



January

newsletter

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Annual Meeting
January 25
Brunch @ 11 am
Meeting begins @ noon

DEVOTION FOR THE NEW YEAR

Grounded in God's faithfulness

Reprinted from January 2024, "Living Lutheran" but still applicable for today.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8).

When the new year rolls in, I'm all for making plans and dreaming dreams. Goal-making or coming up with a word of the year brings me joy. Reflecting on where I've been and where I'd like to go exhilarates me. New planners and pens are a highlight. Together with my kids, I like to think about the year ahead and talk about what's to come—vacations or new extracurricular activities, visits from friends, places we'd like to explore, connecting with neighbors, and serving in our community. Yet, as much as I love a good planning and brainstorming session, the new year is ripe for looking back and giving thanks.

In the Midwest, where I live, January is bare and gray. The earth can be covered in snow and the temperatures are frigid. When I look out our front window to the neighborhood park, I'm flooded with memories of play and outside time with friends. I remember the greener and warmer days. But I can also see the beauty of what's right in front of me: God's faithfulness through the seasons.

This month, look back and reflect on God's faithfulness, both in times of joy, abiding in God's love, and in times of need, crying out in prayer. Remember the meals shared around the table and say a prayer of thanks for daily bread. Reflect on attending worship this year and how you've grown in faith and understanding. Rejoice in your health and give thanks for the strength of your body. Lament the losses in your life and in the world and pray for peace. Light a candle for the world in which we live and pray fervently for God's kingdom to come.

Celebrate the new year but also celebrate the God who is, who was and who is to come—the God who walks with you throughout your days.

- Take a New Year's walk as a family. Notice the landscape. Give thanks for the fresh air and for everything God has provided.
- Decorate your table with greenery, celebrating the God of all creation and the renewing of both ourselves and nature.
- Read The Worried Wisemen (Morehouse Publishing, 2022); talk about the gifts of the wise men and how you can share your time and resources with others.

Grab Christmas cards you've received and use them to pray for the people in your life. Over a meal or before you head out the door, pick a card and pray:

Dear God, thank you for these friends whom we love and who love us. May they have joy, peace and health this year. May your love surround them and bring us together. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Devotion by Pastor Kimberly Knowle-Zeller, an ordained ELCA pastor, mother of two, spouse of an ELCA pastor and co-author of The Beauty of Motherhood: Grace-Filled Devotions for the Early Years. She lives with her family in Cole Camp, Mo. Her website is kimberlyknowlezeller.com.



OUR LORD'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ Coming Together ✠ Growing in Faith ✠
✠ Serving the Lord ✠

THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS
60th Anniversary Year!

January 2026 | Volume 60, No. 1
A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.ourlords.org

January 3 & 4 *2nd Weekend of Christmas*

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

January 10 & 11 *Baptism of Our Lord*

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 17 & 18 *2nd Weekend of Epiphany*

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 24 & 25 *3rd Weekend of Epiphany*

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Wednesday at 2 pm & 6:30 pm
Saturdays at 5 pm
Sundays at 9 am

Saturday and Sunday services
will be livestreamed.



Listen to services using your phone or tablet!
Scan the QR code or download AudioFetch on
Google Play or iTunes.

JANUARY GIVING EMPHASIS: SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - COUGAR CUPBOARD

Cougar Cupboard Food & Essentials Pantry

The Cougar Cupboard is a non-profit food pantry located at SIUE serving students, faculty, and staff members. The Cougar Cupboard's food and toiletry items are supported entirely through donations.

The mission is to fight food insecurity and hunger on the SIUE campus, create connections within our community, and to support our clients through empowerment and self-determination. They offer clients an individualized and dignified shopping experience with convenience and anonymity. This allows students, faculty, and staff members to have equitable access to food and supportive services.

37% of students experiences limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire such food in a socially acceptable manner in the prior 30 days.

37% of students experiences one or more challenged that prevented them from having a safe, affordable, and consistent place to live in the previous year.

52% of students experienced at least one of the following: food insecurity, housing insecurity, or homelessness.

The Cougar Cupboard is located in Room 0012 of the Morris University Center on SIUE campus.

Contributions can be made by check (please note "Cougar Cupboard" in the memo line), or by using your smart phone and following the QR code which takes you to the OLLC giving page, select "Monthly Giving Emphasis" to make a donation.



Thank you for your generosity and support!

THE CALL PROCESS: DISCOVER & INVITE

The Discovery and Invite Committee has met monthly this fall to complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). We've compiled research and input from the congregation to create what we hope is a thorough reflection of the OLLC congregation and what qualities, strengths, and challenges we'd like any pastor to know about us during the call process. Our next step will be to present this information to the congregation in January for additional thoughts and input before we can continue to process.

Please review the poster boards posted in the hospitality area of the church and use the sticky notes or let one of the committee members know if you have questions or additional thoughts to expand on what we've posted there. The team appreciates feedback and encourages input from congregation members as they compile the MSP. Team members include: Deb Ackerman, Nate & Mo Johnson, Erick Larson, Jodie Nehrt, Karen Schneider, and Pastor Mauricio.

SERVING OUR LORD'S



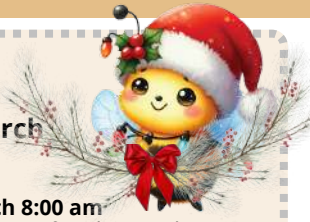
OLLC serves SOS January 13th

Assistance with preparation and serving the meal will be needed in January. Signup sheets will be available 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. If you have any questions contact Gail Jorgenson or Julie Preston.

Worker Bees Saturday, January 10th UN-decorating the Church

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.



MUSIC AT OUR LORD'S

Chancel Choir & Handbell CHOIR

Chancel Choir, Thursdays, 5:00 pm
Chancel Choir members needed!
Handbell Choir, Thursday, 6:00 pm

Contact Addie Mays for additional information at
love2haveu@ourlords.org

Praise BAND

REHEARSALS: Saturdays 3:30 pm
PERFORMANCES: Saturdays 5:00 pm

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



OLLC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Congregation Game Afternoon Fellowship Hall

3:00 PM-
5:00 PM

Bring your favorite game,
bring a friend, and bring a
snack to share!

January 11
February 8
March 8
April 12

OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS

Crafters will next meet **January 28, noon-3:00 pm**. Bring the latest project you are working on to share with the group. Contact Kathy Nehrt with questions.

SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet **January 26 at 11:30 am** in the LC Conference Room. We will be discussing *Handle With Care*, by Jodi Picoult. This is a very informal group that enjoys reading and discussion and having fun together. Would love to have you join us.

OLLC Crafters to host Hope in Every Stitch: Sew-a-thon to Support Girls' Hygiene

"For we are God's handiwork, created to do good works." – Ephesians 2:10

March 21, 2026, 9am - 2 pm
(OLLC Fellowship Hall)

No sewing experience needed to participate.
Lunch will be served. More information will follow as we continue planning for the event.



EDUCATION AT OLLC

- **Pre-School--Kindergarten Sunday School** - Sundays in the Life Center in Room 2 at 10:15 am!
- **Elementary Sunday School (grades 1-5)** – Sundays in the Life Center in Room 4 at 10:15 am!
- **Confirmation Class (grade 6-8)** - We welcome both returning and new students to our class this fall. We will have classes on every other Sunday and we will continue with the curriculum from Faith Inkubators. Each session we will cover two lessons and break for a meal between the lessons. We will meet in the Worship Center. Confirmation meets December 14.
- **Adult Bible Study** - Sundays at 10:15 am in the Worship Center Conference Room. Join us as we take a closer look at the Gospel of Luke.
- **Questions Bible Study** - Mondays at 10:00 am in the Life Center Conference Room. Questions Bible Study is studying the book of Genesis. Everyone is welcome!
- **Feeding the Soul** - Wednesdays at 3:00 pm in the Worship Center Fellowship Hall. The group is currently reading and discussing *"Hiding God" In Our Heart* – an in-depth study of popular Bible passages including the Twenty-Third Psalm. Additional topics include The Lord's Prayer, The Roman's Road, The Whole Armor of God, and individual studies that relate to timely topics.
- **Morning Glories Bible Study** - 2nd and 4th Thursday each month at 10:00 am in the Worship Center Fellowship Hall. Morning Glories is currently studying the book of Acts. The book we are studying from is *"Life Lessons from Acts"* by Max Lucado. All ladies are welcome!

