

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2018

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Tyler, Texas 75703

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Bringing Christ to the people...the people to Christ



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are beginning the season of Advent, and we are continuing the beautiful tradition of putting out an Advent wreath with candles. We do that every year; it is a wonderful tradition that marks this special time of year. A number of people have asked about the names for the candles and the colors of the various candles. Our designations at Our Saviour's sometimes aren't the same as people had in a previous church. People wonder where the candles come from and what the traditions actually are.

I found an article on the Sola Publishing website that I found most helpful and I'm going to share it with you.

On the Use of Advent Candles

The use of an Advent Wreath and candles as part of worship is a relatively recent custom in the church, probably no more than about 300 years old. Originating among Lutherans in northern Europe from earlier cultural traditions, it has been adopted by many Christian denominations over the last few centuries.

Designating the names for the various candles is a very recent phenomena (probably mid-20th century), and multiple traditions have developed. These often vary by denominations, region, religious publisher, and even in the literature of various candle supply companies!

Strictly speaking, there is no single set of traditional names for the candles; there are, in fact, many different traditions. Some of these names were related to old lectionary texts that are no longer in use. The most commonly used names among Protestants for the candles are the designations 1) Prophets' Candle, 2) Bethlehem Candle, 3) Shepherds' Candle, 4) Angels' Candle. In a similar way, Roman Catholics have often designated these same candles to refer to Advent saints: 1) Patriarchs, 2) Prophets, 3) John the Baptist, 4) Virgin Mary.

An even more recent tradition among various churches is to name the candles by Advent "theme" words, the most common four being Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace (or in the order: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love). Some churches replace one or more of these words with Preparation or Expectation.

Keep in mind: the use of candles in Advent is a human tradition, neither mandated nor prohibited by Scripture. There is no right or wrong in the use of these names. Local congregations are free to use what they choose. "And to the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree concerning the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. Nor is it necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or ceremonies, instituted by men, should be everywhere alike." (Augsburg Confession 7)

I hope this is helpful. We look forward to our beautiful tradition of the Advent wealth again this year. And if you happen to be in another congregation that names the candles n a different way, now you know why!

God Bless,
Pastor Mark

Mid-Week Advent Activities

With December we enter the season of Advent. We will offer special activities on the Wednesday evenings of Advent. At 6:00 p.m. we will have a soup and salad dinner in the fellowship hall. At 7:00 pm we will have special Advent services. We will have three Wednesdays when we offer these activities – Dec. 5, 12, and 19. Here are a few more details:

At 6:00 pm we will have a soup and salad supper. There is no cost for the meal. Please come when you can and enjoy a meal with your church family. We are also asking people to sign up to help with setting up or cooking or cleaning up after a meal. Worship will be at 7:00 pm. Pastor Mark will start with a Bible study on what the Gospel of Matthew tells us about Christmas. After the study we will use the Holden Village Evening Prayer worship service. This is a beautiful and popular service and most fitting for Advent.

Here is the schedule for topics in the Bible study:

Dec. 5 – The Genealogy of Jesus – Matthew 1:1-17

Dec. 12 – Joseph and his dreams – Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 19 – The Wisemen – Matthew 2:1-12

Be sure to come and share this Advent season!

Christmas Eve Worship

We will offer two worship services on Christmas Eve.

The first service will be at 7:00 pm. This service will include carols and lighting and Holy Communion. Before the service we will offer a Christmas concert with our members sharing special music for the season.

The second service will be at 11:00 pm. We envision this as a smaller and quieter service. It will also include carols and candle lighting, and Holy Communion.

Confirmation Class trip and fundraisers

Our Confirmation Class is looking at a June trip to Galveston. They are having some fundraisers for the trip this month.

*On Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm the youth will provide gift wrapping

*On Sunday, Dec. 23 the youth will hold a Bake Sale in the narthex

Men's Fellowship

Our men have had a lot of fun with fellowship gatherings over the past couple of years. We want to be sure to continue with that. We are scheduling our next Men's fellowship for Saturday afternoon, Dec. 1 at 4:00 at Rounder's Pizza (just down the block from the church.) We will order a few pizzas and beverages, tell a variety of stories (some factual and some most likely not), and catch up with each other. Please plan to come, these have been great fun.

