JANUARY 2025

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC 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 Office Hours: 9am - 4pm Monday – Thursday (Closed 12pm - 1pm for lunch)

To All the Saints of Our Saviour's, Happy and Blessed New Year to each of you.

As we embark on a New Year – a year that has never been trodden upon by anyone before – a couple of passages from the prophets Isaiah and John of Patmos come to mind:

PASTOR "Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness." (Isaiah 43:18-19)

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away...I am making everything new!" (Rev. 21:3-5a)

I am trusting and leaning into these promises of our Lord and God, that you will affirm, support and join me and the leaders of this congregation in the new and exciting things that the Holy Spirit will lead, guide, and empower us to engage and be as we stretch and expand the Kingdom of God in Victoria, in Texas, and throughout the world. To this end, I want to extend my sincere and heart-felt gratitude to two individuals who faithfully, lovingly, and voluntarily served on the Church Council – Sharon Kacir and Glenn Gisler. With the same sentiments, I'm thankful to Katy Morris, who has served as the Ministry Leader for the Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) ministry since my arrival here, at OSL. We thank the Holy Spirit for their respective passions and faithfulness to the Gospel. Although they're not serving in the leadership roles they did before, I look forward to their continued involvement in the life and ministries of OSL.

As we move forward into this New Year, it is my joy and privilege to welcome two individuals who were elected by this congregation on November 13, 2024, as new Church Council members – Debbie Cavallin and Randy Clark. As members of the Council, they will assist in guiding and deciding all matters regarding OSL's Finances and Property. In addition, I've appointed Sharon Kacir to be our new Prayer & Devotional Life Ministry Leader, as well as Gina Eliot to be our new CYF Ministry Leader. Sharon will assist and lead us in establishing intentional Prayer & Devotional Life among us, while Gina will guide and have oversight over the CYF ministry. Please join me in welcoming, affirming and supporting these new leaders among us.

Lastly, 2025 marks my 5th year as the Senior Pastor of this congregation. Throughout these last 60 months, I've learned and have gotten to know and to love this congregation, along with the good and the bad. So, in this New Year I plan on meeting with many of our members to ask of them some key questions that will help me and the leaders of our congregation, map and guide our future as the Body of Christ in Victoria, TX (*i.e., How are you "experiencing God at OSL? If not, why not?*") I urge you to welcome my visit as, without a doubt, it will serve OSL and the Kingdom of God among us in 2025 and beyond.

Happy, Blessed, and Peaceful New Year – in Jesus' name. Pastor La

A WORD FROM THE

In the Christian Ed Great Room. All are invited! Class resumes January 15th.

Reminder the church office will be closed Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's.

SECURITY CODE CHANGE

Per council instructions, the security code on the keypad doors will be changed every six months. The new code will take effect on Thursday, January 2nd.

If you would like the new code, please contact the church office.



OSL UN-DECORATING PARTY - We will get together on Wednesday, Jan. 8th beginning at 6:30 pm to un-decorate the Sanctuary and Narthex. We need lots of folks to help and ones able to climb ladders. Please mark this date on your calendar and come out to help.

POINSETTIAS – The poinsettias will be moved to the solarium (near the church office). If you haven't picked up your poinsettia, you still can. Please have them picked up by Thursday, January 9th. The remaining poinsettias will try to be delivered to the nursing homes and to our shut-ins.



LCMC 13TH ANNUAL THREE DAYS OF PRAYER JANUARY 7TH – 9TH

LCMC's Three Days of Prayer on **January 7**th – **9**th is an opportunity for us to follow the Lord's example and to come together as one across the association with a shared purpose: to pray. Following are some suggested points of emphasis for each of the three days. These are not the only things to be prayed for, of course, but they can be points of daily emphasis that bring us all together as one in prayer.

Day One: January 7 ~ Pray for our congregations and leaders.

Day Two: January 8 ~ Pray for those who don't yet know Jesus as Savior and Lord, and the prodigals. Day Three: January 9 ~ Pray for our international partners.



