



# The Evangel

Vol. 38, Edition 12

December 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

9:00 A.M. (Online and in-person)



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.

11:30 A.M. (in-person only)

No service at 11:30  
on Dec. 26 & Jan. 2

Randy Schroeder, Pastor  
Candice Hinkle, Intern

## Advent and Christmas at OSLC

In *Whistling in the Dark* (HarperOne), Frederick Buechner compares Advent to the moments right before a symphony conductor raises the baton to begin a much-anticipated performance. "You hold your breath to listen," he writes. "You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."

During December, silence can seem elusive, Buechner admits. But "if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world holding its breath."

OSLC's Advent Services (Wednesdays at 6pm via Zoom, beginning December 1) provide an opportunity to take a deep breath, slow down, and appreciate this time of waiting.



All are invited to the **PLM Open House** on December 7, from 4 to 8pm. Stop in and see PLM's new updated space, meet Intern Candice and feel the Christmas spirit. Refreshments will be served. Parking is available in the Our Saviour Parking Lot.

### Jubilee Christmas at OSLC: Saturday morning, December 11.

Thanks for your donations of time, toys, and money. The parents appreciate so much being able to provide their children with gifts and other goodies. You make that possible!

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24 at 7pm.** Prelude music will begin at about 6:30pm. Musicians and vocalists are welcome to contribute their time and talents.

**Please Note: OSLC will have only 1 service, at 9am (in-person and via Zoom) on December 26 and January 2.**



## Special Dates in January

January 10: Deadline for Annual Reports

January 23: OSLC Annual Meeting



## "Trees All Year"

Welcome to the church new year! Looking back over the last 12 months, they have been some of the most uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Yet here we are. With God's help and your tremendous faith, we continue to face the challenges of uncertainty and hold true to the love God shares by sharing it with others.

Thank you, OSLC! Thank you for the difficult discussions. Thank you for your attention. Thank you for your openness to change. Thank you for the love and faith you share by being present.

Granted, your presence has been modified by caution due to our current circumstances and the effects of the pandemic. But your support and devotion have sprouted forth in your support. You have supported the shared leadership between PLM and OSLC in welcoming Intern Candice and her family. You have supported the new hire of Michael Williams as our Live Stream Production Specialist. You have supported OSLC in the new venture of hybrid worship as we experiment with technology to reach our members in the Greater Lafayette area and beyond.

As we continue to grow in our adaptability, the Worship and Music Team has selected a theme based on Trees for this new year. The suggestion was found in our Sundays and Seasons guide to worship planning, and with the Tree of Life in our sanctuary, we felt a strong connection.

"We can begin Advent with the branch of David's tree. In the ancient Near East, it was common to depict a monarchy as a great tree, the health of the tree a sign of the prosperity of the dynasty. (see, for example, Ezekiel 32:2-18). Throughout Christian history, much church art depicted such a tree, with Jesse lying along the base, from whom comes King David and up the tree the ancestors of Christ, with Mary at the top holding baby Jesus. Although some worshippers may not know who Jesse was - for example, in the reference to the "Branch of Jesse" in "O come, O come, Emmanuel" - the imagery of the monarchical tree is clearly tied to David in "Blessed be the God of Israel" (ELW 250), a hymnic version of Zechariah's song at the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:68-79). The revised common lectionary appoints Zechariah's text during Advent, and monastic tradition assigns it for every morning: today God's mercy will lead us into peace." (Sundays and Seasons: Planning Guide Year C 2022. Page 16)

OSLC is rooted in the life and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is this life and love that will cultivate the future of OSLC as we celebrate together and reach new solutions to unexpected struggles. This new year we will continue to focus on what is life giving and to prune what is not, in order to grow in faith. God as the eternal gardener and creator is with us and within us. The future is wide open for growth in our faith, as we remember the words in John's Gospel, chapter 15, verse 5: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." Let us continue to bear fruit in 2022 and beyond. Through you and your faith, God's love is stronger than ever as we wait and grow with one another.

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

Peace,

Pastor Randy

### Angels among us

"When God wants to speak and deal with us," said Martin Luther, "he does not avail himself of an angel but of parents, or the pastor, or of our neighbor." Never underestimate how powerfully God can use you in the life of a child, a church member, a friend or a stranger.

The Hebrew word for *angel* also means "messenger." *You* may be specially chosen to deliver to someone the message of God's love or guidance. Listen intently for what God would have you share with others, then do so faithfully and caringly.



