



The Evangel

Vol. 38, Edition 1

January 2021

***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

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

Celebrating Epiphany and Our Home

Let us celebrate this manger of Christ, where we find a home.

Let us bless our homes where we live, gather, eat and rest, and in 2020 we also worked, attended school via e-learning, shopped, worshipped, and connected with family and friends via technology. And all of these home-bound activities may continue into 2021.

Let us remember those who are home-less, and do all we can to support and care for them.

Let us acknowledge OSLC, our church home, though we have not been inside since March, a place where we belong, are welcomed and loved, and reminded of our Baptism.

Let us look to our heavenly home, a palace where we will be with God for ever.

At OSLC, on Epiphany, and throughout the six Sundays of this season, we will focus on our "homes". **On Wednesday, January 6, at 7:00 P.M. we will have a 15-minute Epiphany gathering via Zoom for "blessing our homes".**

Prepare for the home blessing

- Gather some items: chalk or markers, paper/poster/cloth, scissors, and something to attach the inscription above your door, on the door, or hang from the door knob. Be creative!
- Create the inscription 20 + CMB + 21 with the items you gathered.
- During our brief gathering on January 6 you may post the blessing on your door.

The **OSLC Annual Meeting** will be held via Zoom on Sunday, **January 24**, immediately following the worship service.

Contributions for the OSLC Annual Report are due to Sandra **by January 10**. Please send them via email if possible.



***Epiphany:** the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi; a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way.*



Epiphany is sometimes overlooked. Our church calendar begins with Advent and crescendos into Christmas. This year, in addition to preparations and gift buying, our minds are full of transitions and a new vaccine. By the time Christmas is here, we find ourselves on the back of our heels gasping for air trying to recover from an exhausting nine months. As we look at the church calendar again, we might notice Epiphany, yet our attention quickly goes to preparation for Lent and Easter.

I ask you not to go too far, too quickly. Let us notice Epiphany for a while. We have been encouraged to stay at home for the last nine months and we will continue to worship via zoom into 2021. I ask you to notice the definitions for Epiphany again.

Epiphany: 1) the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi. 2) a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way. **During the time of Epiphany, and throughout this next year, I suggest we spend time noticing, discerning, how we understand the manifestation of Christ in our homes in a new and clear way.**

This Epiphany, our theme will be, “Epiphany in Our Homes: Seeking Christ Where We Live.” Each week of Epiphany we will begin our Sunday worship with a blessing for rooms of our homes and discern where Christ might reveal Christ’s self to us. On January 6th at 7:00 P.M. you are invited to join us via Zoom and Facebook Live to “Chalk our Doors” for the Epiphany Season. The following description is from Sundays and Seasons:

*Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6), or another day during the time after Epiphany offers an occasion for a blessing for the home. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 21. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means “Christ, bless this house,” or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).*

We will give you instructions and join you through technology to help in “Chalking your Door.” You can hang a sign over the door, on the door or hang something from the doorknob. This sign will be a reminder for all passing through it to seek Christ, in your coming and going or staying.

Peace be with you always and remember, together with God we will see each other through this COVID-19 wilderness. I am grateful for each of you and all you do to support the ministry of OSLC and the ELCA.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Randy

“Discernment is about staying in touch with the deep joy God holds for us in Christ, the loving one into whose image we are slowly and uniquely growing.”

Way of Discernment, Companions in Christ Series, Upper Room, p.48

The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God’s abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts.

We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

—Travis Cunningham, tvresources.net

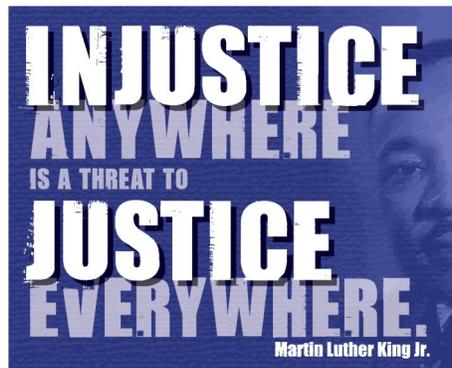


News & Notes

Council Highlights December 9, 2020



- Motion to carry over some of Pastor Randy's vacation time to 2021; seconded; passed.
- The Nominating Committee now has a full slate for the Annual Meeting.
- Guidelines/Procedures for Reopening are still in process.



