



# December

newsletter

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## PASTOR'S COLUMN

A few years ago, my plane left Louisville, Kentucky just after 6 am on a winter morning. It was very, very dark. We had minor turbulence as we gained altitude and settled in above the clouds. I distracted myself by reading as I sat in a window seat just in front of the wings. And then, on the horizon, I saw a thin orange line separating the dark clouds beneath us and the slightly lighter deep blue sky above the orange light. Moments later yellow joined the orange and the sky above it moved to a light blue, above that was Advent blue, above that the deep blue of the night sky. I was awestruck. The unexpected view filled me with a sense of peace, and I breathed deeply and relaxed as I took it all in. The sunrise above the clouds spread until the horizon was filled with soft oranges and yellows with just a touch of pink as it met the ever lighter blue sky.

From the first moment I saw that thin orange line, I began taking pictures out the window. When I finally looked at those pictures, I discovered there were some things I did not see with my eyes when looking at the horizon. But the camera lens had captured the white light that followed the fading of the oranges and yellows. As we enter this season of Advent and prepare to celebrate Christmas, I wonder how much of the "light" God gives is not "visible" to us? We know there are many more stars in the sky we do not see than stars we are able to see.

There is light beyond what we are experiencing at the moment. That was true 2,000 years ago and it is true now. When the light of the world, our Lord Jesus took on flesh and was born as a baby, most people couldn't see the gift God had given. But a few people pointed to the light and over time a community formed to help others see this light of the world dwelling among us. Let's use these weeks of preparation for Christmas to help one another see Jesus.

--Pastor Darla Ann

### TOP 10 REASONS TO SHARE YOUR GIFTS

- #10 - Because the Bible tells me so
- # 9 - So I can be a blessing to others
- # 8 - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also
- # 7 - All that I have is God's alone
- # 6 - To spread the Good News
- # 5 - Because Jesus loves me
- # 4 - Because I love Jesus
- # 3 - That my faith may live and grow
- # 2 - To experience the joy of giving
- # 1 - That I may fan the flames of discipleship!



Share  
Your Gifts



OUR LORD'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

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A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
[www.ourlords.org](http://www.ourlords.org)

**November 30 & December 1**

*1st Weekend of Advent*

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Luke 21:25-36

Guest Pastor: S. Blake Duncan

**December 4**

**Holden Evening Prayer for Advent**

*"Chillin' As We Journey to Bethlehem"*

(see page 3 for more information)

**December 7 & 8**

*2nd Weekend of Advent*

*"In Bethlehem Inn (a Habitat for Humanity Home)"*

Mal 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

St Nicholas and Santa Claus

**December 14 & 15**

*3rd Weekend of Advent*

Zeph 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18

*Saturday: "Restoration,"*

*Sunday: Children's Christmas Program*

**December 21 & 22**

*4th Weekend of Advent*

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39--55

*"Breaking into Song"*

**December 24**

**Christmas Eve**

*Scriptures and Songs with Holy Communion  
and Candle lighting*

*Luke 2:1-16*

*"This Holy Night!"*

**December 25**

**Christmas**

**John 1:1-14**

*"In the Flesh"*

**December 28 & 29**

*1st Weekend of Christmas*

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Luke 2:41-52

*"In the House of God"*

The Weary  
World  
*Rejoices*

**An Advent Devotional by Kate Bowler**

Two different online versions may be accessed by going to:  
[katebowler.com/advent](http://katebowler.com/advent)

\*you may download an interactive pdf to access on your tablet,  
phone, or computer

\*you may access each day through an online course page.

\*print calendars are available in the narthex

*This Advent devotional is an invitation to sit with the tension of a promise not yet fulfilled, to acknowledge the cracks in our lives, and to find the courage to believe that they can still be filled with light, love, and grace.*

Saturdays at 5 pm

Sundays at 9 am

2nd Sunday at 10:45 am

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

**Listen to services using your phone or tablet!**

Scan the QR code or download AudioFetch  
on Google Play or iTunes.



**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS**

**CHILLIN' AS WE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM - DECEMBER 4, 6:00 PM**

Chili Supper followed by Holden Evening Prayer service at 7:00 pm (page 3 for info)

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - DECEMBER 15 DURING WORSHIP**

**OLLC HOLIDAY CONCERT - DECEMBER 20, 6:30 PM** (page 7 for info)

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - DECEMBER 24**

Traditional Services at 3:00 & 5:00 pm; Praise Band Led Service at 7:30 pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE - DECEMBER 25, 9:30 AM**

followed by **Christmas w/ Our Neighbors** at 10:00 am





On December 4, the Wednesday after Thanksgiving, you are invited to join in a special evening called **"Chillin' as We Journey Toward Bethlehem."**

We will have chili and fixin's available starting a little before 6 pm on the 4th.

At 7 pm, the sounds of Holden Evening Prayer will fill our sanctuary.

*Due to the numerous transitions taking place in our staffing, December 4 will be our only mid-week service during this Advent season. So, come experience the calm and peace of evening prayer so that it may sustain you during the busy weeks to come.*

### DECEMBER GIVING EMPHASIS - CHRISTMAS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

The relationship between Our Lord's and EU Well Care Home (formally Elmwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center) began not long after OLLC moved to Wilma Drive in 1968. The ministry began when a group of church members offered Elmwood residents transportation to the church for worship and special events. Within a few years, "Christmas With Our Neighbors" was organized and the tradition of Santa visiting Elmwood on Christmas morning began and continues today. What started as a ministry to benefit the residents of Elmwood has become a ministry that warms the hearts of the entire congregation. A simple gesture of good will has developed into a relationship that has lasted more than 50 years.



The tradition of sharing Christmas with Our Neighbors will continue this Christmas season. EU Well Care Home has approximately 80 residents who have put together their Christmas wish lists. Before the end of November, 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 22. The suggested contribution is \$20-25 per resident. 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 "Well Care" on the memo line. Any extra funds received will be used for other Well Care Outreach projects.

On Christmas morning, the gifts will be packed up immediately following the 9:00 am service. All Our Lord's members and their guests are invited to meet at Well Care 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, or Karen Tilashalski at 618-806-6373 or KLT@charter.net.

### GREENING THE CHURCH

DECEMBER 7

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

8:00 am - all ages welcome

Help decorate the church! Make this event a part of your holiday preparations!

"SHARE THE JOY"

CHRISTMAS STORE



**Saturday & Sunday, December 7-8 & 14-15**

**Help OLLC Fair Trade Ministry support craftsman, woodworkers, metalsmiths, & farmers worldwide.  
Lot's of GOODIES & REAL DEALS!**

WEEKLY SERVICE AT EU WELL CARE HOME

**Worship Services for EU Well Care Home Residents (Formerly Elmwood)**

Pastor leads a short worship service for Well Care residents on Tuesday mornings. Services are held at Well Care and last 30 minutes or less. The service format is flexible enough to accommodate lay-led services. OLLC members are invited to attend. If you are interested in being a part of the services or willing to fill in on occasion, contact Pastor Darla Ann.

MIND THE GAP

**Our congregation members continue to be generous in their varied ways of supporting Mind The Gap.**

The following list includes some continuing needs and a few new requests:

*small jars of peanut or other nut butters --- insulated shirts or pants for cold weather --- underwear s/m/l for both men and women --- socks - athletic white for men/your choice for women -- winter gloves --- sweatshirts with hoods --- large backpacks --- hand towels and wash cloths --- small flashlights and batteries --- warm blankets and sleeping bag --- chemical hand or toe warmer packs*

New & gently used items are accepted. Place all donations in the "Mind The Gap" bin in the narthex.

A small, but devoted team of volunteers have been taking turns providing hot meals to serve 60 persons on the second Tuesday of each month as well as the few times the regular MTG cook is unavailable. If you would like to make a meal for MTG, please contact Carol Gocken (618)531-7824.

NOTE: Food costs may be submitted for reimbursement.



