

January

newsletter



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PASTOR'S COLUMN

"Arise, Shine, for your light has come."
Isaiah 60:1

Happy New Year! Blessed Epiphany. Epiphany is a season in the church year when we observe the light of Jesus spreading further and further into the world. For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, it is nice that each day gives us a little more natural light. What shall we do now that both the light of Jesus and the natural light in the world are increasing? How shall we respond?

Every so often, I look back at what we did in past years. I can hardly believe it's been three years since we had a different stewardship theme every month. In 2022 we focused on being good stewards of our spirituality during the month of January. We responded to the light of Christ by practicing receiving and reflecting the light. Then we built upon that by stewarding our emotional well-being in February and exploring stewardship of our intellect in March. It wasn't until April that we hit one of the divisive areas of life that we as Christians are still called steward as followers of Jesus.

Isn't that the way it goes? First, the light shines upon us and we absorb as much as we can. Then, we are asked to "Arise, shine..." Figuring out how we will do that, where we will do that, and with whom we will shine the light of Christ is always challenging. For the past six months an Identity & Action Team, appointed by your Church Council, has examined the mission, vision, values, and priority areas of this congregation. At the annual meeting on Saturday, January 25, you as members of this congregation will get to adopt or reject the statements that will guide your life together for the next four to five years. Each statement carries a wealth of congregational history, input, and hope. May the light that is shining upon us so brightly this Epiphany guide us forward through all the days and nights of 2025.

--Pastor Darla Ann

OLLC Annual meeting

Saturday, January 25
Praise Led Worship - **3:00 pm**
followed by meal for
congregation
Annual Meeting - **5:00 pm**

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If weather conditions are severe, please stay home on Sunday morning rather than risking a fall on slick sidewalks or a car wreck on slick roads. If you wish to know if worship services have been cancelled for the Saturday evening or Sunday morning worship service, please sign up for REMIND.

You will receive a text message if service is cancelled.

To sign up for updates regarding Saturday services, text **@ollcsat** to 81010.
To sign up for updates regarding Sunday services, text **@ollcsun** to 81010.

LOST ITEM

Dona Racich is missing the manila folder with the material for her talk, "In Bethlehem Inn" -- A Habitat For Humanity Home. The folder was last seen on Dec. 14th resting on the stool she brought from home for the talk. The stool was sitting near the piano. If anyone has picked up the folder, please kindly return it to Dona.



OUR LORD'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Called to share Christ's Love with all."

THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

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A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.ourlords.org

JANUARY WORSHIP

January 4 & 5

Epiphany of Our Lord (observed)

"Where is the Child?"

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

January 25 & 26

Third Weekend after the Epiphany

"Jesus' Mission Statement"

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

Luke 4:14-21

January 11 & 12

Baptism of Our Lord

"A Voice Came from Heaven"

Isaiah 43: 1-7

Psalm 29

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

February 1 & February 2

Fourth Weekend after the Epiphany

"Rejected"

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Luke 4:21-30

January 18 & 19

Second Weekend after the Epiphany

"Saving the Best for Last"

Isaiah 62:15

John 2:1-11



Listen to services using your phone or tablet!

Scan the QR code or download AudioFetch on Google Play or iTunes.

Saturdays at 5 pm

Sundays at 9 am

2nd Sunday at 10:45 am

5:00 pm and 9:00 am services will be livestreamed.

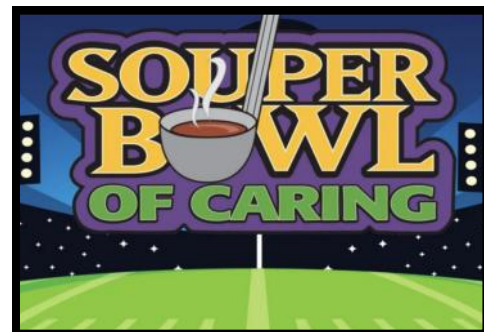
JANUARY GIVING EMPHASIS

Souper Bowl of Caring/Tote Me Home

(at end of January through February)

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." For over three decades, the Souper Bowl of Caring has empowered individuals, organizations, and schools to raise food and funds for food banks and community-based charities. As millions of people tune in to watch the Super Bowl, we're also tuning in to the needs of our neighbors.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is about taking action to fight hunger at the local level, ensuring that no one has to go without the food they need. Through this mission, people learn they can make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money and serve at hunger-relief charities and show caring and compassion in local communities across the country.



Share in God's love for our neighbors in need and give generously on our Souper Bowl Days. Donations collected during this year's Souper Bowl of Caring will go to *Tote Me Home*. Information about *Tote Me Home* will be included in the February newsletter.

