

# Our Saviour Lutheran Church

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## *Ad Te Levavi*

### **First Sunday of Advent**

**27 November 2016**

**Welcome to our visitors this morning.** Please sign our visitors' book and stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

We believe that in Holy Communion, we eat and drink the true body and blood of Christ. During Communion, **everyone is welcome to come forward for a blessing.**

In keeping with the teaching of the New Testament, it is our practice to commune only those who have been confirmed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (or a sister Church) and are under the pastoral care of this congregation. If you are visiting and would like to receive the Sacrament today, please speak to the pastor **before the service.** Thank you for honouring our beliefs.

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**Today's hymns: 332 334, 333, Supplement p. 10**

#### **Catechism Reading**

**P** The Eighth Commandment

**C** **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.**

**P** What does this mean?

**C** **We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbour, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.**

*Turn to the Introit on the laminated card.*

#### **Volunteer Rota**

Today: Music: Calvin—Sunday School: Carol —Teas: Carol

Next week: Music: Hanna—Sunday School: Calvin & Michelle —Teas: Anne

*The Volunteer Rota for 2017 is now on the notice board, ready to be filled.*

## In Our Prayers

### Members

Ron; Frank; Diane (melanoma); Sindy Steinberga & Nikola

### Family of members

Diana (old age); Roly (dementia); Rita Annis (health); Claire Annis (health); Shirley Thomas (breast cancer); Jack & Joan Fast (dementia & lung cancer); Doug (heart operation) & Myra

### Friends of members

Ilse Kelly (old age); Jim Ferguson (stroke); Eunice (cancer); Gus & Mae (health); Becky Varsogea (brain tumour); Claire & Phil (health); Helen Kriewaldt (stroke, breast cancer); Johann Wiebusch (CP); Bob Waters (cancer); Graham (cancer); John (cancer); Emma (cancer); Gina & family; Tim (health); Richard (mental

health); Katie (depression); Lynette Wiebusch (Alzheimer's)

### Local Community

Caroline Deans (cancer); Leanne (health); Karen (depression); Karlton (depression); Tina (depression)

### ELCE

St. David Lutheran Church, Pr. Naumann; Pr. Edge (health); Wendy Nicolson (cancer); baby Christian Graham (cancer)

### The Church of God

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Catholic Parish of Fareham & Porthcester; Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Somali Christian Mission, Mohamed Gurhan

### Thanksgiving

Anna (recovering from knee injury)

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## HYMN OF THE DAY—O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU (LSB 334)

Of all the hymn writers of the Lutheran church, Paul Gerhardt (1607–76) is considered to have been the greatest. A faithful pastor, who was made to suffer for his refusal to compromise his adherence to the Lutheran Confessions, Gerhardt lived half his life amidst the ravages of the Thirty Years' War (1618–48). He lost his wife and four of his five children to an early grave. Yet he was able to turn his considerable poetic talent to writing hymns that are full of hope in God's faithful promises.

Today's Advent hymn is considered to be one of the finest texts Gerhardt wrote: one dictionary of hymns claims this to be the finest of all German Advent hymns. A meditation on today's Gospel, it originally consisted of 10 stanzas.

The hymn writer asks the single most important question everyone faces in life: since Jesus is coming, how shall I meet him aright? But rather than answering the question by turning inward, to my own qualities or preparations, he turns out gaze to Jesus's love for us, as demonstrated by His first coming. Faith in the Saviour and His saving work is true preparation for His second coming, which we still await.

The melody was written specifically for these words by Johann Crüger, the director of music in Berlin while Gerhardt served there as pastor.

