

Introduction

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church 300 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette 743-2931 www.osluth.org Pastor Randy Schroeder

Purdue Lutheran Ministry
330 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette
743-2398 www.plm.org
Pastor Kristin Rice

December 17, 2023, 9:00 A.M.

All are welcome here

All people of faith, All people of doubt All people of any origin, race, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression All people who seek a compassionate community

All are welcome here

Welcome to worship, Welcome to pray Welcome to learn, Welcome to give thanks Welcome to serve God and neighbors

All are welcome here

All are redeemed by a gracious God

The Gathering

Prelude Music

There's a Voice in the Wilderness (setting by Robert Rowland-Raybold, 2014 Augsburg Fortress) Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (setting by Anne Krentz Organ, 1998 Augsburg Fortress)

Stand

Lighting the Advent Wreath

PR Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow.

You bring water to parched ground and life out of death.

Bless us as this light grows,

and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.

Give us strength and patience,

trusting that you are true to your promises.

Transform the lives of all who suffer

with your wonders near at hand.

C Amen.

(Lighting the first three candles.)

Hymn during the Lighting: ELW (red) 240, vs. 3: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah:
 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah:
 let the light ban-ish dark ness.
 let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise. shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly He lead them home-ward. your heads and lift high the gate-way for Lift the King of glo - ry. com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights He be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.





Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

PR Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C Amen.

PR God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

PR Everlasting God,

C you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you.

Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.

Amen.

PR Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness.

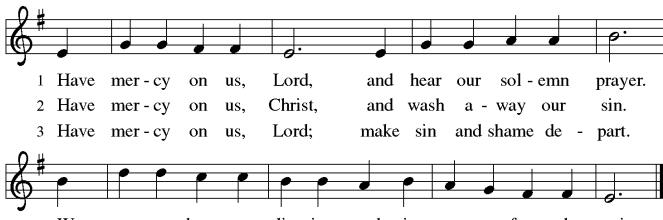
In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal,

and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C Amen.

Kyrie



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin

Re - new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Greeting

- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God. PR and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- \mathbf{C} And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

PR Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 \mathbf{C} Amen.

Sit

The Word

L A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GoD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 (Read responsively by whole verse)

The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.

⁵Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

L A reading from the book of Ephesians.

Ephesians 5: 1-2

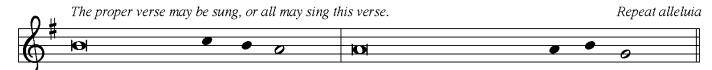
¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation





I am sending my messen- | ger before you,* who will prepare your | way before you.

WT The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

WT The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

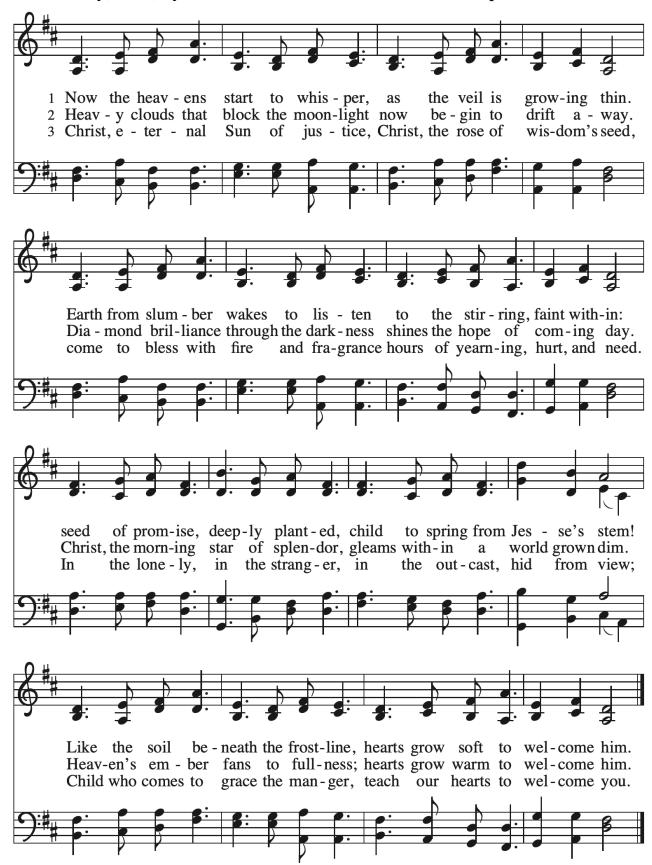
Children's Sermon

Pastor Randy Schroeder

Sermon Rev. Wess Tillet

Stand

Hymn of the Day, ACS, hymn 901: Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

PR Apostles' Creed

 \mathbf{C}

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

- A With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. (*A brief silence*.) Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Bless all who are celebrating and preparing for winter holidays. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- A Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. We pray for areas suffering due to climate change and for policies that protect environmental concerns. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Send your Spirit for relief and strengthen those who are rebuilding following tornadoes in Tennessee. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- A You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- A Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need (especially) Sheila, Danny D., Nathan & Haley, Liliana M., Jean P., Family of Merlyn S., Dave M., Blake H., Jenifer, Janet, Jason, Fil, Shirley, Linda, Adele, Denise, Victoria, Jennifer, Jeanette, Suzanne, Shelby, Kevin, Ann, Mary, Sean, Mayor Dennis, Jane, Robert M, Tom, Peter H, Ruth, and Megan. Empower us as helpers and advocates Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.

A Create peace among nations, especially among Israel/Palestine and Russia/Ukraine. We pray for those suffering prejudice and hate due to race, religion, gender, or class. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Merciful God.

C receive our prayer.

A Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. We pray for educators, administrators, and all leaders of educational institutions. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

PR Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C Amen.

Peace

PR The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The Meal

As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, please read the following:

For today's distribution of Holy Communion, after the Invitation to the Table, the presiding pastor will invite the worship assistants (lector, assisting minister, usher) to commune behind the altar. The presiding pastor will then commune those worshiping online and those in the sanctuary who wish to commune in their pews. Then the presiding pastor will commune those who wish to come up to the altar while the Lamb of God is played.

Offering

Please feel free to send your regular tithe in the mail, drop it off to the church office or if you have not checked out our website and the "Your Offering Made Easy" tab, this could be your opportunity. (Ted Heise is available to answer any questions about the Vanco Online giving option. His email address is **theise@panix.com**)



Stand

Offering Prayer

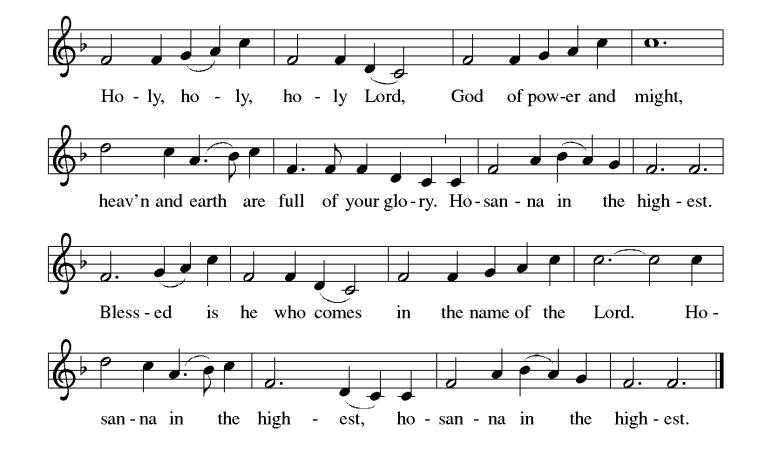
A God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

- PR The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- PR Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- PR Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- PR It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