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. We will usually keep names on this list for three to four weeks. Please let us know if an individual should be removed before then or if there is a change in their condition that requires ongoing prayer. Member names may be listed for much longer periods of time

CONGREGATION MEMBERS



Linda Spencer	JoAnn Hartke
Brian Kassing	Nicole Williams
Don Klingsick	Keith Jensen
Rod Orr	Robin Wellener
Joyce Tatjenhorst	Lisa White
Dave Chaffee	Jackie Schlönat
Mike Williams	Andy Nehrt
Emily Callahan	Sara Davidson
Vicki Lottes	Jim Trucano
Cindy Pugh	Loretta Williams
Nona Echevarria	Ethan Baczewski

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Ken Bunetic	Joe
Shelley Bruntjen	Janet Borowitz
Bob Dunn	Dan & Martha
Tate Buckaus	Jim & Mary Barker
Marilyn Wolfe	Brie Jenkins
Nancy Easton	Pearl
Elaine Kendall	Ted F.
Doris Gocken	Michelle Simms
Mary Thiesen	Jan Orr
Jack Sykut	Marguerite Tilashalski
Joan Truckenbrod	Joanne Johnson
Terri	Teri Peters
Glen Roth	Aaron Travis
Sherry Echo Hawk Talac	Allen Dietz
Donna & Harry Schlechte	Mariella Smity
Peg Meldi	Sandy Halama
Ken Kirkman	Stuart Stickse
James Cummings	

PRAY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED & FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING

The Family and Friends of Dan Homes.

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	MSgt. 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

Joe Smithies	Rhonda Comrie	Paul Schwartzkopf
Jeremy Lange	Cynthia Jorgenson	Jim Spencer
Gary Sides	Donna Beauchamp	Sue Kramer
Denise Cigliana	Beth Giese	Cash Barnett
Bob Rinkel	Drew Klingsick	Brittney Mihalich
Mike Williams	Tim Nyland	Nathan Johnson
Nicole Spencer	Justin Orr	Erik Larsen
Rebecca Reynolds	Alexander Peterson	Nicole Soehlin
David Gocken	David Chaffee	Teagan Short

January Anniversaries

Ronald & Becky Garrison
Robert Valentine & Kris Pineda
Harlan & Kathy Bengtson

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 3-4 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/>

LOOKING AHEAD

FEBRUARY

- February - Spaghetti Dinner & Concert - Date TBD
- February 10 - OLLC Serves SOS
- February 14 - Valentines Day
- February 16 - Presidents Day - Church office closed
- February 17 - Shrove Tuesday
- February 18 - Ash Wednesday
- February 25 - Holden Evening Prayer Service

February Giving Emphasis:
Souper Bowl of Caring:
Cougar Cupboard

MARCH

- March 4, 11, 18, 25 - Holden Evening Prayer Services
- March 8 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
- March 10 - OLLC Serves SOS
- March 21 - "Hope in Every Stitch"
- March 29 - Palm Sunday

March Giving Emphasis:
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

APRIL

- April 2 - Maundy Thursday
- April 3 - Good Friday
- April 5 - Easter Sunday
- April 6 - Easter Monday - Church office closed
- April 14 - OLLC Serves SOS
- April 15 - Tax Day

April Giving Emphasis:
Collinsville Faith in Action

PASTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

(abbreviated version of report presented to Council during 12/15 meeting))

- **Worship** - Presided and preached on November 22, 23, 29, 30, and December 6, 7, 13, and 14. Prepared worship plans for Advent and Christmas eve, and Christmas Day (pre-recorded service).
- **Pastoral Care** - Made 2 shut-in visits, 2 Holy Communion. Made one Home Visit to a potential new member.
- **Christian Education** - attended Questions Bible Study, Feeding the Soul, and Adult Bible study sessions each week.
- **Ministry with congregation** - Participated in the Holiday Church Decoration Day on December 6. Participated in the Scouts for Food drive a on November 22. Attended the Maryville Ministry Alliance Meeting on December 4.
- **Leadership Ministry** - Attended OLLC Council Meeting on November 17. Participated in the Discover and Invite sessions on November 18 and December 1. Attended the Ministry Support Team Meeting on December 8.
- **Self-Care Ministry** - Took Personal Sabbath on November 22 and 29.
- **Immediate Plans** - Assist with the recording of Christmas Day service. Finalize Pastoral Care Inventory for next pastor. Train visitation team for the sending of Holy Communion. Perform a last round for shut-ins visitations. Attend lay-led adult faith formation studies. Gather Mutual Ministry Resources for Council. Will take time off from December 26 to January 3.

OLLC MINISTRY TEAM

OLLC STAFF

Pastor Mauricio Vieira

Interim Pastor

Chelsie Stevens

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

Dr. Terry Ackerman
Secretary

Dr. Laura Schoenecker
Treasurer

Vacant
Member At-Large

Pastor Mauricio Vieira
Interim Pastor

MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

Kathy Nehrt: Education

Cindy Pugh: Fellowship

Ed Foppe: IT

Carol Orr: Service

Jan Vinson: Worship

Sunday School:

Lisa White

Fair Trade Store:

Mike Williams
vabl2@aol.com

Newsletter Editor:

K. Cummings-Larson

Facebook:

Maureen "Mo" Johnson

COUNCIL BRIEFS

As we enter a new year, it's a beautiful opportunity for reflection. We can celebrate our achievements, honor the goals we've reached, and recognize those we still aim to conquer. During January, many people carve out time to envision their hopes for the year ahead. While it's a good thing to create a blueprint for all the things we want to achieve, let us not forget the old saying, "We make plans, and God laughs." As we create our plan for the upcoming year, a wise person leaves the door open to hear from The One who directs our steps.

During the December council meeting we discussed the accomplishments for the previous month and began planning for the new year at Our Lord's.

- Local benevolence funds for 4th quarter (\$381) were allocated to the International Institute in STL
- discussed accomplishments since November and highlighted the upcoming Advent and Christmas events;
- received updates from the Ministry Support Team, and the Discover & Invite Team;
- discussed the acceptance of Pastor Stephanie Doeschot as Interim Pastor beginning January 5, following Pastor Mauricio's departure. Pastor Doeschot will serve Our Lord's part time; she will lead worship on both Saturday and Sunday and work approximately two additional days.
- made arrangements to have Pastor Amy Zietlow from the synod office preach on February 20 & 21 and address any questions congregation members may have regarding the call process.

As we plan for the new year, let us do as Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages us to do,
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding but in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths."

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 2025.....\$22,086

General Benevolence Expenses

November 2025\$25,267

Cash - Unrestricted\$31,323

Cash - Designated\$94,134

Total Cash **\$125,457**

Solar project loan balance \$90,000, to be paid upon receipt of tax credits.

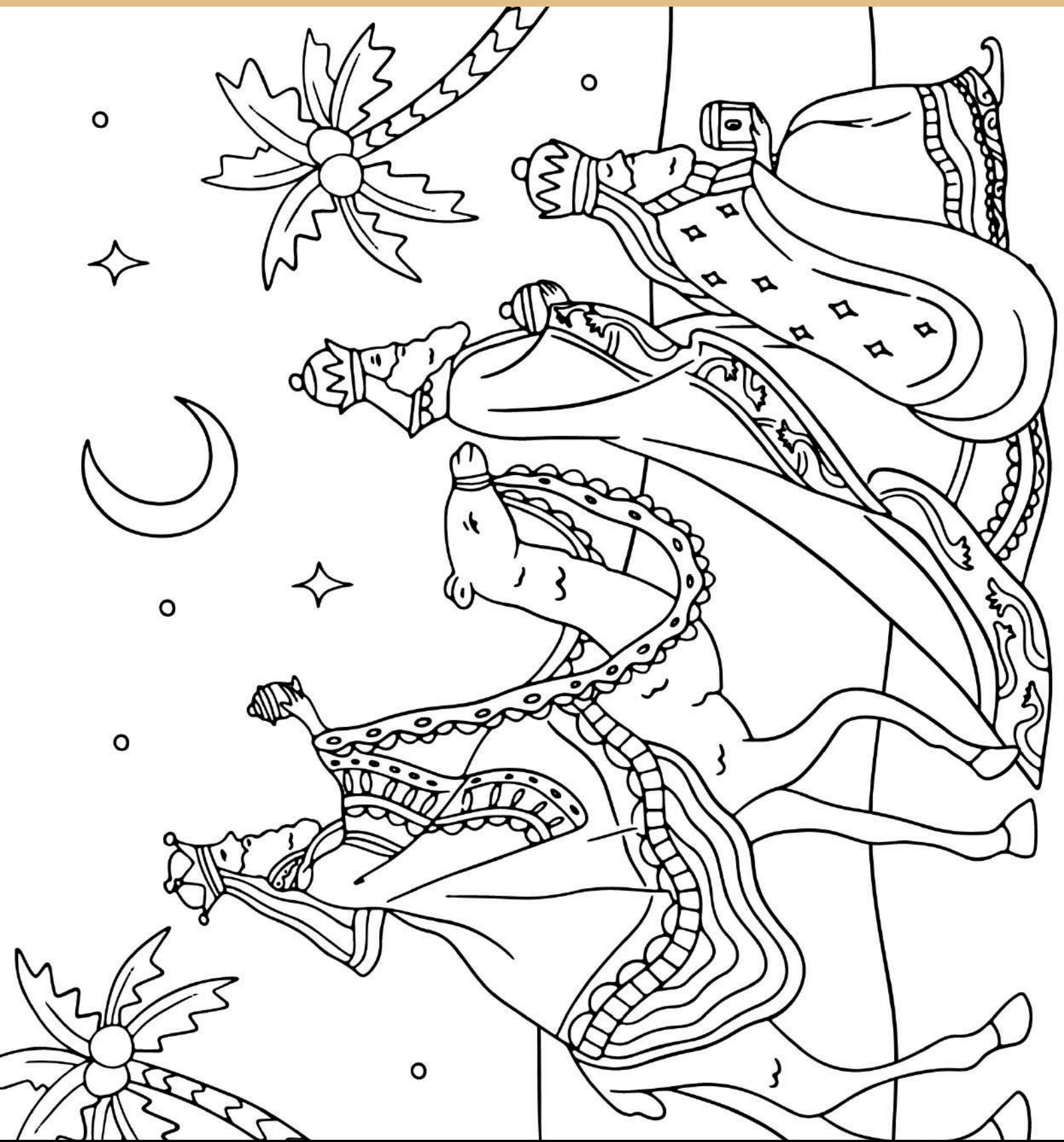
During November:

- The balance of the Monthly Emphasis Fund at the end of November 2025 was \$254.17 (\$49.17 - School Supplies, \$205 - Water Well Project
- A check for \$1988.00 will be sent to CS/IS for Synod Benevolence. Local Benevolence for the Fourth Quarter (October & November) totals \$381.



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

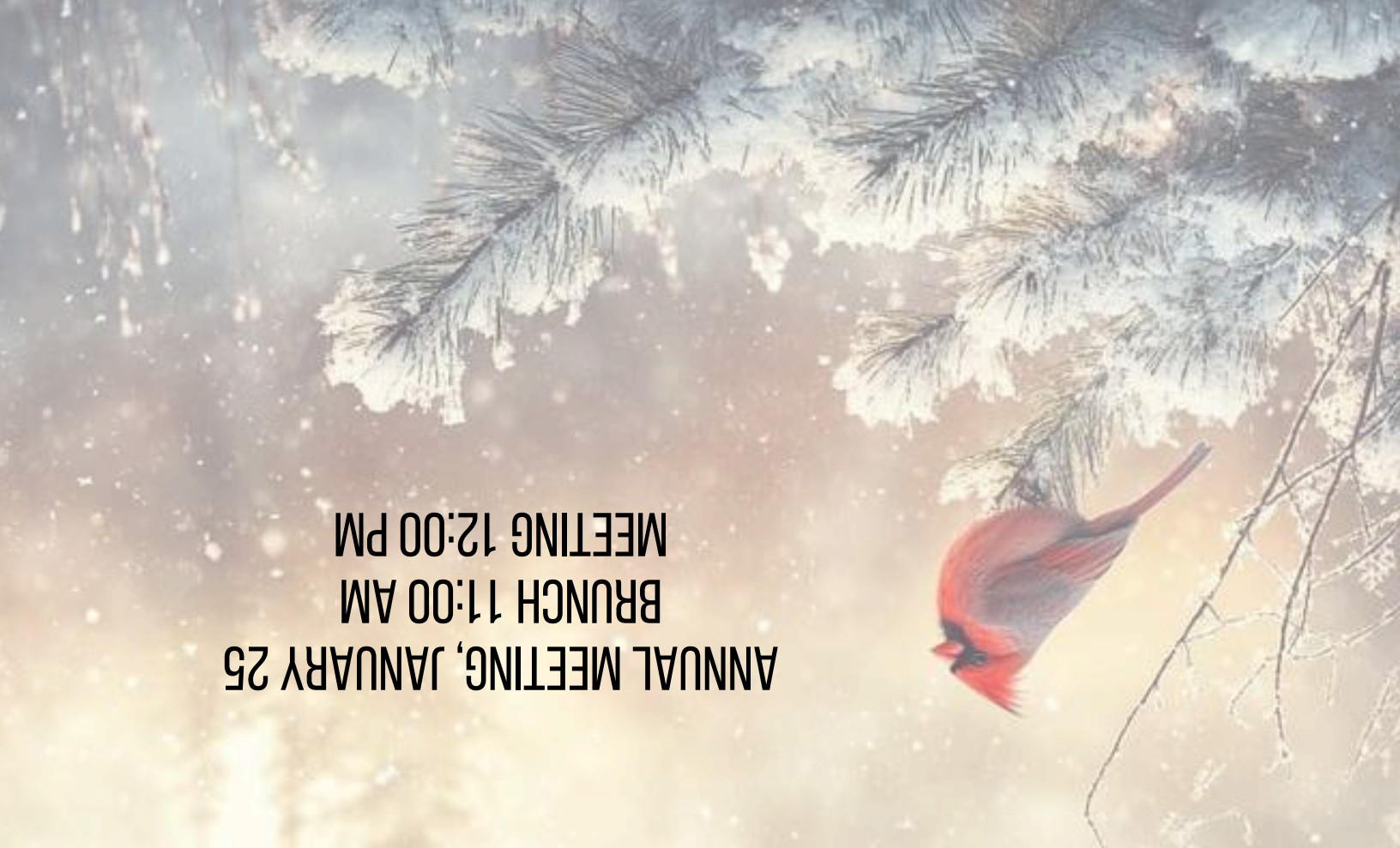
To give, simply scan this QR code with your smart phone. The QR code takes you directly to the OLLC giving page. On the giving page you have the opportunity to identify if your contribution is for Benevolence (church expenditures) or for one of the designated funds. Of course, cash or checks are always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





JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR

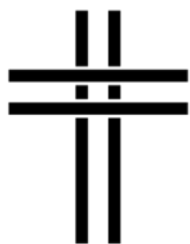
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
January Giving Emphasis  Souper Bowl of Caring 				1 Church Office Closed 	2 Pastor's Day of Rest	3 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
4 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:15 AM Pre-K – Adult Education	5 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room	6 Ephiphany 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	7 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - WC Fellowship Hall	8 10:00 AM Morning Glories 5:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	9	10 7:00 AM Worker Bees breakfast 8:00 AM UN-decorating the Church 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
11 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:15 AM - Adult Education 10:30 AM Confirmation 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Congregational Game Day - FH	12 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC 6:30 PM - Church Council - LC Conference Room	13 OLLC Serves SOS 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	14 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - WC Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Lakeview Garden Club Meeting	15 5:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	16 December Newsletter Deadline	17 10:00 AM La Leche League - WC 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
18 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:15 AM Pre-K – Adult Education	19 MLK Jr. Day Church Office Closed 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 6:30 PM - Ministry Support Team Meeting - ZOOM	20 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	21 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - WC Fellowship Hall	22 10:00 AM Morning Glories 5:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	23	24 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
25 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:15 AM Pre-K – Adult Education 11:00 AM Brunch 12:00 PM Meeting Annual Meeting	26 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC	27 Newsletter Assembly , time to be determined 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	28 12:00 PM OLLC Crafters - WC Fellowship Hall 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - WC Fellowship Hall	29 5:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	30	31 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality



ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 25
BRUNCH 11:00 AM
MEETING 12:00 PM

"The Spirit of Our Lord's News"
Our Lord's Lutheran Church
150 Wilma Drive
Maryville, IL 62062
(618) 345-5692 (Office Bldg.)
www.OURLORDS.org

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January 2026 Newsletter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED