



The Messenger



JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

In-Person & Zoom Congregation Annual Brunch & Meeting January 28 @ 10:30; Worship Services Are as Usual.

The ability to hold a hybrid annual meeting these last two years has enabled people to attend despite their inability to be physically present (one member joined from his hospital room!) 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. – Annual Meeting In-Person & by Zoom in Sanctuary:** We will begin the Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary after dismissing visitors and guests from worship. Those attending by Zoom can use the link that will be provided in the Thursday email that includes the bulletin sent out by Sandy DeDonatis to join the meeting. The meeting has a somewhat light agenda and should conclude by 12:00.
- **12:00 p.m. – Chili Cook-Off Lunch & Fellowship Event:** Rather than the traditional brunch the Fellowship Together Ministry Team is sponsoring a fun winter fellowship event in the First Annual Chili Cookoff. Check out the article in this issue for details.

How will roll call be taken? Council Secretary Debby Madiraca 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? In addition to the election of Council and Memorial Gift Board members as well as approving the 2024 Financial Plan for Ministry the Annual Meeting is also a time for reviewing where we have been in the past year and where God is calling us to go in the years to come. We will be formally welcoming Youth Ministry Developer Jess Arnold as she and Pastor Wayne seek to revitalize our youth ministry following the pandemic as well as enhance and expand our ministry with and to children, youth, and families not yet a part of the congregation.

MARK JAN 28 ON YOUR NEW CALENDARS NOW FOR 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ZOOM ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & CHILI COOK-OFF COMPETITION.



Boxed Envelopes Available for Pick-Up Until Jan 7

Members of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior are asked to pick up their 2024 offering envelopes in the Narthex by January 7, 2024. If you can drop off envelopes for a friend or nearby neighbor in the congregation, please do. Envelopes that are not picked up by January 7 will have to be delivered.

Undecorate the Sanctuary Jan 7 @ 10:45 AM Following Worship

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 Sunday, January 7, from approximately 10:45-12:30. Lunch 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 Chrismon ornaments, lights, and trees so enough food and drinks will be available to all.



Our Beautiful New Chrismons

Thank you to Nancy and Bob Dempsey and their daughter, Amy Lauterborn, Linda Doherty, Paula Horner, Beth Mutch, Kristine Monsen, Jane Braccio, Stacey Shaw, Eva Shaw, Beth Hill and Jeannette Jelonek for making some new Chrismon's for the Christmas trees. Thanks to Beth Hill for cutting out the Chrismon's and to Jeanette Jelonek's help in getting the supplies. *Eva Shaw*

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.



“Technology for the Sake of the Gospel”

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

“If you make me start texting, I may have to retire early!” That was Pastor Glenn Engelhardt’s reaction in 2006 to the prospect of staff communicating by text with each other and the congregation for the sake of facilitating more expedient sharing of information and communication. Of course, texting nearly two decades ago was far more tedious with only a numeric keypad available on flip-phones than a full alphanumeric keyboard on today’s smartphones. In time Pastor Engelhardt not only embraced texting, but also many other technological advantages of gathering and sharing information and communication in a rapidly expanding age of social media. I think he did so for the sake of the grandkids and staying connected to their lives down in Virginia.

Glenn taught me a lesson I’m just beginning to understand. Sometimes, we endure the challenges of learning how to utilize the latest innovations of technology for the sake of a purpose that is important and meaningful in our lives and the lives of others. Like Glenn and texting, I’ve been a bit adverse to learning how to best utilize Instagram, Facebook Live, and YouTube in sharing my personal life let alone using it for spreading the gospel. It’s not a part of my daily routine that is so natural to “digital natives” like former Vicar Josh Pontious who got us up and running with Facebook Live worship services when Covid-19 forced us to close in-person worship for months.

Yet, historically, Lutherans have often used the latest technology for the sake of spreading the gospel. Martin Luther used the Guttenberg movable type printing press to mass produce his writings and share his confessional writings with Germans of all ages and education levels that enabled the Reformation movement to be so fruitful. We might ask ourselves, “How would Martin Luther use social media technology today for the sake of the gospel? How would he use the ability to provide virtual worship and learning opportunities to create an even larger and wider congregation than one could previously conceive of with only in-person participation?”

