

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

The Messenger

Dec 2022

Worship Services Schedule

9:30 AM – WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS EVE – 3:00PM
– 5:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY – 9:30 AM

NEW YEARS DAY – 11:30 AM

Pastor's Message

Nothing Is Always As it Seems

Christmas is almost here. But it's different this year. Or should I say it feels a bit different to me this year. As I survey the landscape of our world, things don't seem to be getting better. Violence is increasing. Food prices are increasing. Interest rates are increasing. Tensions worldwide are increasing. Everything seems to be going South. (I wonder if that is a Civil War reference?) As we approach Christmas, it's hard to think that this will be one of the more peaceful Christmas seasons we have had in a while. Unfortunately, the world seems to be on fire.

But **nothing is always as it seems**. What do I mean? Well, things weren't particularly copasetic in Israel when Jesus was born. Remember at that time, the Romans occupied Jerusalem and ruled over the Jewish people. They particularly remembered how Herod had executed 45 of the 71 members of the Sanhedrin after he came into power. They weren't happy with those occupying their territory. They wanted their independence but didn't think it could happen. Things looked bleak in Israel.

All of a sudden out of nowhere, **“the Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14, The Message)**. But the Word, Jesus, didn't make a big splash. He barely made a ripple in the ebb and flow of life in Israel. He wasn't born in a palace with pillows covered with silk; he was born in a manger with hay under his head. He wasn't born into old money with a silver spoon in his mouth. No, instead, he was born with wood blocks from his father's carpentry shop.

And King Herod supposedly wanted to worship the new king but actually, he hoped to kill him (Matt 2:7-8). He solicited three wise men to tell him where this new king was but they deceive him as he had deceived them. **Nothing is always as it seems.**

Then, all of a sudden at 12 years of age, this pre-adolescent who was a carpenter's son was ⁴⁶**sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.** ⁴⁷ **Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers (Luke 2:46-47).**

In his thirties, he recruited 12 men who were **uneducated and ordinary** types from different walks of life (Acts 4:13). They weren't the best and the brightest. They were closer to the lowest and the least. But they turned the world **upside down** for Christ (Acts 17:6) as **nothing is always as it seems.**

He took the 12 with him and he didn't have a place to lay his head. He was homeless (Luke 9:58) yet he will go and prepare a place for us in heaven.

He doesn't obey the social mores. He talks to women; touches lepers and tells dead men to rise. His family thinks he's out of his mind (Mark 3:21). They don't know it but he's the Messiah bringing the kingdom of God with him. **Nothing is always as it seems.**

Finally, he arrived in Jerusalem and was crucified on calvary's tree. It looked like he lost the battle with Satan but **nothing is always as it seems.** He rose from the dead on the third day for you and for me for our justification. He took our sins upon himself and became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God through him. He ascended into heaven and is now sitting at God's right hand.

Things look bleak for us now as they did in Jerusalem 2000 years ago but He is coming again. Remember what looked like defeat on the cross was victory on that first Easter. Where God is involved, nothing is always as it seems. As it was on that first Christmas, God is still moving and Jesus will come again because the darkness will never overcome the light. Not then, not now, not ever.

Grace and Peace this Christmas and always,
Pastor Bruce

OSLC COUNCIL PRESIDENT: John Deitsch

In last month's article I referenced some emerging factions, not to unnecessarily alarm anyone, but rather just to make everyone aware that there are, amongst our members, some differences that exist; and that your Council leadership is aware of some of these differences and is looking at ways to resolve them before they begin to negatively impact our congregation. As I communicated in a CCB email, your Council voted to seek assistance from LCMC; who has experts who are available to support and trained in this area; to help us expeditiously and fairly work through these issues, some of which have been persisting for some time. I am confident that if those who have issues come to the table with an open mind and a willingness to resolve their differences, that we will be able to work through the issues without missing a beat.

