

# FEBRUARY 2023

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

[www.oslcvictoria.com](http://www.oslcvictoria.com)



Sunday worship 8:00 & 10:30 am  
Pastor La Andriamihaja  
Saints: YOU!

Children/Youth Sunday School 9:15 am  
Adult Sunday School 9:15 am



Dear siblings of Our Saviour's,

*"To be, or not to be - that is the question"* is the only line that I can recite from memory from William Shakespeare's world renown play, *Hamlet*. In that play, Hamlet gives the soliloquy because he is feeling suicidal due to his perception that the world around him is a corrupt and painful place that he would like to escape from. However, his only problem is that he is fearful and unsure of what the afterlife might hold. Hence, the question – *"To be or not to be"*.

Well, here at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, we're not that dramatic in our response to the world and the reality around us - or at least I hope and pray that we're not. However, in the life and being of any congregation of Jesus Christ, a similar question will inevitably arise, must be addressed, and answered. Such a similar question is, "To grow or not to grow?" After all, as a Christian congregation, made up of people who are followers, believers and disciples of Christ Jesus, we are commanded and commissioned by Christ himself to,

*"...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."*  
(Matt. 28:19-20a)

What this mean for us is that we are commissioned and expected to reach out with the good news of Jesus to all ethnic groups (*all nations*), both near and far, which I announced at our last Annual Congregational meeting (Nov. 13, 2022), that our focus and goal this year (2023) is "outreach". By this, we are to reach out and invite those who are not in relationship with Jesus, as well as to those who have no church family, to come and join ours. Such actions and endeavors will, indeed, comply and be in obedience to our Lord's commands, as cited above. And as we faithfully comply and apply what Jesus has commissioned us to do and to be, I look forward to seeing and to experiencing our congregational growth and increase, in faith, in ministries, in giving, and in membership. So, I invite and encourage you to come and worship the Lord our God each Sunday this month as we embark on a new sermon series I've entitled, "To grow or not to grow?", a slight and modified twist on Hamlet's question.

Speaking of this month, I look forward to enjoying two nights of fun, food, and fellowship at OSL. The first is our Volunteer Appreciation Banquet (V.A.B.) on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m., and the second is the Fat Saturday Night of Chili and Bingo, on February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. I hope you're planning on joining us and to bring a friend or two to the party.

In addition, this month marks my third-year anniversary of being your pastor as we'll start the season of Lent together on Ash Wednesday (February 22<sup>nd</sup>). As we've done the last three years, we'll gather to worship that evening, at 7:00 p.m. and embark on our Lenten journey toward Easter (April 9<sup>th</sup>). We will celebrate the Lord's Supper and will have ashes imposed on our foreheads as in the past. Then, each Wednesday thereafter, we'll gather for our Mid-week Lenten service at 6:30 p.m. until Easter. This year's Lenten theme is, "Do Something!" I, so, pray that you'll invite a friend or two to come with you, and to accompany us all through this Lenten journey.

So, the LORD bless you and keep you; shine his face upon you, be gracious to you, and give you peace, always. Amen.

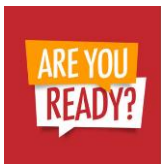
Pastor La



**BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>!!!**



OUR SAVIOUR'S MESSAGE



**New Membership Class/Orientation** - For those who are interested in being a member or for those who are curious as to what being a member at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is all about, you are invited to join Pastor La for two (2) consecutive sessions on Sunday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am in the Conference Room. The sessions are FREE, but registration (sign-up) is expected. To do so, please contact Doris Dold at 574-8585 or email her at ddold42@gmail.com.

## OASIS MEAL EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 5:45 PM IN MPR



Oasis is a time for great food, fellowship, bible studies and fun activities but we need your help to make it happen. We need volunteers to cook and serve the meal each Wednesday. There is a budget for this ministry.

If you are interested in serving Our Saviour's through this ministry, please sign-up at the Welcome Desk. If you need more information, contact the church office.



## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>



Please bring your canned goods or monetary donations and help us defeat hunger by donating to VCAM!!! OSL Children & Youth will be collecting donations before and after each service in the Narthex.

## BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

**OSL's children and youth campers will have a bake sale on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> after each service to raise money to help offset the cost of camp. Come get super bowl goodies and support our campers!**



## ASH WEDNESDAY



BEGINS THE LENTEN SEASON ~ JOIN US FOR SERVICE  
FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> AT 7:00 PM

## WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> - MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 PM IN THE SANCTUARY



## SPRINGFEST - APRIL 23, 2023



We will be selling BBQ chicken plates with all the trimmings. We will also have a Live Auction, Silent Auction, Raffle, Country Store, Cake Walk and Children's Activities. Pre-sell tickets will be available at the Welcome Desk soon. If you would like to help sell tickets, please contact Michael or Dena Buchhorn.

To make Springfest a successful event, we need lots of help. There are numerous ways to contribute.

ALL ITEMS DONATED MUST BE NEW

- Monetary Donations (help to purchase food and other supplies)
- Silent Auction Items (all items must be new)
- Live Auction Items
- Gift Cards
- Country Store Items - homemade baked goods, canned/pickled goods, and handcrafted items
- Raffle Donations
- Cakes for Cake Walk and Dessert Table

We also need many, many volunteers. There are various positions available. Check out the Springfest table in the Narthex to find your spot. For more information or any questions, contact Bruce Jank or John Hersey.

The proceeds from this Springfest will be divided between:

Bethlehem Maternity Home, Christ's Kitchen,  
Teens Grounded, and OSLC Ministries

**SPRINGFEST MEETING** - Our next Springfest meeting will be Monday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the Conference Room. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to attend. Please join us!





**FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:00PM IN THE MPR ROOM**



**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS  
AND NEIGHBORS TO JOIN US  
FOR A CHILI COOKOFF ~ BINGO (\$10 DONATION TO PLAY) AND LOTS OF FUN!  
LOOK FOR THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX TO SIGN-UP**



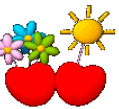
**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!** ~ The GENIE FUHRMAN LEGACY MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP committee is excited to announce the first "Make a Joyful Noise!" Sunday to be held on Sunday February 26th from 9:15 to 10:15. In lieu of Sunday School we will ALL meet in the OSLC sanctuary during the Sunday School hour for a time of singing favorite hymns, Christian songs, and special music. There will be music for children, youth, and adults.

All are welcome to participate as performers, spectators or both! No age limit or experience needed. Please contact Lauren Jackson (361-570-0068) or Darla Jank (361-649-2630) if you are interested in participating.

We are looking forward to all of OSLC gathering as ONE CHURCH for a special hour of praising God together with abundant joy! A freewill offering will be collected and welcomed to support the Genie Fuhrman Legacy Music Scholarship.

So, early service folks stay awhile longer and late service come a little earlier. Let's meet in the middle to sing and praise God! See you there!

### WOMEN OF THE WORD



**W.O.W.** - Will meet on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the MPR. There is always a time of great fellowship, food, meaningful devotion and these meetings are always purposeful. W.O.W. is kicking off an Outreach program this month and would like to have all ladies join us with ideas to accomplish this new endeavor. Please make plans to attend.

### OSL MINISTRY LEADERS/TEAM MEETINGS ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the in the Conference Room



### HELPING HANDS OFFERING SUNDAY – February 5<sup>TH</sup>

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

For more information about Tabitha Quilting Ministry contact Dorothy Waltersdorff at 576-1465 or Jean Gisler at 676-0484 or [jeangislerlp@gmail.com](mailto:jeangislerlp@gmail.com).

**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, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Pastor La or Stephen Fuhrman.

