

The Evangel

Vol. 35, Edition 12

December 2018

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

*is a congregation of the
Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America.*

*We welcome all
to share in life with Christ
as a community
of faith in mission.*

OSLC's Vision & Mission

*God calls us to be a community of
discipleship for all, making Christ's
love real in our daily lives.*

*Grow in faith and Christian calling
Love and serve God and neighbor
Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

Worship in Dec.

Dec. 2: 9:00 A.M. & 11:15 A.M.

DEC. 9, 16, 23, 30: 9:00 A.M.

Dec. 24: 7:00 P.M.

*Attended nursery available
on Sunday mornings*

Fellowship

10:00 A.M.

Sunday School

10:15 A.M.

Will Peugeot, Pastor

Michael Vinson, Campus Pastor

All are welcome at the OSLC Advent Celebration from **5-7 P.M. on December 2**. There will be good food and good fellowship, combined with fun activities for all ages.



OSLC members are asked to bring a main dish and a dessert or side. Students, you are our guests—just bring your appetite!

December 2: 2 services at 9:00 and 11:15 A.M.

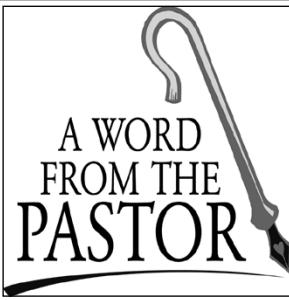
December 9, 16 and 23: 1 service @ 9:00 A.M.

At the December 9 service a group of young people will be confirmed. Following the service there will be a special reception in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

December 24: 1 service @ 7:00 P.M.

December 30: 1 service @ 9:00 A.M.





**Dec.
2018**

Stay awake! The new pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran church is coming. We just don't know who that is or when they will come. He or she probably doesn't know it at this moment either.

So how do you deal with all the unknowns? Some worry about all the things that could go wrong. Some immerse themselves in daily life tasks to pass the time. Still others may want to take a nap, saying "*Wake me up when there's something real to consider.*"

Jesus says, "*Be alert at all times...*"* Certainly this is an important

time in the life of this congregation "...praying that you may have the strength..." Prayer is something we can do while we wait. We can gain the strength of God, the strength that can only come from God. "...to escape all the things that will take place..." We don't need to participate in the petty rivalries, vengeance, and blaming that often happens in times of transition. "...and to stand before the Son of Man." We can hold on to our identity - we belong to God and we belong to each other.

These words of Jesus were written to encourage us in our journey of life as we await his coming with the fullness of the kingdom of God. They also give us insight into how we can wait for a new pastor. It's not a time to be passive. It is a time to be about the things of God. In the midst of the unknowns it's still God's Work. Our Hands.

(* the quote is from Luke 21:36)

Pastor Will Peugeot's Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 A.M. - Noon
 Contact info: Office: 743-2931; Home: 463-5057
 Friday is Pastor Will's day off.

Council Highlights from November 1

- Christian Ed: We're looking for a nursery attendant.
- Property: Progress is being made on the loft window.
- Since Aaron Johnson and Krista Gearhart stepped down from Council in order to serve on the Call Committee, the Council appointed Mike Myers and Kathy Heise to serve on an interim basis until the OSLC Annual Meeting in January.
- The Annual Meeting and Potluck will be on January 27, 2019.



Baptismal Birthdays



December

Meghan Grady	6
Ken Musselman	14
Lea Loveless	21
Ruth Anne Hammer	28

"Once we have seen [Jesus] in a stable, we can never be sure where he will appear or to what lengths he will go or to what ludicrous depths of self-humiliation he will descend in his wild pursuit of men."

—Frederick Buechner



Contributions for the OSLC Annual Report are due in the OSLC office by **January 7**.



A digital copy may be sent to sandra@osluth.org or you may turn in a hard copy.

Times and Locations of Ministry Meetings

Property normally meets on the first Sunday of the month in the library, shortly after the 9:00 service ends. The meeting is moved to other Sundays as needed to accommodate the schedules of its members. If you are interested in attending the meetings or joining the property ministry team, please contact Matt Ohland at ohland@purdue.edu to be notified of changes in the regular meeting time. **Fellowship Events** meets in the Fellowship Hall on Servant Sundays. All are welcome! **Christian Education** meets in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:15 service on Servant Sundays. New members are welcome! **Operations** meets only when there is a need or crisis. If you would like to attend one of the meetings, please email Chris Johannsen and he will notify you of the time and place. **Finance** normally meets on Servant Sunday between the services in Pastor Will's office. **Social Justice Ministry** meets in the Fellowship Hall on Servant Sunday, on an as-needed basis. All are welcome!

