A Note from the Pastor...

“The Manger in Which Christ Lies”

We can thank a man by the name of Johannes von Staupitz for directing Martin Luther to the Scriptures. Staupitz was the Dean of the Theological Department at the university in Erfurt and “father confessor” of Martin Luther. It was Staupitz who recognized that Luther wasn’t going to find any peace within himself or even in the austere rituals of the monastery. Therefore, he pointed him to Christ – the Christ of the Scriptures that bear witness about Him. Hence, in 1523 Martin Luther published his German translation of the Pentateuch – that is the first five books of the Bible – Genesis through Deuteronomy – and there is a marvelous little preface to them which lays the groundwork as to how to read the Scriptures.

There are some who have little regard for the Old Testament. They think of it as a book... out of date, containing only stories of past times... But Christ says in John 5, “Search the Scriptures, for it is they that bear witness to me”... [T]he Scriptures of the Old Testament are not to be despised but diligently read... Therefore, dismiss your own opinions and feelings and think of the Scriptures as the loftiest and noblest of holy things, as the richest of mines which can never be sufficiently explored, in order that you may find that divine wisdom which God here lays before you in such simple guise as to quench all pride. Here you will find the swaddling cloths and the manger in which Christ lies... Simple and lowly are these swaddling cloths, but dear is the treasure, Christ, who lies in them.”

Luther’s Works – Volume 35 pp 235-236

This serves to remind us that the purpose of the Scriptures – Old and New – is Christ, the Lord. At this time of the year you will drive around town and you will still see a few of those placards that stick in the ground and say, “Jesus is the Reason for the Season.” A good reminder because it is easy to get caught up in all the shopping and “stuff” of the season.

We have three mid-week advent services December 6, 13 and 20 at 7:15 pm with the Holden Evening Prayer Service. Our Children’s Service will take place on the 17th with one service at 10:00 am and a fellowship event to follow. Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. The morning service will be an Advent Service – one at 10:00 am (Pastor Alexander preaching). The Christmas Eve Services will be held at 3:00, 7:15 and 10:00pm (Pastor Brandt preaching – 3:00 & 7:15 the same – 10:00pm different). We will hold a single Christmas Day Service at 10:00am (Rev. Dr. Phillip Brandt preaching). There will also only be one service on New Year’s Eve – December 31 at 10:00am. It is a year when Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday – and so we have five worship services within 25 hours of each other.

Though you will get this at the beginning of the month – “Merry Christmas! And may the Lord bless you richly in the year to come!

Pastor Brandt
Jr. Youth Scoop

Some of the November happenings...

Fall gatherings - Veteran’s Day weekend was certainly an exciting time for our Jr. Youth. Two simultaneous events—“Believe” at Rolling Hills Church, and “Beyond Believe” at Living Savior—were offered, with lodging at Living Savior for all. In addition, we extended the invitation to our 5th Graders to attend the first night of “Beyond Believe.” In all, a total of 20 young people attended these two events! A special thanks to the 6 adults from our church family who volunteered their time to present learning stations Friday night and to the adults who chaperoned both events and those who prepared the wonderful meals! A special hug to our Living Savior Ladies Group who hosted the youth at their Saturday morning breakfast.

Bible class - We are averaging 8 youth at our Sunday morning C.R.E.W. class. In addition, three guests (invited by members of our class) have visited us, one of whom is now attending regularly!

Sr. Youth Bible class - In this 500th Anniversary year, the youth wanted to learn more about the Reformation, so we did a study on the four “solas” (alone) of the Reformation: faith alone, grace alone, scripture alone, and Christ alone. We have averaged 8 youth in our class.

Thanksgiving meals/lock-in - Fourteen Sr. Youth (including 4 friends) gathered for our annual all-nighter Lock-in, Friday, November 17. “Thanks” to our 5 chaperons who stayed up all night with them! It was an awesome night of Glow Volleyball, Minute-to-Win-it Games, and 2 1/2 hours of Sardines (a kind of Hide-n-Seek)—not to mention our midnight shopping spree at Winco for all the perishable items for 12 Thanksgiving Meals! Madalyn A. and Lindalynn S. led a devotion on all that Christ has done and does for us as our “go to” person. And at the crack of 8:30am (ugh!), youth and parents loaded up the meals and delivered them to 12 appreciative Tualatin families. Many thanks to Janet H. who coordinated the Thanksgiving Meals project! And “thank you,” Living Savior, for your generous help providing the non-perishable items for the meals.

God is blessing us mightily!
Ginger L, Youth Board Chair

Coming up in December...

Jr. Youth

Sun, December 3 - Progressive Christmas Party (12:15-4:00 pm)
Bring your Blessing Bag items!

Sr. Youth

Sat, December 2 - Group Home Christmas Luncheon (11:30 am) - Come and enjoy!

Sun, December 10 - Progressive Christmas Party (12:00-4:30 pm)
Bring your white elephant & donation to NW Children’s Outreach!

Wed, December 13 - Worship Leaders for Advent Service (7:00 pm)
December 2017 at Preschool

We begin December preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. In preschool we have lots of exciting things happening in the classrooms through art projects and decorations. Our Christmas events include Birthday Party for Jesus, Christmas programs, and class parties which just add to the excitement of baby Jesus’ birth!

In December, children will be continuing the Christmas story. We will learn about the shepherds’ visit from the angels and their trip to see and worship baby Jesus. The week before break we will learn of the wise men who followed the star to Jesus.

Besides all the glitter of Christmas our secular topics this month are the five senses. This topic will be explored through discussions, stories, light brites, smell jars, and tree decorating.

Dramatic play will incorporate the nativity story. Children will be able to dress like Mary and Joseph and the animals in the nativity story.

Birthday Party for Jesus!

Let’s all welcome in the 2017 Christmas season and celebrate the Birth of our Lord and Savior with snacks, craft, storytelling, singing, and birthday cupcakes!

Saturday, December 2nd
9:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Living Savior Fellowship Hall

For all: Preschool & Sunday School children
Siblings * Parents * Grandparents

RSVP: dhornberger@livingsavior-preschool.org

A big thank you goes out to all who bought pies for our preschool fundraiser. We hope you have been enjoying them through this holiday season. You helped the preschool earn $4100! As always, we appreciate your support in prayer and fundraising!

We pray for a joyful Christmas season for everyone!
Merry Christmas!
From Denice & the Preschool Staff
ANTICIPATE THE HOLIDAYS

“One day at a time” and “so far so good” are the themes of people who grieve. However, these responses are a challenge when holidays, anniversaries and birthdays arrive. Grievers often go into overload and lack concentration.

PLAN AHEAD

There are things that a person can do to plan ahead to avoid overloading and creating the best physical as well as emotional environment.

- Prioritize and make lists from gift buying to getting out of bed!
- A good top-to-bottom housecleaning could be a joint family holiday project, or call on those people who have been offering to help.
- Break up monumental (or what seem monumental) undertakings into smaller, more manageable segments. Do something every day to organize your environment.

Top of “the list” should be “prepare Him room” especially the first year when a griever is so overwhelmed by sorrow. It is very easy to lose the meaning of the holiday and yet God whispers in their ear, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matt. 11:28. Put aside the unimportant “to do’s” and concentrate on preparing room in your heart for God and the other things will fall into place in the proper order.

If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, support, and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and walk with you for the duration of your crisis. To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, contact the Church Office.

SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It is that time of year when we buy gifts for loved ones and friends. Some are hard to buy for, so a gift card is a great option. If you decide to give a special someone a gift card, think of SCRIP. There are a ton of vendors that will suit your needs. Scrip is just a gift card and many can be used for online purchases and are national brands that can be used anywhere.

Check out the Personal Order form found at the SCRIP mailbox or on the SCRIP counter. This is one-stop shopping without having to go to the mall. The church makes the profit listed on the form.

