DECEMBER 2021

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 4102 N. BEN JORDAN, VICTORIA, TX 77901 PHONE (361) 575-4305 FAX (361) 575-8679



www.oslcvictoria.com

Sunday worship 8:00 & 10:30 am Pastor Lalahery "La" Andriamihaja Children/Youth Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Ministers: YOU!



Beloveds of Our Saviour's,

Every year I am amazed how early some households have their Christmas decorations up, both inside and out. It seems that as soon as Halloween is over, the Christmas lights and the inflatable Santas are brought out and their living rooms and front yards are in full Christmas mode. Now, I don't mind the carols and the beautiful decors of the Christmas season. However, I do mind the sense of being rushed and

made to skip over some of the important traditions of our Christian faith, such as, All Saints Day, Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving celebration, and the Advent season. The way I see it, when we go from Halloween to Christmas, we're left with very little sense of anticipation and expectation, not to mention the lack of exhilaration that's to build up and lead us once again to the manger of our Savior.

Now, speaking of anticipations and expectations, there's a song in the hit Broadway show, *West Side Story*, that reminds me of the season of the Church that we're currently in – Advent. The song is entitled, "*Something's Coming*", and a few lines from it goes, "*There's somethin' due, any day; I will know, right away...*...*Something's coming, something good.*" Yes, we know that the season of Advent emphasizes the sense of expectant waiting for something good to happen, to occur that will change our lives, hopefully for the better. In the Old Testament, the people of Israel had heard God's promise that someone good and mighty - a Savior - would come, and so they waited through some of the darkest hours of their nation's history for the fulfillment of that promise.

Well, for us Christians, we know that that promise was fulfilled by the coming of Jesus, some two thousand years ago in the little town of Bethlehem of Judea. And we, like the Wisemen of old, will embark "On a Road Trip" (our Advent Sermon Series) which we will start on Sunday, November 28th – the First Sunday of Advent. This road trip will not only lead us to celebrating the birth of our promised Savior at our one (traditional) Christmas Eve service (4:00 p.m.), but it will guide us through this new Church year with anticipations, expectations, and exhilarations.

Yes, friends and family, this Advent and Christmas seasons, and in all the seasons along our trip through 2022, I am hoping, praying, and trusting in Christ Jesus that whatever is coming, it's going to be good. I know this because God is good, all the time, and for the remainder of this year and the year to come, to expect His Goodness to abide in, around and through us.

Until then, we hope, we love, we rejoice, and we expect for His peace to abound. Yes, something is coming and it's going to be GOOD! – it's God in the flesh, Jesus.

Pastor La Andriamihaja



As we enter this Advent & Christmas season, we the staff are so thankful for the many blessings with which God has blessed us. So, we give thanks for you. May this season find Christ in your home, your family, your life and His church.

♥ ~ Pastor La, Gina, Sally, Amanda, Susan, Trudy, Edith, David, Duane & Holly

As a reminder, the church office will be closed Thursday, December 23rd and Monday, December 27th in observance of Christmas and Monday, January 3rd for New Year's.





CELEBRATE THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS WITH OSL'S MUSIC MINISTRY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Friday, December 24th Traditional Service at 4:00 pm



POINSETTIAS - Arrangements have been made to get 65 Christmas Poinsettias from a local florist. The cost of each plant will be \$9.00. If you want a poinsettia in the church for Christmas, you must fill in the order form enclosed or pick one up from the Welcome Desk. Please fill in a form for each poinsettia and include payment with your order. You may turn these into the office or place in the box at the Welcome Desk. Deadline is Monday,

December 13th.

OSL FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE – Each year OSL decorates a "Family Christmas Tree" in the Narthex, with an ornament from each family. The ornament may be handmade or purchased, with your family name on it. The tree has been set up and decorated, but you may bring your ornament any time before Christmas & place it on the tree.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY, DEC. 10th IN THE MPR



Happy Hour begins at 6:00 pm – freewill donation accepted & meal begins at 7:00 pm. A delicious catered meal of roast beef, new potatoes, green beans, salad, roll and dessert will be served; cost is \$13 per person. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk and place your reservation payment in an envelope marked "Christmas Party" along with your name, and place in the designated box. We are asking everyone to prepay.

Entertainment provided by DJ. **Deadline is Sunday, December 5**th.

music ministries

Please come "Celebrate the Glory of Christmas" with us on Sunday, December 12th at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. There will be musical performances from the Children & Youth Choir, Tone Chimes, Praise Band and Senior Choir. Invite family, neighbors, and friends to attend this special event.



Holiday Choral Concert presented by The Victoria College Choir, Choraliers & The Victoria Civic Chorus



Dr. David Means, conductor Saturday, December 4, 2021 5:00 p.m. OSL Sanctuary

Tickets \$10.00 Available in the church office or at the door.



Thank you for giving so generously to the Lutheran Disaster Response. Your support helps our church continue its effective and efficient response to disasters.

Thank you for your generous donation to VCAM. We appreciate your support of our ministry. We are truly

On behalf of the staff of Lutheran World Relief, our partners, and the communities we serve with your support, thank you for your gift and may God continue to bless you.

Thank you so much for your contribution to Sole Hope in our live saving work in Uganda.

Thank you to all who made donations to help during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness month.

BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL LED BY PASTOR LA

Every Thursday at 12 noon in the Christian Ed Building. Bring your Bible & lunch and join us.

******	No Rible study on Thursday, December 22rd & 20th due to the Christmas Heliday	******
	No Bible study on Thursday, December $23^{\rm rd}$ & $30^{\rm th}$ due to the Christmas Holiday.	
	***************************************	*****

W.O.W. will have their annual Christmas party on Monday, December 13th at 6:00 pm in the Chapel. Each attendee is asked to bring a snack, sandwiches, or chip & dip to share. We will continue our tradition of a Christmas gift exchange. Please bring a \$10-15 wrapped gift if you wish to participate. December is also the month to bring paper products and feminine hygiene products to be donated. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.





OSL MEN'S MINISTRY

OSL Men's Ministry will now meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm. December's meeting will be on Tuesday, December 14th in the Chapel. All men are invited.

OSL MINISTRY LEADERS/TEAM MEETINGS ON THE 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Tuesday, December 7th at 6:00 pm in the Christian Ed Building.





HELPING HANDS OFFERING SUNDAY – December 5TH

The purpose of this fund is for individuals or families in the congregation who may at one time or another need a little help. Please use the envelopes in the pew racks for your contribution.

BAPTISM AT OUR SAVIOUR'S - Baptism is the first of the two sacraments. There is a list of guidelines to follow. If you desire more information about baptism here at Our Saviour's. please contact the church office at 575-4305.





OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH TABITHA QUILTING MINISTRY

Meets Every Tuesday at 9:30 am in the Christian Ed Building contact Dorothy Waltersdorff for details 576-1465.

Life After Loss Support Group - Meets on the second Saturday of each month in the Christian Education wing of Our Saviour's. This month they will meet on Saturday, Dec. 11th at 10:00 am. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Pastor La.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES



Christmas blessings to you and your families. The blessing of peace, the gift of hope, a splendid time of joy and abundant love of God on Christmas and always. May you be able to spread the peace, hope, joy and love we have: through Jesus Christ with others this Christmas season.

Dates to Remember for December!

Wednesdays - December 1st & December 8th 5:15 pm Tone Chimes (12/1) Children & Youth Choir (12/8), 5:45 pm Oasis Meal 6:30 pm Lighthouse Small Group & Confirmation



Saturday, December 4th 6:00 pm Lighted Christmas Parade Downtown Our theme this year is "Joy to the World" featuring costumes from all over the world. Please let me know if you and your family would like to join us on our float.



Friday, December 10th 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm CYF Christmas Party in the Old Chapel Crafts, Gift Exchange, Games and Dinner

Please let me know if you'd like to attend as a chaperone or if your children/ youth would like to attend as a guest.

Saturday, December 11th 10:00 am Children & Youth Choir and Tone Chimes Rehearsal

Sunday, December 12th 6:00 pm Celebrate the Glory of Christmas Music Program in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 15th 5:30 pm Tone Chimes at Twin Pines on Mockingbird followed by bowling at Century Lanes

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Holy Communion Friday, December 24th 4:00 pm Traditional Service

Lighthouse and other Wednesday activities will break for the Christmas season following the December 15th outing. We will resume on Wednesday, January 5th.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe holiday break and look forward to seeing you all next year.



DECEMBER 2021









SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
✓ PLEASE NOTE	CHURCH I DATES AND ARE SUBJ	DETAILS	1 5:15 pm - Tone Chimes 5:30 pm - Prayer in Chapel 5:45 pm - Oasis Meal 6:15 pm - Praise & Worship 6:30 pm - Lighthouse Small Group 6:30 pm - Confirmation 6:30 pm - Sr. Choir Rehearsal	2 12 noon - Pastor La's Bible Study in Christian Ed Bldg.	OFFICE CLOSED	5:00 pm - Civic Chorus Concert 6:00 pm - Lighted Christmas Parade
5 Second Sunday In Advent 8:00 & 10:30 am - Worship Service HOLY COMMUNION HELPING HANDS 9:15 am - Children & Youth Sunday School 9:15 am - Adult Bible Study	6 8:00 am - Pastor's Advisory Team Meeting 9:00 am - Staff Meeting	7 9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting Ministry 6:00 pm - Ministry Leaders/Team Meeting in Christian Ed Building	8 5:15 pm - Children/Youth Choir 5:30 pm - Prayer in Chapel 5:45 pm - Oasis Meal 6:15 pm - Praise & Worship 6:30 pm - Lighthouse Small Group 6:30 pm - Confirmation 6:30 pm - Sr. Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm - Crossroads Community Band Concert	9 12 noon - Pastor La's Bible Study in Christian Ed Bldg. MPR Rented	OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 pm - Congregational Christmas Party 6:00 pm - CYF Christmas Party in Chapel	11 10:00 am - Life After Loss Support Group 10:00 am - Children/Youth Choir and Tone Chimes Rehearsal
12 Third Sunday In Advent 8:00 & 10:30 am - Worship Service 9:15 am - Children & Youth Sunday School 9:15 am - Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm - Celebrate the Glory of Christmas Program by OSL Music Ministries	13 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 1:30 pm - Pantry Prep 5:00 pm - Executive Council Meeting 6:00 pm - Women of the Word in Chapel	14 9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting Ministry 4:00 pm - Pantry 6:00 pm - Men's Ministry in Chapel MPR Rented	15 5:30 pm - Tone Chimes at Twin Pines 5:30 pm - Prayer in Chapel 6:30 pm - Sr. Choir Rehearsal	16 12 noon - Pastor La's Bible Study in Christian Ed Bldg.	OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 Fourth Sunday In Advent 8:00 & 10:30 am - Worship Service HOLY COMMUNION 9:15 am - Children & Youth Sunday School 9:15 am - Adult Bible Study	20 8:00 am - Pastor's Advisory Team Meeting 9:00 am - Staff Meeting	9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting Ministry	There will be no Wednesday activities the week of Christmas	OFFICE CLOSED	24 Christmas Eve OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 pm - Traditional Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day
8:00 & 10:30 am - Worship Service 9:15 am - Children & Youth Sunday School 9:15 am - Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm - Celebrate the Glory of Christmas Program by OSL Music Ministries 19	OFFICE CLOSED 1:30 pm - Pantry Prep	9:00 am - Staff Meeting 9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting Ministry 4:00 pm - Pantry	29	30	31 New Year's Eve OFFICE CLOSED	+ Merry + Christmas

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Due to COVID-19 there are new procedures and guidelines that our Worship Assistants must follow.

Below is the schedule of worship assistants for this month. We will provide training and instruction to those who have not already received this information.

Below is the	schedule of worship		onth. We will	provide train	ning and instruction t	to those who have		eceived this information.
	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	ACOLYTE	LECTOR	GREETER	WELCOMER	WELCOME DESK	LEADER IN CHARGE
Dec. 5 th 8:00 am	John Hersey Royce Krueger Dale Hoffmann Shirley Hoffmann	Glenn Gisler Libby Stirneman Jan Jacob	Hunter Jacob	Glenn Gisler	Kathleen Reimann Terry Krueger	Jan Jacob	Sally Hersey	Dec. 5 th Doris Dold Dec. 12 th Michael Buchhorn
10:30 am	Michael Buchhorn Dena Buchhorn Darryl Kern Doris Dold	EJ Raley Pam Raley Gary Mueller Christine Willis Brett Ckodre	Arun Pickens		Brett Ckodre Christine Willis	Pam Raley	EJ Raley	Dec. 19 th Gerald Merks Dec. 24 th Hanta Andriamihaja Dec. 26 th
Dec. 12 th 8:00 am	Glenn Gisler Gerald Merks Mitchell Thurman Steve Fiedler		William Wright	Jean Gisler	Jean Gisler Janet Merks	Laura Wright	Linda Mueller	Darryl Kern ALTAR GUILD
10:30 am	Kurtis Krueger Debbie Krueger Sharon Kacir Jason Eliot		Haley Morris		Marilyn Young Billy Blanchard	Doris Dold	Norma Lawrence	Gloria Seiler Kim Neill Dorothy Waltersdorff
Dec. 19 th 8:00 am	Terry Krueger Royce Krueger Dale Hoffmann Shirley Hoffmann	Steve Fiedler Joyce Cardinell Jean Huber	Konor Eliot	Steve Fiedler	Kathleen Reimann Jan Jacob	Joyce Cardinell	Jean Huber	ALTAR FLOWERS Dec. 5 th Eden Yaklin Dec. 12 th
10:30 am	Tom Willis Christine Willis Hanta Andriamihaja Gary Mueller	Michael Buchhorn Dena Buchhorn Patty McGehee Pat DeDear Janine Rothmann	Hannah Morris		Michael Buchhorn Dena Buchhorn	Patty McGehee	Sharon Kacir	Christian Kids Dec. 19 th Royce & Terry Krueger Dec. 26 th Pat Blanchard
Dec. 24 th Christmas Eve Service 4:00 pm	Randy Clark Jason Eliot Gerald Merks Glenn Gisler	Lisa Price Marilyn Young Doris Dold Gary Mueller Patty McGehee	Konor Eliot		Sharon Kacir Pam Raley	Doris Dold	EJ Raley	WE
Dec. 26 th 8:00 am	Glenn Gisler Gerald Merks Mitchell Thurman Laura Johnston		Alex Johnston		Jean Gisler Janet Merks	Joyce Cardinell	Linda Mueller	YOU A Therry CHRISTMAS
10:30 am	Randy Clark Billy Blanchard Patty McGehee Elaine Thurman		Abby Christian		Brett Ckodre Christine Willis	Doris Dold	Norma Lawrence	CHAISTMAS

NOTE: If you are not able to serve as scheduled, please try to find a replacement or call the church office at 575-4305. After finding your replacement, please let the church office know of the change. PLEASE don't ignore your obligation! If you no longer want to be on this list, you must inform the church office. We need you and count on you to help us keep the worship services running smoothly each week.

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE



Our Christmas Angel Tree is displayed in the Narthex. There is a sign-up sheet beneath the tree. Each angel is number coded. When you select your angel, please observe the code number and record your name and phone number beside the corresponding number on the sign-up sheet. This is very important! Each angel must be accounted for. All gifts must be new. The Salvation Army requests that the angel gift include at least one article of clothing and one toy. Gift suggestions and clothing sizes are recorded on

the information portion of the card, as well as the first name of your angel. Securely attach this portion of the card to your gift. Bring your gift in a decorative bag, (<u>not wrapped, please</u>) to the church. Thank you for your generous giving to these children. Our prayers for a safe and joyful Christmas season are with you all. For more information, contact the church office at 575-4305.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army Family Store Monday 10:00-4:00 (Warehouse at 1302 N. Louis St.) Tuesday – Sat 10:00-6:00 (Family Store at 4303 N. Navarro)

Accepting & sorting donations, hanging and tagging clothing, stocking shelves, assisting customers
Hours are flexible Call 361-576-1297





WWJDIHWM? Note: This guest post is by Jeremy Walloch, instructor of preaching for HarvestWorkers.net and lead pastor of Olivet Lutheran.org.

I was raised in the era of the "What Would Jesus Do?" bracelets. Anyone else? Still have yours? It's a great question, but it can be problematic. Why? Because Jesus was an unmarried, childless rabbi in the first century.

He was not a single mom. He was not a retiree. He was not a product designer, photographer, or dog groomer. He did not have a smartphone or Instagram account. So, to answer the question "What Would Jesus Do?" I do not advocate you trade in your Adidas for sandals and trade in your current career to be an itinerant preacher. So, maybe a better question is, "What Would Jesus Do If He Was Me?"

For example, Jesus was not a parent, but if he were, how might he parent? Probably with more time on the floor with the kids and less time half-listening to them while on his phone.

Jesus didn't have to go to Wal-Mart, but if he did, how might he shop? Probably less time shifting from check-out lane to check-out lane (anyone else?).

Jesus was not on social media, but if he were, how might he use it? Probably giving more hope and encouragement and less initiating arguments with people who believe differently.

When looking at our lives through this perspective, and genuinely believing that Jesus' way is The Way, it opens the door to mission not being a project of the church, a trip once a year, or an article you may or may not read, but instead we see that our entire life can be mission moments.

- Deciding between the closed Bible on the nightstand and the iPhone sitting next to it is a mission moment.
- Seeing the neighbor on the porch while your hand reaches for the garage door remote is a mission moment.
- Choosing between your Netflix queue and prayer is a mission moment.
- Selecting between your favorite music from high school and the latest song from Hillsong is a mission moment (Have you heard "Fresh Wind"?).

In this season when so many seem wandering and confused on how now to live, knowing what we know about Jesus, how can his way of life inform yours, so that our whole lives are mission moments answering, "What Would Jesus Do If He Was Me?"

A Note
From
the OSL
Library

The featured book this month is found in the <u>Christian Fiction</u> section and is titled "At Home in Mitford" by Jan Karon. This is an interesting and easy reading novel about everyday living in a small town with interesting people around the Charlotte, NC area. Father Tim, the bachelor rector, a dog 'the size of a sofa', an attractive and very nice neighbor, an unloved boy, a jewel theft, and a secret that is 60 years old are all in this first of the 8-volume series. You will find this novel

filled with mysteries and miracles!



Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

Proverbs 3:9-10

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCE GENERAL FUND MONTHLY BREAKDOWN

BEGINNING BALANCE: October 1, 2021	\$208,124.94
TOTAL GF RECEIPTS:	\$69,345.09
OPERATING EXPENSES FOR MONTH:	
Benevolence	6,697.50
Spiritual Formation	173.10
Outreach	15,095.47
Youth & Children Ministries	91.15
Ministry Support	454.03
Worship Support	82.15
Office Support	569.63
Utilities	4,068.03
Supplies, Equip., Maintenance	4,451.68
Insurance	3,470.27
Miscellaneous Support	291.60
Staffing	24,771.94
TOTAL GF EXPENSES FOR MONTH:	\$60,216.55
ENDING BALANCE: October 31, 2021	\$217,253.48

Attendance

Our average weekly attendance for November is 161.



November Attenda	ınce
November 7 th	174
November 14 th	155
November 21st	155

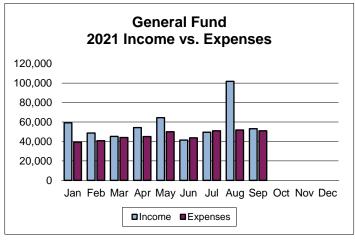


MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS OCTOBER BALANCES

Building Maintenance Fund	9,262.55
Children's Ministry Fund	10,383.34
Helping Hands Fund	11,488.80
Youth Ministry Fund	10,792.26
Memorial Fund	4,925.55
OSLC Ministry Fund **	59,024.48
OSLC Mission Fund	1,439.57
Spiritual Formation Fund	2,573.86
Total Misc. Accts.	\$109,890.41

** This fund consists of several small funds including: Tabitha Quilting Ministry, Kitchen, ILT, Choir, Prayer Garden, Grant activity & Food Pantry.







AROUND THE CHURCH FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND PRAYERS

If you have any information for AROUND THE CHURCH please call the church office.



With our prayers for a speedy recovery, these folks were listed in the hospital: Glenn Weischwill



Received in Holy Baptism:

Sloane Kate Redd, daughter of Justin & Lauren Redd, granddaughter of Kurtis & Debbie Krueger



Special Concerns: All those we hold dear in our hearts that are facing a battle for good health, mind, and spirit.



Thanks be to God these folks have returned home from the hospital: Ada Stange



Change of Address:

Dorothy Jahger 825 Hunt Rd. Apt.# 1132 Baytown, Tx 77521



Welcome to our newest members: Rebekah Wieting Irene Hahn

Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian weapon. ~ Martin Luther

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OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 4102 N. Ben Jordan Victoria, TX 77901 361-575-4305 - Fax 361-575-8679 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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CHURCH CONTACTS	Pastor – Lalahery "La" And: Music Director – David Mes
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