

FLC & OSL Light

Newsletter of First Lutheran and Our Savior's Ministries

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Prince of Peace

The call to worship on Sunday worship during Advent begins with the words, "be with us now." What does this mean for us? First, the petitions may ask for God to be with us in our worship or our community or suffering or our healing.

Following these petitions, we sing Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel. The words call to God to be present with us as we journey through the season of Advent.

We long for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to make us one body and set us free from the anxieties of this world. We ask to be united in the gift of hope and become reconciled people of God as described in the Advent Candle lighting hymn.

The season of Advent is about waiting for the coming of the Lord. From the Advent Devotionals to the themes of the Sunday and midweek worship services, we wait for the coming of Christ, both from 2,000 years ago and the arrival yet to come. As the people of God, we journey towards Bethlehem in the comforting but challenging reality of the "already" and the "not yet." After all, Advent is about hope for today, and Jesus is with us in the liminal time between the already and the not yet.

Then we move into the twelve days of Christmas and Epiphany. Christmas is about celebrating the Incarnation. This year, we hear from the Gospel of John that in the beginning was the Word and how the darkness has not overcome it.

Epiphany commemorates typically the arrival of the magi who came from afar to pay homage to the Christ child. Yet, the Christ child is born to us every day, and our Epiphany is continuous. Therefore, the time after Epiphany is a perfect opportunity to receive new insights about ourselves and the God we serve.

Throughout this time, we will listen to one another and hear where God is calling our congregations.

As always, Advent is a time for us to catch our breath. By that, I mean that in Advent, we become more aware of what God is doing in our lives and the world. It is a time that we can stop and breathe. Enjoy our families and friends. Take in the beauty of the decorations or the stillness of the night. Pray and worship.

Isn't this why we ask God to be with us now? What does it mean to make us one body? It is a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

May you and your family have a blessed Advent, with all those who wait, and sing,
*Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.*¹

Pastor Carol

We Have a Mission

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is a nurturing, accepting, and joyful faith community which invites all to grow in Christ.

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

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¹ Text: Geonyong Lee © 2021 Augsburg Fortress

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PRINCE OF PEACE

In the season of Advent, we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ two times. The altar cloth and paraments are blue as a color of hope.

The Sunday Sermon series is “God’s Presence Brings Life” Sunday Services at 11 am. The readings speak to God’s presence in life from letters to the Exiles, to the valley of the dry bones, to Isaiah’s invitation to the thirsty, and the word made flesh.

“Watch, Wait, and Wonder” is the midweek services at 5:30 pm on Thursdays. The worship is quieter. Candles will be lit. Prayer will be lifted up as we watch, wait and wonder about the coming of Christ this year.

Christmas Eve is the *Lord is Come!* Candlelight Service with Holy Communion at 5 pm.

The First Sunday of Christmas will be a Lessons and Carols Service with Holy Communion at 11 am.



Wait Upon the Lord

Take time to wait upon the Lord on Tuesdays and Thursdays of Advent with reflective devotions and prayers. Waiting upon the Lord means trusting in him and being patient for his plans for our lives to come to pass.

The devotions are written by the three LPA’s (Karen Dwyer, Michael Murray, and Steve Seilhymer) and Pr. Carol.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT

Sadly, there will be no Christmas Pageant this year for various reasons. At this time, we are exploring another fun event possibly with decorating the Christmas tree in December. Watch the announcements for updates!

CAROLING, CAROLING

The people of OSL and FLC are coming together for two caroling events. On December 2nd, we gather at OSL to carol along Main Street at 4 pm. In our travels, we will stop at Paula Nelson’s house for hot chocolate and cider.

On December 5th, we gather at FLC at 2 pm to carol at the long-term care unit and the church neighborhood. Afterwards, we will have hot chocolate and cider at the church.

Fa La La

ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

We will again be sponsoring a SCCFF family for Christmas. A list of needs for our family can be found on the LWSO bulletin board. New this year is also an online sign up. Thank you for being so generous each year in supporting a family for Christmas. The unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by December 5.

Advent Offerings

The midweek offerings for this year will be going towards the shed fund. As of November 21, 2021, we are less than \$800 to our goal.



Faithful Innovations

Faithful Innovations is a focused, open-ended program to inquire where our congregation is in our individual and collective journeys at Our Savior’s. During our 4-hour training in October, Katrina, Karen, Theo, and Steve O learned that we will let the Holy Spirit lead us in a yet unrealized direction.

Our next assignment is to sit with a fellow OSL member and ask the same four questions of each person. Again, the questions are similar to the ones you hear in our services, and there are no right or wrong responses.