



# December Newsletter

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## From the Pastor's Desk

by Pastor Maxwell Whitehead

As of December 3, 2023, we will be in the season of Advent. The church will be decorated in blue, the halls will be decked with boughs of holly (more or less), the Christmas tree will be up, and we will finally get to start singing some Christmas songs! Plus Thanksgiving is over, so Christmas songs can rightly be played on the radio.

Since it is the season of Advent, we all know that Christmas is the end of Advent. It is time for a couple annual reminders:

1. Advent is the time of preparation.
2. Christmas comes whether you are prepared or not.
3. From Titus 3:5, "3:5 he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

Advent is absolutely a season for preparation. But let us not get too caught up in our ability - or lack thereof - to be prepared. Each year people talk about the "true meaning of Christmas." This is all right and good, the true meaning of Christmas must be talked about and we must be reminded of it. However, this also means that we need to be reminded of the true meaning of Advent - He, the

Savior, is coming! And not only is He coming, but He has come!

So what does your season of preparation need to look like? Do you need to have the menu all ready so that Christmas dinner goes off without a hitch? Do all the presents need to be wrapped, the stockings neatly hung, the family time specifically planned out? Maybe that's what your friends and family need. Let me tell you what your soul and God needs:

Jesus Christ was sent for you. God knows full well who you are. He sees you when you're sleeping, He knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good... STOP! Stop singing the song right there. The rest can be

about Santa. God knows your whole being and sent His only Son for you anyways. Know that He has poured out His Spirit upon you through His Son.

If you know this, believe this, trust this, you are perfectly prepared this Advent season. May all this bring you tidings of comfort and joy.

This is most certainly true.

*Pastor Maxwell Whitehead*

## Christmas Blessings!

# December Calendar

## Sunday, December 3

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)  
11:30 AM SS Program Practice  
6:00 PM Book Study with Ellie

## Wednesday, December 6

2:00 PM Bible Study  
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS  
5:30 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM VCIS  
7:00 PM Council Mtg

## Sunday, December 10

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service (SS Sings)  
11:30 AM SS Program Practice  
4 - 7 PM Parade Of Homes  
7:00 PM Christmas Concert

## Wednesday, December 13

2:00 PM Bible Study  
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS  
5:30 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM VCIS

## Sunday, December 17

9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)  
11:30 AM SS Program Practice  
6:30 PM Sunday School Christmas Program

## Wednesday, December 20

2:00 PM Bible Study  
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS  
5:30 PM Confirmation  
7:00 PM VCIS

## Sunday, December 24

No Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service (Contemporary)  
7:00 PM Candlelight Worship Service (SVLC)

## Monday, December 25 (OSLC)

10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)

## Wednesday, December 27

No Bible Study  
No Jr. VCIS, No Confirmation, No VCIS

## Sunday, December 31

10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)  
No Sunday School

# Worship Helpers

## Sunday, December 3 (Communion)

Reader ..... Laura Stevens  
Acolyte/Communion Helper ..... Quinn J  
Live Stream ..... Maxx  
Organist/Pianist ..... Melanie Parsons

## Sunday, December 10 (Traditional)

Reader ..... Lisa McIlvenna  
Acolyte ..... Piper J.  
Live Stream ..... Maxx  
Organist/Pianist ..... Melanie Parsons

## Sunday, December 17 (Communion)

Reader ..... Lisa McIlvenna  
Acolyte/Communion Helper ..... Grace L.  
Live Stream ..... Maxx  
Organist/Pianist ..... Melanie Parsons

## Sunday, December 24 @ 10:30 AM

Reader ..... Evan Stevens  
Acolyte ..... Bailee S.  
Live Stream ..... Maxx  
Organist/Pianist ..... ?

## Monday, December 25 (Communion) (OSLC)

Reader ..... Kirsten Ahlschlager  
Acolyte ..... Anna Jo K.  
Live Stream ..... Maxx  
Organist/Pianist ..... Melanie Parsons

## Sunday, December 31 (Communion)

Reader ..... Laura Stevens  
Acolyte ..... Quinn S  
Live Stream ..... Maxx  
Organist/Pianist ..... Melanie Parsons

# Committee's of the Month

The committee reads Scriptures on Sundays each month. Confirmed youth of members are included. List of duties are on the bulletin board.

