

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN'S CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday, December 24th:	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00 pm - "A Light in the Darkness"
Tuesday, December 25th:	Christmas Day Festival Service at 10:15 am - A Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 30th:	Worship Service at 10:15 am - "Christ Came to be Our Brother"

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Women's Bible Study will be resuming in January. We will be using the book [2000 Demons - No Match for My Savior](#). Study questions are included at the end of each chapter. This book can be ordered through our church website. If you are interested in attending, please let Emily Kratz know if Monday or Friday will work better for you.

NEW BIBLE CLASS STARTING IN JANUARY

In the Early Christian Church, God's people confessed their faith and witnessed to the world in brief creeds (or statements of what they believed). "Jesus is Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:3). "Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16). These passages from the New Testament, along with others, gave believers short, concise statements of faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. In time, the Church wrote and adopted new creeds to explain more fully the basics of the Christian faith.

The Church also wrote catechisms as summaries of the major doctrines of Holy Scripture. At first, catechisms were tools for teachers. With the invention of the printing press, catechisms were printed for pastors, teachers of the faith, and parents to use within the congregation and at home. Luther's Small Catechism covers the Six Chief Parts of Christian doctrine. In Luther's words, the catechism "is a short summary and epitome of the entire Holy Scripture" (Large Catechism, Preface). It is a summary and guide for believers, as they learn and reflect on the truths of God's Word.

Over the course of the year, our Sunday Bible Class will explore Luther's Small Catechism in four parts: The Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer, and The Sacraments. In this class, you will learn how the catechism presents God's Word in a clear, understandable way, in order to bring God's people to faith in Christ and to a daily life shaped and empowered by Word and Sacrament. **You are invited to join us as we begin this series of classes looking at the Ten Commandments on Sunday, January 6th, at 9 am.**

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH CLASS

Foundation of Faith is a Bible study that will begin on Wednesday, January 9th. Sessions will start at 7:00pm and go until 8:15 pm or so. This is a great class for anyone who wants to:

- Explore the basic beliefs of Christianity
- Gain a more thorough understanding of the Bible
- Gain confidence in telling others about your faith
- Understand Our Savior and the Lutheran Church better
- Join our family of believers

POSITION AVAILABLE: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PASTOR

We are looking to hire a member on a part-time basis (10 hours/week) to handle various administrative responsibilities here at church. To find out more about this paid position (responsibilities, wage, etc.), talk to Pastor Kratz.

NEW WORSHIP SERIES STARTING JANUARY 13TH: WHERE IS GOD?

We are often filled with silent fears, burning guilt and heavy sorrow. We can feel that we are without hope and imagine that God is absent from our lives. We believe that God has forgotten about us. In our uncertainty and vulnerability, we often cry out "Where in the world is God?"

During the season of Epiphany, we see exactly where God is in our world - He is in the person of Jesus Christ. We may ask "Where is God", but through His holy writers of the Gospels, God tells us that He exactly where He is. He is there: 1. Baptizing you; 2. Helping you; 3. Releasing you; 4. Healing you; 5. Calling you; 6. Blessing you; and 7. Loving you.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY | *Today*

9:00 AM *Adult Bible Class/Children's Sunday School*

10:15 AM *Worship Service*

MONDAY | *December 24th*

5:00 PM *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: "A Light in the Darkness"*

TUESDAY | *December 25th*

10:15 AM *Christmas Day Worship Service: "A Service of Lessons and Carols"*

SUNDAY | *December 30th*

9:00 AM *NO SUNDAY SCHOOL / BIBLE CLASS*

10:15 AM *Worship Service*

SERVING OUR SAVIOR

CLEANING *Armstrong, Roberson, Haberland, Keel, Schoel, Bray; Roberson, Kasprzack, Vertein*

FLOWERS Flower Sign Up online at www.oursavior.info

NURSERY / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

12/23—Amy Floyd/Abby

Jesus the Savior is Born

12/30—Barbara Burkart / Olivia

USHERS / GREETERS

12/23—Bob Holbrook, Doug Vertein; Stephen and Amy Floyd (Greeters)

12/30—John Armstrong, Braden Keel; Brent and Meredith Panell (Greeters)

CONNECT

 **OurSaviorBirmingham.com** | Video and audio sermons archives, calendar of events, and more!

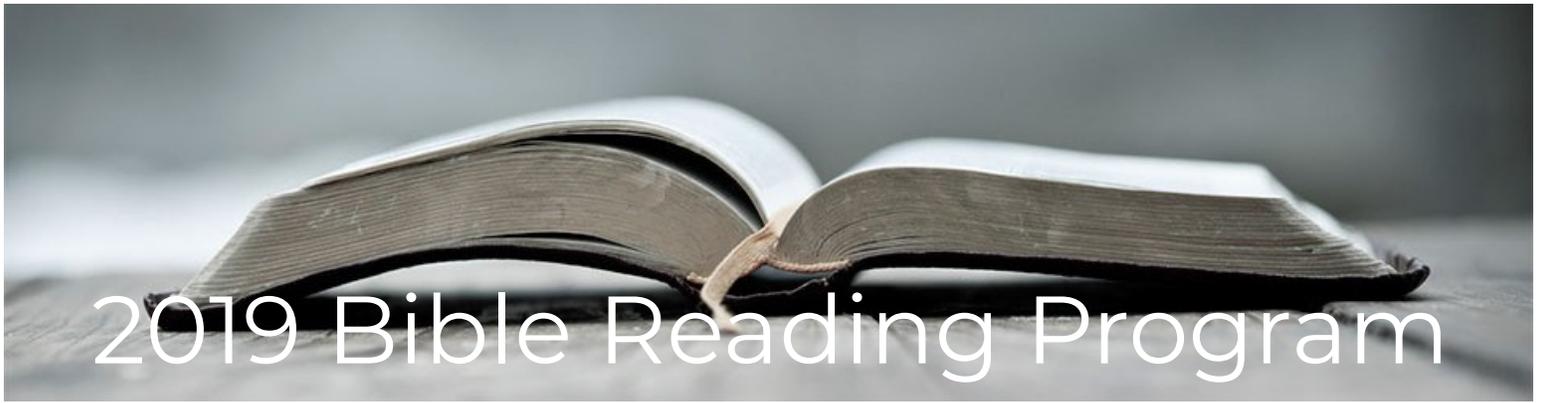
 **@OurSaviorBham** | Daily Bible passage, weekly sermon videos, and upcoming events

 **OurSaviorBham** | Daily Bible passage, weekly video worship service previews, and upcoming events

 **OurSaviorBham** | Daily Bible passage, event pictures, and church pictures

 **OurSaviorBham** | Weekly sermon videos and worship service previews

 **Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com** | Pastor Kratz's email



READ YOUR BIBLE!

It's an obvious statement you would expect to hear from your pastor. It is through the Word of God that God daily strengthens and keeps us in our faith. This means regular reading of God's Word is essential for developing Christian discipleship, maturing in our faith, and growing a zeal to reach others with the Gospel. Dwelling in the Word of God on a regular basis should be an essential part of our faith.

Our Savior Lutheran Church invites you to join in reading the Bible in 2019, whether individually and together with us. As a group, we will follow the reading plan detailed in [The One Year Chronological Bible](#). As we read through the Bible using this plan, we will gain a better understanding of the order of biblical events and the historic context in which they unfolded.

There are a number of ways you can participate:

- You can follow the plan and read along using the YouVersion Bible app on your phone or tablet
 - After downloading the "YouVersion Bible App":
 - TO READ PLAN WITH OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN:
 - Click the "Home" button in the lower left corner, then click  the icon at the top of the screen.
 - Click "Add Friends" and search for Our Savior Lutheran Church
 - You will then be invited to join the Bible reading plan together with the others who are participating through the app.
 - TO READ PLAN ON YOUR OWN:
 - Click the  button in the bottom center of the screen ("Plans"). Then click "Find Plans" at the top of the screen.
 - Scroll down until you see "Through the Bible," then click the picture that has "Whole" underneath it. On the next screen, scroll down until you see "The One Year Chronological Bible" - click it.
 - Then click "Start Plan"
 - purchase [The One Year Chronological Bible](#) through Amazon or your favorite bookstore
 - reading along in your own Bible using the copy of the reading plan available in the welcome area or downloading it from our website.

If you are on Facebook, we have started a Bible Reading page where you can ask questions and share your reflections on each day's reading.

We will start reading together on Tuesday, January 1st!

Celebrating
THE PAST



50 YEARS
1969-2019

Certain
OF THE FUTURE

1969... 2009... 2019

Can you believe it has been 50 years since our congregation was formed, and it has already been 10 years since we moved into our new building?!

Over the next seven months, we will be taking opportunities to thank God for those 50 years and all the many blessings he has brought to us over that time. Highlighting our thanks for God's faithfulness will be:

a special Anniversary Worship Service on Sunday, June 23rd, at 5 pm,
the opportunity to contribute to a "Anniversary Thank Offering."

The Anniversary Worship Service will feature a guest preacher, special music, and will be followed by a catered dinner and time for fellowship. We are inviting our former pastors and past members to attend the service!

The "Anniversary Thank Offering" will be gathered over the next seven months, with a goal of raising \$150,000. These funds will be used to reduce our debt and make improvements to our facilities. Half of what is collected will immediately be used to pay down the principal on our loan and the remaining half will be used to complete facility improvements. Depending on how much money is collected will determine how much will get done from the lists below. Council will make final decisions on appropriation of funds. There are some funds that have already been collected for the kitchen project that will be used towards that specific project cost and artist Jasen Jaspersen has been commissioned for a painting to hang in the narthex.

\$40,000 has already been thankfully given already! To contribute your thank offering, you can put your offering marked "*Anniversary Thank Offering*" into the offering plate between now and June 23rd.

Narthex Improvements:

•Commissioned Artwork •Console Table •iPad Stand •Wall Art and Shelves •Metal Logo

General Improvements

•LED Lighting throughout facility •Dimmers in Fellowship Hall •Shades in Fellowship Hall •Power Wash Exterior •Paint Exterior

Debt Reduction

•Pay down mortgage

Anniversary Celebration

•Catered Dinner •Altar Flowers •Fellowship Hall/Table Decorations

Kitchen Improvements

•Double Ovens •Wall Mounted Microwave •Large Capacity Sink •Goose-neck Faucet/Sprayer •New Cabinetry and Counter-top •Additional Electrical Circuits •New Serving Counter

Sanctuary Improvements

•New Front Speakers •New Back Damper Panels •Communion Ware •Wall Mounted Banner Hangers