



Our Savior Lutheran Church

January 2020

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FROM PASTOR ANNE

To God's beloved people at Our Savior Lutheran Church,

Every New Year, the future looks fresh and new, and I love to spend time both reviewing the blessings of the previous year and imagining the good things that the new year will bring.

Looking back, it has been my privilege to serve this community for nearly two years, to share with you life's joys and sorrows, and to see the good work that God is accomplishing through you. I hope that you have been comforted at times and challenged at other times. I hope that I have disappointed you at least once (though never intentionally) so that you may grow in the grace of forgiveness – and if I have disappointed you in a major way, please let me know! I hope that I have encouraged you toward a deeper relationship with God, and that you are confident asking God the *big* questions that we all wonder about from time to time. For that matter, I hope that you are also confident in talking with *me* about those big questions, trusting that I will share with you what I know, and that I will seek answers for you about what I don't know, and that I will pray with you for things that are unknowable to us and known only to God.

Looking forward, I have high hopes for what God intends for you this year. I invite you to always be asking God what your next steps as a disciple shall be, and how you will grow in faith toward God and love toward humanity. Consider these questions:

How is your relationship with God? Do you feel closer to God than a year ago, or more distant? Are your prayers faithful and rich? Have *you* been changed by your spiritual practices? (Remember: prayer changes things, but the most common 'thing' prayer changes is the person praying!) Is this the year God is calling you to a new spiritual practice?

How is your relationship with humanity? Are you troubled by the increasing division and fear in our society? Have you fallen prey to the temptation of labeling some of our fellow humans as 'other' or can you see us as all equally created in the image of God – equally beloved of God? Will you re-commit to practicing the Golden Rule in all your deeds this year?

Is there a new ministry within this congregation (or in the community) that you are called to create or join, or an existing ministry that you will continue to support? Listen to your passions. Are you drawn to serving the elderly, or veterans, or refugees, or at-risk children, or people who suffer from food

insecurity? There are a world of opportunities waiting for you.

Do you know your Bible as well as you would like to? (I hope we can all answer 'no' to this question). Do you know your Bible better this year than you did last year? If not, will you consider a new practice, such as reading through the Bible in one year (see the article in this newsletter) or joining a Bible study?

Let me know your hopes and fears for the coming year. It would be my delight to listen to you over a cup of coffee as we share mutual encouragement and challenge each other to grow in faith and love.

Your servant, and His,

Pastor Anne Palma +

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart. -Howard Thurman

The poem "The Work of Christmas" is from Howard Thurman's *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations* and is used by permission of Friends United Press. All rights reserved.



FAITH AND JUSTICE IN FILM SERIES

To Be Announced!



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 26

Plan to participate in the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26, immediately following worship. You – the congregation – are the highest human authority given responsibility for care of the congregation. According to our constitution, “The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws” (C5.02). We will elect new members for the congregation council and representatives to the Luther Heights Annual Meeting. (We will not elect voting members to represent us at Synod Assembly, because Synod Assembly now meets only every two years). We will review and adopt a budget for the 2020 year, and we will carry out other actions as required.

If you are a voting member of the congregation, your presence is especially invited. “Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation.” (C8.02.c) Friends of the congregation and non-voting members are also encouraged to attend.

The Annual Report of the Congregation is being created even now, and we expect to have a copy available for you by Sunday, January 12. A pot luck meal will follow the annual meeting.

CONSTITUTION UPDATE 2020

As a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Our Savior Lutheran Church has a constitution that reflects essential elements of the constitution of the national church. When the national church updates its own constitution, we make similar modifications locally in order to remain in concord with the ELCA.

The national church adopted an updated constitution at the Churchwide Assembly in August 2019, and so this year OSLC will work on updating our own constitution. One change will reflect the new name of our synod: we are now the Northwest Intermountain Synod (and not the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod). Another change will reflect a change in the title of some rostered leaders. The church no longer has three separate rosters (diaconal minister, associate in ministry, deaconess) for Ministers of Word and Service – now they are all simply called deacons. Your council will also review elements of the constitution that are under local control (that is, elements not mandated by the national church) for update and possible amendment.

After proposed modifications are made and approved by the Synod’s review team, the congregation will vote to adopt an updated constitution for OSLC.

If you have interest in leading the team involved in our constitution update, contact the church office. If you are interested in being a supporting member of the team (and especially if you have an eye for detail), let us know also!

GROWING IN FAITH – ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BEGINS JANUARY 5

What happens when Lutherans, Presbyterians and Episcopalians come together to learn and to pray? Deepening discipleship, enriching relationships, and (not least of all) fun!

