



The Evangel

Vol. 36, Edition 12

December 2019

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

9:00 A.M.

11:15 A.M.

7:00 P.M on Christmas Eve

*Attended nursery available
on Sunday mornings*

Fellowship

10:00 A.M.

Sunday School

10:15–11:00 A.M.

*Randy Schroeder, Pastor
Michael Vinson, Campus Pastor*

Celebrate Advent and Christmas at OSLC

December 1, 12:30pm

Advent Celebration and Welcome Event

December 14, 9am-12noon

Jubilee Christmas at OSLC

Worship Schedule

December 1, 8, 15, 22:

Services at 9am and 11:15am

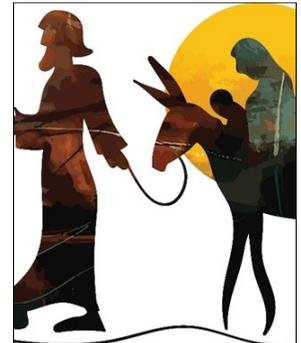
December 24, 7pm

Candlelight Communion

Worship Service

December 29, 9am

One worship service



Looking ahead to January...

One worship service on January 5, 9am

Pastor Randy's Installation Service at OSLC

Saturday, January 11, 11am, Reception to follow

Pack Away Hunger, January 20, held at Christ United
Methodist Church in Lafayette

OSLC Potluck Lunch and Annual Meeting, January 26,
Following the 11:15am service

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I write this, a transitional feeling is settling deep within in my soul. Transition is enormously uncomfortable for me... mostly because of the selling and buying of homes; not knowing where I will place my head let alone those of my family and all our stuff. Yet transition is also difficult because at this point I don't belong to St. Paul's and as of writing this (November 21), I don't belong to Our Saviour Lutheran Church.

As I pray, I feel the Spirit present and know that even in transition God is close. I can say that because after placing offers on three different houses and not having any of them pan out as our new home, this morning our fourth offer was finally accepted and we found a place to call home in Lafayette. This transition is getting closer to the end. Our new address will be 3937 Kensington Drive, Lafayette, IN 47905.

The Spirit also comforts me in understanding transition is never truly complete. We are in transition all the time; work changes, families grow, church alters, neighbors move, pastors retire... In this new season of Advent we will see the Creator of all send God's son to earth for a blessed transition. Jesus' earthly parents were in a situation more dire than most. Where will they lay their heads expecting their new-born child, our new-born Saviour? How uncomfortable were they, not only in searching for a place, but also in the total change of life as they welcomed the Son of God into this world?

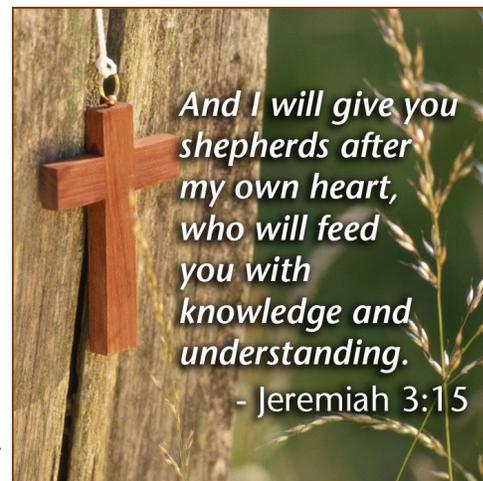
Jesus doesn't belong to this world and is no longer in his heavenly realm... It should comfort us as we feel uncomfortable in transition that we are in good company. God is with us, as God was with Joseph and Mary. Emmanuel is with us in all situations no matter how difficult or scary, challenging or glorious. God will be the one constant love we feel as we journey through a forever changing world. I am reminded of God's presence through you. The help and welcome you have extended comfort me in this transition. I thank God for you, OSLC. Thank you for being the body of Christ as I allow this transition to settle deep within my soul.

Pastor Randy Schroeder



Thank You...