AFRICAN VISION OF HOPE

**Donations to African Vision of Hope received before December 31 will be matched dollar for dollar!**

Every child has the right to a safe and healthy childhood. Children that are rescued from violence and abuse must be protected. The African Vision of Hope Rescue Homes provide physical, emotional, and spiritual restoration and a loving family. In 2025, AVoH will build four new rescue homes that will be home to 160 rescued children. The cost to build ONE completely furnished home (w/plumbing, showers, etc) is \$160,000; one home houses 40 children. The cost to care for a rescued child on a monthly basis is \$100.







## OLLC will serve on December 10.

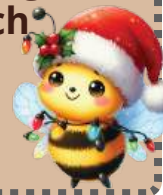
Assistance with preparation and serving the meal is needed. *Sign up on the signup sheet in the narthex.*

Donations to support OLLC S.O.S. can be given via check, cash, or Note "S.O.S." in the memo line. Contact Gail Jorgenson or the church office with questions.

**Worker Bees will be assisting with Greening of the Church**  
**Saturday, December 7**

**Breakfast 7:00 am, Red Apple Restaurant**  
**Church 8:00 am**

If you plan on attending, please confirm by email or text to Chuck Pugh.



## NEW ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMING BEGINNING SUNDAYS IN JANUARY



**Adult Education on Sunday mornings --**  
**Bible Study led by Jim Lemke, beginning January 2025**  
*Stay-tuned for additional information in the January newsletter!*

Dona Racich will no longer lead her class on Sunday mornings.  
Dona's **Questions Bible Study** will meet only on Monday mornings beginning in January.

## EDUCATION AT OUR LORD'S

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL NOT MEET DECEMBER 22 & 29

(EXCEPT ADULT BIBLE STUDY)

### ALL CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 5, 2025.

- **PRE-SCHOOL - FIRST GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL;** Sundays in the Life Center in Room 4 at 10:15 am.
- **ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL;** Sundays in the Life Center in Room 2 at 10:15 am.
- **CONFIRMATION CLASS - grade 6-8;** Sundays at 10:15 am
  - Class sessions this month are focused on worship. This month we will explore the shape of worship and how worship shapes us. We will focus on the sections of Word, Meal, and Sending. On December 8th, some of our students will be available to help lead the 2nd Sunday, 2nd Service at 10:45 am. On December 15th, we will help with the Children's Program. Then we will be on Christmas Break for the last 2 Sundays of the month.
- **HIGH SCHOOL CLASS;** Sundays in Harry's Hangout (WC Youth Room) at 10:15 am.
  - Meets weekly in the Worship Center Youth Room except on the 2nd Sunday of the month when they teach or assist with classes for younger children in the Life Center. Winter Break will be December 22 through 29.
- **OUR LORD'S YOUTH GROUP**
  - OLY will set up special times to bake desserts for the December 10th SoS Soup Kitchen.
- **QUESTIONS & ADULT BIBLE STUDY;** Mondays at 10:00 am -- Conference Room (LC) & December Sundays at 10:15 am (WC)
  - **"The Historical Jesus"** a 24 part lecture DVD series by Prof. Bart Ehrman
    - Everyone who has even the faintest knowledge of Jesus has an opinion about him, and these opinions vary widely--not only among lay people but even among historical scholars who have given their lives to the task of reconstructing what Jesus was really like, what he really said and did. This course is designed to explain why it has proved so difficult to know about the man behind the myth and to see what kinds of conclusions modern scholars have drawn about him.
- **MORNING GLORIES BIBLE STUDY;** 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 10:00 am in the Commons (WC)
  - This month we will be discussing the devotion "In God's Garden: What fig trees teach us about Advent."
  - **Christmas Brunch - OLLC Fellowship Hall - December 12, 10:00 am**  
(additional information to follow)
- **FEEDING THE SOUL;** Wednesdays at 3:00 pm Conference Room (LC)
  - In December we continue the discussion of Making Sense of the Cross by David J. Lose. New members are always welcome!

**CLASSES**  
**for All Ages**

## OLLC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



**HERDING ALPHAS**

**"Herding Alphas"**  
**OLLC ministry for families with children of the alpha generation!**  
(children born 2010 through 2025)

Herding Alphas will not meet in December. Next event is scheduled for January 19, time TBD (FH) Board Games and food.

**Entire congregation is invited**

*For additional information contact the church office.*

## OLLC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS

#### Crafters will meet December 4

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 12 pm - 3 pm and plan to deliver the lap quilts to Well Care Center. Contact Kathy Nehrt with any questions!



#### Crafts & Laughs will not meet in December. See you next year!

Contact Cindy Pugh (618-334-1046) with questions.

### TUESDAY TEA

Tuesday Tea will begin meeting quarterly in 2025. Stay tuned for additional information.



### SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB

Next Book Club meeting will be **January 27 at 11:30 am.**

We will be discussing *Sisters In Arms* by Kaia Alderson.



Bringing your lunch is optional. New members ALWAYS welcome!

## FELLOWSHIP NOTES

Saturday Hospitality Hour will be a lighter fare. Hosts are to provide either appetizers or desserts (not both). Plans are to move away from a full meal on Saturday evenings to encourage more people to participate in attending and/or hosting Hospitality Hour. The sign-up sheet for hosting is on the credenza under the woodcarving of Jesus.

## MUSIC AT OUR LORD'S

### Director of Music for Sunday Worship & Special Services

We are currently interviewing for the position of *Director of Music for Sunday Worship & Special Services.*

### Accompanist for Sunday Worship Services

We are currently accepting applications for the position of *Accompanist for Sunday Worship Services.*

If you know of anyone that has piano/organ worship experience and would be interested in working for Our Lord's in this capacity please ask them to email a letter of interest and resume to:  
[love2haveu@ourlords.org](mailto:love2haveu@ourlords.org)

## Praise BAND

**REHEARSALS:**  
**Saturdays 3:30 pm**  
**PERFORMANCES:**  
**Saturdays 5 pm**

Contact Olivia Cross for additional information.  
[ocross@gmail.com](mailto:ocross@gmail.com)



## CENTRAL-SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD UPDATE

### Adult Faith Formation: Understanding the Hebrew Bible -- Saturdays Starting January 18

Learn about the connection between Israel's story and Israel's theology as recorded in the Hebrew Bible ("Old Testament"), with an eye toward interpreting both Hebrew and Christian scriptures and theology today.

This Adult Faith Formation class will be led by the Rev. Dr. Fred Neidner and will be held via Zoom from 9:00 a.m. to noon on January 18 and 25, February 8 and 22, and March 8 and 22. The cost is \$25 for general learners and \$50 for synod-authorized ministry students. Registration and additional information can be found here: <https://www.csis-elca.org/event/aff-understanding-the-hebrew-bible-25/>

The Hebrew Bible ("Old Testament") developed over 1,000 years as Israel's canon of foundational literature. Each piece, whether story, law code, oracle, or song, had an intimate connection to a historical moment in Israel's history of living as God's chosen people. Since Jesus and the first Christians were observant Jews, Christianity and its scriptures (New Testament) are incomprehensible without some understanding of Israel's faith, identity, hope, and theology as these find expression in the Hebrew Bible. This course will probe the intricate connections between Israel's story and Israel's theology, with an eye toward how each is critical for interpreting both Hebrew and Christian scriptures and theology today.



All are welcome at Faith Lutheran Church, O'Fallon (520 East Highway 50), for the Advent series "Nativity Tapestries" for solo oboe. The series will feature the Rev. S. Blake Duncan, oboist, performing original compositions from Brenda Portman. Each instrumental piece is paired with the all-too-human experiences of the women of the Nativity. Two of the work's six movements will be performed each week, December 4, 11, and 18 at 6:30 p.m., pondering the mystery of the incarnation as it is grounded in the stories of Elizabeth, Mary, Anna, and more.





