

DECEMBER MAST Merry Christmas



Our Christmas/Advents schedule

Saturday, December 7	9 am, Holiday Market
Sunday, December 8	9:30 am service Second Sunday in Advent, PEACE
Wednesday, December 11	Noon, Advent Service and meal
Sunday, December 15	9:30 am Service Third Sunday in Advent Service of Joy Cookie Exchange Congregational Meeting, for 2025 budget
Wednesday, December 18	Noon, Advent Service and meal
Thursday, December 19	5:30 pm, Preschool staff Christmas Party.
Saturday, December 21	9 am, Quilt Guild Christmas meeting 7 pm, The Longest Night
Sunday, December 22	9:30 am Service Fourth Sunday in Advent Service of love
Tuesday, December 24	CHRISTMAS EVE 4 pm, service of Love 9 pm, Service of Love



If you need a ride, please call the church office: 638-4673

**Lord of Life
Lutheran Church**
2801 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
912-638-4673, lollssi2014@gmail.com
Pastor - Bob Kasting
Music Director - Mary Monroe,
Council President - Tom Comer





Crafty Christmas Cottage Contest

The elves have been busy creating and now is it time to vote for your favorite. Place money or a promissory note in the box that corresponds with the cottage of your choice, Voting remains open until the 15th of December. The winner will be announced in church on the 22nd

The winner of the "Best"* cottage will be determined by the total amount of money collected.

Christmas Cheer!

Healing Anointment

Throughout the four Sundays in Advent, a healing anointment will be offered. If you sense a need for healing in your life or the life of a friend or loved one, the healing anointment will be a gesture of healing with the sign of the cross on the forehead in oil.

How will this happen? After you have communed and are leaving the altar rail, a church council member will be stationed in front of the organ and in front of the pulpit. If you desire to be anointed, walk up to a healing anointer and receive the sign of the cross on your forehead; then make your way back to your seat by the side aisle.

You may receive the anointment for yourself or simply whisper the name for whom you are praying. The healing anointer will place the sign of the cross on your forehead and say, "Receive this oil as a sign of healing in Jesus Christ."

*"Is any one of you sick?
He should call the elders of the church to pray over him
and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord."
James 5:14*

Seafarer's Christmas Collection

Thank you to all who took time to purchase necessities for the Seafarers Christmas Boxes. Thrivent, through the Long's membership, donated an additional \$250.00.

From the Music Director



I was reflecting, as I often do, on our community that is Lord of Life; on those many hands that are busy doing God's work that goes unseen by most until Sunday morning comes and things are just done, projects are completed, or mission work to those outside of our community walls has been fulfilled. It is wonderful when we are able to work together like a 'well oiled' machine serving only one purpose....to glorify our God .

Thanks be to God that we are a community that is able to see God's reality in everything that we do and in the lives that we will touch during this season. Thanks be to God that the songs in our hearts during this season of hope and anticipation will not reflect "jingling bells" but will resound with "hearts prepared and glad sounds of our Savior coming!" Thanks be to God that the many hands that are Lord of Life will spread the message of Advent to all whom we encounter, whether we are many in number in that moment, or just one. Happy Advent Lord of Life....go in peace with great anticipation in your hearts of what is to come, and spread the 'good' news.

Mary Monroe

Raffle of Tony Couch Painting



Thank-you to those who already picked up your raffle ticket packets. Each of us is being asked to sell tickets to help with our expenses. Tickets are \$10.00 each or 6 for \$50.00.

Packets are due back Sunday, December 1. The drawing for the Tony Couch painting will take place Saturday, December 7 at the Holiday Market. Packets are available in the church office.



MANNA HOUSE



Please let Virginia Lensch know (Phone: 912-638-3425, Email: vlensch@bellsouth.net) if you would like to be a part of the kitchen crew to help prepare sandwiches or iced tea or to assemble bags on December 12th.