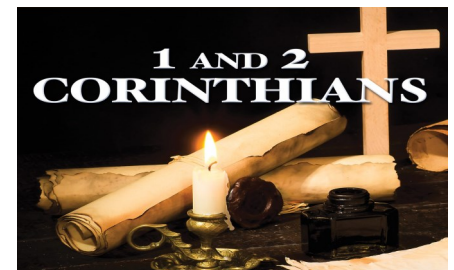
I’m now at the age Pastor Engelhardt was when he made his reticent comment about texting. Unlike now Pastor Josh Pontious, I’m not a digital native and learning this new “language” will be as challenging as learning French for me. But how can I or anyone else deny the value of using social media and virtual technology for the sake of the gospel when the generations born after 1980 are so connected to it? They are more likely to check their social media feed than sifting through a cluttered email account for a church email. They are more likely to attend a virtual worship service or education event by Zoom if attending in person is not a possibility without first getting childcare or if there is a conflict in their schedule.

So here is my New Year resolution. I will work on becoming more “fluent” in the language of social media and virtual technology for the sake of the gospel. In order for me to do that well I invite members to share their insights and tips on how I can improve and what they believe works well in sharing information that engages others. I want to learn how we might have a more engaged online worship community. I want to know how virtual technology might best be used to provide Bible discussions, book studies, or even education classes for those who might be unable to attend in person, but could attend by Zoom. If anyone knows of a class I can attend (I know a lot of learning this is basically hands on but I really could use a Social Media 101 class) please let me know. I don’t want me or the church I serve to be the one that refuses to embrace technology for the sake of the gospel simply because “it’s not the way we’re used to.” I pray the Holy Spirit bless our efforts together in this new year of ministry together. Happy New Year.

Bible Discussion for Daily Living Study of 1&2 Corinthians Begins Jan 8/10

This study examines the correspondence from the apostle Paul to the early church in Corinth. Paul's letters to this church provided guidance - for persons new to faith as well as those growing in faith - about what it means to be a disciple of Christ. This study examines some of the "big questions" the church faced, and that we still face today.

DATE	READ	DISCUSSION FOCUS
Jan 8/10	1 Cor chapters 1-2	Whose am I?
Jan 15/17	1 Cor chapters 3-5	What then am I?
Jan 22/24	1 Cor chapters 6-10	It's not all about me.
Jan 29/31	1 Cor chapters 11-12	What am I good for?
Feb 5/7	1 Cor chapters 13-15	What will I be ultimately?
Feb 12/14	2 Cor chapters 1-4	How do I achieve this glory?
Feb 19/21	2 Cor chapters 5-7	What can I do here and now?
Feb 26/28	2 Cor chapters 8-13	What is my response to God's grace?



ANNUAL REPORTS DEADLINE IS JAN 11

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 11 so the Annual Report of the Congregation can be completed and mailed by the required January 18 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.



Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Nancy Olsen, Peaches Larro, Rosemarie Krauss, Bill Wilson, Lynn Block, Noelle Ilves-Corressel, Susan Myers, Mae & Jon Batchelor, Peg Riley, Bob Heinze, Gail Hoffman, Jay Wallace, Lee Sargent, Carolyn Malecka, Clive Crosby, Doris Rell, Shirley Stambaugh, Jimmy Littleton, Samantha Sanders, Janet & Robert Oberg, Daniel Reilly, Family of Gil Pineiro, Charles Coffey, Dottie Kelly, Ann (Paulus) Warner, baby Mavis, Suzanne Tracy, Mikael Eliassen, Terri Meihling, Savannah Martin Fox, John Leach, Marie Lattanzi Morris, Pamela Ilves-Goldberger, Shellee Conley, Debbie Hodulik, Kelly Mosteller, Angela Melchiorre, Sheamus Joseph Kinnarney, Mike DiMartinis, Shuwanon Shahid, 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, 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

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

Pantry: Serving 12 Families: 37 people: 23 Adults, 10 Teens and 4 Children. *Lynn Block*

Pantry Thank Yous : "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the Thanksgiving Turkey! We are very happy. This will be the main dish and will decorate our Thanksgiving table. With gratitude from our entire family." "Thank you so much for the Thanksgiving turkey and all the fixings, that plus the gift card made this a special day to be thankful for the kind and generous people of Our Savior! You will always be remembered for helping us through difficult times and bringing us joy!" for the *Christ in My Home*. "My faith is stronger than my fears."