# a home for everyone

***"musical reflections on the season of Christmas"***

presented by Our Lord's Lutheran Church



hot beverages and baked snacks  
served beforehand

**who:**

Sharifa Black  
Olivia Cross  
Jacob Davis  
Brian Gunderson  
Benji Maynard  
Cady Thomas Potts

**when/where:**

6:30 pm  
Friday, December 20  
150 Wilma Dr. Maryville,  
IL 62062

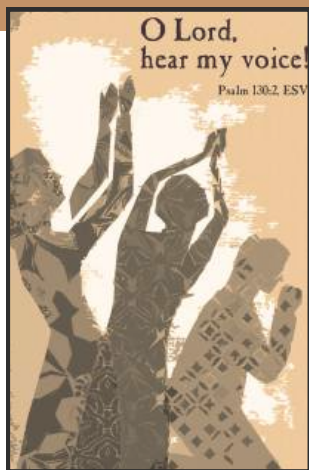
this concert will take place  
indoors in Our Lord's fellowship hall  
***free and open to the public***  
***a freewill offering will be taken for:***  
***[mindthegapstl.org](http://mindthegapstl.org)***

*all are welcome!*

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*Everyone listed here is important to a person of the congregation. Please include them in your praying throughout the week so that they know and feel God's power and presence.*

### CONGREGATION MEMBERS



Don Klingsick	Joyce Tatjenhorst
Dan Homes	Brian Kassing
John Nehrt	Irene VanHooser
Rod Orr	Mike Williams
Don Simonson Sr.	Emily Callahan
Nicole Williams	Dave Chaffee
Keith Jensen	JoAnn Hartke
Greg Perkins	April Clark
Linda Spencer	Annie Jackson
Dona Racich	Cynthia Haggitt

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Jamie Moravec	Ozzie
Ken Bunetic	Joyce
Brock Vinson	Grace
Tommy Banks	Tim Garber
Russell Doebler	Rose K.
Emily, Riley, Christy, & Justine	Lynn & Jim
Carl Bruntjen	Jim R.
Shelley Bruntjen	Nicci Essington
Darwin Reding	Cathie Trickey
Michael Echevarria	Dale & Carole
Dave Ritcher	March Banks
David Yarber	Kitty Jo Edgar
Connie Adams	Annetta & Ashley
Phil Childers	Penny Prengel
Paul & Paula S. Marshall	Marilyn Dichsen

### PRAY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED & FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING

The family & friends of George St. Clair (relative of Maureen Johnson).  
Family & friends of Barbara Taylor Vinson  
(Sister-in law of Jan Vinson & Don Simonson).

### PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

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

## CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

### December Birthdays

Abigail Tiemann	Dean Lackey	Caitlyn Baczewski
Erick Larson	Joel Kampwerth	Kaitlyn Blotevogel
Carol Gocken	Crichton Williams	Irene VanHooser
Brian Hartke	Matt Gross	Kendyll Orr
Anna Rimar	Sophia Helms	Susanne Richter
Carol Hancock	Rachel Lee	Linda Spencer
Terri Schickel	Jack Rimar	Loretta Williams
Lila Nehrt	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 includes 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/Resources/Prayer-Ventures](http://www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures)

### 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.

### OTHER INFORMATION

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America -- <https://www.elca.org/>  
Central Southern Illinois Synod -- <https://www.csis-elca.org/>



## JANUARY

- January 1 - New Year's Day
- January 3 - Team Reports Due for annual report
- January 6 - Epiphany - Council Meeting
- January 11 - Removing Christmas Decorations
- January 12 - Baptism of Our Lord
- January 18 & 19 - begin Week of Prayer for Christian Unity & announcement of Souper Bowl of Caring emphasis
- January 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday - office closed
- January 25 - OLLC Annual Meeting**
- January 25 & 26 - begin Souper Bowl of Caring Emphasis

**Saturday, January 25**  
Praise Led Worship - 3:00 pm  
followed by meal for congregation  
Annual Meeting - 5:00 pm

**OLLC Annual meeting**

## FEBRUARY

- Feb 1 & 2 - Souper Bowl of Caring
- Feb 8 & 9 - Super Bowl weekend
- Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
- Feb 15 - Spaghetti Dinner and Concert
- Feb 17 - President's Day

