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Our gift to you: Dec. 1 to 17 for a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email.



Senior Game Day

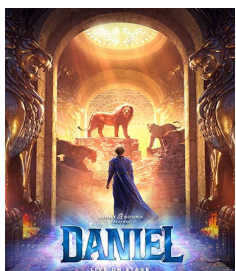
We gather again for Senior Game Day on Tuesday, Nov. 28 at noon for another enjoyable lunch and afternoon of cards, Mexican Train, many other games and fellowship. Each month we will meet on the 4th Tuesday unless as indicated*. Invite your friends of all ages to join us, the more the merrier!



- The schedule for the rest of 2023 into 2024: Nov. 28, **Dec. 19***, Jan. 23, Feb. 27, March 26, Apr. 23, **May 21***, June 25.

A one-time per new season of \$30 for LCOS members and \$40 for non-members is requested to help defray the cost of the lunch. You may also pay as you go: \$5.00 per week. Checks may be made out to "LCOS". If the cost is a burden please talk to me.

It would be helpful for me if you would RSVP a week before the scheduled date so that there will be enough food and drinks for everyone. **Please RSVP to :** Judy Caravelli Text/Call: 609 471-5830 Email: 2006jac@comcast.net



Save The Date: Tuesday, March 19 2023—Bus Trip to the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster to See Daniel. Please see insert for more details. All are welcome!

Presented by the Fellowship Committee in conjunction with Senior game Day



Advent Giving Tree: Bringing Christmas Joy to Those in Need

Be an Angel, Take a Tag!

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, and return the gift with the tag attached by December 3, 2023 prior to 10:30am. Organizations that benefit from your generosity include My Father's House, Urban Promise, Caring Hearts, and the Pantry families.

New for 2023, Urban Promise will have an Amazon Wishlist to order any of the suggested gifts for their Christmas Promise Store to be held in mid-December. You can scan the QR Code on the flyer

available on the Sundays the Advent Giving tree is in the Narthex, or click this link: <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/OOV4QHWJT62X>.

An online gift registry will also be available for members not able to be in church. 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.

Indicate slot # of gift that you selected, this will help with organizing the gift cards for each group.

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

The tags and contribution envelopes will be available on Sundays November 19, and November 26. The gifts must be returned to church no later than December 3, 2023 by 10:30am.

Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to LCOS, and indicate 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. Betsy Kuehn at 856-429-3355 or betsy406@comcast.net.

My Father's House Update



Several members of the LCOS congregation expressed interest in continuing to provide meals for Tuesday meetings at My Father's House. To support this initiative, this sign-up genius will track meals to be provided on a volunteer basis. Any and all support is welcome by MFH, and we thank you for your service! Two changes: 1. You will need to prepare and **deliver the meal directly to MFH** by 3:00 on your day. 2. Meals should **feed about 12 people**. Feel free to reach out with any questions and thank you to all who support MFH and the important work they do!!

<https://tinyurl.com/y97cdd83>

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" with Altar Guild in the memo section. The poinsettias are delivered to our homebound members and nursing home residents on Tuesday, December 26. The deadline is Sunday, December 17, 2023.

Given by _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Relationship of donor to Memorialized One(s) _____

Return to church office no later than December 17

K-LOVE Faith and Family Night

February 8th, 2024 | 7:00PM



All Faith & Family Night Tickets include a Flyers K-LOVE t-shirt!

- Lower Level Tickets starting at \$65
- Upper Level Tickets starting at \$45



We're trying to get a head count so we can order tickets. If you would be interested in going, please let Sandy know, lcossandy@gmail.com, 856-429-5122. Also, tell us which tickets you would prefer, lower or upper level.

Tuesday
March 19, 2024

Price:
\$189.00
Per Person

Itinerary:

10:00am Depart

12:00n Lunch
3:00pm Show

8:30pm Return



Daniel
Sight & Sound Theater
with Lunch at
Miller's Smorgasbord

Taken from his people, Daniel is exiled far from home in the powerful kingdom of Babylon. Now this faithful servant must navigate his new life inside a palace filled with golden statues and shifting empires. As royal pressures mount, Daniel is faced with a dangerous choice. Will his trust in the one true God remain steadfast through every test of faith? From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, DANIEL is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family. Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres®.

Premier theater seating!

Lunch will be enjoyed before the show.

For reservations and information contact:
Sandy 856-429-5122 or lcossandy@gmail.com

Lutheran Church of Our Savior
204 Wayne Avenue
Haddonfield 08033





Memorial Gifts Fund Corner

Our focus this month is back on the Lou Dunkle Endowment Fund. In the establishment of the Endowment Fund, it is the intention of the congregation to provide a means, over and above provisions made in the general operating budget, of fostering local outreach, furthering denominational and ecumenical causes, and addressing special ministries and other purposes set forth herein. Such as: Capital expenditures, Grants, Scholarships, Mission development, Outreach and Special Needs. In 2023, the Lou Dunkle Endowment Fund provide the following support:

1. \$5000 to Interfaith Caregivers
2. \$5000 to support the Haddonfield Community Caseworker
3. \$295 to help support our Justice & Peace Initiative.
4. \$1530 to help support Pastor Wayne's attendance at Educational Conference
5. \$2000 to support Feed My Starving Children

The above highlights some of the projects supported by the Endowment Fund. The Memorial Gift Board would like to thank Lou Dunkle and members of the congregation for their vision in developing this fund. It is clear the intention of the fund is being faithfully carried out. Now it is our turn. The Lou Dunkle Endowment Fund continues to need contributions for its mission to continue and grow. Do you want to leave a legacy of faithful stewardship to your Church for future generations? The Lou Dunkle Endowment Fund provides members with a vehicle to make contributions to the Fund knowing that the money will be invested and the earnings from those investments will be used to support the future work of the church. Just look at the support provided in 2023 because of the vision of former and current members. Please consider this giving opportunity. Any questions about this fund or any other fund of the Memorial Gifts Fund, feel free to reach out to any member of the board. *Rich Windle*



Stewards of God's Gifts: Thank You for Your Support

Thank you to all who have responded to the 2024 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 gifts 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 also 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 2023

Thankfully, the LCOS community has been diligent and generous in General Fund offerings this year. However, a slow-down in offerings in October and some unexpected building upkeep expenses mean that our end-of-year statement of income versus expenses is projected to show a deficit of around \$2,500. Our hope is that with generous support in these last two months Our Savior will be able to reverse the deficit and also contribute toward the work of the larger church closer to what the Synod originally requested in 2023 Mission Support. This will only be possible if *the congregation remains faithful in their giving to the end*. Thank you for your support so far this year and in these remaining weeks.

Thank You For Your Generous Contributions to the Bridge of Peace Trunk or Treat!

We had 137 trick-or-treaters and plenty of candy for all! It was an amazing evening of joy for children and adults alike as we shared God's love with the neighborhood! We couldn't have done it without you! (I know that is way too many exclamation points for one email, but I can't help myself) Thanks for your partnership in ministry at Bridge of Peace! *Connie Wolf*



2023 Offerings Must Be Postmarked or In by Dec 31

In order to keep our bookkeeping accurate, the Congregation Resources Committee has set Sunday, 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.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR: OCTOBER 2023 REPORT

FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

October Envelope and Congregational Challenge offerings of \$26,598 were below expectations of \$35,952. We are estimating Year End Envelope offering to be below Plan by \$3,250 and Congregational Challenge offering to be below Plan by \$3,750. Other Income is estimated to be below Plan by \$1,965 as a result of Matching Funds not being received as expected.

Expenses are estimated to be below Plan by \$6,465 as a result of Salary and Benefits below Plan by \$13,657 as a result of the Director of Youth & Family Ministry change. Property Expense estimate is above Plan by \$5,875 as a result of the General Budget support of the exterior church painting. We are estimating a Year End Net Loss of \$2,500.