Job Opening



Mustard Seed has a Teacher Assistant for the Aftercare Program 3 days a week from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Responsibilities would be caring for the children that stay after the regular KED program

is over, helping them play games, color, and other activities.

We also need substitutes for both the Kindergarten Extended Day Program and Aftercare.

If interested, please contact Donna Marie Clancy at 856-660-4491 or director@mustardseedccos.org.



Sisters in Spirit: We're Having Dinner In, Rather Than Out

To keep our annual January dinner prices low, Sisters in Spirit are having a house party for the women of the church.

The deadline to join the guest list is January 2.

Here are the details:

- Jan 12, 6:30 p.m. at Linda Nelson's house, 131 Merion Ave, Haddonfield
- Buffet dinner catered by Cathedral Kitchen will offer Garden Salad, Chicken Marsala, Eggplant Rollatini, Roasted Salmon, bread & butter, cookies & light desserts, coffee & tea. Wine and soft drinks are BYO.
- \$35 per person payable by cash or check made out to Linda Nelson

Looking ahead on the SIS calendar

- Sisters in Spirit will hold our annual February food drive for the food pantries of Our Savior and Bridge of Peace, so when you see those January Can-Can Sales, stock up!
- 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.



Martin Luther King, Jr.
Worship 4:00 p.m. on Jan 14 at
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church;
Day of Service Begins at 9:00 a.m.
on Jan 15 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 15, children, 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. Participants will be assembling Personal Care and Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief to be distributed worldwide where there is need. Please gather in the Parish Hall of Our Savior at 9:00 where participants will be assembling the care kits and getting them ready for shipment. Please see page 9 for more details or contact Pastor Wayne Zschech or Youth Developer Jess Arnold.

Looking Forward, Looking Back

Thank you for making 2023 such a wonderful year! I am writing this before the Christmas Eve services, but I already know that looking out from the organ and seeing parishioners and guests holding their lit candles as they sing “Silent Night” in a dark sanctuary will be a magical way to usher in Christmas. Just days ago, it was an honor and joy to have a music and readings filled Lessons and Carols, and hear how it moved you and helped you to get into the Christmas spirit. And “rewinding” several months back to the spring, your presence and generous gifts to our family as we were expecting and welcoming Millie into our lives were truly a blessing. When a fellow mom was saying a few months ago how hard having a newborn was, a friend said to us “That’s because you’re not meant to do this alone, you need a village.” And so many of you truly have been a village in our journey, whether through bringing meals, quilting or knitting baby blankets, watching Millie during rehearsals, sharing about your own parenting journey, and so much more. Thank you for being a church and a village!

Looking forward to 2024, know that you are always welcome to participate in our music ministry in whatever shape that may take for you. Our bell and vocal choirs are always open (there is a tiny audition, but I hear it’s not scary, based on what other choir members have said!) to new members! I also enjoy receiving feedback when you liked a particular hymn or anthem – or if you heard a hymn or anthem somewhere and are wondering if it could be done at LCOS. A big thank you to those who contribute to our LCOS special music fund, it is through you that we were able to purchase several new Bell Choir pieces and Adult Choir anthems this year! And the easiest way to participate in our music ministry is simply to let the voice God gave you be heard just where you are – whether in the choir or from your pew! As Buddy the Elf says in the movie “Elf” – “The best way to spread (Christmas) is cheer singing loud for all to hear!” *Pauline Worusski*



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 (lcossandy@gmail.com).



Save The Date – Sunday, January 28, 2024 The New Year Brings A New Twist on LCOS’ Congregational Dinner! We’re having a Chili Cook Off and So Much More!!!

In trying to find a date for our Chili Cook Off that wouldn’t interfere with a football game, it was determined to have the Chili Cook Off following the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28th.

