



## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the air grows crisp and the days shorter, we find ourselves standing on the threshold of Advent—a season of hope, expectation, and joyful anticipation. Advent marks the beginning of the church year, a time set apart for reflection and preparation as we journey toward the celebration of our Savior's birth. It is a season of waiting, not in idleness, but in faith, as we look forward to the fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus Christ, our King.

For me, this Advent season holds a special significance as I embrace the blessings of being newly called to serve as your pastor. Walking alongside you as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord fills me with gratitude and excitement.

Advent is a time to pause and reflect on the incredible truth that God chose to dwell among us. The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of a child who would be called *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*. And in the humblest of places—a stable in Bethlehem—this prophecy was fulfilled. Christ the King entered our world, bringing light and salvation to all.

This year, our Advent theme invites us to meditate on the ways Christ's light shines in our lives and how we, as His followers, are called to reflect that light to others. Each Sunday, as we light another candle on the Advent wreath, may the growing glow remind us of God's faithfulness and the joy that comes from knowing Emmanuel—God with us.

Being your pastor during this sacred time of year deepens my appreciation for the beauty of community in Christ. As we share in the journey of faith, I see how God is at work among us—through the warmth of fellowship, the strength of prayer, and the willingness to serve others. We reflect the love of Christ in ways that light the world.

I encourage each of you to set aside moments of quiet this Advent to reflect on the wonder of Christ's coming. Consider daily readings of Scripture, lighting a candle at home as a family, or spending time in prayer. Together, let's make room in our hearts for the greatest gift of all—the love and grace of our Savior.

As we embark on this holy journey, may the hope of Advent fill you with peace and joy. Thank you for welcoming me as your pastor. It is a privilege to walk this path of faith alongside you, and I look forward to all that God has in store for us as we grow in love and service together.

Blessings to you and your families during this season of anticipation and joy.

Peace, today and always,  
Pastor Bunny



## Women's Joint Circle Christmas Brunch

The Circles are planning their joint Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 5th at 11:00 in God's Foyer. All OSLC women and friends are invited. Lunch will include ham sliders, salad, chips and a dessert and a free will offering will be taken. Evelyn Dulan, who is a fabulous story teller, is the entertainment and will tell her version of "T'was the Night Before Christmas". Please let Ann Larson or Pat Ask know if you have questions.

## OSLC Christmas Party



The annual OSLC Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 8. The event will start at 5:30pm with hors d'oeuvres. Dinner will be catered by Dostal's Catering and will be served at 6pm. The menu includes tossed salad, zesty herbed chicken, rolled stuffed pork, party potatoes, green beans, fruit salad, rolls, dessert, coffee and punch.

Entertainment will be provided by David Brauhn, a member of The Unstrung Heroes. He plays guitar, sings, tells stories and jokes, and promises fun audience participation activities.

We will be collecting a free will offering the night of the dinner. We will need an accurate count of those attending. The sign-up sheet will be posted at church from Sunday, November 3, through Sunday, November 24. Once again, this year, we will be coordinating rides to and from the party for those unable to drive. Those needing rides and those willing to give rides will be able to indicate as such on the sign-up sheet.

## Phil and Andy's – December

In the month of December we are collecting Package Dinners!  
This would be things like:

- Rice A Roni
- Mac and Cheese,
- Hamburger Helper and others.



They are not time consuming meals for Mom and Dad to prepare. They are also easy for the kids to help Mom and Dad make for their family meal.

## Fellowship Hour after Sunday Service

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from Therese's office. Pat and Diane have graciously agreed to continue to make coffee so all that needs to be provided is treats. Our Fellowship hour is a very special time where we can catch up with our Christian family and is enjoyed by so many. Please don't forget to sign up.