<u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</u>		2023	OCTOBER	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR END	ESTIMAT- ED YE VARI- ANCE
		<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	
REVENUE						
	Envelopes	451,250	26,598	339,926	448,000	(3,250)
	Other Income- Ex MGB Support	59,700	5,860	46,590	57,735	(1,965)
	Congregational Challenge	5,000	0	992	1,250	(3,750)
	Memorial Gift Board Support	0	0	2,435	0	0
	Total Revenue	515,950	32,458	389,943	506,985	(8,965)
EXPENSE						
	Salary & Benefits	343,515	26,386	276,292	329,858	(13,657)
	Property	66,625	12,812	61,262	72,500	5,875
	Administration	48,297	4,107	41,459	51,900	3,603
	<u>Program Minis- tries</u>	<u>57,513</u>	<u>2,814</u>	<u>40,246</u>	<u>55,227</u>	<u>(2,286)</u>
	Total Expense	515,950	46,119	419,259	509,485	(6,465)
INCOME		0	(13,661)	(29,316)	(2,500)	(2,500)

Congregational Support: January – October 2023

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance*</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2021	164	\$318,842
2022	167	\$327,880
2023	166	\$340,918

* 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 Your Faithfulness in Being Stewards of God's Love


Thank you to all who put their offering envelopes into the plate in person, mail them to the church office, or give electronically. Thanks very much for sharing your blessings so that others may know God's love.



December 2023 Regular Events

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
8:00 AM Sanctuary Worship, 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship & Facebook Live, 9:00-9:20 AM Reflections in Parlor 9:00 AM Coffee Time 10:40-11:00 AM Cherub Choir	4:45-5:45 PM Tween Choirs 5:30-8:30 ChildrenSong – Choir Room 6:30-8:30 Possibility Players - PH 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Bible Discussion	10:30 AM Pastors' Pericope 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Bible Discussion 3:00-4:00 PM Tai Chi	6:30-9:15 PM Tai Chi 6:45-7:45 PM Bell Choir 8:00 PM Adult Choir		

December 2023 Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 8:00-11:00 AM ChildrenSong
3 10:45 AM Worship & Music Mtg. 11:00-2:00 Deck the Church Halls 6:30 PM Confirmation	4 5:30-8:30 PM ChildrenSong in Sanctuary	5 9:30-11:15 AM Mommy & Me Music 12:00-1:30 District Cluster 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM Toastmasters	6 9:30-11:15 AM Mommy & Me Music 5:30-8:30 PM ChildrenSong in Sanctuary	7 Hanukkah Begins 9:00 AM Fix-It Team 9:30 AM Mission Quilts	8 11:00-6:00 Blood Drive	9
10 9:30 AM Children's Christmas Pageant 10:45 AM Fellowship Mtg. 1:30-5:30 PM ChildrenSong Concert	11 Last Bible Discussion	12 9:30-11:15 AM Mommy & Me Music 11:00-3:00 HGC – PH 7:00 PM Toastmasters	13 Last Bible Discussion 9:30-11:15 AM Mommy & Me Music	14 Messenger Deadline No Tai Chi 9:30 AM Mission Quilts	15 Hanukkah Ends	16 9:00-12:00 AM L & C Choir Rehearsal
17 Poinsettia Deadline No Sunday School 9:30 AM Lessons & Carols 10:45 AM Justice & Peace Mtg. 2:00-5:00 Sharon Parker Concert 6:30 PM Confirmation	18	19 12:00 noon Senior Game Day 7:00 PM Social Ministry Mtg 7:00 PM Toastmasters	20	21 Messenger Mailing No Tai Chi 9:00 AM Fix-It Team Pastor Off	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:30 AM Worship Christmas Eve Worship Services 3:00, *5:00, 8:00, *10:00 PM *Live-stream 31 New Year's Eve	25 Christmas 	26 Church Office Closed 9:30 AM Poinsettia Delivery	27 Pastor Pauline	28 No Tai Chi Off Vacation	29 Until Jan. 4	30

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

Fellowship Ministry Committee: Chili Cook Off Is Coming to LCOS!



On Sunday, January 20th, time to be determined, LCOS will be holding its **First Annual Chili Cook Off!** Every adult who attends will receive three tickets to vote for the best chili! You can place all three tickets in the bag by your favorite chili or you can place your three tickets in the bags of three different chili's. You guessed it, yes, there will be three prizes awarded for the top three chili's receiving the most votes.