We know not everyone likes chili so there will also be crock pots of soup/stew and even casseroles. Fellowship will take care of supplying cornbread, Del Bueno dinner rolls and

hot and cold beverages.

Sandy has created an on-line sign up to register your food item. <http://tinyurl.com/bde2ff9k> Remember, only chili will be entered in the cook off contest! The top three chili winners will each go home with a very nice prize. The chili can be vegetarian, beef chili or chicken chili. Chili chefs are to pack their own toppings (hot sauce, crushed red pepper, shredded cheese, rice, raw onions, Tostitos, etc.).

If you attend the first or second service, please know Fellowship will assist you with your crock pot or casserole to keep it hot and the toppings will be placed in the refrigerator, if needed.

Following the Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary, Fellowship will have everything set up (except the individualized toppings) on the buffet table in the Parish Hall. Each chili chef will claim their toppings and place them by their chili. In front of each chili will be a brown paper bag. Each adult will receive “a bean” to place in the bag of their favorite chili. There will be an official “Bean Counter” who will announce the top three Chili winners while we are enjoying dessert.

If you sign up to bring a dessert instead of chili, soup/stew or casserole, please know Fellowship will assist you in taking the dessert to the kitchen before either worship service.

Please make a small note that can be placed by your food item on the buffet table noting if it is vegan or gluten-free. It is our desire to have a selection of food items to entice the taste buds while also honoring dietary needs.

Start looking for that favorite recipe then sign-up using the online tool. If you have difficulty signing up, please contact Sandy for assistance. *Ruth Fisher*



Justice and Peace Round Up

• **Mark Your Calendars: Sunday, January 14, 10:45 a.m., LCOS Parlor, *Be Smart Program***
We can't say this often enough! 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. **Please RSVP to Bob Dempsey: robertdemp@verizon.net**

• **NJ Segregation Case Takes Next Steps**

In what is a surprise to many, New Jersey's schools, viewed statewide, are among the most racially segregated in America. The causes are housing patterns, school district boundaries mirroring those of municipalities, and a state law mandating that students attend the schools where they reside.

New Jersey's situation—by contrast to the better-known intentional, legal segregation formerly enforced in the South—is referred to as de facto segregation, meaning that segregation is not intentional or legally required. Although there is evidence that NJ housing patterns result partially from intentional exclusionary zoning, that distinction does not matter (as it does in federal litigation) because the NJ courts have already ruled that de facto segregation violates the state constitution.

In May 2018 a lawsuit was filed in NJ state court, on behalf of Black, Latino and other minority students alleging that the schools were unconstitutionally segregated in violation of three provisions of the NJ Constitution: 1) Article I, para.1, adopted in 1844 guarantees equal treatment; 2) Article VIII, sec. IV, para. 1, adopted in 1875 requiring the State to provide “a through and efficient system of free public schools”; and 3) Article I, para. 5, adopted in 1947 provides that “No person shall be . . . segregated in the . . . public schools, because of . . . race.”

The suit also contended that the court should read the three clauses together, each enhancing the other over time, to conclude that the NJ schools were unconstitutionally segregated.

After years of legal maneuvering, as well as expert testimony, in spring 2022 both sides filed pre-trial motions for summary judgment. Plaintiffs asked for a partial victory—a ruling that the NJ schools are unconstitutionally segregated and for remedies to be crafted at a later stage of the trial. Defendants asked for a complete victory—a ruling that the lawsuit be dismissed with no remedy.

On October 6 of this year the trial judge entered a 93-page order as the first step in what promises to be lengthy litigation. Surprisingly, he denied both motions, but gave both sides plenty of room to negotiate. On December 2 the *NY Times* announced that both sides have agreed to take the next steps in the case by entering mediation. The Justice and Peace Committee will be following this case closely, as its outcome will have a big impact on schools and municipalities in New Jersey. (*Thanks to Justice & Peace member Bob Williams for writing this article and sharing his lawyer's expertise.*)

• **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.



Senior Game Day

We gather again for Senior Game Day on Tuesday, January 23 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 2024: 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.

