



From the Senior Pastor Let Your Heart Sing



My dear friends,

In a few days, our Advent preparation will be complete and we will celebrate The Nativity of Our Lord. Throughout this holy season of waiting, we have been reminded in word and song that when God is revealed, the world as we know it ends and God's preferred future begins, a future in which sins are forgiven and death is no more.

This is good news, of course, in a world where everything dies. This is good news when headlines appear to be caught in an infinite loop: weather disasters, climate change, pandemic fatigue, economic uncertainty, political division, and more. It's the kind of good news that inspires hope amid a world of despair. It's the kind of good news that moves us to sing.

I hope you join us for Christmas worship at Our Savior's this year so that your voice may be added to our chorus of praise as we celebrate the birth of our savior and recognize God's presence among us as Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Christmas Eve
Celebrate Worship

December 24 | 3:30 and 5:30 P.M.
Celebrate Center

Festive Worship
December 24 | 4:30 and 6:30 P.M.
Sanctuary

Christmas Day
Festive Worship
December 25 | 10:00 A.M.
Sanctuary

Regardless of the challenges that lie before us, still our hearts can sing of God's faithfulness and rejoice in God's power to make all things new. Through Jesus, the babe born in Bethlehem, "Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!"

May God bless each of you this Christmas,

Pr. Randy Gehring

Ministry Spotlight

From the OSL Staff: Christmas Greetings, and Blessings to You in the New Year!

Right on time, Christmas arrives.

A year ago, it was not possible for the staff of Our Savior's (or

even most of the staff) to gather for a group photo to send you Christmas greetings and New Year's blessings—a considerable improvement over the conditions of last December!



Our Savior's Staff, from left: Bill Reynolds, Communications Director; Anthony Waba, Custodian; Deb Harlan, Caring Ministries Director; Deanna Wehrspann, Music and Worship Professional; Tim Lemme, Pastor of Caring Ministries; Gene LeVasseur, Director of Worship and Music; Jana Keller, Library Coordinator; Randy Gehring, Senior Pastor; Barb Haugan, Business Administrator; Chris Larson, Principal Organist; John Schomberg, Director of Youth Ministry; Debbie Theis, Food Coordinator; Seraphina Kosec (and Justin, Pastor of Outreach and Communication), Loretta Nelson, Congregational Life Coordinator; Michelle Anderson, Faith Community Nurse

Not pictured: Renee Aaker, Office Manager; Nicole Mindt, Youth Coordinator/Financial Assistant; Melissa Nesdahl, Director of Faith Formation; Denny Gale, Celebrate Band Coordinator; Rolfe Johnstad, Visitation Pastor; Maribeth Anderson, Visitation Minister

Of course, we are still removed from a return to what we like to think of as “normal”: COVID-19 still dominates headlines, illness rates have risen again in various locations, Delta and

Omicron variants have caused concern. But at the same time, COVID vaccines have proved themselves to be highly effective in combating the virus, especially when combined with the habits we have formed over the past year or more: masking where appropriate, social distancing, careful hand washing, and so on.

And welcome signs of “normal” have resumed in our lives— resuming in-person worship services and activities at Our Savior’s (not the least, celebrating OSL’s 75th anniversary this October), returning to schools and workplaces, venturing out to restaurants and movie theatres, and making a good-faith effort to, well, keep the faith, soldiering on in the knowledge that, come what may, we have the unfailing love and support of a God who consistently urges us to fear not.

And so, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone on staff at Our Savior’s! May God’s peace sustain you in all you do, may good health be yours, and may we all give thanks for the many blessings that shower us all year long!

Be well—and enjoy these photos of Our Savior’s “decked halls,” on this page as well as on the cover of this month’s *Intercom*. The decorations are the work of many dedicated volunteers.





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OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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In Church and Community

A Publication of Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Worship Services

Saturday Evening – 5:00 P.M., Sanctuary

Sunday Morning

Celebrate Worship – 8:45 and 11:00 A.M., Celebrate Center

Festive Worship – 8:45 and 11:00 A.M., Sanctuary

Television and Internet

Celebrate: 9:00 A.M., KTTW (cable channel 9; channel 7.1)

Festive: 1:00 P.M., KSCB (cable channel 30; channel 53),

Facebook Live: 8:45 and 10:15 A.M.

Website: oslchurch.com

Social Media

twitter.com/oslchurchsf ♦ facebook.com/oslchurchsf ♦

youtube.com/oslchurchsf ♦ instagram.com/oslchurchsf

Offering plate photo via Backgrounddownload.com

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Your support of OSL's mission to proclaim Christ and nurture faith that connects to everyday life is life-changing, both for you and for those whom our ministry reaches. Thank you for your generosity!

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