This new collaboration was initiated by our local *Presbyterian* pastor, the Rev. Phil Price. It will be hosted by our local *Episcopal* church. And the curriculum we will use is developed by the Evangelical *Lutheran* Church in America.

Join us at 4 PM on Sunday, January 5, at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, for a Sparkhouse series called Dialogues on Race. Topics for the first four weeks include “What does it mean to be white?” (January 5); “Christmas cookies from Cambodia” (January 12); “Say it Loud” (January 19); and “American amnesia” (January 26).

CHURCH TRIVIA

1. Our Savior Lutheran Church of Twin Falls will celebrate a significant birthday this year. How old will the congregation be?

- 60 years
- 70 years
- 80 years
- 90 years

2. Martin Luther’s Small Catechism has five main parts (and additional elements for individual confession, the Office of the Keys, and morning and evening prayer). Which three of these five main elements do we observe during worship nearly every week?

- The Ten Commandments
- The Lord’s Prayer
- The Apostles’ Creed
- The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
- The Sacrament of the Altar (Holy Communion)

3. How much Hebrew do you know? Match the word in the left-hand column with its meaning in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|----------|----------------------|
| Amen | Praise the Lord! |
| Immanuel | Christ; Anointed One |
| Shalom | Jesus |
| Alleluia | God With Us |
| Messiah | Truly: May it be so! |
| Yeshua | Peace |

STEWARDSHIP – THREE WAYS TO GIVE

Stewardship experts remind us that there are three ways we can give to God’s mission, returning a portion of God’s bounty to its source.

We can give from our **current income**. This is the notion of regular (every Sunday), individual (each one of us), planned (put aside thoughtfully in advance), proportional (in proportion to our income) giving. From one’s current income, one can decide to give a particular amount, or a particular percentage, towards God’s work. A tithe (ten percent) is one example of giving from current income.

We can give from our **assets**. This giving can come from savings, investments, retirement accounts, and other sources. People who have benefitted from a favorable stock market may even find some tax benefits in giving from their assets.

Finally, we can give **legacy gifts**. A legacy gift is a gift from one’s estate – from those financial resources which remain after a person dies. Legacy gifts may come in the form of cash, life insurance policies, or other financial instruments. Such gifts may be large or small, and designated or undesignated. The key point is that many of us will have the ability to bless others financially even after we die. We can leave a legacy.

This past fall, OSLC received a **legacy gift** from the estate of our brother Toby Wiklund. Your council has been in prayer considering how best to use this gift, and your input is solicited for ideas about saving, sharing and spending this legacy ‘in a way that would make Toby smile!’

Earlier last year, Pam Yates shared a **legacy gift** from the estate of her aunt, who had been a devoted churchwoman. With this gift, we have all enjoyed a fine new dishwasher and hot water heater which have enhanced our ability to show hospitality to members and guests of the congregation.

Look for more information on **legacy giving** in future editions of the newsletter.

GOLDEN RULE 2020: A CALL FOR DIGNITY AND RESPECT IN POLITICS

Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has joined faith leaders from diverse traditions in signing this statement in support of the Golden Rule 2020 initiative:

“We are Christians with different theological and political views who have come together to express concern about the polarization and incivility that is tearing our country apart. We are also deeply troubled by the prospect of an angry and hateful political campaign season in 2020 that will further divide us as a nation.

We believe that we can find guidance through this national dilemma in the teachings of Jesus. In particular, we believe that Jesus’ command to “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” should be taken seriously by Christians who engage in political activity. We also believe that if enough people follow this “Golden Rule” principle, it will help generate the respect and civility we so desperately need in our country.

Churches have an important role to play in helping to heal America, and we hope and pray that local congregations will be active in efforts to increase understanding and bridge divisions in our country between now and the 2020 election. To this end, we encourage Christians of different political views to come together ... to do two things: 1) pray for the healing of the divisions in our country, and 2) promote the use of the Golden Rule in our own political discussions and election activities in 2020.”

For more information, you may visit www.goldenrule2020.org

BIBLE STUDY ON ROMANS – JOIN US THIS NEW YEAR!

The Wednesday morning Bible study has welcomed a handful of new regular attendees this past year. Will you join us?

We gather at 9:15 for conversation, coffee and delicious home-baked treats, and at 9:30 we begin a study of God’s Word. We consider what the Scriptures meant to their first intended audiences and what they mean for us today. No prior experience or Bible knowledge is necessary and no question is off-limits during these sessions.

Beginning in mid-January, we’ll commence a study of the New Testament Book of Romans, St. Paul’s masterpiece of faith. According to enterthebible.org, “with the exception of the four Gospels, Romans is unsurpassed among the books of the New Testament for its impact on later church history. It had a place in Augustine’s conversion ... to Christianity; in the rediscovery of grace, justification, and faith by Martin Luther, sparking the Reformation; and in the beginnings of the Methodist movement when John Wesley read Luther’s *Preface to Romans*.”