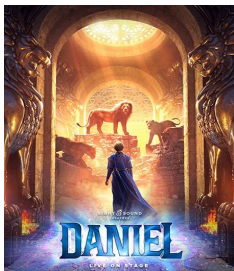
It would be helpful for me if you would RSVP a week before the scheduled date so that there will be enough food and drinks for everyone. **Please RSVP to :** Judy Caravelli Text/Call: 609 471-5830 Email: 2006jac@comcast.net



Tuesday, March 19 2023—Bus Trip to the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster to See Daniel.

The Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres®.on. 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®. Please see insert for more details. All are welcome! Presented by

the Fellowship Committee in conjunction with Senior game Day. **Payments and sign-ups are now being taken. There are a limited amount of tickets. See Sandy or e-mail: lcossandy@gmail.com**





Social Ministry

Social Ministry Holiday Food Drive 2023

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 41 bags of food were delivered to Bridge of Peace, and 9 food bags to our Pantry families. At last report, a total of \$1424.20 in donations were received, which will be divided between the Peace Center at Bridge of Peace and the LCOS Pantry. Thank you to all for your donations.

God Bless LCOS Angels: Advent Giving Tree 2023 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 gifts or gift cards or donated money to purchase gifts or gift cards. We started with 175 tags and ended with 140 tags taken and 35 tags left. Also, in addition to the \$500.00 budgeted for the Giving Tree, \$1461.01 was contributed so far to the Advent Giving Tree fund to purchase gifts and 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.

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.

Deodorant Collection for caring Hearts

Social Ministry Committee assists Caring Hearts families that are seen by Cooper Hospital's Pediatric Infectious Disease Practice. We usually support the seasonal holiday parties by providing baked goods and refreshments as well as a collected item (underwear, baby wipes, socks, deodorant, and gifts from Advent Giving Tree) and provide assistance at these parties. We also support Caring Hearts with a monetary donation in March and a special Christmas donation.

LCOS has been asked to collect men's and women's deodorant, at least 24 of each. The deodorant will be included in tote bags along with other personal care items to be given to the families at their appointments at Cooper. A collection box for Caring Hearts is available on the shelves outside Parish Hall for your donations. Deadline is January 21, 2024. Contact Betsy Kuehn for more information. betsy406@comcast.net



Outreach

Live Stream Worship Assistants

Do you regularly or occasionally attend LCOS's 9:30 AM Worship Service online? Do you enjoy chatting with everyone who is participating online as well? After all, greeting people with a friendly introduction of "Hello" and "Welcome" or saying "I will be praying for you" can make all the difference in the world to online worship attendees who may feel a disconnect because they are not sitting in the pews. **We are the Church** and although not everyone can worship together in the physical church building, we want to make sure everyone – fellow members and visitors attending the worship service online - feels included and an active member of the worship service. The Outreach Committee is looking for members to be **Live Stream Worship Assistants** during the service. Chatting with and greeting **everyone** during the online service! Please contact Kristine Monsen cell # (856) 669-7160 or kemlmm@aol.com if you are interested.

•Greeters:

As members of the church, isn't it nice to be greeted by a warm "Hello, Good Morning!" and a big smile from a fellow member each week when you arrive at church? This is especially true for first-time visitors who arrive not knowing anyone and / or their way around the church building. Wouldn't a friendly greeting and directions on which way to proceed to the sanctuary be helpful? Directions to: Elevator for those who need assistance, Nursery for those with infants, Fellowship Hall to hang up coats, Restrooms when needed

We tend to take everything for granted, but we shouldn't. Just arriving a few extra minutes before the church service to be a **Greeter** can brighten every arriving worshipper's day! The Outreach Committee is looking to resume having a **Greeter** at the 1st Floor Main Entrance. Please contact Kristine Monsen cell # (856) 669-7160 or kemlmm@aol.com if you are interested.

K-LOVE Faith and Family Night

February 8th, 2024 | 7:00PM



AT



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

We will have lower-level seats and the tickets are \$60
Please make checks payable to LCOS and Flyers in the memo line.
Mail to or leave your payment in the church office.



