

# The Messenger

## January 2024

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School ▪ San Clemente, California*

*"Inspired to Love, Encouraged to Think, and Sent to Serve"*

### Second Christmas

The calendar year is over but the Christmas season continues. The twelve days of Christmas are not the 12 days leading up to Christmas but rather the 12 days from Christmas Day to the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6th). In some cultures and at times throughout history, the feast day of the Epiphany has been celebrated as a second Christmas.

The Epiphany recounts the visit of the magi to the infant Jesus and, therefore, the beginning of Jesus' being revealed to the Gentiles (non-Jewish people). It makes sense that since this story recounts the giving of gifts, many people have chosen this day, and not Christmas or Christmas Eve, to exchange gifts with one another.

As a season, Epiphany is what bridges the time between Christmas and Lent- between birth and the journey towards death. This year, during the season of Epiphany I will be preaching on different call stories. We will begin with the baptism of Jesus (and all of our baptismal callings as followers of Jesus) and then through the calls of various characters from Scripture. You can look further in the newsletter for the schedule of who we will talk about each week and the passages I will be preaching on if you want to read ahead before Sunday.

My reason for doing this is twofold- to spend more time focusing on God-given gifts and to hopefully make clear that no person or peoples from the Bible were perfect, they were just like us. In baptism, we are all called to be followers of Jesus and utilize our unique gifts for the sake of the word (this is what vocation is). Some people, like myself, are called into professional ministry. Most people, however, are called into all sorts of other professions or roles- parenthood, business, working with the land, making art, building things, etc. Looking at a few different people from Scripture we will also see a unique set of vocations that imperfect people just like you and I were called into.

I hope that during the remainder of this Christmas season and as we begin the season of Epiphany you are refreshed and inspired by the example of what God has done for us and what the generations before us have done for the world in following their callings. I wish you well as we enter into a second Christmas and beyond.

In Peace,

Pastor Cole



## ***Birthdays, Anniversaries & More***

### *~ January Birthdays ~*

Bonnie Brown	1/3
Hector Reyes	1/4
Beth Apodaca	1/5
Zane Pert	1/8
Aaron Hathaway	1/9
Howard Sharp	1/11
Ryan Rutherford	1/12
Sally Sharp	1/14
Zachary Krogman	1/15
Pastor Cole McGlynn	1/16
Eugene Hallinan	1/18
Wilson Olbrich	1/19
Keith Hoffmeister	1/23
Sean Hoffmeister	1/23
Danny Doyle	1/24
KC Kelly	1/25
Justin Greco	1/26
Wendy McGlynn	1/26
Andy Goulding	1/27
Steve Rennie	1/27
Jim Wall	1/27
Lynnie Beam	1/29

### *~ January Anniversaries ~*

George & Lena Freitas      1/25



Is one of our New Year's Resolutions to volunteer more? There are a number of ways you or your child(ren) could volunteer during Sunday morning worship. You can sign up to read, usher, serve communion or serve refreshments (coffee and donuts). To sign up, call or email the church office, put your name on the volunteer schedule located in the Narthex or check your emails for the online SignUpGenius.



**1/7/24 - Jesus' baptism and our baptismal call**  
Mark 1:4-11

**1/14 - Samuel**  
1 Samuel 3:1-10

**1/21 - Jonah**  
Jonah 3:1-5, 10

**1/28 - A New Prophet**  
Deuteronomy 18:15-20

**2/4 - Simon's mother-in-law**  
Mark 1:29-39



Thank you! As we start a new calendar year together, I have a lot of thank yous to share. We had another great year of Christmas Eve services, thank you to everyone who came to worship, invited friends, offered special music, ushered, read, served communion, helped set everything up or helped take everything down after the fact. I am beyond grateful for the gift that was given to Amanda, Rowan and I from the congregation and the gifts from individuals who gave us cards, cookies and other treats. Thank you! We have had another great year of ministry together. Thank you all for being a part of this community of faith together and for all each and every one of you does in support of our mission, ministry and life together. I am excited for many more years to come!

Pastor Cole and Family

**Youth and Family by Bob Cooper**  
**Director of Youth and Family Ministry**

## 2023 Is in The Rearview Mirror

OK, it's now 2024, 2023 is in the rearview mirror as is Covid and Murder Hornets (remember them?) It's time to look forward to what should be a fantastic year here at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. But before we close the books on 2023 entirely, let's look back at some of the highlights of the past year. Our Young adults continued to step up and help with the youth and children's ministry during our weekly meetings as well as our offsite events, I can't thank them enough for their love and care in displaying their servant hearts to our young folks.

We continued our involvement in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" and made a nice donation to FAM with our collections. We also continued our monthly gatherings for the South County youth known as LOCY (Lutheran Orange County Youth) and had some wonderful and meaningful time with those from other local congregations. The middle school students did some of the scripture readings during our Lenten mid-week worship and did a fine job of it! On Palm Sunday the youth once again took over the kitchen and put on a delicious pancake breakfast for the congregation as well as the preschool families, it was a good day. On Maundy Thursday we welcomed two students to the table as they made their first holy communion, congratulations Wade and Lynnox! In April the middle schoolers enjoyed some big fun at Big Air (the trampoline park) as they literally bounced off the walls!

The High School group also has enjoyed an event that we call "Destination Unknown" which is a really fun activity wherein I plan and off-site activity but don't tell the kids what we are doing, they must walk by faith you might say. The first one was a big hit as we went to see some (teen friendly) improv comedy then enjoyed some burgers at In and Out, good times.

During the summer we held another successful Vacation Bible School and served the community well. Later we took some of the high school students to the Western States Youth Gathering held at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. It was a wonderful time, and we had a great crew including teens, young adults, and even a visit from Pastor Cole and his family (they are CLU alumni after all).

I was also included in the Eucharistic Ministry Team and am now authorized to bring communion to those

that desire it but cannot get to worship, please let me or the church office know if you desire such service.

As the holidays approached, we kicked things off with another fabulous "Trick or Trunk" event! It was a combined effort from school families, congregation members, and even the high school youth who brought cars and decorated them, a grand time was had by all!

Our Confirmation classes are off to a good start, and we look forward to the spring when we get to support our confirmands as they claim their faith as their own!

We also continue to support our Baja ministry with the gathering, filling, and delivery of laundry soap to our chosen recipients down south.

All in all, a very good year with more to come in the coming year including the long awaited National Youth Gathering which will be held in New Orleans this Summer!

See you around the campus,

Bob Cooper, *Director of Youth and Family Ministry*



### **YOUTH CALENDAR**

#### **January 3 - Wednesday**

No MSYG

#### **January 7 - Sunday**

Confirmation Class 11:00am, FR

HSYG 6:30pm, YR

#### **January 9 - Tuesday**

Gilchrist House 6:00pm

#### **January 10 - Wednesday**

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

#### **January 14 - Sunday**

No HSYG

#### **January 17 - Wednesday**

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

#### **January 20 - Saturday**

HSYG "Destination Unknown" 7:00pm

#### **January 21 - Sunday**

Confirmation Class W/Parents 11:00am, FR

HSYG 6:30pm, YR

#### **January 24 - Wednesday**

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

#### **January 28 - Sunday**

Preschool Sunday

No HSYG

#### **January 31 - Wednesday**

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

**From the Music Team...**

**While George is in Brazil, Pastor, Sharon and Dick have been covering his duties. Pastor and Sharon collaborated on the article below.**

### **Lutherans and Liturgy**

Whether new to the Lutheran Church or a life-long Lutheran, it is sometimes good to review why we do what we do. Our Savior's and the Lutheran Church is a liturgical church and follows the liturgical calendar. So, what does that mean??? Let's look at the definition of liturgy:

Liturgy - "the work of the people" i.e., what people do together (in worship).

Often you will also hear the term rite used relative to and its definition from Webster's is:

Rite - "a body of customary observances characteristic of a Church or a part of it"

Bottom line our worship has a certain predictability to it.

**Sundays and Seasons** is one of our primary resources for worship planning, describes it this way.

*In the principal service of Christian worship, the Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace—the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.*

Martin Luther said about public worship: "at home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart, and it breaks its way through."

