

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
PO Box 277 + 305 Sixth St
Cleveland, MN 56017

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER





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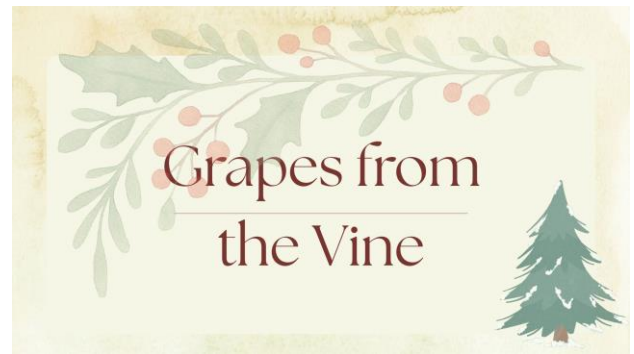
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From the Pastor

Beloved,

This month to share an Advent reflection from one of my mentors, Dr. Karoline Lewis. She wrote this piece for the website Working Preacher:

The charge to keep awake during this Advent season is not just about waiting and anticipation. It is not just about getting ready or being ready because can you ever be ready for Christ's coming? Can we ever be ready for God entering into humanity, into our sinfulness and brokenness, into our pain and loss, into our joy, into our love, into our longing?

The answer is no, and Advent will never be long enough. That's the point. God arrives, regardless of our readiness. God shows up, despite our determination toward manifesting our own destiny. God will come, no matter what kind of stipulations or conditions or provisions we make to persuade God of our timeliness.

Our time is oriented by God's. time -- always has been and always will be. God entered into our time, forever changing it. God lived time with us, forever altering what time really means.

Ultimately, God's entering into time disrupts time, displaces time, disorients time. Not always comfortably. Not always helpfully. Not always desirably. And never how or when expectable. Why? Because divinity took on mortality, eternity entered temporality, and love eliminated death. This... is the meaning of Advent time.

Our Sunday worship theme for Advent and Christmas this year is **"The Will to Dream."** In a time when trust feels fragile and divisions run deep, The Will to Dream calls us into holy longing—a sacred desire for a world made whole. On Wednesday evenings we'll sing of God's amazing saving act of Emmanuel, God with us, through **Holden Evening Prayer.**

Peace be yours,
 Pr. Liz

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 God Squad 6:00 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:00 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent	8	9	10 God Squad 6:00 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m.	11 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	12	13
14 Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent Council 10:00 a.m.	15 Make & Pray 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	16	17 God Squad 6:00 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m.	18 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	19	20 Christmas Program Rehearsal
21 Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Program	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 3:30 p.m. Worship 5:00 p.m.	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28	29	30	31			

Our Savior's Lutheran Church—Council Minutes

November 2, 2025

Council members present: Pastor Liz, Tom Christensen, Terri Heimerman, Betty Consoer, Ginny Grabow, Jim Grabow. Terri provided a devotional...Christ knocking at the doors of our hearts.

Financial report: Brian Block presented the October financials:

The general fund received gifts of \$8,543. versus last year of \$11,374. giving us a difference of (\$2,831.) The ,checkbook balance is \$7,802.72. Year to date, the General Fund received gifts of \$106,094.75 versus last year of \$102,012.45 giving us a difference of \$\$4,082.30. The financial report was approved on a motion by Jim, second by Betty/approved.

Old Business:

- Parsonage roof—Tom filed a complaint with city police about theft of our down pmt. County attorney approved. We are working through legal challenges for return of some of church money lost.
- Tree removal—nothing new to report
- Grounds (church & parsonage) clean up scheduled for 11/5, 10:00 am. All help appreciated.
- Altar painting—Sue Eppmeyer and Deb Gehrke will be working on it.
- Trunk or treat-well attended. Students from the high school assisted with games, snacks were served, including hot chocolate and LOTS of candy. The furnace heating classrooms was not working. Tom did some initial checking and Kelly was called in for service and a part was ordered.

New Business:

- Administrative assistant position. will be posted on "Indeed" soon. 5-10 hours/week. Emily is willing to do some training, but would like to be done the week before Christmas.
- Reviewed events calendar and project list. Adjustments were made.

Thank you notes will be sent to the American Legion and Hometown Bank for supplying candy for Trunk or treat.

Discussed the evaluation process to come.

Tom moved we adjourn seconded by Terri. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting date December 14 2025, after worship. Tom will offer devotions.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Ginny Grabow, council secretary

Upcoming Events:

Advent services, December 3, 10, 17—6:30 pm

December 21—children's program

January 20—Lunch for a Buck—Crossroads Campus Ministry

Called to Let Our Light Shine!

OSLC News and Announcements

God Squad

The kids are loving the VBS format with a Bible story, music time, games and crafts, and a snack! We'll continue to have Family Worship (including Holy Communion) on the first Wednesday of the month.

- Dec 3 – Christmas Program Prep
- Dec 10 – Christmas Program Prep
- Dec 17 – Christmas Program Prep
- Dec 20 - (Saturday) Run-through TBA
- Dec 21 - (Sunday) Worship & Program at 9:00 a.m.

Last Chance to Order Poinsettias!

We hope you will consider assisting us to make our church home festive for the season, too. We were pleased with the supplier last year and need an order total by Sunday, December 7. The cost for each will be \$20. The signup sheet is in the Narthex. You can drop your payment in the offering plate and note its purpose as "poinsettia." If you have any questions, please contact Deb Gehrke.

Christmas Program and Cookie Social

The God Squad Christmas Program will be during worship at 9:00am on Sunday, December 21. Bring a Christmas cookie or dessert to share at the reception during coffee hour.

Thank You, Pastor Liz!!

Whether you plan to attend Christmas services in person or online, please consider a monetary gift for Pastor Liz. She deserves thanks for her efforts to keep the wheels on the bus for our Christian family and home.

At Our Savior's Christmas Eve services the loose change offering has been given to Pastor Liz as a Christmas and thank you gift. The Council would ask you to consider a gift again this year by giving a loose change offering or by sending her a card with a monetary gift in it to her address at:

Liz Rossing, PO Box 9, Cleveland, MN 56017

December Make & Pray

On Monday, December 15 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., we will gather to decorate Christmas Cookies for the Cleveland Food Shelf. Everyone who participates will also get to take some home. Yum! There are some aprons at the church; bring your own if you want to.

Choir for Christmas

Calling all Choir Members! To start preparing for Christmas Eve services, we will continue our choir practices following midweek Advent worship on Wednesday evenings.

Advent & Christmas

Advent began on Sunday, November 30. Here are the important dates to save:

- Midweek Advent Services will be December 3, 10, 17 @ 6:30 p.m. *Holden Evening Prayer*
- December choir rehearsals Dec 3, 10, 17 at 7:00 p.m. after Advent services
- God Squad Christmas Program is Sunday, December 21 @ 9:00 a.m.
- Christmas Eve Worship at 3:30 & 5:00 p.m. with Holy Communion and Candlelight

Finish the year strong by giving generously!



Put an exclamation point on 2025 with a gift that will empower OSLC's efforts to make a life-changing difference for those we serve. Simply scan the QR code to make your end-of-year gift.

You can support our mission and ministry together in a variety of ways such as volunteering to assist in Sunday morning worship, helping with God Squad, or signing up to provide treats at Coffee Hour. Your financial contributions can be made by giving on Sunday mornings, or with Simply Giving (automatic withdrawals) by requesting a form from the church office. Give online with Vanco. A link can be found on the church website under the "Donate" tab or scanning the QR code with your smartphone.

Birthdays Anniversaries

2nd Joshua Biehn, Sandi Hollerich
3rd Sandy Seitz
9th Bob Gehrke
10th Gary Hasse, Ethan Thompson
12th Corbin Thompson
14th Nancy Block, Oaklyn Van Eck
15th Nancy Hensel
20th Nancy Petrich
23rd Sherry Johnstone
31st Christopher Seely

Please contact oursaviorslutheran1@gmail.com to request changes or prayers.

11th Alan & Julie Zimmerman
28th Mike Enter & Jan Fisher

Prayer Concerns

Members: Charlotte Jacoby+, George Bauer+, Kevin Mueller+, Karen Johnson+, Bradley Riba+, Michaela Biehn+, Jean Seely+, Jayne Martin+, Dianne Hansen+, Doug Starkweather+, Joanna Starner+, Tracy Strande+

Non-Members: Cindy Wieland+, Holly Kallestad+, Deb Vieth+

Those in the military service

Active Military: Brendon Brown, Alex Garrison, Chris Glassel, Tyler Seitz, and Tyler Piotter.

We also pray for all veterans who have served in our nation's Armed Forces.

Preparing for Worship

11/30: Advent 1 (Vigilant Hope): Isaiah 2:1-5

12/7: Advent 2 (Prophetic Peace): Matthew 3:1-12

12/14: Advent 3 (Unexpected Joy): Luke 1:39-55

12/21: Advent 4 (Merciful Love): Luke 1:57-80

12/24: Christmas Eve
(Embodied Promise): Luke 2:1-20

12/28: First Sunday After Christmas
(Generational Praise): Luke 2:22-40

1/4/26: Epiphany (Courageous Defiance):
Matthew 2:1-15