If you need more information contact Sandy: lcossandy@gmail.com
LCOS has 10 tickets left. The deadline for tickets is January 18.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

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**](mailto:lcossandy@gmail.com)

Lutheran Church of Our Savior
204 Wayne Avenue
Haddonfield 08033





10 Stewardship Principles

Principle #1: Respond Gratefully

In the new year at Our Savior our Stewardship efforts are focusing on 10 Stewardship principles that help us to live in God's amazing grace. The first principle—respond gratefully—certainly describes how the LCOS congregation has responded to the Stewardship campaign for 2024.

As of last month (mid-December 2023) there were 69 givers pledging \$235,106, a strong response, but lagging slightly behind where we were in December 2022, as you can see from the numbers below.

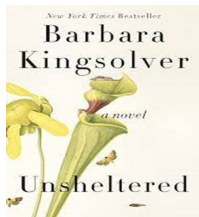
Dec. 2019 for 2020	91 pledges	total pledged: \$253,550 (pre-pandemic)
Dec. 2020 for 2021	84 pledges	total pledged: \$214,206
Dec. 2021 for 2022	80 pledges	total pledged: \$239,106
Dec. 2022 for 2023	77 pledges	total pledged: \$244,110

The final totals for 2023 eventually increased from the 77 shown above to 93 giving units pledging \$304,602. Hopefully the pledge totals for this year also will increase by the first quarter of 2024, and we will reach—or even exceed—last year's 93 pledges. To do that, the church needs just 20 more individuals and families to step forward and pledge the blessings they have already received from God.

We recognize that the effects of inflation and market volatility have impacted some households' ability to give as generously as in previous years. Others are in a stable financial position, or even looking forward to a more prosperous year. Whatever your situation, we hope you consider pledging as a symbol of gratefulness for God's gifts and a recognition of our being together as the body of Christ. Whatever you pledge will be an important contribution to the ministry goals of LCOS in 2024 as we continue to be God's agents of grace in our community and beyond for decades to come.

It's not too late for you to respond to God's gifts by returning a pledge card for 2024 if you haven't already done so. Pledge cards are at the ushers stations and in the church office. Return them in the offering plate, by mail to the church office, or email to the LCOS Financial Secretary, Shannon Foskett (sgfoskett@yahoo.com).

Remember, it all begins with God. Grateful stewards put God first.
“... but they gave themselves first to the Lord.”
2nd Corinthians 8:5



LCOS Book Club: *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver

The LCOS Book Club will meet January 17, 2024, at 6:30, to discuss *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver. *Unsheltered* follows two families living in the same house at two separate time periods in Vineland, New Jersey. Both families navigate the challenges of surviving a world in the throes of major cultural shifts. In this mesmerizing story told in alternating chapters, Willa in the twenty-first century and Thatcher in the nineteenth-century come to realize that though the future is uncertain, even unnerving, shelter can be found in the bonds of kindred whether family or friends and in the strength of the human spirit.

Historical fiction, the novel includes Mary Treat, a friend of Charles Darwin, and Captain Charles Landis, who purchased 53,000 acres of land along the West Jersey railroad line with service between Camden and Cape May to create his own alcohol-free society—Vineland.

Linda Powell has checked out several copies of the book from the Haddon Township Library. See her if you would like to borrow a book. Her cell number is 856-625-0542.

If you have any questions, contact Linda Nelson at 908-400-2413 or lnelson824@gmail.com or Laura Oakes at 609-238-9186 or lauraoakes102848@gmail.com.

Newcomer Class & Tour Offered January 21 from 10:45-2:00; Lunch Included

On Sunday, January 21, 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 28. 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. Please contact Sandy in the church office if you will be attending: lcossandy@gmail.com



FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

November Envelope and Congregational Challenge offerings of \$32,530 were below expectations of \$38,188. We are estimating Year End Envelope and Congregational challenge offerings to be below Plan by \$10,000. Other Income is estimated to be below Plan by \$2,000 as a result of Matching Funds not being received as expected.

Expenses are estimated to be above Plan by \$3,000 as a result of Salary and Benefits below Plan by \$11,228 as a result of the Director of Youth and Family Ministry change, Property Expense estimate to be above Plan by \$11,675 as a result of the General Budget support of the exterior church painting and an unexpected large estimated lawn maintenance bill of over \$5,000 in December, and Administrative expenses above expectations.

We are estimating a large \$15,000 Net Loss by Year End with December Envelope offerings being critical.

<u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</u>		2023	NOVEMBER	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	32,509	372,475	445,000	(6,250)
	Other Income- Ex MGB Support	59,700	4,260	50,849	57,700	(2,000)
	Congregational Challenge	5,000	21	1,013	1,250	(3,750)
	Memorial Gift Board Support	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,435</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Total Revenue	515,950	36,790	426,772	503,950	(12,000)
EXPENSE						
	Salary & Benefits	343,515	28,206	304,500	332,227	(11,288)
	Property	66,625	5,088	66,350	78,300	11,675
	Administration	48,297	5,295	46,758	51,850	3,553
	<u>Program Minis- tries</u>	<u>57,513</u>	<u>4,736</u>	<u>44,714</u>	<u>56,573</u>	<u>(940)</u>
	Total Expense	515,950	43,325	462,322	518,950	3,000
INCOME		0	(6,535)	(35,550)	(15,000)	(15,000)

Congregational Support: January – November 2023

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance*</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2021	166	\$351,136
2022	170	\$356,846
2023	168	\$373,449

* Since March 2021, when church reopened, the in-person attendance at all services is added to the livestream Face-Book 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.



Christmas Pageant

Thank you to all the children, Sunday School teachers, readers, and parent helpers who made the Christmas Pageant such an adorable event this year!



Sunday School Resume January 7:

Sunday School is on break for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Sunday School will resume **during the 9:30 service on January 7**. Bring your child to the 3rd floor between 9:20 - 9:30. Children will return to the church in time for communion with their families.

First Communion classes for 2nd graders

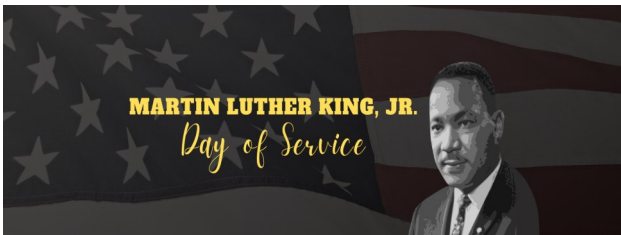
Looking ahead, all second graders are invited to participate in the next Faith Stepping Stone, which is preparation for First Communion.

There will be three mandatory classes: Sundays, February 18th, 25th, and March 3rd, from 10:45 - 11:30 at the church. At least one parent must attend with their child.

In addition, all students will be invited to make a chalice at All Fired Up! in Collingswood on Saturday, February 24 at 11:00am as a group (or on your own if you can't make that Saturday time).

First communion will take place on March 17, during the 9:30 service.

Please email Sabrina LaBelle, Director of Children and Family Ministries, with any questions: smgvasta@gmail.com.



LCOS Youth Ministry

In January LCOS is asking for donations of bread, meats, cheese, peanut butter, and jelly for the LCOS Youth Ministry day of service on MLKJ day. Students and any LCOS members who would like to volunteer will be assembling 50-250 sandwiches to donate to **Cathedral Kitchen** in Camden, NJ. We are asking that donations be dropped off Jan 13-Jan 14. Please leave your donations in the kitchen marked MLKJ Day.

For those that do not know about Cathedral Kitchen, their mission is to help people out of food insecurity and champion their pursuit of stability and prosperity. Each year hundreds of people, from different faiths and backgrounds and from across the South Jersey area volunteer their time and talents each year, filling more than 9,000 volunteer slots to serve the daily meal and help keep overhead costs down. They receive donated food from a variety of sources, estimated to be worth over \$805,000 per year! CK's job training programs are supported by corporate and private donations. Area restaurants and chefs are pivotal in the programs' success: local chefs make guest teaching appearances in the culinary and baking arts classes, and restaurants provide internships and employment opportunities for our students and graduates. Approximately 26 percent of Cathedral Kitchen's budget comes from individual donations. The remainder is comprised of government grants (5%), corporate funding (6%), private foundations (16%), social enterprise income (53%), and proceeds from our annual fund-raiser (4%), Harvest for Hunger, a wine tasting and live auction are held in the fall.