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD**  
**THE APOLOGY OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION**  
**ARTICLE IV: JUSTIFICATION**

In order that the subject might be made quite clear, we have shown well enough so far, both from testimonies of Scripture and arguments derived from Scripture, that we receive forgiveness of sins for Christ's sake through faith alone. We have shown that through faith alone we are justified, that is, unrighteous people are made righteous, or regenerated. How necessary the knowledge of this faith is can be easily judged. Because Christ's office is recognized in this alone, we receive Christ's benefits by this alone. Only this teaching brings sure and firm consolation to pious minds. In the Church there must be the teaching by which the pious may receive the sure hope of salvation. For the adversaries give people bad advice when they tell them to doubt whether they receive forgiveness of sins. How will such persons sustain themselves in death who have heard nothing of this faith and think that they ought to doubt whether they receive forgiveness of sins? Besides, it is necessary that the Gospel be kept in Christ's Church, namely, the promise that sins are freely forgiven for Christ's sake. Those who teach nothing of this faith we speak about, completely abolish the Gospel. But the Scholastics mention not even a word about this faith. Our adversaries follow them and reject this faith. Nor do they see that by rejecting this faith they abolish the entire promise about the free forgiveness of sins and the righteousness of Christ.

Paragraphs 117–121

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## **A Second Bible Study**

So that as many people as possible are able to attend Bible study, from January Bible study will run twice every week: on a Tuesday evening and during the day on another day. It will be the same study on both occasions.

Please could you fill the questionnaire inside this bulletin, fill it and give it to the pastor so that we can find the most suitable time for the daytime study.

Many thanks!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### This Week

Today	3 pm	Bible study at Oxford Mission
	4.30 pm	Divine Service at Oxford Mission
Tue	<i>No Bible study</i>	
	7.15 pm	Congregational Planning Meeting at Oxford Mission
Wed	10.30 am	Pastor's Drop-in (The Hub)
	7 pm	Advent Vespers (2 Southmead Road)
Sat	3.30 pm	Finnish Carol Service (St. Francis)
	5.30 pm	Saturday Supper (Scout Hall)
Sun	10.30 am	Divine Service with Confirmation (Erin Duran) <i>Special Offering for Westfield House</i>

### Next Month

6 Dec	7.30 pm	Bible study (The Parsonage)
7 Dec	10.30 am	Pastor's Drop-in (The Hub)
	2 pm	Devotion at Kiln Lodge & Hunters Lodge
	7 pm	Advent Vespers (2 Southmead Road)
11 Dec	10.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	4.30 pm	Divine Service at Brighton Mission (Pr. Didzis Stilve)
13 Dec	7.30 pm	Bible study (The Parsonage)
14 Dec	10.30 am	Pastor's Drop-in (The Hub)
	7 pm	Advent Vespers (2 Southmead Road)
18 Dec	10.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	6 pm	Youth Club
20 Dec	7.30 pm	Bible study (The Parsonage)
21 Dec	10.30 am	Pastor's Drop-in (The Hub)
	7 pm	Advent Vespers (2 Southmead Road)
23 Dec	3 pm	Community Carol Service (Scout Hall)
24 Dec	11 pm	Divine Service—Midnight Mass (Scout Hall)
25 Dec	10.30 am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)
	4.30 pm	Divine Service at Oxford Mission (Rev. A. Simojoki)

### **Daily Readings:**

Sun: Isaiah 1:1–28 1 Peter 1:1–12 *Large Catechism Longer Preface:1–6*

Mon: Is 2:1–22 *Isaiah 3:1–4:6* 1 Pet 1:13–25 *LC Longer Preface:7–13*

Tue: Is 5:1–25 *Amos 1:1–9:15* 1 Pet 2:1–12 *LC Longer Preface:14–20*

Wed: Is 6:1–7:9 1 Pet 2:13–25 *LC Short Preface:1–13*

Thu: Is 7:10–8:8 1 Pet 3:1–22 *LC Short Preface:14–28*

Fri: Is 8:9–9:7 1 Pet 4:1–19 *LC I:1–12*

Sat: Is 9:8–10:11 1 Pet 5:1–14 *LC I:13–23*

Sun: Is 10:12–27a, 33–34 2 Pet 1:1–21 *LC I:24–29*