



# Weekly NEWS

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Dec 10th  
2023

## December 17th "Unity Service" includes our children's musical

All children must arrive 9AM. Our worship will include a musical celebration of Jesus' birth among the animals, who come to adore Him in the manger. "A Night for Dancing".



Children please attend Sat 12/16  
9:30AM Dress Rehearsal

**Cookie Swap Opportunity!** After the Dec. 17th worship will focus on Fellowship and FUN! If interested, rev up your mixers and pre-heat the oven. Do you love a variety of Christmas Cookies but maybe not cooking all the types? Join in the fun of a **Cookie Swap on December 17th** after the service. Bring in a container of 3 dozen cookies and an empty container to fill with a variety



**Christmas Poinsettia Sign Up is posted on the kiosk.** Sign up to donate \$15 towards a Poinsettia and take it home after the 6:30PM Christmas Candlelit service. There have been 20 beautiful plants purchased.

## Dates and Times to know

**Dec. 10 Giving Tree gifts due TODAY**

Dec. 10 9:30AM Kid's musical rehearsal in place of Kid Connection

**Dec. 13 10AM Card and Prayer ministry** write cards and pray over people. JOIN US!

Dec. 16th 9:30A Kids Musical rehearsal

**Dec. 17 9:30 AM UNITY Worship** including our Children's musical celebration of Jesus' birth during the service

Dec. 17th Cookie Swap after the service! Sign up on kiosk

**Dec. 17 2PM Carols and Cookies** (a North Shore music event)

**December 24 UNITY Worship (9:30 AM) with Confirmation**

**December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship times**

4:30 Family & 6:30PM Traditional

Sunday, December 31 UNITY Worship (9:30) with communion

## Making Advent special at home:

### A Home Advent Candle-lighting Devotion

Try taking home the short candle-lighting service for a daily candle lighting event... to help remember that we are a people in waiting for Christ to return! It's a short opportunity for God-time at home. You can buy an advent wreath, make one, or just use candles. But, you're encouraged to plan a family moment... around a candle... and either say a short prayer or just read the verse for the day. TAKE ADVANTAGE of the specialness of a moment together as a family... in prayer.

**Walking Backwards to Bethlehem!** *Finding Christ in the Old Testament* This is the first of our new "Learning Workshops". (to be archived on the web site for you to study at home!) It is posted on the current website as a learning opportunity Get a cup of tea... take out your Bible... download the handout... and do a short workshop study at home.

**FOLLOW THE LINK ON THE WEB SITE FRONT PAGE**

**THE BRIDGE MINISTRY IS BUSY THIS TIME OF YEAR!** Thank you to those who provided treats to send to our college and young adults in care packages this past week! Thank you also to Jessie Anderson for leading a Bible study over Zoom for young adults over the last few weeks.

## Prayer Ministry Opportunities -

**Prayer Bowl:** A new "prayer requests" opportunity is available for worship. A Prayer Bowl station is at the back of the Sanctuary. You can fill out a prayer request for a person or concern that you're asking to be lifted up that day... we'll try our best to make sure we pray for that request as a flock together.

**Card and Prayer Ministry:** Join us on the **2nd Wednesday (Dec. 13th) 10AM** (in the loft) and write cards over a cup of coffee or tea, to those who could use an uplifting, faithful message.

**Intercessory Prayer:** After each service there are members of our Prayer Team who will pray over you or a loved ones concerns. Simply step forward.

<b>Dec 17 9:30AM UNITY</b>	<b>Serving <u>Next Sunday</u></b>
<b>Announcements</b>	Wendy Betts
<b>Coffee Set Up/Clean Up</b>	Gail Sullivan
<b>Altar Care Set Up</b>	Ann Nollet
<b>Altar Care Clean Up</b>	Janice LeBlanc
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Levi Kishbaugh; Frank Sienkiewicz
<b>Media Audio</b>	Gary Terhune
<b>Media Advance Slides</b>	Lydia Betts
<b>Reader</b>	Nancy Dashcund
<b>Ushers</b>	Sean O'Connor; Cliff Petersohn

## Discipleship Matters

We support a crisis pregnancy center in Revere, **Your Options Medical**, financially and in prayer. Please keep the many crisis pregnancy centers in your prayers right now. There are many pressures they currently face. The governing powers in MA seek to shut them down because they are pro-life centers and don't offer abortions.

Besides vandalism, there are concerted efforts through town ordinances and mis-information being used to pressure the existence of these centers that exist solely to help women and children. In 2022, the Somerville City Council passed an ordinance against crisis pregnancy centers within their city, falsely labeling them as deceptive, "limited-service centers" because they don't provide or refer for abortions. One councilwoman stated the position that you might hear on the news or in speeches. claimed pregnancy centers are "disingenuous" and accused them of withholding information about pregnancy and abortion from clients. She expressed that this ordinance will prevent Somerville residents from having to "deal with deceptive or misleading and manipulative language" that these pro-life centers supposedly share in their materials.

However, there's another side to this story, in 2022 alone, the [Pregnancy Care Alliance in Massachusetts](#), (consisting of 15 pregnancy care centers), provided more than \$743,900 worth of material assistance to women such as diapers, wipes, clothing, car seats, cribs, food, and formula. They also provided nearly \$61,000 in pregnancy tests and more than half a million dollars in ultrasound exams.

**Please pray for healthy conversations that support life, for God's protection over these pro-life care centers, for lawmakers to seek God's wisdom, for the women that receive support, and for the many precious lives of the de-**

**Worship Help needed for Christmas Eve:** *Thank you to those who signed up already...* We still need some more teamwork **The Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship at 4:30 and 6:30** are not scheduled... we're asking for **"SIGN-UPS"** for these roles at the kiosk.

Please pitch in... to usher, (lots of greeting & passing candles), readers, work media booth (audio or slide advancing)  
We have 2 services to fill for these slots!



## CHRISTMAS CAROLS & COOKIES

Celebrating Jesus with Music and Mirth

Dec 17 | 2pm  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
478 Boston St. | Topsfield, MA 01983




The OSLC music ministry, under the direction of Wendy Betts, invites singers and instrumentalists from other churches to join in with them and the Betts Studio singers & pianists in a fun time of Christmas songs, a Christmas Carol sing-a-long ... and cookies!

**Staff Gift**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are coming to the end of the Calendar year which gives us a chance to thank our staff for their efforts through the year. Starting this week and going through December 17<sup>th</sup> we will be collecting for the Staff Gift. In order to properly allocate any money donated for the Gift, please indicate "Staff Gift" in the memo line of your check. For cash donations, please note this on the blue giving envelopes or on a note included with the donation. In Christ, Levi