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# CONNECTION

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Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

December 2022

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## STOP GIVING!

Can you imagine a time when the people of God were told to stop giving? How mind-boggling would it be for a televangelist to say he didn't want any more contributions! Or how unheard of for any church to beg its people to keep their money and cancel the stewardship drive!

That's exactly what happened when Moses called for a capital fund drive to build a tabernacle to worship God in the wilderness.. Moses surely knew that most church fund-raisers are laborious procedures that cajole or even coerce people to give more, more often. Over an extended period of time, appeals for money can become a turn-off and wear people down before finally wearing out.

But what happened next must have surprised Moses as much as the parting of the Red Sea! The Israelites gave ... and gave ... and gave. Their level of generosity went beyond all expectations. They gave gold and silver, linens and leathers, handmade items woven, sewn, dyed, and crafted from wool and wood, string and stone. They gave so much that the tabernacle construction workers told Moses they didn't know what to do with such an excess of gifts.

"The people are giving much more than enough for doing the work the Lord has commanded us to do."  
--Exodus 36:5

Moses had no choice but to give an extraordinary, unprecedented command: "Stop Giving!"

"No one, whether man or woman, is to bring anything else as an offering for the tabernacle sanctuary."  
--Exodus 36:6

So the people were prevented from giving any more, for they had given far more than enough.

Do you think it's time to tell the people of Our Savior to stop giving ... that we have more than enough to pay the bills and do the ministry God has placed before us? Wouldn't it be wonderful if the coffers were overflowing and we didn't know what to do with all the excess? That would be more mind-blowing than the parting of Lake Ray Hubbard so there would no more traffic jams!

Unfortunately, that is not the case ... at least, not yet. Our giving has been down for a number of years and our reserve is depleted. We haven't talked about it much because of Covid interrupting all our patterns of worship and giving. It seemed unwise to talk about funds and finances when we were just trying to survive a once-in-a-century pandemic.

But just as God delivered Israel from 400 years of Egyptian slavery, God has delivered us from the deadly plague of Covid ... for the most part anyway ... and we are back together again ... for worship and fellowship, potlucks and Christmas parties. Maybe Moses needs to come back from the wilderness and ask us to build a tabernacle. Or maybe the Holy Spirit just needs to give us a nudge and a reminder that God never stops giving ... so that we can continue giving—joyfully, graciously, generously ... until one day old Moses can stand up in front of the congregation and issue this command:

"Stop Giving!"

But for now, Moses might say, "Give. Gold or silver. Wood or Wool. String or Stone. Give from the Heart. Give out of Grace. Give out of Joy. Give out of Freedom.

Because God just can't stop giving ... and neither should we!

# Deck the Halls

... for Christmas! Come join us December 3 at 9:00am for a decorating party. We want Our savior to look its best for Christmas, so bring your time and interest to give Our Savior a Christmas shine, both inside and out. Join our festive atmosphere for Christmas music and plenty of snacks as we eagerly anticipate the day of Christ's birth. (Please sign up so we know how many to expect.)



## A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER IN TEXAS

### The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Our Savior Christmas Party



Get on your boot-scootin' duds for our December 11<sup>th</sup> Texas themed Our Savior Christmas Party. We'll celebrate Christmas with a Texas twist that may include some uproarious Texas games and songs—not to mention the infamous Our Savior Christmas Quiz. We'll see you at the coral for a hootin-hollerin' good time. Bring a side dish or dessert and a Texas size sense of humor.

## 2022 Advent & Christmas Calendar

November 30	-Advent Supper (Simply Super Soup) -Advent Service "Grace Alone"	6pm 7pm
December 3	-Christmas Decorating	9am
December 7	-Advent Supper (Texas Chili) -Advent Service "Faith Alone"	6pm 7pm
December 11	-Our Savior Christmas Party	5:30pm
December 14	-Advent Supper (South of the Border) -Advent Service "Word Alone"	6pm 7pm
December 18	-Gaudete Sunday & Gaudy Clothes	10am
December 21	-Christmas Caroling	6pm
December 23	-Luminaire Set-up	10am
December 24	-Luminaire Lighting -Christmas Eve Worship -Christmas Eve Midnight Mass	5pm 7pm 11pm
December 25	-Christmas Day	10am

## A Special Evangelism Opportunity

### A Short Christmas Quiz...

Question: At what time of year are non-churched people most likely to respond positively to an invitation to worship with you?

Answer: Christmas!

Therefore, why not invite a friend or relative, neighbor or co-worker to worship with you on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? God's love is for everyone. Share it!