News and Notes

Mark your calendars!

Farewell Dinner for Pastor Will



Friday, Feb. 22, 2019

and

Community Open House

Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019

OSLC Foundation Update

A year ago we experienced a temporary high in market value in our ELCA investment but by end of December we dropped from \$88,000 to \$87,000 and then hovered at \$86,000 throughout this year. Our Mission Investment Fund includes \$3,000 in earnings and stands at 11,000. Our grand total at this time is around \$97,000, even after gifts to Mission Guatemala and Pack Away Hunger.

We hope to receive some end-of-year gifts in December. Wouldn't it be great to reach the \$100,000 mark?

Calling all musicians and singers!



We are looking for anyone interested in providing special music - vocal or instrumental - for the Christmas Eve service. Please contact Julie Huetteman (juliehuettman@gmail.com) or Emily Ohland (emohland@gmail.com).

Important Events in January 2019

January 7: Reports deadline for the OSLC Annual Report

January 21: PAH Packing Event

January 27: OSLC Potluck and Annual Meeting

Stewardship Column, December 2018

Stewardship at OSLC

"Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame but greatness, because greatness is determined by service."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

I had a wonderful weekend filled with family, festivities and food. As I opened my refrigerator on Friday and looked at the abundantly filled shelves of nutrition and favorite family meals I felt such joy that we were able to use that food to celebrate and nourish our family during the time our daughter introduced her fiancé to everyone.

And it humbled me....because I am also deeply aware that others who work and love and care for their families as much as I do are not able to this.

Our Saviour Lutheran is committed to service...we do great things, defined by our service. Pack Away Hunger is a powerful example. Their mission is simple:

Life. Hunger steals quality of life. For some it steals life itself. Small children are especially vulnerable, and each day more than 8,000 perish due to hunger related causes.

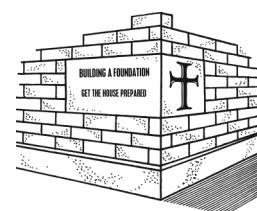
Changing. Fueled by like-minded community members, we provide meals that have the power to transform lives. Regular access to nutritious food does more than satisfy in the short term. It builds the foundation for a hopeful future.

Nutrition. Superior nutrition in each serving is vital. Our meals carry a powerful vitamin/mineral combination. This newly developed formula is scientifically proven to improve key health factors of the chronically hungry.

Please consider joining this noble service on Martin Luther King Day in January by signing up to volunteer time or donate funds to Pack Away Hunger Guatemala. A couple hours of service is definitely the essence of greatness. Every one of us has the power.

Carol Grady

Co Chair, Social Justice Ministry Team



December 2018

Ding dong, ding dong, Christmas bells are ringing!



Christmas bells have been ringing for weeks. Cultural/Commercial Christmas seems to arrive earlier each year. I noticed Christmas décor appearing in stores and steaming coffee served in red holiday cups before Halloween. Community Christmas trees were being lit up in some places by early November. Christmas music will have been wafting through the air for weeks – at least in some places – by the time you read this little reflection.

I used to rail against this phenomenon. Well, I didn't rail exactly; I rarely rail. But I did criticize it, complain about it, and otherwise disparage it as an affront to Advent and, ultimately, to Christmas. This early arrival of Christmas, culturally and commercially, seemed to be a headlong rush toward shallow happiness without taking time to prepare ourselves to receive Christmas's deeper gift of promises fulfilled. Without care-full preparation, I would argue, we may well miss the deep joy and bright light of promises fulfilled in ways that match and exceed the depth of the darkness in which we wait for them. As last year's "Sundays and Seasons" resource put it, "*...Advent has often been understood as Christmas's Lenten counterpart—a season of preparation for a particular feast...*"

I do still believe that and, consequently, I also believe that the good news of Christmas is best served within our communities of faith by a season of preparation for it. We need time to acknowledge and live into our deep yearnings and to admit our own inability to satisfy them if we are going to be open to and joyfully celebrate God's answer to those yearnings. It's important that we create space in our worship life as communities of faith and in the rhythms of our families' Advent days, both to resist the commercialization and commodification of Christmas and to spiritually prepare to welcome again God's promises with open hearts. This might include refraining from singing Christmas carols in worship, or the lighting of an increasing number of candles as Christmas Day draws nearer, or the addition of spiritual devotion, reflection, or conversation focused on what we wait and hope for this particular season and to hear again the promises that come to meet us in our waiting.