## Mitten Tree

OSLC Mitten Tree is up and ready to receive your gifts. All donations will be going to the Linn County Child Development Center located at 1020 6th Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. The Linn County Child Development Center works to advance the dignity and well-being of at-risk and low-income children, youth and families by providing access to high quality, comprehensive, strength-based services that equips them with a sound foundation for lifelong development, family success and tools for a thriving and meaningful future. They are in need of hats, socks, scarves, mittens (they work better than gloves because it is hard to get those little fingers into gloves) and underwear for ages 3 – 5. We will be collecting items until the Women’s joint Christmas brunch, which is being held on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.



## Bell Choir to Play at Old World Christmas Market



The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library will be hosting the Old World Christmas Market December 7 and 8, 2024. The Bell Choir will play in the Rozek Grand Hall during the event on Saturday, December 7 from 3-4pm. During this hour, the Bell Choir will play Czech folk songs and Christmas carols.

Come shop, eat and enjoy the music!

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

Looking for an easy way to support and strengthen Our Savior’s Lutheran Church? Participate in Thrivent Choice®, Thrivent’s charitable outreach program.

Through Thrivent Choice, you can contribute to organizations and causes you care about and influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funding.

Thrivent Choice provides an online giving platform where you can make personal donations. And Thrivent pays the processing fees, so 100% of your donation goes to help make an impact.

Eligible Thrivent clients with membership can also recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its outreach funding by directing Choice Dollars® to any of the thousands of enrolled churches and nonprofit organizations, including **Our Savior’s Lutheran Church**.

If you previously made a donation or directed Choice Dollars to us, we thank you for your support! If you haven’t yet participated in Thrivent Choice but would like to do so or learn more about it, visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice). You can also contact your Thrivent advisor.

On behalf of Our Savior’s, we thank you for supporting our important work and helping to make good things happen!

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## **Readers**

December 1 – Rachael Sindelar

December 8 – Nancy Trout

December 15 – Korver Sindelar

December 22 – Ardy Erickson

December 24 – Ann Larson

December 29 – Ann Larson, Nancy Trout,  
Rachael Sindelar, Korver Sindelar, JoAnn  
Kohl, Natalie Fiester

**\*\*Readers can pick up their reading in the  
“Reader” mailbox located between the  
offices in the back hallway**

## **Assisting Ministers**

December 1 – Nancy Greer

December 8 – Ann Larson

December 15 – Children’s Christmas/Bell  
Choir Program

December 22 – Nancy Greer

December 24 – Hannah Plummer

December 29 – Ann Larson

## **Acolytes**

December 1 – Korver Sindelar

December 8 – Evy Fiester

December 15 – Parker Zeien

December 22 – Eric Strottman

December 24 – Evy Fiester

December 29 – Korver Sindelar

## **Ushers/Greeters**

December 1 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson

December 8 – Strottman’s

Dec. 15 – Dave Sampson, Marv Houg, Tom Zuber

Dec 22 – Mark & Suzanne Schmitt, Ann Larson

Dec. 24 – Mark & Suzanne Schmitt, Marv Houg

December 29 – Fiester’s

## **Prayer for Pastor**

December 1 – Diana Emig

December 8 – Arnold Strottman

December 15 - Children’s Christmas/Bell  
Choir Program

December 22 – Natalie Fiester

December 24 – Laurie Strottman

December 29 – Lesson’s & Carol’s  
January 5 – Ann Larson

## **Children’s Sermon**

December 1 – Hannah Plummer

December 8 – Pastor Bunny

December 15 – JoAnn Kohl

December 22 – Hannah Plummer

December 24 – Pastor Bunny

December 29 - Lesson’s & Carol’s

## **Sunday School Teaching Schedule**

December 1 – Natalie & Jeremiah

December 8 – Everyone – practice for  
children’s program

December 15 - Everyone – practice for  
children’s program

December 22 – no Sunday School

December 29 - no Sunday School

## **Serving Our Congregation**

Bunny Dillard – Head Pastor

Sue Clapp– Congregation President

David Sampson – Treasurer

Therese Plummer – Parish/Financial Secretary

Hannah Plummer – Children & Youth  
Ministries Director

Forrest Green – Music Director

Terri Hodge – Bell Choir Director

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## Youth News:

Reminder! Sunday School is every Sunday at 9 AM. All are welcome!!

**Kids & Bells Sunday** - Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> for the “Kids and Bells Sunday!” The OSLC Youth will be presenting their 2024 Christmas program called “Jesus’ Biggest Fan.” The special service will also feature music from the OSLC Bell Choir and a special combined performance! Please join us and contact Hannah with any questions.

**First Communion Class** - Congratulations to our 5 OSLC youth who celebrated their first communion on November 17<sup>th</sup>! These kids participated in a 3-week class with Hannah and Pastor Bunny where they learned about the sacrament of first communion and one of the best gifts we have from Jesus! These kids are Caroline Anderson, Mason Schmitt, Madison Hunter, Fiona Sindelar, and Rupert Sindelar. We are so proud of them!! If you have a kiddo who is interested in first communion, please reach out to Pastor Bunny or Hannah!



**Youth Cookie Baking** - Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, the youth will be meeting at church at 9:00 AM to bake cookies and other goodies that will go out with Homebound Communion on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. We need volunteers to make cookie dough and bring it to church (unbaked) so the kids will have some cookies to bake! Please include instructions on how to prepare your cookies. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those who are willing to donate some dough!

**Confirmation Class** - Confirmation classes started on November 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:00. We will be serving dinner to our confirmation students from 5:30 – 6:00 and while we realize that pizza is really easy – it also gets really old really fast. We would love it if we could get members of Our Saviors to sign up to serve a meal on Wednesday nights. It can be really simple!!! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Therese's office. Thanks in advance for supporting our young people!

**Thank You** - Thank you to everyone who ordered t-shirts and sweatshirts! We are so glad to be able to represent OSLC in a new way, and were able to raise about \$160 towards the Youth! If you missed out this time, don't panic! We hope to do it again in the future!

### **Assisting Ministers Needed!!**

Have you ever thought about being an Assisting Minister but didn't think it was possible because you didn't (or couldn't) sing the liturgy?? There are other options. . . the liturgy does NOT have to be sung – it can be read!! Parish & Staff is looking for volunteers to join the Assisting Minister Ministry. We are going to be down to 2 Assisting Ministers when Jeremiah leaves December 2<sup>nd</sup> – we need help! If you have any interest at all – do not be shy!! You can contact any of our current assisting ministers - Hannah, Jeremiah or Nancy, they would be happy to give you any details or feel free to talk to Marcia Adix or Ann Larson from Parish & Staff. Thank you!



### **Special Music**

In addition to the vocal choir and bell choir music selections, Forrest will be playing his arrangements of some of our favorite hymns during the Special Music time in our worship service. If you have any ideas for music (vocal or instrumental) or would like to volunteer your talent during this time in our service, please talk to Forrest Green, Ann Larson or Marcia Adix. Thanks so much!



### **Come Join Us**

*Christmas Eve*  
*Service 5:30 pm*





## **Additional Wheelchair Spaces**

In order provide a more welcoming environment for those using wheelchairs in our congregation, the Property Board is looking into providing additional wheelchair spaces at the ends of shortened pews, like what we already have. This would involve shortening two existing pews.

While these additional spaces may not be used very frequently, it would allow more spaces for those in wheelchairs. We would like input from the members of the congregation, especially those in wheelchairs, as to whether you think we should proceed with the work needed to get this done, and if doing this would allow you to attend church by providing a more inclusive worship experience.

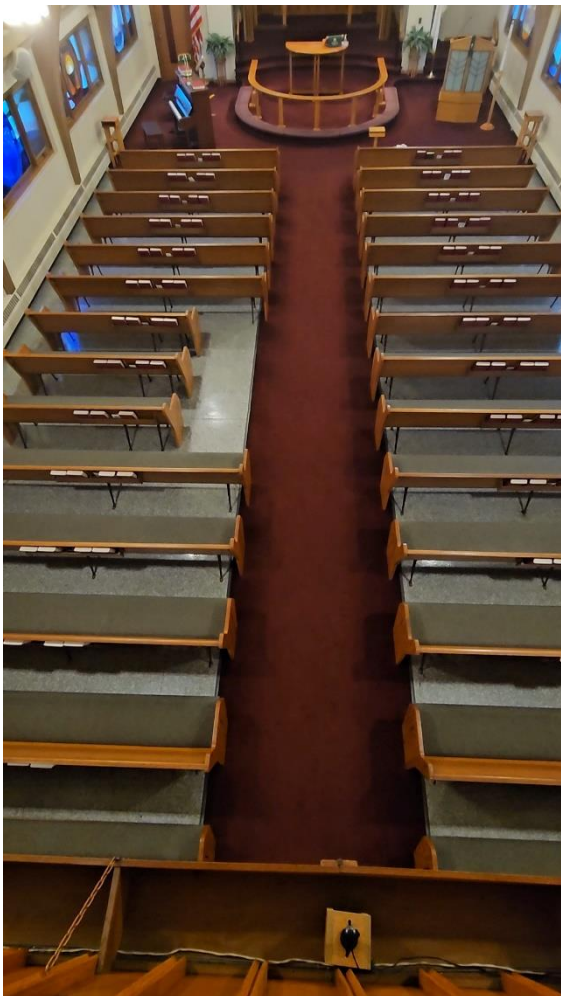
The Property Board will be meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss this topic, so please provide your feedback to Sue Clapp and Rick Rogness before this date.

Sue – 319-360-9021     [sueclapp73@gmail.com](mailto:sueclapp73@gmail.com)

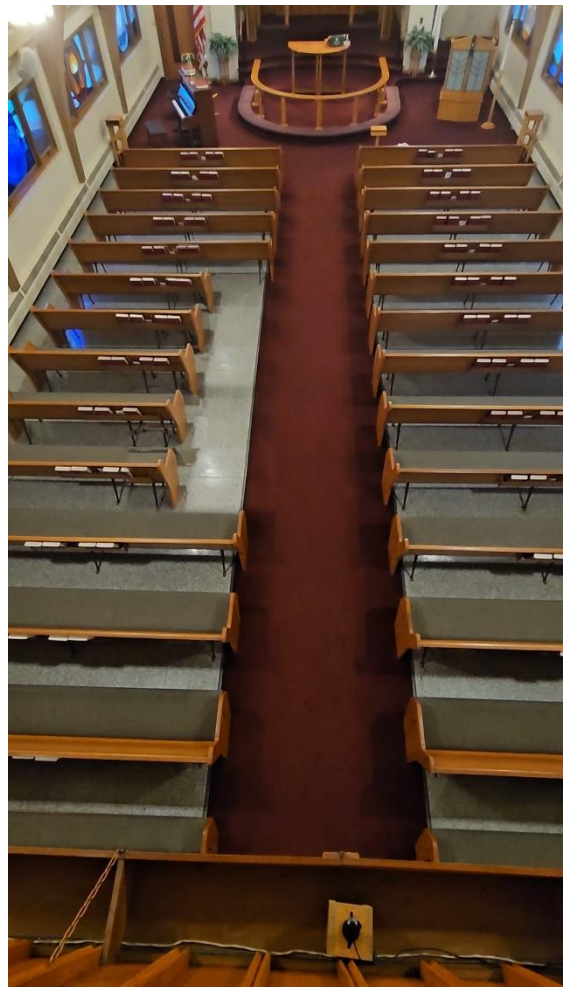
Rick – 319-350-6531     [rckrgnss@gmail.com](mailto:rckrgnss@gmail.com)

Thank you from the Property Board.

**Current** view of church pews.



**Proposed** view of church pews.



## Image of First Communion