## December 11—Get Gaudy

Gaudete Sunday is the day to get out those outlandish colors that languish in your winter closets! Gaudete is the Latin word for splashy colors and uproarious joy. From it we derived the English word 'gaudy.' The Bible readings resound with rejoicing while the colorful pink candle is lit on the Advent wreath. So why not get in the spirit? Put away those somber winter shades and get out your gaudiest spring colors to rejoice in Gaudete Sunday. Pinks, oranges, lavenders... the gaudier, the better. Why not? Be daring, and rejoice that Jesus comes again this Advent!

## Let Your Light Shine

December 23, 10:00am

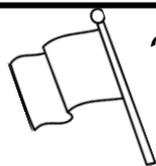
Spread the soft glow of Christmas wonder with our community as we again light luminaires to line the parking lot on Christmas Eve. Our luminaires are a witness to the light of our world, born in Bethlehem but present for all. We will set up the luminaires December 23 at 10am. We'll work together to set out the candles and milk gallons. All are welcome! The more the merrier! Sign up for setting up and lighting the luminaires in the centrum. We'll light the candles at 5pm on December 24. Keep an eye on the weather in case we need to change times.

## CARRYING THE TORCH FOR CROP

Every year, our numbers of walkers have dwindled for the CROP Hunger Walk, and this year, for the first time in almost 40 years, Henry Williams decided to take a well-earned retirement from the CROP Walk. Who would step up to take steps against world hunger? We even considered cancelling the CROP Walk for the first time in many decades. That's when we received good news! Renata del-Busto got her entire family—yes, even Julia—to walk ... along with a friend of Our Savior named Ali Shofa. Their steps made the CROP Walk happen this year to complement Bonnie Johnston's heroic effort in taking over the top spot in the most donations received. This was the first year in Our Savior's CROP history that Henry Williams was not number 1! Oh, and don't forget Graham and Pastor who joined the group for an overwhelming total of \$1,308! Thanks to all who contributed to his years CROP Walk. The list below designates our walkers as well as honorary walkers, Henry and Baerbel Williams, whose contribution to the Our Savior CROP Walk will never be forgotten.

### WALKERS

Bonnie Johnston	325
Graham Schelter	220
Renata del-Busto	206
Pastor Schelter	100
Valente Chavez	77
Rigo Chavez	77
Julia Chavez	50
Dora del-Busto	50
Pedro del-Busto	50
Ali Shofa	50
Baerbel Williams	50
Henry Williams	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,308</b>



### *Unfurling the Flags of Faith*



Flags mark boundaries between nations.

Flags identify antagonists in battle.

Flags provide a sense of belonging and pride.

For the first three Wednesdays in Advent, flags will lead us to Christmas.

Our flag bearer will be none other than Dr. Martin Luther, who raised the Reformation flags of 'Faith Alone,' 'Grace Alone,' and 'God's Word Alone.' Each of those Reformation banners will lift up those who journeyed to Bethlehem and point us to the Christchild. And those three flags will define our faith, provide our identity, and lead us on our own journey to Bethlehem. (The fourth Wednesday of Advent will be December 21<sup>st</sup> so let's plan on meeting up at church by 6pm to go Christmas Caroling.) Fly the Flag of Faith and wave it proudly so that others may walk and worship with us this Advent.

**Nov. 30**      6pm Simply Super Soup

7pm Grace Alone

**Dec. 7**      6pm "Call the Fire Department" Texas Chili

7pm Faith Alone

**Dec. 14**     6pm Scrumptious 'South-of-the-Border' Cuisine

7pm Word Alone

**Dec. 21**     6pm Christmas Caroling



### *"A Christmas Carol" is Both for Singing and for Sharing*



This newsletter provides an article from our parish nurse, Nancy Wilson—not in words, it's in action. In fact, you co-wrote Nancy's monthly article both for her and with her. Generous donations to the Food Pantry made November an outstanding month of giving food—exactly 150 pounds of food! Every month Nancy takes the food (along with help from Julie Williams) and that very action writes the best article yet for helping people that are hungry during the holiday season. Thank you, Nancy, for your article in deeds, and thank you people of Our Savior for your generous donations of non-perishable food items.

Can we even do better in December? Ebenezer Scrooge missed the joy of Christmas because he refused to share. Then his eyes were opened to the needs of his neighbor and his life became a song of Christmas Joy. Don't miss out on the joy of sharing this Christmas. Remember the needy in our community with an offering of canned goods and non-perishable foods. Let's write an article in words and deeds, and a Christmas carol that is both sung and shared.

# Birthdays

# December

# Baptisms

Date	Name
2	George Brockmann
2	Todd Ranta
3	Caleb Ramirez
5	Barb Krause
	Darlene Morton
	Rachel Phares
6	Betsy Hardi
7	Greg Kurt
	Irene Moore
9	Betsy Brockmann
	Fe Aguirre
10	Kirk Helm
12	Rich Wood
14	Barbara Hunter
16	Ashley Lubben
	Mary Stovall
17	Christy Anderson
18	Stacy White
22	Bobbie Chubbs
24	Cole Rockwell
25	Cody Hardy
	Tessie Murphy
28	Cade Hyatt
30	Paula Fincher



Date	Name
6	Judy Hocker
	Marie Mazza
11	Darren Mann
12	Lucas Holmes
18	Bobbie Jean McClatchey
20	Mitchell Belz
	Jerry Hearn
22	Gordon Johnston
	Mackenzie Reggia
	Rita Salmons
25	Valente Chavez
29	David Shafer
30	Adama Ndomahina
	Zainab Ndomahina

## Wedding Anniversaries

Date	Years
13	Richard & Betty Mastin
17	Michael & Debbie Zimmermann
19	Stacy & Lisa White
22	Gerald & Frances Hare
28	Coen & Michelle Enright
29	Kevin & Michelle Finamore
32	Michael & Jill Furr
31	Mike & Julie Williams



### DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Readers: Wayne North Altar Guild: Cynthia Lubben

## The Giving Tree

Once again, Our Savior will be collecting Christmas gifts for children in Buckner Children's Home. Mother's Day Out will be coordinating the efforts and encouraging families in the program's participation. Gifts of socks, mittens, underwear, pajamas, and toys for children of



all ages (0-18 years old) are needed. Sizes zero to adult are appreciated. Buckner Children's Services were very excited and grateful for all the wonderful gifts these past couple of years. Let's help to make all children feel special this Christmas! Collected items will be picked up and delivered on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

## A Ceremony of Carols

**December 21—6:00pm**

On the brink of Christmas, we'll warm up our hearts and tune up our voices for Christmas caroling! We will leave from church via carpool caravan at 6:30pm. After caroling, we'll once again enjoy the very best Christmas goodies, compliments of the hospitality of Michael and Sonja Conoly. So, get your vocal chords ready and bring your flashlights as we bring the true spirit of Christmas to those who might have trouble getting to church for



services. If you're looking to find the joy of Christmas, there is no better way than caroling. Dress for the weather and bring a friend.

# CONNECTION

## Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Mesquite TX 75150

Office: 972-226-0510

Fax: 972-226-0722

[www.oslmesquite.org](http://www.oslmesquite.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship—10:00am & 5:30pm

Pastor—John Schelter

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Non-Profit Org

U.S. Postage Paid

Mesquite Texas

Permit #98

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## *Christmas Poinsettias*

**Christmas Poinsettias**—Help decorate the chancel for Christmas with the purchase of a poinsettia. Cost of each poinsettia will be \$10.00. They may be taken home after Christmas. Make checks out to Our Savior Lutheran Church. **Deadline to order is December 18<sup>th</sup>.**



**Christmas Letter**—For a donation to World Hunger, you can be included on a Christmas Greeting mailed to the membership of the church. **Deadline is December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Poinsettias**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

*World Hunger*

*Christmas Letter*

My donation is enclosed in the amount  
of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_

# December 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>Each Sunday</b> 10:00am Worship Service 5:30pm Worship Service			<b>30</b> 6:00pm Advent Supper <i>(Simply Super Soup)</i> 7:00pm Advent Service <i>"Grace Alone"</i>	<b>1</b> 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:30am Granny Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00am Christmas Decorating
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30am Mother's Day Out	<b>7</b> 6:00pm Advent Supper <i>(Texas Chili)</i> 7:00pm Advent Service <i>"Faith Alone"</i>	<b>8</b> 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:30am Granny Group	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <i>Get Gaudy</i> 5:30pm Our Savior Christmas Party <i>'A Christmas to Remember in Texas'</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30am Mother's Day Out	<b>14</b> 6:00pm Advent Supper <i>(South of the Border)</i> 7:00pm Advent Service <i>"Word Alone"</i>	<b>15</b> 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:30am Granny Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:00pm Christmas Caroling	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00am Luminaire Set-Up	<b>24</b> 5:00pm Luminaire Lighting 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service 11:00pm Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
<b>25</b> 10:00am Christmas Day Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