### AROUND THE CHURCH FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND PRAYERS

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



**Received in Holy Baptism...**  
...Manuel John Mendez, Jr.



**We extend our deepest sympathy to...**

...Al Meyer & family on the loss of his sister  
...Jason Eliot & family on the loss of his grandmother  
...EJ Raley & family on the loss of his sister



**Congratulations on your wedding:**  
Manuel John Mendez, Jr. to Katelyn Rebekah Price



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

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



**PLEASE NOTE**

**CHURCH EVENTS, DATES AND DETAILS  
ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



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.  
**NOTE:** If you are not able to serve as scheduled, please try to find a replacement, or call the church office at 361-575-4305.

	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	ACOLYTE	LECTOR	GREETER	WELCOMER	WELCOME DESK	CHURCH SAFETY TEAM	LEADER IN CHARGE
Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 am	Dale Hoffmann Shirley Hoffmann Mitchell Thurman	Royce Krueger Terry Krueger Steve Fiedler	Cole Neill	Kim Neill	Kathleen Reimann Terry Krueger	Joyce Cardinell	Jean Huber	Ronnie Wolter Steve Fiedler	Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup> Darryl Kern Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup> Sharon Kacir Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup> Glenn Gisler Wednesday, Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Larry Henneke Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> Marilyn Young Wednesday, March 1 <sup>st</sup> Gerald Merks
10:30 am	Randy Clark Jason Eliot Marilyn Young Darryl Kern	Brett Ckudre Kathy Ozuna Lisa Price Patty McGehee Janine Rothmann	Arun Pickens		Lisa Price Patty McGehee	Pam Raley	EJ Raley	Stephen Fuhman Lewis Keith	ALTAR GUILD Marilyn Young Linda Mueller Lisa Stoeltje
Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 am	Gerald Merks Glenn Gisler Bobby Jacob		Hunter Jacob	Jean Gisler	Janet Merks Jean Gisler	Jan Jacob	Linda Mueller	Gerald Merks Larry Henneke	
10:30 am	Doris Dold Patty McGehee Gary Mueller Billy Blanchard		Haley Morris		Sharon Kacir Diana Pimentel	Laura Wright	Norma Lawrence	Buck Dabney Royce Krueger	
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 am	Steve Fiedler Mitchell Thurman Laura Johnston	Bobby Stirmeman Libby Stirmemann Jean Huber	Alex Johnston	Lauren Jackson	Kathleen Reimann Terry Krueger	Joyce Cardinell	Jean Huber	Kurtis Krueger Debbie Krueger	
10:30 am	Sharon Kacir Michael Buchhorn Dena Buchhorn Elaine Thurman	Marilyn Young Konor Eliot Doris Dold Pat Dear Carol Buchhorn	Arun Pickens		Doris Dold Lisa Price	Pam Raley	EJ Raley	Randy Clark Brett Ckudre	ALTAR FLOWERS Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup> Marilyn Young Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup> Milton & Rox Slaughter Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup> Jason & Gina Eliot Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> Sandra Hilbrich
Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Ash Wednesdays 7:00 PM	Hanta Andriamihaja Randy Clark John Hersey Jason Eliot	Pam Raley Steve Fiedler Gary Mueller Marilyn Young	Konor Eliot		Doris Dold Laura Wright	Joyce Cardinell	Sally Hersey	Raymundo Moreno	
Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 am	Royce Krueger Terry Krueger Bobby Jacob	Tanner Jacob		Diane Dabney	Janet Merks Jean Gisler	Jan Jacob	Linda Mueller	Dale Hoffmann Carol Buchhorn	PRAYERS Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup> Marilyn Young Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup> Pat DeDear Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup> Ryan Price Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> Sharon Kacir
10:30 am	Diana Pimentel Raymundo Moreno Raymundo Moreno, Jr Fernando Moreno	Hannah Morris			Billy Blanchard Sharon Kacir	Doris Dold	Norma Lawrence	Bruce Jank Linda Sonntag	
Wednesday March 1 <sup>st</sup> 6:30 pm	Kurtis Krueger Debbie Krueger	Konor Eliot							



Dear Children, Youth and Families,

Congratulations on making it through the first month! It often feels like January has 45 days in it, but we have now made it to the shortest month of the year. What are we going to do with these 28 days? Each day is an opportunity to not only grow in your own faith but help someone to grow in theirs. The month of February brings to mind hearts, flowers, and love. So in that spirit, let us offer the same love that Christ

shows to us. I would like you each to pay special attention to how you treat others. Ask yourselves, "am I treating this person like I love them?" Ask, "am I doing this out of love?" When we share love with others, that is a form of discipleship. Jesus said, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).

Second Wednesday of the month is dress up and bring a friend! This month, we are going to "Get cozy with our Bibles" - wear your favorite PJ's!

**THIS MONTH'S CHALLENGE IS THIS:** Share the love of Christ with someone by inviting them to church.

**CALENDAR DATES:** Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

- Souper Bowl of Caring for VCAM.
- Children, Youth & Family Bake Sale Fundraiser & BBQ Pork Ribs Fundraiser
- Children Youth and Family Sunday Funday in the MPR after 2<sup>nd</sup> service



**MARCH SERVICE WEEKEND:** The weekend of March 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, the Youth (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to attend a service weekend in Houston, Texas. We are partnering with Memorial Drive Methodist Church for a day of service to others. We will fellowship and worship with them afterwards. Anyone who is interested in attending or chaperoning, please see Mrs. Susan. **Deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**PUZZLES & GAMES:** This month's question: What tribe of Israel is Jesus from? The first 4 to answer will receive a gift card to a local restaurant.

**VBS 2023 is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mrs. Susan at (361)-648-0036.**



Texas District

**Mission Moment**

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth



HARVEST  
WORKERS

**Raising up Future Ministry Leaders** - In my work for the Texas District, I have the privilege of sharing about our association and have often been invited to give a presentation about LCMC. One of the questions that I have been repeatedly asked over the years I just love to answer: "Where do your pastors come from?" My answer: "Well pastor trees, of course!!" After a good chuckle, we then engage in an important conversation that many congregations have neglected for far too long. What my tongue-in-cheek answer points out is that the initial question presumes that pastors are "produced" from some external source. This line of thinking is problematic.

Many Lutherans in well-established American denominations have relied heavily on church camps and campus ministries to speak into young people the calling of God to vocational ministry. Over twenty years ago, a study of first-career seminary students in one Lutheran denomination revealed that the overwhelming majority personally experienced his or her call to pastoral ministry primarily through either a church camp or a campus ministry. While camp directors and campus ministers received this news as a great affirmation, it also exposed another weakness: a student's home congregation was a far less significant factor.

This outsourcing of vocational calling to church camps and college ministries is particularly problematic for our association of congregations that does not have a developed system of affiliated church camps or college ministries to funnel our youth to in hopes that those youth may discover God's calling to be ministers of the Gospel. But the truth is, I believe that the local congregation should be the center of vocational calling and leadership development in the church.

What can a church do to help raise up ministry leaders for the future? I believe there are some small shifts that you and your church can make that will lead to significant impact! First, love your youth and children in your church. Words of welcome and kindness can make a bigger difference than you might imagine. Strike up a conversation by asking questions and getting to know young people and what they are interested in. Secondly, teach the faith in ways that are fun and engaging. Thirdly, encourage and affirm young people both with your words and invitations to serve and to lead. Perhaps the most powerful sentence you will ever speak to another will begin with "I see in you..." Finally, pray for God to move in their lives to hear and answer the call.

Pastors do not grow on trees, but they do grow up in our congregations! I want to encourage you to make a Kingdom investment by investing in future church leaders. If you want to learn more about raising up future leaders, I would be delighted to begin that conversation with you!

# faith and finances

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

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE: December 1, 2022</b>	<b>\$277,103.49</b>
<b>TOTAL GF RECEIPTS:</b>	<b>\$64,485.07</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES FOR MONTH:</b>	
Benevolence	6,1920.23
Outreach	538.74
Youth & Children's Ministries	38.98
Ministry Support	425.51
Worship Support	132.71
Office Support	496.63
Utilities	3,064.15
Supplies, Equip., Maintenance	3,557.75
Insurance	2,954.57
Miscellaneous Support	3,245.78
Staffing	22,528.99
<b>TOTAL GF EXPENSES FOR MONTH:</b>	<b>\$43,174.04</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE: December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$298,414.52</b>

## MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS DECEMBER BALANCES

Building Maintenance Fund	16,041.42
Children's Ministry Fund	10,905.34
Helping Hands Fund	6,395.78
Youth Ministry Fund	6,832.22
Memorial Fund	9,490.05
OSLC Ministry Fund **	61,246.19
Springfest Fund	1,600.11
OSLC Mission Fund	1,389.57
Spiritual Formation Fund	2,573.86
OSLC Disaster Fund	4,578.53
Genie Fuhrman Legacy Scholarship	2,539.00

**Total Misc. Accts. \$123,592.07**

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

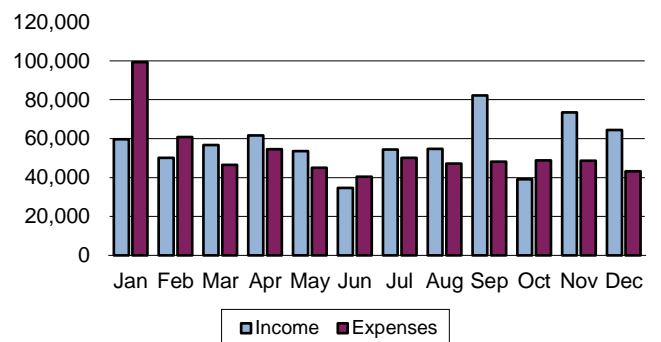
## Attendance

Our average weekly attendance for January is 159.



<i>January Attendance</i>	
January 1 <sup>st</sup>	148
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	165
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	163

## General Fund 2022 Income vs. Expenses



To Pastor La and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Members, thank you to Marilyn Young for bringing Holy Communion to me in December. Also for the pictorial directory, beautiful poinsettia plant, Christmas card and the lovely prayer card signed by so many members. Prayer is powerful. The spot on my leg from the spider bite is so much better. It is trying to heal and does not hurt anymore. This has been going on since Thanksgiving week. Thank you for all your prayers. Sincerely Elaine Shutter Also, thank you for mailing me the church bulletin each week.

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

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

Thank you for your donation to Christ's Kitchen it will help us to continue serving a hot meal at no charge to be people in need.

Thank you for your partnership with Global Health Ministries. Your support has made it possible to ship life changing equipment and supplies around the globe.

Dear OSLC, thank you for allowing us to meet in your beautiful facility. It is a great blessing to many families. Kelly Lockey, Classical Conversations Foundation Director

On behalf of Promise Pointe, thank you so much for your kind donation. Our promise to you is to use it wisely to help as many people as we possibly can. Sister Rebecca Janacek

On behalf of Hope Lutheran School, I would like to express our deep appreciation and sincere thankfulness for your great gesture of support for the school. We wish all God's blessings to follow your generous church throughout the new year. Dr. Peri Rasolondraibe



**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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**Victoria, TX 77901**

**FYI - CHURCH CONTACTS**

<p>Pastor – Lalahery “La” Andriamihaja          Music Director – David Means          Music Director – Amanda Christian          CYF Director – Susan Woodson          Financial Administrator – Sally Hersey          Office Administrator – Gina Elliot          Maintenance Custodian – Duane Hill          Housekeeping Custodian – Holly Pogue</p>	<p>575-4305          575-4305 ext. 7006          575-4305 ext. 7002          575-4305 ext. 7004          575-4305 ext. 7001          575-4305 ext. 7000          575-4305          575-4305</p>
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**2023 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS**

<p>President – Gerald Merks          Vice President – Janine Rothmann          Secretary – Sharon Kacir          Treasurer – Lynna Briggs</p>	<p>361-920-6267          361-571-0593          361-575-8719          361-550-4477</p>
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