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OUR SAVIOUR'S MESSAGE



Beloveds of Jesus at Our Saviour's, HAPPY NEW CHURCH YEAR!

 This year, December 3rd, 2023, being the First Sunday of the season of Advent, marks the beginning of a new liturgical calendar year for us. This New Year celebration is not unique for us at OSL. It is true and the same across all Lutheran congregations throughout the globe. So, Happy and Blessed New Year to us all, indeed! May the love and the unfathomable grace of our Lord - being administered richly by the power of the Holy Spirit - guide, sustain, and empower us all to love Him and our neighbors, as we've been commanded and expected to do, daily (Mark 12:29-31). Why? So that all will know that we are Jesus' disciples, children of the highest God, and heirs of the Kingdom of God. To this end, I invite and encourage you to add the following prayer into your daily devotions or into your morning prayer time. So, before you get on with your daily tasks and routines, pray thusly each day:

*Lord, by the way that I walk, by the way that I talk, by the way that I think, by the way that I pray,
in everything I do, I want to honor you, by the way I live this day. Amen.*

Yes, the Advent season is one filled with the sense of anticipation. When I was a kid, waiting for Christmas drove me crazy. Anticipating the new toys I would enjoy on Christmas morning was more than I could take! I would utilize my best detective skills to figure out where Santa (aka: Mom & Dad) had hidden my presents. Upon finding the stash one year, I actually played with my new toys when my brother and I were home alone. Santa wasn't impressed.

Yes, the anticipation for Christmas is so great in our society today, that early in October stores were already promoting Christmas decorations. I think it's a disturbing trend, but as a cultural tidal wave, it's difficult for most preachers to try to fight it. The temptation is to avoid the season of preparation, Advent, and jump right into Christmas right after Thanksgiving. Over the four weeks of Advent we will attempt to stay true to the lectionary readings and still communicate with a culture clearly focused on Christmas on the second coming of Jesus and the arrival of the fullness of the Kingdom of God. I hope you'll join us in our anticipation of what the Lord our Father has in store for us this season and throughout this "New Year".

Speaking of anticipation, Ms. Susan Woodson, our CYF Director, has enrolled (online) at St. Paul's Lutheran Seminary, in Springfield, MN to pursue a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree and intends to be an ordained Lutheran pastor upon completion of her study. In anticipation of this new calling in her life, she has requested to take on additional leadership roles in our worship services, as part of her training, to lead ("drive") our worship services, and occasionally preach the Word. The Worship & Music Team have approved her request and she'll begin after the New Year. I will coach, guide and mentor her through her training. What a great honor it is to have one of our own prepare for the Lord's ministry. I believe she will be a great pastor and leader of the Lord's Church wherever the Holy Spirit will lead her. Blessed Advent, y'all! – Pastor La

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th IN THE MPR

Happy Hour at 6:00 pm – freewill donation accepted, meal begins at 6:30 pm, followed by a Christmas Mystery Program at 7:30 pm and dancing at 8:30 pm. A delicious catered meal will be served; cost is \$11 per person. Please sign up at the table in the Narthex and place your reservation payment in an envelope marked “Christmas Party” along with your name, and place in the designated box. ***Deadline is Wed., December 6th***

[illegible]

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, Sue M., David, & Sue B.



As a reminder, the church office will be closed Monday, Dec. 25th and Tuesday, Dec. 26th in observance of Christmas and Monday, January 1st for New Year's.

CELEBRATE THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS WITH OSL'S MUSIC MINISTRY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

8:00 am Traditional Service

10:30 am Contemporary Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Traditional Service at 6:00 pm



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.



Dear Children, Youth and Families,

As 2023 draws to a close, I can't help but feel so much gratitude and pride for everything that God has accomplished through us and allowed us to do within this ministry. From our retreats to our monthly outreaches and beyond- our CYF this year has been very busy. I really feel we are making such an impact on the lives around us. We all play such an integral role in this ministry. I have really enjoyed

building deeper relationships with all of you and welcoming several new faces to our weekly gatherings. What else can we do in 2024? I want to hear from you! What did you like this year and would like to see more of? What do you want to do that we didn't get to do this year? And what are some things that you would like to see less of or could live without? Your opinion really matters! After the first of the year, I want to begin meeting with each family to make sure that I and this ministry are meeting your spiritual needs, or if there is anything that we can be doing better. Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like to schedule a time good for you, otherwise, expect to hear from me in the near future. Wishing you and your family many blessings this Christmas season! ♥ ~ Mrs. Susan

MONTHLY OUTREACH: The children, youth and family ministry aims to do at least one outreach/service project each month. The third Wednesday of every month is dedicated to doing something that spreads the love of Christ by helping our church/community. If you know of any people or organizations that our Lighthouse students and parents could assist with, please contact Mrs. Susan. We would love to help!