## News & Notes

### Council Highlights November 10, 2021

- **Property:** Carl, Julie, and Matt dealt with the downed trees.
- We are committed to providing meals (but not volunteers) for Family Promise in 2022. We'll continue to partner with the UU.
- The Reopening Team has recommended that we return to offering communion at the altar and opening the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship

Dear OSLC community,

Officially, I have been with you all for three months! Does it seem that long to you? My father has always told me that the passage of time is in proportion to your age. I've always taken that to mean that time flies faster the older you get or appears to. Lol!

'Tis the season of Advent. Advent has never been my favorite liturgical season of the year, but I am growing to like it more as I witness the many different groups of people working together within the OSLC community to create space and time for meaningful worship and outward community service. I am especially grateful for the Advent bags and devotions, the generosity of the Jubilee Christmas program, and the support of the Wednesday Advent services Pastor Randy and I are offering over ZOOM.

I greatly appreciate this special time in your worshiping community. I am still trying to get everyone's names down so don't be alarmed if I can't quite remember yours. Thank you all for being so kind and hospitable and for welcoming me with open arms these first three months as I navigate this new ministry.

Intern Candice Hinkle  
Philippians 4:4

### Stewardship Article December 2021

"Every time a hand reaches out to help another...

That is Christmas.

Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding...

That is Christmas.

Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other...

That is Christmas."

I found this card taped to my mother's desk days after she passed away, a week before Christmas in 2016. It is a statement that embraces who Mom was. As an RN and the head nurse in a large psychiatric unit, she selflessly gave to her patients and constantly strived to bring them better care. She practiced the above verse throughout the year, and never failed to meet us at the door with arms and heart wide open, merriment in her heart, and a warm smile on her face.

After a 15-year absence, Ted and I moved back to West Lafayette late in the fall of 2017. We stepped back into OSLC on Christmas Eve of that year, greeted with arms and hearts wide open. We were welcomed back with smiles, hugs, and laughter, as if we were family members returning home after a long journey.

The COVID journey in the past 18 months has left us far more distanced. No longer can we greet others with arms wide open, our smiles are hidden by masks or filtered through a computer screen. (I am an arms wide open hugger with wild abandon, and not being able to embrace friends and acquaintances at will has been a challenge!) We have witnessed the unrelenting harshness of a virus, social injustice and political insurrection; vaccination status has left us divided.

Life has thrown us a major curve, changing everyone's lives as never before. Let us not become closed/filtered/masked with fear, anger, beliefs, or differences, but rather keep our arms and hearts wide open by attending to the needs of others through love and understanding, never failing to reach out to each other in kindness and compassion, just as God does for us.

"Every time a hand reaches out to help another..." Through donations or the gift of time and talents, there are many ways to reach out to help those in need—Jubilee Christmas, Food Finders, Lafayette Urban Ministry, Family Promise, Afghan Refugees, Mission Guatemala, Lutheran World Relief, The Heifer Project, are all possibilities. A neighbor who is alone, those with emotional struggles during the holidays, an overwhelmed mom—if we extend our hand, this is Christmas.

"Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding..."

"Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other..."

1 John 4:7 states, "My dear friends, we must love each other. Love comes from God, and when we love each other, it shows we have been given new life." God is love and in Him there is no fear of punishment. Where there is strife, jealousy, anger, unholy rivalry, hatred, grudges, this can mean only one thing—the absence of God's presence. We can reflect the love of God by showing love to everyone around us, whether they deserve it or not.

In Galatians 5:22 Paul tells us "God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. There is no law against behaving in any of these ways." God's Spirit has gifted us with all these things to give freely, with arms and hearts wide open. Oh, dear friends, THIS is hope! THIS is Christmas!

Kathy Heise

**Our  
Saviour  
Leading with  
Compassion**

# DECEMBER UPDATES

**Pints with a Pastor will be taking a break in December.** Check your bulletin and listen for announcements for meetings in January..

**Wednesday Zoom with Kiddos:** Every Wednesday at 4:30, elementary age kids Zoom with Dale. Family Promise kids will be joining on the first Wednesday of each month.

**Sunday School for all ages meets at 10:15 A.M. most Sundays.** There is **NO** Sunday School on December 26 and January 2. Our kiddos through age 12 meet in-person using a wonderful Lutheran curriculum entitled “Whirl.”

The younger kiddos will be involved in the 9 A.M. worship service on Sunday, December 12! They will also sing a few carols in the fellowship hall during coffee hour after the service!

### 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.rightnowmedia.org/account/invite/OurSaviour>



[dale@osluth.org](mailto:dale@osluth.org)

### Mark your calendars:

- ◆ **Each Monday at 7 P.M. Confirmation Class meets on the second floor of OSLC.**
- ◆ **Wednesday Zoom with Kiddos: Meets every Wednesday at 4:30 P.M.**
- ◆ **Sunday, December 5, the Faith Formation Team meets after the second service.**
- ◆ **Adult Forum Team meeting on Sunday, December 19th between services**

### Family photo

An 8-year-old girl was showing her 4-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, “But where’s Joseph?”

The older sister thought for a moment and replied, “He’s taking the picture.”

### Happy birthday, Jesus!

Each Christmas, a family celebrated by holding a birthday party for Jesus. To remind themselves of Jesus’ presence, they placed a chair of honor for him at their dinner table.

The highlight of the party was singing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus and then blowing out the candles on a special cake.

One Christmas, a visitor asked the family’s 5-year-old daughter, “Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas?”

The girl paused and then answered, “No! It’s not *my* birthday!”



### The Christmas Grump

Uncle Bill had the reputation of being a curmudgeon. He always seemed to have something to grumble about. Bill’s friends and family were used to his demeanor and usually took it with a grain of salt.

One year, while Bill’s relatives were decorating for Christmas, his young nephew wondered aloud, “Do you think Uncle Bill will put up a negativity scene again this year?”

# Nuggets of Gold for Advent and Christmas

## A season of waiting

Our oven recently bit the dust, and the needed replacement part is no longer manufactured. Due to an appliance shortage, we had to wait eight weeks for a new oven! Yet even amid inconvenience, I see God's purpose. We were thankful to have a grill and slow cookers in the meantime. We creatively attempted to cook favorite meals in different ways. And though we craved anything baked in an oven — cookies, casseroles, even chicken nuggets — we realized that waiting eight weeks for an oven isn't truly a trying time.

Many of us wait for much greater milestones and miracles: physical healing, the return of a prodigal child, an end to financial struggles. Paul offers us hope as we wait: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had" (Romans 15:5, NIV).

When you're in a season of waiting — including Advent! — consider what you're thankful for and what you crave. Tell God how you're feeling and ask for endurance while you wait.

—Janna Firestone

## If only ...

There are many of you ... who think to yourselves: "If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby! I would have washed his linen. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!"

Yes, you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time, you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. ... Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself.

—Martin Luther



## How to keep Christmas

Inspirational author Wilferd Peterson pondered ways to "best keep Christmas" and "defeat the little bit of Scrooge in all of us." After reading his suggestions, add your own!

- ◆ By following the Star ... to stand again in awe and wonder before the Babe in the manger.
- ◆ By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child.
- ◆ By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.
- ◆ By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master's standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.
- ◆ By resolving to give ourselves away to others.
- ◆ By using the light of Christmas to guide us through ... the coming year.

## A Christmas blessing

May you have the Spirit of Christmas, which is Peace,  
The Gladness of Christmas, which is Hope,  
The Heart of Christmas, which is Love,  
The Gift of Christmas, which is Christ.

—Ada Hendricks



I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



# Opportunities for Service and Giving



*Gatchak and his sister Nykhan, ages 6 and 5, hold chicks they are helping to raise with their family in Mogok, South Sudan, as part of a program with Lutheran World Relief. You can provide hens and chicks to other families like theirs by placing your order at [giftsoflove.org](https://www.giftsoflove.org). Photo by Paul Jeffrey for LWR*

Hens and chicks are one of the most popular gifts in the [Gifts of Love](#) catalog, but how do they help? Displaced families in Mogok, South Sudan face poverty and hunger

In the Mogok refugee camp in South Sudan, your gift of hens and chicks help families displaced by disaster and violence quickly start and maintain a source of income to support themselves.

The families living in the camp have endured decades of violence, displacement and, more recently, floods that forced them to start over, yet again, in a new place.

Displaced families and refugees often have to leave their homes and livelihoods with little but the clothes on their backs. Strangers in a new place, they have few resources to feed themselves and many families simply go hungry. **That's where your love steps in.**

A gift of hens and chicks provides a source of income – and hope – for displaced families in places like South Sudan.

Fueled by your caring support, Lutheran World Relief started an agricultural project in Mogok in 2019 to help displaced families rebuild their lives. Along with the provision of livestock, your love also provided the opportunity for families to form savings groups where members could borrow to start businesses in one of three areas: farming, fishing and poultry, in the form of your gift of hens and chicks.

In addition to providing a quick-generating source of income, hens also provide a lasting source of nourishing eggs. With the double benefit of food and income generation, hens and chicks are a great investment in sustainability and independence for neighbors in need all around the world.

Give a gift of hens and chicks from the Gifts of Love catalog. This Christmas, your love can reach neighbors around the world who have been displaced or are struggling with poverty and hunger. Especially during the global COVID-19 pandemic, your caring gift can be life-saving.

Visit [giftsoflove.org](https://www.giftsoflove.org) to place your order for hens and chicks and other life-changing gifts!

We'll help you send a free, personalized e-card to your loved one, then we'll put your Gift of Love to work right away helping families lift themselves out of poverty. Until your love reaches every neighbor.

There are many different opportunities for volunteering, from working one-on-one with a child in Youth Programs to helping out at the 44-bed emergency homeless shelter. Go to <https://www.lumserve.org/volunteer/> to see a full list of volunteer opportunities.



LAFAYETTE  
URBAN  
MINISTRY



## Donation Drop-Off

Due to COVID-19, physical donations can be ordered through Sam's Club and Amazon. Please send these donations to the following address: Jennifer Shook, LTHC Homeless Services 815 North 12th Street Lafayette, IN 47904. Physical donations can also be dropped off at the donation door which is marked #4 and is on 13th Street Monday-Sunday: 8:00-5:00 pm. As a reminder, we do *not* take clothing except for new packages of socks and underwear. Thank you for your donations and cooperation!



**Host-a-Boiler Opportunity:** Give Purdue students and scholars far from home a chance to experience hospitality with local families. The Host-A-Boiler Program is held over Thanksgiving and winter break for international students and scholars who would like to experience a holiday with local community members and their families. For many students and scholars it is their first introduction to U.S. holiday traditions here in the U.S. Learn what's involved for hosts at <https://www.purdue.edu/IPPU/ISS/Student/Programming/HostABoiler/index.html>. Sign up at <https://www.purdue.edu/IPPU/Apps/IFP/Hosts/HostLogin/>. Winter Break deadline is Monday, December 13th.

Beth Tucker (*Intercultural Learning Specialist*)  
Office of International Students & Scholars  
[btucker1@purdue.edu](mailto:btucker1@purdue.edu)

# December

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|-----------|--|-----------|---|---|
|   |   |           | 1  | 2         | 3   | 4   |
|   |   |           | 6pm<br>Advent Service<br>via Zoom                                      | 8pm AA    |   | "Mature Men of<br>OSLC" meet at<br>Café Literato  |
| <b>5 Advent 2</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b>   |
| 9am Worship in-<br>person & Zoom<br>Servants Sunday<br>11:30am Wor-<br>ship in-person | Confirmation<br>Class 7pm at<br>OSLC  |           | 6pm<br>Advent Service<br>via Zoom<br>6:30pm<br>Council Mtg<br>Via Zoom | 8pm AA    |   | Jubilee Christ-<br>mas<br> |
| <b>12 Advent 3</b>  | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b>   |
| 9am Worship in-<br>person & Zoom<br>11:30am Wor-<br>ship in-person                    | Confirmation<br>Class 7pm at<br>OSLC<br> |           | 6pm<br>Advent Service<br>via Zoom                                      | 8pm AA    |   |   |
| <b>19 Advent 4</b>  | <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>   |
| 9am Worship in-<br>person & Zoom<br>11:30am Wor-<br>ship in-person                    | Confirmation<br>Class 7pm at<br>OSLC  |           | 6pm<br>Advent Service<br>via Zoom                                      | 8pm AA    | OSLC Office<br>Closed<br><br>7pm Christmas<br>Eve Service |                          |
| <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b>   |   |
| 9am Worship in-<br>person & Zoom  |   |           |  | 8pm AA    | OSLC Office<br>Closed                                     |                          |

News items for the January *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 12/23/2021. 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

Dale Buettner, Director of Faith Formation

Beth Dana, Julie Huetteman &

Sandra Vana, Musicians

Mike Williams, AV Specialist

### **PLM**

#### **Purdue Lutheran Ministry**

(765) 743-2398

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**Candice Hinkle, Intern**

**Amy Brown, Office Manager**

330 West Fowler Ave

West Lafayette, IN 47906

### **Congregational Officers**

President: Matt Ohland

Vice President: Kathy Heise

Treasurer: Sue Hermodson

Financial Secretary: John Mills

### **Congregational Council**

Mike Dana

Krista Gearhart

Allen "Buz" Grady

Diane Gray

Sherri Guido

Allen Hammer

Kathy Heise

Matt Ohland

Erin Thompson

### **Ministry Team Contacts**

Altar: Vicki Mills

Arts: Seeking contact

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: Pastor Randy

Worship & Music: Mark Hermodson

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