I also have come to believe, however, that there is something deeper beneath the world's rush to Christmas, something beyond the commercialization and commodification. Again, "Sundays and Seasons" said it pretty well: "*Our readings in this season serve a deeper liturgical purpose than simply helping us resist the commercialization of the holiday season and more reverently celebrate Christmas. Advent is indeed a season of anticipation, but also of revolution: 'The world is about to turn,' as we sing in Rory Cooney's fiery paraphrase of the Magnificat (ELW 723). The readings in Advent prepare us to receive not only a new baby, but a new world where God's justice and mercy reign.*"

I have come to see and hear the early arrival of cultural and commercial Christmas as an expression – even if a secular, misguided, or sappy expression – of the world's deep craving for Christmas. The world yearns for the very world-toppling revolution offered as God is borne in human flesh, the establishment of new world in which God's justice and mercy reign over and for all.

This suggests, to me at least, that we walk our way toward Christmas with one eye on our own need for what this amazing story offers for us and the other focused on offering this Christmas gift to those who will not be gathered in a sanctuary somewhere on Christmas Eve lifting candles and singing "Silent Night."

This holy season, I invite you to join me in the midst of the shopping, the wrapping, the decorating, the incessant Christmas carols, and the feasting to stop, look and listen deeply to the people around us. I invite you to see their need, to listen for their deepest Advent yearnings, and to find ways – in word and deed – to point to the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb, and say with the prophet Isaiah, "*See, your salvation comes!*"

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (ELW, Prayer of the Day, Christmas Day)

Bishop Bill Gafkjen



"Yes, it's beautiful — but can we talk about its placement?"



Surely we haven't come to this: virtual fellowship! Coffee Hour gives us an opportunity to connect with one another and build one another up in the body of Christ. You can be a part of what keeps it going. Take advantage of the many opportunities to share the gift of hospitality, including two Sundays in December. Check out the Coffee Hour Hosting Sign up Sheet by the OSLC kitchen. If you don't want to host alone, sign up with a friend or friends. If you have questions about using the coffee maker or what to serve, just ask! Sharing hospitality doesn't have to be elaborate. A willing spirit is all you need!

Christmas traditions around the globe

Although Americans celebrate the holiday with candlelight services, piles of gifts, large feasts, lights and trees, people in other countries mark Jesus' birth in many interesting ways:

- Nine days before Christmas in Mexico, Las Posadas processions re-enact Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem.
- Instead of decorating trees, Italians place fruit on small wooden pyramids.
- On Christmas Eve, the streets of Caracas, Venezuela, are blocked off so people can roller-skate to church.
- Ukrainian Christmas trees often feature an artificial spider and web. According to a folk tale, a poor woman who couldn't afford decorations awoke one Christmas morning to find that spiders had "trimmed" her children's trees with delicate webs.
- In Brazil, the gift-bringer is known as Papai Noel (Father Noel), who lives in Greenland, according to legend. When he arrives in Brazil, he wears silk clothing because of the summer heat.
- It's considered bad etiquette to send red Christmas cards in Japan because funeral notices are customarily printed in red.

Hospitality is the way we come out of ourselves. It is the first step toward dismantling the barriers of the world. Hospitality is the way we turn a prejudiced world around, one heart at a time.

—Joan D. Chittister
in *Wisdom Distilled*

DECEMBER UPDATES



Volume 4; Issue 24 12/1/18

Advent Celebration

You and your family and friends are invited to OSLC's annual Advent Celebration **Sunday, December 2 at 5 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. We will resurrect the Gingerbread House Decorating Contest, but with a few minor adjustments. Don't worry, you don't need to be an engineer to participate this year! Bring a bag of small candy (to decorate gingerbread houses), a main dish and dessert or side to share. Guests are welcome!

Faith Formation Minute:

For Advent, OSLC provides devotional materials for individuals and families. Check out the variety of options in the narthex. Feel free to choose which study meets your needs for this season. Don't hesitate to share a devotion with family and friends.

Nursery Attendant Needed

The position will be available Sunday mornings starting mid-December. If you know of someone who might be interested, please submit resumes to church or via email and/or request an application from Angie Henderson: angie@osluth.org

Contact Information for Angie Henderson, Director of Christian Education and Outreach:

EMAIL: angie@osluth.org Church: 765-743-2931 Cell/Home: 402-213-9157

A Merry Balance

In Luke 10:38-42, Martha gets a bad rap. After all, we need Marthas to get things done and to show hospitality. (Note that Martha is the one who opens up her home to Jesus in the first place!)