DISCIPLESHIP RETREAT: “MISSIONS” will be held on Friday, January 12th - Sunday, January 14th and is open to all students 6th grade - 12th grade. We will be discussing how and why missionary work is important in The Great Commission that Jesus set us on. Register with Mrs. Susan by Wednesday, December 20th. Space is limited.

CYF CHRISTMAS PARTY: Will be held December 13th during Lighthouse. Please RSVP with Mrs. Susan so we make sure we have enough games, food, and activities for everyone.

CALENDAR DATES:

Sunday, December 10th - Celebrate the Glory of Christmas at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 13th- CYF Christmas Party

No Lighthouse December 20th and 27th. Have a Merry Christmas!

PUZZLES & GAMES:

Last month's answer: Jacob had 12 sons. Congratulations to Lane J. and Alex J.

The first student to answer this month's question will receive a \$25 VISA Gift Card.
Name Jesus's 12 disciples.





APPRECIATION/RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR DUANE HILL

Join us as we give thanks and celebrate Duane and his years of service here at Our Saviour's on Sunday, December 3rd at 9:15 am in the Narthex.

There will be a basket for cards & gifts if you would like to show him your gratitude or wish him well.

SPRINGFEST 2024 PLANNING MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH AT 6:30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL LED BY PASTOR LA

Every Tuesday at 12:00 pm in the Conference Room.

All are encouraged to attend, bring your lunch and Bible.

P.S. No Bible study on Tuesdays, December 19th & 26th due to the Holidays.



PRAYER MEETING - Every Wednesday evening at 5:30 pm in the Chapel. Join us as we pray for our church, community, and world.

PRAYER CHAIN — If you need to add someone to the prayer chain, please contact Pat DeDear at 361-676-5087 or the church office at 361-575-4305. Pat will then communicate the request by telephone to the prayer chain. Pat will also contact Debbie Krueger, who will then distribute the request electronically through email.

WOMEN OF THE WORD

W.O.W. will have their annual Christmas party on Monday, December 4th at 6:00 pm in the Narthex. Each attendee is asked to bring a snack, sandwiches, or chip & dip to share. They will continue the tradition of a Christmas gift exchange. Please bring a 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.



BIBLES & BREWS WILL NOT MEET THIS MONTH DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS

All men are invited to join this group in the 2024. Happy New Year!



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

Tuesday, December 5th at 5:30 pm in the Conference Room.



HELPING HANDS OFFERING SUNDAY – December 3RD

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 jeangislermp@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, December 9th at 10:00 am. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Stephen Fuhrman.



PRAYER GARDEN ~ Looking for some individuals that can help with the prayer garden. We have a list of several people and take turns on different weeks in taking care of the garden. (Usually, your turns come up about every 6 weeks depending upon how many individuals we have on the rotation). To work in the prayer garden all you need to spend is about one to two hours about every 6 weeks, pulling weeds, deadheading roses and seeing if there are any concerns. If any concerns, please report to Debbie Krueger and it will be taken care of. If you are on our list and would like to be taken off please let me know and we can revise. I will make a new list at the first of the year. Everyone on the list thank you very much for all your help. Please contact Debbie Krueger 361 935 6478 or kkrue104@gmail.com to be put on the list or taken off. Again, thank you all very much.



DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div></div> <div>CHURCH EVENTS, DATES AND DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE</div>						
3 8:00 & 10:30 am - Worship Service HOLY COMMUNION HELPING HANDS 9:15 am - Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School 9:15 am - Appreciation/Retirement Celebration for Duane Hill	4 8:00 am - Pastor's Advisory Team Meeting 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 6:00 pm - Women of the Word in the Narthex	5 9:30 am - Tabitha Sewing Circle 12:00 pm - Bible Study led by Pastor La 5:30 pm - Ministry Leaders/Team Meeting 6:30 pm - Springfest Mtg.	6 5:00 pm - Confirmation Class 5:30 pm - Prayer in Chapel 5:45 pm - Oasis Meal 6:30 pm - Lighthouse Small Group 6:30 pm - Sr. Choir Rehearsal	7 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Christian Ed Building Unavailable	8 OFFICE CLOSED MPR Unavailable	9 10:00 am - Life After Loss Support Group MPR Rented
10 8:00 & 10:30 am - Worship Service 9:15 am - Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School 6:00 pm - Celebrate the Glory of Christmas Program by OS! Music Ministries	11 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 1:30 pm - Pantry Prep	12 9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting Ministry 12:00 pm - Bible Study led by Pastor La 4:00 pm - Pantry 6:30 pm - Worship Meeting	13 5:00 pm - Confirmation Class 5:30 pm - Prayer in Chapel 5:45 pm - Oasis Meal 6:30 pm - Lighthouse Small Group 6:30 pm - Sr. Choir Rehearsal	14 6:00 pm - Council, Ministry Leaders and Staff Christmas Party	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 8:00 & 10:30 am - Worship Service HOLY COMMUNION 9:15 am - Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School	18 8:00 am - Pastor's Advisory Team Meeting 9:00 am - Staff Christmas Party	19 9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting Ministry	20 There will be no Wednesday activities this week	21	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 Christmas Eve 8:00 & 10:30 am - Worship Service 9:15 am - Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School 6:00 pm - Traditional Christmas Eve Service With Holy Communion	25 Christmas Day 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 There will be no Wednesday activities the week of Christmas	28	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30
31 New Year's Eve 8:00 & 10:30 am - Worship Service 9:15 am - Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School						

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. 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
Dec. 3rd 8:00 am	Dale Hoffmann Shirley Hoffmann Bobby Jacob	Glenn Gisler Jean Gisler Joyce Cardinell	Cole Neill	Kim Neill	Kathleen Reimann Jan Jacob	Joyce Cardinell	Linda Mueller	Steve Fiedler Royce Krueger Mel Bontrager	December 3rd Terry Krueger December 10th Janine Rothmann December 17th Pam Raley December 24th Doris Dold Christmas Eve Stephen Fuhrman December 31st Hanta Andriamihaja
10:30 am	Sharon Kacir Randy Clark Billy Blanchard Jason Eliot	Brett Ckudre Doris Dold Patty McGehee Lisa Price Janine Rothmann	Conleigh Whitley		Patty McGehee Lisa Price	Doris Dold	EJ Raley	Bruce Jank Raymundo Moreno Michael Buchhorn	
Dec. 10th 8:00 am	Gerald Merks Glenn Gisler Laura Johnston		Alex Johnston	Jean Gisler	Janet Merks	Brandi Gayle	Jean Huber	Randy Clark Carol Buchhorn Linda Mueller	
10:30 am	Hanta Andriamihaja Doris Dold Debbie Krueger Kurtis Krueger		Tanner Jacob		Diana Pimentel Sharon Kacir	Kathleen Morris	Norma Lawrence	Stephen Fuhrman Linda Sonntag EJ Raley	ALTAR GUILD Gloria Seiler Kim Neill Dorothy Waltersdorff
Dec. 17th 8:00 am	Bobby Jacob Mitchell Thurman Mel Bontrager	Royce Krueger Terry Krueger Steve Fiedler	Jason Loper	Steve Fiedler	Kathleen Reimann Terry Krueger	Jan Jacob	Linda Mueller	Dale Hoffmann Richard Ross Manuel Mendez	
10:30 am	Michael Buchhorn Dena Buchhorn Tom Willis Darryl Kern	Pam Raley EJ Raley Pat DeDear Marilyn Young Carol Buchhorn	Arun Pickens		Eden Yaklin	Pam Raley	EJ Raley	Buck Dabney Brett Ckudre Diane Dabney	ALTAR FLOWERS December 3rd Sandra Hilbrich December 10th Eden Yaklin December 17th Joe & Susan Woodson December 24th Marilyn Young December 31st Irene Hahn
Dec. 24th 8:00 am	Royce Krueger Terry Krueger Steve Fiedler		Konor Eliot	Daria Jank	Dale Hoffmann Shirley Hoffmann	Joyce Cardinell	Jean Huber	Gerald Merks Mitchell Thurman Linda Mueller	
10:30 am	Jason Eliot Kase Eliot Patty McGehee Randy Clark		Hannah Morris		Haley Morris Billy Blanchard	Doris Dold	Norma Lawrence	Ronnie Wolter Lewis Keith Manuel Mendez	
Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm	Randy Clark Luke Hersey John Hersey Sally Hersey Jason Eliot Steve Fiedler	Michael Buchhorn Dena Buchhorn Pat DeDear Marilyn Young Carol Buchhorn	Konor Eliot	Libby Stirneman	Pam Raley Diana Pimentel Michael Buchhorn Dena Buchhorn	Doris Dold	EJ Raley	Dale Hoffmann Randy McGehee Mel Bontrager	PRAYERS December 3rd Ryan Price December 10th Sharon Kacir December 17th Fernando Moreno December 24th Pam Raley December 31st Susan Woodson
Dec. 31st 8:00 am			YOUTH LED SERVICE					Steve Fiedler Royce Krueger Linda Mueller	
10:30 am			YOUTH LED SERVICE					Bruce Jank Raymundo Moreno Michael Buchhorn	



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Chili, Cornbread & Dessert

COOK OFF

**SILENT AUCTION
LIVE MUSIC**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
4102 N. BEN JORDAN
ENTER DOOR B
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

**All proceeds benefit
Our Saviour's CYF Ministry**

\$30 per Entry

For more information:

Contact Susan Woodson at woodson@oslc victoria.com

\$10 per Person to taste all entries



Texas District

**Mission
Moment**

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



HARVEST
WORKERS

Advent: More Than a Countdown - As a kid, I LOVED Advent! Why? Because it was a countdown to the best day of the year in the minds of most kids: Christmas! Why? Because Christmas meant PRESENTS! What kid doesn't love getting to unwrap Christmas presents?!? As I have grown and matured (hopefully) I have come to realize that Advent is so much more than a countdown... it is an invitation to give the best gift of all: God's grace through Jesus.

Entering the season of Advent, we are reminded of the extraordinary gift of God's grace given in the advent or arrival of Emmanuel (God with us), Jesus. As we anticipate the Christmas celebration and reflect upon the gift of God's grace in sending His son, I can't help but take note of what I think is often overlooked: our call to share that grace with others. Advent is a season of intentional love and outreach in Jesus' name.

Our call to share Christ's love is rooted in our identity as recipients of a grace that knows no bounds. It is God's grace that forgives our sins, heals our brokenness, and transforms our lives. Grace is a free gift of God that can never be earned or deserved. Jesus reminds his followers Matthew 10:8 (CSB): "*Freely received, freely give.*" As followers of Christ this Advent season, we are called not only to celebrate this grace but to be conduits of it, sharing the transformative love of Christ with the world we live in.

In the hustle and bustle of this season, be attentive to the opportunities that God gives you to be instruments of God's grace for others. How can you joyfully demonstrate the love of Jesus in your interactions with friends, family, neighbors, co-workers and even strangers? It could be as simple as extending a helping hand to a neighbor, showing kindness to a stranger, or speaking a word of encouragement. It may be through sharing the story of Christ's birth, offering a listening ear to someone going through a tough time, or extending forgiveness in Jesus' name. Pray each day for God to give you eyes to see the opportunities and the courage and power of the Holy Spirit to embrace them. I believe God will indeed answer your prayer and give you both!

This Advent, I pray that our lives can be a testament to the transformative power of grace, as we actively and intentionally extend God's love to a world in need. In 1 Peter 4:10 (CSB) we read, "*Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God.*" Our faith calls for us to respond to God's grace by not just receiving it but also stewarding it by sharing it generously with a world that so desperately needs it.

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:**

Carolyn Franz

Janice Hill

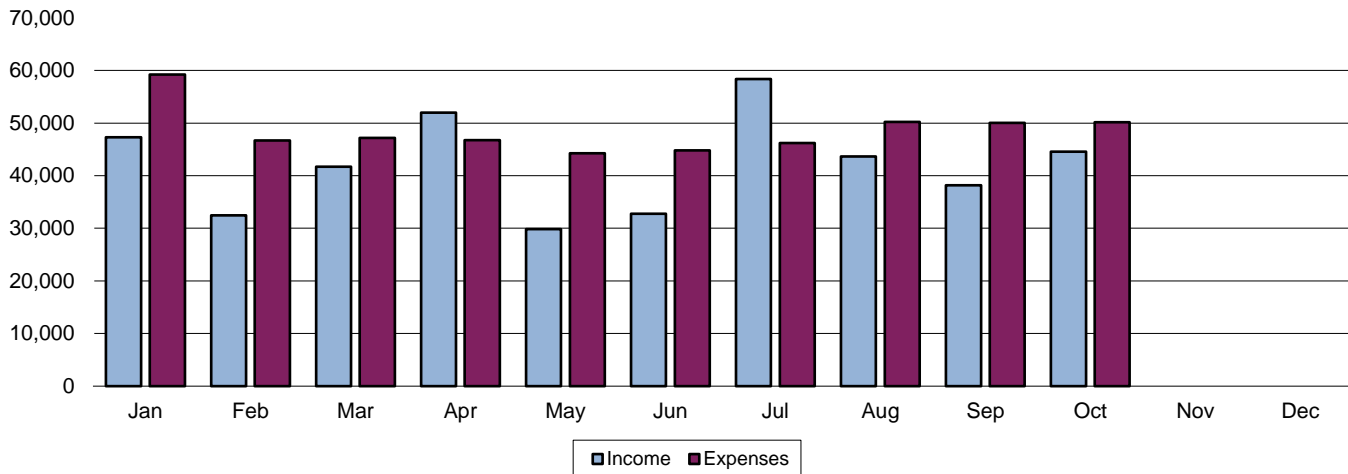


Special Concerns: All those we hold dear in our hearts that are facing a battle for good health, mind, and spirit.

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

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Fund 2023 Income vs. Expenses



CHURCH ATTENDANCE



November Attendance

Our average weekly attendance
for November 165.

November 5 th	161
November 12 th	192
November 19 th	142



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 giving so generously to the Lutheran Disaster Response.

Thank you so much for your very generous donation to VCAM.

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

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

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.

Thank you so much for your faithfulness and support of Mission Mexico. We value your prayers and gifts.

I want to take this opportunity to thank ALL who contributed, in any way, to help make this year's Community Thanksgiving Feast a "rip roaring" success! It takes many hands! I love you all. Pat DeDear

December Birthdays

12/2 – Konor Eliot
12/4 – Daryl Wright
12/10 – Ashley Hempel
12/15 – Bob Ferry
12/16 – Lanette Groll
12/26 – Glenn Gisler
12/28 – Karen Hoffer
12/29 – Parker Whitley

12/4 – Pat Grote
12/5 – Don Seiler
12/11 – Royce Krueger
12/15 – Amy Hempel
12/20 – Jacob Woodson
12/27 – Wayne Prukop
12/29 – Doris Weischwill

12/4 – Ingrid Kabela
12/10 – Evelyn Nicholson
12/13 – Patsy Hand
12/15 – Abigail Christian
12/22 – Terry Krueger
12/27 – Noel Smith
12/29 – Janine Rothmann

12/4 – Anna Prukop
12/10 – Betty Tomanec
12/14 – Jean Gisler
12/16 – Loretta German
12/22 – Brenda Bolle
12/28 – Dan Briggs
12/29 – Jason Price

*CARD MINISTRY ~ If you know of someone who could use a get well or sympathy card,
please contact Doris Dold at 361-574-8585 or dedold42@gmail.com.*

We have recently added cards for milestone birthdays and wedding anniversaries 50th & up.

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

Pastor – La Andriamihaja
 Music Director – David Means
 Music Director – Amanda Christian
 CYF Director – Susan Woodson
 Financial Administrator – Sally Hersey
 Office Administrator – Gina Elliot
 Housekeeping Custodian – Sue Boldt

361-575-4305
 361-575-4305 ext. 7006
 361-575-4305 ext. 7002
 361-575-4305 ext. 7004
 361-575-4305 ext. 7001
 361-575-4305 ext. 7000

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President – Gerald Merks
 Vice President – Janine Rothmann
 Secretary – Sharon Kacir
 Treasurer – Lynna Briggs

361-920-6267
 361-571-0593
 361-575-8719
 361-550-4477

