



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Serving God's Community through
Worship, Outreach and Fellowship

December 2025

Sunday School for adults 8:45-9:45am
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Church Office: 540-382-2223 / OSLCoffice@oslc-cburg.org

Weekly office hours: Tuesday - Thursday 10am-3pm or by appointment

Church Website: www.oslc-cburg.org

Worship and Music:

This month we begin our extended Advent celebration.

Why a 40-Day Advent?

This year OSLC will observe a 40-day Advent season, echoing early Christian traditions in which Advent, like Lent, was kept as a season of spiritual preparation and renewal. Long before Advent became primarily a festive countdown to Christmas, it was a time of prayer, repentance, intentional waiting, and hope—a season inviting believers to prepare not only for Christ's birth, but also for His coming again in glory.

Shaped by Lutheran faith and practice, this extended 40-day observance grounds us in Word and Sacrament, calling us to turn again to God's promises, examine our lives, and renew our trust in God's redeeming work. Just as Lent prepares us for Easter, this deeper Advent journey prepares us for the mystery of the Incarnation, opening our hearts to receive Christ with faith, humility, and expectation.

Advent Events:

Advent Vespers:

Theme: "Preparing to Prepare"

Before we get to the joy of Christmas Day there is a lot of preparing, we do in our lives; meals to make, gifts to buy, halls to deck, travel plans to coordinate. The list goes on and on. All too often, our season of anticipated joy turns into a season of exhaustion and overwhelming emotions and let down. We will journey through the realities of the Advent Season and prepare to prepare well together for the coming of our Lord.

- Nov 12 – 6:00pm Service (No Meal)
- Nov 19 – 6:00pm (No Meal)
- Nov 26 - No Service, but instead an opportunity for the community to participate in feeding a meal to our To Our House guests as our form of worship for the week.
- Dec 3 - 5:30pm Soup Supper & 6:00pm Service
- Dec 10 - 5:30pm Soup Supper & 6:00pm Service
- Dec 17 - 5:30pm Soup Supper & 6:00pm Service

Advent Evening Bible Study:

Time spent in the Word together. Pastor Joel leads us in conversation through the book of Romans. How does Paul's context for this letter relate to the world today? And how does the original Greek language effect how we should be reading this letter to the early Church?

- Dec 1 – 6:00pm
- Dec 8 – 6:00pm
- Dec 15 – 6:00pm
- Dec 22 – 6:00pm

Hanging of the Greens:

Help us decorate the campus and sanctuary for the Advent season on **Sunday, Dec 7**, following worship and fellowship.

A Night of New Music featuring the Compositions of Ethan Stinson, our Director of Music, is **Thursday, December 11, at 7:00 pm** in Davis Performance Hall in the Covington Center, Radford University. Admission is free. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our support for Ethan.

PMO Christmas Play:

Our PMO kiddos will present a Christmas performance on **Thursday, Dec 18**, at 10:30am. Come support their hard work and cheer them on as they celebrate the season together.

Caroling as a Church:

We will meet at the church at **4pm on Friday, Dec 19**, to go and carol at local care facilities as a way of sharing the Christmas Spirit with those persons! Join us in lifting our voices in song! We usually decide on a place to grab some dinner together after we are done that evening.

Longest Night Service:

On **Monday, Dec 22, at 4:00pm**. A Longest Night Service (also called a Blue Christmas service) offers space for those who find the holiday season difficult due to grief, loss, illness, or struggle.

Through prayer, scripture, quiet reflection, and candlelight, we acknowledge our pain and seek God's comfort and hope in the midst of darkness.

Christmas Eve Worship:

Our traditional Christmas worship will take place at **7:00pm on Christmas Eve**. Bring a friend and come celebrate in song and word the coming of the Christ child!

Lessons and Carols:

Sunday, December 28. We will celebrate the coming of Christ in song and reading the Good News together as a community!

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, Dec 10, at 1:30 pm**, to discuss, "The Mailman," by Stephen Starring Grant.

Learning to Live Together (LT2)

LT2 has no scheduled meeting in December. Contact John Hess for information.

Christmas Brass Concert at Luther Memorial, is **Sunday, December 14, at 2:00 pm** admission is free, but please bring a non-perishable food item for their food pantry.

Red Cross Blood Drive at OSLC: Thursday, December 18 from 1-6pm. Visit www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment.

Fellowship:

Kay Johnson will reach out to the current point-people and see if they want to continue serving as helpers to the volunteers. Additional point-people are welcome.

The Sunday after Christmas (Dec 28) is Treats and Games Sunday. Bring treats and games to share.

And, as always, we need Fellowship volunteers! It can just be coffee, water, and tea, or more. It's completely up to you!

Thank you for the tremendous support you give to Fellowship!

Preacher's 'Tiquers

Love antiquing? Love good food and fellowship? Come join us in a carpooling effort to visit area antique shops together and participate in some table fellowship with your siblings in Christ!

| Month | Day | Where | Early Lunch at | Departure Time |
|----------|---------------|---|-------------------------|----------------|
| November | Friday, 14th | Snoopers & Old Fort Antique Mall - Whytheville | High Plains BBQ | 9:00am |
| December | Saturday, 6th | Berglund Center - 10th Annual Holiday Craft and Vendor Show | Jack Brown's Burger Bar | 8:30am |

Comfort Clothes Ministry

Contact Lorin Crowder: lorinhcrowder@gmail.com or (540) 449-6475.

Help needed to...

- Shop for clothes at MCEAP
- Sort the clothes to remove strings, etc.
- Deliver clothes to Radford hospital
- Please contact Lorin

Goal: to organize an ongoing clothing drive to supplement clothing supply to St. Albans.

Why? *Clothes that patients are wearing when they are admitted may sometimes be marked with signs of addiction, suicide attempts, or other aspects of mental illness, and seeing this can be distressing to the patients later in their stay.*

List of items needed

What? Gently used (no holes or stains) clothing for male and female patients. Sizes Small to 4XL. Shoes are also needed. Slip on shoes are best. Laces will be removed and then sent with the patient upon discharge.

Shirts Hoodies Jackets Pants Jeans Shoes

Restrictions:

- No strings (or ability to cut/remove strings)
- No hard metal on clothing (zippers are allowed)
- No explicit language, drug/alcohol references, offensive topics
- No short shorts
- No skirts, dresses or nightgowns
- No see-through, severely low-cut or tank tops
- No underwires or adjustable-strap bras - sports bras are best
- No used undergarments

When? Comfort clothes collection - once/season.

- **Winter collection - delivery for the end of January, 2026**
- Spring collection - delivery for mid-April
- Summer collection - delivery for mid-July

Where? Please place clothing articles on table near choir room.



Parents Morning Out

Invites you to a Christmas Program

Thursday, December 18

by the students of OSLC PMO

Please arrive at 10:30am;

Program begins at 10:45am in the OSLC Sanctuary

Refreshments afterwards in our fellowship hall

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Refreshments will be served afterwards in our fellowship hall***

Update from PMO - November, 2025

Currently 13 students are enrolled. Teachers – Lorin, Nikki, Brittany

1. PMO is now open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
2. Christmas program on December 18 at 10:30.
3. Program to re-register with VDOE before December 22. The fire marshal and the rep from the health department have visited and issued the proper documentation.
4. PMO parents and teachers provided a meal for TOH on November 19.
5. It is remarkable to observe the maturity and growth of the students, particularly the 3-year-olds. It is a joy to work with the students and their families.

Currents: Young Adult Ministry

This group has gotten off to a great start and are looking to up our meeting times and add in some fun excursions to the mix. We will meet twice in November;

December 12 – Christmas Party and \$15 White Elephant Exchange at the Antley's

We have a Discord group now to keep in touch and share of updates! Add yourself to the Current's group by scanning the QR code:



OSLC Food Ministry:

Scope of OSLC's Food Ministry Program – Update

OSLC Food Ministry Program, in its current form/scope began with the COVID outbreak in 2020 and the construction of the Little Free Pantry on the church grounds. Currently, the program total congregation's donations equal \$114,000+ since 2020 and the total weight of food items provided is over 44 tons. Currently, in 2025 the program is providing food items to over 185 special need students in enCircle (formerly known at Lutheran Family Services) schools in Roanoke, Lynchburg, Wytheville, Bristol and Big Stone Gap (Wise County) and 20 special need adults in seven group homes in Salem/Roanoke and Bedford areas. This is in addition to those

supported by the Little Free Pantry at the westerly edge of the Church parking lot. I have renamed it "The Little House on the Prairie."

The Thrive network is working to foster connection and collaboration to amplify support to food insecure in the NRV. This is a service of the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. Find OSLC Little Free Pantry in the new updated version of the resource guide.

<https://cfnrv.org/thrive-food-access-network/>

MCEAP wrapping booth volunteers and the sign-up genius begins Black Friday-Christmas Eve.

OSLC members can volunteer individually or team up with a friend. The booth will be in the Uptown Mall, as has previously been, at the former Zales Jewelry site. Visit <https://mceap.com> and click on "Wrapping for a Reason"

Montgomery County Christmas Store

Find information at: Mcchristmasstore.org for donation times and opportunities for in person volunteering. Financial contributions are welcomed year-round and used to buy new items as sale opportunities present. The Christmas Store works with MCEAP to serve the community PO Box 6154, Christiansburg VA 24068-6154

Montgomery County Baby Shop sponsored by St. Paul United Methodist (housed in the activity Center behind the church in Christiansburg) and Blacksburg Presbyterian Church. Find more information on Face Book or phone: 540-391-0441

Provides clothing and other essentials, including books! for babies up to size 5T Current needs are for 4T and 5T size clothing, winter coats and snowsuits, shoes sizes 8-12. Families from the whole of Montgomery County and parts of Radford are served. Clients contact the Baby Store and request needed items and a bag is packed for pick up. Volunteers are welcome to help sort and bag donations and help with client pick-ups. This ministry came about when a CHIP grant that had helped, was no longer funded and folks knowledgeable came together to provide the service in partnership with the two churches.

THANK YOU!!!

To Jan and Joanne Jackson who have been on call and on task for all of the November TOH program housed at OSLC.

To the OSLC members and staff volunteers who put in hours of time and resource to provide meals, staying overnight and completing the numerous duties associated, doing laundry, helped set up, take down and clean the Fellowship Hall, kitchen and rest rooms and tend to other services needed by the program and guests.

To **the donors and volunteers** who installed the lighting on the OSLC sign in front of OSLC.

To **Dale Schutt** for service as a trustee and to **Jan Jackson, Amy McPherson, and Allan Bookout**, elected to serve as trustees for a 5-year term as trustees.

To **the Altar Guild and all volunteers** keeping the sanctuary appointed with the many changes with the Holy Days observed to close out a church year and move into the new year that starts with Advent. It is easy to take for granted the elements of communion, the parament changes, the flowers, the bulletins and the crew staffing the media booth to allow others outside the church building to participate in worship and congregational meetings.