Marthas are needed in December, but holiday preparations shouldn't shift our focus from the reason for the season. When we become "worried and distracted" as Martha did (v. 41, NRSV), we're tempted to trade God's "one thing" (v. 42) for the world's many worthless things. Yet if we're only like Mary, we may forget to let the world know who we're celebrating!

So this Christmas, keep a proper balance between your inner Mary and your inner Martha. Take time to "be Mary," kneeling at the manger, so that all the merry things you do as Martha have meaning and serve the newborn king.

The Book Discussion Group will take a break in December and resume meeting in January.

Upcoming Events

⇒ Sunday, Dec. 2

Advent Begins
Servant Sunday (Committees and ministry teams meet.)
Advent Celebration @ 5 p.m.

⇒ Sunday, Dec. 9

Confirmation Service @ 9 a.m.
Reception following the service.
NO Sunday School or Adult Forum.

⇒ Sunday, Dec. 16

Last Sunday School of the 2018 year! Classes will resume on Jan. 6.



**A SEASON
OF JOY**

Worship Assistant Schedule for December

Date & Time	Assisting Minister	Acolyte	Lector	Comm. Assistants	Ushers	Greeters	Deacon & A. Deacon	Altar Prep	Coffee Hr Hosts
Dec. 2 9:00am	Robert Hershberger	Emma Henderson	Sonya Margerum	Kathy Grogan & Mary L. Waltmann	Jesse Grogan & Suzanne Nielsen	Dave & Sue Aufderheide		Renee Rasmy	OSLC Youth
Dec. 2 11:15am	Cindy Modlin Adams	Abigail Black	Sandra Vana	Cindy Modlin Adams	Holly Black & a Friend		Sue Larson & Cindy Modlin Adams		
Dec. 9 9:00am	Sherri Guido	Ben Henderson	Steve Belter	Mark & Sue Hermodson	Vince Guido & Vera Weiser	Allen & Ruth Anne Hammer	TBA & Monica Cardella	Marcia Daehler	Christian Ed. Min. Team
Dec. 16 9:00am	Kathy Heise	Lexi James	Matt Ohland	Mary L. Waltmann & Sue Axtell	Kara James & Dick Rahdert	Nancy & Chuck Calahan	Mike Dana & Scott Vana	Beth Dana	The Cardellas
Dec. 23 9:00am	Reuben Peterson	Anders Ohland	Jean Peterson	Matt & Emily Ohland	Sue Larson & Vicki Mills	Wes & Krista Gearhart	Mike Dana & Sandra Vana	Vicki Mills	Marcia Daehler
Dec. 24 7:00pm	Mike Dana	Max Cassou	Carl Huetteman	Vera Weiser & Beth Dana	Marcia Daehler & Dick Rahdert	Scott & Sandra Vana	Mike Dana & Sandra Vana	Vicki Mills	
Dec. 30 9:00am	Robert Hershberger	Anna Henderson	Dee Hershberger	Mark & Sue Hermodson	Wayne & Ruth Ewbank	TBA	Sue Larson & Jason Henderson	Ruth Ewbank	Potluck

“The world is round so that friendship may encircle it.”
 —Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

News items for the January *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 12/19/2018. Please type “Evangel” in the subject line.

OSLC Church Staff

(765) 743-2931
www.osluth.org

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Sandra Vana, Secretary
Angie Henderson, Director of Education and Outreach

PLM **Purdue Lutheran Ministry**

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www.plm.org
Michael Vinson, Pastor
330 West Fowler Ave
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Congregational Officers

President: Mike Dana
Vice President: Sue Larson
Treasurer: Sue Hermodson
Financial Secretary: John Mills

Congregational Council

Jim BeMiller
Mike Dana
Charlotte Erdmann
Carol Grady
Kathy Heise
Carl Huetteman
Sue Larson
Mike Myers
Scott Vana

Ministry Team Contacts

Altar: Vicki Mills
Christian Education: Sandra Vana
Family Promise: Julie Huetteman
Fellowship Events: Sara Behnke
Finance: Steve Belter & Carl Behnke
Foundation: Vince Guido
LUM Liaison: Allen Grady
Mutual Ministry: Brian Wagner
Operations: Chris Johannsen
PLM Liaison: Ken Musselman
Property: Matt Ohland
Social Justice: Carol Grady & Scott Vana
Worship & Music: Mark Hermodson

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