



### **Worship Schedule**

9:00 am-Sunday School, Coffee hour

10:00 am-Worship

### **Staff**

Chris Heinold, Pastor

Martha Hawk, Music Dir.

Abai Curtiss, Office Admin.

Carolynn Bailey, Organ/  
Keyboard

### **Council and Officers**

Allan Forsman, President

Frankie Lane-Odiorne,  
Vice President

Alex Bolger, Secretary

Paul Gregory, Treasurer/  
Finance

Karen Wilson, Fin. Sec.

Tom Marshall-Support

Property

Stewardship

Zach Olsen-Worship

Worship/Music

Media/Technology

Diane Bolger-Service

Outreach

Ricki Doty-Learning

Christian Education, Youth

Tandy Hobbs-Witness, Inreach

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

212 Sunset Drive

Johnson City, TN 37604

423-282-2313

Email: [office@oslc.church](mailto:office@oslc.church)

Web: [www.oslc.church](http://www.oslc.church)

*News articles are due by January 19  
to appear in February NewSense.*

# NewSense

Newsletter

January 2026

## A note from Pastor Chris

Thank you, Our Saviour Lutheran Church. And thanks be to God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord that by the power of the Holy Spirit, your prayers and voices have called me to be your pastor!

My family and I were blessed by that weekend in October when we got to meet some of you in-person. We ate together. We laughed together. We listened. And we prayed together. My family and I sensed the Spirit's presence through your tremendous hospitality.

We are moving to Johnson City from Shiner, a small town in south Texas with a population of barely 2,000. Our daughter, Kayla, will be a freshman at Science Hill and our son, Joseph, will be a 5th grader at Lake Ridge Elementary. Their new schools will be a big change from Shiner ISD where PreK – 12th Grade are located all on a single campus, and the entire Freshman class has a total of 50 students! Yet Kayla and Joseph are excited to be part of the Johnson City school system and to make new friends and have new experiences.

My wife, Gemayel, is a pharmacist. She worked for 16 years as a staff pharmacist in a hospital setting where she routinely dispensed everything from pediatric medications to oncology medications. She even had the opportunity to be a preceptor who trained pharmacy students on internship. Gemayel is in the process of getting her license transferred to the State of Tennessee and will be looking for a job once we get settled into our new home.

I come from a long line of Texas Lutherans—both my parents and grandparents share this faith. On Palm Sunday of 1996, Gemayel and I were confirmed together at Martin Luther Lutheran Church (ELCA), a small congregation outside Victoria, Texas. We returned to the same church to be married in December 2005. After earning my Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest (located in Austin), I was ordained in June of 2008. Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Johnson City will be the third congregation I have had the privilege to serve.

Serving the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ is a calling. It's the reason my family would pack up our belongings and move 1100 miles to Tennessee. It's the same reason we load up our families in the car and drive across town on Sunday mornings to church. It's the reason we bring our children to Sunday School and the reason we give our faithful offerings, all because Christ calls us to be disciples.

My first Sunday as your pastor will be January 4, the day the church celebrates the Epiphany of Our Lord. Just as Christ was revealed to the world as the Word made flesh, I look forward to seeing how Christ will be revealed in my ministry through Our Saviour Lutheran Church. I look forward to seeing how we can be disciples, together, as the church.

Peace,

Pastor Chris Heinold

# Annual Congregation Meeting

At the Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 11th, we will be voting on the proposed 2026 budget. We will also be electing council members for any of the open positions.

Council positions that are open are:

Treasurer

Secretary

Worship and Music

Outreach

The council has put forth the following nominations:

Treasurer: Paul Gregory – for a 2 year term ending in January 2028

Secretary: Alex Bolger – for a 2 year term ending in January 2028

Worship and Music: Zach Olsen - for a 2 year term ending in January 2028

Outreach – open nomination - for a 2 year term ending in January 2028

Nominations can be taken from the floor at the congregational meeting.

Council members returning are:

President: Allan Forsman – Term ending January 2027

Vice President: Frankie Lane Odiorne – Term ending January 2028

Christian Education: Ricki Doty – Term ending January 2027

Inreach: Tandy Hobbs – Term ending January 2028

Property: Tom Marshall – Term ending January 2027

# The Melting Pot



Our Melting Pot crew will meet on January 13 & 14 (mornings) to prepare meals and help with delivery. If you would like to volunteer to help feed the homeless and needy people of our community, contact Sharon Harshman at [sharonharshman1@gmail.com](mailto:sharonharshman1@gmail.com) or call 423-282-0400.