 You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



PR Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

- PR Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- PR With this bread and cup
 we remember your Word dwelling among us,
 full of grace and truth.
 We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
 We look with hope for his coming.
- C Come, Lord Jesus.
- PR Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
 Come among us.
 Bless this meal.
 May your Word take flesh in us.
 Awaken your people.
 Fill us with your light.
 Bring the gift of peace on earth.
 C Come, Holy Spirit.
- PR All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

PR So come to this table, which now extends into our homes, you who have faith and you who would like to have faith; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed; come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

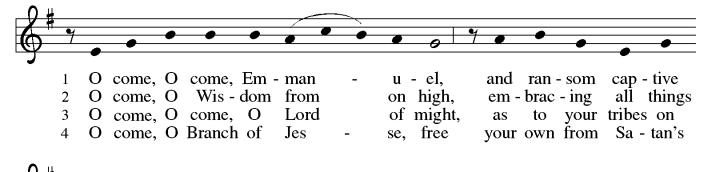
Distribution

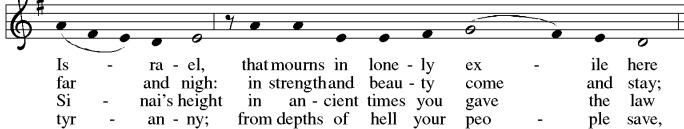
There are gluten-free wafers and grape juice. Please indicate your need to the server.

Lamb of God



Communion Hymn: ELW (red), hymn 257, verses 5 & 6: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel







un - til the Son of God teach us your will and guide in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and give them vic - t'ry o'er

u - el

ap - pear.our way.and awe.the grave.

shall come to you, O

Re-joice! Re-joice!



ra - el.

Is

5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Em - man

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 \otimes 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Stand

PR The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and for ever.

C Amen.

Prayer after Communion

A Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together.

Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

The Sending

An Invitation

Sending Hymn: ELW (red), Hymn 593: Drawn to the Light



Blessing

- PR The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

Dismissal

- Go in peace. Keep awake. Α
- Thanks be to God. \mathbf{C}

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Worship Assistants Today: Julie Huetteman, Sara Behnke (Musician), Mark Hermodson (Cantor), Kathy Grogan (Assisting Minister), Clara Gerhart (Lector), Marcia Daehler (Usher), Mike Williams (A-V Specialist), Matt Ohland (Assistant to Mr. Williams)

Pastor Randy is available for pastoral care. Please contact him at: 260-402-4476 or by email: randy@osluth.org

Pastor Kristin is available for campus ministry-related care and support. Please contact her at: 262-758-1235 or by email: pastor@plm.org

We collect toiletries (travel size) to donate to the homeless shelter. The basket for your donations is in the narthex. (Look beneath the buffet.)

Our sanctuary is served by a hearing loop. Wearers of hearing aids should turn their aids to the setting marked T, or T-coil, or Telephone.

Kid's Worship Bags and Family Room: The kids' worship bags have been updated with new items that help children follow along with the worship service, storybook Bibles and fun activities to do. For little ones there are quiet toys, books, and activities in the family in the back of the church for the children to play with during the service. Please feel free to let your children explore.

Centering Prayer Group

Join us every Monday morning for Centering Prayer at OSLC online via zoom from 9:00 – 9:30 am. The zoom link will be sent out on Fridays with the worship zoom link.

No Centering Prayer on December 25th and January 1st.

Luncheon Lectio Divina- Praying with Scripture

Join us every Wednesday at noon via zoom for Lectio Divina. The zoom link will be sent on Fridays with the worship zoom link.

No Luncheon Lectio on December 27th and January 3rd.

Advent Materials

Advent Calendars are available for the children in the Narthex. We have emailed the Advent Devotional, Living Well through Advent 2023, Practicing Wonder with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind- from the Living Compass Spirituality and Wellness Initiative. We will have a few printed copies available in the Narthex for those who prefer hard copies.

Sunday School

Sunday School is from 10:20 am to 11:05 am. We have classes for children ages 2-5 in the Nursery with Crystal. Elementary school age class for children in grades K-5th and confirmation class for children grades 6th -8th. Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for coffee hour beginning around 10:00 am and the teachers will gather the students at 10:20 to take them to their classrooms. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Missy Schroeder at missy@osluth.org or at 260-402-4477.

No Sunday School on December 24th and 31st.

Confirmation

All Students in the 6th grade or above are invited to attend Confirmation Classes. Confirmation Class will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:20 am until 11:05 am, in the Jr.& Sr. Class room upstairs. Pastor Randy will lead the Confirmation and hopes you will join him.

No Confirmation on December 24th, December 31st, & January 7th.

Adult Forum

Adult Forum begins in the Fellowship Hall at 10:20 am in person and on zoom. We conclude at 11:05 am. We welcome ideas for topics and guest speakers. Please contact Missy Schroeder at missy@osluth.org or Mark Hermodson at hermodson@comcast.net if you have any suggestions.

December Schedule:

December 17th- Wes Tillet Executive Director of LUM

December 24th- No Adult Forum Merry Christmas

December 31st- No Adult Forum Happy New Year

OSLC Congregational Retreats: Honoring the Past, Experiencing the Present and Discerning the Future

The OSLC Council was on retreat on Sept 30th to reflect on where OSLC has been, to look at where we are presently, and to begin discerning and dreaming with God for the future. The council found the retreat to be moving and meaningful. So much so, they wish to invite you on the same retreat. We (the Council) value your participation as OSLC prayerfully discerns where the Spirit is leading us. Pr. Randy, Missy and a couple council members will guide this future retreat on Jan 20th. This retreat will be held at the Ross House @ Ross Hills Park from 9:00am - 3:00pm. Lunch and snacks are provided. If you are interested in attending this retreat, click on the link to sign up. OSLC Congregational Retreats: Honoring the Past, Experiencing the Present and Discerning the Future. We will have hard copies of the sign-up sheet in the narthex on Sunday as well. Space is limited to 10 people per retreat. We hope you will consider this opportunity because we value your wisdom, gifts, and partnership as we begin this discernment process.



Tuesday Dinners

6-7:30pm @ PLM

About Our Nave

Against the north wall is the Tree of Life, designed by the late liturgical designer Charles Pohlmann and constructed in 1996 by then-OSLC member Ted Marshall. The processional cross was given to OSLC in memory of Jennie Dana. Many of our paraments were designed and hand-woven by OSLC member Bea Stromberg. The west wall is lined with seven wood carvings depicting the life of Christ commissioned from the late Nigerian carver Lamidi Fakeye. At the center of the nave stands a marble baptismal font, a gift from members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The prints of paintings on the east wall are by nationally known liturgical artist He Qi. The center piece is given by the Church Council in honor of Sam Rasmy for his long-time service as Financial Secretary of OSLC. The Last Supper, by Guatemalan artist Angelina Quic Ixtamer, was purchased by the 2014 Guatemala Mission Team. The OSLC logo was redesigned in 2022 with elements reflecting the unique architecture of the sanctuary, the 2019 addition of the south stained-glass window, our affiliation with the ELCA, and the eternal presence of our Lord and Saviour.

References to the Tree of Life are found in both the Old and New Testaments. It has both literal and symbolic meaning for Christians: it is the literal tree of life in Genesis, and in Revelation it represents everlasting life granted to those who display fruits of the spirit and of right-eousness aligned with God's principles.

Our Saviour's Vision, Mission, and Values (October 4, 2018)

Vision God calls us to be a community of discipleship for all,

making Christ's love real in our daily lives.

Mission Grow in faith and Christian calling

Love and serve God and neighbor Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Values Centered in liturgical worship

Outreach to campus and partnership with Purdue Lutheran Ministry

Education and mentoring for all ages Responsible stewardship of resources

Care, compassion and service in the local and global community