OSL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2025

Debbie Cavallin

Randy Clark

Kim Neill

Stephen Fuhrman Janine Rothmann Barret Jacob

OSL MINISTRY LEADERS

Caring – Marilyn Young Digital Media – Diana Pimentel Hospitality – Hanta Andriamihaja Welcome – Laura Wright

Becky Linville

Children & Youth – Gina Eliot Fellowship – Michael Buchhorn Prayer – Sharon Kacir Worship – Pastor La

Community – Pam Raley Global Missions – Darryl Kern Spiritual Formation – Jason Eliot

<u>Memo for the Church Council & Ministry Leaders</u>: The 2025 Retreat will be Saturday, January 4th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at the OSLC in the Christian Ed Great Room. Please inform Pastor La if you are not able to attend.

Installation Service: Church Council & Ministry Leaders will be installed Sunday, January 5th at both services.

SPRINGFEST - MAY 4, 2025

Our next Springfest meeting will be Wednesday, January 8th at 5:45 pm in the Conference Room. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to attend. Please join us!

ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS

The 2025 Springfest Committee needs your help. We are working on getting a quilt together for the live auction and need some cotton fabric squares. This is a small sample of what the quilt will look like. For a queen size quilt, we need 130 blocks of printed squares. Each block will consist of $4 - 4\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ pieces of printed cotton fabric sewed together to make one $8\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$ block.

Please go through your closets, plastic tubs, or wherever you keep your material and see what you can do. Please make sure the fabric is in good condition. We do not need material with designs like spaceships, cats or dogs, etc. on them. Bright and dark colors will not work, we need floral or even small striped patterns.

We would like to have as many blocks as possible by Sunday, January 19th. There will be a container located at the Welcome Desk where you can leave the blocks. Thank you so much for your help. 2025 Springfest Committee





Dear Children, Youth and Families,

If you're reading this, congratulations, you made it through the holidays! As much fun as it is to celebrate with friends and family, exchanging gifts, making memories, and eating way too much food, it is also a blessing to pause and take a deep breath before tackling the new year.

For the children and youth at OSL, we had a wonderful time in December with our Advent and Christmas activities, from wreath-making to cookie decorating to our Christmas party and more! We love seeing new faces as we share the light of Christ with more and more kids!

As we turn the page to 2025, we want to thank the congregation and the rest of the staff for welcoming us and supporting us as we kicked off our GROW ministry. With anything new, growing pains are to be expected, but we have enjoyed building a foundation, setting our roots deep and getting ready for what God has in store. There are some amazing parents and students here at OSL, and we look forward to continuing to pour into you!

January is always a good time to "take inventory" and reflect on where you are. For our CYF family, "What would I like to see happen this year?" and "How can I help make it happen?" are excellent questions to ask yourself. As leaders of this ministry, we are here both to serve you and to help you get connected, because when God's people are all pulling in the same direction, amazing work is accomplished for His kingdom!

Lastly, the new year may just be getting started, but in Texas, summer is never very far away! We encourage our junior high and high school students to start making plans to attend summer camp at Camp Eagle this coming June 2nd - 6th. Students who have gone before know it's an amazing place where they can have fun, step outside their comfort zone, make new friends, reconnect with old friends, and most importantly, get closer to God!

We can't wait to GROW with you in 2025!

Stephanie and Jake

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THEOLOGY?

Nothing really, except theology is what we all do when we think about God and how we interact with him. Our understanding of creation, God's promises, our salvation, and ultimately when He returns, is wrapped up in theology. Having sound theology means that every aspect of what we teach and preach here at Our Saviour's, agrees with all elements of our theological foundations.

One of the foundational elements of our theology is Sola Scriptura. Which means by scripture alone. As Lutherans, scripture is the hill that we live and die upon. Our theological writings and practices reflect scripture in every element of our worship services and teachings. As church members we can debate things like carpet colors, pew designs, and even styles of worship but the one thing we must agree on is what scripture says. Our theology keeps us rooted in scripture and prevents us from wondering out of bounds. That is why I feel that our Lutheran distinctive is something we need to defend and ultimately lean into.



There are a few initiatives that Our Saviour's will see in the coming months that reflect this perspective. First will be the publishing of teaching standards for all classes conducted for the edification of church members. The second is updating the church library. Each of these activities will be accomplished with the highest degree of respect and diligence to the work people have shown to each of these ministries in prior years, but there are some areas we need to shore up to ensure each remains within our theological boundaries. The teaching standards will be completed and shared with those who lead the ministries in early January. The church library update is timed to be completed before Lent. If you have questions or concerns about either of these two initiatives, I would be happy to speak (in person) with you in detail.

Jason Eliot

Ministry Leader for Spiritual Formation

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	CHURCH EVENTS, DAI AND DETAILS ARE SUBJECT 1	CHURCH EVENTS, DATES CHURCH EVENTS, DATES AND DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Hospice Crochet Group	4 9:00 am - Council & Ministry Leaders Retreat in Christian Ed Great Room
5 8:00 - Traditional Worship Service 10:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service HOLY COMMUNION HELPING HANDS Installation of Council & Ministry Leaders at both services 9:15 am - Adult, Children & Youth Sunday School	6 Epiphany 8:00 am - Pastor's Advisory Team Meeting 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 5:15 pm - Fellowship Committee Meeting	7 Day 1 of Prayer 9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting Ministry	8 Day 2 of Prayer 9:00 am - CST Guidance Team Meeting 5:00 pm - Confirmation Class 5:30 pm - Prayer Group in Chapel 5:45 pm - Dasis Meal 5:45 pm - Springfest Mig. 6:30 pm - GROW 6:30 pm - GROW	9 Day 3 of Prayer 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Homeschool Group 6:00 pm - Women's Grace Retreat Meeting 6:30 pm - New Member Orientation	10 OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Hospice Crochet Group	11 10:00 am - Life After Loss Support Group
12 Baptism of Our Lord 8:00 - Traditional Worship Service 10:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service 9:15 am - Aduft, Children & Youth Sunday School	13 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 1:30 pm - Pantry Prep 5:00 pm - Executive Council Meeting	14 9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting Ministry 4:00 pm - Pantry 6:30 pm - Worship Committee Chapel Rented	15 5:00 pm - Confirmation Class 5:30 pm - Prayer Group in Chapel 5:45 pm - Oasis Meal 6:30 pm - GROW 6:30 pm - Pastor La's Bible Study	16 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Homeschool Group 6:00 pm - Women's Grace Retreat Meeting	17 OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Hospice Crochet Group	18
19 8:00 - Traditional Worship Service 8:00 - Comtemporary Worship Service HOLY COMMUNION 9:15 am - Aduft, Children & Youth Sunday School	 Martin Luther King Day 8:00 am - Pastor's Advisory Team Meeting 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 6:00 pm - Women of the Word in the MPR 	21 9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting Ministry 6:30 pm - Council Meeting	22 9:00 am - CST Guidance Team Meeting 5:00 pm - Confirmation Class 5:30 pm - Dasis Meal 6:30 pm - GROW 6:30 pm - Pastor La's Bible Study	23 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Homeschool Group 6:00 pm - Women's Grace Retreat Meeting	24 OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Hospice Crochet Group	25
2627282830318:00 - Traditional Worship Service 9:00 am - Staff Meeting9:00 am - Staff Meeting9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting35:00 pm - Confirmation Class3010:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 am - Tabitha Cuilting9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting5:00 pm - Confirmation Class3010:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service 5:30 pm - Pantry Prep9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting5:30 pm - Confirmation Class8:00 am - 4:00 pm10:30 am - Contemporary Worship Service 1:30 pm - Pantry Bervice 5:30 pm - CYF Committee1:30 pm - Pantry8:00 am - 4:00 pm5:30 pm - CYF Committee Meeting6:30 pm - Rayer Group in Chapel 5:30 pm - Rayer La's Bible Study6:00 pm - Women's Grace 6:30 pm - Pastor La's Bible Study8:00 pm - Women's Grace Retreat Meeting	27 9:00 am - Staff Meeting 1:30 pm - Pantry Prep 5:30 pm - CYF Committee Meeting	28 9:30 am - Tabitha Quilting Ministry 4:00 pm - Pantry	29 5.00 pm - Confirmation Class 5.30 pm - Prayer Group in Chapel 5.45 pm - Oasis Meal 6.30 pm - GROW 6.30 pm - Pastor La's Bible Study	30 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Homeschool Group 6:00 pm - Women's Grace Retreat Meeting	31 **********	



2025 FLOWER CALENDAR - is at the Welcome Desk with spots still available. If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on a Sunday, please sign up and provide us with a good phone number where you can be reached. Thanks!

WOMEN OF THE WORD

W.O.W. – will have their next monthly meeting on Monday, January 20th at 6:00 pm in the MPR. All ladies of OSL are welcome to attend. This is a great way to start the new year. There is always a time of great fellowship, meaningful devotion and these meetings are always purposeful. The WOW group would like to wish everyone a blessed new year!

OSL MINISTRY LEADERS MEETING ON THE 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH



This month they will meet at the Council & Ministry Leaders Retreat on Saturday, January 4th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm in the Christian Ed Great Room



HELPING HANDS OFFERING SUNDAY – January 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

For more information about Tabitha Quilting Ministry contact Dorothy Waltersdorff at 576-1465 or Jean Gisler at 676-0484 or jeangislernp@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, January 11th at 10:00 am. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Stephen Fuhrman.



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.

AROUND THE CHURCH FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND PRAYERS

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



Thanks be to God these folks have returned home from the hospital: Jake Henson Russel Hempel Glenn Weischwill



Received in Holy Baptism:

Hayden Alton Hahn, son of Wesley & Taylor Hahn and grandson of Walter & Wanda Hahn



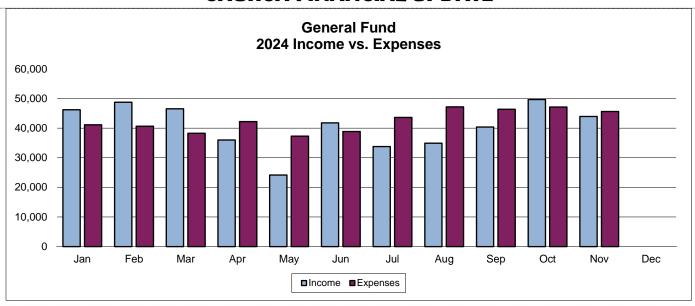
We extend our deepest sympathy to... ... Cary Voss on the loss of his father



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. \sim Martin Luther

CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE



CHURCH ATTENDANCE

December Attendance		
Our average weekly attendance		
for December 167.		
December 1 st	151	
December 8 th	132	
December 15 th	218	



Dear OSL, as an office staff, we wanted to say thank you to all of you who gave so generously this Christmas season. We appreciate all the goodies, the visits, the monetary gifts and the encouraging words you express. It is indeed an honor to serve our Lord through Our Saviour's. May you all have a blessed and prosperous New Year!

New Year New Beginnings, New [ntentions New Thoughts, New Focus, New Results

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.

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

We would like to thank Pastor La and our church family for the visits, phone calls, cards, and prayers while Glenn was in the hospital. May God bless each of you in Christian love, Glenn & Doris Weischwill



2025 DAILY TEXTS: Daily Text is a world-renowned resource for daily devotions that will last you the entire year. Two simple Bible verses each day provide the Word we need to plant God's Word inside of us. We will no longer have Daily Text available at the Welcome Desk. If you would like to order one go to https://store.groundupgrace.com/daily-texts-2025/. The cost is \$15.45 per book plus shipping.

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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