



The Evangel

Vol. 37, Edition 2

February 2020

**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

Special Worship Service
Ash Wednesday
February 26, 7:00 P.M.

Fellowship

10:00 A.M.

Sunday School

10:15–11:00 A.M.

Randy Schroeder, Pastor
Michael Vinson, Campus Pastor

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Mt 5:13-16

This is an easy passage to misread. Because we are prone to think of God primarily in terms of the law – that is, telling us what we should or should not do – it's very easy for us to hear Jesus in this passage telling his disciples – then and now – that they'd *better be salt and light*. Or maybe *how to become salt and light*. Or the kinds of things *they should be doing* if they're going to *continue* being salt and light.

But that's not what's going on here at all. What Jesus says is sheer declaration and promise: *You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world*. No ifs, ands, or buts about it.

And because that's true, Jesus says, we won't be able to help but do things that salt and light do – preserve, add flavor, illumine, guide. In short, because God has created us to help each other and care for the world, we can't help but live into that identity.

Can you believe that?

I know, at times, that can be difficult. Day after day, after all, we see enough evidence in the lives of those around us – and, truth be told, in our own as well – to recognize that we don't always live up to Jesus' pronouncement. We fall short, hiding our light, and wonder how in the world this promise could possibly be true.

Which is why it's so important, I believe, to go to church. Not because going to church is a good thing to do (which of course it is). And not simply because God wants us to go to church (although I'm sure God does). But rather because when we come to church we hear words of confession and forgiveness by which we can acknowledge where and how we've fallen short and then receive God's forgiveness and love and be commissioned once again to go and be, in fact, salt and light for the world.

Continued on page 2



On Shrove Tuesday (Feb. 25) we'll have a Free All-you-can-eat Pancake Supper in the Fellowship Hall.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26, with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 7 P.M.

The next five Wednesdays we'll gather at 5:45 P.M. for a simple Lenten Supper and Service. All are welcome!



Following and Experiencing

As a child I was regularly teased about the amount of television I watched. I must admit it was a lot. ☺ I am not sure what the attraction was. It might have been my introverted self being put at ease. It may have been a touch of laziness. I hope it was the incredible stories being played out within this illuminous box in the corner of our basement, allowing me to be anyone, at any time, at any place, which captured so much of my growing up. I'm sure it was a combination of each of these things...



I used to watch movies until I had them memorized. I could say the words before the actors and actresses would spit them out, (It was a great way of annoying my older siblings ☺). One of my favorites was *Grease*. As a freshman in high school, after learning the theater department was producing *Grease* the play, I decided to try out. I went from watching others act and perform to *experiencing* what it was like to be in the moment of the performance. I was hooked! Performance became an experience of which I could not get enough. This movement from watching to experiencing was truly life-giving and real.

I think of this experiential life when hearing Jesus calling to the disciples in our gospel. I wonder if that was the disciples *experiencing* what life could be, when Jesus called out to them, “*Follow me and I will make you fishers of people.*” In Matthew’s Gospel Jesus is walking along the shore of the Galilee. He comes across Simon and Andrew. He sees James and John and each in their own turn hear Jesus’ call. We are told that they immediately stop what they are doing and follow Jesus.

What a great faith! They stop all they are doing and follow; leave family, work, and livelihood. Who does that? Can you imagine dropping everything, immediately, to follow? Is that the litmus test for Christians? Are we Christians only if we follow immediately? Is there a scale of how fast we follow determining how strong a faith we have? Or could the experience of Jesus be what made Simon, Andrew, James and John follow immediately?

It is the experience which moves us from watching to doing. Most biblical scholars will agree that Jesus’ ministry would have been known to all the people in the region of Galilee. Simon, Andrew, James and John would have seen and heard Jesus prior to this. There is a strong possibility that Jesus’ call to follow him was talked about prior to the writing in Matthew’s Gospel. This is good news for us. This means as we focus on God we can discern (think and pray) about where God is working, where Jesus is calling us to follow him. In our lives where do we see God’s work – in order to follow and experience Jesus, to live into our own call more deeply?