In addition, we are asking for donations of items for Personal Care Kits for the **Lutheran World Relief**. Lutheran World Relief provides aid in emergencies and helps families restore their lives. They partner with communities to build and grow rural economies. Their goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after their projects end.

Donations can be dropped Jan. 2- Jan. 14 in the bin outside the Parish Hall marked "Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief."

For each kit we need:

- **ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- **TWO** or **THREE** bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- **ONE** adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- **ONE** sturdy comb
- **ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

We thank you for your donations, and ask that any volunteers who would like to serve on MLKJ day contact Jess Arnold at jessica.arnold.pianist@gmail.com.

January 2024 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	10-12 & 1-3 Art Class 4:45-5:45 PM Tween Choirs 5:30-8:30 ChildrenSong – Choir Room 6:30-8:30 PM Possibility Players - PH 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Bible Discussion Zoom & in-person	9:30-11:15 AM Mommy & Me – parlor 10:30 AM Pastors' Pericope 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	9:30-11:15 AM Mommy & Me – parlor 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Bible Discussion Zoom & in-person 3:00-4:00 PM Tai Chi	11-1 & 7-9 Art Class 6:30-9:15 PM Tai Chi 7:00 PM Bell Choir 8:00 PM Adult Choir		

January 2024 Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day No Possibility Players	2 No Mommy & Me 7:00 PM Toastmasters	3 No Mommy & Me	4 9:00 AM Fix-It Team 9:30 AM Mission Quilts No Choirs	5 6:00-7:30 PM Girl Scouts	6 Epiphany 8:00-11:00 AM ChildrenSong 9:00 AM Undeck The Halls Coffee/Donuts
			Pastor Vacation	Until 1-6		
	Pauline	Vacation	Until 1-4			
7 Baptism of Our Lord Presentation of Baptismal Medallions 10:45 AM Worship & Music Mtg. 2:00-5:00 PM Sharon Parker Recital - PH 6:30 PM Confirmation	8 Annual Report Deadline Bible Discussion Begins 9:00-2:00 Staff Semi-Annual Mtg. No Possibility Players	9 11:00-3:00 HGC – PH 7:00PM Church Council 7:00 PM Toastmasters	10 Financial Plan Deadline Bible Discussion Begins	11 Messenger Deadline 9:30 AM Mission Quilts	12 6:30 PM S~I~S Winter Dinner at Linda Nelson's House	13 8:00-9:30 AM ChildrenSong
14 10:45 AM Fellowship Mtg. 4:00 PM MKL, Jr., Worship Service-Mt Olivet	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. 9:00 MLK Day of Service	16 7:00 PM Toastmasters 7:00 PM Social Ministry Mtg.	17	18 Messenger Mailing Annual Report Mailing 9:00 AM Fix-It Team	19	20
21 10:45 AM J & P Mtg. 10:45 AM Newcomer Class 6:30 PM Confirmation	22 9:00-3:00 AM Staff Semi-Annual Mtg. Art Class Begins No Possibility Players	23 12:00 Senior Game Day	24	25 Art Class Begins	26	27 8:00-9:30 AM ChildrenSong Sandy Vacation
28 New Members Rcvd. 10:45 AM Chili Cookoff 11:15 AM Annual Mtg. No Confirmation	29	30	31			
Sandy vacation	1-27 to 2-3					

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



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*

January Coffee Time Schedule

Jan. 7—Mission Quilts

Jan. 14—Cherub & Children Choir

Jan. 21—Justice & Peace

Jan. 28—No Coffee Time—Annual Mtg. & Chili Cook-Off

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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MEMORIAL GIFTS BOARD

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Pastor Wayne Zschech	Advisory member	wzschech@yahoo.com	856-429-7851

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS

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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
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Corner of Wood Lane and Wayne Avenue
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

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January 2024 Messenger

Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed December 21, 2023

Address Service Requested

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