

December 2021 newsletter



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In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:1-3

I have been noticing the darkness as I drive home at the end of the day. It has a beauty I've never paid attention to before. If it's not too cold, I'll stand by the car for a few minutes after getting out. Peace and calm surrounds me as I stand in the darkness. It is as if I am "making friends" with something I once feared and toward which I still harbor a bit of suspicion. The interplay of light and darkness is explored in Advent. But I have always focused on the light. Yet, both darkness and light carry the mystery of God. The light God created complements the darkness rather than extinguishing it. Darkness still has a purpose in the order of creation. Darkness is necessary for life. Seeds germinate in the dark. Large bodies of water become calmer at night. And during the night, without the distractions of the day, darkness gives us space to think, to hear, and to listen.

A lot of wonderful things that happen in scripture are enveloped in darkness. Jacob lays down to sleep and a staircase between heaven and earth filled with angels (messengers) appears. Samuel lays down to sleep and God's voice comes through the darkness to call him into his role as a prophet. Those are just two Old Testament examples. And in the New Testament? Well, all the major parts of the birth story of Jesus are surrounded by darkness. Like every child, Jesus is nourished and protected in the darkness of his mother's womb. It is dark when an angel tells Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. It is dark when the shepherds are tending their flock and the angelic choir breaks into the darkness to light up the night sky. If it were not for the darkness, the magi could not have seen and followed the bright evening star. Perhaps darkness holds more promise, more beauty, and more holiness than I realized. So my wish for you this season is that you will encounter the mystery and glory of God during these long Advent nights.

-Pastor Darla Ann



OUR LORD'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

December, 2021 | Volume 55, No 12

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www.ourlords.org

"Called to share Christ's Love with all."

DECEMBER SERVICES

Notes On Advent & Christmas:

Advent

This season starts at the end times and moves us to the beginning of the life of Jesus. It is a time of preparation and a time of waiting. Not the kind of waiting where one sits still for long periods of time. Not the kind of waiting one does in a doctor's office. No, this is a waiting that prepares us for both the celebration of Jesus' first arrival and for his arriving again. In this time of holy anticipation, we move toward Jesus. We prepare our hearts, our homes, and our church. We switch the order of worship a little bit on Sundays, setting aside the Hymn of Praise and letting the Kyrie and the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" express our longing. On Saturdays, the song "Light the Candle" carries us through the Advent weekends to the moment when our hopes will be fulfilled in Jesus.

Christmas

For twelve full days we get to celebrate the Incarnation. Jesus takes on the same skin, tissues, organs, and blood that all humans share in common. He is made out of the same dust as the first earthbeing, *adam*.

God's choice to speak to us face to face overwhelms us with joy. So, we sing. Again and again we use the words of the angels who lit up the night with their song: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

Saturday Services | 5:00 PM
Sunday Services | 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM

5 pm and 10:45 am services will be livestreamed and available to view on Our Lord's YouTube channel. Outdoor services and 8 am services will not be livestreamed.

Scriptures for Weekend Worship:

December 4 and 5

Second Sunday of Advent
"Forerunners"

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79,
Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

December 11 and 12

Third Sunday of Advent
"Rejoice"

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6,
Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

December 18 and 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent
"Singing Ahead of Time"

Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 46b-55,
Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-55

December 24

Christmas Eve

3 pm, 5 pm, 7:30 pm
"Show Us Who You Are"
Scriptures and Songs
with Holy Communion
and candle lighting

Saturday, December 25

ONLINE ONLY

Christmas Day

"Living Among Us"
Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98,
Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 26

First Sunday of Christmas

9 am

"Growing in Wisdom"
1 Samuel 2:18-20,26; Psalm 148;
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Not all scriptures listed above will be used for Saturday services.



CHRISTMAS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS



The joyful tradition of sharing Christmas with Our Neighbors at Elmwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will continue this Christmas season. You will be given an opportunity to purchase gifts for specific residents that will be delivered by the congregation on Christmas morning, or you can send a contribution and Santa will do the shopping for you. \$20 is the suggested contribution per resident.

A list of the 80 residents with their gift requests will be in the church narthex. You can choose which resident(s) you want to adopt. Wrap the gifts and put the resident's name and room number on the gift tag. If you include a card, it can be signed "From your Neighbors at Our Lord's Lutheran Church." In December, you can drop off the gift(s) in the church narthex. A signup sheet will be made available the first weekend of December.

Monetary contributions can be made through your established on-line banking, VANCO, or by sending a check to Our Lord's Lutheran Church, 150 Wilma Drive, Maryville, IL 62062. Make the checks out to OLLC and write "Elmwood" on the memo line. Any extra funds received will be used to purchase a gift of food for the staff at Elmwood.

We welcome you to join us at Elmwood on Christmas morning. Arrive by 10:00 am. We will spend approximately 45-minutes joyfully hand delivering the gifts. The visit will culminate with the singing of Christmas carols.

Carol Gocken; 618-531-7824

Karen Tilashalski; 618-806-6373



FAIR TRADE STORE & WINTER EVENTS



Merry Christmas From Our Lord's Fair Trade Ministry

We're having fun with our Fall & Winter events at Our Lord's. At the October 30th event, Spooky Plant Swap & Sale, many church members and friends made purchases from the Fair Trade booth as well as giving me order requests. It was nice to see so many people out in the fresh air though a little nippy. On this day we took in over \$600 for the Fair Trade Ministry. We sold almost all of the Wood items, as well as the Bread warmers we had in stock. The week following that event I had quite a few Special Order request and took in over \$700.

For the Holiday Season and going forward we are planning numerous events for everyone's enjoyment. Just this past Saturday, November 27th, from 10 AM until 3 PM, we celebrated Small Business Saturday. Once again we had many booths including Olivia's NBD Plants as well as Fair Trade.



Stay tuned for future event announcements!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to all who have submitted their 2022 commitment cards thus far. If you have not yet been able to submit your cards, please do so by mail or in person by **December 5**. Cards can be dropped off to the office, mailed to the office, or dropped off directly in person at weekend worship.

2022 Giving Commitment

Recognizing that all that we are, all that we have, and all that we can be are gracious gifts from God, I/We commit to do my/our best to financially support the mission and ministry of Our Lord's in 2022.



My/Our Commitment is:

General and Benevolence: \$ _____ per week *OR* \$ _____ per month

AND

VIF Mortgage Reduction: \$ _____ per week *OR* \$ _____ per month

Name(s) _____

Keep this portion as a reminder of your 2022 Commitment

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **January 30 at 12:15 pm**. The event will be offered in person in the Worship Center Fellowship Hall, and a large monitor, podcasting microphone, and laptop will be set up so that anyone can participate via Zoom! This will allow everyone to attend in the way in which they feel most comfortable. Zoom information will be sent out soon. Reports should be submitted by **December 31**.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Restoring Our Lord's House

We are nearly there! Only two tasks remain on the Restore Our Lord's House project list --- new air conditioning units for the fellowship hall and sealing the sanctuary ceiling. Both jobs will be held off until sufficient funds have been raised. All other tasks identified for the remodel have been completed! We could not have done this without you.

The carpeting and painting of the fellowship hall was completed and all furniture, including the glass display cases, have been set in place. The youth room remodel is complete as well. A large bookcase for the collection of OLLC ministry items was recently received and installed in the hallway near the narthex. We anticipate delivery of upholstered seating for the narthex, oak furniture for narthex and commons, as well as new tables for the commons in early spring.

Thank you for your prayers, your financial support, your time and your patience during the remodel.

OLLC can now move toward a future with a renewed focus on community, ministry and sharing God's love.



SOS SOUP KITCHEN

The holiday season is rapidly approaching. You already see Christmas items in the stores and radio stations have begun playing Christmas carols. And after a much scaled back COVID Thanksgiving last year, many of us are looking forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations with the family this year. Reflecting on the past year and the future, I must admit I feel abundantly blessed.

At the same time, I know there are those in our community who live with food insecurity and struggle to provide basics for their family. We at Our Lord's have been able to support Collinsville's Spirt of Sharing (SOS) soup kitchen for quite some time. We were serving our Taco dinner to approximately 90+ patrons monthly pre-COVID. Over the last 18 months we've provided over 400 lunches for the SOS to share with our community. Again, the congregation has been very generous supporting the effort with monetary contributions.

SoS is now back to serving dinners and will be boxing up meals for drive through pick up. Beginning in December OLLC will resume serving dinners monthly. Our Confirmation class will be participating in preparing the dinner for the December 14th drive through. We will need adults to serve the meals at the drive through. (We prefer vaccinated members.) With the start of the new year we will serve a taco casserole, our first day of service is January 13. I will publish the following months schedule at a later time.

I will have a signup sheet in the narthex for both December and January dinners. I want to again thank everyone for their generosity in prayer, financial support, food preparation and serving the meal. Through this program we can share God's love with the community.

Peace, love and God's blessings - Gail Jorgenson



MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Youth Chorus

Our youth chorus is hard at work rehearsing and preparing for our December performances. Events and services to look out for:

December 19, 5:00 pm - Our Lord's Lutheran Church (sanctuary) - Live performance (open to the public) as a part of Thomas Voice Studio's Winter Recital.

December 24 & 25 - Recordings will be featured in Our Lord's Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and will be available for streaming and playback on Youtube.

OLLC Chancel Choir

Time: Wednesdays 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Performances: 2 Sundays a month

Location: Worship Center

Christmas Break: Dec 26 - Jan 19



5

OLLC Handbell Choir

Time: Thursdays 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Performances: Monthly on the 3rd Sunday

Location: Worship Center

Christmas Break: Dec 26 - Jan 19



EDUCATION MINISTRY

Questions Bible Study

Mondays at 10:00 am

This study explores the topic of "Thinking About Religion And Violence." It looks at the factors involved in the increase in religious violence, including the history of religious violence, its multiple manifestations, its scriptural justifications, and how its perpetrators perceive the world.

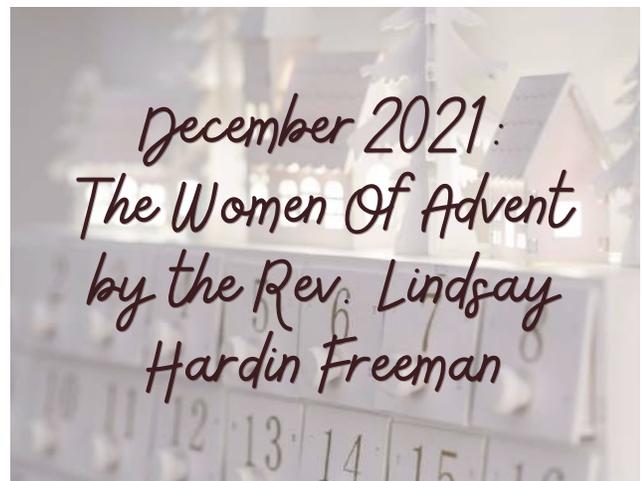
We will not meet on December 27. We will resume January 3.

Morning Glories Bible Study

2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 10:00 am

Advent can be a wonderful mix of emotions: joy, delight and anticipation. Sometimes, however, we may find ourselves consumed with too many details, and even worse, sorrows of years past.

So, in this time of joyous anticipation and somber reflection, what to do about those mixed emotions? Look to the women of the Bible, especially the strong, bold, outspoken women directly connected to Jesus' birth: Hannah, Mary, Elizabeth and Anna. Collectively they dealt with the death of a son, the death of a spouse, harassment, infertility, fear, anxiety and grief. Think of them as your spiritual grandmothers, your guides in traversing difficult ground. If we ignore their stories, we miss out on a literal host of resources — and just perhaps, a richer Advent.



Confirmation Class

Sundays at 9:15 am

Our December Schedule:

December 5 - Voice of Prophets (Advent 2) - Ed Foppe

December 12 - Birth of Jesus (Advent 3) - Ed Foppe | Prepping Marilyn's Mac & Cheese for SOS

December 14 - SOS Soup Kitchen Drive Thru (4:00 pm - 7:00 pm) | First United Presbyterian Church

December 17 - Game Night at the Foppe's!

We will not meet on December 19, December 26, or January 2. Confirmation Class will resume January 9.

Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 9:15 am

This study addresses the question of "How Jesus Became God." The course covers the transformation of Jesus from Jewish preacher to Lord God within its historical context, looks at the focal points of Jesus's ministry and whether he considered himself divine, examines the key event that promoted the idea that Jesus was God, and will study the Christian theological persuasions of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th centuries.

We will not meet on December 26.

We will resume on January 2.

EDUCATION MINISTRY CONT.

High School Sunday School & Youth Group

Sundays at 9:30 am

Greenery pickup will be coordinated through the Church office once our order arrives. Extra greenery is available for purchase. This includes several wreaths, tabletop centerpieces, and reindeer sets.

2022 Gathering: Boundless! will take place in July of 2022 in Minneapolis, MN. Our icebreaker session for those who are attending (along with St. Mark's Lutheran Church) will be on either December 3 or 10 (the date will be announced shortly). Details will be emailed out to those attending the youth gathering.

Elementary Sunday School

Sundays at 9:30 am

Elementary Sunday School (Pre-K – 5th grade) will be meeting in person at the Life Center (in the front office area) weekly at 9:30 am. Weekly kits are available to pick up at the Life Center during the week. We are currently looking for donations of individually pre-packaged snacks (cookies, crackers, etc.), construction paper, glue sticks, and other miscellaneous craft supplies.

We will not meet on December 19, December 26, or January 2. Sunday School will resume January 9.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Serendipity Book Club

We will **not** have a meeting in December. Our next meeting will be **Monday, January 24 at 11:30 am** in the Life Center conference room. Bringing your lunch is optional. We will be reading "Just As I Am" by Cicely Tyso. The meeting will also be available on zoom for anyone who may find that more convenient.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86728416039?pwd=NVI2VGh2QmU5NVJ2czZFd24xUjVMUT09>

Meeting ID: 867 2841 6039 Passcode: 388782

Tuesday Tea



Time: 3:00 PM Central Time - every week on Tuesday.
All are welcome to join us for conversation.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839398550?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839398550?pwd=cTZUVi8ycjNJS296ZnZ4U3ErTGtwQT09)

[pwd=cTZUVi8ycjNJS296ZnZ4U3ErTGtwQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839398550?pwd=cTZUVi8ycjNJS296ZnZ4U3ErTGtwQT09)

Meeting ID: 868 3939 8550 Passcode: 511171



COUNCIL BRIEFS

Your Church Council held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 15. Listed below are two of the highlights of our meeting. A link to the approved minutes for this meeting will be in next month's newsletter.

A team consisting of Rhonda Comrie, Olivia Cross, Linda Eakin, Max Eakin, Linda Hester, Kathy Hoelscher, Pastor Kratzer, KaLonny Short, Cady Thomas, and Loretta Williams interviewed Joe Lama and highly recommended him to the Council as the new Director of Non-Traditional Music. The Council unanimously voted to offer Joe Lama this position. We hope to formally introduce Joe to the congregation soon!

Carol Orr was appointed as Service Core Leader of the Ministry Support Team (commonly known as the Steering Team). Carol takes over for Harvey Chiles, who began serving in this position last February. Welcome aboard Carol!

Our next Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 6. Please contact any of the Council members (Pastor Darla Ann, Laura Schoenecker, Linda Hester, Max Eakin, Dana Callahan, or Tom Steinmann) if you have any concerns that need to be addressed.

A link to the approved minutes from the previous month's Council meeting is provided below.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1z6-pRPlzs_xN05Rk91DIs27VbgZcff5t?usp=sharing

WORKER BEES



The Worker Bees' Meeting and Breakfast is on **Saturday, December 4th** at 7 am in the Fellowship Hall. If you feel comfortable, please come out for fellowship and church work. If you plan on attending, please confirm by email or text to Steve Hoelscher.

December Chefs: Jeff Beauchamp
Jim Spencer

BUILDING USE POLICIES

Masks are currently required during indoor worship services, meetings, and other gatherings. You may sit wherever you want during worship services. Spaces in the Worship Center and Life Center Buildings may be reserved for group meetings by contacting our Administrative Assistant, Olivia, via phone or email (listed below) and we ask that you continue to disinfect the space after your group has used it. We will continue to update building usage policies in accordance with national and local safety guidelines regarding COVID-19.

Reserve your space: (618) 345-5692 or love2haveu@ourlords.org



FAITH IN ACTION

Here is an update of Collinsville Faith in Action's events tied to their services and programs.

1. Join us on Thursday, December 2 from 9A-12 noon at the Collinsville Senior Center. With the Senior Center, AgeSmart Area Agency on Aging, and St. John Community Care, we will be offering free information and prizes to area residents interested in learning about free services and programs for Collinsville-area residents over the age of 60.
2. Wednesday, December 15 is the raffle drawing for all five of the Christmas 2021 Themed Stockings. Themes include Health & Wellness, Gasoline/Fuel, Wine, Restaurants, and Lottery. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 tickets for \$10. Stop into our offices at 233 N. Seminary or call 618-344-8080 to purchase. All proceeds benefit area residents over the age of 60 and adults with disabilities.
3. Did you know smoke detectors expire? Stay off that ladder and let us help! Through the end of this year, Collinsville Faith in Action has partnered with the Collinsville Fire Department to offer a free smoke detector inspection and upgrade to people 60 years of age and older and adults with disabilities. Rather than risking a fall by changing the batteries in your smoke detector, call 618-344-8080 to get this FREE service. Trained firefighters will change the batteries in all smoke detectors in the home, or, if necessary, replace the smoke detectors with new ones. Registration is required, but the service is free. There is no charge for the batteries, replacement smoke detectors, or service. Call 618-344-8080 to register.

May your holidays be a time of joy, peace, and insight of our many blessings.

In gratitude,
Lisa C. Brennan

FINANCIAL NEWS

Total receipts for October 2021	\$27,955 (anticipated budget amount of \$30,583)
Total expenditures for October 2021	\$32,949 (anticipated budget amount of \$31,750)
Total receipts for 2021 as of 10/31/2021	\$319,649 (anticipated budget amount of \$305,830)
Total expenditures for 2021 as of 10/31/2021	\$382,538 (anticipated budget amount of \$317,500)
Mortgage principal paid in October 2021	\$4,520
Total mortgage paid in 2021	\$29,637
Remaining principal on mortgage	\$45,856
Cash - Unrestricted	\$25,649 (CD \$25,000 matures in December 2021)
Cash - Designated	\$70,710

The above receipts and expenditures includes the Restoring Our Lord's House campaign, VIF/BOOM, and designated "pass-through" gifts.

REMINDERS

PRAYER LIST - Please let Olivia know if you would like to add a new person, remove a current person, or change the status of anyone on our prayer list.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Reminder: Newsletter Deadline (to submit articles for December's Newsletter): Wednesday, December 15.

WHEN YOU HAVE CHANGES - Please let the church office know of changes to e-mail address, mail/resident addresses, telephone numbers, job, college, graduations etc.

PRAYER VENTURES - Two pages of monthly prayer support for ELCA ministries are available in printed copy in our Worship Center and Life Center or accessed at www.elca.org/prayerventures

CENTRAL SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD (CSIS) WEB SITE: www.csis-elca.org

ELCA WEB SITE: www.elca.org

If you would like to receive text message updates regarding outdoor services, special events, and emergency notifications such as cancellations, you can now sign up for Remind. Simply follow the instructions below to be added to our list.

To sign up for updates regarding Saturday services, text **@ollcsat** to **81010**.

To sign up for updates regarding Sunday services, text **@ollcsun** to **81010**.



ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Abigail Tiemann | Rachel Lee | Grant Lang | Irene VanHooser |
| Erick Larson | Jack Rimar | Dean Lackey | Kendyll Orr |
| Carol Gocken | Sue Green | Joel Kampwerth | Susanne Richter |
| Brian Hartke | Ian Maue | Crichton Williams | Linda Spencer |
| Anna Rimar | Caitlyn Baczewski | Bill Davidson | Loretta Williams |
| Carol Hancock | Kaitlyn Blotevogel | Sophia Helms | |



Anniversaries

- Jeff & Penny Waterman
- Brian & Jaime Henderson
- Don Simonson & Jan Vinson
- Bruce & Mary Ann Fritz
- Randy & Erin Helms
- Brian & Doug Lotz-Manns



Celebrating a birthday or anniversary?

Our florist is Shirl K Floral Designs in Granite City, IL. The arrangements are \$30.00, there is a \$10.00 fee for delivery (no sales tax). You may sign up for altar flowers using the calendar on the sacristy door or by contacting the church office directly. Please check with the church office in advance before calling them at (618) 797-6210 to request a customized arrangement.



PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAY FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Harleigh Johnson	Bonnie Isom
Bob Meyer	Luella Meyer
KC Jensen	Kathy & Stan Larson
Kevin Wyvell	Craig & Jo Albright
Fritz Nemsky	Chad Baczewski
Charles Lozier	Phil Seris
Angel Lipham	Holle
Tracy Sides	

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Kim Payne	Lance Wellener
Dan Homes	Georgia Rinkel
Linda Spencer	Brian Kassing
Jim Lemke	Matt Gross
Bill Davidson	Pastor John Lottes
Robin Wellener	Nancy Lutz
Lisa White	Dave Gocken
Karen Tilashalski	Mary Olsen

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING

Family and friends of: *Judy Douiglass* *John Rodriguez Jr.* *Adam Banks*

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lance Cpl. Clayton Campbell
Major James Carmichael
Capt. Blake Crosby
Airborne Ranger Keegan Crosby
Staff Sgt. Tyson Crosby
SPC Bill Homes
Charles Homes
Zach Huff
SrA Lucas Maue
John Meyer
Zachary Neubauer
Amador Ochoa
Josh Pace
Scott Prengel
Jake Randall
Jack Scoles
PFC Eric Shelton
Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith
Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)
Staff Sgt. Stephan Spencer
Erica Webb, US Private E-3

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers...because of your sharing in the gospel..."
Philippians 1:3-4

In my prayers, I give thanks for the ministry of Katie Noga during her years of service as Facebook Coordinator for the Our Lord's Lutheran page. Social media is an extremely valuable mode of communication for congregations and during Katie's time as coordinator she expanded our use of Facebook while developing wise policies for church posts. My first introduction to this congregation (after receiving the ministry site profile from the C/SIS Synod) was through Katie's posts. Photos of activities, daily devotional entries written by members of the congregation, and the weekend update were all there. Through her ministry she shared the vitality of this congregation with Facebook followers far and wide. She has concluded her social media ministry, but we can always give thanks to God for using her to spread good news!

-Pastor Darla Ann

For nine months, the LICMA Team has worked to discern our direction as a congregation for the next three years. We received input from the members of the congregation through the survey in the spring, through the digital bulletin board throughout the summer, and through many, many conversations.

Last month we shared with you the values we identified that are at the core of who we are as a congregation. During worship services in November, Pastor Kratzer began sharing the areas of focus for Our Lord's Lutheran during the next three years. Our Vision 2024 plan lists those as Ministry Result Areas. Here they are in print for your review.

Vision Statement: To be a Christ-centered place of belonging.

Nurture young children, youth, emerging adults, and young families

- Develop an innovative, re-imagined youth ministry program
- Increase interaction between young families and older members
- Promote and encourage youth involvement in congregation

Engage in diverse worship rhythms that engage participants and inspire spiritual growth

- Clearly define and communicate the style of each of our weekend worship services
- Open arms to all through diverse worship opportunities
- Continually improve on our musical, technological and worship skills to offer accessible and revitalizing worship services
- Celebrate togetherness as a full congregation through worship and expressive music events
- Emphasize practices in worship that equip participants for faithful living in daily life

← Ministry Result Areas



Develop caring and connected relationships

- Gather our members and other people for dialogue
- Find and take opportunities to help people share their stories, joys and concerns
- Create a variety of "connect groups" for different stages of life and interest areas
- Build and sustain deep relationships within the congregation

Serve one another, our communities, the wider world, and God's creation

- Exhibit compassion through the everyday roles and relationships of our members
- Equip our members to live out our mission in their daily lives
- Partner with existing community service organizations to expand serving opportunities to Edwardsville, Glen Carbon and Troy areas

The LICMA team (see the following page for a list of team members) will be available to answer your questions during the January 30 Annual Congregational Meeting.

Moving forward, the Church Council, Ministry Support Team, and congregational members will discern the development and implementation of ministries, goals, and details within the result areas laid out above.

LOOKING AHEAD

JANUARY

- New Year's Day, Jan 1
- Epiphany, Jan 6
- Un-Greening Of The Church, Jan 8
- Baptism of Our Lord, Jan 8-9
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan 17, Office Closed
- Newsletter Deadline, Jan 18
- Annual Congregational Meeting, Jan 30

FEBRUARY

- First Day of Black History Month, Feb 1
- Presentation of Our Lord, Feb 2
- Valentine's Day, Feb 14
- Newsletter Deadline, Feb 15
- President's Day, Office Closed, Feb 21
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, Feb 26-27

MARCH

- First Day of Women's History Month, Mar 1
- Ash Wednesday, Mar 2
- Holden Evening Prayer, Mar 9
- Daylight Savings Time Starts, Mar 13
- Newsletter Deadline, Mar 15
- St. Patrick's Day, Mar 17

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and special observances. All events are subject to change due to COVID-19.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

OLLC Staff

The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann Kratzer, Pastor
Olivia Cross, Administrative Assistant
Joseph Lama, Director of Non-Traditional Music
Cady Thomas, Director of Worship Music for Sundays and Special Services
Dr. Rhonda Comrie, Organist
Matt Gross, Streaming Tech
Jenna Lathrom, Sound

Church Council

Tom Steinmann, President
Dana Callahan, Vice President
Dr. Laura Schoenecker, Secretary
Dr. Max Eakin, Treasurer
Linda Hester, At Large
The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann R. Kratzer, Pastor

LICMA

Dr. Laura Schoenecker
(Council Representative)
Dr. Rhonda Comrie
(Steering Team Representative)
Brian Henderson
Mike Hester
Stacie Kirk
The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann Kratzer

Ministry Support Team

Ed & Laura Foppe, Steering Team Coordinators
Lyn Kampwerth (Education)
Dr. Rhonda Comrie (Fellowship)
Matt Blind (IT)
Carol Orr (Service)
Kalonny Short (Worship)

Fair Trade Store
Mike Williams
vablu2@aol.com

Sunday School & VBS
Lisa White

THANK
YOU

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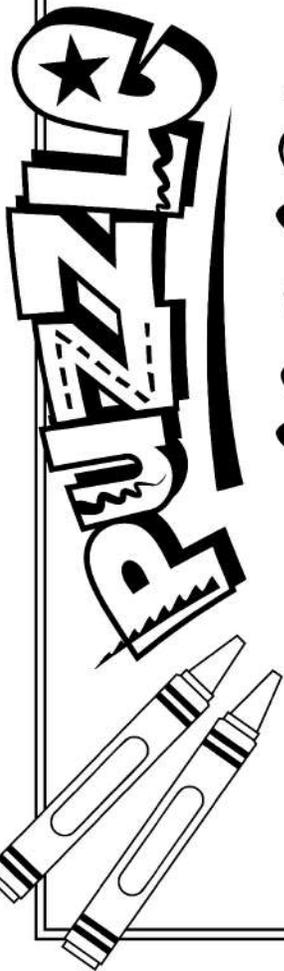
Newsletter
Olivia Cross
love2haveu@ourlords.org

Facebook
Olivia Cross (interim)

What are 3 things you are excited about receiving for Christmas this year? What are 3 things you are excited to GIVE this year?



Gift Exchange ♡



Symbols of the season

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.



Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.

shepherd's staff

tree that keeps its leaves

shines to lead the way

green for eternal life, &

red for Jesus' blood

sounds to announce

good news

has no beginning or end

Th ks b to od fo is

indesc ba le gif !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath; Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

MONTHLY
GIVING
EMPHASIS:



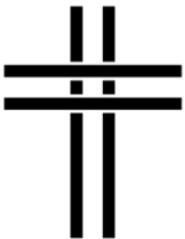
			1 6:30 PM Chancel Choir - WC	2 4:00 PM Music Lessons, WC 7:30 PM Bell Choir - WC	3 Pastor's Sabbath 10:00 AM Tilashalski Event - WCFH 3:00 PM Music Lessons, WC	4 Advent 2 7:00 AM Worker Bees 8:00 AM Greening of the Church 3:45 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: In- Building Praise Service
5 Advent 2 8:00 AM Worship: In-Building Traditional Service 9:15 AM Confirmation Class 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM High School Sunday School Class 10:45 AM Worship: In- Building Traditional Service	6 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC 3:00 PM Music Lessons, WC 6:30 PM Church Council	7 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea - Zoom 4:00 PM Music Lessons, WC 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conf Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anon - LC Basement	8 6:30 PM Chancel Choir - WC 7:00 PM Lakeview Garden Club - WCFH	9 10:00 AM Morning Glories 4:00 PM Music Lessons, WC 7:30 PM Bell Choir - WC	10 Pastor's Sabbath 3:00 PM Music Lessons, WC	11 Advent 3 8:00 AM Recording Session - WC 10:00 AM Birthday Celebration - LC Basement 3:45 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: In- Building Praise Service
12 Advent 3 8:00 AM Worship: In-Building Traditional Service 9:15 AM Confirmation Class 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM High School Sunday School Class 10:45 AM Worship: In- Building Traditional Service	13 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC 3:00 PM Music Lessons, WC 6:30 pm Ministry Support Team Meeting	14 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea - Zoom 4:00 PM Music Lessons, WC 4:00 PM SOS Drive Thru 7:00 PM NAR - ANON - LC Conf Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anon - LC Basement	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM Chancel Choir - WC	16 4:00 PM Music Lessons, WC	17 Pastor's Sabbath 3:00 PM Music Lessons, WC	18 Advent 4 3:45 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: In- Building Praise Service
19 Advent 4 8:00 AM Worship: In-Building Traditional Service 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:45 AM Worship: In- Building Traditional Service <i>Winter Break For All Education Classes</i>	20 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC 11:30 AM Serendipity Book Club 3:00 PM Music Lessons, WC	21 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea - Zoom 4:00 PM Music Lessons, WC 7:00 PM NAR - ANON - LC Conf Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anon - LC Basement	22 6:30 PM Chancel Choir & Bell Choir - WC	23 10:00 AM Morning Glories 4:00 PM Music Lessons, WC	24 Christmas Eve 3:00 PM In- Building Trad. Service 5:00 PM In- Building Trad. Service 7:00 PM In- Building Praise Service	25 Christmas Day Online Service (pre- recorded) 10:00 AM Christmas With Our Neighbors
26 9:00 AM Worship: In-Building Traditional Service <i>Winter Break For All Education Classes</i>	27 Office Closed 3:00 PM Music Lessons, WC	28 Office Closed 4:00 PM Music Lessons, WC 7:00 PM NAR - ANON - LC Conf Room 7:00 PM Narcotics Anon - LC Basement	29	30 Annual Reports Due 4:00 PM Music Lessons, WC	31 New Year's Eve Pastor's Sabbath	



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