Assisting in January

- 1/3 Abigail Black
- 1/10 Kathy Heise
- 1/17 Missy Schroeder
- 1/24 Robert & Dee
Hershberger
- 1/31 Beth Dana

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 January 2021 Stewardship at OSLC



YEAH!!! BUDGET TIME!!!

I am not sure you imagine “budget time” as something to get excited about... Some might imagine hearing... “Augh... budget time...” But as a pastor, I am enthralled by the Body of Christ, unified by the Holy Spirit, reaching for new and exciting ideas to love and serve God and neighbor. This is what a church budget, or what I like to call “Dream Plan,” really represents!!

Our budgeting or “Dream Plan”-ning began back in September, as all the Ministry Teams met and planned for the 2021 year. Property, Music and Worship, Faith Formation, Operations, Social Justice, Mutual Ministry, Fellowship, and Evangelism Teams were asked to dream about how OSLC would love and serve God and neighbor in 2021. In October, a lot of you offered your pledges to the Dream Plan (aka ... budget) of OSLC. John Mills, our Financial Secretary (maybe John's title could be, “Dream Plan Administrator” ... we can discuss later.), used your “Dream” pledges and past experience to estimate the total of your gifts for the coming year.

Using the Ministry Teams “Dream Plans” (aka ... expenditure requests) and John's estimate of your gifts, the Financial Team (maybe the Financial Team could be called the “Dream Team” ... we can discuss later.) assembled and proposed a Dream Plan for 2021. The Council has reviewed this “Dream Plan” and recommends that the Congregation approves it at the Congregational Meeting on January 24th.

The Financial “Dream” Team, recommends the adoption of a budget with a \$20,304 deficit. Their expectation is that God will call us to dream bigger than we ever thought before and provide through the unity of the Holy Spirit precisely what we need to love and serve God and neighbor. If not, God has blessed us with some financial reserves from which we might fulfill God's call.

Thank you for all you do, your continued support of loving and serving God and neighbor. You are appreciated and loved. You are a child of God, deserving of love and respect and God will use you to change the world!

Peace,
Pastor Randy

Our
Shepherd
Leading with
Courage

JANUARY UPDATES



- **Pints with a Pastor Meets January 4 & 18.** High Schoolers welcome and encouraged to attend.
- **Wednesday Zoom with Kiddos:** Every Wednesday at 4:30, elementary age kids Zoom with Dale..
- **Adult Forum 2021:** A whole new slate of topics and speakers resume on January 10th!

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>



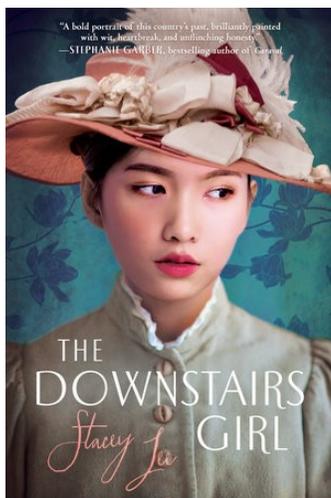
dale@osluth.org

Mark your calendars:

- ⇒ **Sunday, January 3**
11:30 A.M. Faith Formation Team Meeting via Zoom
- ⇒ **Pints with a Pastor Meets**
January 4 & 18
- ⇒ **Wednesday Zoom with Kiddos** meets every Wednesday at 4:30 P.M.
- ⇒ **Adult Forum Meets after Zoom worship on January 10, 17, and 24.** Topic: Spiritual Direction
- ⇒ **Sunday, January 17: Book Discussion at 5:00 P.M. via Zoom**
- ⇒ **Tuesday, January 19, 7 P.M. Virtual Game Night** with the Webbs
- ⇒ **Thursday, January 28, 7:30 P.M.: Social Justice Discussion via Zoom** (Topic TBA)

January Book Discussion: January 17

The Downstairs Girl by Stacey Lee



From the founding member of We Need Diverse Books comes a powerful novel about identity, betrayal, and the meaning of family.

By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for the genteel Southern lady, "Dear Miss Sweetie." When her column becomes wildly popular, she uses the power of the pen to address some of society's ills, but she's not prepared for the backlash that follows when her column challenges fixed ideas about race and gender. With prose that is witty, insightful, and at times heartbreaking, Stacey Lee masterfully crafts an extraordinary social drama set in the New South.