Recall the words of Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

One of Martin Luther's reforms of the catholic traditions of the day was to incorporate congregational singing into the corporate (public) worship. So why sing? In Colossians 3:16

<sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

And in Ephesians 5:10 and 20

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Singing engages distinct parts of our vocal chords and distinct parts of our brain. Some say that singing engages our emotions more than just speaking. Most recently, while not in a worship service, but in our handbell concert, I was moved to tears when I heard the audience singing Silent Night. The "choir" members were in the audience and were singing harmony. This would not have happened if I were just singing for myself, or simply reading the words of Silent Night. It was very moving. Luckily, I had an easy part to ring, so my tears did not mess up my ringing. Even if you are not comfortable with your singing, your singing may touch someone else.

There are the inevitable comments 1) I can't sing and 2) I don't do that type of music. To the first point, Psalm 100 says make a joyful noise not a perfect pitched soprano voice. In bell choirs, we often tell the ringers that God hears what is in our hearts, not necessarily the missed notes we play. To the second point, when we try new things, we engage our brains and hearts. Try and find God's word and power in that song you don't know or don't like the music.

I admit I am one of those people that initially rejected most contemporary church music. "all" contemporary songs were junk theology, etc. But as I have been involved in the worship planning with Pastor Cole and George, I have found that the contemporary music have some really good theology. So even if you find it difficult to sing, try and look at the words and see God's love, and truth. And the converse is true, if you find the traditional hymns less of your style, look to the words and see God's love and truth AND engage your voice to allow God to work in you.

The council is collaborating with Pastor Tom at the synod on some things and recently he said something that stuck with me. Pastor Tom indicated that we need to pour ourselves out when we come to worship and let God work within us.

Next month we will look a bit at the liturgical calendar and liturgical colors.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING @ OUR SAVIOR'S



OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

**Weekly Walking Group**

**Every Tuesday @ 8:00am**

**Meet at Bonnie Little's house.**

**Please call the church office for  
address and any questions.**

**@ (949) 492-6164 - [oslcsec@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oslcsec@sbcglobal.net)**

### 2024 FLOWER CALENDAR



**O**ur Savior's 2024 Altar Flower Calendar is now in the Narthex. If you would like to give flowers in recognition of a particular event such as a birthday, anniversary, honor or memory of a loved one please put your name next the date in that month. Along with your name please include the occasion and a phone number if there are any questions.

*first come...*

*first serve* for choice of date.  
please try and keep one  
family per line.

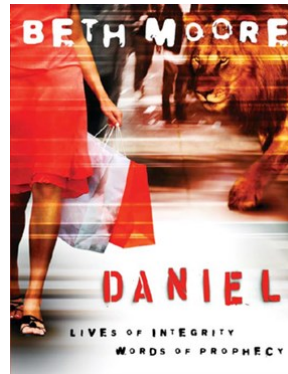
**Flowers are \$30.00 each week.**

Mail your check to the church office or  
drop off in the offering box.

*Memo: "Flowers"*

### Church

**[www.facebook.com/oursaviorsonline](https://www.facebook.com/oursaviorsonline)**



**Women's Bible  
Study  
"Daniel"  
by Beth Moore**

**January 2 & 16, 2024  
9:30am-11:45am  
Founders Room  
(1st & 3rd Tuesday  
of each month)**

## MANNA

**Manna Bible Study - January 2024  
at 1:00pm in the Founders Room  
Tuesdays - Jan 9, 16, 23 & 30  
(Manna will not meet on January 2nd)**

*All are welcome!*

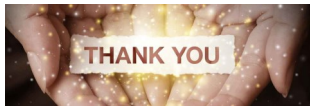


**Men's Breakfast  
Saturday | January 13, 2024  
8:00am - 9:30am  
Calling all men...**

You are invited to join us for a  
Men's Breakfast, Bible Study and  
Fellowship at OSLC.

This month will be BYOB  
(bring your own breakfast)





## Stewardship

Thank you to everyone that completed the stewardship packages. For those that completed the time and talent portion of the package, we will be getting you connected with the leaders of the respective areas, and they will be reaching out to you. If you did not complete your package and would like to you still can access the electronic version of the package at <https://tinyurl.com/v6sbn92h> or ask the church office to send you a hard copy version.

## VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE OFFERED AT OUR SAVIOR'S FOR 2024 TAX SEASON

Our Savior's is partnering with United Way Orange County to provide Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) to those that make less than \$64,000 a year. Tax preparation services for those that qualify will be provided at Our Savior's on Fridays and Saturdays 9:00am - 2:00pm beginning the first week in February to early April. We will be using the office building for the effort.

This came about because FAM, whom we partner with often, is unable to provide the services this year. Sharon Guiliams collaborated with the Council and Pastor to see if Our Saviors could help out because of the impact on our local community that she has seen. In years past, VITA in San Clemente has prepared about two hundred tax returns per year for local households, at no cost to the clients.

Volunteers man the program. There are opportunities for volunteers to help with greeting clients, interpreting for clients, and preparing the tax returns. (Note you do not have to be a CPA or accountant to prepare returns.) Training is provided for all volunteers. If you could offer your time and/or talent for this effort it would be appreciated or if you know someone that might be willing to help. (Could be a terrific way to introduce someone to Our Savior's.)

If interested, please contact Sharon Guiliams at [sguiliams@cox.net](mailto:sguiliams@cox.net) or 949 842-6391.



## Thrivent Members Opportunities in the New Year

Thrivent Members – Just a reminder that your quarterly Thrivent Choice Dollars will be posted to your account in the next couple weeks. Please make sure to designate those dollars to your favorite non-profit and potentially to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Every little bit helps non-profits. Note designating your Thrivent Choice dollars does not affect your account balance. They come out of Thrivent's pocketbook.

If you are a Thrivent member, sponsoring a Thrivent Action Team here at Our Savior's is a way you can leverage your Thrivent Membership and help Our Savior's. Action Teams simply are projects of volunteers doing good. Examples include, Pastor used one to offset the cost of our Reformation Celebration, Sharon uses one for each of the handbell concerts she puts on, so that the money given can go directly to FAM. The following upcoming projects could use an Action Team.

- ◆ Our Savior's Lenten Soup Supper cookbook
- ◆ Family Night Spaghetti Dinner
- ◆ Church Workday/Pizza Party before Easter
- ◆ Palm Sunday Youth Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast

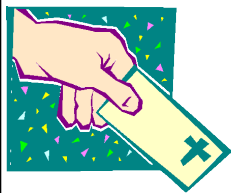
The process is simple, and your involvement can be as much or as little as you like. If you are willing and interested, please let Pastor Cole or Sharon Guiliams know.

## Christmas Giving Tree

A big thank you to everyone from the church and school for all the baby gifts and gift cards donated supporting San Clemente Military Outreach and our Ukrainian Refugee family. Your support and generous donations make a difference.



# Financial & Council Notes



## OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2023

Offering	Nov 2023	FY July-Nov
Unrestricted Gifts	\$28,843	\$98,225
Budget	\$28,583.34	\$142,916.62

*Our members and visitors continue to be faithful in their stewardship. We collected 101% of our November budgeted amount. Fiscal year to date we have funded 69% of the approved budget. We truly appreciate your dedication to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We continue to be prudent in our spending.*

**Thank You For Your Stewardship!**

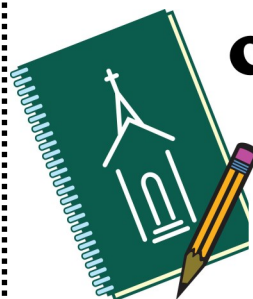


The Social Concerns Ministry thanks you for your benevolence gifts given in November 2023 over and above general giving.

- ◆ ELCA World Hunger: \$134
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity of OC: \$120
- ◆ FAM Hygiene Kits \$420
- ◆ Lutheran Social Services: \$50



To donate electronically Venmo us at OurSaviorsSanClemente  
When asked please select  
"Friends & Social".  
Thank you!



## Church Council Notes December 2023

- ◆ Everyone who attended the Christmas dinner had a nice time. Good food, games and lots of Christmas carols.
- ◆ Many activities are being planned for 2024.
- ◆ The Council wishes all in our congregation a very Happy New Year. May you all have a very prosperous 2024.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lola Davies  
Council Secretary

*Next council meeting will tentatively be on  
Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:30pm*







**January 2024**

## **Welcome Back Preschool families!**

We hope you had a merry Christmas and enjoyed your time with family and friends.

We are kicking off the new year with lots of exciting curriculum. Our color of the month is white, the rectangle is our shape of the month, and we will be learning about Musical Intelligence. We incorporate these into our curriculum through fun themes that keep our students engaged through play-based learning. Possible themes you will be seeing are polar animals, snow, x-rays/bones, making instruments and having marching bands around the courtyard, Humpty Dumpty, and much more!

Mark your calendars: We will be closed Monday, January 15th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and our Preschool Sunday is January 28th at 9:30am.

Best Wishes,

Amy Rivas,  
Preschool Director



## **PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**



**School**  
[www.facebook.com/osls.sc](https://www.facebook.com/osls.sc)



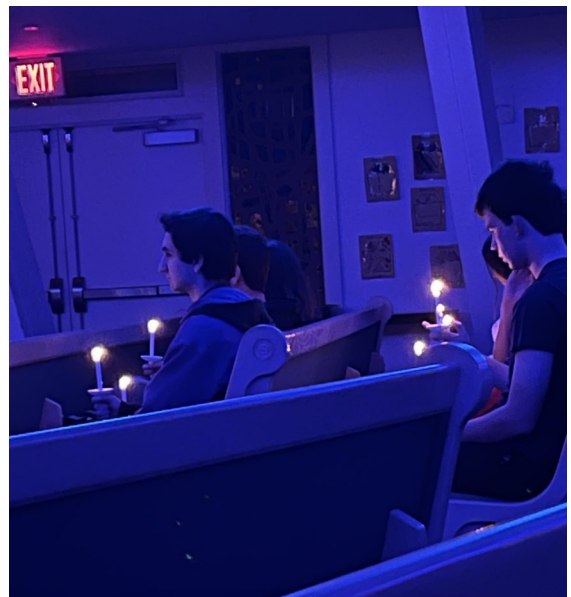


**Our Savior's Annual Christmas Dinner at Hapa J's.  
It was a fun-filled night... Good Food, Christmas Carols,  
Fellowship and Santa Claus!  
Thank you to all that helped organize this year's event.**






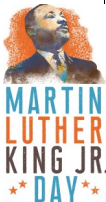



## MORE PICS OF OUR YOUTH & FAMILY



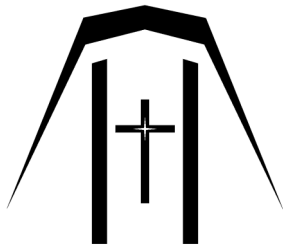


# 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>  <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>2</b> 8:00 OWLs Walk 9:30 Women's Bible St Manna will not meet	<b>3</b> MSYG will not meet	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>World Hunger Sunday</i> 9:30 Worship 11:00 Confirmation Class	<b>8</b> Preschool/Infant Center Care Resumes	<b>9</b> 8:00 OWLs Walk 1:00 Manna Bible Study 6:00 Gilchrist House	<b>10</b> 6:30 MSYG	<b>11</b> 5:00 Council Finance Mtg	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00 Men's Breakfast BYOB
<b>14</b> 9:30 Worship No HSYG	<b>15</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 	<b>16</b> 8:00 OWLs Walk 9:30 Women's Bible St 1:00 Manna Bible Study	<b>17</b> 6:30 MSYG	<b>18</b> 6:30 Council Mtg	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00 HSYG Destination Unknown
<b>21</b> 9:30 Worship 11:00 Confirmation Class w/ Parents 6:30 HSYG	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:00 OWLs Walk 1:00 Manna Bible Study	<b>24</b> 6:30 MSYG	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>Habitat Sunday</i> 9:30 Worship, Preschool Sunday No HSYG	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00 OWLs Walk Manna will not meet	<b>31</b> 6:30 MSYG	<i>Holy Communion</i>  <i>Served every Sunday</i>	 <i>First Sunday of the month</i>	 <i>Last Sunday of the month</i>





## *Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School*

200 Avenida San Pablo • San Clemente • California • 92672



### **The Messenger January 2024**

*"Inspired to Love, Encouraged to Think, and Sent to Serve"*

**JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30AM FOR WORSHIP**

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