Buy SCRIP this holiday season, and every week during the year as well. Cash or checks made out to Living Savior Lutheran Church will be accepted with the order.

Questions? Contact the Church Office.
News from Bethesda

Auxiliary

As we look forward to the season of Advent and then Christmas, I would like to thank the members of the congregation who have signed up for a Christmas wreath. The money from the sale of the wreaths will be added to the funds contributed at the Auxiliary bazaar.

Thanks also to Leonard and Pat D., Jim and Karen G., Jon and Karen H., and Betsy and Kim W. who contributed embellishments or helped in some way with this project.

Special thanks to our wreath maker for making time in his schedule to support the Auxiliary in this way.

God’s richest blessings this Christmas season!

-Sylvia S.

Group Homes

We will continue to share the joy and love of Jesus with our many Group Home friends and their staff. Our mission is to share the love of our Lord with our Group Home Friends and the people who serve them. The Christmas Wish Wreath is in the Narthex with suggestions gifts for Group Home friends and some needed gifts for the homes and gift cards for the staff. Please pick a gift tag, buy the gift, wrap it, add a tag and return it to the church. You can place gift cards ($10) in an envelop in the office. All gifts need to be back in the church by Dec. 17.

The Annual Christmas Service and luncheon will be on December 2, from 12-2:30. It is always a fun event and a great place to meet our friends we support. Let Sylvia S. (503-625-7652) or Kathye G. (503-692-1307) know if you can help as we will be asking for support at the event.

The 5th grade Sunday School class and anyone who would like to celebrate Christmas will be Caroling and taking cookies to the Tualatin homes. The date is to be announced. Information on “What it Means to Be Mentally Challenged” is a class which opens discussion and helps people to understand that we are all challenged in some way and that God loves us all.

Our 2nd (Bethesda) LSLC Connection Program will be Dec. 13. This program is open to the community and is a time to share God’s love for us and to have some fun together. We will need some “fun” people to share in the new get-together. Starting in January we will meet the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Thank you for all the love you share and wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas!

-Kathye G.

Sunday, December 3

Between and after services

The church quilting group, “Pin Pals” will hold their Christmas Boutique Sunday, December 3. It will be set up in the narthex with a wide variety of lovingly hand-made Christmas gifts including table-runners, coffee table center-pieces, jewelry pouches, and holiday themed kitchen items like aprons and pot-holders and even reusable fabric gift-bags to wrap them in.

Proceeds from the sale are used to purchase batting for the quilts and to pay for shipping the quilts to Lutheran World Relief warehouses. Hope to see you there!
Christmas Luncheon

No Regular Thursday meeting in December.

Friday, December 8 — 12:00 NOON  Fellowship Hall
Ham, rolls and beverages will be provided.

There is a sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex for potluck dishes as well as a list for set up and clean up. We appreciate those who have signed up to help, but we can always use more help.

Entertainment will be provided by Living Savior Preschoolers and Company” from Lake Ridge High School. This is a great opportunity for someone who has never attended the Amazing Grays to join us for our biggest event of the year.

Please sign up so we know how many to plan for.
We will have the nominations for the group’s leadership for 2018-2019 and a vote will be taken after the entertainment. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Questions? Contact the Church Office.

Advent Soup Suppers

December 3, 10, and 17 — 5:45pm

Signup in the Narthex for Advent Soup Suppers. We again invite people to bring soup, rolls or bread, and cookies or desserts to share with others. Volunteers to help with setup and cleanup are needed. We truly look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ and this special time of year with all members of the congregation!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Advent devotion booklets are available on display in the narthex. There are a variety to choose from, one that fits you and your family and they are FREE! Families will find ideas in these pamphlets that will create excitement and reverence for the Holy Season.
Angel Tree 2017 makes it possible for us to show the Love of our Lord and Savior to the children we adopt, who will be missing their parent(s) who are in Prison. We will be partnering again this year with Beaverton Rotary.

Members and friends of Living Savior are invited to choose a tag from the tree in the Narthex, record the number, buy a gift and return it with the tag unwrapped in a bag by Wednesday, 6th. Gift wrapping days are Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8th & 9th. Volunteers are needed to deliver gifts which can start as early as Saturday, Dec. 9th. You will be able to set a time that works for both you and your Angel Tree Family for deliveries.

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**Parenting the Love and Logic way!**

**6 Sessions on Wednesdays**

January 3 - February 7

7:00 – 8:30 PM

**Facilitator: Kate Kelleher**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE MORE FUN PARENTING?!

Love and Logic is dedicated to making parenting and teaching fun and rewarding, instead of stressful and chaotic. Love and Logic is a philosophy of raising and teaching children which allows adults to be happier, empowered, and more skilled in the interactions with children. Love allows children to grow through their mistakes. Logic allows children to live with the consequences of their choices. Love and Logic is a way of working with children that puts parents and teachers back in control, teaches children to be responsible, and prepares young people to live in the real world, with its many choices and consequences.

Please complete a Love & Logic Registration Form and submit with $10 fee to the church office. Forms are on the Information Counter in the Narthex. Questions? Contact Heidi Frank at hfrank@livingsavior.org.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT BEFORE JANUARY 3!

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**The Christmas Chorale - A Service of Lessons and Carols**

Featuring the music ensembles of Concordia University.

- **Friday, December 1**  7-8:30pm  St. Michel’s Lutheran Church
- **Saturday, December 2**  7-8:30pm  6700 NE 29th Ave.
- **Sunday, December 3**  3-4:30pm  Portland

Admission is free. Donations are accepted. More information is at www.cu-portland.edu/christmaschorale.
Book Club

January is our month to read a classic. *Anne of Green Gables* was chosen because so many of had not read this wonderful book written in 1908 by Lucy Maud Montgomery. It is a book for all ages and a delightful story of Anne Shirley, an orphan, adopted by Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, a brother and sister living in Avonlea, Prince Edward Island.

We meet the second Saturday of each month, 10:00-11:30 am, September-May. A lively discussion of the book occurs, fellowship is shared and we are refreshed with morning goodies, coffee and tea. Please consider joining the group when you can and invite a friend! There is no obligation to attend every month and no pressure to have the right answers because there are NO right answers. The following is a list of the books that will be read and discussed.

**Coming up . . .**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>No meeting and no book assigned</td>
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<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td><em>Anne of Green Gables</em></td>
<td>L.M. Montgomery</td>
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<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td><em>Astoria</em></td>
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<td>Mar. 10</td>
<td><em>The Secrets of Mary Bowser</em></td>
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<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td><em>The Girl Who Wrote Silk</em></td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td><em>Rise of the Rocket Girls</em></td>
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LIVING SAVIOR SCHOLARSHIP

The Living Savior Scholarship will be awarded in the spring of 2018. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage faith development and higher education in the youth of Living Savior Lutheran Church.

All members of Living Savior between the ages of 17 and 25 are encouraged to apply for one of two $1,000 scholarships to be used in pursuit of a baccalaureate or associate degree during the summer or fall of 2018.

Applications are available between January 1st and March 31st and must be accompanied by an essay on the subject of "What my Christian Faith Means to Me." The winning entry will be chosen by a 3-member panel and the scholarship will be awarded in May.

As members of Living Savior, we need to raise the scholarship funds. You can make a designated contribution directly to the scholarship fund by sending a check to the church and indicating that it is for the "Scholarship Fund" on the face of the check. Please consider making a donation as you plan your end-of-year charitable contributions.

Any questions? Please call Cathy D. or contact the Church Office.

Dinners of Eight

Dinners of Eight, January through March, 2018, returns by popular demand. Our first of three Dinners will be Sunday, January 14, 5-7:00 pm. You may sign up on the "chef" poster in the church narthex until January 7th, 2018. Each month you are asked to sign up. You will be contacted the week of the dinner by the host with the host's address and a request for a side dish.

WHAT: What are Dinners of Eight? They are dinners for about eight participants, to be held at a host's home. Multiple suppers will be going on at various locations on the same day. The host will generally provide the main entrée with other diners bringing a side dish, salad or dessert.

WHY: This is an opportunity to spend more time getting to know each other, renewing friendships, and just having time to talk and enjoy each other's company.

HOSTS NEEDED: Please check the host column on the sign-up sheets in the narthex or contact Karen H.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN: There has also been interest in full family participation in the Dinners of Eight. Families who would like their children to participate in these events at the church in the Fellowship Hall or in a home, please sign the sheet labeled "Families with Children" and indicate if you would be willing to host. A host will call/email others to participate in the potluck. Also indicate the number of children.

DINNER DATES: Sundays, January 14, February 11, March 11, 5:00-7:00 pm.

This is a month by month commitment only.  
Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!
SUPPORT GROUP AT LIVING SAVIOR

We invite you to connect with others at Living Savior who are giving care or have given care to a loved one. Those who are in the midst of care giving could greatly benefit from those who have gone before them. We meet the third Saturday of the month, 9:00am to share resources, encourage one another and fill our spiritual cup. Please join us! Friends of Living Savior Lutheran are welcome to join us as well. You may know someone in the work place or community who would benefit from our group. Questions? Contact the Church Office.

Saturday, December 16, 9:00am
Library
Living Savior Lutheran

“You are those who have stood by me in my trials.” -Luke 22:28

Living Savior has an active team of people who have a heart for those who are unable to attend church because of illness or disabilities. As a visitor to shut ins, they have an opportunity to make a positive difference in someone’s life by visiting and bringing to them fellowship and love from the congregation.

◆ WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT SHUT INS?

Volunteers are trained for this ministry. If you would like to be a part of this ministry or have questions, please contact the Church Office.

◆ NEXT MEETING, Thursday, January 11, 2018, 12:00pm in the Board Room.

◆ DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WE CAN VISIT?
Contact the Church Office.

Many thanks to those who have been contributing items in the purple bag in the corner of the entrance into the Fellowship Hall.

For those who are new to the Community Warehouse, it is like a food bank – only they focus on household goods and furnishings. They are located in Tualatin:
8380 SW Nyberg Street
503-612-0020
M-F, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sat.-Sun. 10:30 am – 4:00 pm

We will continue to collect smaller items that will fit in or next to the purple bag. If you are looking for a worthwhile organization to donate furniture that truly serves needy people in our community, this is a great place. You can either drop it off yourself or they will pick up large items at your house for $30.

For information about Community Warehouse go to:
www.communitywarehouse.org

Most needed items, no missing parts:
Pots & Pans Clean; no excessive wear
Baking Pans & Dishes Clean; no chips, cracks or broken parts
Toasters/Toaster Ovens Working condition
Can Openers
Dressers Good condition; 6 foot or smaller
Mattresses 15 yr. or newer, stain free
Kitchen Tables/Chairs Good condition, 5ft. or smaller
Sleeping Pillows Free from stains & tears
Blankets No electric, no stains & tears
Alarm Clocks Working condition

Come Check Us Out!
Great books & DVD’s for the Christmas holidays!

DVD’s and books are plentiful in our church library. Please take a minute to browse through our inventory. The library is located on the second floor, next to the Upper Room (arched entries). There is self-check out.

Caring for the Caregiver

“We are those who have stood by me in my trials.” -Luke 22:28
What is the greatest gift that you could ask for? If you are out of work, the greatest gift would probably be the security of a job and steady income. If you are paralyzed either physically or emotionally, the greatest gift would be a miraculous healing and restoration of motion. If you are a student, you might ask for the completion of your degree. If you are lonely, the greatest gift might be a friend. If you are a childless couple, your heart’s desire would be the gift of a child. If you have cancer, you would probably ask for successful radiation treatment and remission of this disease or complete healing. Each of us has something (or perhaps several things) that is beyond our ability to acquire of “fix” without God’s intervention. Thus, we would consider receiving our heart’s desire a gift or a blessing.

The greatest gift, however, is not a thing, nor is it even an earthly blessing. It is life—the eternal life we receive through the gift of the Holy Spirit when He comes to us in our baptism. Scripture tells us that we are all “stillborn.” Because of original sin, we are born spiritually dead, but we received God’s gift of life through faith in what God has done for us through the life, death and resurrection of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

All the things mentioned above as gifts are strictly for our temporal life on earth except for the gift of life with God for all eternity. (Psalm 90:2 says, Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” Everlasting literally means “from vanishing point to vanishing point” — there is no end or beginning.) What a wonderful gift—being always with our Lord in heaven, where there is no need for job security, no pain, no tears or illness, no hurt feelings or people who let us down. And all of this glory is ours because of God’s free gift to us—no strings attached. We don’t earn this gift. We don’t deserve it. We can’t buy it. We don’t barter for it. But we do share it with others. We can’t give others our faith, but we can make them hungry for what we have.

When we receive a wonderful gift, aren’t we eager to share the good news with as many others as we possibly can, as quickly as we can? Let’s remember this Christmas season that the greatest gift is ours because of the coming of Jesus—the reason for the season. With whom can we share this good news this month? With whom will we share this good news? Will others see us tired and frustrated and complaining about the cost of presents and the rush of people? Or will they hear us singing words of joyous celebration of the gift of Jesus, our Newborn King?

Think about this poem that originally came from a newsletter of Our Savior’s First Lutheran Church in Granada Hills, California. I don’t know the author, but I like what it makes me think about.

Suppose that Christ had not been born
That far away Judean morn.
Suppose that God, whose mighty hand
Created worlds, had never planned
A way for man to be redeemed.
Suppose the wise men only dreamed
That guiding star whose light still glows
Down through the centuries. Suppose
Christ never walked here in men’s sight,
Our blessed Way, and Truth, and Light.
Suppose He counted all the cost,
And never cared that we were lost.
And never died for you and me,
Nor shed His blood on Calvary
Upon a shameful cross. Suppose
That having died, He never rose,
And there was none with power to save
Our souls from death beyond the grave?
As far as piteous heathen know,
These things that I’ve supposed are so.
Living Savior Lutheran Church
8740 SW Sagert Street
Tualatin OR 97062-9116

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Living Savior Staff
Pastor .................................................... Rev. Nathan Brandt Nbrandt@living-savior.org
Youth/Contemporary Worship ....................................... Heidi Frank Hfrank@living-savior.org
Preschool Director ................................................ Denice Hornberger Dhornberger@livingsavior-preschool.org
Secretary ....................................................... Roberta Rinderknecht Secretary@living-savior.org

Living Logos is a publication of Living Savior Lutheran Church. Submissions are due the 20th of each month in the church office or by email to newsletter editor: Judy Chase at lslc@living-savior.org.

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule:

Summer Worship Services 8:30 & 10:45am
Education Hour: 9:45am
Secretary’s office hours: Monday: 9:00am - 11:00am
Tuesday through Friday: 10:00am - 2:00pm
Office phone: (503) 692-3490
Email: lslc@living-savior.org
Website: www.living-savior.org
Preschool Office phone: (503) 692-3303

December
2 Birthday for Jesus Party
3 Pin Pals Christmas Boutique
6, 13, 20 Advent Worship Services
10 Sr. Youth Progressive Dinner
17 Children’s Worship Service — one service
24 10:00am—Advent 4 worship
24 3:00, 7:15, 10:00pm Christmas Worship
25 10:00am - Christmas Day Worship (one service)
31 10:00am - New Year’s Eve, (one service )

January, 2018
1 New Year’s Day
3 Love & Logic classes begin
27 AED & CPR Class

The Mission of Living Savior Lutheran Church: Alive in Christ, we share the love of Jesus—we serve, care for, support and nourish each other, our community, and the world!