We will need 8-10 team members in the kitchen at 9:00 AM to prepare lunch and assemble the bagged lunches. We will also need members to hand out lunches at the door. To hand out lunches, please come at 11:00 AM.

Lord of Life is scheduled to serve at Manna House on the second Thursday of each month.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our study of the Parables of Jesus has resumed classes on Sunday at 8:15 AM. The parable will be "The Friend at Midnight," based on Luke 11:1-11.

Virginia Lensch

The holidays are upon us. Remember to pick up your casserole dishes, holiday plates and platters from the church kitchen. There is a limited amount of cupboard and storage space for these extra items.



If you borrowed an item from the kitchen, please return it. Those who use the kitchen on a regular basis count on it being there. Let's work together to keep our kitchen stocked, clean and user friendly.

Thanks!



Lord of Life Literary Society

Book Club typically meets the fourth Tuesday of the month. Due to the Christmas holidays, there will not be a meeting in December. We will pick up again in January. Happy Reading!

DECEMBER 2024

BIRTHDAYS

Cathy Comer, Dec. 4
 Pat Morris, Dec. 5
 Stephanie Treece, Dec. 5
 Patrick Ferguson, Dec. 8
 Brandon Treece, Dec. 13
 Brenda Tate, Dec. 19
 Patti Neal, Dec. 21

Ellen Kennedy, Dec. 24
 Klaus Schonfeld, Dec. 27
 Larry Bacon, Dec. 28

WEDDING

George & Judy Cressman, Dec. 21
 Erika & Rudolf Bueken, Dec. 23
 Jim & Jody Fraser, Dec. 27
 Bud & Virginia Lensch, Dec. 27

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15 am, Adult SS 9:30 am, Service	2 10 am, Bible Study	3 10 am, Tai Chi	4 9am, Open Sewing	5 10 am, Tai Chi	6 Holiday Market Set Up	7 8 am, Holiday Markett
8 8:15 am, Adult SS 9:30 am, Service	9 10 m, Bible Study	10 10 am, Tai Chi	11 9 am, Open Sew- ing	12 10 am, Tai Chi	13 3:30 pm, Wedding rehearsal	14 3:00 Wedding.
15 8:15 am, Adult SS 9:30 am, Service Cookie Exchange Congregational Meeting	16 10 am, Bible Study	17 10 am, Tai Chi	18 9 am, Open Sew- ing	19 10 am, Tai Chi 5:30 pm, SS Day School Staff Christmas party	20	21 9 am Quilt Guild Meeting THE LONGEST NIGHT
22 8:15 am, Adult SS 9:30 am, Service	23 10 am, Bible Study	24 4 pm, Service of Love 9 pm, Service of Love	25 Christmas Day	26 10 am, Tai Chi	27	28
29 8:15 am, Adult SS 9:30 am, Service	30	31 New Year's Eve				



Operation Christmas Child (OCC) National Collection Week

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

OCC National Collection Week is completed once again! Alleluia! This was Lord of Life's 10th year serving as a Central Drop-Off. Our church was blessed by many individuals, groups and churches from our local community throughout the week as they came to drop off their shoeboxes. As always, there were ample volunteers that joined in the fellowship hall throughout the week, 42 to be exact. Because of all the volunteers, this week was a success! Numerous stories were shared by individuals dropping off shoeboxes telling us how much fun they had shopping and packing their shoebox.

Lord of Life received 1,894 shoeboxes throughout the week (114 from our church family). Along with the other three Drop-Off Centers; Altamaha Baptist Church, Jesup; First Baptist Church of St. Mary's, St. Mary's; and CenterPoint Church, Brunswick, we shipped 447 cartons (6,669 shoeboxes) via two 28-foot trailers to the Samaritan Purse Processing Center in Atlanta on Tuesday, November 26th. That is 246 more shoeboxes than in 2023. After they are processed, they will then be sent all over the world and 6,669 children will receive a gift filled with love and also be given the opportunity to learn about Jesus in hopes of a new spiritual relationship.

A big thank you to everyone who participated with Operation Christmas Child! If you volunteered, packed a shoebox or simply prayed, you were involved. Once again, the community effort and spirit involved in this ministry became contagious as the week progressed. This ministry builds community within and outside our church walls. When was the last time you had an opportunity to participate in affecting 6,669 lives? Please continue praying for this ministry and the millions of children touched by it.

In His Mighty & Holy Name, we all humbly serve,
Mary Ellen

DID YOU KNOW...

The Advent Wreath is one of the best-known customs for the season of Advent:



The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, the crown of Christ or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks in Advent and the growth of light out of the darkness.

Mary Martha Circle will help set up and sell books for the Book Sale on Saturday with the Holiday Market . Help set up on Friday and Saturday (the 5th and 6th) Come b the Holiday Market at 8 am to help sell.



THANKSGIVING





Sparrows Nest

The season of giving is upon us and the need for food continues. Here is a list of items that would be welcomed this time of year.

Powdered or Boxed Milk

Vegetable/Crisco Oil

Salt, Pepper, Spices

Coffee/Tea

Sugar

Flour

Cake Mix/Frosting

Rice A Roni

Dish Soap

Paper Towel

Toilet Paper

Feminine Products

Diapers

Baker Soda/Powder

Stove Top Stuffing

Pasta Sauce



Come, Let Us Pray



What looks impossible to man is possible with God...and it all starts with a single prayer. *I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Isaiah 38:5.*

During this season of Christmas, let us give the gift of prayer for each other by praying through the church directory and lifting the names of each member to God, aloud or silently.

Directories are available in the church office.





Do you like to shop for Christmas gifts or do you dread even starting the shopping and going into the store? Do you enjoy the methodical process of selecting the perfect gift for someone on your list or do you just pick the closest item at hand?

By the time you have read this, I will be, (nope not this year) one of the millions of people who go up on Friday, yes Black Friday and had gone shopping. It is a day that is notorious for frenzied shoppers, looking for the great bargains, usually in the wee early hours of the day. Have you ever been out for the black Friday shopping spree?

When my kids were young, I asked them in mid-November what they wanted Santa to bring them so I could start making my list to help Santa. Plus, I enjoyed myself; yes, I know I am weird, going out and shopping on Black Friday. For me it was a tradition in the household that we go shopping on Friday AM to get some really great bargains. I know some of you have gone out on that Friday. I comb through the ads on Thursday to find the best deals and to check other ads to get matching discounts if possible. I grumble when the alarm goes off at 4 but I will persevere. Walking through the doors of the first store by 4:30 with cash in hand to begin my shopping. Off I go looking for those great deals that I found in the ads, and as I shop I try to bring good cheer to others who look perplexed and sleep deprived as myself. I offer kind words of encouragement to the employees who seem to get attacked with ferocity by the other stealth shoppers seeking the best buys also, and yes I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

I know as you are reading this you are thinking, "*Pastor Bob, you were nuts!*" Yep you are right, but I loved it. I love selecting the gifts for the kids and my family and friends. I love the anticipating faces and reactions on Christmas morning. The gifts that I purchased on Friday are usually the most special, because their tags always reflect the true giver.

Mary and Joseph anticipated the birth of Christ. Elizabeth's baby jumped in her womb when Mary visited Elizabeth's home and she exclaimed in a LOUD voice "*Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear.*" Angels triumphantly announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds. The Magi followed a star for a very long time (willingly) and offered gifts to this precious child, and a king-a man of power and great wealth feared him.

Do you triumphantly announce the birth of Christ? Do you leap with joy at the greatest gift you will ever receive? Do you proclaim God's love loudly? Do you give thanks to God for HIS peace, HIS Hope, HIS Joy, HIS Love? Do you share these gifts with others?

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Bob

