



Annual Congregational Meeting

January 26, post worship

- ♦ 2024 Committee Reports
- ♦ 2025 Proposed Budget
- ♦ Benevolence Report
- ♦ Elections
- ♦ Constitution & Bylaw Review
- ♦ Be part of how OSLC operates in the present and future



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The Shepherd Staff is the monthly newsletter of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and is published for the **members** and **friends** of Our Saviour's, which has been bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Audubon and the surrounding communities since 1909! OSLC strives to reach out and minister to our members, our community, and the world!

The *Shepherd Staff*

January 2025!

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OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN IS A BIBLE-BASED CHURCH



HAPPY WINTER!



So, what's *happy*? A dictionary definition is: "a pleasurable or satisfying experience." So, are you happy? Happy with the winter? Happy with the winds? Happy with your work? Happy with... you fill in the _____! Were you aware that the Bible uses the words *happy* and *happiness* about 30 times?

So, what then is *joy*? God definitely calls us to be joyful people! A definition of the word *rejoice*, related to the word *joy*, is "to feel great delight; to be glad." Were you aware that the Bible uses the words *joy* and *rejoice* about 300 times?

In the Bible, joy is a state of being that is more of a choice than an emotion, while happiness is more of an emotion that is based on circumstances. As a follower of Jesus the Christ I have chosen JOY!



Checkout this great Bible passage from the New Testament Book of James: "*Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials.*"

You may be going through tough times, trials, that no one else is aware of... except God. And yet, He still calls you to be joyful! Here is a great quote from Oswald Chambers: *Living a full and overflowing life does not rest in bodily health, in circumstances, nor even in seeing God's work succeed, but in the perfect understanding of God, and in the same fellowship and oneness with Him that Jesus Himself enjoyed. But the first thing that will hinder this joy is the subtle irritability caused by giving too much thought to our circumstances.*

Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy. ~ Phil. 4:4a Intentional Interim, Pastor Chris



Sign up is on Lobby bulletin board for 2025

January's Blessings
as of 12/19
Please sign up if interested
5: Need
12: Need
19: Need
29: Need
The cost per Sunday remains at \$22




Thanks to the OSLC
Super Saints
Are you a Super Saint
that can help with one or
more tasks at church?
Each of the committees at
OSLC have their respec-
tive Saints In Service list
and when they call you for
an activity you expressed
interest in... my prayer is
that you will have a joyful
response! Thank you for
blessing OSLC by serving!

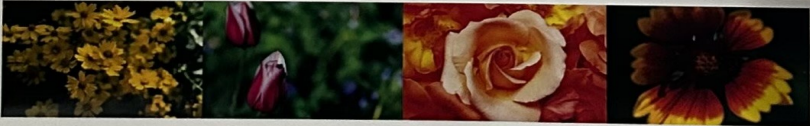
FLOWERS

for Worship Services at Our Saviour's

Please use note area to express reason for giving (for example: in loving memory, 10th anniversary, birthday, etc.)

January			February			March		
Date	Given By	Note	Date	Given By	Note	Date	Given By	Note
Jan 5			Feb 2			March 2		
Jan 12			Feb 9	Lisa Applegate	Memorial of			
Jan 19			Feb 16	Jan Applegate	Jan Applegate			
Jan 26			Feb 23	Jan Applegate	Jan Applegate			
						March 9		
						March 16		
						March 23		
						March 30		
April			May			June		
Date	Given By	Note	Date	Given By	Note	Date	Given By	Note
April 6			May 4			June 1		
April 13			May 11			June 8		
April 20	Congregation	Easter Lilies	May 18			June 15		
April 27			May 25			June 22		
						June 29		
July			August			September		
Date	Given By	Note	Date	Given By	Note	Date	Given By	Note
July 6			Aug 3			Sept 7		
July 13			Aug 10			Sept 14		
July 20			Aug 17			Sept 21		
July 27			Aug 24			Sept 28		
			Aug 31					
October			November			December		
Date	Given By	Note	Date	Given By	Note	Date	Given By	Note
Oct 5			Nov 2			Dec 7		
Oct 12			Nov 9			Dec 14		
Oct 19			Nov 16			Dec 21		
Oct 26			Nov 23			Dec 28		
			Nov 30					





Thank You+

I bet many of you have written a thank you note or two in your day. Or, at least, an online thank you through email, or social media. At OSLC I strive to say thank you... how about you? Do we give thanks to someone who plays an instrument or sings from upfront? Do we simply say thanks to those who served dinners during Advent last month? Do we recognize the person who made sure the coffee is hot, to go along with the often homemade treats on Sunday morning? Do we say thank you to members of the tech team or usher team or others who serve on Sunday mornings? What about the Office Angels? When you stop in some morning and see a fellow member volunteering... do you say thank you?

We, children of God have so much to be thankful for. First, Jesus, our Savior. And, also the saints that surround us. Saints like you who donated in December: Pancake mix, Syrup, Christmas boxes, mittens and more to the Caring and Sharing team; Thanksgiving Boxes (we helped raise over \$3,200 in the Audubon area); Operation Christmas Child (162 boxes); gave Advent mid-week offering to the LCMC Disaster Relief Fund supporting those affected by Hurricane Helene, especially in North Carolina; donated Poinsettias; the Christmas Day Dinner; and many, many, more blessings... ALL,WE CAN GIVE THANKS FOR!

As this Thank You+ article wraps up I cannot neglect (is that a double negative?) to give thanks to the many of you who sacrificially support OSLC with you time, talent, and treasures. Thank you to those who gave faithfully through the challenges of 2024 and to those of you who will continue to support God's Church, your Church, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church!

DECEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Accepted all reports, some submitted electronically
- Approved November 19, 2024 Council Meeting minutes
- Accepted financial overview
- Approved Intentional Interim Pastor contract extension through April 30, as needed
- Approved Memorial Funds for Communion Ware & Tables
- Approved financial offering to LCMC through the Jensen Memorial Fund per direction of: "Furtherance of the Gospel"
- Approved closing "Koinonia Fund" and moving the \$493 into the existing "Other Benevolence Fund"
- Approved to purchase new software for membership database
- Approved to propose at Annual Congregational Meeting to close the "Education Loan Fund" and move it's balance into the "Scholarship Fund" and a "Pastoral Sabbatical Fund"
- Approved to present at Annual Congregation Meeting "OSLC Constitution & Bylaw" revisions
- Annual Meeting is set for January 26, 2025, after worship
- Ballot reviewed for 2025 Annual Meeting "elections"
- Set January 15, 2025 as next Council meeting

2024 Committee Annual Reports
Thanks to those who were
able to submit their
Committee Reports!

DESIGNATED FUNDS	
(as of November 30)	
Christmas Dinner	\$ 425
Future Needs	\$ 510
Youth Group	\$ 790
Education Fund	\$ 816
Other Benevolence	\$ 1,412
Scholarship	\$(1,421)
Praise Band	\$ 1,859
Operation Motorcycle Mercy	\$ 2,449
Special Funds (misc. in/out)	\$ 3,152
Church Camp	\$ 3,962
Mission Outreach	\$ 8,928
Memorial Fund	\$33,637
BALANCE	\$56,519
Designated Certificate of Deposits (CD)	
(as of November 30)	
Loan Sec (matures 3.27.25)	\$ 10,000
Ed. Fund (matures 4.7.25)	\$ 21,135
CD 9362 (matures 4.3.25)	\$ 25,000
CD 9361 (matures 4.3.25)	\$145,000

NOVEMBER 30, 2024 FINANCIAL SNAP SHOT	
Budget Weekly Need, General Funds Income	\$ 6,433
General Offering Fund Income	\$ 19,348
General Budgeted Expenses	\$ 18,122
General Fund Bank Balance	\$ 32,312
YTD Budget (47 weeks)	\$302,351
YTD General Fund Expenses	\$262,718
YTD General Offerings	\$246,341