



The Evangel

Vol. 36, Edition 11

November 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.

Attended nursery available
on Sunday mornings

Fellowship

10:00 A.M.

Sunday School

10:15–11:00 A.M.

Steve Albertin, Interim Pastor
Michael Vinson, Campus Pastor

It's official!

It is with joy and humility that I share with you, I accept the call to serve as your pastor at Our Saviour Lutheran Church. Throughout the call process I truly feel that the Holy Spirit has guided me to serve and participate in the life and ministry of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. I am excited about the creative and Spirit-led ministry that is happening at OSLC and I look forward to using my gifts and passions for ministry to live out Christ's mission in this place and the world.

In conversations with Mike Dana, my anticipated start date and my first Sunday worshiping with you will be December 1, 2019. I greatly appreciate your ongoing prayers as I make the transition from St. Paul's Lutheran to Our Saviour Lutheran Church over the next weeks.

Again, I am excited to see, feel, and experience what God has in store for our future together.

God bless you. +
Pastor Randy Schroeder



On December 1st we begin a new church year and a new era with a new pastor. Following the second service on that day we will meet for our Advent Celebration in the Fellowship Hall. We'll use the festive occasion to welcome Pastor Randy and his family to OSLC.



“From Worry To Thanks”



Later this month we will gather with family and friends for our national Day of Thanksgiving.

However, when we look honestly at life, giving thanks is not so obvious. It rains upon both the just and unjust. The sun shines upon both the good and the evil. The bounty of this world is so unequally distributed. None of us asked to be born in the richest country that human history has ever known. We could have just as easily been born into the barrios of Brazil or the streets of Mumbai. It often seems that the wicked are better off than the righteous. Whether we celebrate Thanksgiving Day or not, it seems to have absolutely nothing to do with whether we have enough to eat or enough to wear or a roof over our head or money in the bank. So . . . why bother to give thanks?

When Luther explains the 4th petition of the Lord's Prayer in his Small Catechism, “*Give us today our daily bread,*” he urges us to be thankful for all that we have. He acknowledges that God gives daily bread to all people, both good and evil, without their prayers. The problem is all people do not **recognize** that their daily bread is a gift from God. Without realizing from whom the daily bread has come, it is impossible to be truly thankful.

For so many our national Day of Thanksgiving lacks this genuine sense of thankfulness. For many, Thanksgiving simply marks the beginning of the Christmas season. For others, it is a nostalgic and sentimental day to spend with your relatives, your TV set, and the turkey. Some may feel a sense of gratefulness for their situation in life. They may feel lucky. It is a day to sit. To be able to thank God, we need the faith to see beyond appearances and recognize that the good things we do have, whether they are scarce or bountiful, are the result of something more than just good luck or hard work. Without faith, we are just lucky. Without faith, we think we deserve it all. Without faith, why be thankful?

Such faith is not easy to come by. In a society where success is glorified, it is hard to be thankful when everyone else wants to pat us on the back for a job well done or shame us for failing. It is difficult to be thankful when there always seems to be someone who has more than we do. It is difficult to be thankful when there doesn't seem to be enough to go around. To be thankful means to admit that our success may not be as much the fruit of our own labors as the result of being in the right place at the right time.

In his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:25-34), Jesus seems to scold us for worrying too much and not being thankful enough.

Who of us does not worry? We may not worry whether we will have clothing to wear or enough to eat or drink, but we do worry about lots of other things. Will we still have a job tomorrow? What if we don't get that promotion? What if our retirement “nest egg” has all but disappeared?

Jesus points to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. They don't worry. Why should we? But that's precisely the point! We are not birds or lilies! We are people who can make choices, who dream and aspire and fear . . . and worry. How can we not worry and still be human?

Nevertheless, Jesus says, “*Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*” Strive? Believe? Be thankful? It all seems impossible until we see that Jesus is standing right here before us inviting us to trust him. He is the key. He is the one who makes thanksgiving possible.

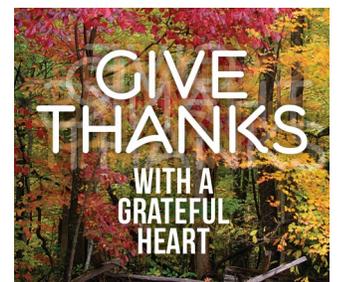
He offers to bear our worries for us. When he “worried” about his future in the Garden of Gethsemane and asked his Father to spare him his deadly fate, when in his hour of anguish on the cross he “worried” and cried, “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me,*” . . . he was worrying **FOR all of us**. He not only was worrying **LIKE** all of us. He also was God in action carrying our doubts, fears and worries **FOR US** so that we would not have to do that alone. When he died, his worry seemed justified. But when God raised him on the “third day,” such worry was irrelevant.

When Jesus says, “*Strive for the kingdom of God,*” he is inviting us to cling to his promise and take a seat in his lap. He wants to bear us in his arms. We do not need to worry. Nothing in this world can separate us from God's love in him.

What we thought could never happen . . . begins to happen. We find ourselves as content as the birds of the air . . . and the lilies of the field. We see beyond the inequities of life and recognize that the good things we enjoy are not just the result of the random quirks of an impersonal fate but gifts from our loving God.

We gather later this month to give thanks on our national Day of Thanksgiving. We will offer up our prayers to our God who has given us a lot more than a full stomach, a roof over our heads and clothing on our backs. He has given us “the kingdom of God and his righteousness.” That transforms our worry into thankfulness.

In His Service,
Steven E. Albertin
Interim Pastor



News and Notes

Baptismal Birthdays



November

Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer	1
Matt Ohland	1
Scott Vana	1
Juliette Walker	15
Carl Huetteman	16
Tommy Krause	16
Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer	22
Suzanne Nielsen	29
Abby Henderson	29
Jane Krause	30

Council Highlights October 9, 2019



- The Spiritual Listening Seminar went very well. We hope to do another one in the Spring.
- Property: The “raccoon hole” has been fixed.
- Finance: Discussion of electronic giving. Feedback will be given to the Finance Ministry Team.
- Kitchen Makeover: The money is not in this year’s budget. We will budget it for next year.

Stewardship Column November 2019

Stewardship at OSLC

“On a final note...I had a student who recently received a Bulldog Leader Award. When speaking with the student after being on the announcements, the student was visibly excited and said, “Good things don’t usually happen to me.” This student, in particular, has made enormous gains this year with the proper placement and adjusted expectations.”

The above paragraph is excerpted from a message our principal sent us regarding a very special little guy at our school. I thought of him today as I listened to Pastor Steve’s sermon on “talents”. This little friend of mine has had plenty of tough breaks; he is right...good things don’t usually happen to him. His family has seen some hard times. In terms of the current focus in our local schools on social emotional learning, this guy has experienced plenty of ACEs--adverse childhood experiences. The brain research is beginning to show us how damaging these experiences are on brain development. They literally change the brain structure. This friend has struggled with relationships since I’ve known him; trust has been tough. But he offered his friendship to a new student that entered his class, and his “talents” were multiplied; he and his new friend both grew in joy and trust.

I think of him at Christmas...I want him to come back to school in January with some cool new clothes and something special to say about his holiday. Sometimes “it takes a village” to combat the ACES our children are living with, and their parents could use some help. He is why I believe in Jubilee Christmas.

Soon you will be seeing information about ways we can support the children and families in our “village”. Please consider sharing your “talents”...your time, gifts, money, to make Christmas Day special for these children and allow their parents to be the heroes.

Carol Grady
Co Chair--Social Justice
Ministry Team

**Our
Spirit
Living in
Christ**

OSLC Foundation

There are many needs our Foundation would like to meet with its yearly earnings from investments, which amount to about \$3,500 per year.

We support Pack Away Hunger, Mission Guatemala and ELCA Disaster Relief, etc. If we had more earnings, we might help with "tuition" for our members and students travelling to Guatemala as they face high airline costs.

We have raised \$2,500 so far which has been matched, for a total of \$5,000. Please consider joining the six households that have participated to date. Matching funds are still awaiting your gift.

Third Quarter Financial Report

The Capital Campaign has been completed. The contributions were distributed as follows:

- \$59,394.65 total expense for the sanctuary lighting project
- \$77,809.86 total expense for the choir loft window project
- \$7,500.00 total expense for kitchen renovations, including \$2,235.84 transferred to the Kitchen Maintenance Fund
- \$7,086.65 applied to the church mortgage

For the first nine months of 2019, the church received \$236,581.19 in contributions and spent \$200,922.10 for a difference of \$35,659.09. Offerings for the first three-quarters of the year were 101.8% of our projected income.

We have paid several large bills during the first week of October, so while our financial condition is sound, the difference between our income and expenses isn’t nearly as large as it was at the end of September. Some of our large expenses come once a year towards the end of the year (e.g., groundskeeping, insurance) and we anticipate some moving expenses for Pastor Randy yet this year.

Your contributions, both to the Capital Campaign and to our general fund, are greatly appreciated.

— Finance Ministry Team

NOVEMBER UPDATES

Advent Celebration—“God Bless Us, Everyone!”

Join us **Sunday, December 1st at 12:30 P.M.** (after the second service) for our annual Advent Celebration in the Fellowship Hall. This year’s theme is Dickens’ “*A Christmas Carol*.” Don’t be a Scrooge— join in the fun! We will welcome Pastor Randy and his family as it will be their first Sunday at OSLC. Look for more information in the bulletin and a food sign-up in the narthex. Guests are welcome!

Faith Formation Minute

Are you ready to begin the journey through Advent? Advent begins Sunday, December 1st (the Sunday after Thanksgiving). Advent devotions (for individuals and families) will be available in the narthex on November 17th. You will find Advent activities and studies for all ages. Pick one that works for your household!

Youth Service Sunday

OSLC Youth will help serve during the first service on Sunday, November 17th and the following third Sundays of the month during the school year. Please encourage our young members as they learn new ways to be involved in our church community.

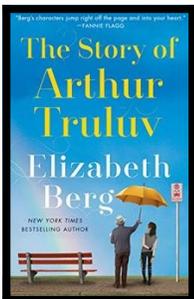
Contact Information for Angie Henderson, Director of Christian Education and Outreach

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.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/OurSaviour>

rightnow MEDIA



November Book Discussion

An emotionally powerful novel about three people who each lose the one they love most, only to find second chances where they least expect them—from *New York Times* bestselling author Elizabeth Berg. Wonderfully written and full of profound observations about life, *The Story of Arthur Truluv* is a beautiful and moving novel of compassion in the face of loss, of the small acts that turn friends into family, and of the possibilities to achieve happiness at any age.



Volume 6; Issue 35 11/1/19

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Sunday, November 3**
Youth Coffee Hour & Servant Sunday (ministry team meetings)
- ⇒ **Sunday, November 10**
Adult Forum: Scott Vana, Reaching Out 101
- ⇒ **Sunday, November 17**
Adult Forum: Cindy Modlin Adams, End of Life Decisions
- ⇒ **Sunday, November 24**
Adult Forum: Pastor Steve, How Christians Stole Christmas
- ⇒ **Sunday, December 1**
Advent Celebration & Pastor Randy’s Welcome
- ⇒ **Sunday, December 1**
Youth Coffee Hour

Ladies Night Out

Join in the fun at our annual “Ladies Night Out” Friday, November 8th!

Where: The Creative Clayground at 3111 Builder Drive, Suite 10, Lafayette

When: Friday, November 8th starting at 6:30 P.M. and going until 11 P.M.

Cost: Range is \$10-30 (depending on the item you choose to paint). Pay at the event.

This event is for women/girls of all ages. Bring a guest and a snack to share! Please RSVP to Angie Henderson at angie@osluth.org or sign up in the narthex.



LUM Events



You are cordially invited to attend the fourth annual Port of Hope fundraising event for the LUM Immigration Clinic. For many families in our community the LUM Immigration Clinic is their "Port of Hope." Please support the work of the LUM Immigration Clinic by attending Port of Hope. This is a festive event with lots of food, dancing, and fun.

Thursday, November 7

5:30 – 8:00 P.M.

Location: Lafayette Brewing Company, 622 Main Street, Lafayette

Tickets: \$50 per person – available in advance & at the door, while they last

Marketplace: purchase one of a kind experiences and opportunities

Please note: you must be at least 21 years of age to attend.

Parking: Wabash Valley Alliance lot. *No fee. 610 Main Street (across the street from Lafayette Brewing Company)*
Frontier lot. *No fee. Entrance is on Columbia Street, between 6th and 7th Streets*

Be a part of the annual **Turkey Trot 5K Run on Thanksgiving morning at 8 A.M.** on the **Cattail Trail Loop – Celery Bog Nature Area.**

Registration: \$35 Adult; \$10 Youth

The LUM Turkey Trot 5K Run is open to runners of all ages and abilities and welcomes runners, walkers, dogs, strollers, wagons, turkey hats and more. The Turkey Trot 5K convenes at the Walmart in West Lafayette and follows the Cattail Trail Loop, which is completely flat and paved, and allows participants to run on a scenic route through the Celery Bog nature area on a crisp November morning.

Advanced registration is encouraged but race day walk-ups are welcome!

All Turkey Trot 5K proceeds directly support the programs and services offered by Lafayette Urban Ministry.



LUM Greater Lafayette Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Celebration

Date: Thursday, November 28 (Thanksgiving Day)

Time: Noon – 2:00 P.M.

Place: Central Presbyterian Church,

31 N. 7th Street, Downtown Lafayette

(Adjacent to the Tippecanoe County Public Library; Social Hall Entrance is on 7th Street)

There are many opportunities for you to serve your community neighbors on Thanksgiving morning. Make a difference this Thanksgiving holiday — donate your time cooking, serving, entertaining, hosting, greeting, setting up, cleaning up, and more. Lots of food and supplies are needed too — donate food or make a cash donation to make this community event possible.



Saturday, December 14, beginning at 9 A.M. at OSLC

Jubilee Christmas is a special LUM program for families with children ages 12 and under. Families who participate in Jubilee Christmas are invited to a host site and are able to select new toys for their children. Families also receive some food items to make their Christmas dinner more special.

Look for more details in the next few weeks about how you can participate in Jubilee Christmas at OSLC.

Lafayette Urban Ministry Mission Statement

Poverty is the greatest thief. More than depriving a neighbor of food or shelter or warmth, it steals away hope.

While other thieves may take away the past, poverty steals the future and self-respect.

The Lafayette Urban Ministry is in the business of restoring human dignity. Through voluntary efforts and contributions we give back the hope, the future, the self-respect, which all God's people need and deserve.

Ours is a Christian ministry that welcomes congregations and people of all faiths. We give witness to God's saving love and prophetic power by loving neighbors, seeking justice, empowering the least among us, and renewing the Church's social ministry.

I-K Lutheran - Where God is doing new things

November 2019

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. (Luke 18:1)

Listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy. (ELW #513)



Pray always. Do not lose heart.

What is the intimate connection between these two needs, not commands, as Luke portrays them? Is prayer, constant prayer, prayer in all situations, a key to avoid losing heart? Does losing heart, becoming discouraged or disillusioned, become a barrier to active prayer?

And, by the way, how is your prayer life – and that of our faith community – these days in which it is so, so tempting to give up and give in, to lose heart?

In her helpful book *Help, Thanks, Wow* author Anne Lamott suggests that these three words capture the three essential prayers. In many ways, I think that she is right. From Genesis to Revelation, scripture is filled with cries for help, expressions of gratitude, and wide-eyed wonder at the works of God.

But I also wonder whether we need to be reminded that “praying always” also suggests listening, the kind of listening that any life-giving, relationship-growing conversation requires. Perhaps a book about that form of prayer would simply be entitled, *What?*

Listening prayer may be the most important – and most overlooked – form of prayer for the church and all the baptized Spirit-sealed people of God at times like our time, when it is so easy to lose heart, when so much of what we hear, experience, and feel is about loss, decline, diminishment, and uncertainty.

Listening prayer begins with questions like: What is God’s narrative, God’s story, about the present and the future? Or, better, listening prayer begins like this: *Gracious God, what are you saying to us, to me, in this challenging time? What are you up to? What needs to change in my life in order for me to follow faithfully?*

Such listening prayer begins with deep, slow, careful, exploratory listening to scripture and tradition, both for the promises of God that have sustained and guided God’s people through the centuries and for the stories of what God’s deliverance looked like when the promises were fulfilled (hint: it was seldom what God’s people first imagined it would be when they started listening).

Listening prayer arises from hearts and minds that learn to listen below the surface of the routine humdrum of daily life for the God who is present and speaking right now, in this moment. It calls us to intentionally let go of what we think should happen and open ourselves to whatever God’s Spirit may be saying and through whom God may be saying it. After all, God often speaks through those through whom we least expect God to speak, as old Balaam discovered [see Numbers 22:22-35].

Listening prayer invites us to let go of the need to always speak and, instead, to be quiet for a time, to create “empty” and expectant space in our hearts, our days, our life together for God to fill with God’s Word by the power of God’s Spirit for the sake of God’s renewing work in us and in our world.

Listen, dear people of God: Pray always and do not lose heart.