## Melting Pot Clothing Collection for the Winter:

Melting Pot is collecting winter clothing, including outerwear, socks, underwear, long sleeved shirts, long pants, etc., to donate to the homeless and less fortunate. Please put the donations in the large box in the hallway for us to deliver with our monthly meals.

## Unity Circle

Unity Circle meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1pm. Our current study is on the book of James. All women of the church are invited to join us.

## Caring Cabinet

Wow! Do you believe in Santa? The guy with the white beard, the one that pops up around this time of year? Well I know for a fact that a secret Santa has been at work around OSLC! The Caring Cabinet has been blessed with gloves, hats, scarves, socks, maylar (emergency) blankets and hand warmers. I feel sure we have the best dressed homeless population in the area and I also feel sure that the Santa's at OSLC got a little nudge from the BIG SANTA upstairs. Our needs currently are:



- **Socks (for men and women) • Small sizes of shampoo and deodorant**
- **Canned soup, ravioli, spaghetti's, etc (with zip-top lids)**
- **Individually wrapped crackers or breakfast bars**

## COME JOIN US!



**Primetimers** will be meeting on Wednesday, January 7th. We will gather in the church library at 11:00 am for a short meeting. Afterwards we will head to lunch at Friebergs. Diane Bolger is our host. Sharon Harshman will send out an RSVP email a week before. Hope to see you! For

more information contact Sharon at 423-282-0400  
or sharonharshman1@gmail.com

### **Veterans' and Active Military**



Every month there is a devotional breakfast at Golden Corral at 8:30 am. Bring a friend or two for good fellowship and food on January 3. Price is currently \$10.89 a person with a senior discount offered.

### **Lutheran Guys and Gals Lunch**

January's LGG lunch will be on Thursday the 22nd at Kickback Jack's at 11:45am. For more information contact Sharon at 423-282-0400 or sharonharshman1@gmail.com.

### **Cover Girls**

Meet on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays (January 13 & 27). No quilting experience is necessary. Contact Lu Mattson at 423.767.8180 if you are interested in helping or just drop by.

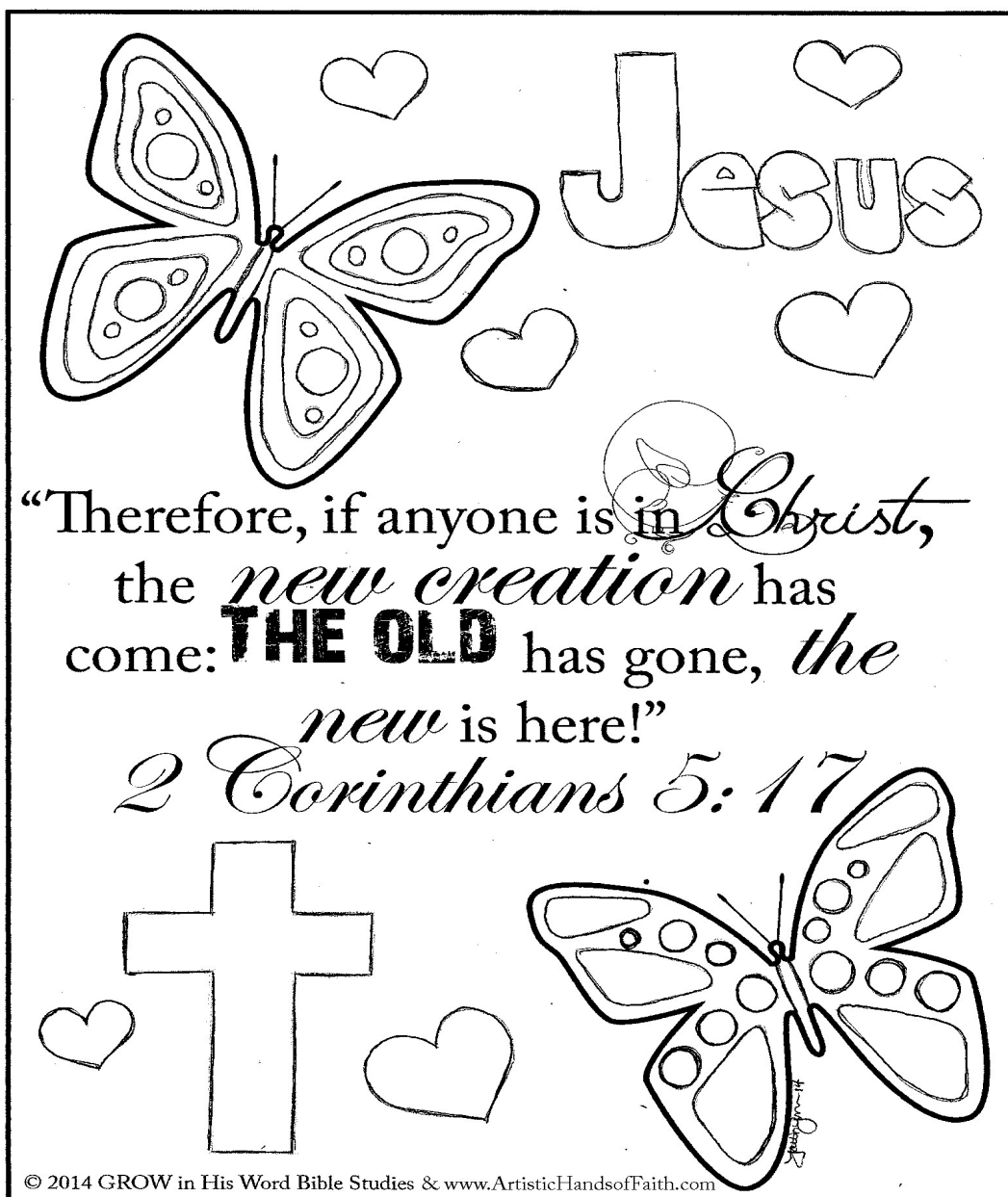


**Looking for a warm, cozy Gift.** For a donation of only \$50 you can get a quilt to give to a loved one. See Lu Mattson if you would like a quilt.



## Food Pantry

A HUGE 'Thank You' to everyone that participated in the Reverse Advent Project. We were able to collect lots of boxes of food. Your donation of food products will go a long way in feeding the hungry and helping those that have hit a low spot. Please let anyone that you know that might need food, or have a connection to someone needing food, it is available through our church office. They just need to ask for it. Currently our office does have limited hours, so it might be a good idea to call the office (423-282-2313) to arrange for a pickup time. Again, thanks to everyone! Your generosity is humbling. Have questions? Ask Susan or Mike Kirkland



# Christian Ed/Children's Sunday School Happenings

- Children's Sunday School is held each Sunday at Grace Place.
- We need teacher volunteers—All lessons and activities are planned for you. Each week there are other adults that help. You can sign up for as many or as few Sundays as you like. Please consider working with our wonderful children.

## Coffee Host



Hosts are needed for the coffee fellowship Sunday mornings at 9:00.

Responsibilities are: brew coffee, set out sugars, creamers, bring something to share, clean up after service. If you have any questions, see Tandy Hobbs. Signup sheet is located outside the kitchen on the InReach board.

## InReach

January 4th (Sunday after the service in the Fellowship hall)

In-Reach will host an informal coffee, cake, get acquainted and welcome to OSLC social for Pastor Chris and family. Everyone is invited!

January 17th (Saturday 2pm to 4pm in the Fellowship hall) -

In-Reach will host an afternoon of fun filled Bingo. Therefore, we need your assistance in providing prizes. Think about what you or a youth would like and make that

donation. Snacks and beverages will be served. We need at least 20 people to sign up to hold the event so get your name on the sign up sheet outside the kitchen where we hang out!

January 18th (Sunday after the service in the library) - In-Reach will be meeting to plan socials for the coming year. All members are asked to attend and anyone else interested. Please bring your ideas!

God's Peace,

In-Reach



## News From the Kitchen

With the 9:00 am social hour on Sundays, many more people are using the kitchen. So, it is time for some reminders.

Because we have the Melting Pot program, Health Department personnel come periodically to inspect our kitchen. They can shut down the program if we are found to be out of compliance. The rules for the kitchen are as follows:

- Large quantities of unlabeled food in the refrigerator or freezer are for the Melting Pot program. Foods put in the refrigerator or freezer by other groups or individuals **must be labeled** with names of responsible parties and the date. They will be disposed of at the 'use by' date.
- **Unlabeled food not for Melting Pot will be thrown away.**
- In the storage area behind the kitchen, three shelves are assigned to the Melting Pot program. Please do not take items from those shelves or store other items there.
- Try to put things where they belong on the labeled shelves so everyone can find what they are looking for.

Thank you from your kitchen volunteers for helping us to keep our kitchen clean, organized and in compliance.



Happy New Year! We took a couple of weeks off of practice in December but are back on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm. We encourage all to take this opportunity to learn new music and fellowship with other members of the congregation as we prepare music for worship.

Please continue to feel welcome to reach out with questions or ideas to Martha by email to [c.hawkvocalstudio@gmail.com](mailto:c.hawkvocalstudio@gmail.com) or text 423-646-1233.

Martha



# JANUARY 2026

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY          | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                        |
|---|---|---|--|-------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  | 01                | 02     | 03<br>8:30am-Vet's<br>Breakfast |
| 04<br>9am-Sunday<br>School/Coffee<br>10am-Worship/<br>Welcome Social                | 05  | 06  | 07<br>9am-2pm-PDO<br>11am-PrimeTimers<br>4:30pm-Choir & Band                       | 08<br>6pm-NAMI    | 09     | 10                              |
| 11<br>9am-Sunday<br>School/Coffee<br>10am-Worship/Annual<br>Congregational Mtg      | 12<br>9am-2pm-PDO   | 13<br>9am-Melting Pot<br>10-12-Cover Girls<br>6:30-Council Mtg                      | 14<br>8am-Melting Pot<br>9am-2pm-PDO<br>4:30pm-Choir & Band                        | 15                | 16     | 17<br>InReach Bingo<br>2-4pm    |
| 18<br>9am-Sunday<br>School/Coffee<br>10am-Worship<br>11am-InReach                   | 19<br>9am-2pm-PDO   | 20<br>1pm-Unity Circle  | 21<br>9am-2pm-PDO<br>4:30pm-Choir & Band   | 22<br>11:45am-LGG | 23     | 24                              |
| 25<br>9am-Sunday<br>School/Coffee<br>10am-Worship                                   | 26<br>9am-2pm-PDO   | 27<br>10-12-Cover Girls   | 28<br>9-2-PDO<br>4:30pm-Choir & Band   | 29                | 30     | 31                              |



# Birthdays in January



|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 4-Paul Gregory       | 20-Sylvia Beckelhimer |
| 4-Don McGaughey      | 21-Chuck Scheurer     |
| 8-Toni King          | 22-Ricki Doty         |
| 8-Zach Olsen         | 22-Chris Epperson     |
| 9-Ralph Easton       | 24-Tom Loveday        |
| 10-Lu Matson         | 25-Shane Barger       |
| 11-Jennifer Bauer    | 26-Travis Pennell     |
| 13-Valerie Halverson | 28-Pam Booker         |
| 16-Jerry Halverson   | 30-Phoebe Sand        |

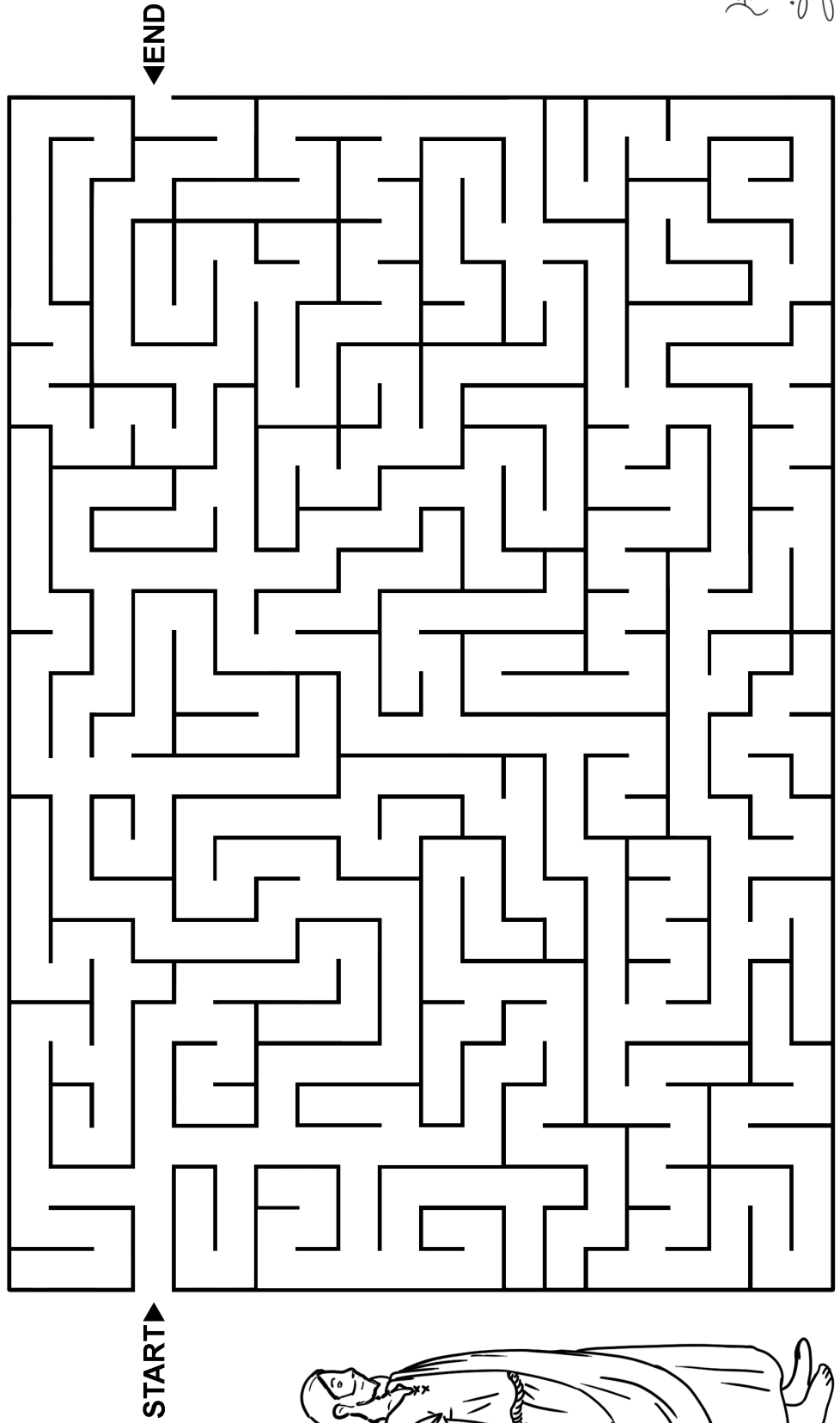
Thank  
you  
Volunteers

## Volunteer Schedule for January

| Date   | Lector  | Usher           | Acolyte  | Tellers           | Comm. Asst. | A/V               | Prayer Shawls              | Altar Guild |
|--|---------|-----------------|----------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Jan 4 @ 10am   | Julia   | Jason & Teresa  | Tom      | T & T Hobbs       | Ted         | Bryon & Laura     | Shilling Neas              | R. Keffer   |
| Jan 11 @ 10am  | Allan   | Carmen & David  | Victoria | McGaughey, Wilson | Melissa     | Bryon & Patty     | Martin, Mattson, Raye      | R. Keffer   |
| Jan 18 @ 10am  | Janeen  | Cheryl & Dallas | Sophia   | JBP, Huff         | Diane       | Bryon & Travis H. | Milliken, Zinser, Chalkley | R. Keffer   |
| Jan 25 @ 10am  | Alliese | Travis P & JBP  | Asher    | Forsman, Martelli | Brenda      | Bryon & Laura     | McCoy, Hamilos, Proffitt   | R. Keffer   |
| <b>Greeters for Jan:</b><br><b>David &amp; Becky Hamilos</b> |         |                 |          |                   |             |                   |                            |             |

# FOLLOW THE MAZE-IAH

Throughout the New Testament, Jesus calls us to follow him. Can you follow Jesus to the end of this maze?



*Julia Foreman*