To keep things in perspective, even though we have some differences to resolve, our congregation has been steadily moving forward in faith and has made some great strides over the past year. Our Sunday Service remains the lynchpin of our worship, along with some strong Bible Study groups, Men's Prayer Breakfast, and Sunday School. We also reorganized our ministries this year and have seen them step things up coming out of the Covid period, with very successful Wine & Cheese and Steak Fry events; participation in the Roy Days Parade with an award-winning float; a well-attended, fun, and profitable Golf for the Son; and a very popular Trunk or Treat being just some of the highlights. We have also begun supporting the Family Promise program, had the 9/11 food drive, made up Blessing Bags, and are currently working on Operation Christmas Child; all just some of the ways we are administering outreach. And of course, our Praise Band is top notch and produces outstanding music as an important feature of our Worship Service. All these positive aspects only serve to emphasize the need to get our differences resolved so we can keep our focus where it needs to be and continue to accomplish great things as we serve God's church.

Before wrapping things up, I would like to remind everyone that we have three open Council Positions that we are looking to fill at our Congregational Meeting in December. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please inform one of your Council representatives or the Church Office of your intent. We are also recruiting to replace Don McFarland as the Council Treasurer and Kim Sparkman as the Council Secretary as we enter the new year. Additionally, we are looking for someone (or multiple individuals) to take on some of the Church Office Secretary responsibilities in 2023. Again, please let a Council representative or the Church Office know if you would like to help or serve in any of these roles.

And lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry and Blessed Christmas! As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, let us remember that Jesus is not only the reason for the season, but He is also the reason for our Church and why we gather to worship and serve. Let us always keep Him at the center of everything we do. I look forward to serving you on Council during the upcoming year,

and as always request your prayers for myself and your other elected representatives, that we may provide you the leadership that you all deserve.

MINISTRY & TEAM REPORTS

MUSIC AND WORSHIP Ministry: Mark Nourse (Chairman) Trent Schmid (Counsel Liaison)

On behalf of the whole Worship & Music Ministry, we wish you all a happy Advent season and a very merry Christmas.

Worship Service Musicians' Schedule for December 2022 *(and a few other big, fun events)*

December 4th Worship Service at 9:30am

December 11th Worship Service at 9:30am

December 18th Worship Service at 9:30am

December 18th at 10:30am Children's Christmas Program (Grow Ministry led by Justine and Liz)

December 18th Congregational Meeting (following the Children's Program)

December 24th Worship Service at 3pm (organ music by Kathy Beddes)

December 24th Worship Service at 5pm (Praise Band)

December 25th Worship Service at 9:30am (Praise Band)

Beginning in January, we will begin offering an 11:30 a.m. Worship Service in addition to the already existing 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. This option was proposed by the Worship & Music Ministry and approved by the Church Council. The current Praise Band will regularly serve at the 11:30 a.m. Worship Service, and we will occasionally include a hymn or two played on the organ.

Our 9:30 a.m. Worship Service will continue as normal with some small changes. Since Sunday School follows this Worship Service, there will be some modifications made to ensure that the length of this service runs somewhere from 45 minutes to an hour. This service will feature a few hymns and simple contemporary songs (such as Via de Cristo songs).

With the addition of the second Worship Service at 11:30 a.m., an opportunity opens for others to offer their time and talent playing music and singing at either or both Worship Services. If you would like to participate as a musician for the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service or the 11:30 a.m. Worship Service, please contact Mark or Minuette. We would be blessed by your presence and participation.

Worship Service Musicians' Schedule for January 2023

January 1st Worship Service at 11:30am (with Mark, Melissa, Curt and Minuette)

January 8th Worship Service at 9:30am (with Tedi, Jake and Minuette)

January 8th Worship Service at 11:30am (with Mark, Melissa, Curt, and Minuette)
January 15th Worship Service at 9:30am (with Tedi, Vicki, Jake and Minuette)
January 15th Worship Service at 11:30am (with Mark, Melissa, Curt, and Minuette)
January 22nd Worship Service at 9:30am (TBA)
January 22nd Worship Service at 11:30am (with Mark, Melissa, Curt, and Minuette)
January 29th Worship Service at 9:30am (TBA)
January 29th Worship Service at 11:30am (with Mark, Melissa, Curt, and Minuette)
Please be aware that the schedules above are not written in stone. We are very open to having even more people come to practice and be a part of the Praise Bands at OSLC. Have a safe and super fun holiday season and a happy new year!