## December

Mike & Laura Stevens,  
Evan Stevens,  
Les Sampson

## January

Mike & Laura Stevens,  
Evan Stevens,  
Les Sampson

## February

???



# December Scripture Readings

Dec 03: Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

Dec 10: Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

Dec 17: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec.24: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Dec 25: Isaiah 62:6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

Dec 31: Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

## Looking Ahead To January

### Wednesday, January 3

2:00 PM Bible Study

3:45 PM Jr. VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

7:00 PM Council Mtg

### Sunday, January 7

**9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)**

10:15 AM Sunday School

### Wednesday, January 10

2:00 PM Bible Study

3:45 PM Jr. VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

### Sunday, January 14

**9:00 AM Worship Service (traditional)**

10:15 AM Sunday School



## DEADLINE

The January Newsletter Deadline is December 23. Submissions after the deadline are not guaranteed inclusion into the newsletter. **Please submit all articles and information on time. Thank you!**



## Christmas Program

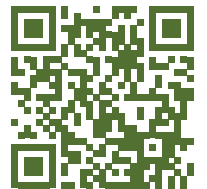
Experience the magic of the season with the Sunday School Christmas Program on December 17th at 6:30 PM!

Please contact Janet Holmberg for questions.



Beginning in January the OSLC worship service will be at 9:00 AM & Sunday School will move to 10:15 AM.

# TOGETHER ARE THE WE CHURCH



Please Scan the QRCode

**Please Consider Giving Online**



Kayla Mehlhaf has put on a Christmas concert at Our Savior's Lutheran Church for many years, and she is back again this year!

**Join Us December 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM to enjoy the music!**

### Wednesdays of Advent **Caroling**



During Wednesdays of Advent, the VCIS Carolers can bring carols and goodies to the location of your choice for \$30. Spread the holiday cheer and contact Pr. Max to book.



### Parade of Homes

Join the community on December 10 from 4-7 PM for the 2nd Annual Parade of Homes in Viborg. Buy a \$10 wristband and map at the Parish Hall to support the 2024 Mission at Home and 2025 Mission Trip.



Dec. 3 at 6:00 PM, We will discuss the "Traditionalist's Pathway" (Chapter 5.) Our meetings are held at the Whitehead residence until spring. If you're interested in attending for the first time, please speak to Ellie.



### Socks & Mitten Tree

As we approach the holiday season, let's help those in need in our community. The Sunday School is currently collecting new socks and mittens for individuals who could use some extra warmth during the chilly months. We will be adorning a tree with the generously donated items throughout December. If you are able, please consider bringing your donations to the church on Sundays. Together, we can make a difference and spread some much-needed comfort and joy this year.

The OSLC Sunday School will be putting in extra rehearsal time after worship for the next few weeks through December 17. But they need to eat! Sign up on the back table if you are willing/able to feed the Sunday School children during their rehearsal time.



There are about 24 mouths to feed.

## Confirmation: Diving Deeper into the Word and Lutheran Theology

A new season of Confirmation has begun! On Sunday, October 29, 2023, 5 young adults were confirmed: 4 from Our Savior's Lutheran and 1 from Spring Valley Lutheran. These 5 have shown that they do have a working knowledge of what it means to be a Christian and even more specifically - a Lutheran. However, this means that they are moving on from our Confirmation group! It is great for them, but the dynamics have now shifted with only 8 kids learning on Wednesday evenings.

As I said, we have entered into a new Confirmation season. Even though we dropped to 8 kids, 3 of which are 7th graders, the conversation is getting deeper and more lively each week. We have started back at the beginning pages of Luther's Small Catechism - the 10 Commandments. Not only are they learning them, but they are learning the meaning and Scripture references behind those meanings! To reinforce this learning, we are

working on their memories. If you know any of the Confirmation students, feel free to ask them what one of the Commandments are AND what it means. In the month we have hit the first 3 Commandments.

Each week the students are also being fed by you, the people of Viborg Lutheran. It has been awesome to see congregation members so willing to prepare and serve food for these young people! Not only does it help me, but it helps form little relationships and connections between members of the congregation and the Confirmation students.

Thank you for your continued support of these kids! We have a lot of fun together and are working to continue growing in our understanding of Lutheran Theology, God's Word, and our relationships with one another.

Pastor Max

# Jr VCIS: A Ministry of the Younger Viborg Lutheran Church

**Vocavit - Congregantur - Illustratus - Sanctificatus**  
**Called - Gathered - Enlightened - Sanctified**

Time for some stats! In the last 2 months, we have seen a slight growth in children attending JrVCIS. If every child showed up that has been there, we would have a whopping 13 kids! 13 may not sound like a lot, but last year we were usually sitting around 6, maybe 7 if we were lucky. I also know of 3 more children that will be joining our ranks starting this month as well meaning we could hit maxes of 16 kids showing up to spend time together in fellowship, service, and Scripture on Wednesday afternoons!



Over the past 2 months we have talked about the fruits of the Spirit and a verse from 1 Tim: "12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity (1 Tim. 4:12)." We have had some (mostly) great discussion over seeing fruits of the Spirit and which ones we bear as well as how we can all be examples for other believers! As far as service goes, we spent one Wednesday raking a neighbor's yard, and then a couple other weeks prepping and painting the shed by Our Savior's Parish Hall. The shed gets used a lot now by the Youth of Viborg Lutheran, so we gave it a little face-lift. The kids had a lot of fun painting the shed - and also themselves a little bit...

A reminder to all reading this: This is not a program just for Our Savior's Lutheran kids. All kids from grades 1-6 are welcome to join us after school at the Parish Hall! Right now the group is primarily comprised of 9 children from Our Savior's and 4 that are not affiliated with either OSLC or Spring Valley Lutheran.

A big thanks needs to be given to Belinda Holm! She is there weekly to feed the kids and help wrangle them when necessary. Keeping 13 kids in that large age range can be a difficult task to an untrained, childless man like myself, but Belinda is very instrumental in making sure the chaos does not completely break down into anarchy. I'm happy to say that we will have another volunteer coming in starting next month as well as our group continues to grow and have a need for another set of adult eyes. We do not have a specific fund for these kiddos, and we do feed them a little snack every week. If you would like to provide a snack for them, that would be greatly appreciated! Please reach out to me or Belinda Holm or Mindy Spangler if you know of a Wednesday afternoon that you would like to serve the up and coming elementary kids of our congregations.

Pastor Max

# VCIS: A Ministry of the larger Viborg Lutheran Church

The season of Advent is upon us! Do you know what that means for the VCIS? Caroling! We started it last year and will continue this year. Here's how it works: Instead of people donating for us to plant a flock of 15-30 flamingos in an unsuspecting victim's yard, we will now surprise people with carols and a little goodie basket! If you would like to send the VCIS Carolers to someone's front door, just let Pastor Max know. Similar to the flamingos, we ask for a \$30 donation before we hit the streets. Last year, we caroled to 16 different homes!

We will also be bringing back our 2nd Annual Parade of Homes! This is an event where you can come to the Parish Hall, donate \$10, and we will give you a wristband and a map of 5-10 hosts that have graciously opened up their largely decorated homes for you to go see! Last year we had 6 homes on the list, 62 guests, and had \$620 donated for our Mission



program. Not only did we raise a good chunk of change, all the guests and hosts really enjoyed themselves!

We will be continuing to Dive into the Word as the year wraps up. I have a new plan to roll out January 23 as well: PARABLES! There are about 30 parables in the Gospels, so we will choose one each week and dissect it to discover what it means for us in 2024.

We are very grateful for the time and space that we have to gather together! We are grateful for the opportunity to serve, play, and learn. If you would like to help support this group, food on Wednesday is always appreciated as well as financial support. If food or finances are ways that you would like to help out, let me know!

On behalf of the VCIS, peace be with you all!