No Sunday School On December 23 and 30

We will not have Sunday School on Dec. 23 and 30. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 6.

First Communion Training

The following students have completed the class for First Communion:

Amara Brown

Grayson Sartor

Annabelle Davis

Karmen Fitzgerald

Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2019 will be put out in the church entryway during December. Be sure to pick up your box.

Can You Keep a Secret?

Rev. Paul Kirchner was pastor at OSLC from 1985 – 1998. He is now serving at Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church in Victoria, Texas. This summer is the 40th anniversary of his ordination. The congregation in Victoria is going to have a celebration of Pastor Paul's years of ministry on Sunday, June 16 at their congregation. They are inviting members of OSLC to join the celebration. Please feel most invited to attend. This is all a secret from Pastor Paul so if you have contact with him, please don't mention this. If you would like more details about this, please talk with Pastor Mark.

Sunday School Christmas Tree Excursion

The annual Sunday School trip to cut a Christmas Tree for the education wing will be on Saturday, December 8. Meet at the church at 9:30 for breakfast, we will head for the tree farm about 10. We are encouraging each family to send one parent or guardian for supervision. Plan to come; this is always a wonderful event!. If you have questions, please contact Lori Sartor at loricita75@yahoo.com or 903-944-8429.

Help Wanted – Church Directory

The church council would like for us to do an updated picture church directory. We have had a lot of new members and we'd like to update our directory to reflect that. If you would be willing to work on this project, please talk to Pastor Mark or Bill Hebb.

Thursday Morning Bible Study – 2019

2019 is going to be an exciting year for studying God's Word. We will complete our last study of the General Epistles on January 3rd and kick off the New Year on January 10 with another 12-week study that takes us through the book of Genesis! Below is a brief overview of the study:

Genesis (Old Places, New Faces) by Kent Groethe

Places have to do with geography. In the Bible we find God's people in many different places, both physically and spiritually, with regards to their relationship to their Creator and Savior. Like them, we journey through many lands in our Christian walk. We move from chaos to order, from Ur to Canaan, and from obedience to disobedience. As we become more acquainted with our spiritual geography, we will better discern where God would have us go or what changes we need to make in order to serve Him better.

Everyone is welcome to join the Thursday morning study. We meet at 10:00 AM. For more information please contact Chris Burris at 303-668-6643 or cburris9031@gmail.com

You Might Be Getting Two Newsletters This Month

As you may know, we are in the process of changing over how we share our monthly newsletter. For years we have mailed out a paper copy of the newsletter. We are in the process of changing over to sending most people an electronic copy of the newsletter.

We have set up the electronic format of the newsletter, and it really looks quite good! So for this month and next, we are going on to send out both the paper copy to our entire mailing list, and the electronic copy to our flock notes list. This is a bit of a "trial run" for the electronic newsletter, and also a chance for you to see it and share your suggestion and ideas. By early 2019 we plan to have the electronic newsletter be our primary means of sharing.

And again, if you would prefer to receive a paper copy, please let the office know. We know that some of our members like the paper copy, and we will continue to send that out to all who would prefer that. Please let us know if that is what you would prefer.

Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Committee follows the mandates of scripture to serve others, especially those who are ill, hungry, troubled, suffering injustice, or lacking basic needs. Each month, we will include a brief description of the organization (s) that our donations target.

Contributions: In December, we made a donation to Clean Water Projects through Heifer International.

Annual Food Drive for Path: During the month of November, we collected nonperishable food items for Path. Thank you for your generous contributions to this project.

Christmas In The Neighborhood: Again this year we are adopting 4 seniors from Meals on Wheels. Sign up for gifts began on November 25th. All gifts must be returned by December 9th. This project makes Christmas brighter for four seniors in our community.

Quilters: The Quilters are pleased to have quilted wall hangings. These are for sale. If you are interested in any of these, please contact Linda Tumino or Helen Siebert.

The Quilters are always looking for new members. Anyone who is interested, please join us any Tuesday morning. We meet from 9:00 to 11:30 with a coffee break at 10:00. No experience is necessary. Only a desire to learn is required.

Primetimers

Big change for this year's meeting on December 13, 2018 at 12 noon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church; **NO** cookie exchange. Instead there will be a Christmas ornament or gag-gift exchange. You may bring either and it can be something used or something you purchase. Don't spend more than \$5 if you purchase it. Do wrap the gift.

In addition, please bring toiletries to be donated to the Social Ministry committee to distribute to those less fortunate than we. The toiletries should be travel size and items such as tooth brushes, tooth paste, shampoo, lotion, combs, and items that one might receive while staying at a motel.

The luncheon will be a potluck (share a dish) of international foods—anything you feel like cooking). The ornament/gift exchange as well as some other surprises will be in store. Jenny Videtto will be involved, so you know it will be fun.

Once again, remember December 13, 2018 at 12 noon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and do plan to attend. Not only will the food be great, but the fellowship is "out of this world". Remember we are the "most caring Primetimers in the world". There is no one who will intimidate you or nothing to obligate you, just great folks to welcome you, so give us a try.

Remember, bring an ornament/gag gift wrapped for the exchange, toiletries for the less fortunate, a dish to share for the luncheon, and **do bring a friend** to share the fellowship.

Please RSVP to Mary Ferguson via email or 903-565-6607, by Tuesday December 11th so we know how many tables to prepare.



THE BABY JESUS STARTS TEETHING.

Come Join Us each Wednesday in Advent Holden Evening Prayer Service

Led by Blaine and Karin Davis
7:00 pm, December 5th, 12th, and 19th

Holden Evening Prayer
Written by [Marty Haugen](#)

Written in 1985-1986 while Marty was the musician-in-residence at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in Washington State, this lovely setting of vespers follows the traditional form while using contemporary language. Contents include "Service of Light," Evening Hymn-"Joyous Light of Heav'nly Glory," "Evening Thanksgiving," "The Annunciation," "The Magnificat," "Litany and Prayers," and "Final Blessing."

Babysitting will be provided



CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE NAVE—HELP WANTED

- Sunday, November 25th, after the service – a small group of people to get all the tree boxes out of long-term storage so they will be ready-to-go for the men to put up the tree that week.
- Our sweet men are putting up our Congregational Christmas Tree in the Nave during the week of November 26—30th. If you can help, please contact Joe Coke, 903-312-5353 for the date and time.
- Saturday, December 1st, beginning at 9 am – all available Altar Guild women (and men) to decorate the tree so that it will be ready for our first Sunday in Advent, December 2nd

All of these Advent jobs become much lighter with many hands.

Fellowship and



Worship Opportunities

Are You Available to Serve Christmas Eve @ 11:00 Service

The Worship Server's schedule for December is included in this newsletter. However we need Ushers, Readers and Communion Servers who would be willing to serve at the 11:00 service on Christmas Eve. If you will be attending at 11:00 p.m. and are willing to serve, please let Debbie Miller know at dmiller@oslctyler.org, 903-561-1865 or Carol Lattier know at chlattier@live.com, 903-825-2516, Thank you for your service.

December 2018 Worship Servers

	First Sunday Of Advent 1st Sunday	Second Sunday Of Advent 2nd Sunday	Third Sunday Of Advent 3rd Sunday	Fourth Sunday Of Advent 4th Sunday	First Sunday In Christmas 5th Sunday	Feast of the Epiphany 1st Sunday
2018	Dec 2	Dec 9	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30	Jan 6, 2019
Altar Guild	Jan Moch Susan Buntz Audrey Cameron	Carol Lattier Sherry Towns Connie & Ed Lucas	Joni LeBlanc Sandra Hawthorne Jennifer Videtto	Carol Lattier Virginia Coker Kimberly Butler Michelle Smith	Directors	Jan Moch Susan Buntz Audrey Cameron
10:00 Combined Service						
LMC & Usher	Sally Dengerud	Connie Gibbs	Erin Henriksen	Robert Henriksen	Bob Tardiff	Ryan Gibbs &
Usher	Cliff Dengerud	Terry Gibbs	Jethro Jackson	Nicholas Henriksen	Ezrah Johnson	Milo Miles
Acolyte	Ben Snyder	Abby Gibbs & Mackenzie Davis	Grayson Sartor	Addie Sartor & Mackenzie LeRoy	Abby Gibbs & Mackenzie Davis	Ben Snyder
Reader	Travis Snyder	Carmen Nazario	Kristen Blaise	Blaine Davis	Carol Lattier	Travis Snyder
Communion	Susan Buntz	Jana Coke	Ed Lattier	Jan Moch	Ed Lattier	Susan Buntz
	Dee Miles	Ken Pontious	Jana Snyder	Blaine Davis	Cheryl Pontious	Dee Miles
	Audrey Cameron	Cheryl Pontious	Amy Norris	Max Lewis	Ken Pontious	Audrey Cameron
Projectionist	Toby Fite	Toby Fits	Toby Fite	Toby Fite	Toby Fite	Toby Fite
	Dec. 24 7:00	Dec. 24 11:00 PM				
LMC	Erin Henriksen					
Usher	Robert Henriksen	Will Be				
Usher	Nicholas Henriksen	Determined				
Acolyte	Ben Snyder	Closer To Time of Service				
Reader	Travis Snyder					
Communion	Max Lewis					
	Ed Lattier					
	Jana Snyder					
Projectionist	Toby Fite					
PLEASE NOTE: If you cannot serve in your scheduled worship service position, please find a substitute so that the position is filled. Then call the office at 903-561-1865 so that the correct server can be shown in that week's bulletin.						



PEACE DECEMBER 2018



	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri		
2 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship	3 No Activities Scheduled	4 9:00 Quilters 12:00 AA Meeting	5 Embroiderer's Guild: 9-3 Advent: 6:00 Soup Supper 6:45 Prayer Time 7:00 Worship	6 12:00 AA Meeting 6:00 CODA 6:00 ACA Meeting	7 No Activities Scheduled	8 9:30 Sunday School Christmas Tree Excursion!! 12:00 AA Meeting
9 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship Deadline for Gifts for Christmas in the Neighbor- hood	10 6:30 Council	11 9:00 Quilters 12:00 AA Meeting	12 Advent: 6:00 Soup Supper 6:45 Prayer Time 7:00 Worship DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES—NOON	13 12:00 Primetimers 12:00 AA Meeting 6:00 CODA 6:00 ACA Meeting	14 No Activities Scheduled	15 12:00 AA Meeting
16 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship	17 No Activities Scheduled	18 9:00 Quilters 12:00 AA Meeting	19 Advent: 6:00 Soup Supper 6:45 Prayer Time 7:00 Worship	20 12:00 AA Meeting 6:00 CODA 6:00 ACA Meeting	21 No Activities Scheduled	22 12:00 AA Meeting
23 /30 9:15 Choir 10:00 Worship	24/31 6:30 Christmas Con- cert 7:00 Christmas Eve Service 11:00 Midnight Christmas Eve Ser- vice No Activities Dec. 31	25 Celebration of the Birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in hu- man form.	26 No Activities Scheduled	27 12:00 AA Meeting 6:00 CODA 6:00 ACA Meeting	28 No Activities Scheduled	29 No Activities Scheduled



NALC
North American Lutheran Church



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Staff:

Senior Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Mark Braaten
 Parish Administrator.....Debbie Miller
 Financial Administrator.....Carol Lattier
 Organist/Keyboardist.....Dr. Jaeyong Lee

Mission Statement

*“ Bringing Christ
 To the people,
 And the people
 To Christ. ”*

Sunday Schedule

**Please see the Calendar inside this newsletter for our
 Schedule during the month of December.**

Address Service Requested

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
 4900 Kinsey Drive
 Tyler, TX 75703**

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