Start thinking about your chili recipe or you can bring a dessert instead of chili. Beverages will be provided along with rolls and cornbread. If you bring chili, be certain to also bring your accompaniments (rice, Tostitos, hot peppers, raw onions, shredded cheese, etc.). So many different chili's! Which one to make? Will a vegan chili claim First Place? Maybe it will be a hearty beef chili with three different beans or a white chicken chili? Let the fun begin!

Look for information in your bulletin in December to register to attend the Chili Cook Off!. You will be able to indicate if you will be bringing chili or a dessert. While we will all enjoy tasting delicious chilis and desserts, the best part will be the fellowship and fun we'll share by being together!

Mark your calendar, Chili Cook Off - Sunday January 20th! More details will follow as we get closer to the date.

Faith and Family Night at the Flyers Game-February 8. See insert for details

"Daniel" at the Sight & Sound Theater-March 19. See insert for details.

Reserve your seats now for our upcoming events. Tickets for the Flyers and "Daniel" are limited.



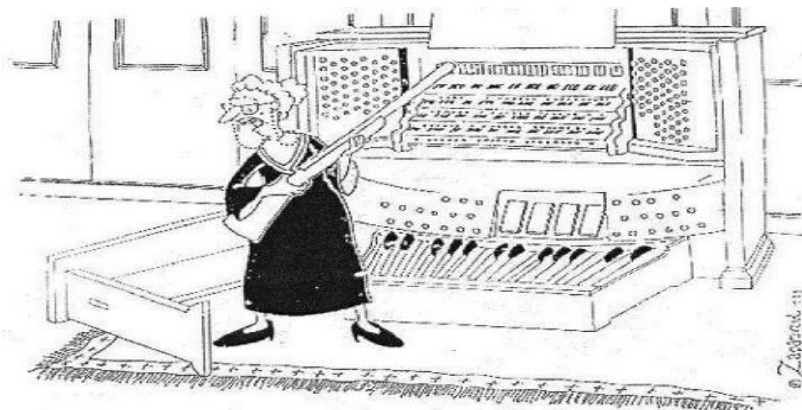
Thrivent Baptismal Medallions Given on Jan 7

On Sunday, January 7, 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 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).

End of Year Surplus Will Help Make Up 2023 Cut to Mission Support

When creating the 2023 Financial Plan for Ministry, the only way to create a balanced plan of income versus expenses was to make a significant cut in Our Savior's Mission Support to the New Jersey Synod. We went from giving ten percent of our envelope and loose offerings to five percent, a reduction of about \$22,000 from what the Synod had been expecting to receive from Our Savior. This reduced the larger church's capacity to strengthen congregations, accompany new and strategic ministries, provide leadership for mission through the office of the bishop, and engage in oversight and planning for Synod ministries.

While we are likely to reach our anticipated offering income, and thereby meet what we pledged to the synod in 2023 Mission Support, it is the hope of the Congregation Council that should Our Savior end the year with a surplus, the excess funds would be sent as additional Mission Support to the Synod. In this season of generosity, remember that from the abundance of God's blessings we generously give toward God's work in the world not only through this congregation, but also through the larger church of the New Jersey Synod and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by our Mission Support offering. God loves a cheerful giver. May this season of giving be a cheerful one for you and your family.



Brenda quiets the crowd for her Prelude





Coffee Time at LCOS (8:30 am - 9:30 am) is supported by Fellowship Ministry and LCOS' committees. LCOS leadership, committee chairs and committee members have been assigned a Sunday to bring treats to the church kitchen by 8:15 a.m. on Sunday or the Saturday before. The Fellowship Committee takes care of set-up and clean-up. Please take a moment to stop by Coffee Hour for coffee, tea, juice, fruit, cheese, bagels and some really tempting desserts! Best of all, come for the Fellowship! *Ruth Fisher*

December Coffee Time Schedule

Dec. 3—Counters

Dec. 10—Library Ladies & Outreach

Dec. 17—Adult Vocal & Bell Choirs

Dec 24—No Coffee Time

Dec 31—Adult Bible Discussion

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

Ann Querns	Vice President/Personnel	ahodulik@gmail.com	856-905-5115
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Pastor Wayne Zschech	Advisory member	wzschech@yahoo.com	856-429-7851

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December 2023 Messenger

Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed November 16, 2023

Address Service Requested



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