



The

# Sanctuary

You are God's Temple

...God's Spirit Lives in You. 1 Cor. 3:15

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH + 1205 NORTH LINCOLN AVE. + O'FALLON, IL 62269 + 618=632-0126 + WWW.MYBSLC.ORG

## Upcoming Events

### December 2022

#### Fri. Dec 2

Last day for clothing donations

#### Sun. Dec. 4

Worship 930

Sunday School 1045

Voters Mtg 1145

#### Mon. Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26

Support Group 7 pm

#### Tues Dec. 6

Quilting 93-12

Elders Mtg 7 pm

#### Wed. Dec. 7, 14

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

Advent Dinner 6

Advent Worship 7

Adult Choir 745

#### Sat. Dec. 10

Christmas Program

Rehearsal 9 am

Birthday Party for Jesus 11 am

#### Sun. Dec. 11

Worship 930

Christmas Program

during worship

Sunday School 1045

#### Tues. Dec. 13

Church Council 7 pm

#### Thur. Dec. 15

Fellowship Mtg 430 pm

Bunco 6 pm

#### Sun. Dec. 18

Worship 930

Sunday School 1045

#### Tues. Dec. 20

Christian Ed Mtg 7

Youth Mtg 7

#### Wed. Dec. 21

No Ladies Bible Study

Adult Choir 7 pm

#### Sat. Dec. 24

Family Worship 7

Candlelight Communion 1130

#### Sun. Dec. 25

Worship 930



## Schedule of Holiday Services 2022

**Wed., Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 14**

Advent Dinners—6 pm

Advent Service—7:00 p.m. Adult choir 745

**Sunday, December 11**

Children's Christmas Program—9:30

**Christmas Eve**

Family Worship 7 p.m.

Midnight Candlelight Communion - 11:30

**Sunday, December 25 & January 1**

Worship—9:30 a.m.

No Sunday School





## "Be Born in Us Today"

BSLC Family,

The Advent season began a bit early this year so by the time you receive this newsletter, we've already begun preparing for the celebration of our Lord's first coming. I hope you don't let the commercialism and



busyness of our culture today rob you of the joy that comes when we let our hearts soak in the Advent spirit. Many people today are in an apathetic or anxious mood today. And it's a mistake to think that positive moods can be purchased from Amazon or a department store which will overcome those feelings. Only Christ can renew our spirits and give us hope in this world. That's why we take this special time to lift our spirits in Word and Song during the Advent/Christmas Seasons!

In our Advent midweek services, we will be reminded that Christ is born in us spiritually today and every day. He enters into us daily to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence within us as we become more and more like him in the living of our lives. Below is a snapshot of our three Wednesday services:

**November 30 • Be Born in Us Today Bringing Blessing** (Genesis 12:2): God promises Abraham that an offspring from his line would bring blessing to all. When Jesus was born, that promise came true with abundance.

**December 7 • Be Born in Us Today Bringing Renewal** (Isaiah 40:31): The prophet Isaiah declared that a Holy One from God would be born into this world to bring renewal to all the faint and weary. Christ's birth restores our strength that we might serve him.

**December 14 • Be Born in Us Today Bringing Guidance** (Psalm 31:3): The children of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years, often doubting God's plan for them. With the arrival of Jesus on the scene, we have a clear path to the promised land of heaven through him who is the Way.



Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday so we will be holding our traditional **Christmas Eve Family (7 PM)** and our **Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service (11:30 PM)**. Normally, we have been letting our Christmas Eve Midnight Service flow into Christmas Day but this year Christmas Day falls on Sunday. Since it is still the Lord's Day, we will be holding a **Christmas Morning Service** at our regular time **(9:30 AM)**. This service will be a time of singing Christmas Carols and hearing the Word of the Lord. O Come, let us adore Him; Christ the Lord!

Blessed Advent and Christmas!

Pastor Vern



Preparations are underway for the 2021 Christmas Program. The Sunday School children will perform during the regular service on December 11 with a cookie reception and then Sunday school.

Children will be practicing songs and parts during regular Sunday School times with a special practice on Saturday, December 10. Depending on their grade level, the students will come at 9:00 or 10:00 am for practice. Ask your child's teacher for details. Everyone will celebrate Jesus' birthday party at 11:00 am with a simple lunch.

### December 10 - Program practice

Arrive at 9 or 10 as directed by your child's teacher  
 Jesus's birthday party for students at 11 am  
 Practice and meal completed approximately 11:30.

### December 11 - Program

Children arrive in their Sunday School room at 9:00 am  
 9:30 Service/Program begins  
 Cookie reception followed by Sunday School  
 There will be no Sunday School on December 25 or January 1.

### Manger Hearts

God came to earth in the Christmas birth of a tiny baby boy,  
 Whose life and death are redeeming us yet  
 with blessings, grace and joy.



Our minds may know this history but stand in awe at mystery.  
 So faith becomes the way to make our hearts like "manger hearts"  
 where Christ can dwell and God imparts his wondrous love each day.—Peggy Ferrell

### From Trashed to Treasured

In December 2017, Jimmy Amisial, a Texas State student home in Haiti on break, noticed a crowd peering into a trash can. A 4-month-old infant lay inside, but no one moved. So Amisial scooped up the baby and took him home to his mom. They washed and clothed him, gave him milk and sought medical care.

After investigators failed to locate parents, a judge asked if Amisial would serve as legal guardian. Sensing "this had happened for a reason," he "took a leap of faith." Now Amisial is raising funds to adopt Emilio. "I'm glad I got the opportunity to transform his life from being abandoned in the trash to being a wonderful treasure," he says.

Likewise, God did not leave humankind trapped amid the trash of sin and evil, destruction and death. Instead, God came to us as Jesus, scooped us into his loving arms and claimed us as his own. Like Emilio, we've been transformed and are treasured.—Heidi Hyland Mann

amazon

smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

### Amazon Smile

Doing some online shopping with Amazon?

Did you know that Blessed Savior is signed up as a charitable organization on AmazonSmile? Please consider starting at AmazonSmile next time you order from Amazon and designate Blessed Savior as your charity.

AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). The donation will be made at no extra cost to you and you can choose from nearly one million public charitable organizations.







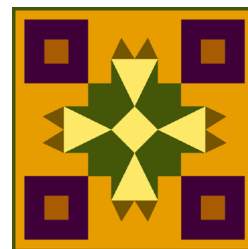
**URGENT:**  
**Neighbors**  
**in crisis**  
**need you.**

Will you share your God-given spirit of love with neighbors who are suffering? Ongoing war, food shortages and economic turmoil are devastating families. For many, the suffering is the greatest they've ever experienced.

Your compassionate gift will deliver support and care to God's children around the world, including in Ukraine, where families desperately need shelter, food and medical care, especially in newly liberated cities, where few humanitarian organizations are operating.

You will bring God's love to the front lines of these devastating hardships and show neighbors in crisis that they are not forsaken.

To give: Go to the Lutheran World Relief and follow the directions. <https://lwr.org/advent-resources>



Join the Lutheran World Relief **QUILTERS** on **Tuesdays, Dec. 6, Jan. 3** and **Feb. 7** from 9:30–12:00 p.m. to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Come and join us for a time of good ole fellowship. Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. If you have any fabric pieces, thin blankets, curtains, drapes, sheets, etc. you no longer need, the quilters would love to recycle them into quilts.

## A Prayer for Christmas

The internet reveals little about Wilda English — only that she lived from 1916 to 1997 and once resided in California. No details exist about her family, work or interests. Just this prayer, widely shared online. And it is no small thing. Indeed, the prayer tells much about her faith.

God bless Wilda English for sharing these words with the world. May they continue to inspire many!

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;  
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;  
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;  
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;  
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;  
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

## ADULT CHOIR FOR DECEMBER

Choir will practice following worship:

Wed Dec 7 until 8:30pm

Wed Dec 14 until 8:30pm

Wed Dec 21 at 7pm (no midweek service)



# PLUG

## INTO FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

good, the Fellowship is better and what is better than getting full, both physically and spiritually?

We will be hosting Jesus Birthday Party on Saturday, Dec 10, 2022 for the children's Christmas Program.

A sign-up sheet is now posted for Sunday Fellowship beginning in January 2023. The list is full for the rest of this year. Many thanks to those that have already served and those that are signed up to serve.

On the 15th of Dec, we will be hosting the first Bunco Christmas Exchange. Those choosing to participate in the gift exchange are to bring a gift to exchange during Bunco. This is purely voluntary with a \$10 limit. Per usual Bunco, please bring an appetizer to share. We always have fun at Bunco, but would love to see everyone there. We have visitors from the surrounding area, so let's show up and show them we have fun.

As always, if you have an event you would like to see us host, please give us a text, email or phone call. We are here to serve you!

Blessings for the Holiday Season  
The Fellowship Committee,  
Ginger Kieffer & Gwen Borsch

The Thanksgiving Season has finished and we are now on to our Holiday Busy Season. Fellowship will start off Advent on Nov 30 with a Lasagna Dinner, Salad and rolls with Dessert. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. While the food is

## Advent Meal



## Another Year for God

Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be, in working or in waiting, another year with thee....

Another year of progress, another year of praise, another year of proving thy presence all the days.

Another year of service, of witness for thy love; another year of training for holier work above.

Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be, on earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.—Frances Ridley Havergal

## Semi Annual Voter's Meeting

Sunday, December 4

Please come to this important meeting.

Main topic will be the 2023 Budget



## COOKIE WALK IN MILLSTADT



Trinity Lutheran Church in Millstadt invites the community to its annual Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 10 from 9 am to noon. Come stock up on all your favorite delicious HOMEMADE Christmas Cookies which are sold by the pound (\$12 per pound for mixed cookies and \$13 per pound for fancy cookies). Advanced orders are welcome. Please contact Shirley Boehm at 618-476-1113 to place your order or for any other information. Trinity's address is 503 East Washington, Millstadt, IL 62260. The building is walker, wheelchair and stroller friendly.

## Fresh Starts

I suppose when we wake on January 1 the world will look the same. But there is a reminder of the Resurrection at the start of each new year, each new decade. That's why I also like sunrises, Mondays and new seasons. God seems to be saying, "With me you can always start afresh." Ada Lum





## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### Anxiety vs. Trust

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24).

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25–33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone (Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)



# PLEDGE Sunday

Don't forget to bring your pledge on  
Sunday, December 11.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

1—Cheryl Krantz  
 2—Ryan Moureau  
 5—Sloan Colvin  
 6—Laurie Tatge  
 9—Dennis Brockmeyer  
 10—Todd Gorney  
 11 – Brooks Colvin  
 15 – Erik Lintvedt, Dale Schutte,  
 Gwen Borsch,  
 17 – Lauren Williams  
 17—Luke Lesire  
 20 – Tammy Ellington, Carrie  
 Johnson  
 21 - Danielle Stake, Jaye Drouin  
 24—Joseph Monaco

### DECEMBER



27 – Don Drouin, Marc Ellington  
 27—Marcie Monaco  
 28 – Audrey Lesire, Rich Williams  
 28— Mark Morton, Bill Feldmann  
 31 – Ed Brandmeyer,

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

### DECEMBER



1– Greg & Angie Conrad  
 9 – Bob & Charla Morton  
 14—Mike & Tyler Owens  
 19 – Rick & Barb Applegate

If we have overlooked your anniversary or birthday,  
 please notify the church office. 632-0126.



## JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

1-Charla Morton  
 5-Natalie Bartimus  
 6-Terry Colvin, Matthew Bowman,  
 7-Connie Schatz, Rachel Schmidt  
 Mikaila Soberanis  
 8—Hadley Williams  
 12—Don Drouin, Sr.  
 21-Anna Satrom, Eric Stake, Ellie  
 Ernst  
 22-Stephanie Williams

24 -Cheryl Vohlken, Hayleigh Williams,  
 Thomas Borsch, Mary Bruns  
 25-Nathaniel Ellington,  
 26- Andrew Mabry  
 26-Simoriah Longhorn, Connor Gass  
 27—Amy Boggs  
 28-Mark Berens, Paul Monaco  
 29-Thomas Satrom, Tom Sotiropoulos,  
 30-Rick Applegate, Isabel Calzada

6—Don & Jaye Drouin  
 29 George & Kim Kruse

## Pursue Jesus — and Your Passions

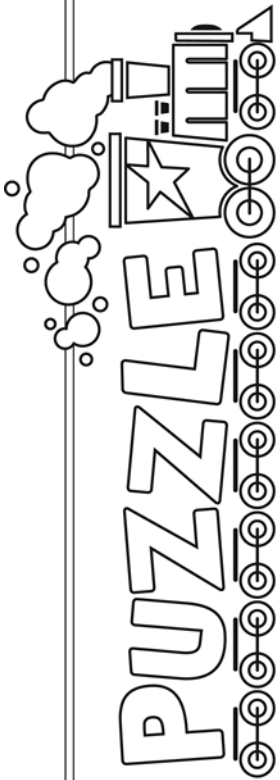
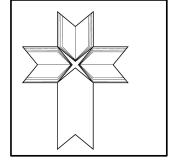
If you struggle with making and keeping resolutions, you're not alone. It can be discouraging to focus on what you're doing "wrong" and all the difficult changes in store. Yet January offers great opportunities to listen to God's direction. After all, Jesus came to give us abundant life and wants us to pursue him.

As you review the previous year, ask: What brought me joy? How did I grow? How did I help others? What did I do that no one else could have done? Whether your list includes spending time outside, mentoring or coaching young people or making crafts to give away or sell, continue doing what brings you joy. God gives us each unique gifts and circumstances, so live passionately for him this year!—Janna Firestone





The Sanctuary  
Blessed Savior Lutheran Church  
1205 North Lincoln Ave.  
O'Fallon, IL 62269



*Seeking the story*  
Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



#### WORD BANK

Shepherds  
Child  
Nazareth  
Census  
Baby  
David  
Mary  
Travel  
Town  
Register  
Born  
Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	C	E	O	
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a \_\_\_\_\_  
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior