



# December 2023 newsletter

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*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

Luke 2:10

When are those times when you cannot help but share a story? There are moments in our lives where we have to share what has happened or what could happen, moments we cannot contain ourselves. We need others to know; we need others to share our laments and our joys. We spread the word.

Each year as we enter Advent we are encouraged to both listen to and share "tidings of comfort and joy." In the year of Mark, we hear from a gospel that was meant to be shared in one sitting. Mark is the story-telling gospel, short and easy to hear. In our Advent and Christmas season (year B of the Revised Common Lectionary) we may only read from Mark twice, but the urgency is felt in the two readings: hear the story! Enter the story! Share the story!

We are drawn-in further as John's gospel speaks of the beginning and the WORD. Then we find ourselves listening to messengers from God, who bring us tidings of great joy, first through the love of Mary who tells us of the one who turns the world upside-down, and then to the shepherds who bear witness and tell the story to all who will listen of a babe in a manger in Bethlehem.

From stories that are cosmic to stories that give us glimpses of a faithful family, these tidings we are called to share become part of our story. Our voices join the voices of the season to bring tidings of hope, peace, joy, and love to a world in need of such a resounding story.

*Pastor Darla Ann*



**OUR LORD'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

December, 2023 | Volume 57, No 12

A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

[www.ourlords.org](http://www.ourlords.org)

**HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER  
IN ADVENT  
WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 PM**

**Pause    December 6th  
Prepare    December 13th  
Ponder    December 20th**

# December Services



## Tidings

What are tidings? Tidings are the news-worthy stories to share. Tidings are the things that give us information on events that shape our world. To begin our church-year, what better exercise is there than to offer tidings of God's story breaking-in to our world: a story that resonates through all time and space.

Tidings liturgy materials used by permission of the Eastern Missouri Conference, Central States Synod, ELCA. Copyright 2023.

**December 2 & 3  
First Weekend of Advent  
"Tidings of the End"  
Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13: 24-37**

**December 9 & 10  
Second Weekend of Advent  
Saturday: Children's Christmas Pageant  
Sunday: "Tidings of the Beginning"  
Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8**

**December 16 & 17  
Third Weekend of Advent  
"Tidings of Joy"  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**December 23  
Fourth Weekend of Advent  
"Tidings of Disruption"  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:26-38;  
Luke 1:46b-55**

**December 24  
Christmas Eve – 9 am, 4 pm, 7:30 pm  
"Glad Tidings"  
Isaiah 9:2-7; Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-20**

**December 25  
Christmas Day – 9 am  
"Tidings of Cosmic Proportions"  
John 1:1-14**

**December 30 & 31  
First Weekend of Christmas  
"Tidings of Comfort"  
Isaiah Chapter 61:10 – Chapter 62:3,  
Luke 2:22-40**

Saturdays at 5 pm and Sundays at 9 am  
(unless otherwise noted)  
2nd Sunday 2nd Service at 10:45 am

5:00 pm and 9:00 am services will be livestreamed.

Not all scriptures listed will be used for Saturday worship.

# DECEMBER GIVING EMPHASIS: CHRISTMAS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

The festive tradition of sharing Christmas with Our Neighbors at Elmwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will continue this Christmas season. By the weekend of December 2-3, a list of residents with their gift requests will be in the church narthex. Choose which resident(s) you want to adopt and sign up by providing your name and phone number. Then take the corresponding Christmas card(s) from the box next to the list. Each card will contain the resident's wish list and directions for preparing and returning the gifts to the church narthex by December 17. The suggested contribution is \$20-25 per resident.

**Gifts should be wrapped and returned to OLLC by December 17.**

Monetary contributions can be made through your established on-line banking, VANCO, by leaving a check in the donation basket or 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 for other Elmwood Outreach projects.

On Christmas morning, the gifts will be distributed to Elmwood residents immediately following the 9:00 am service. All Our Lord's members and their guests are invited to meet at Elmwood at 10:00 am to begin gift distributions. Our visit with the residents will culminate with the singing of carols.

If you have any question, please contact Carol Gocken at 618-531-7824 or [CGocken@yahoo.com](mailto:CGocken@yahoo.com), or Karen Tilashalski at 618-806-6373 or [KLT@charter.net](mailto:KLT@charter.net).



## GREENING THE CHURCH - DECEMBER 2

In preparation for Christmas, the church will be decorated **December 2, beginning at 8 am.**

Trees decorated, nativity scene set up, outdoor decorations hung, wreaths placed, nativity collection displayed, windows decorated, advent wreath hung, and much more.

Make this event a part of your holiday preparations! Everyone is invited to participate

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DECEMBER 9

### *The Symbols of Christmas*

A Christmas Service for the Congregation & Children

**Saturday, December 9, at 5:00 pm service**

Rehearsal, December 3 at 10:15 am in WC Sanctuary

Please join us as the children share the various words and songs that celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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# OLY CHRISTMAS PARTY



## Our Lord's Youth Christmas Party

Friday, December 8th 5:30 – 8:00 pm

All High School Youth are invited to a festive evening where we will decorate cookies, enjoy Dewey's Pizza (plus some special foods some members of the group are planning to make), watch a Christmas movie and play Hallmark Bingo while we eat. There will also be Christmas Charades, Holiday Movie Trivia, Hit the Grinch, and Guess the Scent.

For our annual gift opening each participant is to bring five wrapped gifts (including one secondhand gift).

## FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS STORE



By the time you read this we will have great plans for hopefully a very successful Holiday Season for our Ministry. December 2nd & 3rd will be the St. John "Deck The Halls" Christmas Bazaar. On December 9th & 10th, as well as the 16th & 17th, the " **OUR LORD's Christmas Store**" returns!! There will be TWO Rooms to shop for great gifts for Christmas, Birthdays, Anniversaries or Just Because.

I look forward to seeing familiar faces and new ones at the bringing back of the Christmas Store in a much different format. There will be NEW items from Ornaments, Decor, Kitchen Accessories, Metal Art, Etc.



*December 2 & 3 @ St. Johns  
(Sat. 10—5:30) (Sun. 10:30—2)  
December 9 & 10, 16 & 17 @ OLLC  
(Saturdays 4pm -7pm) (Sundays 8am—12pm)*



**Be A Part Of The Excitement!**

## FESTIVAL OF TREES

### Collinsville Area Community Foundation's 30th Annual Festival of Trees

Wednesday, December 6

Collinsville Gateway Convention Center

The Foundation has named **Collinsville Faith in Action (CFIA)** as the sole recipient of funds raised at the event, so your support will directly benefit the clients of CFIA.

Guests enjoy food, desserts & drinks along with a silent auction for trees and decorations

Tickets and more information are available at <https://www.festivaloftrees.info/>.



## SUNDAY SINGERS AND RINGERS NEEDED!

If you love music and would like to spend your Thursday evenings laughing, learning, and making a joyful noise, you are welcome! Please contact Cady Thomas Potts at 417-268-8777 or [cady.thomas@ourlords.org](mailto:cady.thomas@ourlords.org) for more information.

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 6 pm;  
Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7pm**

## OLLC PRAISE BAND

Saturdays 3:30 pm (practice);  
5:00 pm (performance)  
To join, contact [lemuelsmith@ourlords.org](mailto:lemuelsmith@ourlords.org)

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY HOSPITALITY HOSTS NEEDED

There is just something about chatting and fellowshiping over food, whether it is snacks or a light meal. Face it: food brings people together.

Additional hosts are needed for Saturday nights following the 5 pm service and Sunday mornings following the 9 am service. If you don't think you are qualified for hospitality because you are young, single, working, etc., you may want to team up and host with another member.

Saturday nights are usually light suppers serving between 15-20 people. Sunday mornings consist of breakfast pastries, fruit, & cookies serving between 10-20 people.

What are the responsibilities of Hospitality Hosts?

- prepare coffee/cold drinks
- set out paper products (plates, napkins, plastic ware) on the food credenza
- clean up consists of cleaning coffee pots and airpots and return airpots to their location on coffee bar in Fellowship Hall.
- wash, dry, and return all items to proper location in kitchen/Fellowship Hall (Do Not Leave any Dishes/Utensils air drying on counter or in the sink)
- remove all trash in the Commons Area. Bags should be tied up and carried to dumpster located between shed and Elmwood Care Center or placed in large yellow container in Kitchen Area. Replace with new trash can liner (kept in the right cabinet in Credenza)
- wipe down all tables, food credenza, coffee/drink area, kitchen counters, stoves, etc. Spot clean chairs if needed.
- sweep floor if needed and spot clean chairs of spills
- dispose of all leftovers. Do Not place leftover food in refrigerator.

Visit the table in the Narthex for Hospitality Hosts sign up sheet.

Any questions, contact Kay Chaffee (618-210-9876) or Cindy Pugh (618-334-1046).

## ***SOS Spirit of Sharing Soup Kitchen - December 12***

### WORKER BEES



The Worker Bees will next meet on **Saturday, December 2, at 7:00 am** and will be assisting with Greening the Church at 8 AM. If you plan on attending, please confirm by email or text to Chuck Pugh.

**Worker Bees is in need of volunteers to assist with the mowing and trimming during the warmer months. The schedule is designed to limit your mowing/trimming commitment to once per month. If you're interested in becoming a mower or trimmer, please contact the church office!**

# OLLC CYCLISTS RAISE FUNDS FOR AFRICAN VISION OF HOPE

## They did it!

Dave Gocken & Rod Orr were successful in their efforts to raise fund for African Vision of Hope. Rod & Dave completed their ride across Missouri on the Katy Trail riding a total of 240 miles. If you signed up to sponsor Dave & Rod on their ride, please submit your donation to OLLC, identify "Katy Trail Ride" in the memo line of your check.

100% of donations will be sent to AVoH.



## OLLC ONLINE DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE!

Our church directory is now online and ready for viewing. We are asking everyone to access the document and verify that your information is correct. If changes are needed, you can edit the information. You can change your photo as well. If you would like an updated photo, Erick Larson has agreed to be our photographer. Contact Erick [kiddydan@gmail.com](mailto:kiddydan@gmail.com) to schedule a convenient time.

There are three ways to access the online directory:

- Go to [ourlords.org](http://ourlords.org). Within the resource tab, select directory.
- Go to the Resources page within the church website, <https://ourlords.org/resources>, select the Instant Church Directory and follow the prompts.
- Go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](http://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now."

Whichever way you choose to access the directory, you will need to use the email address as listed in our directory (the email currently on file with the office).

1. Click on the Create Login button under: First time signing in?
2. Enter the email address as it is listed in the family portion of the directory.
3. Create a password. The password must be 8 characters long and contain at least two of the following special characters: capital letters, numbers or symbols.
4. Retype the password to confirm it and click Request Login.
5. Check your inbox for an email from [service@instantchurchdirectory.com](mailto:service@instantchurchdirectory.com)
6. To complete the sign-up process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email.
7. Once you confirm your email, you may sign at [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](http://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com).

Your email with the password you created will work on all the Instant Church Directory apps on any device. A free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "Instant Church Directory" to get the download.

A print option of the directory will be available soon!  
Need help or have questions? Please contact  
[love2haveu@ourlords.org](mailto:love2haveu@ourlords.org)



# CHRISTMAS GIVING TO OUR LORD'S



Many building & maintenance projects were completed during 2023, yet there are still more to do. It takes time, energy, and funds to complete necessary church maintenance. If you are willing to work on one of the tasks identified below or willing to assist with funding of a project your efforts would be greatly appreciated. The following jobs are slated for the future, some sooner than others! If you have any questions regarding one of the projects or are interested in assisting either physically or financially, please contact the church office.

<i>Task</i>	<i>To be completed by</i>
<b>IMMEDIATE NEEDS</b>	
Rake all areas disturbed from shrub/tree removal (LC)	
Secure cross hanging over exterior entrance of WC near narthex	
Replace flood light on church sign – get bid from Alert	\$265
Tighten glass office entry doorway into LC administration office	
Examine, repair, replace Railroad ties & nail spikes around playground	
Replace exterior light beside rear doors of FH (west side)	
Replace ceiling tiles in utility/storage area of WC	
<b>NOT SO IMMEDIATE BUT MUST BE COMPLETED SOON</b>	
Install security light over rear entrance to WC near fellowship hall	
Install blinds in sacristy for security	
Repair holes in wood around rear entrance by commons, damage done by Carpenter Bees	
Repaint exposed wood support beams and trip along front eave of church	
Inspect/replace/repair narthex entry door seal as well as seals on all other entry doors of WC	
Sand and paint trip on exterior windows of FH	
Run new electric wire for exterior flood light in front of sanctuary	
Refinish floor (strip & wax) in lower level of Life Center	Corvis – Cost?
Clean carpet in narthex, sanctuary, & fellowship hall	
Purchase door mat for narthex	
Repair door lock on double doors near counter in FH	
Repair outlet near counter in FH (located on east wall)	
Pressure wash and repaint interior of side entrance to lower level of LC	
Repaint steps leading to lower level of LC	
<b>LONG TERM CONCERNS</b>	
Create archive closet in LC	\$4500
Order new low chairs with armrests for sanctuary seating 2	\$1500
Reseal front parking lot of LC	\$3000 (worker bees)
Fill cracks & reseal parking lot of WC	\$11,000



# EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## PRE-SCHOOL - Grade 5 SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays in the Life Center at 10:15 am!

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

*Sundays at 10:15 am*

Meets weekly. 2nd Sunday of the month in Sanctuary.  
All other weeks in the Life Center Conference Room.

## HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Meets weekly in the Worship Center Youth Room.  
*Sundays at 10:15 am*

## OUR LORD'S YOUTH GROUP

Christmas Party.  
December 8, 5:30-8:00 PM

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

*Sundays at 10:15 am*

***Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation***

## QUESTIONS BIBLE STUDY

*Mondays at 10:00 am*

***Luther: Gospel, Law, & Reformation***

## FEEDING THE SOUL

"Finding God in the faith of others."

**Wednesdays at 3:00 pm** LC Conference Room  
(Chapel of the Pines if weather permits)

## 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



## CRAFTS & LAUGHS

**Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 pm**

Due to scheduling conflicts, we will not meet in December. See you next year!

*Do you want to build a snowman?* 

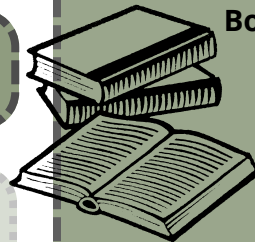
Contact Cindy Pugh (618-334-1046) with questions.  
Cost for each session is \$10.

## SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB

**Book Club will not meet in December.**

We will next meet on  
**January 15th at 11:30 am.**

We will discuss  
*Rising from the Rails* by Larry Tye.  
Bringing your lunch is optional.  
Zoom will be available on request.  
New members ALWAYS welcome!



## OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS

**Crafters will not meet in December.**

The next meeting will be in January  
Fellowship Hall from 12 pm - 3 pm.  
Please contact Kathy Nehrt with any questions!



## MORNING GLORIES BIBLE STUDY

***December Bible Study - Holy places***

**December 14 at 10 am - ?**

Karen Cummings-Larson's home (ride-share is available)

***Christmas Brunch & Assembling Cookie Boxes***

Bring 3-4 doz. of your favorite cookie to share for the cookie exchange.



## Privacy Policy for Gathering of Personal Information & Inclusion In the Membership Directory

Adopted October, 2023

Our Lord's Lutheran Church ("Our Lord's"), recognizes that an individual's privacy is very important to them and that they have a right to control their personal information. Our Lord's acknowledges that when an individual provides personal information about themselves to another party it is an act of trust. In response, Our Lord's takes the process of upholding an individual's privacy very seriously. Unless an individual gives Our Lord's explicit consent to act otherwise, the following policy will govern how Our Lord's handles an individual's personal information and safeguards their privacy.

- **Collection of Personal Information**  
Any information that you provide to Our Lord's is used exclusively for church purposes. Personal information such as names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, birthdays and anniversary dates is shared through various print material and within the membership directory. This information is collected directly from members of Our Lord's Lutheran Church who have voluntarily provided this information.
- **Use of Personal Information**  
The personal information collected in the membership directory is used solely for the purpose of communicating with members of Our Lord's Lutheran Church and facilitating member connections. This includes sending newsletters, event invitations and other important updates related to Our Lord's Lutheran Church.
- **Protection of Personal Information**  
Our Lord's Lutheran Church takes the protection of personal information very seriously. All personal information collected is stored on secure servers, and access to this information is limited to authorized individuals who require access to perform their duties. Additionally, all access to the online membership directory is controlled by the directory administrators.
- **Access to Personal Information**  
Members of Our Lord's Lutheran Church may access their own personal information in the membership directory through a mobile app or members' website that they create a unique login for. Only authorized members who are vetted by the directory administrator(s) will be granted access to the directory.
- **Sharing of Personal Information**  
Our Lord's Lutheran Church will not share any personal information with any third parties without the explicit consent of the individual member. Our Lord's will not disclose your name, address, e-mail address or phone number without your express consent, unless disclosure is necessary to comply with laws or relevant legal proceedings. OLLC will not sell, rent or lease your personal information to commercial entities.
- **Retention of Personal Information**  
Personal information collected in the membership directory will be retained for as long as the individual remains a member of Our Lord's Lutheran Church, and for a reasonable period thereafter.
- **Changes to Privacy Policy**  
Our Lord's Lutheran Church reserves the right to modify this Privacy Policy at any time without prior notice. Members will be notified of any changes made to the policy via email or other appropriate means.

### Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this Privacy Policy, please contact Our Lord's Lutheran Church at [love2haveu@ourlords.org](mailto:love2haveu@ourlords.org)

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

November, a time to give thanks. All across our nation, Thanksgiving is a day that we set aside in order to do one thing.

## Be thankful.

And usually what goes along with it, is lots of food, family and friends, laughter and fun, times of giving to others in need, maybe some football, or traditions that have recognized through the years. Sometimes there is also loneliness, personal struggle, or deep loss. There may be feelings of hurt and painful circumstances that you're still trying to work through. No matter your situation, God is there. May you find comfort in his presence and give Thanks for what he has provided.

During the November Council Meeting we discussed

- the progress on installing a hearing assisted device in the sanctuary (thank you Ed Foppel),
- completion of new lighting in the sanctuary,
- and preparations for the annual meeting including OLLC Council Officer openings, Constitution & Bylaw changes, and 2024 giving and planned spending.

We approved acceptance of 3 new members & 2 associate members and pastor announced the progress Cynthia & Julia have made with office procedures.

During Pastor's report she identified additional reasons to give thanks this season:

- the overwhelming generous response of the congregation to African Vision of Hope and Dave & Rod's ride to raise additional funds,
- the energy and conversations at both Saturday and Sunday hospitality,
- the Friendsgiving Celebration of the Late Boomers,
- the youth that assisted with the November Children's event,
- and the dedication of the many volunteers that work behind the scenes addressing the needs of the church.

At OLLC we have much to be thankful for!

Yours in Christ,

*Karen Cummings-Lagson*



If you would like to discuss becoming involved in the leadership at OLLC, (serving on church council or as part of the ministry support team) please contact Pastor Darla Ann or a council member.

If you are interested in attending a meeting, contact the church office for access information.

You may read the previous month's minutes here: [tinyurl.com/4fmv76k2](https://tinyurl.com/4fmv76k2)

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### Cash Assets of the Congregation

#### Balances in Selected Designated Funds

as of October 31, 2023

Building and Grounds	\$5,333
Fair Trade	\$1,410
Funeral Luncheons	\$2,426
IT	\$1,047
Kitchen Team	\$380
Musical Performance	\$250
Pet Expo	\$32
Our Lord's Youth	\$13,933
Thiel Estate Bequest	\$21,493
Memorial	\$8,743
Elmwood Project	\$220
Mind the Gap	\$208
People in A Pickle	\$209
SOS Soup Kitchen	\$1,296
Monthly Emphasis	\$520

*Thank you for sharing your financial resources with this congregation in support of the mission we share.*

**October 2023 Giving \$30,108**

(Includes "General Benevolence" & "Designated" giving)

**October 2023 Expenditures \$28,607**

(Includes "General Benevolence" & "Designated" expenditures)

Note: payments labeled "Cooling Our Lord's," "Restoring Our Lord's," or "VIF/Boom, Mortgage, etc." will be deposited into "Building and Grounds," as the aforementioned funds are no longer active.

Cash - Unrestricted \$14,609

Cash - Designated \$57,499

**Total cash \$72,108**

(financial figures are taken from the November 2023 Treasurer Report given to the OLLC Council by Treasurer Max Eakin)

# PRAYER CONCERNS

## CONGREGATION MEMBERS

Don Klingsick  
 Dan Homes  
 Kim Payne  
 Linda Spencer  
 Brian Kassing

Nancy Lutz  
 Don Simonson Sr.  
 John Nehrt  
 Chuck Jorgenson  
 Ian Comrie  
 Sonja Cheatham  
 Dean Lackey  
 Rod Orr  
 Shelly Lackey  
 Carole Callahan  
 Robertta Wibben



## FAMILY & FRIENDS

KC  
 Mary & David Findley  
 Carol Gendron  
 Diane Daubs  
 Rosy Park  
 Fran Baker Black  
 Wally Doss  
 Yvonne Tritt  
 David Lee  
 Ruth B  
 Aryan & Trinity Spurgeon  
 Greg Beaver

Tammy Green  
 Barb Carver  
 Janet Borowitz  
 Sheryl McBride  
 Kathy  
 Jamie  
 Dale & Carole  
 Larry Estal  
 Dean  
 Julie  
 Donna Fisher  
 Nancy

Margaret Grace  
 Teresa  
 Ken Hedger  
 Anne  
 Elisha  
 Pearl & Sean  
 Stuart Sticksel  
 Carol Cross  
 Bryan Cross  
 Laura Cross

## PRAY FOR FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING

Family of Anne Faist (friend of Max and Linda Eakin)  
 Family of Michael Barnard (cousin of Cynthia Haggitt)  
 Family of Doug Carle (father of GeorgeAnn Smithies)

## 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

Zach Huff  
 SrA Paul Kampwerth  
 John Meyer  
 Zachary Neubauer  
 Amador Ochoa  
 Josh Pace

Scott Prengel  
 Jake Randall  
 Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith  
 Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)  
 Staff Sgt. Stephan Spencer  
 Erica Webb, US Private E-3

## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### DECEMBER

### *Birthdays:*

Caitlyn Williams Baczewski  
 Kaitlyn Blotevogel  
 Irene VanHooser  
 Kendyll Orr  
 Susanne Richter  
 Linda Spencer  
 Loretta Williams

Abigail Tiemann  
 Erick Larson  
 Carol Gocken  
 Brian Hartke  
 Anna Rimar  
 Carol Hancock  
 Terri Schickel  
 Lila Nehrt

Dean Lackey  
 Joel Kampwerth  
 Crichton Williams  
 Matt Gross  
 Sophia Helms  
 Rachel Lee  
 Jack Rimar  
 Sue Green

### DECEMBER

### *Anniversaries:*

Jeff & Penny Waterman  
 Brian & Jaime Henderson

Don Simonson & Jan Vinson  
 Bruce & Mary Ann Fritz

Randy & Erin Helms  
 Brian & Doug Lotz-Manns

# REMINDERS

**PRAYER LIST** - Please let the office know if you would like to add a new person, remove a current person, or change the status of anyone on our prayer list. OLLC practice include removing individuals from the prayer lists after 8 weeks unless an update is received

**PRAYER VENTURES** - Two pages of monthly prayer support for ELCA ministries are available at: [www.elca.org/prayerventures](http://www.elca.org/prayerventures)

**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.

**CENTRAL SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD (CSIS) WEBSITE:**  
[www.csis-elca.org](http://www.csis-elca.org) **ELCA WEBSITE:** [www.elca.org](http://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 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**.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** - Reminder: Newsletter Deadline (to submit articles for January's Newsletter): Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

# LOOKING AHEAD

## 2024 A NEW ERA OF GIVING

### JANUARY

- Jan 1 New Year's Day, OFFICE CLOSED
- Jan 6 & 7 Epiphany
- Jan 15 Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday, OFFICE CLOSED
- Jan 28 Annual Meeting, lunch with meeting at 12:30 pm

**Giving Emphasis:**  
**Souper Bowl of Caring**  
(at end of month and early February)

### FEBRUARY

- Feb 10 & 11 Transfiguration of Our Lord
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday – Broken Hearts
- Feb 17 & 18 First Weekend in Lent
- Feb 19 President's Day
- Feb 21 Mid-week Holden Evening Prayer – Broken Vessel
- Feb 28 Mid-week Holden Evening Prayer – Broken Trust

**Giving Emphasis:**  
**Lenten Offering, ELCA Hunger**  
(beginning February 14)

### MARCH

- Mar 6 Lent Service – Broken Bread
- Mar 13 Lent Service – Broken Promises
- Mar 17 St Patrick's Day
- Mar 20 Lent Service – Broken Justice
- Mar 23 & 24 Palm Sunday
- Mar 28 Maundy Thursday
- Mar 29 Good Friday
- Sat, Mar 30 Resurrection of Our Lord Celebration with Vigil elements
- Sun, Mar 31 Easter Day

**Giving Emphasis:**  
**Lenten Offering, ELCA Hunger**  
(through March 31)

# OUR MINISTRY TEAM

## OLLC STAFF

**The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann Kratzer**, Pastor  
**Cynthia Haggitt**, Administrative Assistant  
**Cady Thomas Potts**, Director of Worship Music for Sundays and Special Services  
**Lemuel Smith**, Director of Non-Traditional Worship Music  
**Dr. Rhonda Comrie**, Organist  
**Matt Gross**, Streaming Tech  
**Benjamin Maynard**, Worship Tech

## CHURCH COUNCIL

**Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson**, President  
**Dr. Emily Truckenbrod**, Vice President  
**Dr. Laura Schoenecker**, Secretary  
**Dr. Max Eakin**, Treasurer  
**Linda Hester**, At Large  
**The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann R. Kratzer**, Pastor

## MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

**Kathy Nehrt** (Education)  
**Cindy Pugh** (Fellowship)  
**Ed Foppe** (IT)  
**Carol Orr** (Service)  
**Rhonda Comrie** (Worship)  
**Vacant**, Ministry Support Team Coordinator(s)

**Newsletter**  
 Karen Cummings-Larson  
[dr.kcumings@gmail.com](mailto:dr.kcumings@gmail.com)

**Sunday School**  
 Lisa White

**Fair Trade Store**  
 Mike Williams  
[vablu2@aol.com](mailto:vablu2@aol.com)

# DECK THE HALLS

## *Christmas Bazaar*

Faith Hall at St. John UCC  
307 W Clay St | Collinsville, IL

618-344-2526 | [office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto:office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org)

**Saturday**

**December 2, 2023**  
**10:00 am - 5:30 pm**

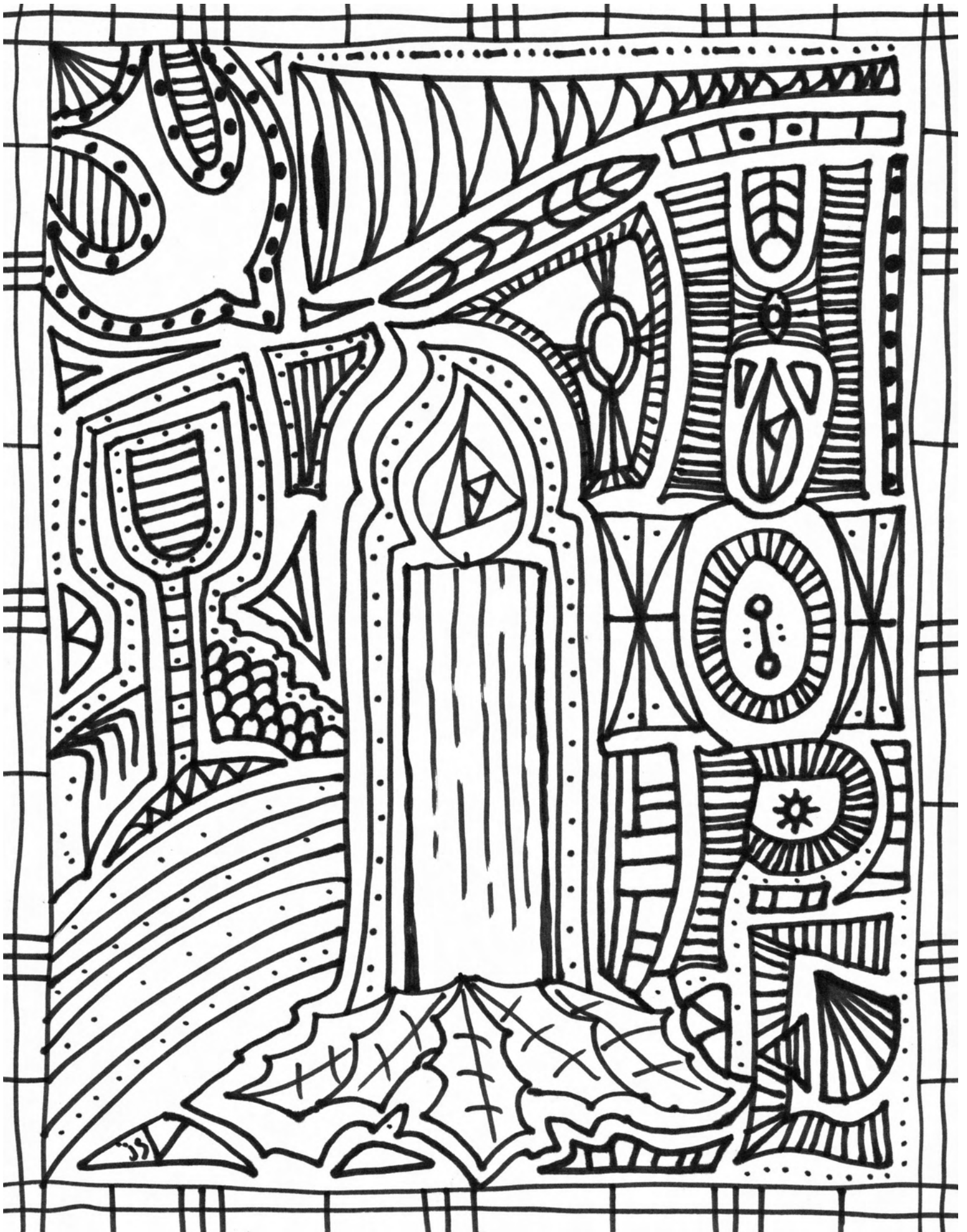
**Sunday**

**December 3, 2023**  
**10:30 am - 2:00 pm**

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED  
IN ONE PLACE!  
DECORATIONS AND GIFTS**

**VENDOR FAIR,  
CONCESSIONS &  
GIFT WRAPPING STANDS**





# DECEMBER 2023 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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## December Giving Emphasis:



					<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Pastor's Sabbath</b></p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas -WC</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>1st Weekend of Advent</b></p> <p><b>7:00 AM</b> Worker Bees</p> <p><b>8:00 AM</b> Greening the Church</p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice</p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service</p>
<p><b>3</b> <b>1st Weekend of Advent</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship: In-Building Traditional Service</p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Children's Christmas Pageant Practice</p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study</p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas -WC</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Tuesday Tea- Zoom</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding The Soul</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> Mid-Week Holden Evening Prayer - <i>Pause</i></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Glories</p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal - WC</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal - WC</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Pastor's Sabbath</b></p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas -WC</p> <p><b>5:30 PM</b> Our Lord's Youth Christmas Party</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>2nd Weekend of Advent</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Children's Christmas Pageant Practice</p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice</p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service w/ <i>Children's Christmas Pageant</i></p> <p><b>Fair Trade Christmas Store (4-7 pm)</b></p>
<p><b>10</b> <b>2nd Weekend of Advent</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship: In-Building Traditional Service</p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p><b>10:45 AM</b> Worship: In-Building Traditional Service</p> <p><b>Fair Trade Christmas Store (8-12 pm)</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study</p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas -WC</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> Church Council</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Tuesday Tea- Zoom</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Traditional Music Planning Meeting</p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding The Soul</p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> Mid-week Holden Evening Prayer - <i>Prepare</i></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Lakeview Garden Club Meeting - WC</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Glories Christmas Brunch</p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal - WC</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> MOC Committee Meeting</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal - WC</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Pastor's Sabbath</b></p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas -WC</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>3rd Weekend of Advent</b></p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice</p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: In-Building Praise Service</p> <p><b>Fair Trade Christmas Store (4-7 pm)</b></p>
<p><b>17</b> <b>3rd Weekend of Advent</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship: In-Building Traditional Service</p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Pre K - HS Sunday School Classes</p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Confirmation</p> <p><b>10:15 AM</b> Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p><b>Fair Trade Christmas Store (8-12 pm)</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study</p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas -WC</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> Ministry Support Team Meeting</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Tuesday Tea- Zoom</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding The Soul</p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> Mid-week Holden Evening Prayer - <i>Ponder</i></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal - WC</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> MOC Committee Meeting</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Bell Choir Rehearsal - WC</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Pastor's Sabbath</b></p> <p><b>Office Closed @ 2:30</b></p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Music Lessons, C. Thomas -WC</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>4th Weekend of Advent</b></p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice</p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: In-Building Praise Service</p>
<p><b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Christmas Eve Worship - Traditional Candlelight</p> <p><b>4:00 PM</b> Christmas Eve Worship - Traditional Candlelight</p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b> Christmas Eve Worship - Praise Band with Candlelight</p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship: Online Service</p> <p><b>10:00 AM</b> Christmas With Our Neighbors - Elmwood Nursing Home</p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>Pastor on Vacation</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>Pastor on Vacation</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>Pastor on Vacation</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>First Sunday of Christmas</b></p> <p><b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice</p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: In-Building Praise Service</p>
<p><b>31</b> <b>First Sunday of Christmas</b></p> <p><b>New Year's Eve</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b> Worship: In-Building Traditional Service</p>						



*10 am - Christmas With Our Neighbors  
9 am - Traditional Worship Service*

**December 25  
Christmas Day Services**

*7:30 pm - Praise Worship Candlelight Service  
4 pm - Traditional Candlelight Service  
9 am - Traditional Candlelight Service*

**December 24  
Christmas Eve Services**

**"The Spirit of Our Lord's News"  
Our Lord's Lutheran Church  
150 Wilma Drive  
Maryville, IL 62062  
(618) 345-5692 (Office Bldg.)  
[www.OURLORDS.org](http://www.OURLORDS.org)**

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