



December Newsletter



Our Saviors
Lutheran Church

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On Advent by Pastor Maxwell Whitehead

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Christmas songs are on the radio, houses are being decorated inside and out, the Christmas tree is set up in the church, and the hustle and bustle of Christmas vacation is ramping up. As far as the church year goes, we are into the well-known season of Advent!

And what is Advent all about? First of all, the term "advent" cannot be found in the Bible. It actually came about in the early church (the first observation of Advent is uncertain), and comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming".

We typically think of this season as a season of preparation, preparing for baby Jesus to be born. Some churches hold off on all Christmas songs until Christmas Day and the couple weeks post-Christmas. But here's the kicker: Jesus has already been born! There is nothing for us to prepare for (as far as Jesus goes)! We are actually freed from needing to prepare our souls, or needing to hold off on the Christmas hymns, or even from any fasting.

Jesus not only has been born, but also has already come to do what God, the Father, sent Him to do. He came to redeem us, save us, forgive us, from all of our sins and give us eternal life! Paul writes to the Galatians: *"When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the*

law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).

This is what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown. Yes, we celebrate time with family and friends. Yes, Christmas is a time for joy and love and peace. But when we move all of the light, fluffy snow away from what lies at the bottom of the pile that is the mountain of Christmas traditions, interpretations, and celebrations, we find that it is in fact our Savior and our God that grants us all of these things! What the Son came to do is the reason for the season. It is in His love and mercy that all the other facets of Christmas are even possible.

As you prepare for your various Christmas activities, know this to be true: no matter how anxious you get, or unprepared you may feel, Christ has already come for you. Christ has already taken your sins, died for you, and has been raised for you so that you may have eternal life in His name. There is no more preparing that you need to do, no more preparing that you can even accomplish. You have been redeemed and received by Christ now and forever.

This is most certainly true.
Pastor Max





Sunday, Dec 4

9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)

10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, Dec 7

7:30 AM Bible Study

3:45 PM Jr VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS - Wednesday of Advent Caroling

7:00 PM Council Meeting

Sunday, Dec 11

9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)

10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, Dec 14

7:30 AM Bible Study

3:45 PM Jr VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS - Wednesday of Advent Caroling

Friday, Dec 17

7:30 PM Kids Korral

Sunday, Dec 18

9:00 AM Worship Service (Traditional)

10:15 AM Sunday School

6:30 PM Sunday School Christmas Program

Wednesday, Dec 21

7:30 AM Bible Study

3:45 PM Jr VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS - Wednesday of Advent Caroling

Saturday, Dec 24

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service (SVLC)

Sunday, Dec 25

10:30AM Worship Service (Communion)(OSLC)

No Sunday School

Wednesday, Dec 28

No Bible Study

No Jr VCIS

No Confirmation

No VCIS

December Scripture Readings

Dec 4: Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

Dec 11: Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 18: Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

Dec 24/25: Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)



2022/2023 Committee's of the Month

Each month's committee members are responsible for reading the Scriptures on Sundays. Confirmed youth of committee members are included in the month in which the parent serves. A full list of duties is on the bulletin board and in the committee of the month binder.

DECEMBER

Mike and Laura Stevens
Mike and Lisa McIlvenna
Josh and Jenae Duus
Evan Stevens

JANUARY

Mike and Lisa McIlvenna
Josh and Jenae Duus
Evan Stevens
Mike and Laura Stevens

Please sign up for 2023

Committee of the Month on the sign-up sheet which is located on the bulletin board. Thank you so much in advance!

Worship Helper Schedule

Sunday, Dec 4

Reader Cath Peterson
Acolyte/Communion Helper Westin
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Sunday, Dec 11

Reader Laura Stevens
Acolyte Godwin
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Sunday, Dec 18

Reader Lisa McIlvenna
Acolyte/Communion Helper Jazmyne
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Sunday, Dec 25 (OSLC)

Reader Kirsten Ahlschlager
Acolyte Piper
Live Stream Maxx
Organist/Pianist Melanie Parsons

Thank You Volunteers!!



ATTENTION!!
Committee of the
Month Leaders

Please submit your reader schedule
line-up to oslc.office@oslcivb.org
before the 18th of the month so
we can get it into the
December 24th/25th bulletin.



**BLESSINGS TO YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY...**

*May you be completely filled
with the Word of God, the
wonder of Mary, the obedience of
Joseph, the joy of the angels, the
eagerness of the shepherds, the
determination of the magi, and
the peace of the Christ child.*

Peace be with you.

Looking ahead to

JANUARY

Sunday, Jan 1

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)

Wednesday, Jan 4

7:30 AM Bible Study

3:45 PM Jr VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

7:00 PM Council Meeting

Sunday, Jan 8

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service (traditional)

Wednesday, Jan 11

7:30 AM Bible Study

3:45 PM Jr VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, Jan 15

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)

Kayla Mehlhaf's Annual Christmas Concert

December 4 @ 7:00PM - Wakonda UMC
December 11 @ 7:00PM - OSLC of Viborg
December 14 @ 7:00PM - Irene Cavalry Church

Enjoy an evening of music from Kayla Mehlhaf! All donations go to Toys for Tots and the Angel Tree.



WEDNESDAYS OF ADVENT

Spread the Cheer of
Christmas



LIMITED TIME ONLY! Spread Christmas Cheer through the VCIS Youth this year! Donate \$30 and we will go caroling to the house of your choice complete with a plate of goodies for them! **We will go caroling on Wednesday evenings only.** Please contact Pastor Max to schedule your caroling visit.



Sunday School Christmas Program
will be Dec 18 at 6:30PM.

Parade of Homes

December 4, 2022 from 4:30-7:00PM

The VCIS Youth are organizing a Parade of Homes! This is a chance for people to show off their Decked out Halls and maybe even some sweets. \$10/ticket to attend this Parade of Homes. Details of the route will be given on purchase of the ticket.



kids KORRAL



Date: December 17th
Where: Parish Hall
Time: 7:00PM - 11:00PM



Give yourselves a date night and let us watch your kids! Free Will donation is encouraged to help us get to North Carolina next June.

'Tis The Season of Community Events

Handels Messiah
Dec 2 & 3 at 7:00PM

First Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD
Experience the musical, theological masterpiece of Handel performed by the South Dakota Symphonic Orchestra and Chorus.

Christmas with the Symphony
Dec 10 at 7:30PM & Dec. 11 at 2:30PM

Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD
Listen and sing along with Orchestra and South Dakota Symphonic Chorus.

Please watch the bulletins or visit the website calendar for full details and latest events!
Visit www.oslc vib.org/calendar

Sunday Service Time Change

January 1, 2023

Worship is 9:00 - 10:00AM
Sunday School is 10:15 - 11:15AM