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

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
—Mahatma Gandhi

Truth + love

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become reality.

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Jubilee Christmas Thank You!

A huge thank you to all of you that donated to Jubilee Christmas this year! Your generous donation of money, toys, plastic tubs, products to fill the tubs, applying for and receiving Thrivent grants, provision of boxed cookies and volunteering your time to bundle the goodies and load the cars was greatly appreciated! It enabled 10 families to have a less stressful Christmas this year!

This is what we were able to provide each family : \$30 food card, \$10 protein card, 3 toys and stocking stuffers each for 22 children, \$30 gift card to Meijer and \$25 gift card to Target for 4 teens, plastic tub filled with paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, dish soap, laundry detergent, antibacterial wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a fleece blanket, a box of cookies from Mamaw's, wrapping paper, bows, tags, and scotch tape, a box filled with non-perishable food items which included cereal, flour, sugar, graham crackers, peanut butter, jelly, instant mashed potatoes, pasta, marinara sauce, boxed mac and cheese, canned fruit, and canned meat and a box of diapers for 5 little ones. Also, an anonymous donor in the community gave a gift card to Lafayette Brewing Co. to every family enrolled in Jubilee Christmas which was over 500 families.

Again, what a generous congregation. It really warmed our hearts to be able to provide so much for our Jubilee Christmas families this year. 2020 has been a very difficult year for everyone but especially for those who are struggling financially. Everyone was very appreciative for what they received!

Have a Blessed New Year!

Beth Dana and Nancy Calahan



And a thousand thanks to you, Beth and Nancy! You worked so hard to make this year's Jubilee Christmas a success! We appreciate all that you've done!

A word for the year

Every January, some people pray and ask God to provide a word for their year ahead. Friends have shared theirs with me, but I was hesitant to embrace the practice myself. I'd love to receive a word like *flourish*; then again, I might be like the friend who heard *health* and then faced many physical challenges that year.

But I tried it for 2020 and heard *prepare*. My first reaction was that the word wasn't very exciting, which possibly confirmed I hadn't orchestrated it. Indeed, 2020 ended up full of significant, unexpected change for our family, with careers, school, church and friends. *Prepare* reminded me that amid chaos, God had prepared me for each moment and continues to prepare me for what's next.

Give it a try! Regardless of the word you receive or what lies ahead, you can trust that God loves you and is ultimately in control for 2021 and beyond.

—Janna Firestone

Live in the light

Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, "How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or 10 years from now?" There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step — what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.

The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

Still searching for a New Year's resolution? None is more worthy than becoming Christ-like. In fact, 19th-century evangelist Henry Drummond calls it "the only thing in the whole world worth caring for."

Two modern-day authors offer more insights. Stormie Omartian points out that we're either making progress or backsliding on this goal. "There is no neutral position in the Lord," she writes. "You are either becoming more like Christ every day or you're becoming less like him." And followers of Jesus must keep the goal always in focus. Christ-likeness is our "eventual destination," writes Rick Warren, but the "journey will last a lifetime."

Family Promise

Looking for an opportunity to support those in our community? Consider providing these items for Family Promise.



Hand-written cards (Executive Director, Nakeshia, keeps these on hand and gives to families as they enter the program.)

- ⇒ Write a generic greeting and message of encouragement and support
- ⇒ Avoid use of scriptures
- ⇒ May consider including a gift card

Items to donate:

- ◆ Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- ◆ Deodorant (for both men and women)
- ◆ Baby shampoo and wash
- ◆ Razors
- ◆ Laundry soap (pods please)
- ◆ Dishwasher pods and dish soap
- ◆ Gift cards (Walmart, Speedway, Kroger, Target)
- ◆ Paper towels
- ◆ Heavy duty kitchen sized trash bags

Drop off the cards and items at OSLC, Fellowship Hall, on the bench marked for Family Promise. Julie Huettelman will deliver to the Family Promise house weekly on Fridays over the lunch hour.

Follow Family Promise of Greater Lafayette on Facebook!

Julie Huettelman
juliehuettelman@gmail.com
 765-491-7819

2021 Hosting Dates
 February 1—7
 June 7—13
 August 23—29
 October 4—10

Food Finders Food Bank



Meijer Simply Give
 Through January 2, 2021, purchase a \$10 donation card at the West Lafayette Meijer to donate 30 meals to FFFB!



Pampered Chef Serve Up a Little Kindness For each Silicone and Wood Utensil set sold, 10 meals will be donated to Feeding America.



Kroger Community Rewards
 Help secure donations for Food Finders each time you use your Kroger/Pay Less card!

Lafayette Urban Ministry

At Christmas, I celebrate the faith that this *grace of the world* is not some vague cosmic force but has a name and a human face. Christmas is the celebration that the *grace of the world* has taken human form, bringing us everlasting peace, rest, and freedom.

In this, my first year at Lafayette Urban Ministry, I have observed the *grace of the world* making a difference through our work together. As a faith-based, community-wide effort tackling basic human needs and uplifting the people of Greater Lafayette, LUM has risen to the unique challenges of 2020 and continues to serve people every day and every night.

So far this year, Lafayette Urban Ministry served **2,735 households** through one of our **22 programs**.

- * **Emergency Shelter** continues to offer compassion while serving people experiencing homelessness in our community. The overnight shelter and **Winter Warming Station** have provided **6,780 bed-nights** of safe, emergency housing in 2020.
- * **5th Quarter Summer Learning Program, enhanced After School Program, and LUM Camp** positively impacted the lives of **196 children**.
- * **Good Samaritan Program** has aided **1,550 families** this year, channeling more than **\$192,000** to families who are in the midst of eviction, utility disconnects, or health care or transportation emergencies.
- * **Immigration Clinic** served **145 individuals**, **ID Clinic** served **122 clients**, the **Protein Food Pantry** had **1,669 visits**, and **Tax Assistance Program** served **258 low-income workers** in 2020. **Community Thanksgiving Feast** served more than **750 meals**, and **Jubilee Christmas** will bring joy tomorrow morning to **1,499 children** from **525 local families!**

These statistics would be impressive in any given year. In this tremendously tumultuous 2020, these numbers underscore the grit and generosity of people such as yourself — people who have not been frozen by *forethought of grief* but instead have doggedly decided to think of those less fortunate than themselves.

Thank you very much for the great kindness you have consistently shown toward those LUM serves. May peace, rest and freedom be yours this Christmas season.

Wes Tillett

Executive Director
 Lafayette Urban Ministry



Lafayette Urban Ministry

Touching the future by helping children & families today





January 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|----------------------------|--|---|--------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10am Worship via Zoom Servant Sunday | | | 4:30pm Wed Zoom w/ Kiddos Epiphany Blessing of our Homes 7pm via Zoom | | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 10am Worship via Zoom & Adult Forum Deadline for Annual Rpts | | | 4:30pm Wed Zoom w/ Kiddos 6:30pm Council Mtg | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 10am Worship via Zoom & Adult Forum | | Game Night via Zoom 7pm | 4:30pm Wed Zoom w/ Kiddos | | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 10am Worship via Zoom OSLC Annual Mtg via Zoom | | | 4:30pm Wed Zoom w/ Kiddos | Social Justice Discussion 7:30pm via Zoom | | |
| 31 | | | | | | |
| 10am Worship via Zoom & Adult Forum | | | | | | |

News items for the February *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 1/27/2021. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

OSLC Staff

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Randy Schroeder, Pastor

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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Vice President: Matt Ohland

Treasurer: Sue Hermodson

Financial Secretary: John Mills

Congregational Council

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Mike Dana

Carol Grady

Diane Gray

Sherri Guido

Allen Hammer

Kathy Heise

Matt Ohland

Scott Vana

Ministry Team Contacts

Altar: Vicki Mills

Arts: Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer

Evangelism: Scott Vana

Faith Formation: Holly Black

& Carol Grady

Family Promise: Julie Huetteman

Fellowship Events: Sara Behnke

Finance: Steve Belter & Carl Behnke

Foundation: Vince Guido

LUM Liaison: Allen "Buz" Grady

Mutual Ministry: Brian Wagner

Operations: Dick Rahdert

PLM Liaison: Sherri Guido

Property: Matt Ohland

Social Justice: Cindy Modlin Adams

Worship & Music: Mark Hermodson



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