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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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FROM THE INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR...

What's in Store for 2024?

Dear People of God in Christ Jesus, for some, even all of us, this could be a scary question.

Minds and thoughts might race across the world ... What's in store for Russia and Ukraine? What's in store for Israel and Hamas? What's in store for China and Taiwan and the world economy?

Minds and thoughts might speed across our country ... What's in store for each and every one of us before, during, and after elections? What's in store for the United States economy and the job market? What's in store for our life together as a nation?

Minds and thoughts might immediately jump to the work of the Call Committee ... When will the original process finally resume? Who will be on the list? Will there be a pastor fit for us? Will he say "Yes" to serving us? When will he begin serving among us?

Minds and thoughts might be trapped on the inside ... What's in store for me and my family? My/their health? My/their future? My/their well-being?

No matter where our minds and thoughts—and hearts—are as we anticipate 2024, Psalm 139 assures us that the Lord has us covered ...

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.

This, in and of itself, is scary. Nothing is hidden from him. And yet, because of our Lord's grace and mercy, David concludes the psalm with this humble, trusting request:

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Come what may, inspired by our gracious giver God, faith is given still to confidently sing:

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!

Peace to you in Christ Jesus!
Pastor Allen



ALTAR GUILD FLOWER RATES for 2024

Effective January 2024 the cost of altar flowers is as follows:

- Regular Arrangements: \$49.00
- Special Arrangements: \$65.00

MOWING IN JANUARY

Jan 13 – Bill Williamson, Arlin Weiting
Jan 27 – Reese Riddiough, Nathan Schofield





Jan 04	4:00 pm	New Members' Class
Jan 04	6:00 pm	Elders' Mtg.
Jan 07	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Jan 07	10:00 am	Comm. Svc.
Jan 08	6:00 – 8:00 PM	– Men's Group
Jan 10	10:00–11:30 am	– Small Grp. Bible Study
Jan 14	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Jan 14	10:00 am	Worship Svc.
Jan 15		Feb. Ministry Schedule Due
Jan 16	4:00 pm	P/S Board Mtg.
Jan 17	10:00–11:30 am	– Small Grp. Bible Study
Jan 20	9:00 am	Feb. Newsletter Deadline
Jan 21	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Jan 21	10:00 am	Praise/Comm. Svc.
Jan 21	2:00 pm	Adult Fellowship
Jan 24	10:00–11:30 am	– Small Grp. Bible Study
Jan 28	9:00 am	SS/Bible Study
Jan 28	10:00 am	Worship Svc.
Jan 31	10:00–11:30 am	– Small Grp. Bible Study

ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE



JANUARY

Jan 07 – Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Set-Up – Lori Williamson
Take-Down – Kelly Olney

Flowers: Terry and Jill Murdock's 54th wedding anniversary and Julie Murdock's birthday

Jan 14 – Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Connie Hathaway

Flowers: Open

Jan 21 –Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Set-Up – Peggy Payne
Take-Down – Lori Williamson

Flowers: Becky Zielke—Inez Bauman's birthday

Jan 28 –Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Marianne Heuchert

Flowers: Sarah Ganschow



Jan 01	Greg Amaral
Jan 02	Jordan Hahn
Jan 09	Jay Hahn
Jan 11	Thomas Heuchert
Jan 14	Georgiann Willie
Jan 16	Donna Finlay
Jan 18	Arlin Weiting
Jan 21	Jocelyn Graham, Crystal Shaffer
Jan 22	Terry Murdock
Jan 24	Inez Bauman
Jan 25	Joretta Borcher
Jan 26	Katherine Lee, Sharon Weiting
Jan 28	Sullivan Riley
Jan 30	Ernest Heuchert, Jr.



Jan 03	Terry & Jill Murdock
Jan 26	Dick & Debra Scholar

FROM THE PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE

Happy New Year from the Pastoral Call Committee! We hope this note finds you sitting expectantly at our Savior's feet—both in worship and in service. Just like Mary was praised for her behavior of sitting at Jesus' feet and listening (Luke 10:38-42), so we want to mimic her actions by faithfully attending worship services and Bible study and being in the Word of God. Nothing is more precious than the Word of God (Psalm 19:7-11). Jesus also used feet to demonstrate service and humility to his disciples by washing their feet (John 13:12-17). This is the other posture we want to find ourselves in this year, one of service to the church as a whole and to our community. As we worship God, we are struck by his amazing love for us and want to share it with our community in the form of meeting a need or a pain. And as we meet that need or pain in our community, we come to worship God to be filled with his love and comfort and peace. And the cycle continues to go round and round. So as we continue to wait for a list of potential pastors, we join you sitting at Jesus' feet in both worship and in service to one another. ✨



ELDER'S CORNER

The Truth

I have a sign in my garage. It says, "Notice -- this place is politically incorrect. We say Merry Christmas; one nation under God; we salute our flag, and give thanks to our troops. If this offends you, leave." For the life of me, I do not know why these are politically INcorrect.

A few weeks before Christmas I was ordering some presents from catalogues via my cell phone. After finishing the transaction, every person taking my order would say, "happy holidays." I would respond back, "and a Merry Christmas to you and yours." Shortly after my Christmas shopping, I was at a restaurant for lunch with a friend and I shared my catalogue experience with him. As we were leaving, our waitress said, "happy holidays," to which I replied, "Merry Christmas." She got a smile on her face and said that I was the first person who had used the words Merry Christmas. Wow, the secular world knows how to take Jesus out of Christmas. If we use the words Merry Christmas, we might offend someone

How have we gotten to this point? A man can identify as a woman, a woman can identify as a man. Biological men can compete in women's sports. School teachers are prohibited from telling parents that their children are having identity problems. You can get fired from your job if you do not address someone by their preferred pronoun. And whatever you do, do not say Merry Christmas.

To me all of this makes no sense. Is all this woke stuff the truth? Is the truth in the eye of the beholder or what you feel in your heart? Is it driven by emotions or passions? Is the truth a relative thing where society and culture can establish what is true and what is false? Is the truth whatever makes you happy or feel good?

To those who have fallen away from the God of the Bible, the answer to all these questions would be yes. To us, people of faith who believe in Christ and His redeeming works, the answer is a big fat NO. What then is the truth? Jesus is truth. God has revealed this to us through His word. In the KJV translation of the bible the word truth is used 333 times, 224 in the old testament and 109 in the new testament. In John 8:31-32, Jesus tells us, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." The truth is not determined by preference or mere tradition. It does not change from one age to the next. Psalm 119:160 tells us, "All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal." Truth is not relative, it is absolute.

As Christians we know where the truth is found. We must cling to God's Word and sacraments as we encounter the devil and his lying, evil ways. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." (John 14: 6) If we believe that a man cannot be a woman, we are not transphobic, we just know what the truth is. Hope you all had a Merry Christmas. ✠

...Mark Hathaway

THANK YOU!

(The following is a letter from Seminarian Noah Russell who is supported by LCOS and is presently serving his vicarage at Cornerstone Lutheran Church in Carmel, Indiana.)

I was thinking about how to begin this letter and how to fit everything in the limited space I have; I arrived at what I believe is a succinct way of describing what I have been up to lately. I have been busy, busy, busy. Busy getting used to a new area and adjusting to a multi-site ministry context in a large team of pastors and staff. Busy figuring out how my wife and I find time to grow together as we're working on our vicarage/internship while still being a couple that hasn't even been married for seven months yet. Busy working on improving and honing my skills as well as learning new ones by working alongside the wonderful team at the congregation. Busy taking classroom theory and putting it into practice. Busy with being intentional about taking time to rest. Busy learning how to fail and be okay with failure for the lessons it can teach. Busy connecting with people in the congregation and learning their stories so that I can better serve them. Busy keeping up with the great mentors I have at Cornerstone—staff members to whom I look up. Busy being formed by all of these things (and many more that could never fit on this page) into a better servant in God's Kingdom. Vicarage is truly a wonderful time full of amazing opportunities, and I'm only two months into it! As I'm looking ahead to what comes next for me and seeking to use this time to grow in my ministry skills and my personal relationship with God, I want to take a moment to thank you for your support. I have said many times before in my life that I would never be able to be where I am now without the support of others. And that is still true. Thank you for your support and for your willingness to provide aid to a guy who is working on preparing to be the best pastor that he can be. (I still have a long way to go!)