### Giving Emphasis: **Tote Me Home**

*Souper Bowl of Caring & Annual Spaghetti Dinner/ Concert proceeds go to "Tote Me Home"*

## MARCH

- March 5 - Ash Wednesday
- March 9 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 12, 19, 26 - Lent Services

## OLLC MINISTRY TEAM

### OLLC STAFF

**The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann Kratzer,**  
Pastor

**Accepting Applications**  
Administrative Assistant

**Accepting Applications**  
Director of Worship Music for  
Sundays & Special Services

**Olivia Cross,**  
Leader of Non-Traditional  
Worship Music

**Dr. Rhonda Comrie,**  
Organist

**Benjamin Maynard,**  
Worship Tech  
Livestreaming Specialist  
ProPresenter Slide Designer

### CHURCH COUNCIL

**Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson,**  
President

**Dr. Emily Truckenbrod,**  
Vice President

**Jeanette Goetter,**  
Secretary

**Dr. Laura Schoenecker,**  
Treasurer

**Linda Hester,**  
Member At-Large

**The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann R. Kratzer,**  
Pastor

### MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

**Cindy Pugh:** Fellowship

**Ed Foppe:** IT

**Carol Orr:** Service

**Dr. Rhonda Comrie:** Worship  
*Education Team Leader position  
is currently vacant*

**Sunday School:**

Lisa White

**Fair Trade Store:**

Mike Williams  
vablu2@aol.com

**Newsletter Editor:**

K. Cummings-Larson

**Facebook:**

Maureen "Mo" Johnson

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

*"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:10-11*

This year the beginning of Advent coincides with the first day of December. For Christians, Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ. Anticipation is a feeling that we experience when we are expecting something to happen; it is an action of looking forward to something. Our anticipation for what lies ahead should always be colored by hopeful expectation and optimism. The key, is understanding the anchor of that hope; as Christians, our hope is in Jesus.

When I was a child I looked forward to the Christmas Eve services at Our Lord's. My family attended the early evening service. Afterwards, the seven of us including my grandmother, loaded into the car and drove through nearby neighborhoods to see the decorated homes and view Christmas lights. We would return to the church for the 11:00 pm worship; this 'midnight service' was my favorite part of the evening. The singing of *Silent Night* often brought tears to my eyes. Even as a young child I could feel hope and joy as we sung this hymn together.

During the November council meeting, I felt a sense of *anticipation* and *hope*. Following a discussion of church finances and a growing concern that expenses have exceeded monthly general benevolence giving for the past few months, the council remains optimistic for the future. Reports received from the Nominating Committee, Contract Renewal Team, and the Identity and Action Team indicated progress and highlighted tasks completed thus far. Of greatest importance was the progress made on hiring new staff (teams are still in the interview process, stay tuned) and the upcoming installation of solar energy on the Worship Center and the Life Center. As we discussed the future of OLLC we look forward to the months ahead with *anticipation*.

This Advent, I pray you experience the excitement and the anticipation of the season, that you leave behind the concerns of life, and fill your life with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Yours in Christ, Karen Cummings-Larson

*If you would like to become involved in the leadership at OLLC, please contact Pastor Darla Ann or a council member.*

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summary taken from report provided by OLLC Treasurer Laura Schoenecker  
If you have any questions, please contact Laura at [lswanso@siue.edu](mailto:lswanso@siue.edu).

### General Benevolence Income

October 2024..... \$17,150

### General Benevolence Expenses

October 2024..... \$21,952

Cash - Unrestricted .....\$2,364

Cash - Designated .....\$94,783

**Total Cash ..... \$97,147**

### During October:

- The balance of the Monthly Emphasis Fund at the end of October 2024 was \$216. The following were included in the total: Lutheran Campus Ministry (\$25), School Supplies (\$191).
- \$1,543** will be sent to Synod for Synodical Mission Support (9% of Benevolence Giving during month of October).

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

To give, simply scan this QR code with your smart phone. The QR code takes you directly to the OLLC giving page. On the giving page you have the opportunity to identify if your contribution is for Benevolence (church expenditures) or for one of the designated funds. Of course, cash or checks are always welcomed. No matter which method you choose when giving to OLLC, all donations received will help us sustain our ministries throughout the year.



...his name  
shall be called



Wonderful  
Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting  
Father,  
PRINCE  
of Peace



Isaiah 9:6





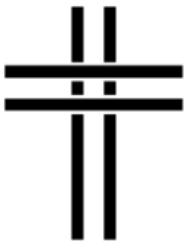
# DECEMBER 2024 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>1 1st Weekend of Advent</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality (Coffee, Teas, & Treats)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service at Well Care Home (Elmwood) <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>4</b> <b>12:00 - 3:00 PM</b> OLLC Crafters (FH)  <b>6:00 PM</b> Chillin' As We Journey to Bethlehem -- <i>Chili Supper &amp; Holden Evening Prayer Service</i>	<b>5</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Identity & Action Team Meeting - LC	<b>6 St. Nicholas Day</b> <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	<b>7 2nd Weekend of Advent</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> Worker Bees breakfast <b>8:00 AM</b> Greening of the Church <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality <b>"In Bethlehem Inn (A Habitat for Humanity Home)" &amp; Visit from Santa Claus</b> <b>FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS STORE</b>
<b>8 2nd Weekend of Advent</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality (Coffee, Teas, & Treats) <b>10:15 AM</b> Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal Confirmation, High School Class <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship <b>"In Bethlehem Inn (A Habitat for Humanity Home)" / Visit from Santa Claus</b> <b>FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS STORE</b>	<b>9</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts - LC <b>6:30 PM</b> Ministry Support Team - ZOOM	<b>10 OLLC SERVES SOS</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service at Well Care Home (Elmwood) <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>11</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> Lakeview Garden Club Meeting - WC	<b>12</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Glories - Christmas Brunch @ OLLC	<b>13 Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	<b>14 3rd Weekend of Advent</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality <b>FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS STORE</b>
<b>15 3rd Weekend of Advent</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Children arrive to prepare for Christmas Program <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship/ <b>Children's Christmas Program during worship</b> <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality (Coffee, Teas, & Treats) <b>10:15 AM</b> Sunday School Confirmation, High School Class - <i>Birthday for Jesus Party</i> & Adult Bible Study <b>FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS STORE</b>	<b>16</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room <b>6:30 PM</b> Church Council - LC	<b>17</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Service at Well Care Home <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>18</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>  <b>6:30 PM</b> "A Home for Everyone" OLLC Concert	<b>21 4th Weekend of Advent</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> La Leche League - WC <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality
<b>22 4th Weekend of Advent</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality (Coffee, Teas, & Treats) <b>10:15 AM</b> Adult Bible Study will meet <b>Education classes on Christmas Break</b>	<b>23</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Traditional Service <b>5:00 PM</b> Traditional Service <b>7:30 PM</b> Praise Service <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service followed by Christmas w/ Our Neighbors @ <b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	<b>28</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality
<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality (Coffee, Teas, & Treats) <b>Education classes on Christmas Break</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service at Well Care Home (Elmwood) <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	 <b>DECEMBER GIVING EMPHASIS: CHRISTMAS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS</b>			

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES**  
"Chillin' As We Journey to Bethlehem"  
December 4 @ 6:00 pm  
(Chili Supper followed by Holden Evening Prayer Service)  
"In Bethlehem Inn (A Habitat for Humanity Home)"  
December 7 & 8 (during Saturday & Sunday worship services)  
Children's Christmas Program - December 15  
(during 9 am worship service)  
"A Home for Everyone" - OLLC Concert  
December 20 @ 6:30 pm  
Christmas Eve Services - 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm  
Christmas Day Service - 9:30 am  
(followed by Christmas With Our Neighbors @ 10 am)

**"The Spirit of Our Lord's News"**  
Our Lord's Lutheran Church  
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(618) 345-5692 (Office Bldg.)  
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December 2024 Newsletter

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