

Please Lift in Prayer

- † Family & Friends of Collin Hlavac
- † Family & Friends of Greg Larsen
- † Family & Friends of Don Tengquist
- † Eileen Olsen
- † Gordon Sorensen
- † Barb Larsen
- † Larry Larsen
- † Ron Fystro
- † Karen Voog Johnson
- † Art Wirth
- † Kobee Sherman
- † Gayle & Rita Westergaard

Welcome Visitors

We're so happy you're here with us today! If you're thinking about becoming a new member of our congregation, please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Max at 507.227.4787 or scan the QR Code below. He would love to chat with you about what it takes to become a member and help you pick a date that suits you best! We hope you'll join us and we hope to see you again very soon!



SVLC WORSHIP HELPERS: DEC 17

Reader..... Janet Munkvold
Acolytes Kaleb Huber & Ryker Larsen
Communion Asst Zoey Christensen
Live Stream..... Janet Munkvold
Music..... Annet Kropuenske

LOOKING AHEAD: DEC 24 @ 7:00PM

Reader..... Kellie Zimmerman
Acolytes Nora Rudd & Lincoln Mellem
Communion Asst Volunteer
Live Stream..... Janet Munkvold
Music..... Brenda Whitehead

OSLC WORSHIP HELPERS: DEC 17

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

LOOKING AHEAD: DEC 25 @ 10:30AM

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

READINGS FOR DEC 24 (@ SVLC): 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 2:1-14

READINGS FOR DEC 25 (@ OSLC): Isaiah 62:6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:1-20

SVLC DECEMBER USHERS

Wayne & Wanda Kost, Wayne & Linda Larsen,
Scott & Ashley Larsen

SVLC CHURCH CLEANING: DEC 10 - 23

Julie Hartman, Sheila Wek, Kara Edelman

DECEMBER COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH

Mike & Laura Stevens,
Evan Stevens,
Les Sampson
Mike & Lisa McIlvenna

Announcements

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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Each council has made a decision regarding the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Instead of holding a morning and evening service on Christmas Eve, there will be a single service on Christmas Eve at Spring Valley at 7:00 PM and a Christmas Day service at Our Savior's at 10:30 AM.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to one of the council members or Pastor Max.

Christmas Program

Experience the magic of the season with the OSLC Sunday School Christmas Program TONIGHT at 6:30 PM!



Give Online
to SVLC



Give Online
to OSLC

2024 Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting (SVLC) is January 21 @ 11:30AM According to the by-laws, to be an active, voting member, one must have communed with the congregation and given a contribution of note (check or other statement) within the last year. If one does not fit this criteria, one is not considered a voting member.

The Annual Meeting (OSLC) is January 28 @ 11:30AM According to the by-laws, to be an active, voting member, one must have communed with the congregation and given a contribution of note (check or other statement) within the last year. If one does not fit this criteria, one is not considered a voting member.

January 28, 2024 Time Switch!

SVLC Sunday School will be at 10:15AM & Worship Service at 9:00AM to accommodate OSLC Annual Meeting.

OSLC Sunday School will be 9:15AM & Worship Service at 10:30AM.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF SONGS

There will not be a formal morning service on Dec 24, but rather an opportunity to join together in Christmas song and joy!

Congregation's choice on what songs get sung: options from the Green Book, Red Book, and the World Book of Song! Please join us for this special time in fellowship. Join Us at OSLC at 10:30AM.



Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Distribution of Communion

Lamb of God... .. pg. 92

Hymn "Away in a Manger" LBW #67

Post-Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction pg. 74

Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night!" LBW #65



Christmas Fellowship

Remember to join us for festive treats and fellowship after the service today!



Starting January 7, 2024 the SVLC Worship Service will be at 10:30AM, and the OSLC Worship Service will be at 9:00AM.



Spring Valley Lutheran Church

A Partner Congregation in Lutheran Worship
December 17, 2023 · 3rd Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candles
Lord Jesus, you continue to do great things for us. Give us your gift of peace as we await your coming. Amen

Brief Order for Confession and Forgivenesspg. 56

Hymn “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” LBW #54

Christmas Program.....Sunday School

Hymn of Praise “This Is the Feast” pg. 60

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ’s coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,now and forever. Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense,

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
² **Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”**

³ The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.
⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negeb!**

Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice

⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
⁶ **He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon Pastor Max Whitehead

Hymn “What Child Is This” LBW #40

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers of the People

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offering Hymn “Create in Me a Clean Heart” LBW 186

Offertory Prayer
**Merciful Father, We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves,
our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who
offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving pg. 68