In God's grace,
Mark and Minuette

GROW Ministry: Justine Ashcraft (Chairman) - Josh Ashcraft (Council Liaison)

I need to give a huge THANK YOU to all those who made our Trunk or Treat a great success! From everyone who donated food items, to the wonderful ladies who helped in the kitchen and with decorating the fellowship hall, the men who grilled the hot dogs, and everyone who decorated a trunk—thank you so much! We think we doubled attendance from last year and had around 150 people! It was such a fun night!

I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving gathered together with your loved ones.

Now onto Christmas! December 18th will be our children's Christmas program. It will be following the 9:30 service so please just stay comfy in your seats when the service concludes and the children will be prancing in to bring you some adorable Christmas cheer! Then, following the program you may join us in the fellowship hall for hot chocolate and treats! If you'd like to bring cookies or brownies or any kind of yummy treat to share for this event that would be wonderful and appreciated! There will be no Sunday school/confirmation on December 25th or January 1st. Enjoy your holiday break and we'll see the kiddos back on the 8th!

Merry Christmas to all!
Justine

Connect Ministry: Renae & Terry Schmid (Chairman) - Annie Baugh (Council Liaison)

Women's Activities: Paint Night - Nov. 3rd was so much fun and well attended - all 25 slots filled. Thanks Justine Ashcraft for organizing that for us!

Soup with the Sisters is scheduled for Saturday, January 7 at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to attend and spend time with your fellow sisters in Christ while we enjoy a

light luncheon of soup, sandwiches, salads, drinks, and desserts. 2022 Secret Sisters will be revealed at the luncheon and you do not need to participate in the Secret Sister program to come to the luncheon. Sign-up sheets for food and 2023 Secret Sisters will be posted in December. If you have questions, please contact Vicki Ramirez 801-643-3695. Hope to see you there!

Men's Activities: Men's Prayer Breakfast -Dec. 3rd - 8 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. The Prayer Breakfast is open to all men, young and old, members and friends of OSLC. Come one, come all! Great food, a Devotional, and good Christian discussion (and usually some fun bantering back and forth) can be expected by all who attend. Joe Heman and Dave Engen will host this month. The next breakfast will be Jan. 7th, 2023 at 8 AM.

Alpha Food Drive: Who Do YOU KNOW? That could use support for some food/personal care products? Assistance forms are in the Narthex in a basket where the bulletins are - fill out & place in little church. Monthly Hospitality Team Coordinators are in the process of calling all members and friends of Our Savior's with gentle reminders of food and personal care products for each family to donate. **Collection dates: Nov.7th- Dec. 4th.** (Fellowship Hall - tables set up.) **Delivery date Dec. 11th after service.**

Spotlight: The Alpha Food Drive, was named after one of our members - Alpha Nielsen - one of her daughters, Karen Larsen, remembers, as a little girl, her mom sitting at their kitchen table with lists of food and calling every family to donate. Karen estimates - that was 45- 50 years ago. The food drive has evolved over the years, of course, but Our Savior's heart is still alive and generous!

Home Visits: This is a new to us service for people who may need help at home. The Communion Team will be our initial contact and then refer -anyone with needs to Terry or Renae. (801-391-2537 or 801-388-7597) There is a sign-up sheet - available if you would be willing to help with small at home projects, i.e., Trimming, changing light bulbs, rides for appointments, putting book shelf together, etc. Always open to your suggestions

"We Love, because He first loved us". 1st John 4:19
Renae and Terry Schmid, Connect Ministry

Service & Outreach Ministry: Ashley Kaiser (Chairman) – Leo Seeber (Council Liaison)

Thank you to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child and filled a shoebox. Since 1993, more that 198 million children have received Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

I would also like to thank anyone that helped with Family Promise of Ogden during November.

The 2nd Sunday Offering in December will go to China Ventures/The Nellermoes on December 11. There is a basket in the narthex for offering. We will be looking at some possible changes to the 2nd Sunday Offering organizations for 2023.

Cookies for our “Golden Church Members and Friends” We have several members or friends of Our Savior’s who are not able to come to church to worship and celebrate Jesus’ birth. We are asking for you to bring in a couple dozen homemade cookies, December 11th. We will then package and deliver them to our home bound church members and friends. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex, so we can make sure we will have enough cookies. If anyone would like to help with packaging and delivering, we would love to have you join us. The more the merrier!

CHURCH WIDE ACTIVITIES

11 Dec 11:30 Cookie Packing
18 Dec 10:30 Sunday School Christmas Program
No Sunday School the Dec 25th & Jan 1st.

Christmas Activities for Families

- Visit the Christmas Village in Ogden. (Free)
- Hogel Zoo’s Zoo Lights, run Dec 2-31. (Entrance Fee)
- Willard Bay – Fantasy at the Bay Light Show Nov 25 – Dec 30 (Entrance Fee)
- Roy City light display, located at the city office buildings (Free)
- Layton Lights in the Park, Layton Commons Park, drive or walk through (Free)
- Farmington Station lights and breakfast with Santa (Fee for breakfast)
- Festival of the Seas – Loveland Planet Aquarium. (Fee)
- This is the Place Candlelight Christmas – Dec 6-23 (Fee)
- Lightwalk (Salt Lake) – Nov 25 – Jan 1 (Fee)
- Gardner Village scavenger hunt for elves.
- Heber Valle North Pole Express Nov 18 – Dec 29 (Fee)
- Live Nativity Wasatch County Event Center, Dec 14, 6 & 7:30PM



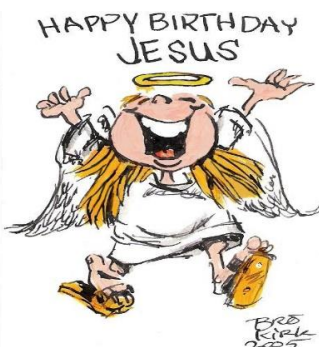
A festive graphic with a dark brown wooden plank background. In the top left, two red Christmas ornaments with gold glitter are hanging. In the bottom left, a green pine branch is decorated with red and silver ornaments and gold garlands. In the top right, a red gift box with a gold bow and a white gift box with a red bow are partially visible. In the bottom right, a red gift box with a gold bow and a red and white striped candy cane are visible.

ALL THE
**CHRISTMAS
PRESENTS**
IN THE WORLD
ARE NOTHING
WITHOUT THE
**PRESENCE
OF CHRIST**

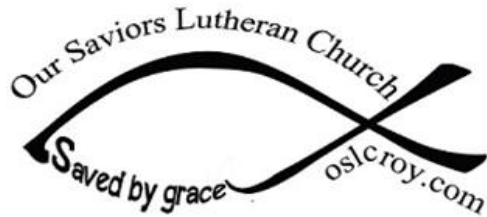
The CatholicLink logo, featuring a stylized 'C' with a flame inside a circle, followed by the text 'CatholicLink' in a sans-serif font.

Worship Assistants

Date	Time	Acolytes Sheila Courtney 385 626-8291	Greeters Gail Gildemeister 801 564-2357	Ushers Pat Simonson 801 721-7678	Projectionist Antonio Ramirez 801 573-2559	Camera Barb McFarland 801 668-9709	Altar Guild Santee Isaacson 801 388-6694	Communion Assistant
4 Dec	9:30	Wyatt Colvell	JoAn Underwood	Larry Underwood	Dave Engen		Kim Fasig	Kim Fasig
11 Dec	9:30	Luke Ashcraft	Sheila Courtney	Don McFarland	Jack Baldor		Katherine Redwine	Katherine Redwine
18 Dec	9:30	Brady Kaiser	Gail Gildemeister	Russ Smith			Santee Isaacson	Santee Isaacson
24 Dec	3:00p		Ashley Kaiser	Pat Simonson			Santee & Kim	Santee & Kim
24 Dec	5:00p	Wyatt Colvell	Pat Simonson	The Campbells			Santee & Kim	Santee & Kim
25 Dec	11:30							
1 Jan	11:30							



5 Dec Lisa Schmid	20 Dec Colleen McComb
7 Dec Ben Faris	22 Dec Mary Harris
9 Dec Kathy Sutherland	23 Dec Gerri Wessner
12 Dec Jake Anopol	24 Dec Stacy Ames
13 Dec Chuck Guenther	26 Dec Gracie Grentz
14 Dec Brady Kaiser	29 Dec Adelyn Carpenter
15 Dec Monty Tow	31 Dec Becky Kapinos
20 Dec Ellen Moulding	31 Dec Patrick Barrett
20 Dec Linsey Schmid	



DEC HOSPITALITY TEAM

Gail & Jim Campbell – Coordinator

Kris & Dan Gibson

Alan Huss

Sarah Bourgoine

Janet & Monty Tow

Pam Campbell

John Deitsch

CONGRATULATIONS, BLESSING & THANK YOU'S

A huge thank you to the shingle crew of Josh Ashcraft, Trent Schmid, Garret Fasig, Tim Fasig and Joey Carpenter. The shed roof looks great and will protect the contents from the elements. Your time and talents are very much appreciated.

Thank you for the gift of you, and your talent, Bob Harvey, for building our "little church". The original use was to collect loose change and cash for our Capital Campaign. It has been utilized for many other types of collections over the years and continues to be very a valuable asset.

Thank you to everyone for your help and support for the Alpha Food Drive. We couldn't do it without you. A big shout out to our hospitality coordinators for all their work with the project. And a huge hug for Renae Schmid for all the behind-the-scenes efforts to make it possible.

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00p Praise Band Practice 6:00p Girl Scout Troop #807	2 5:30p Girl Scout Troop #1710	3 8:00a Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00a Praise Band Practice
4 8:00a Praise Band Practice 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Sunday School	5 5:30p Girl Scout Troop #773	6	7 9:00a Quilters 12:00p Bible Study 5:30p Girl Scout Troop #970	8 9:00a Quilters 5:00p GSA Advisory Board 6:00p Praise Band Practice 6:00p Girl Scout Troop #578 6:30p Church Council	9	10 8:00a Suncrest GSA SOAP Event 9:00a Open Hands Food Pantry 9:00a Praise Band Practice
11 8:00a Praise Band Practice 9:30a Worship Service (2nd Sunday Offering) 10:30a Sunday School 11:30a Cookie Packing	12 5:30p Suncrest Service Unit Meeting (GSA)	13 6:00p Girl Scout Troop #111	14 12:00p Bible Study 5:30p Girl Scout Troop #970	15 6:00p Praise Band Practice 6:00p Girl Scout Troop #807	16 5:30p Girl Scout Troop #1710	17 9:00a Praise Band Practice
18 8:00a Praise Band Practice 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Sunday School Christmas Program	19 5:30p Girl Scout Troop #773	20	21 12:00p Bible Study 5:30p Girl Scout Troop #970	22 5:00p GSA Advisory Board 6:00p Praise Band Practice 6:00p Girl Scout Troop #578	23	24 9:00a Open Hands Food Pantry 9:00a Praise Band Practice 3:00p Christmas Eve Svs 5:00p Christmas Eve Svs
25 9:30a Worship Service 	26 5:30p Girl Scout Troop #773	27 6:00p Girl Scout Troop #111	28 12:30p Bible Study 5:30p Girl Scout Troop #970	29 6:00p Praise Band Practice	30 5:30p Girl Scout Troop #1710	31
1 11:30a Worship Service 						

Time Sensitive Material

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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Web Site: oslcroy.com

Dec Lectionary

Date	Sunday	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
4 Dec	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
11 Dec	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146	James 5:7-11	Matthew 11:2-15
18 Dec	4 th Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7:10-17	Psalm 24	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
24 Dec	Nativity of Our Lord	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 110:1-4	1 John 4:7-16	Matthew 1:18-25
25 Dec	Nativity of Our Lord	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 2	Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)	John 1:1-14 (15-18)