. .for giving me the opportunity to serve as your interim pastor since the end of June. It has been a privilege to serve you and to get to know many of you. It has been apparent to me that Pastor Peugeot served you well over his 19 years as your pastor. You are a congregation with many gifts. You are committed to your mission. You know Christ and are steadfast in your dedication to bringing his good news to your community. You have talented and caring leaders. It has been a pleasure to worship in a congregation that loves music and loves to sing. You are blessed with a fine staff (Sandra and Angie!) and talented musicians. Your support of PLM is exemplary. It has been a joy to work with campus pastor, Mike Vinson. The children's messages have been great fun. I have not done them regularly in several years. I realized how much I missed them. I have enjoyed visiting some of you in your homes. Mike Dana runs an efficient and respectful Church Council meeting. I loved the Bible Bunch and hope the participants valued it as much as I did. Most of all, I have appreciated the opportunity to preach and bring you the Gospel. I will miss you. BUT my service was only "interim." December 1 you will get to begin a new chapter with the arrival of your new pastor, Rev. Randy Schroeder. God bless you and your continued witness to our Savior, Jesus Christ. Peace, Rev. Steve Albertin





December

Ken Musselman	13
Ruth Anne Hammer	28

**Council Highlights
November 13, 2019**



- The council thanked Pastor Steve for his service as interim pastor at OSLC.
- Postcards have gone out to the surrounding community, inviting folks to OSLC for Advent and Christmas events.
- The council approved the Finance Ministry Team's recommendations for funding of the work in the kitchen.
- The council approved the adoption of the online payment system through Vanco.
- Ideas were shared for the Advent Celebration at which we will welcome the Schroeder family.
- Pastor Randy's Installation Service is scheduled for January 11 at 11am.
- The OSLC Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 26.

Deadline for Submissions
to the OSLC Annual Report:
January 8, 2020

Stewardship Column

December 2019

Stewardship at OSLC

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:15-17

Sonya Margerum was more than my husband's employer, she was a family friend and mentor to our daughter. When Buz and I finally had our much desired baby, Buz was working for Sonya. She was at our daughter's City Hall baby shower. I have a picture in my mind's eye, of Sonya holding our newborn and rocking her. (I gave the actual picture to her so she could campaign with a legit kissing babies photo.)

Later, when Meghan was about three, Sonya asked me to help operate her campaign headquarters, housed in a former Pizza Hut. She told me I was most welcome to bring Meghan to work. I have another mental



*Sonya and other OSLC members
at last year's Pack Away Hunger event*

picture of Meghan sitting in the corner window of that place, watching all the excitement and work surrounding the cause.

As things worked out, our family came to join the Our Saviour Family, and Sonya continued to show her interest in Meghan's life. Meghan became passionate about political and civil rights issues, and the two of them would have several talks about im-

portant social issues while at church. Meghan learned about what one person can do to cause change through these discussions.

The day Meg brought the man that became her husband to Our Saviour, Sonya was thrilled. He had the same heart for social justice that Sonya and Meghan shared.

Pack Away Hunger is happening on Martin Luther King Day, in January. I find myself thinking of Sonya and how much she taught us about turning one's faith into action. This project has so many opportunities to do the work spoken of in James 2:15-17. This year, the Gradys will be serving in Pack Away Hunger with fond remembrance of our friend, Sonya.

Carol Grady, Co Chair, Social Justice Committee

**Our
Spirit
Living in
Christ**

DECEMBER UPDATES

“God Bless Us, Every One!”

On Sunday, December 1, the Youth will pack cookies for us to share with some of our members, neighbors, and emergency professionals. If you would like to help bless others with this outreach project, the sign-up sheet and cookie boxes will be available after the first service (December 1) in the Fellowship Hall.

Advent Post Cards

If you would like to invite a friend or neighbor to celebrate Advent and/or Christmas Eve at Our Saviour, we have extra invite post cards in the narthex. Feel free to take as many as you need!

Faith Formation Minute

Advent devotions (for individuals and families) are still available in the narthex. You will find Advent prayer books and studies for all ages. Pick one that works for your household!

Adult Forum Resources

Cindy Modlin Adams presented, “*Things to do before I kick the bucket ...*” (and so much more) at Adult Forum on Sunday, November 17. If you were unable to attend, here are a few of the helpful links she shared: <https://getpalliativecare.org/> or <https://theconversationproject.org/> or Advance health and dying directives in Indiana: <https://www.in.gov/dc>

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

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

Reminder: Don’t forget to sign-up for RightNow.org subscription. It is a free subscription for friends of OSLC (includes members and guests/friends/family) Email Angie Henderson any questions you may have to: angie@osluth.org. Here’s the link to activate your subscription:

<https://www.righnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/OurSaviour>

rightnow MEDIA

December Book Discussion



A Christmas Carol is a regency novella written by the celebrated English author Charles Dickens, who was notorious for creating the most creative and memorable characters. Regarded as one of the most prominent novelists in the Victorian times, Dickens not only enjoyed pioneering success and fame, during his literary career, but was also acclaimed by scholars and critics for his indefatigable interpretation of children’s rights, emotions, education and other social reform issues.



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Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Sunday, December 1**
Youth Coffee Hour
(Just coffee!)
- ⇒ **Sunday, December 1**
Advent Celebration
12:30 P.M.(Fellowship Hall)
- ⇒ **Sunday, December 8**
Servant Sunday
(Ministry Team meetings)
- ⇒ **Sunday, December 15**
Youth Assist at the
9:00 Service
- ⇒ **Sunday, December 22**
Group Activity for Sunday
School
- ⇒ **Sunday, December 29 and
January 5: NO Sunday
School**



Ladies Night Out at the Creative Clayground was a big success! Keep your ear to the ground for news about the next women’s event, likely to be in February of 2020.

News and Notes

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” The hymn’s final stanza addresses the town’s most famous newborn:

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

Feeling a chill during the service? Borrow a shawl for some warmth! There are “Borrow” and “Return” baskets in the narthex. If you would like to keep one, talk to Sara Behnke!

Sunday Fellowship Need

There are still opportunities in December to sign up for making coffee OR picking up Mary Lou Donuts (prepaid order) for our Sunday morning coffee and Adult Forum fellowship hour. Volunteer duties have been streamlined as much as possible so that no one needs to provide home-baked goods, figure out how to run the dishwasher or feel responsible for the entire set-up. Please consider lending a hand on one of the following dates in December: **December 8, 15 or 22**. Volunteers will receive a timely reminder including a review of the instructions for making coffee OR providing the snack. Look for the sign-up list on the serving table Sunday mornings. Need mentoring or have questions? Contact Sue Larson at suelars74@gmail.com.



OSLC Member in the Spotlight

John Larson, professor of history, has a new book out, titled *Laid Waste! The Culture of Exploitation in Early America*. The book, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, provides a “350-year review of the roots of an American ‘culture of exploitation’ that has left us free, rich, and without an honest sense of how this crisis came to be,” according to the Penn Press. “Larson undertakes an ambitious historical synthesis, seeking to illuminate how the culture of exploitation grew out of the earliest English settlements and has continually undergirded U.S. society and its cherished myths.” Larson also has authored *The Market Revolution in America: Ambition, and the Eclipse of the Common Good*.

Dr Jeffrey Truscott Teaching in Nias, Indonesia



During the mid-semester break in September, Dr Jeffrey Truscott taught an introductory course on worship at Seminari Theoloji Tinggi, a school of the Nias Christian Protestant Church (BNKP), located on Nias island, Indonesia. The class consisted of second-year students in the Bachelor of Theology (B. Th.) programme, most of whom will become pastors or lay professional workers in churches of the BNKP. (To his surprise and delight Dr Truscott found that students were able to sing traditional Lutheran hymns from memory, including Martin Luther’s Christmas hymn, *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*.)

Dr Truscott’s teaching was interpreted by Rev. Juliman Harefa, the school’s academic dean, and by the Rev. Fotani Ziliwu, who serves as the librarian. The invitation to teach at STT-BNKP came via the Rev. Basa Hutabarat, Executive Secretary of the National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation, Indonesia. Rev Hutabarat is an alumna of TTC (M Min, 2000).

On his last day in Nias, Dr Truscott lectured Martin Luther’s worship reforms before a gathering of BNKP pastors.

I-K Lutheran - Where God is doing new things

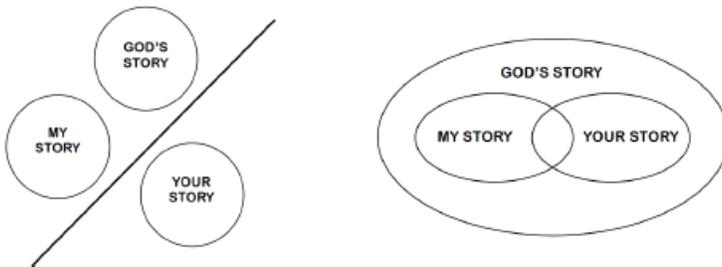
December 2019

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!” (Angels to shepherds at the birth of Jesus as told in Luke 2:14)



In early November, my wife Janet, Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Heather Apel, and I heard the angels’ proclamation of peace for all people when we met in Guatemala with Bishop Izani Bruch and Marcelo Molla of the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en Chile (aka IELCH, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile). We were gathered there for a triennial consultation with nearly 100 other ELCA synod leaders and the leaders of their companion churches from Latin America and the Caribbean. While together, we crossed back and forth across boundaries established by culture, language, gender, race, and history to share stories of God’s presence and the work of God’s Spirit in each of our very different contexts and lives as individuals and as communities. We engaged these conversations under a model of accompaniment rooted in trust that in Christ God has reconciled all of us to God and each of us to one another.

This, rather than an older model of global relationships that suggested that we have God and need to bring God to others. The two different models of relationship across culture and context look something like this:



The diagram on the right looks much more like the angels’ ancient message, doesn’t it? On earth, peace among those whom God favors, all wrapped in the glo-

ry and wonder of God’s goodness and grace and connected by that grace to one another.

In the Christ of Christmas God reconciles all to God and to one another. In the Babe of Bethlehem God crosses the boundaries that divide to swaddle all nations, people and creation in self-giving, life-giving love. That’s why we agreed with our siblings of the IELCH to establish an annual day of prayer for one another on the First Sunday of Advent, beginning with this year. Because this was a late-breaking commitment to one another, more information, like sample prayers and some information about the IELCH, will be forthcoming. In the meantime, those two diagrams and our companionship with the IELCH suggest a couple of Advent/Christmas questions to ponder as individuals and as communities of faith:

What divisive boundaries do you see between the people around you, in your family, your congregation, your community, your world?

How might you and your faith community celebrate the Christ of Christmas by crossing those boundaries to live together into the life-giving, reconciling peace that radiates from the manger-borne babe?

May profound peace and radiant joy surround and sustain you this holy season!

Bishop Bill Gafkjen

“That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing.”

—Martin Luther



A Prayer for Advent

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

By Catherine Malotky

Gather, Volume 32, Number 10, December 2019

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Gracious God, when your chosen people, our ancestors in faith, were lost in political chaos, when the warring superpowers of their day were threatening and marching, when they were pawns in a world that barely knew they existed, Isaiah spoke words that still fill our hearts with courage and inspire hope for a future that will not be so fraught.

Their distress drew out questions. How could they be God's chosen ones, God's favored ones, God's preferred ones, and still be so powerless and vulnerable to the whims of those greater than themselves? How could this be?

How could it be that they were soundly defeated, run over and run off, dragged into exile, away from the land and the promise that said they were God's own? These signs of favor—the land, the fame, the descendants (I am remembering Abraham and the mothers of his sons!) - all gone, trampled and diluted. What did those long-ago promises mean, anyway?

You made your promises again, beautiful and comforting, of all nations streaming to the holy hill where you reside, arbitrating for the sake of peace; a commitment to bring forth a new leader who would usher in a world of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, and the knowledge and fear of you, God. Through Isaiah you painted pictures of a desert watered and wondrous, a path where none need fear. You proposed a child, born of a young woman, a sign of your choosing, your Emmanuel.

God with us, we need your promises. In the short days of December, we are so aware of our own shortcomings, of the pressures we bear to honor your creation and each other, even when we disagree. We so easily see in others the face of an enemy rather than a sibling in Christ. We are quick to judge and slow to forgive. We are afraid—of what we are becoming, of the change we cannot ignore, or the future for our own children and grandchildren.

Our world is troubled. You call us to welcome the strange, to care for those excluded by the economic systems that may be sustaining us, to open our eyes to our place in the confusion, to not be afraid to speak, to risk and to love.

Comfort us in this season, gracious God. Remind us that we are yours, and that you are the source of life and love. Remind us of your promises and your remarkable capacity to surprise, to exceed our expectations, even when they may seem to work against us for a time.

Help us see the miracle of Emmanuel, you with us. God of the universe, you chose to enter into our human sphere as a baby, grown in and born from a woman, vulnerable to the human world from the start. You have the power to transcend, to skip the vulnerability, but you did not. You chose to become one of us that we might see you more clearly. You come to us. This is the miracle of Christmas. This is the shoot rising from the stump, the peace we long for, the redemption of our pain and fear. You are our home, in the flesh. In Jesus' name, we pray and praise. Amen.

*Help us see the
miracle of
Emmanuel,
you with us.*

² *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.*

³ *You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.*

⁴ *For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

⁵ *For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.*

⁶ *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

⁷ *His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.*

*He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.*

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:2-7

News items for the January *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 12/18/2019. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

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

Congregational Council

Mike Dana
Charlotte Erdmann
Carol Grady
Diane Gray
Sherri Guido
Kathy Heise
Carl Huetteman
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: Mike Myers
Property: Matt Ohland
Social Justice: Seeking new contact
Worship & Music: Mark Hermodson

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The Evangel

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
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