



The Evangel

Vol. 37, Edition 12

December 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 Online

10:00 A.M. on Sundays
7:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve

Join the Zoom Meeting or watch
live on OSLC's facebook page.

Email Sandra (sandra@osluth.org)
and she'll send you a bulletin
and a Zoom invite.



Randy Schroeder, Pastor

Celebrate the Good News!

Just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all.

God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is in the Manger*

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Mornings at 10am
(Holy Communion)
Wednesdays at 7pm
(Advent Prayer)
Christmas Eve at 7pm
(Candlelight Holy Communion)

For the musical folks among us...

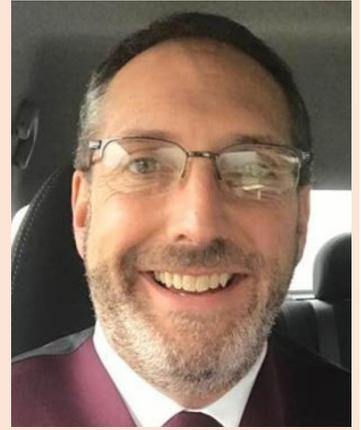


*Sounds
of the
Season*

*You are invited to record prelude music for
the Christmas Eve service or to participate
in the virtual choir. Contact Emily Ohland
(emohland@gmail.com) if you would like to
participate.*

"Prepare Ye"

To say, "This year has been a bit different," is the understatement of the year. So, staying with the times, we thought we might try something different for Advent. Advent heightens the sense of waiting, because it marks not only our anticipation of Jesus' final coming, it also marks our remembrance of his arrival into our world as an infant. That is one of the great paradoxes of Advent. We are waiting for Christ's return, yet Christ is with us now. As Christians we are used to waiting. The Advent Season prepares us for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the book of James, chapter five, we read,



⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near."

This Advent, in our experiment to join in the different-ness, we propose four different words each week from the usual, "Hope, Peace, Love and Joy." In coordination with our Advent devotional, within the Theme "Prepare Ye" we would like to introduce; "Ponder, Pray, Praise and Proclaim."

In the Advent waiting, join us each week on Sunday mornings 10:00 A.M. for worship. And if you're able, join us Wednesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. for a short (15-20 minute) prayer gathering via Zoom. Each week we will continue to send out the Zoom invites for Sunday as usual. I (Pastor Randy) will send out the Zoom invitation for the Wednesday evening prayer on Monday each week.

If you were able to receive one of the Advent Bags from OSLC, you will find several items for your use during this Advent Season. Two items from the bag are an Advent Devotional and four votive candles. The four votive candles may be used to make an Advent wreath and/or you can light them as we gather for prayer on Wednesday evenings of Advent, as we read from the devotional. We also included some stick candles for you to use during our virtual Christmas Eve Service. This year is different all right! But the presence of God and the promise of God's love in Jesus Christ is uninterrupted. Through you and your faith, God's Love is stronger than ever as we wait and prepare with one another.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for all the ministries of OSLC.

Peace,
Pastor Randy

Waiting can be hard, and not just for children. But I do love Advent: this four-week time when the Christian church prepares for Christmas.

Maybe I like Advent so much because it involves active waiting, not thumb-twiddling. It is a gift the church offers the world, to be active (which isn't the same as busy) in ways that open our hearts — and the hearts we touch — to the true meaning of Christmas.

Mother Teresa said, "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."

When I take time during Advent to remember in prayer and with gifts of money and time those who have less food than I do, those who are lonely, those without a home; when I pause to share love with a child or an elder, or gratitude for a healthcare worker, pastor or teacher; when I wait for justice to replace oppression but, while I wait, find ways to work for that result ... the Spirit's warmth fills my waiting heart. I am ready to welcome Jesus.

—Heidi Mann

News & Notes

Council Highlights November 11, 2020



- The OSLC COVID planning team is still working on the guidelines, hoping to share them in Dec.
- The Nominating Committee is busy working to fill the slate.
- There is a continuing discussion of the area in front of the church (by the bus stop).
- The Faith Formation Team will plan for a normal VBS in 2021, then adapt as needed.

Thanks to all those who have purchased blank photo cards and stone-ware bells this month, another \$328 was donated to Family Promise from these sales. The blank photo cards can be ordered at any time throughout the year by emailing or calling Vera Weiser (vweiser@comcast.net). If you need the catalog to be resent, she can do that also. Thanks again for your support of this project.

Vera Weiser

OSLC Annual Meeting Date is **January 24**, following worship. The deadline for submitting reports is **January 10**.



Assisting in December

- 12/6 Missy Schroeder
12/13 Beth Dana
12/20 Kathy Heise
12/24 Robert & Dee Hershberger
12/27 Scott & Sandra Vana

“Youth is when you’re allowed to stay up late on New Year’s Eve. Middle age is when you’re forced to.”
—Bill Vaughan

Some of Dwayne Daehler's printed photos are yet available. Anyone wanting to request one, please call or email Marcia, and she will check on availability of the subject items you request.

765-743-1894-leave a message or mkdaehler@gmail.com

Stewardship Column December 2020 Stewardship at OSLC

For the first time in 10 years, the Lafayette MLK Day Pack Away Hunger event will be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is so much going on in our world and lives now, that we tend to focus on what we can't do and not what we CAN do! God calls us to ministry even in the midst of COVID, and Christ calls us to serve through all things. There are many opportunities to serve locally and abroad!

Because of the pandemic, mission teams have not been able to travel to Mission Guatemala, and workers to support continuing programming have needed to be hired. Mission Guatemala needs to raise \$100,000-130,000 to support the programing that continues without the mission teams by the end of this year. Donations normally given to Pack Away Hunger would be a way to continue support for Mission Guatemala. Donations can be given online at <https://missionguatemala.com/>

Donations of time and energy are also needed in our area. Food Finders received a grant providing 50 boxes twice a month to five Senior Housing communities (Friendship House, etc.), starting in January to help the elderly struggling with food insecurity. They will need volunteers to pack boxes and delivery them. Volunteer and donation opportunities are available at <https://www.foodfinders.org/> or call Food Finders at 765-471-0062.

Lafayette Transitional Housing Center (LTHC) supports those facing homelessness. Winter is especially difficult for those sleeping outside and for those walking to jobs and appointments. So many are still unemployed, facing evictions, facing health and financial struggles. We can always make a difference in our community. Donation opportunities are available online at <https://lthc.net/>

You have supported Pack Away Hunger so generously every year, we CAN continue to support those in need this year, too!

Kathy Heise

Our
Shepherd
Leading with
Courage

DECEMBER UPDATES



dale@osluth.org

- **Pints with a Pastor Resumes in January**
- **Youth Justice Series:** High Schoolers! Keep an eye out for emails concerning the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Youth Justice Series for December. We will primarily be focusing on and discussing issues of justice for the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Our Final Adult Forum of 2020 will be on December 13.** Eric Munson will lead

Other Resources

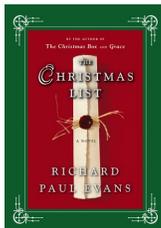
- **Facebook**—“Like” OSLC’s page for Sunday Worship streamed live, updates and upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/osluth/>
- **RightNow Media** (bible studies, devotions, video resources for individuals & families)—**FREE** OSLC membership:

<https://www.righnowmedia.org/account/invite/OurSaviour>



rightnow MEDIA

December Book Discussion



On Sunday, December 20 at 5:00 p.m. we’ll meet to discuss *The Christmas List* by Richard Paul Evans. About the book: Richard Paul Evans’s novel exudes true holiday spirit. Evans got the idea for the fiction while watching a local theater production of Dickens’s *Christmas Carol*. Almost instantly, Evans realized that is the story he wanted to write: the transformation of a present-day Scrooge into a caring human being. The list in the title isn’t a conventional reminder for gifts; it’s a roster of the people whom protagonist James Kier has most wronged. Unabashedly heartfelt and sentimental, *The Christmas List* has all the best elements of a redemptive Yuletide tale.” —*Barnes and Noble*

All are welcome! Email Sandra (sandra@osluth.org) for an invite.

During this 2020 Advent season when we cannot gather together in person, the OSLC Faith Formation Committee thought you might enjoy watching the recordings from programs of a past OSLC Advent Party and a past Christmas Eve Service. On the OSLC website (<https://www.osluth.org/>), in the section for members only, you’ll find two videos, both originally recorded by Mike Dana:

- 1) 1994 Advent Party held at the Christian Ministry Center on campus
- 2) 2003 Christmas Eve Program.

In both videos you’ll see youth of the congregation in those years, and on the first video you’ll see many adults of the congregation. To access these videos on the OSLC website, click "About", then click "Members Only Information", then enter "oslmembers" to find the links to the videos. Each video is about 30 min. Enjoy!





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA presiding bishop joins ecumenical partners in Advent message

CHICAGO (Nov. 30, 2020) — The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and leaders of The Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada have joined together to offer the following Advent message:

Churches Beyond Borders - Advent Call to Address Racism and White Supremacy

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4).

In the wilderness and in the river, on the margins of society, John the Baptizer offered faithful witness to the ongoing work of God. People went beyond the borders of their familiar lives to hear the words of a prophet, to seek renewed faith, to begin new journeys and to be transformed through baptism.

What does it mean to offer faithful witness today? As we ponder this question together as national church leaders, we experience shared challenges, new insights, mutual encouragement, deeper faith and common callings. Our common witness is bound not by ecclesiastical or national borders but by our common baptism. As leaders of four churches on a shared continent, and with shared complicity in the legacies of the Doctrine of Discovery, the enslavement of Black people and the mistreatment of all people of color, we hear the prophets and the Spirit speaking clearly when we listen together.

This Advent, we feel called to name the truth that the sin of racism and white supremacy is ongoing. People continue to be subjected to and oppressed by these systemic evils, even within our own churches and the ecumenical movement.

For the sake of our common mission and witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, we share a commitment to dismantling racism and combating white supremacy, and we actively seek opportunities to engage more deeply. We bind ourselves together in this work, even as we are bound together by a common history of complicity with evil. We look forward to meeting with members from the Black, Indigenous and other communities of color within and beyond our churches to help us develop specific goals and actions. We know this will not be easy, but it is essential. It happens only by moving beyond the borders of the familiar, encountering the truth, trusting God's grace and being transformed. We have much to learn from and with each other.

The birth of Christ to dwell among us holds the hope for our own rebirth. Our faith is in God's ongoing work that establishes God's kin-dom of equity, equality, justice and liberty for all. Our calling is to prepare the way of the Lord by embracing truth, promoting healing and acting in love.

As you make your Advent preparation this year, what do you need most? Forgiveness, repentance, healing, renewal of baptismal vocation, time in the wilderness or a word from a prophet? We are confident that God will grant us all that we need to be transformed for faithful witness.

Let us pray

God of all, form us into churches beyond borders.
When we feel stuck, amplify the prophet's word.
When we are distracted by privilege, put us in the wilderness.
When we need a new way, dunk us in the river.
When we are wrong, move us down the path of truth-telling and repentance.
When we need healing, sustain us with your love and hope.
When we cannot see beyond ourselves, move us beyond arbitrary borders.
Bless us with the Holy Spirit, that the good news may be for us a beginning.
Amen.

Archbishop and Primate Linda Nicholls
Anglican Church of Canada

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry
The Episcopal Church

National Bishop Susan C. Johnson
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Some Thoughts on Advent and Christmas

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.



“Bless us, Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind.”
—Helen Steiner Rice

“Invisible in his own nature, [God] became visible in ours. Beyond our grasp, he chose to come within our grasp.”
—Leo the Great

“Christmas is best pondered not with logic but with imagination.”
—Max Lucado

“To prepare our hearts for Christmas, we must cultivate the spirit of expectancy.”
—Handel H. Brown

“Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to.”
—Bill Vaughan

The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity — hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory — because at the Father's will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that 30 years later he might hang on a cross.



—J.I. Packer

“If we do not set aside time to focus together on what God's word tells us about the promise of Christ, on Christmas morning we can find ourselves surrounded by mounds of torn gift wrap, our laps full of presents, but with hearts that are empty and unprepared.”
—Nancy Guthrie

During a road trip one dreary, drizzly December day, I thought about how traveling is an act of faith — both now and in Bible times. Unlike Mary and Joseph with a donkey, I have more horsepower, yet I still rely on God to navigate through detours and delays.

On that particular journey, some friends who were away let us stay in their home, and it was such a haven. We turned on cozy lighting, got in our pajamas and heated homemade soup I'd brought. Those simple comforts symbolized warmth, home, nourishment. It was the welcome Mary must have longed for after her difficult trip.

After our meal, God's word fed my soul and I prayed: “Lord, I want my heart to be as warm and welcoming to you as this place to stay has been for us. Make me a place where you are invited, honored and welcomed — a peaceful haven for your Son.”

—Monica Wilkinson

Amid the secular trappings of the holidays, we can lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, until we lament with Charlie Brown, “Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?”

These reminders call us back to where it all began — in the heart of God.

“The giving of gifts is not something [people] invented. God started the giving spree when he gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of his Son.”
—Robert Flatt

“Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.”
—Corrie ten Boom

“The great challenge left to us is to cut through all the glitz and glam of the season that has grown increasingly secular and commercial, and be reminded of the beauty of the One who is Christmas.”
—Bill Crowder

“Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.”
—Neal A. Maxwell



Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Mark 1:3b

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Advent Prayer Service 7pm via Zoom	Worship Planning Group meets 7pm via Zoom		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Second Sunday in Advent: Pray 10am Worship via Zoom			Advent Prayer Service 7pm via Zoom Council Mtg	Social Justice Discussion 7:30pm via Zoom		Jubilee Christmas
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Third Sunday in Advent: Praise 10am Worship via Zoom & Adult Forum		Game Night via Zoom 7pm	Advent Prayer Service 7pm via Zoom			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Fourth Sunday in Advent: Proclaim 10am Worship via Zoom			Advent Prayer Service 7pm via Zoom	Christmas Eve Service 7pm via Zoom		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
10am Worship via Zoom						

News items for the January *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 12/24/2020. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

OSLC Staff

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www.osluth.org

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Sandra Vana, Secretary

Dale Buettner, Director of Faith Formation

Emily Ohland, Choir Director

Beth Dana, Julie Huetteman &

Sandra Vana, Musicians

PLM

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Sherri Guido

Allen Hammer

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Family Promise: Julie Huetteman

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