
CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

December 2025

***“Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection,
Not in books alone, but in every leaf of springtime.”***

- Martin Luther

By the time you read this, most of autumn’s leaves will have fallen.

By the time of our first midweek Advent service on December 3rd, winter will have announced its arrival.

But another arrival is on the way too, declaring—not the season of winter—but the season of Advent.

Advent will be announced this year with leaves—not falling leaves, but greening leaves.

You see, Advent will mark the Church’s springtime. Springtime in December? “Yes,” says Advent.

For Advent is the arrival of faith’s New Year. It announces new beginnings, new life, and new birth—the Birth of Jesus.

And, just as in springtime, new life is accompanied by signs of the leaves new growth.

That new growth will be the theme of each midweek Advent service. We will add new leaves to the bare limbs of the Advent Promise Tree until, week by week--just in time for December 24—those dead branches will be transformed into the brilliant green of the Christmas Tree.

Advent declares that now is the time for you to get ready—to green out with new growth.

Sweep away the dead leaves of sin and sorrow and shame. Clean out the leaf-clogged gutters of grief and guilt and regret. Clear off the the leaf-laden sidewalks for smooth passage on the path to New Life.

For Advent is God’s Time—God’s Springtime.

Each leaf that we add to the Advent Promise Tree is a reminder that, day by day, the countdown to Christmas has begun. For God has handwritten God’s promise “in every leaf of springtime” ... and in every leaf of our Advent Promise Tree.



ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Say a Prayer.

Make a Wish.

Keep a Promise



Midweek Advent Worship at Our Savior puts prayer, hope, and promise at the center of Christmas preparation on December 3, 10, and 17. Each service provides an opportunity for every age group to praise and prepare for the joy of Christ’s coming. And, of course, each service is preceded by an absolutely awesome Advent supper!

December 3, 6pm Mexican Potluck; 7pm Service—The Advent Prayer Tree will “leaf out” with your petition to make Advent a time of prayer.

December 10, 6pm Italian Potluck; 7pm Service—Everyone bring a candle to worship to make a wish for the coming Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

December 17, 6pm Asian Potluck; 7pm Service—Advent-time is promise-time. Bring an object symbolic of a promise that you’d like to keep and hang it from the Advent Promise Tree.

December 21—On the very brink of Christmas, we’ll hear anew the promises of God and (weather permitting) go Christmas caroling!



And the Rooster Crowed

It was a bitter cold night in Caiaphas' courtyard. Peter warmed his hands by the fire, but he shivered inside, gripped by an icy fear no fire could warm. He was guilty and he knew it.

The more he tried to cover it up, the more it ate at him inside. He had pretended to be a man of power, prestige, and preeminence. But he was truly a coward ... and his deepest fear was that his constant lies would catch up to him and finally expose him as a fraud. Epstein was caught and now his accomplices could have their secrets disclosed. Peter shuddered at the thought that the truth might come out. For Peter was with Epstein.

Peering through the shadows crossing Peter's face as the fires danced in the darkness, a servant girl stared intently: "You were with Epstein, weren't you?" Peter remonstrated vehemently: "I never knew the man!" Off in the distance, a rooster crowed, mockingly.

A second woman insisted more vehemently: "Yes, you were. I saw you at his parties." "No," Peter swore heatedly, "I haven't been with him in over 15 years. I don't know what you're talking about!" "Of course, it was you. You were pointing and leering at the girls as they danced. I'm sure it was you," insisted a third woman.

"Quiet, piggy," snarled Peter, demonstrably enraged. "I told you three times now. I never knew the man!"

And the rooster crowed.

Peter knew. And the rooster knew. And, even if Peter is never caught, the women knew.

And Peter went out and wept bitterly.

When the rooster crows, lies are revealed. Liars are exposed. At midnight, by the fire, Peter weeps ... and a nation weeps. ... for the coverup of truth.

When lies prevail, there is a cold no fire can warm. Thus, the rooster must crow again, for the dawn to come and end a long night of sorrow.

"At night, by the fire ... I felt afraid. And I remembered the cry of the peacock."

- Wallace Stevens, "Domination of Black"



Deck the Halls

... for Christmas! Come join us December 6 at 10:00am 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. (We'll order out pizza for lunch!)



OUR SAVIOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

A Martin Luther Christmas



December 14th, 4:30pm



It's time for the 31st Annual Our Savior Christmas Party! There'll be merrymaking and music, mischief and mistletoe, and, of course, the mind-bending, mystifying multiple-choice Christmas Quiz. This fanciful evening of fellowship and fun will help you get in the mood for Christmas through the perspective of Dr. Martin Luther. You won't want to miss the authentic German Christmas tree tradition started by Dr. Martin Luther and continued by "the official Christmas tree" Dr. Baerbel Williams. Bring a snack or dessert if you can for potluck goodies and don't forget to invite a friend!

December 14—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 21, 11:30am

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 21 at 11:30am. 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.



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 17th.

A Ceremony of Carols

December 21—4:30pm



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 following a brief 4:30pm service. Details will follow, but in the meantime, get your vocal chords ready as we bring the true spirit of Christmas. Please let us know if you can make it.

2025 Advent & Christmas Calendar

December 1	-First Sunday of Advent	10am
December 3	-Advent Supper (Mexican)	6pm
	-Advent Service "Say A Prayer"	7pm
December 6	-Christmas Decorating	10am
December 7	-Second Sunday of Advent	10am
December 11	-Advent Supper (Italian/ Mediterranean)	6pm
	-Advent Service "Make a Wish"	7pm
December 14	-Gaudate Sunday & Gaudy Clothes	10am
	-Our Savior Christmas Party	4:30pm
December 17	-Advent Supper (Asian)	6pm
	(Indian, Chinese, Thai, Japanese, Korean, etc.)	
	-Advent Service "Keep a Promise"	7pm
December 21	-Fourth Sunday of Advent	10am
	-Luminaire Set-up	11:30am
	-Evening Worship & Christmas Caroling	4:30pm
December 24	-Luminaire Lighting	5pm
	-Christmas Eve Worship	7pm
	-Christmas Eve Midnight Mass	11pm
December 25	-Christmas Day	10am

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



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. Help fill up Mesquite Social Service's Food Pantry by giving to the Our Savior Food Donation Box.

Helping the Homeless at Austin Street Shelter

DECEMBER 28, 2025

Join us December 28th as we carpool to Austin Street Shelter to help serve food. We will leave church at about **6:00am** and should be back in time for church. *We are looking for volunteers as well as contributions of plastic cups and plastic utensils—preferably prepackaged sets.* If you would like to help in-person or with a donation of paper goods, call the office, talk with Jamie Nivens, or simply sign up in the centrum.



"Be Prepared"

No, Our Savior is not starting a new scout troop. (We've sponsored Troop 852 for over 40 years and are currently sponsoring two troops.) But we are planning a meeting to meet the New Year with the mindset of being prepared. Crisis situations can occur without notice, demanding quick response. Everything from fire to medical emergencies to outside threats should be on the radars of every public building, and the church is no exception.



Being prepared is a mindset that makes us aware of our surroundings, attentive to needs, and alert to possible threats or suspicious activity. Being prepared is not alarmist but being able to meet unexpected situations with calm and confidence. Being prepared is the exact opposite of causing fear or panic. Church Council has discussed this for several meetings and would like your input. We'll plan a kind of advisory meeting to be published soon (after the holidays perhaps), but we'd first like to gather interest about who might like to show leadership in this area. A signup sheet is available with the heading: "Being Prepared". (And, no, you don't need to have been a Boy Scout to sign up!)

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!



Birthdays

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

December



Wedding Anniversaries

Date	Name	Years
11	Eric & Jaime Nivens	26
13	Richard & Betty Mastin	56
	Miguel & Wendie Meza	23
17	Michael & Debbie Zimmermann	31
19	Stacy & Lisa White	16
22	Gerald & Frances Hare	57
28	Coen & Michelle Enright	23
29	Kevin & Michelle Finamore	23
32	Michael & Jill Furr	35
31	Mike & Julie Williams	49

Baptisms

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



Worship Leaders for December:

Worship Assistant: Lois Schelter Reader: Carrie Enocksen
Greeters & Ushers: Miguel & Wendie Meza

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 17th.**



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 17th.**

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 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Each Sunday 10:00am Worship Service 4:30pm Worship Service	1 7:00pm City Council Meeting	2	3 10:30am Sages for All Ages 6:00pm Advent Supper <i>(Mexican)</i> 7:00pm Advent Service	4 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Cub Scouts	5	6 10:00am Christmas Decorating
7 11:30am Choir Rehearsal 11:30am Council Meeting	8 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9 9:30am Mother's Day Out	10 10:30am Sages for All Ages 1:30 Kaethe Combs Graveside Service 6:00pm Advent Supper <i>(Italian)</i>	11 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Cub Scouts	12	13
14 11:30am Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm Our Savior Christmas Party	15 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16 9:30am Mother's Day Out	17 10:30am Sages for All Ages 6:00pm Advent Supper <i>(Asian)</i> 7:00pm Advent Service	18 9:30am Mother's Day Out 7:00pm Cub Scouts	19	20
21 11:30am Choir Rehearsal 11:30 Luminaire Set-up 4:30pm Evening Service and Christmas Caroling	22	23	24 5:00pm Luminaire Lighting 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service 11:00pm Christmas Eve Midnight Mass	25 10:00am Christmas Day Service	26	27
28 6:30am Austin Street Shelter Breakfast	29	30	31 New Years Eve			

