

The Evangel

Vol. 39, Edition 1

January 2022

**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 Jan. 2

Randy Schroeder, Pastor
Candice Hinkle, Intern

A Gratitude Season by Catherine Malotky

I must confess, God, that gratitude's serenity has been hard to hear these last months. There is still so much to distract us. We still wrestle with what to do to keep safe from the virus that continues to stalk us. We are still recovering from drought, fire and flood. We still grieve our dead, our national resolve and our sense of hope for the future. We have a growing understanding of the ways we have dehumanized your children, especially ones who do not look like us, or act like us, or love like us.

With all that going on, how can we be simply grateful? How can we welcome the story of God's incarnation in a deeper way than simply as a distraction from current events? Can we turn down the noise enough to hear the Spirit moving among us?

Remind me, gracious God, to be still. Help me to be brave, because if I am still, I will hear the voices of those who suffer. I will hear the sobs of parents whose children were taken away to die in boarding schools. I will notice the gunshots that zing across urban neighborhoods and those who dive for cover. I will feel the worry of those whose land cannot produce without chemicals anymore. I will see those who watch water sources dwindle or disappear altogether. These are overwhelming problems, God, and they will eventually damage us all.

I will need to be brave because there are no easy answers and yet you call me to serve. Remind me, dear God, to be still, to listen for your Spirit. She is there, with me. With us.

What new song will the Spirit sing into our troubled times? In his day, Peter learned to love the Gentiles. Saul turned Paul learned to love those who followed Jesus. These were neither simple nor sudden changes, but they were Spirit-led and life-giving. They changed the world. I can draw a line from my faith to these revelations. Because the Spirit is in the business of opening hearts to truth and welcome, I am an heir of God's grace. We all are.

I am grateful for this, gracious God. You, the creator of the whole universe, well beyond my comprehension, chose to take on my human form so that I might know you better. In Jesus, I can come close to imagining you and your hopes for me and our world. In him, I know my shortcomings. I can see the ways I and we together do not honor and welcome as you would have us do. But I also see your deep desire that all your creatures (human and otherwise) and this earth be honored and valued as precious to you.

Breath of God, still us and fill us so we might hear and see the wonder all around us, even in the broken places, even in the grief, even when it's hard. Perhaps especially then. Call us into the messes we make and teach us to heal—ourselves, our neighbors and our world. We ask this in gratitude. We can pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

From the Nov/Dec 2021 Issue of *Gather*, page 48.
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Epiphany 2022



Last year at this time, I asked you to consider Epiphany (the manifestation of Christ) in our homes in new and clear ways. At that point we were entering the 10th month of Covid protocols, and it was not advisable to visit with family or worship indoors. This year, we are thankful for vaccines and helpful protocols which give us the choice to visit family and worship with one another once again. *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!* is Hymn #308 from the ELW and the following is verse #2:

**“Come, precious, diamond, light divine,
and deep within our hearts now shine;
there light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be
as living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily
earth’s deep sadness
may perplex us and distress us,
yet with heavenly joy You bless us.”**

The following line caught my attention: “In Christ’s one body let us be as living branches of a tree, your life our lives supplying.”

As we continue our theme of Trees All Year, I ask that you notice the trees in your yard or context. Though they stand bare of leaves and foliage, they are alive, storing up what they need for the next season. Contrast them with the Christmas tree you put up this year. If it is still up, look at the lights and decorations you placed on its branches. Even though you might have already taken it down, at one time it was full of sparkle and memories, alive in the hearts of those who decorated it.

There are times we feel bare, stripped of our joy and dormant to the life around us. Other times we are holding the celebrations and memories of life as earth’s deep sadness perplex us and distress us. And all the while, Jesus Christ is the life which supplies us with heavenly joy.

As we strive for safety within the Covid pandemic, as we witness all affected by school shootings (especially those at Oxford High School near Detroit) and tornadoes in Kentucky that devastated homes, neighborhoods, and families. I ask you to pray for them and help where you may. In the perplexities and distresses of life, we are called to be the body of Christ, growing and reaching out with heavenly joy which God has poured out upon us.

This new year of 2022 will undoubtedly hold more perplexities and distresses, but we are promised in the gift of Jesus Christ to nurture heavenly joy. As we work together, we can be bold and courageous, as we hear in Isaiah 12:2 “Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might and has become my salvation.”

May God bless you and keep you; may God’s gift of hope, joy, peace, and love guide you in all you do. May the light of Christ shine on you throughout this year and always.

Peace,

Pastor Randy ☺

News & Notes

Council Highlights December 8, 2021

- They gave approval for the Finance Team to present the 2022 budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting (January 23, 1pm)
- New contract with Family Promise (to provide meals only)
- They continue to keep a close eye on the current surge of the pandemic in our area.

Dear OSLC community,

The Old Testament reading for December 19th was from Micah 5:2-5a. In verse 3, I think Micah answers the exiles' experiences. Micah tells them that the horribleness of the present is not the end. This apparent end is actually the beginning; Israel's hope is that God's promises do not fail no matter the catastrophe of the situation!

Over 100 tornado warnings were issued by the National Weather Service on the eve of December 10 and the early morning hours of December 11. Tornado activity was reported in Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, and Ohio. In Kentucky, a candle factory took a direct hit. In Illinois an Amazon distribution center was leveled. In Arkansas, a tornado destroyed a nursing home, where it is reported that nurses and caretakers literally threw their bodies over their patients in order to try to protect them. In several states, people lost their lives.

As the Intern, I don't know what the history of Our Saviour Lutheran Church has been and what your hearts lend causes to. I was blown away by the responses to Jubilee Christmas and the generosity and willingness to give. I wonder, how does the catastrophe of these tornadoes strike your hearts and mind? Mayfield, Kentucky is less than 5 ½ hours away. Do you feel called to service? Do you feel called to give? I'm curious how the Our Saviour faithful community might come together to help our devastated neighbors.

Merry Christmas

Intern Candice Hinkle

Philippians 4:4

Special Dates in January

January 10: Deadline for Annual Reports

January 17, 19, 21: Family Promise Meals
(OSLC provides Family Promise Dinners (delivered by 5 p.m.)

January 23: OSLC Annual Meeting at 1pm
(via zoom & in-person)

Stewardship Article January 2022

You are Awesome and APPRECIATED!!!

You are amazing! Truly amazing!

Back in September the Financial Team began its annual responsibility to construct the OSLC Budget for 2022. They gathered information from the chairperson of each ministry team and the needs put forth by the congregation. Then, with your help (by submitting your pledges) and educated estimations of other contributions (and an abundance of prayer), the team completed the proposed OSLC Budget for 2022. We will vote on this proposed budget at our Annual meeting on January 23, 2022.

The 2022 budget resembles those of recent years which includes a deficit. Yet, because of your generosity and because we have responsible individuals throughout our church, the deficits in the past have been turned into surpluses. These surpluses have allowed us to go to level 2 for budgeted line items several times. For that we thank God, and we are very grateful to you! Your faithfulness has allowed us to add the new church employee, Live Stream Production Specialist, Michael Williams to our staff.

Because of your generous gifts of time, talents and treasures, OSLC and PLM continue the ministry we are called to and have added some others.

We continue to support local organizations like LUM, which during 2021, has served 2,625 households through one of their 22 programs.

We continue to work with Family Promise and offered classes on stress management and communication training for FP parents who need assistance.

Food Finders, we continue to support financially and through service.

Our Green Space Team is continuing to dream, and plans are in progress to partner with the City of WL and CityBus to create something new on our church property, which could be funded by the City of WL.

Our shared leadership between OSLC and PLM has given us the opportunity to welcome Intern Candice Hinkle to our ministry. Intern Candice has made a big difference as we welcomed students in the fall. I cannot wait to see what Intern Candice has planned as students return for the second semester.

Thank you for all you do in your continued support of loving and serving God and neighbor. You are appreciated and loved.
Peace,
Pastor Randy

**Our
Saviour
Leading with
Compassion**

JANUARY UPDATES

Pints with a Pastor will take place January 11 and 25. Listen to the announcements for more details.

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 January 2. Our kiddos through age 12 meet in-person using a wonderful Lutheran curriculum entitled “Whirl.”

Adult Forum in January:

- Cameron Van Kooten Laughead (Room for All): January 9
- Melissa Fraterrigo (local author): January 16
- Monica Schaap Pierce (Professor and Ecumenical Director): January 23
- Sharing Forum on January 30

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

Mark your calendars:

- ◆ **Each Monday (except Jan. 3) 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, January 9, the Faith Formation Team meets after the second service.**

Assisting in Worship in January at the 9am Service

Date	Cantor	Assisting Minister	Lector	Usher	Assistant to Mike Williams
January 2	Mark Hermodson	Beth Dana	Peter Bunder	Mike Dana	Matt Ohland
January 9	Russ Hillberry	Mary L. Waltmann	Mark Hermodson	Matt Ohland	Missy Schroeder
January 16	Mark Hermodson	Robert Hershberger	Dee Hershberger	Missy Schroeder	Matt Ohland
January 23	Kathy Heise	Mary L. Waltmann	Marcia Daehler	Ted Heise	Julie Huetteman
January 30	Russ Hillberry	Robert Hershberger	Dee Hershberger	Carol Grady	Missy Schroeder

New Beginnings

O Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly King, thank you for bringing both Jews and Gentiles to hear your voice. Enable us to follow your holy Word, as those from the East followed the leading of a star. Give us grace to confess your holy name. Rule us by your Spirit, so that the joys of your birth may increase in us. Hear our prayers and cries. Accept our offerings, which you yourself have given us: the gold of our faith, the incense of our prayers, and the myrrh of our contrite hearts. Deliver us from the destructive ways of sin, and lead us in the ways of peace and in the paths of righteousness. Grant us all, when this life is done, a participation in the joys of the Year of Jubilee in heaven, where we shall praise and serve you and the Father who live and reign in unity with the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.
—Wilhelm Loeh (adapted)



“There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”
—C.S. Lewis

“One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this: to rise above the little things.”
—John Burroughs

“Deep roots are not reached by the frost.”
—J.R.R. Tolkien

Biblical resolutions

Hold firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
Pray and thank God earnestly (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
Petition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Notice opportunities to serve others (Galatians 6:10)
Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yearn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
Exercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
Aim for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
Redeem the time, living wisely (Ephesians 5:15-16)

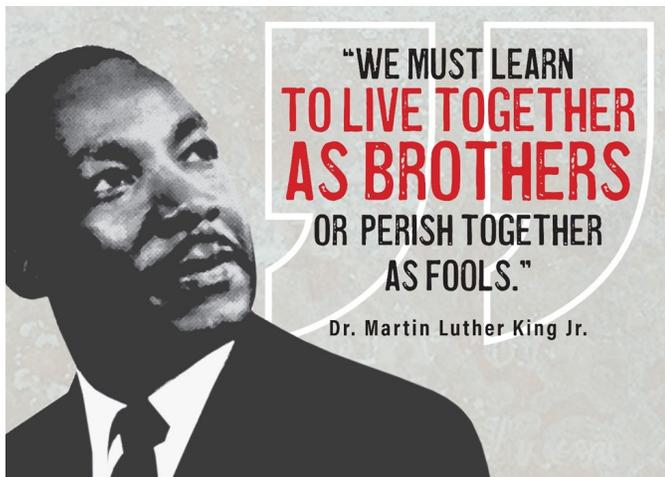
—Gus Nichols (adapted)



Turning back

In 1569 Holland, Dirk Willems, a member of the Anabaptist (now known as Mennonite) church, was imprisoned for refusing to belong to the state church. He escaped and was running across a pond's thin ice when the guard in pursuit fell through. Hearing the drowning man's cries, Willems turned back to rescue him, even though it meant his capture and subsequent execution.

Four centuries later, civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. urged us to love our enemies by not defeating them “when the opportunity presents itself.” Eventually we’ll have chances to get back at people who misuse or gossip about us, he said. But “the meaning of love” is in not doing so. “In the final analysis, love is not this sentimental something that we talk about,” said King. “It’s not merely an emotional something. Love is creative, understanding goodwill for all [people]. It is the refusal to defeat any individual.”



Social Justice

Bread for the World

Write to Congress

Bread for the World urges elected leaders in Washington, D.C., to enable people in our nation and our world to feed their families and move out of poverty. Personalized emails stand out. They tell senators and representative that you, as a constituent, really care about an issue. Members of Congress want to hear from their constituents about the issues on which they will vote in the Senate and House of Representatives. The following are issues moving in Congress and/or in the administration. This is your opportunity to change policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist here and abroad.

Global Nutrition

Conflict, climate change, growing instability in fragile states, and the coronavirus pandemic have caused significant setbacks in reducing global hunger. Now, more than ever, U.S. investments in global health, food security, and nutrition are critical for the future. Malnutrition is the leading risk factor for death among children globally, accounting for 45 percent of all child deaths—losses that are almost entirely

preventable. Congress has the opportunity through legislation to change the course of the lives of millions of children. They just need the political will.

Refundable Tax Credits

When it comes to fighting hunger, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) are proven to be the most successful at moving more children out of poverty than any other government program. COVID-19 exposed the vulnerability of the U.S. safety net and amplified the inequity that shows that Black, Latino, and Indigenous children have disproportionately higher levels of food insecurity than their white counterparts. Children are more vulnerable than any other group to the damaging impacts of hunger even for short periods. By making the recent expansion in the refundable tax credits permanent, Congress can cut child hunger in half, with even greater impacts in communities of color.

Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Reauthorization of child nutrition programs is long overdue. The programs were last authorized in 2010 when lawmakers passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. Congress is supposed to

pass legislation that funds and sets policies for national child nutrition programs every five years. The programs include school lunch and breakfast programs, afterschool and summer feeding programs, and the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). These programs serve millions of low-income children annually and ensure their access to the nutritious food they need to thrive.

One in seven families with children are not getting enough to eat because they cannot afford it, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey. Congress must enact policy that strengthen and protect child nutrition programs.

Immigration and Migration

Immigration is a hunger issue on both sides of the border. Hunger and poverty push people to leave their home countries but many remain at high risk of hunger and poverty once they arrive in the United States due to our broken immigration system.

Congress must address the root causes of migration—hunger, poverty, and climate change—by investing in nutrition programs and strengthening U.S. development and humanitarian assistance. Congress must also fix our broken immigration system by passing just comprehensive immigration reform in the U.S. that includes a pathway to citizenship for those who are undocumented.



Community-wide Jubilee Christmas served **623 families** totalling **1,746 children!** These are record breaking numbers! The LUM Tax Assistance Program has openings for volunteers to help local individuals and families with their income tax returns. YOU can make things a little easier, and provide a valuable service to the local families who rely on LUM to get their taxes done. If this sounds like a fun and rewarding experience, please join the **LUM Tax Prep Team.**



Some of the gifts and one of the elves from Jubilee Christmas at OSLC.

Thanks to all who participated and a special thanks to Beth Dana and Nancy Calahan who orchestrated the event!



**"Jesus said ...
'You give them
something
to eat.'"**

Matthew 14:16

 **breadfortheworld**
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.
425 3rd Street SW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20024
800-822-7323 bread.org

January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						"Mature Men of OSLC" meet at Café Literato
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9am Worship in-person & Zoom				8pm AA		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9am Worship in-person & Zoom S S & Servant Sunday 11:30am Worship in-person	Reports due Confirmation Class 7pm at OSLC	Pints with a Pastor	6:30pm Council Mtg Via Zoom	8pm AA		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9am Worship in-person & Zoom S S & A. Forum 11:30am Worship in-person	Confirmation Class 7pm at OSLC  Family Promise Meal		Family Promise Meal	8pm AA		Family Promise Meal
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9am Worship in-person & Zoom S S & A. Forum 11:30am Worship in-person 1pm Annual Meeting	Confirmation Class 7pm at OSLC	Pints with a Pastor		8pm AA		
30	31					
9am Worship in-person & Zoom S S & A. Forum 11:30am Worship in-person	Confirmation Class 7pm at OSLC					

News items for the February *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 1/23/2022. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

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Diane Gray

Sherri Guido

Allen Hammer

Kathy Heise

Matt Ohland

Erin Thompson

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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

The Evangel



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