We don’t have to think too hard. We experience Jesus by volunteering at Pack-Away Hunger. Or we experience Jesus by taking care of our elderly parents and loved ones. Perhaps we experience Jesus as we tutor students and become part of their lives. We can experience Jesus as we do a job we love and coach others to love also. We experience Jesus as we take care of a special needs child or someone who needs our care. We experience Jesus each time we use our wealth, our time and our talents to support others, whether that’s through church, country, or municipality.

As we experience life with one another, we experience Jesus and grow deeper in relationship with him. Our faith and our identity as a Christian are based on how we experience the Love of Christ then share that Love with others. We “follow immediately” as we notice Jesus in and through the *experiences* we have each and every day.

Peace, Pastor Randy

Pastor Randy would like to get to know you!

There’s a signup sheet in the narthex. You can choose the date and time of day that works best for you/your family to spend some time with him.

Continued from page 1

Being salt and light, you see, isn’t something that we *do*, it’s who we *are*. And each time we come to church we are reminded that whatever our successes and failures, whatever our good deeds or misdeeds, whatever we’ve done or has been done to us, nevertheless our essential identity as God’s beloved children called to be salt and light to the world has not changed.

We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world, Jesus says – those loved by God in order to love those around us. We just can’t help it. Why? Because a city placed on a hill simply cannot be hidden. So go out into your life this day and always to let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Posted by David Lose on February 7, 2014 in *Daily Bread*. Used by permission.)

News and Notes

Baptismal Birthdays In February



- 1-Holly Black
- 1-Carson Ohland
- 1-Emily Ohland
- 1-Jean Peterson
- 8-Cindy Modlin Adams
- 9-Clara Gearhart
- 13-Abigail Black

Thrivent Projects in 2020

It is a New Year with lots of new opportunities. In 2019 Thrivent Financial approved 131 Action Team Projects in our Greater Lafayette Thrivent Office and provided \$32,750 for your fundraising, educational events and service to your communities. CONGRATULATIONS ON AN AMAZING JOB of GENEROUS LIVING. Since it is a new year, **our Thrivent Benefit members are eligible to lead two projects in 2020 and Associate Members are able to lead one project in 2020.** You don't want to miss out on funds that are available to help individuals in need, repairs, service opportunities, fund raisers, education events, etc. **If you need help setting up a project you can contact Mary Prill on Monday or Wednesdays at Thrivent Financial, 765-449-8888, or by email mary.prill@thrivent.com**

Stewardship Column February 2020 Stewardship at OSLC

This month's Stewardship Column is targeted at a small portion of our congregation. It is aimed specifically at members more than 70-1/2 years old with an IRA (Individual Retirement Account). For the rest of us, this is a reminder of the importance of budgeting and planning for retirement.

When you withdraw money from most retirement accounts, that money is treated as normal taxable income. When you reach age 72, you are required to withdraw from your retirement account whether you need it or not, so that it can be taxed. This is called an RMD or Required Minimum Distribution.

Several years ago, Congress created an exception to the taxing of retirement withdrawals. If you're more than 70-1/2 years old with an IRA, you can transfer money directly from your IRA to a charity. This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD. The QCD isn't added to your income and you won't owe taxes on the payment from your IRA. The QCD also counts against your RMD.

A QCD has the potential for benefiting the charities that are most important to you, while reducing your tax liabilities. There are some important limitations for QCDs, so make sure you talk with your tax advisor to make sure things will work as you have planned.

Thank you for all that you do and thank you for your financial support that facilitates our ministry.

-- Steve Belter, seb@wintek.com

Council Highlights January 8, 20



- Motion to purchase an AED from North Star; seconded; passed.
- Motion to recommend the 2020 Budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting; seconded; passed.
- The next Council Meeting will be February 19.



Host a student!

On March 14, 2020 Grand View University's Choir will perform a concert at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. OSLC is invited to the concert and we've offered to provide housing for some of the choir members. If you can help with this, let Sandra know in the OSLC office (743-2931 or sandra@osluth.org).

