

DECEMBER MAST



In anticipation of Christmas, we observe and celebrate

ADVENT

Dec. 3, Worship at noon followed by light lunch

Dec. 7, Second Sunday of Advent

Dec. 10, Worship at noon followed by a light lunch

Dec. 14, Third Sunday of Advent

Dec. 17, Worship at noon followed by a light lunch

Dec. 21, Fourth Sunday of advent, Worship at 9: 30 am

Dec. 21, 5:30 pm, Longest Night Service

Wednesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve

5 pm, Children's Candlelight Service

9 pm, Candlelight Service and Communion

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Connect with Us:

- Website: www.lolssi.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/LordofLifeSSI
- Vimeo Livestream: <https://vimeo.com/event/5036656/embed>
- Library (Vimeo Services as of April 2025): <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11648268>

Please note that all of the above links can be found on our Lord of Life website or Facebook

Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
2801 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
912-638-4673, info@lolssi
Pastor - Bob Kasting



Below is the accounting record for the 2025 Endowment Fund

For 2025, we had \$2,650 quarterly funds available. Funds not used were prorated and added to the remaining quarters.

1st quarter grants awarded	Angel Ministries	\$600
	Beloved Asheville	\$500
	Total	\$1,100
	Remainder	\$1,550 / 3 = 516.66

The quarterly remainder added to \$2,650 = **\$3,166 for 2nd – 4th quarters**

2nd quarter grants awarded	Youth Orchestra	\$2,000
	Myer Earl Camp	\$529.29
	Penguin Project	\$500
	Total	\$3,029.29
	Remainder	\$136.71/2 = 68.35

The quarterly remainder added to \$3,166 = **\$3,234.35 for 3rd – 4th quarters**

3rd quarter grants awarded	SOAR	\$2,100
	Pastor	\$500
	Total	\$2,600
	Remainder	\$634.35

The quarterly remainder added to \$3234.35 = **\$3,868.70 for 4th quarter**

As info, the reason for the large overage 3rd quarter is that one of the approved requests was withdrawn. 3rd quarter funds for Pastor were used for an out of area group that benefits college age youth in need.

So far we have two 4th quarter requests for FaithWorks and Manna House.

**“The whole being of any Christian is faith and love.
Faith brings the person to God; love brings the person to people.”**

Martin Luther

Mary Monroe



Ahhhh.....it's the "the most wonderful time of the year".

At some point in time over the next few weeks, you will be plunged into a mall somewhere with a list and a plan! You will attempt to lug five or six bags, at the same time, from one end of the shopping center to the other and then out to the endless sea of cars in the parking lot.....hoping desperately that you remember where you actually parked yours. While you are dancing through the shopping center you will, undoubtedly, hear the sounds of Christmas over the store's PA system as retailer's paint a picture of their "true meaning of Christmas". Through song you will hear stories of Santa coming to town, red nosed reindeer, and how much fun it is to rock around the Christmas tree. This music is powerful stuff! It will give you the energy to get to that ONE LAST STORE, the determination to find that ONE LAST GIFT.....and help to put you in a "holiday frame of mind".

Yes....music can certainly put you in a very specific frame of mind can't it?

I would like to share my Christmas Eve plans with you. It is truly one of my favorite nights of the year. Being your music director and organist I will have already offered some of my favorite music of this time of year on the Sundays leading up to December 24th. During the "anticipation season" of Advent I will play hymns like "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", "Hark a Thrilling Voice is Sounding", and "Prepare the Royal Highway". And yes, I will have even enjoyed some the "shopping mall music" as I am reminded of the joy I receive in giving to others. But.....Christmas Eve serves to cement, for me, what you all already know; it's not about the gift giving, the parties, or even Santa. I will drive home that night to be with my family after church services full of joy. I will be exhausted and yet so fulfilled that I won't be able to sleep. I will listen to the laughter of my family and then my house will go quiet. I am always the last in bed on Christmas Eve as I sit in front of my tree, looking at ornaments from years past, make a big mug of my favorite hot cocoa, and I listen to some of my favorite hymns like "Away in a Manger", "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", and "O Come All Ye Faithful"; and in those few quiet moments, I will be finally and completely transformed into that "holiday frame of mind"; Having been surrounded by my church family as we worship together and then by my children as we gather after church at home. I will sit that night, listen to those hymns, count my many blessings, and be truly thankful for the birth of my Savior.

Yes....music, most certainly, can put you in a very specific frame of mind.

I wish you and your family many blessings during this most anticipated and joyous season. May its stories help you to be thankful for your many blessings, may its music help you feel the joy that surrounds this season and may they together help put you in that most anticipated and joyous "holiday frame of mind".





Operation Christmas Child 2025

I am pleased to let you know that we had a very successful year for 2025. This was accomplished by everyone that did their part. It started with people praying for and about OCC. Picking up and filling shoe boxes with different items and love. The numerous churches, originations and individuals bringing them off to our church.

This year we were a drop-off site for the area, and we received 1,812 shoe boxes. The numerous volunteers that helped at our church helped unload vehicles, process the shoe boxes, put them into cartons, to be loaded and delivered to the collection center. I am so thankful to everyone that helped with this awesome mission project.





BIRTHDAYS

Cathy Comer, Dec. 4
 Pat Morris, Dec. 5
 Stephanie Treece, Dec. 8
 Patrick Ferguson, Dec. 10
 Ben Robertson, Dec. 13
 Brandon Treece, Dec. 18
 Marsha Hertwick, Dec. 19
 Brenda Tate, Dec. 19

Patti Neal, Dec. 21
 Ellen Kennedy, Dec. 24
 Klaus Schonfeld, Dec. 27
 Larry Bacon, Dec. 28

ANNIVERSARIES

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	2 10 am Book Club 10 am, Tai Chi	3 9 am, Open Sewing Noon, Worship Light Lunch	4 10 am, Tai Chi Set p for Holiday Market	5 Set up for Holi- day Market 10 am, Mary Martha Circle sets up books	6 9 am—3 pm, Holiday Market
7 8:15 am, Adult Sunday School 9:30 am, Service Congregational Meeting Pot Luck Lunch	8 10 am, Bible Study	9 10 am, Tai Chi	10 9 am, Open Sewing Noon, Worship Light Lunch	11 10 am, Tai Chi Manna House	12	13
14 8:15 am, Adult Sunday School 9:30 am, Service	15 10 am, Bible Study	16 10 am, Tai Chi	17 9 am, Open Sewing Noon, Worship Light Lunch	18 10 am, Tai Chi	19	20
21 8:15 am, Adult Sunday School 9:30 am, Service 5:30 PM, Longest Night	22 No Bible Study	23	24 5 pm, Children's Candlelight 9 pm, Candlelight and Communion	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28	29 No Bible Study	30	31			

Tony Couch Watercolor Raffle

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the name Tony Couch, let me share with you a little about this talented and generous man. Every spring for the last 20 years, Tony has taught painting techniques in our fellowship hall to painters from across the country. Not only does he pay a fee for the use of our property, he also lets us choose an original painting worth \$2,500.00 to raffle for various missions and needs of the church.

The Holiday Market, held the first Saturday in December, is where raffle tickets are sold for the painting. For the last three years, tickets have been made available for pre-sale. With the help of the congregation, we are able to sell more tickets than just a one-day sale would allow.

This years painting will be on display at the back of the church along with information for selling raffle tickets. Each Lord of Life family unit is asked to sell 10 tickets. If you have questions, contact Cathy Erickson.



Let Us Pray

“The praying which makes a prayerful ministry is not a little praying put in as we put flavor to give it a pleasant smack, but the praying must be in the body, and form the blood and bones. Prayer is no petty duty, put into a corner; no piecemeal performance made out of the fragments of time which have been snatched from business and other engagements of life; but it means that the best of our time, the heart of our time and strength must be given.” — [E.M. Bounds](#), [Power Through Prayer](#)

Set aside time each week to pray for our members, families, and friends.



HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT BAKE SALE

Thank you to everyone who baked for the Halloween Trunk and Treat bake sale.

Vanessa and Nancy handled the successful bake sale and yielded \$180. Pastor Bob and Vanessa delivered a check to Glynn County Animal Services.

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Holiday Market Raffle Baskets

Last year we sold over 800 raffle tickets to people attending the Holiday Market. Along with the artists and craftsmen, the themed raffle baskets are a big draw to the market. In years past, we have offered tickets to events, hand crafted quilts, furniture pieces made by a woodworker, a coffee basket, a child's rocking chair with storybook, family game night basket, a Nativity, etc. Items thoughtfully put together and donated. Each basket carries a \$125.00 value.

If you would like to donate an item or an entire themed basket, the Holiday Market committee would love to hear from you. There are 13 spaces available. We can put the items together for display. Please contact Cathy Erickson



15th Annual Holiday Market Craft Fair

The 15th annual Lord Of Life Holiday Market is scheduled for
December 6, from 9:00am-3:00pm.

We still need volunteers and the sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. Baked goods need to be here by Friday at 3:00 pm and used books by Thursday. There is also a need for items for the snack shop. That list is also on the bulletin board. Those items need to be at church by Friday.

Santa is coming, too!!

We have over 30 vendors who are selling their home made goods. Come do your Christmas shopping! Hope to see you there!!



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 11.

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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

From the Pastor's Desk;

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?

I would have been one of the millions of people who got 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 would ask 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, but 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 th

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Bob



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our study of the Minor Prophets continues. Each week is a new prophet so feel free to join us at 8:15 AM on Sunday morning.

Keep reading the Good Book! Martin Luther says, *"When the Scripture speaks, God speaks."*

Virginia Lensch



The church WiFi has been up dated and upgraded. We will be using Outlook instead of Google.

The log in for the Lord of Life WiFi is ...LordOfLife

Password

...AmenAmen2025

Most of the Staff have separate emails and you will know them all as they contact you.