The Study of Romans will begin January 22. Come and see!

READ THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

This new year, 2020, may be the year that you read God's word in its entirety. Are you up for the challenge? During the month of January, you can read your way through Genesis (50 chapters) and Exodus (40 chapters) and make a good start on the book of Leviticus.

If you read three or four chapters daily, you can finish the Bible by the end of this year!

Here is a list of suggested readings for the month of January:

January 1: Genesis 1-4;

January 2 - Genesis 5-8;

January 3 - Genesis 9-12;

January 4 - Genesis 13-17;

January 5 - Genesis 18-20 ;

January 6 - Genesis 21-23;

January 7 - Genesis 24-25;

January 8 - Genesis 26-28;

January 9 - Genesis 29-31;

January 10 - Genesis 32-35;

January 11 - Genesis 36-38;

January 12 - Genesis 39-41;

January 13 - Genesis 42-43;

January 14 - Genesis 44-46;

January 15 - Genesis 47-50;

January 16 - Exodus 1-4;

January 17 - Exodus 5-7;

January 18 - Exodus 8-10

January 19 - Exodus 11-13

January 20 - Exodus 14-16

January 21 - Exodus 17-20

January 22 - Exodus 21-23

January 23 - Exodus 24-27

January 24 - Exodus 28-30

January 25 - Exodus 31-34

January 26 - Exodus 35-37

January 27 - Exodus 38-40

January 28 - Leviticus 1-4

January 29 - Leviticus 5-7

January 30 - Leviticus 8-10

January 31 - Leviticus 11-13

CHURCH TRIVIA ANSWERS

In 2020, Our Savior Lutheran Church of Twin Falls will be 80 years old!

During most Sunday worship services at Our Savior, we confess the Apostles' Creed, we pray the Lord's Prayer, and we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Amen means Truly! Or May it be so! Immanuel (or Emmanuel) means God with Us. Shalom means peace. Alleluia (or Hallelujah) means Praise the LORD! Messiah means Christ or Anointed One. Yeshua means Jesus.

Thank You Section:

From Donna Erickson

To our dear church family: A heartfelt thank you from myself and my sons to the many of you who switched your priorities to plan, cook and serve the delicious lunch following Noel's memorial service – and for all who assisted in other ways, ushering, sharing tributes, sending beautiful cards, flowers and more. For all who showed up for the service, your presence and friendship was a great support for all of us.

If you ever wonder whether your prayers make a difference, wonder no more. We have really felt your prayer support. My chronic pain level continues to be only half of what it was the preceding several months and I have been able to cope without feeling overwhelmed during this busy time, uplifted by awareness of God's presence and guidance. Your support on Facebook comforts and strengthens me, too.

I hope that when things slow down for you after Christmas, some of you will continue to reach out to me by phone (736-1035 or cell 731-6150) or just stop by, as I am largely housebound and love visitors. As I do not drive, it will not be easy to get to my doctor appointments either.

Youth Group



December has been a busy month!

Confirmation has continued with participation of adult mentors—the students and adults have both begun to take sermon notes. Youth and grown-ups spent a happy Saturday morning decorating cookies and cupcakes, and then delivered these treats to some of our members the following Wednesday during our progressive caroling event, followed by a chili supper and Christmas games. On December 22, our youth and children led worship, serving as greeter, ushers, acolyte, candlelighters, (continued in next column)

not-for-children-only sermon deliverer, assisting minister, reader, videographer, musicians, preacher and communion bread baker. Thanks be to God for youth energy, curiosity and faithfulness!



Council Highlights

"In order to permit Pastor Anne Palma to benefit from the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code, the council specifies that the total compensation paid to her during the fiscal year 2020 includes a housing allowance. Pastor Palma estimates that she will spend \$18,000 during the year for housing expenses. Such approval by the council would permit her to deduct that amount from her taxable income and has no further effect upon the congregation or budget.

Resolution: That the total compensation paid to Pastor Anne Palma in 2020 includes a housing allowance of \$18,000.

Motion to approve resolution: Sandy Mitchell
Second: Dave Nelson
APPROVED"

Remember In Prayer.....