Crop for Candy will be held Saturday, March 14 from 9-6 at Grace United Methodist Church in Lafayette. The \$30 registration fee is donated entirely to the American Cancer Society on behalf of the Relay for Life team Angels With Grace. Breakfast, lunch, snacks and drinks will be provided, along with an entire table of your own to work. There will be doorprizes! Come out and help us support Candace English and her battle with cancer! Contact Holly M. Black for registration details.

Ladies of OSLC this day can be for any kind of crafting--knitting, sewing, etc. Treat yourself to a day of doing what you love while giving to a good cause!

Would love to have you there!



Our
Spirit
Living in
Christ

FEBRUARY UPDATES



Souper Bowl of Caring

The last day to donate to Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday, February 2 after each service. Look for youth holding soup pots in the narthex! Proceeds will benefit Food Finders in Lafayette.

Faith Formation Minute

Lenten devotionals will be available in the narthex February 16. A variety of booklets will be available for individuals and families. Please take what interests you. Wednesday night Soup and Services begins March 4 at 5:45 P.M.

Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday)

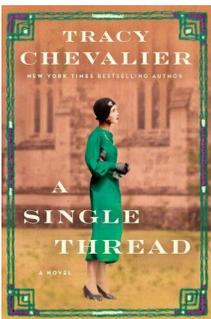
Join us for our 2nd Annual Pancake Feed on Shrove Tuesday, February 25 from 5:30-7:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. It's all you can eat FREE pancakes and sausage! Drinks will be provided. A free will offering will be taken to benefit Give Hope, Fight Poverty (GHFP) and the orphans/vulnerable children they serve in the Kingdom of Eswatini, Africa. Want to help with the event? Please contact Angie: angie@osluth.org

Women's Retreat: Where is your hope?

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 28** for OSLC's Women's Retreat "From Suffering to Salvation" from 9 A.M.-2:30 P.M. in the fellowship hall. More information and registration will be available mid-February. Check-in and light breakfast will begin at 8:30 A.M. and lunch is included.

Contact Information for Angie Henderson, Director of Christian Education and Outreach
EMAIL: angie@osluth.org Church: 765-743-2931 Cell/Home: 402-213-9157

February Book Discussion Tracy Chevalier's *A Single Thread*



It is 1932 and Violet Speedwell is a "surplus woman" – one of millions of English women unable to marry since World War I decimated a generation of potential spouses. Looked down on by the press, tolerated with gentle exasperation by families, these women live at a time when society has rigid expectations of what a single woman might do with her life. Violet is about to challenge those restrictions.

Choosing to leave her cantankerous mother and take up an office job in the cathedral city of Winchester, Violet searches for new friends and a new community. She unexpectedly discovers one in a volunteer group of "broderers" – women who are embroidering cushions and kneelers for the city's magnificent cathedral.

While Violet finds friendship, support and creative fulfillment in the group, she also encounters condescension and prejudice. And in the background, fascism grows on the Continent and Hitler comes to power in Germany... In large and small ways, Violet must learn how to stand up for herself in a world that is still hostile to independent women.



Volume 9; Issue 38 2/1/120

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Sunday, February 2**
Youth Coffee Hour
- ⇒ **Sunday, February 2**
Souper Bowl of Caring sponsored by Youth
- ⇒ **Sunday, February 9**
Adult Forum:
Vera Weiser and Sue Aufderheide, Cultural Connection-India
- ⇒ **Sunday, February 16**
Adult Forum
Joe Micon from LUM
- ⇒ **Sunday, February 16**
Youth Assist at 9:00 A.M.
- ⇒ **Sunday, February 23**
Adult Forum– John Mills,
On-line Giving (VANCO)
- ⇒ **Tuesday, February 25**
Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
- ⇒ **Wednesday, February 26**
Ash Wednesday

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



Lafayette Urban Ministry

Touching the future by helping children & families today



Joe Micon Retiring Effective March 31

Dear Friend of LUM,

Let me be the first of what I expect will be a great many people in our community and beyond to congratulate Joe Micon on his well-deserved upcoming retirement. It is hard to think of anyone else, who over the course of his career, has had such a major impact for good on the children and families in our community and state. LUM will recognize Joe's 41 years of service with a special "LUM Retirement Follies" on Friday, March 6, 2020, allowing each of us the opportunity to celebrate Joe's service and to say thanks. (Event details will be coming soon.)

I am especially grateful to Joe for providing the LUM Board of Directors ample time and opportunity to plan and conduct a smooth transition to a new executive director. An in-depth assessment of LUM was conducted in 2019, and a national search for a new LUM executive director is nearing its successful conclusion. The LUM board will publicly introduce its new executive director in mid March. She or he will assume responsibilities on April 1, 2020. Until then, LUM will remain focused on fulfilling its mission of providing quality services to the children and families who come seeking help.

In his *I Have a Dream* speech the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of the "fierce urgency of now," reminding us that we need one another and that we are stronger when we march forward together. In my years of working closely with Joe, I have deeply appreciated his fierce urgency of now, the passion and clarity with which he has moved LUM forward on behalf of those we serve. Looking back over Joe's 41 years of influence and impact, I see how incredibly blessed we have been by his faithful, and faith-filled leadership.

Sincerely,

Joan Foord Low
President
Board of Directors
Lafayette Urban Ministry

Enjoy an exciting evening supporting Food Finders' mission to end hunger with live and silent auctions, dinner and more at the Blue Jean Ball.

Saturday, May 2, 2020, 5:30 – 10 p.m.

**Beck Agricultural Center
(4550 U.S. 52 W, West Lafayette)
Tickets go on sale March 5.**



2020 Blue Jean Ball attendees can look forward to:

- Shamus from K105 WKOA returning as your lively host for the evening
- Delicious dinner featuring Indiana Kitchen Premium Pork Products courtesy of Indiana Packers Corporation, catered by Shoup's Country Foods
- Wine pull
- Gorgeous assortment of locally grown plants for sale from Galema's Greenhouse
- Interactive Photo Booth
- 50/50 Raffle
- Silent and live auction items including; home & garden, power tools, local artwork, experience packages and more!

Thanks to you, the 2019 Ball raised more than \$103,000 for our neighbors facing hunger; thank you!

Herbert Chilstrom, First ELCA Presiding Bishop, Dies at 88

Herbert W. Chilstrom, 88, the first presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), died Jan. 19 at his home in Green Valley, Ariz. He was born in Litchfield, Minn., on Oct. 18, 1931.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Corinne (Hansen), also a Lutheran pastor; a daughter, Mary Cress of Mesa, Ariz.; and a son, Christopher Holt of Baltimore; and four sisters, Winnifred Christenson of Robbinsdale, Minn.; Virginia Francis of Pickens, S.C.; Martha (Charles) Anderson of Ashby, Minn.; and Janet (Frederick) Sickert of West Linn, Ore.

Chilstrom completed academic degrees at Augsburg University, Augustana Seminary, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Princeton Seminary, and New York University, where he earned a doctor of education degree.

He served Lutheran congregations in Pelican Rapids, Elizabeth and St. Peter, Minn.

He was professor and dean at Luther College, Teaneck, N.J., from 1962-1970. In 1976 he was elected bishop of the Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA). At the 1987 merger that created the 5.2-million-member ELCA, he was elected the first presiding bishop. Chilstrom was awarded 15 honorary doctorates by 15 colleges, universities and seminaries. He was named a Commander of the Royal Order of the North Star by King Carl Gustav IV of Sweden, received the Pope John XXIII award from Viterbo College, the Servus Dei Award from the ELCA, as well as numerous other honors and awards. Chilstrom served on numerous boards of directors, including vice president of the Lutheran World Federation, Geneva, Switzerland; Lutheran Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.; Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota; Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn.; the National Council of Churches and others. He also authored numerous books and articles. After retirement he continued to be active in church and community, preaching and lecturing in many parts of the country. He became a Minnesota Master Gardener, volunteering and serving as interim director at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Bread for the World

In 2019, Bread for the World focused its annual Offering of Letters on global nutrition so mothers and children could get the foods they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. “Because of the advocacy of Bread members, both the House and Senate introduced their own versions of a Global Nutrition Resolution,” said Heather Valentine, director of government relations at Bread for the World.

So far, a total of 185 members of Congress from both parties have cosponsored the resolutions, including both Indiana senators. The bipartisan resolutions passed out of their respective committees unanimously. The full Senate approved its version Jan. 14, 2020. The entire House has yet to vote on its own version.

Bread also pushed for increased global nutrition funding. Congress increased funding by \$20 million for fiscal year 2019 and another \$5 million for fiscal year 2020. In addition, USAID took steps to increase attention to nutrition in three larger programs of investment: agriculture, health, and humanitarian assistance.

“In 2019, Bread and its partners urged Congress to agree on a fiscal year 2020 budget that would allow increases in poverty-focused programs. They did that in September and agreed on detailed appropriations in December,” said Jane Adams, senior policy analyst at Bread for the World.

The fiscal year 2020 appropriations agreement provided a substantial increase for domestic safety-net programs—the first increase since 2010. It also includes a significant increase in poverty-focused international assistance. In 2020, we will again focus on nutrition. In addition to continuing our advocacy work around global nutrition, we will also turn our attention to those experiencing hunger in the United States. OSLC will participate in the 2020 Offering of Letters on March 22. Look for more information in the March *Evangel*.



Family Promise

Thanks to all who volunteered in 2019. These services were provided:

- *34 Families were sheltered
- *23 Families found permanent housing solutions or LTHC family supportive housing
- *128 People
- *80 were ages 0-17
- *41 were ages 18-45
- *7 were ages 46-62
- *Average length of stay was 48.7 days
- *5 Families were still enrolled as of 12/31/2019



New Director and Staff

In October 2019, Nakeshia Hedrick, started as the new Executive Director, and Allison Schneider, the new Case Manager. Michael Bouyer (a former Family Promise participant) and Kass Coughlin are new part-time staff who oversee the house when no other staff or volunteers are available. Kass also does the cleaning. David Martindale continues as overnight caretaker, and lives in the main floor apartment, to be available through the night for emergencies.

Volunteering

OSLC and UU are the host congregations at the Family Promise house four times a year. Our 2020 hosting schedule:

- *March 2 - 8
- *April 27 - May 3
- *July 27 - August 2
- *November 9 -15

During these weeks, we provide two evening hosts (4:45-9:00 P.M.) and dinner (delivered between 5:00 and 5:30 P.M.) for the families on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and two hosts on Sunday (7:30–11:00 A.M. and 11:00-3:00 P.M.).

We use Signup Genius for volunteers to sign up. You can volunteer for March 2-8 here: <http://bit.ly/FPmarch2020>

You may volunteer for our four scheduled weeks during the year. There are also additional individual volunteer slots during the weeks when no congregations are hosting at the Family Promise house.

Volunteer Training is available

To be a host at the Family Promise house, volunteers are expected to complete training. We could schedule an in-person training with the new Executive Director at our church, we can take online training and complete a house visit, or Julie Huettman can work with you on the training needed.

Please talk with Julie Huettman if you have questions, suggestions, or are interested in volunteering or completing training.

Julie Huettman, Family Promise Coordinator for OSLC
765-491-7819

juliehuettman@gmail.com

Family Promise of Greater Lafayette
2010 Elmwood Ave, Lafayette, IN 47904

<http://www.fpglinc.org/>

Follow Family Promise of Greater Lafayette on Facebook.



Pack Away Hunger and Pacers Game/Concert



News items for the March *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 2/20/2020. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

OSLC Staff

(765) 743-2931
www.osluth.org
Randy Schroeder, 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

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



The Evangel

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
300 West Fowler Avenue
West Lafayette, IN 47906