Peace be with you,

Bishop Bill Gafkjen

Changing Your Spots

In the Old Testament, Jeremiah becomes so disgusted with his people’s unfaithfulness and idolatry that he almost believes they can’t change. He wonders whether a leopard can change its spots. When a Sunday school teacher posed that question, one student pondered before replying, “Yes ... *If he doesn’t like the spot he’s in, he can change it.*”

Jeremiah reached a similar conclusion: His people could change their evil ways — their “spots” — if they chose to. “*You can do good who are accustomed to do evil,*” he says (Jeremiah 13:23, NRSV). As another prophet later notes, God has shown us “*what is good ... To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God*” (Micah 6:8, NIV). What spot — or spots — can you change?

Appreciation and an Invitation

Fall Workday a big success!

Some of the usual suspects and some new faces got a lot done on October 19 for Fall Workday! We participated in the Purdue Crew team Rent-a-Rower program again, and six rowers were the stars of the day. The rowers cleaned the windows from the outside, keeping up with Sam and Renee Rasmy on the inside. The Rasmys and Angie Henderson also cleaned baseboards around the building. Another rower strapped on the backpack vacuum and cleaned all the AC registers / returns. Whereas Matt and Anders Ohland spent about 15 minutes securing the library bookshelves to the wall (with "Calvin brackets"), another rower spent most of the day clearing the bookshelves and putting all the books back in order. Matt and Anders spent the rest of the day trying to accurately map the electrical panels to make electrical work around the church safer. Another rower spent the entire day cleaning and polishing the pews and the choir loft furniture. Angie and the Hendersons bleached the nursery toys and furniture. While Jesse Grogan checked and replaced exit signs and emergency lights around the building, Carl Huetteman did the same for light bulbs before he joined the rowers on grounds duty to trim trees. Renee Rasmy swept the parking lot around the parking blocks in hopes that we still have time to get the lot patched and relined before winter. Barbora worked with a rower to clean up the yard and the sign on Vine Street. The Vanas and the Hendersons provided lunch and snacks to keep everyone going. Vicki Mills and Sue Larsen plan to do some painting later in the Vestry, so the Vanas got a file cabinet out of the way. Thanks to all who helped – including those who sponsored the wonderful rowers!



It is with pride and gratitude that we once again send our Lutheran World Relief quilts (60) and school kits (127) to Valparaiso, IN and from there to the final destination of a refugee camp in a faraway land. These gifts from our congregation will warm our "neighbors" and will help the children learn, using the tools that we have sent. We want to thank our seamstresses: Sue Axtell and Ruth Ewbank for creating the school kit bags; Ruth Ewbank, Judy Ohm, Renee Rasmy, and Mary Waltmann for sewing the quilts; Pastor Mike and Angie Henderson for loading the boxes of quilts and kits into the truck and trailer; and Robert and Dee Hershberger for taking the goods to Valparaiso on a busy Saturday morning. Thanks also to Angie Henderson and Sandra Vana for their support.

*Sincerely,
the Quilt Group*

Family Promise News

The Board of Trustees for Family Promise of Greater Lafayette, Inc. would like to announce that it will welcome Nakeshia Hedrick as its new Executive Director on October 17, following the resignation of long-time Executive Director Laurie Earnst. Hedrick formerly served as an administrator in the Registrar and Guidance office at Hammond High School in Hammond, Indiana. In addition to her experience as an administrator of a large and complex program, she brings experience working with vulnerable populations and youth in both her professional and volunteer commitments. Her many responsibilities included connecting families with social services and other organizations to promote and encourage their self-sufficiency, work in line with the mission of FPGL.

FPGL will hold a farewell reception for Ms. Earnst on Sunday November 3rd in the Hannah Community Room at the North End Community Center (second floor) from 2-4 with a presentation at 3:00 P.M. The public is invited.

FPGL will also hold a welcome reception for Ms. Hedrick and her family on Sunday November 10th from 2-4 in the Vinton Room located inside the North End Community Center. The public is invited.

News items for the December *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 11/20/2019. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

OSLC Staff

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Steve Albertin, Interim Pastor
Sandra Vana, Secretary
Angie Henderson, Director of
Education and Outreach

PLM

Purdue Lutheran Ministry

(765) 743-2398
www.plm.org
Michael Vinson, Pastor
330 West Fowler Ave
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Congregational Officers

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

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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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