Donna Erickson, Steven Erickson, Jack Harding, Tamra Helms, Dorothy Kerbs, Pattie Mattlin, Marge Mayer, Connie Miller, Joan Stokesberry, Julie Allen, Marilyn Backstrom, Cathy and Raymond Dey, Wayne Hawkins, The Family of Sandra Soran, Brian Conrad, Henry Ortmann, Patricia Lasso, The Family of Gary Sipe and The Family of Noel Erickson

SECRETARY'S SPACE:

Happy New Year! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Saints in Service for all that you do each week. Without your help as Assisting Ministers, Ushers, Greeters, Offering Deacons, Altar Guild, Audio Visual, Accompanist, Acolytes, Readers, Grounds Keepers, Maintenance, Decorators, Cleaners and those who bring wonderful treats for our Coffee and Fellowship Hour. Our church would not function as well as it does and



makes my job much easier. So I would like to thank Pastor Anne, Andy, Molly & Fletcher Hamblen, Alice Raidiger, Jim & Jan Nutter, Verna Kirchenwitz, Margie Rahr, Jean Lamp, Karen Welch, Ilse Hylton, Linda, Julia & Grace Williams, Brian, Paula & Matt Anderson, Scott & Karen Fjeld, Roy & Arlene Bentson, Diana Hadley, Gary Sipe, Connie Heidemann, Bernie Schutte, Joe & Sandy Mitchell, Phyllis Mattlin, Jane Pratt, Fred & Lynn Watkins, Mitch & Linda Watkins, Dave & Bev Nelson, Mickey Tanner, Romney Palma, Kirk, Ann-Pell, Kamp, Sailor & Lake Rongen, Kyleigh Gratzner, Kirk & Bev Claiborn, Lil Harding, Denise Hawkins, Erin Johnson, Pam Yates, Ron & Mary Belliston, Connie Heidemann, Bernie Schutte, Mary Kay Henson, Paul, Becca & Liz Ortmann, Liam & Maeve Bevan, Judee Bradbury, Beth Ditlefsen, The Lupumba Family, Felix & Emmanuel Kayembe, Ron & Karen Johnson, Sherrie Tanner, Dianna Wilcox, Hazel Shutte, Deb Brunelle, Corrine Van Dyk and Bob Wayment.

As of this writing, we are still in need of Greeters, Readers, and bringing Refreshments for Coffee & Fellowship Hour for the month of January and soon February's. The sign up sheet will be out on the tables in the back of the church. Here is an opportunity to serve your church and pick your date.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS FOR JANUARY

	January 5 2nd Sunday of Christmas	January 12 Baptism of Our Lord	January 19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	January 26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
First Reading	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Isaiah 42:1-9	Isaiah 49:1-7	Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm	Psalm 147:12-20	Psalm 29	Psalm 40:1-11	Psalm 27:1, 4-9
Second Reading	Ephesians 1:3-14	Acts 10:34-43	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Gospel	John [1-9] 10-18	Matthew 3:13-17	John 1:29-42	Matthew 4:12-23
Liturgical Color	White	White	Green	Green

JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:45 am Special Council Meeting 11:00 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Faith Formation @ Ascension Episcopal	6 5:30 pm OSL Serves @ St. Ed's 6:30 pm Hearts & Hands Set Up	7 Annual Reports Due 9:00 am Hearts & Hands 10:30 am Calendar Meeting 6:30 pm Hearts & Hands Tear Down	8 6:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Shari's 9:15 am Bible Study	9 10:30 am Worship Committee Meeting 1:30 pm Clergy Text Study	10 Annual Reports Printed & Collated	11 9:00 am Taking Down of Christmas Decorations
12 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Faith Formation	13 5:30 pm Youth & Adult of OSL Serves @ St. Ed's 6:30 pm Hearts & Hands Set Up	14 9:00 am Hearts & Hands 6:30 pm Hearts & Hands Tear Down	15 6:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Shari's 9:15 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Council Meeting	16 1:30 pm Clergy Text Study	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 11:00 am Bible Study 4:00 pm Faith Formation	20 AM Hearts & Hands Set Up 5:30 pm OSL Serves @ St. Ed's 6:30 pm Magic Valley Interfaith Dialogue @ OSL	21 Newsletter  9:00 am Hearts & Hands 6:30 pm Hearts & Hands Tear Down	22 6:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Shari's 9:15 am Bible Study	23 1:30 pm Clergy Text Study	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Annual Meeting 12:00 pm Potluck 4:00 pm Faith Formation	27 5:30 pm OSL Serves @ St. Ed's 6:30 pm Hearts & Hands Set Up	28 9:00 am Hearts & Hands 6:30 pm Hearts & Hands Tear Down	29 6:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Shari's 9:15 am Bible Study	30 1:30 pm Clergy Text Study	31	



Worship with Holy Communion is Celebrated

Every Sunday

At

9:30 AM

Our Savior Lutheran Church

464 Carriage Lane North

Twin Falls, ID 83341

Phone: 208.733.3774

E-mail: osletfid@gmail.com

Website: www.oursaviorlutherantf.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/oursaviorlutheranchurchtwinfalls/