



# WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

**LIVING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH** welcomes you as you join with us in worship this day. May the Holy Spirit bless you with the message you hear from God's Word, the prayers, the hymns, and the fellowship we share with you. Here is some information you might find helpful:

- Children of all ages are welcome in our worship services. If you need to step out for a moment with your child, a Family Room is located right outside the Sanctuary doors.
- Changing Tables are located in the Restrooms.
- Please fill out an attendance sheet in the pad on the chairs and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. We ask guests and members to fill them out each week. Guests: We promise we will not bombard you with emails or calls, but this information is helpful for staying in touch.
- Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** *We are very glad that you have joined us today for this worship service as we hear the Word of God and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This church is in fellowship with other congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. As such, we believe and practice the biblical teaching that we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in, with and under the bread and the wine of the Sacrament (Matthew 26, Mark 14 and Luke 22). If you have a different understanding of Communion or are still learning about this biblical teaching, we love you enough to ask you not to receive Holy Communion this day (1 Corinthians 11). However, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing at the time of Communion. If later you have questions about this or any other teachings, the pastor would be very pleased to talk with you.*

## OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Living Savior Lutheran Church  
309 Pond Street, Montgomery, TX 77356

[www.livingsaviortexas.org](http://www.livingsaviortexas.org)  
Church Phone: 936-597-8013

Prayer Chain Requests under  
"Contact Us" tab on website

Pastor David R. Bailes  
Cheryl G. Bailes  
Lindsay Oneto

936-521-9389 (cell)  
Director of Christian Education  
Church Office Administrator

[drbailes@livingsaviortexas.org](mailto:drbailes@livingsaviortexas.org)  
[cgbales@livingsaviortexas.org](mailto:cgbales@livingsaviortexas.org)  
[office@livingsaviortexas.org](mailto:office@livingsaviortexas.org)

## ELDERS OF LIVING SAVIOR

Roger Bartel  
Mark Dinning  
Clay Hegar  
Doug Krenz  
Doug Lee  
Butch Nye  
Bruce Shutt  
Earl McCaleb

936-537-0011  
713-429-1273  
903-275-8413  
713-248-9892  
281-744-0448  
936-522-7464  
346-273-5594  
936-445-8923

[omro\\_fox@yahoo.com](mailto:omro_fox@yahoo.com)  
[madinning@spectraenergy.com](mailto:madinning@spectraenergy.com)  
[clay.hegar@icloud.com](mailto:clay.hegar@icloud.com)  
[dougkrenz87@gmail.com](mailto:dougkrenz87@gmail.com)  
[adouglasslee@yahoo.com](mailto:adouglasslee@yahoo.com)  
[jandmnye@yahoo.com](mailto:jandmnye@yahoo.com)  
[bruceshutt@yahoo.com](mailto:bruceshutt@yahoo.com)  
[jmccaleb@consolidated.net](mailto:jmccaleb@consolidated.net)

## CHURCH COUNCIL OF LIVING SAVIOR

Jack Heintschel – President  
Chris Cheatham – Vice President  
Lisa Schoppa – Secretary  
Earl McCaleb – Treasurer  
Mark Lamprecht – Financial Secretary  
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Contact information available upon request.

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Mike Newman – Head Trustee  
Lee Wernli - Youth  
Andrea Mascardo - Christian Growth  
Joyce Knighten - Family Life  
Clay & Kate Hegar - Stewardship

## Are You the One?

The American folk song “I Wonder as I Wander” captures the Advent question asked by John the Baptist’s messengers in today’s Holy Gospel. “Are You the one,” they wondered, “or shall we look for another?” We live in a wandering world, constantly looking, seeking, and yearning for that one thing, that one idea, that one person, that one amount of money that unlocks the way to a life of flourishing. We ourselves, wandering as we sometimes do, at times have put our trust in people or things that cannot deliver what only Jesus can. Today we rejoice that amidst our wonderings and wanderings, Jesus is the one. He is the one by whom the blind saw, the lame walked, lepers were cleansed, demon-possessed people were freed, and the dead were raised. Jesus is the one who will restore all creation to its original perfection and who, when He comes again in glory, will restore all things forever.

## Pre-Service Music

### Welcome/Announcements

### We Call Upon the Name of the Lord

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

### Opening Sentences

Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b–17, 20

**P** Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.

**G** **The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.**

**P** “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

**G** **The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;**

**P** He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

**G** **He will exult over you with loud singing.**

**P** I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**G** **We worship You, O Lord!**

### Hymn: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB 338

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,  
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Three Advent candles are lit.*

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness

of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Call for Confession

Psalm 25:6–7

**P** Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

*A time of silence is observed.*

**P** We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from You. Our wonderings have at times turned into doubts that drew us away from You.

**C** Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**P** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

**C** according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

## Kyrie for the Four Sundays in Advent

**3** Forgive us, Lord, for times when joy was lost,  
And moments when we never thought to laugh,  
For times when we obsess and despair  
And all forget Your steadfast love and care.  
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins  
And help us live in joy that never ends.

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## God Forgives Our Sins

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Rejoice in the Lord Always

**1** Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!  
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!

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## Greeting

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

You, Lord Jesus, caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the possessed to be free, the dead to be raised.

**C** By Your death and resurrection, You promise to raise us to new life.

**P** You are the One who alone can answer all our wonderings.

**G** **You alone are the Way to abundant life.**

**P** Fill us with the joy that comes from You alone

**G** **that our lives may radiate Your joy in this broken world;**

**P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** **Amen.**

## **+ God Speaks to Us Through His Word +**

### **God Speaks to Us Through His Prophet**

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Choir: "Sweet Child of Bethlehem"**

Joel Raney

### **God Speaks to Us Through His Apostle**

Philippians 4:4–7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

### **God Speaks to Us Through His Son**

Luke 7:18–28

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Children's Message

Tim Douglas

### Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

LSB 803

1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,  
Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,

△ 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!  
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

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## God Speaks to Us Through Pastor Bailes: "What A Wonder!"

Luke 7:18-28

### Apostles' Creed

**G** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  $\text{✝}$  everlasting. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

**P** As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

*A brief time of silence may be observed.*

- P** O Wisdom from on high, lead us by Your Spirit to rejoice in all that You have done to demonstrate Your love for us. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to rejoice in the Lord always. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially . . .*]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** O Lord of might, help us to see in the miracles of Jesus a sign pointing forward to that Day when He will come again in great glory to restore all creation. Help us to be instruments by which our wandering world may come to see Jesus as the one who alone brings true joy into our lives. We pray,
- C** **Hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

### We Worship God with Our Offerings

*(Our offerings give us an opportunity to give thanks to God for the many ways He has blessed us. Members and regular attendees support God's mission and ministry as He works through this congregation. Guests are welcome to give an offering, but are not expected to do so. Psalm 54:6; 116:12-14, 17)*

## Offering Hymn: “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

LSB 350

1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,  
Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see;  
Anxiously we wait for Thee.

2 Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne’er depart,

Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine  
When Thou art my guest divine!

3 My hosannas and my palms  
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;  
Evermore, as best I can,  
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace,  
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

Text: Public domain

## + Our Lord Comes to Us in His Body and His Blood +

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## Hymn: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LSB 805

△ 1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

Text: Public domain

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Mighty and merciful Lord of all, we give You all thanks, praise, and worship for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who gave sight to the blind, who made the lame walk, who restored hearing to the deaf, who cast out demons, who raised the dead. By these signs, You point to Christ’s future coming for which we yearn, when all things will be made new. In this bread and cup, Christ’s body and blood, You call us to see the world to come, when You will restore all creation. We give You thanks, praise, and worship for speaking Your Word to us, that we may live in Your kingdom now in these days and forever worship and adore You in the kingdom to come. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”



## Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

## Lord's Prayer

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Peace

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn: "God Loves Me Dearly"

LSB 392

1 God loves me dearly,  
Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me. Refrain

3 He sent forth Jesus,  
My dear Redeemer,  
He sent forth Jesus  
And set me free. Refrain

ref Therefore I'll say again:  
God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.

4 Jesus, my Savior,  
Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior,  
Paid all I owed. Refrain

2 I was in slav'ry,  
Sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working  
To make me free. Refrain

5 Now I will praise You,  
O Love Eternal;  
Now I will praise You  
All my life long. Refrain

Text: Public domain

## Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

LSB 700

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into ev'ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

- 3** Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Text: Public domain

## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray.

Lord God, for Christ's body and blood we give You thanks. Let the forgiveness, life, and salvation we receive take deep root in our hearts and lives, that we rejoice in the Lord always; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- G** Amen.

## Blessing

Philippians 4:5–7; Numbers 6:24–26

- P** The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

- G** Amen.

## Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

- 1** Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.

- 2** He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

- 3** He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

- 4** Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy belovèd name.

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