



# The Evangel

Vol. 37, Edition 1

January 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. only on January 5

9:00 A.M. & 11:15 A.M.  
On January 12, 19, 26

Attended nursery available  
on Sunday mornings

Special Worship Service  
Installation of Pastor Randy  
Saturday, January 11 at 11:00 A.M.

**Fellowship**

10:00 A.M.

**Sunday School**

Starting January 12  
10:15–11:00 A.M.

Randy Schroeder, Pastor  
Michael Vinson, Campus Pastor

**We're "packing" a lot of big events  
into January 2020!**

**One worship service on January 5 at 9 A.M.**

**Pastor Randy's Installation Service at OSLC**

Saturday, January 11, 11:00 A.M.

Reception to follow in the OSLC Fellowship Hall

**Pack Away Hunger, January 20**

Held at Christ United Methodist Church  
3610 S. 18th St., Lafayette

Go to <https://donate.packawayhunger.org/event/greater-lafayette-mlk-day-2020/e253990>

to register for the event or to donate to PAH.

**OSLC Potluck & Annual Meeting, January 26**

Following the second service (at about 12:15 P.M.)

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness;  
only light can do that. Hate cannot  
drive out hate; only love can do that."*

—Martin Luther King Jr.



**Blessed Mother Mary  
Blessed are you...  
Luke 1:26-38**



Ever realize before Mary ever said yes; before she was told she will conceive a son, before she knew to name him Jesus, before she knew that Jesus would be known as the Son of the Most High, she was blessed...? God noticed her. God favored her. God blessed her and had great plans for her. Please read Luke 1:26-38.

The angel Gabriel visited her, told her, "*Greeting favored one! The Lord is with you.*" She was blessed in this way. As Mary began living this blessing she became confused and "perplexed" at what was happening. Questions filled her head and overflowed to her lips as she asked, "*How can this be?*" The messenger told her nothing is impossible with God. This blessing is showered on every one of us... okay... well, not the blessing of bearing God's son... rather the blessing of God's grace. God's grace rests on each one of us. This blessing of faith sustains us every day.

So I have a question for you: What will you do with this blessing? This question is not meant to bring guilt or anguish. This question is asked to help us think of how we can better live into this, God's blessing.

What might living into God's blessing look like? Mary gives us a relatable, real, human-like example of what it is to be Christ. In Luke's Gospel Mary becomes the ideal model for us to become a disciple. In Luke 1:38 Mary says, "*Here I am, servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.*" These words are reminiscent if not equal to the words of Jesus speaking in the garden of Gethsemane. "*Not my will but yours be done.*" (Luke 22:42).

Mary was not of royalty, just the opposite. There was nothing really special about Mary. She was an ordinary girl engaged to an ordinary man. Yet she was noticed by God, favored by God, blessed by God and God had great plans for her. God has great plans for you!

This New Year, I want you to know that you are noticed by God! (God loves you) Read that again; **God notices you!** You are favored by God. (God loves you.) God blesses you. (God loves you.) God has great plans for you. (God loves you.) Ponder, think, and pray about what God has placed on your heart. To what will you respond, "*Here I am, servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your will.*" The beautiful thing about our response to this blessing is how God uses the Spirit to work through us. As we open to God's will in our lives, we live into the blessing God has poured upon us, and God lives through us. God has great plans for you.

Happy New Year, everyone!!!

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.



**Ministry Team Meetings**

Here at OSLC we call our committees "ministry teams." An easy way to get to know folks is to serve together on a team. There's a full list of teams on the back page of this newsletter, but here are the times and locations of regularly scheduled 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](mailto: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 the pastor's office. **Social Justice Ministry** meets in the Fellowship Hall on Servant Sunday, on an as-needed basis. All are welcome!

# News and Notes

## Baptismal Birthdays In January



Sue Axtell  
Ruth Ewbank  
Wes Gearhart  
Sherri Guido  
Allen Hammer

Jo Johannsen  
Jo Ann Johnson  
Judy Ohm  
Brian Wagner  
Vera Weiser

## Council Highlights December 11, 2019



- We're still waiting on the AED we applied for. The availability has been delayed. It may be time to explore other options.
- The Finance Ministry Team is working on setting up an on-line donation system through Vanco.
- The Nominating Committee has been activated.
- We will look into note cards to acknowledge memorials and other gifts.
- A vote was taken to approve the Budget as set by the Finance Team.

## Special Opportunity for Service

The OSLC Church Council is recruiting replacements for 3 outgoing members. The Council meets one evening per month and members are generally rotated off after 3 years of service. If you are interested in this opportunity to participate in the life and leadership of our church, please drop Sandra a line in the office or contact Carl Huettman at [chuettem@gmail.com](mailto:chuettem@gmail.com).

## Jubilee Christmas and Hunger Hike

### Updates from LUM

The 39th annual Lafayette Urban Ministry **Jubilee Christmas Program** took place on Saturday, December 14 at 26 different events throughout Lafayette/West Lafayette. Thirty churches and numerous individuals, businesses and clubs provided gifts of new toys, books, food, and clothing, to parents from **639 local households, impacting 1,828 local children.**

At a celebration this week, it was announced that **the 28th annual Hunger Hike raised \$96,899.** Each of sponsoring organizations received \$30,230. Collectively, **This decade, Hunger Hike raised \$978,597** (10 year total) - an amazing accomplishment in the fight against hunger. The proceeds from Hunger Hike 2019 will have a tremendous and immediate positive impact on the Fight Against Hunger — locally, regional-ly and globally.

**A huge thank you to all who participated in Jubilee Christmas at OSLC.** Whether you baked cookies, bought toys, hosted, set up, cleaned up or prayed for our guests, your part was essential and made the day a tremendous success.

—Beth Dana

## Stewardship Column January 2020 Stewardship at OSLC

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, our congregation will hold its annual meeting. One item of business for that meeting will be the approval of our budget for 2020.

In September, the Ministry Teams (Property, Worship & Music, Christian Education, Operations, Social Justice, Mutual, Altar, Fellowship Events, and Family Promise) created their budget requests for 2020. In October, many of you submitted pledges indicating your intended giving for this year. John Mills, our Financial Secretary, used your pledges and past experience to estimate our income for the coming year.

Using the Ministry Teams' expenditure requests and John's income estimate, the Finance Team assembled a proposed budget for 2020. The Council has reviewed this budget and recommends that the Congregation approve it.

We are recommending the adoption of a budget with a \$20,866 deficit. Our expectation is that we'll actually spend considerably less than the budgeted amount, about \$20,866 less. Any difference between our income and expenses will come from our financial reserves.

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

—Steve Belter, [seb@wintek.com](mailto:seb@wintek.com)

## 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.

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

# JANUARY UPDATES

## “God Bless Us, Every One!”

December was full of fellowship and festivities! Thank you to all who planned, volunteered, participated, and attended our Advent Celebration/ Welcome to Pastor Randy, Jubilee Christmas, *A Christmas Carol* Puppet Show and helped decorate, pack, and share Christmas cookies. I am so grateful for everyone’s willingness to pitch in and help/serve. Thank you to: Council Members, Christian Education Ministry Team (Holly Black, June Erb-Wott, Krista Gearhart, Suzanne Nielsen, and Sandra Vana), Sara and Carl Behnke, Jubilee Christmas Committee/helpers, Sunday School Teachers, Youth families and the Henderson crew for helping in many ways!

With gratitude, Angie Henderson

## Souper Bowl of Caring

OSLC youth will participating in our annual Souper Bowl of Caring campaign to tackle hunger in our community. Souper Bowl of Caring is a nation wide youth effort to combat hunger. The Youth will be collecting donations January 26 and February 1 after both services. Look for the soup pots!

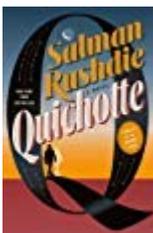
TACKLE



HUNGER

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

## January Book Discussion: Salman Rushdie’s *Quichotte*



Inspired by the Cervantes classic, Sam DuChamp, mediocre writer of spy thrillers, creates Quichotte, a courtly, addled salesman obsessed with television who falls in impossible love with a TV star. Together with his (imaginary) son Sancho, Quichotte sets off on a picaresque quest across America to prove worthy of her hand, gallantly braving the tragicomic perils of an age where “Anything-Can-Happen.” Meanwhile, his creator, in a midlife crisis, has equally urgent challenges of his own.

Just as Cervantes wrote *Don Quixote* to satirize the culture of his time, Rushdie takes the reader on a wild ride through a country on the verge of moral and spiritual collapse. And with the kind of storytelling magic that is the hallmark of Rushdie’s work, the fully realized lives of DuChamp and Quichotte intertwine in a profoundly human quest for love and a wickedly entertaining portrait of an age in which fact is so often indiscernible from fiction.



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## Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Sunday, January 5**  
Youth Coffee Hour  
(No Sunday School)
- ⇒ **Sunday, January 5**  
(Ministry Team meetings)
- ⇒ **Sunday, January 12**  
Adult Forum:  
Cindy Modlin Adams  
End of Life Decisions  
Part 2
- ⇒ **Sunday, January 19**  
Adult Forum:  
Molly (McKneight) Webb  
Purdue Food Safety Dept.
- ⇒ **Sunday, January 19**  
Youth assist at the 9:00  
Service
- ⇒ **Sunday, January 26 and  
Sunday, February 2**  
Souper Bowl of Caring
- ⇒ **Sunday, January 26**  
Adult Forum:  
Vera Weiser and Sue  
Aufderheide, Cultural  
Connection-India



“Are Forever Stamps OK?”

**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](mailto:angie@osluth.org). Here’s the link to activate your subscription: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/OurSaviour>



# Words of Wisdom for a New Year

## Love in action

Martin Luther King Jr., whose life and legacy we honor this month, spoke often about the power of love. In fact, he equated the practice of nonviolence with “absolute commitment to the way of love.”

Love, declared the minister and activist, “*is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.*” And, he said, anyone who’s “*devoid of the power to love*” is “*devoid of the power to forgive.*”

King distinguished between true love and “empty sentimentalism,” however. He taught — and showed — that love is “the active outpouring of one’s whole being into the being of another.”

Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate “active outpouring” of love, and we can choose to follow his example daily.

“*Because of Calvary I’m free to choose,*” writes Max Lucado in *When God Whispers Your Name*. “*No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.*”

“*Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new.*”  
—Unknown

“*What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven’t even happened yet.*”  
—Anne Frank

“*We should work for a world not simply that hates hatred, but that loves love.*”  
—Fr. James Martin, S.J.

“*No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.*”  
—Charles Dickens

Of all persons, the Christian should be best prepared for whatever the New Year brings. . . . In Christ he has disposed of a thousand enemies that other men must face alone and unprepared. He can face his tomorrow cheerful and unafraid because yesterday he turned his feet into the ways of peace and today he lives in God. The man who has made God his dwelling place will always have a safe habitation.  
—A.W. Tozer

## The power of listening

Jesus repeatedly urged his followers to not simply hear but *listen* to his teachings. Others also have championed sincere listening to show compassion and respect.

“*Part of doing something is listening.*”  
—Madeleine L’Engle, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*

“*One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.*”  
—Bryant H. McGill

“*And so he listened. And in his listening, his heart opened wide and then wider still.*”  
—Kate DiCamillo, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*

“*Too often we underestimate the power of ... a listening ear ... to turn a life around.*”  
—Leo Buscaglia

## A prayer for the journey

The following prayer, almost 1,000 years old, was written for pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) — 500 miles across northern Spain. Use this adaptation as your journey into the new year:

God, you called your servant Abraham from Ur in Chaldea, watching over him in all his wanderings, and guided the Hebrew people as they crossed the desert. Guard your children, who seek to grow in you this year. Be their companion on the way, their guide at the crossroads, their strength in weariness, their defense in dangers, their shelter on the path, their shade in the heat, their light in the darkness, their comfort in discouragement, and the firmness of their intentions. Through your guidance, may they be enriched with grace and virtue, and be filled with salutary and lasting joy.

—from the 12th-century *Codex Calixtinus*

## A prayer for the New Year and for New Beginnings

Dear Lord, touch me with your Spirit of truth so I may be honest about my sins and failures. Forgive me for treating your covenant lightly and at times ignoring it completely. Help me truly seek and know forgiveness for all the hurts I’ve caused, for harboring ill will and for any hardness of heart I may have. Please renew a right spirit within me that I may become more Christ-like and that my life may daily reveal your love and light. In your name. Amen.

Let our New Year’s resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.  
—Goran Persson

# I-K Lutheran - Where God is doing new things

January 2020

While walking our dog, Karley, early one December morning, the sun just rising in the east, I heard a strange chirping, chortling, nearly barking sound echoing in the space between our house and our neighbors'. I left the security of the sidewalk to peer through the dusky dawn light in hope of catching a glimpse of what odd animal might be there. My heart rate rose as I shuffled closer. Nothing. I saw nothing. Yet the volume of the sound grew, and the strange cackle call surrounded me. I pulled poor Karley closer, fearful, I must admit, that something lurked and threatened, heard but not seen, in the shadows. Slowly backing my way to the sidewalk, I realized that the sound was not a single voice, but many, and it came not from the earth, but the sky. I looked up and there they were, filling the sky, hundreds of them, huge as pterodactyls, a cacophony of croaking, chortling, chiding as they took turns at various places in their ever reforming and elongated "V". The sight and sound of them was overwhelming. My heart pounded again, now in wonder, as I stood still, staring starward and listening with much more than my ears. And then, a minute or two later, they were gone. All sound went with them as the last in line faded into the southern sky. Karley and I were alone again, standing together in stunned silence, wrapped in the crisp December cold, inhaling wonder, exhaling awe.



Back in the house (and grateful for Google), I found the sound I had heard and discovered that I had been witness to the migration of Sandhill Cranes. Their calls can be heard more than two miles away. Sandhill cranes, not pterodactyls after all, but no less a wonder to hear and behold. Two poems came to my mind as I read about these cranes and listened to recordings of their calls: one from an ancient Christian mystic quoted in an Advent devotional that my wife Janet and I were reading, the other from a longtime favorite Lutheran pastor/theologian/poet. Each in their own way, these poems resound with the call of the cranes and point a way forward for me from that December morning into the new year rising. Perhaps they will also be helpful guides for you, as you step out into breaking dawn to walk through the gift of a new year, looking and listening for the promised and surprising presence of God.

Every single creature is full of God  
and is a book about God.  
Every creature is a word of God.  
If I spend enough time with  
the tiniest creature, even a caterpillar,  
I would never have to prepare a sermon.  
So full of God is every creature.

—Meister Eckhart

Can it be that grace takes us by surprise  
in the midst of the ordinary and the repeated?  
Why shouldn't this be so,  
because grace is from outside us,  
not within?  
It is God's interruption,  
his wonderful invitation.

Grace is God at his unpredictable best.  
No vision of Christ duplicates another,  
for love defies the stereotype.  
To believe is to live in perpetual surprise  
and expectation.

—Gerhard Frost

Bishop Bill Gafkjen

Check out [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Sandhill\\_Crane/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Sandhill_Crane/overview) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EckKXUersb8> to learn about and hear these amazing creatures.

Eckhart quote: Boss, Gayle. *All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings*. Paraclete Press. Kindle Edition.

Frost quote: Frost, Gerhard. *Journey of the Heart: Reflections on Life's Way*. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.



# Good Food! Good Fun! Good Fellowship!



News items for the February *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 1/22/2020. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

### **OSLC Staff**

(765) 743-2931  
[www.osluth.org](http://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](http://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



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