You are a blessing and I pray that you may find that your lives serving God are busy, busy, busy. ✠



Once again, we would like to put up crosses in front of our church to make a statement to our community that we uphold the God-given value of human life, especially the unborn lives being ended. If you would like to help set up crosses, please join us on the front corner lawn on **Saturday, January 13, at 10:00 AM.** ✨

ADULT FELLOWSHIP RESUMES

Adult Fellowship will resume on Sunday, **January 21**, when we will be back in action with games, prizes, snacks, and general tomfoolery. Come and join the fun and bring a friend! ✨

IN GRATITUDE

THANK YOU from the Olivers! We are greatly blessed to be a part of, and have opportunities to serve in, this congregation. Thank you again for all the ways you have shown love and support in 2023, including the many cards and gifts from individuals here in December (for my birthday and the Lord's), and for your congregational Christmas gift. We look forward to how the Lord will lead, bless, and use us all together in 2024.— **Pastor Harold and Ruth Oliver**



Thank you for your care and concern during the past three months that I have been housebound. The many cards, notes, and texts I have received as well as your support and love are deeply appreciated.—**Mary Clark**

LifeLight Small-Group Bible Study begins Wednesday, January 10, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM in the Fireside Room. This is a nine-week course that will cover Part I of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. For further information, contact Rudy or Cheryl Stowell (805-937-3654). ✨



LWML UPDATE

The **LWML Annual Yard Sale** held last October yielded \$1,328 plus \$143 for Mites. In January a short LWML meeting will be held to distribute these funds. Watch as to date and time and please attend to make your voice heard.

Mission Grants for CNH district of LWML: Mission grant #12 has been funded and we are presently working on Grant 13—Hope for Hopeless in the amount of \$5,000. Only five (5) more grants need funding before the April District Convention. Don't forget to continue to fill those Mite boxes and return filled small boxes to the larger Mite box in the Narthex.

LCOS was a drop-off center for **Operation Christmas Child** Shoeboxes. We collected 1, 682 shoeboxes out of the 4,040 gathered on all of the Central Coast. A huge Thank You to everyone who supported this project.

Approximately two dozen socks were gathered during the **Socks for Seniors** campaign shortly before Christmas.

Bible Quiz

In the book of Judges, the warrior Barak would go to battle only if a certain female leader went with him. Who was she?

- A. Rebekah
- B. Jael
- C. Michal
- D. Deborah



Answer: D (See Judges 4:1-10.)

ANNOUNCING a New Members' Class—A class for all those interested in **learning more about the Lutheran faith will begin on Thursday, January 4, at 4:00 PM**, in the Administration Building. Entitled "*Biblical Faith and Discipleship—Our Lutheran Confession of Faith*," This opportunity is open to non-members and longtime members alike. All are welcome! ✨

JANUARY 2024

CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	USHERS	LESSON READER	SOUND SYSTEM	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
7 Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Emma Olney	Mark Hathaway Tom Heuchert	Jim LaBelle	Lisa DiModica	Karl DiModica	Altar: Lori Williamson – Set-Up Kelly Olney – Take-Down
							Flowers: Terry & Jill Murdock's 54 th wedding anniversary and Jill Murdock's birthday
14 Sunday	10:00 am	Elder	Rudy Stowell	Paul Mattson	Jill Murdock	Terry Murdock	Altar: Connie Hathaway
							Flowers: Open
21 Praise Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Riley Olney	Art Atrops Todd Martin	Marjorie Hord	Bill Williamson	Estelle Schofield	Altar: Peggy Payne – Set-Up Lori Williamson – Take-Down
							Flowers: Becky Zielke – Inez Bauman's birthday
28 Sunday	10:00 am	Ali Mayes	Dennis Payne	Lucas Mayes	Michael Southern	Diana Brown	Altar: Marianne Heuchert
							Flowers: Sarah Ganschow
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>		ACOLYTES *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	ELDERS *Tom Heuchert 934-1051	USHERS *Art Atrops 937-0485	READERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	SOUND *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ALTAR GUILD Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937-9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Randy & Crystal Shaffer (808) 772-3170

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ANY CHANGE(S) BY TRADING WITH ANOTHER MINISTER.
2. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT OF ANY CHANGE(S).
3. INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGE(S) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

JANUARY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	3	4 4:00 PM – New Members' Class 6:00 PM – Elders' Mtg	5	6
7 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Comm. Svc.	8 6:00 – 8:00 PM - Men's Group	9 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	10 10:00 – 11:30 AM - Group Bible Study – Fireside Room	11	12	13
14 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc.	15 February Ministry Availability Due	16 4:00 PM – P/S Board Mtg. 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	17 10:00 – 11:30 AM - Group Bible Study – Fireside Room	18	19	20 9:00 AM -February Newsletter Deadline
21 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Praise/Comm. Svc. 2:00 PM – Adult Fellowship	22	23 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	24 10:00 – 11:30 AM - Group Bible Study – Fireside Room	25	26	27
28 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc.	29	30 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	31 10:00 – 11:30 AM - Group Bible Study – Fireside Room			