THANKS & APPRECIATION

Thank you to everyone who made the church so beautiful and the worship services so meaningful during the Advent and Christmas seasons. From decorating to sharing the gift of music, from proclaiming the scriptures to offering a warm welcome, this season was memorable because you shared your time and abilities to bless us as a congregation. Many, many thanks!

Pastor K

Our deepest appreciation for the volunteers that have generously given of their time while we have been searching for a new Administrative Assistant.

Additional thanks and gratitude goes to the musicians that have shared their talents as we search for a new accompanist and Direct of Music for Sunday Worship and Special Services.

OLLC Church Council



OLLC will serve on February 11.

Assistance with preparation and serving the meal is needed. *Sign up on the signup sheet in the narthex.*

Donations to support OLLC S.O.S. can be given via check, cash, or Note "S.o.S." in the memo line. Contact Gail Jorgenson or the church office with questions.

Worker Bees will be assisting with removing Christmas decorations in the Church. Saturday, January 11

Breakfast 7:00 am, Red Apple Restaurant Church 8:00 am

If you plan on attending, please confirm by email or text to Chuck Pugh.

EDUCATION AT OUR LORD'S

classes resume
January 5

- **PRE-SCHOOL - FIRST GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL;** Sundays in the LC in Room 4 at 10:15 am.
- **ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL;** Sundays in the LC in Room 2 at 10:15 am.
- **CONFIRMATION CLASS - grade 6-8;** Sundays at 10:15 am
- **HIGH SCHOOL CLASS;** Sundays in Harry's Hangout (Youth Room) at 10:15 am.
 - Meets weekly except on the 2nd Sunday of the month when they teach or assist with classes for younger children.
- **OUR LORD'S YOUTH GROUP**
 - Due to scheduling conflicts, OLY will not meet in January.
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY (led by J. Lemke):** Sundays in the WC Conference Room at 10:15 am
- **QUESTIONS BIBLE STUDY;** Mondays at 10:00 am -- Conference Room (LC)
- **MORNING GLORIES BIBLE STUDY;** 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 10:00 am in the Commons (WC)
- **FEEDING THE SOUL;** Wednesdays at 3:00 pm Conference Room (LC)

OLLC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Congregation Game Night & Potluck
Fellowship Hall

Jan 19th --- 3:00-5:00 pm

Potluck @ 5:00 pm

Bring your favorite board games and a dish to share!

Hosted by:



HERDING ALPHAS

OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS - Crafters will meet **January 22** in the Fellowship Hall from noon - 3 pm. Contact Kathy Nehrt with any questions!

SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB - Next Book Club meeting will be **January 27 at 11:30 am.** to discuss *Sisters In Arms* by Kaia Alderson.

TUESDAY TEA - Tuesday Tea will meet quarterly in 2025. Stay tuned!

CRAFTS & LAUGHS - Crafts & Laughs will not meet until early spring! Stay tuned!

MUSIC AT OUR LORD'S

**New Director of Music for Sunday Worship & Special Services Hired!
Meet Addison 'Addie' Mays**

Addie will begin the position of Director on January 1. Weekly Choir and Bell Choir practice will resume with monthly worship performances (stay tuned for specifics). Addie is completing her Music Education at SIU-E and will graduate in May. Due to schooling commitments, her responsibilities at Our Lord's is being reduced during January - April; Addie will take on all director responsibilities beginning in August. *We welcome Addie to the Our Lord's family!*

Praise BAND

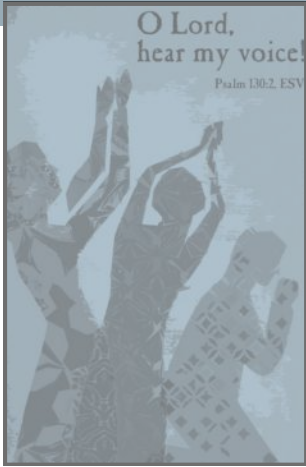
REHEARSALS:
Saturdays 3:30 pm

PERFORMANCES:
Saturdays 5 pm

Contact Olivia Cross for additional information.
oecross@gmail.com

PRAYER CONCERNS

Everyone listed here is important to a person of the congregation. Please include them in your praying throughout the week so that they know and feel God's power and presence.



CONGREGATION MEMBERS

Don Klingsick	Joyce Tatjenhorst
Dan Homes	Brian Kassing
Rod Orr	Irene VanHooser
Don Simonson Sr.	Mike Williams
Nicole Williams	Emily Callahan
Jan Jensen	Dave Chaffee
Linda Spencer	JoAnn Hartke
Robin Wellener	April Clark
Caroline Menz	Annie Jackson
Kraig Gunderson	Cynthia Haggitt

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Jamie Moravec	Ozzie
Ken Bunetic	Joyce
Brock Vinson	Grace
Tommy Banks	Tim Garber
Russell Doebler	Rose K.
Emily, Riley, Christy, & Justine	Lynn & Jim
Carl Bruntjen	Jim R.
Shelley Bruntjen	Nicci Essington
Darwin Reding	Cathie Trickey
Michael Echevarria	Dale & Carole
Dave Ritcher	March Banks
David Yarber	Kitty Jo Edgar
Connie Adams	Annetta & Ashley
Phil Childers	Penny Prengel
Paul & Paula S.	Marilyn Dichsen
Marshall	Denise Burton
Bob Dunn	Marilyn & Paul
Amanda Seelbach	Clyde Donovan
Robert "Bobby" Lee	

PRAY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED & FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING

John Nehrt
 Greg Perkins
 Tommy Conner (friend of Mike Williams)
 Terry Hale (husband of Ann Hale, Maryville Food Pantry Coordinator)
 Dyann Bengtson (daughter of Harlan & Kathy Bengtson)
 David Yarber (friend of Gail Jorgenson)
 Bob Specht (father of Mike Hester's son-in-law)
 Gary Gocken (brother of Dave & Carol Gocken)

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lance Cpl. Clayton Campbell	Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith	Erica Webb, US Private E-3	Amador Ochoa
Major James Carmichael	Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)	SrA Paul Kampwerth	Capt. Blake Crosby
Airborne Ranger Keegan Crosby	Staff Sgt. Stephan Spencer	John Meyer	Josh Pace
Staff Sgt. Tyson Crosby	Zach Huff	Zachary Neubauer	Scott Prengel
SPC Bill Homes	Jake Randall		

CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

January Birthdays

Joseph Smithies	Rebecca Reynolds	Tim Nyland
Jeremy Lange	David Gocken	Justin Orr
Gary Sides	Rhonda Comrie	Alexander Peterson
Denise Cigliana	Cynthia Jorgenson	David Chaffee
Bob Rinkel	Donna Beauchamp	Paul Schwartzkopf
Mike Williams	Beth Giese	Jim Spencer
Nicole Spencer	Drew Klingsick	Sue Kramer

January Anniversaries

Cash Barnett	Ronald & Becky Garrison
Brittney Mihalich	Robert Valentine & Kris Pineda
Nathan Johnson	Harlan & Kathy Bengtson
Erik Larsen	
Nicole Soehlin	
Teagan Short	

REMINDERS

PRAYER LIST

Please let the office know if you would like to add a new person, remove a current person, or change the status of anyone on our prayer list. OLLC practice includes removing individuals from the prayer lists **after 8 weeks** unless an update is received.

PRAYER VENTURES

Two pages of monthly prayer support for ELCA ministries are available at: www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures

WHEN YOU HAVE CHANGES

Please let the church office know of changes to e-mail address, mail/resident addresses, telephone numbers, job, college, graduations etc.

OTHER INFORMATION

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America -- <https://www.elca.org/>
 Central Southern Illinois Synod -- <https://www.csis-elca.org/>

FEBRUARY

- Feb 1 & 2 - Souper Bowl of Caring
- Feb 8 & 9 - Super Bowl weekend
- Feb. 11 - OLLC Serves SOS
- Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
- Feb 15 - Spaghetti Dinner and Concert
- Feb 17 - President's Day

Giving Emphasis: **Tote Me Home**

*Souper Bowl of Caring & Annual Spaghetti Dinner/
Concert proceeds go to "Tote Me Home"*

MARCH

- March 4 - Shrove Tuesday
- March 5 - Ash Wednesday
- March 9 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 11 - OLLC Serves SOS
- March 12, 19, 26 - Lent Services

Giving Emphasis: **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**

APRIL

- April 2 & 9 - Lent Services
- April 12 - 3rd Annual Pet Expo
- April 13 - Palm Sunday
- April 17 - Mediterranean Meal
- April 18 - Good Friday
- April 20 - Easter

Giving Emphasis: **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**

OLLC MINISTRY TEAM

OLLC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann Kratzer
Pastor

Accepting Applications
Administrative Assistant

Addie Mays
Director of Worship Music for
Sundays & Special Services

Olivia Cross
Leader of Non-Traditional
Worship Music

Dr. Rhonda Comrie
Organist

Benjamin Maynard
Worship Tech
Livestreaming Specialist
ProPresenter Slide Designer

CHURCH COUNCIL

Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson,
President

Dr. Emily Truckenbrod,
Vice President

Jeanette Goetter,
Secretary

Dr. Laura Schoenecker,
Treasurer

Linda Hester,
Member At-Large

The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann R. Kratzer,
Pastor

MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

Cindy Pugh: Fellowship

Ed Foppe: IT

Carol Orr: Service

Dr. Rhonda Comrie: Worship
*Education Team Leader position
is currently vacant*

Sunday School:
Lisa White

Fair Trade Store:
Mike Williams
vablu2@aol.com

Newsletter Editor:
K. Cummings-Larson

Facebook:
Maureen "Mo" Johnson

COUNCIL BRIEFS

2024 was another busy year at Our Lord's; a year of both highs and lows. The congregation voted to install solar power but the process took longer than I anticipated. Beginning with the initial discussion in January, followed by congregational vote, capital campaign, signing of the contract, and ending with the final installation--- the project took the entire year. Wow! I am so glad the end of the project is in sight! In addition to the solar project, we faced two staff vacancies. Each time challenges felt overwhelming, I would stop, take a deep breath and say a prayer. I asked God to take away my anxiety and provide me with a sense of calm and peace.

At the December meeting the council reflected on the events of 2024 and we looked toward 2025 with great anticipation. We discussed:

- The installation of the solar panels.
- The budget for next year and the January 2025 Annual Meeting.
- The work completed by the nominating committee, the contract review team, and the Identity and Action Team. Thank you to everyone that served on these teams.
- The goals for the upcoming year as we work to fulfill the Mission and Vision of Our Lord's.
- And the vacancies created by resignations from the Administrative Assistant and from the Director of Music of Sunday Worship and Special Services. With volunteers offering assistance in the office and with individuals sharing their musical talents we are keeping the office open and providing music during worship services. My deepest thanks to everyone helping the past few months.

When I look ahead to 2025, I think about new beginnings---opportunities for change. There is something special about a new year; it is a time to reset, to begin again. The other day I was reading a devotion for the new year and the author wrote of a gift his partner received. On the package was a card: "May this gift encourage you in the coming year." It was signed by a friend. The gift was a beautifully framed message, penned by a professional calligrapher. The message read:

Trust me. I have everything under control.
Jesus

The more I thought about these words, the more I began to change my own frame of mind. Although I may not know what lies ahead I do know that as I face each day's concerns, I will trust in the words of this promise.

I encourage you to look to the new year as a new beginning and an opportunity for change. Trust in God even when you don't understand or cannot see a way out. Know that He has everything under control.

Yours in Christ, Karen Cummings-Larson

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summary taken from report provided by OLLC Treasurer Laura Schoenecker
If you have any questions, please contact Laura at lswanso@siue.edu.

General Benevolence Income

November 2024..... \$22,960

General Benevolence Expenses

November 2024..... \$20,660

Cash - Unrestricted\$4,561

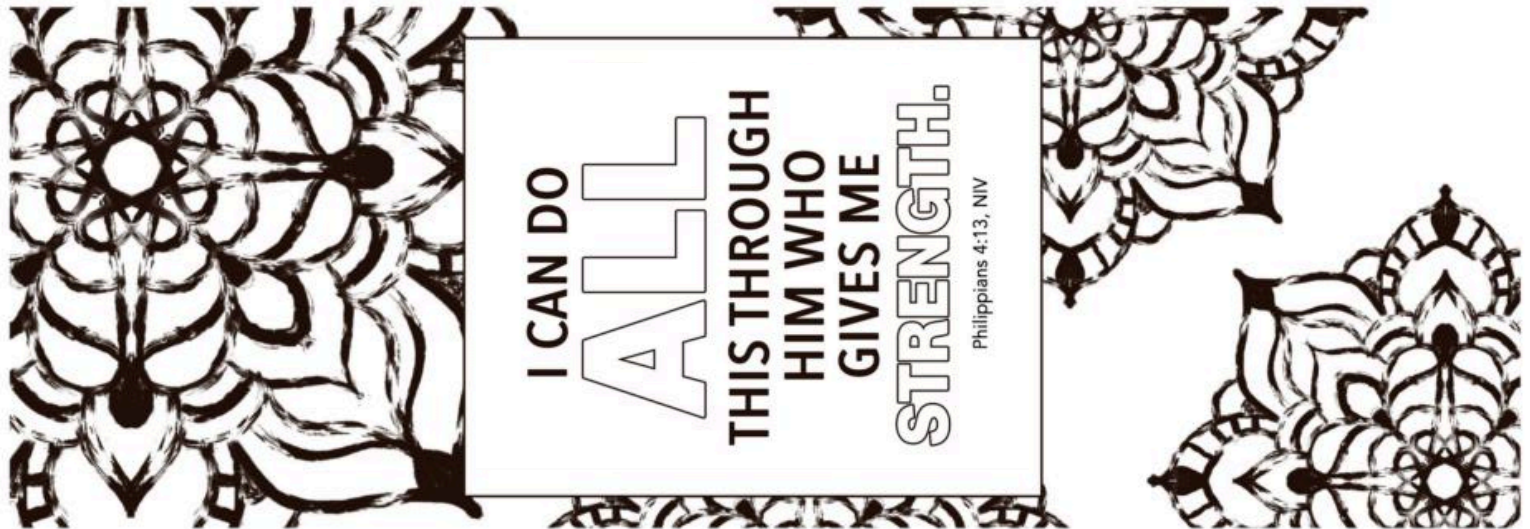
Cash - Designated\$95,403

Total Cash \$99,964

Thank you for sharing your financial resources with this congregation in support of the mission we share.

To give, simply scan this QR code with your smart phone. The QR code takes you directly to the OLLC giving page. On the giving page you have the opportunity to identify if your contribution is for Benevolence (church expenditures) or for one of the designated funds. Of course, cash or checks are always welcomed. No matter which method you choose when giving to OLLC, all donations received will help us sustain our ministries throughout the year.

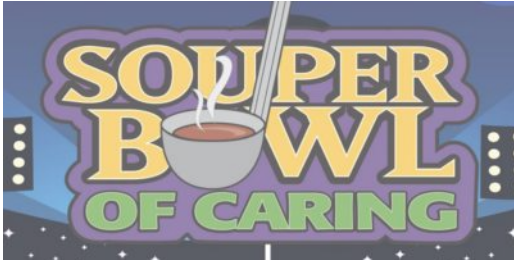






I CAN DO
ALL
THIS THROUGH
HIM WHO
GIVES ME
STRENGTH.

Philippians 4:13, NIV

JANUARY 2025 CALENDAR

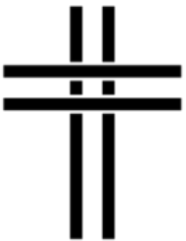
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p>January Giving Emphasis begins January 25th</p> 			<p>1 NEW YEARS DAY</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Team Reports Due for annual report Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>4 EPIPHANY (observed) 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality</p>
<p>5 EPIPHANY (observed) 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - Education Classes - Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, & Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Hospitality</p>	<p>6 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room 6:30 PM Church Council - LC</p>	<p>7 10:30 AM Worship Service at Well Care Home (Elmwood) 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p>8 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM Lakeview Garden Club Meeting - WC</p>	<p>9 10:00 AM Morning Glories - WC</p>	<p>10 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>11 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 7:00 AM Worker Bees breakfast 8:00 AM Removing decorations from the Church 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality</p>
<p>12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - Education Classes - Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, & Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:45 AM Worship 3:00 PM Congregational Game Day - FH 5:00 PM Potluck - FH</p>	<p>13 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room 6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC 6:30 PM Ministry Support Team - ZOOM</p>	<p>14 10:30 AM Service at Well Care Home 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 10:00 AM La Leche League - WC 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality</p>
<p>19 Begin Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - Education Classes - Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, & Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Hospitality</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed gray; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Our Lord's Game Night & Potluck 3:00 - 5:00 pm</p> </div>	<p>20 Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday office closed 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room</p>	<p>21 10:30 AM Service at Well Care Home 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p>22 12:00 - 3:00 PM OLLC Crafters (FH) 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room</p>	<p>23 10:00 AM Morning Glories - WC</p>	<p>24 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>25 3rd Weekend After Epiphany 1:30 PM Praise Band Practice 3:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 4:00 PM Congregational Meal 5:00 PM Annual Meeting</p> 
<p>26 3rd Weekend After Epiphany 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - Education Classes - Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, & Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:45 AM Worship</p>	<p>27 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room 6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC</p>	<p>28 10:30 AM Worship Service at Well Care Home (Elmwood) 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement</p>	<p>29 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Pastor's Sabbath</p> 	

OLLC Annual Meeting --- Saturday, January 25
Praise Led Worship - 3:00 pm followed by meal for congregation
Annual Meeting - 5:00 pm

"Arise, Shine, for your light has come."
Isaiah 60:1

"The Spirit of Our Lord's News"
Our Lord's Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED