

THE
CRESTVIEW LUTHERAN
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025



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“For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore.”

- Is 6:6-7d



FROM THE PASTOR

My offering for this month. Enjoy!
Pax Christi,
Pastor Parent

creation God made angels. But angels are very real.

What does the word “angel” mean?

The word “angel” comes from a Greek word that means “messenger.” Angels are God’s messengers. Elsewhere in the Bible, angels are described as spirits (cf. Acts 23:9; Hebrews 1:14). The word “angel” is actually a description of what they do.

What About...



Angels

It seems as though angels have captured the imagination people everywhere. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation about angels, along with superstitions and unscriptural understandings. This pamphlet will provide a Biblical perspective on angels.

What are angels?

Angels are spirits. They are beings who do not have a physical body. Jesus Himself said, “a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have” (St. Luke 24:39). Evil angels too, are described as not having “flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:12). In the Scriptures, when angels do appear in human form, this is only a momentary appearance for those who need to see them. Angels are not gods. They are God’s creation and serve His holy and perfect will. The good angels are said to be “ministering spirits” (Hebrews 1:14), sent by God to serve us, His people.

Do angels exist?

The Word of God—not popular television shows or magazine articles—is our only reliable source for knowing what angels are, and what they do. The Bible teaches us that angels were made by God during the six days of creation. Before creation there was only God (St. John 1:1-3), and after creation, we are told that on the seventh day God “rested from all the work of creating He had done” (Genesis 2:3b). The Bible does not indicate on which day of

Are angels human?

Human beings are the crown of God's creation. Only of human beings, and no other creature, did God say, "Let us make man in our own image" (Genesis 1:26). Furthermore, the Scriptures reveal that only into human beings did God breathe the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). Also, God did not give angels rule over His creation. This privilege He gave only to mankind (Genesis 1:26-28). Angels are not human beings. They exist as spirits who serve God and His people.

Do human beings become angels when they die?

No, human beings do not become angels when they die. The Scriptures are clear on this point. Until the last day, the souls of the dead are before the Lord, enjoying peace and rest in His presence, awaiting the final day when they will receive glorified bodies (their souls and bodies rejoined) for all eternity (see 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Revelation 7).

Are angels intelligent beings?

The Bible describes angels as having both intelligence and a will. The good angels know and follow the wisdom of God, which He has revealed

through Christ to His church (Ephesians 3:10). They gladly serve us, who are the heirs of the salvation Christ has won for us (Hebrews 1:14). However, angels do not know all things. For instance, they do not know the thoughts of our hearts (1 Kings 8:39).

How powerful are angels?

Angels are extremely powerful beings. They are described as "mighty ones" (Psalms 103:20; 2 Thessalonians 1:7). The good angels guard and protect God's children (Psalms 91:11-13). The power of the angels is never unlimited, but is always subject to the will and authority of God.

Evil angels too are powerful beings. The Bible tells us that they hold captive all unbelievers (St. Luke 11:21-22; Ephesians 2:2). Believers in Christ are able to withstand the temptation of evil angels through the power of God (Ephesians 6:10-17).

Where are angels?

Angels, like God, do not inhabit the same physical dimension that human beings inhabit. From time to time, they are ordered by God to appear in our physical dimension. Thus, while there are times when angels will make an appearance at a distinct

place (cf. Acts 12:7), they remain beings that inhabit no physical space.

How many angels are there?

The Bible does not give us an exact number, but does clearly teach that there are incredibly large numbers of angels who serve God. Scripture speaks of “ten thousand times ten thousand angels” (Daniel 7:10). Elsewhere Scripture speaks of “a great company of the heavenly host” (St. Luke 2:13).

From every indication in the Bible, there are an unimaginably large number of angels, of whom we are totally unaware most of the time. There is a fixed and limited number of angels, never increasing or decreasing. Unlike human beings, angels do not marry and have children (St. Mark 12:25). They are immortal.

Are all angels the same?

Within the large numbers of angels there are apparently certain orders or classes of angels. Scripture speaks of “cherubim” (Genesis 3:24; Psalms 80:1), “seraphim” (Isaiah 6:2), “thrones or powers or rulers or authorities” (Colossians 1:16), “archangel” (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Also among the evil angels there are ranks and classes of angels (St.

Matthew 25:41). Satan is described as the “prince of the devils” (St. Luke 11:15). It is pointless, however, to try to invent complicated divisions and ranks of angels, since Scripture itself does not provide us with this information.

What are evil angels, and what do they do?

Originally, all angels God created were good and did His will perfectly. At some point after God created them, some angels chose to rebel against Him. They fell away from God and into great sin and evil. At that point, they were confirmed in their evil condition. There is no hope for them. In St. Matthew 8:29, they recognize that there will be a time when they must suffer eternal torment and punishment for their rebellion against God.

Satan is the chief evil angel, the “prince of demons” (St. Luke 11:15). Here is how our Lord Jesus Christ describes Satan: “He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (St. John 8:44).

When precisely the evil angels rebelled and fell away from God we cannot say for sure, but we do know it

was some time at the very beginning of the world. Most Christian Church fathers believe that the evil angels' original sin was pride, based on the fact that Satan's temptation of Adam and Eve was an appeal to their pride. Also, 1 Timothy 3:6 indicates that pride was the cause of the devil's condemnation.

The devil is our great enemy, who "prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). The Bible tells us that the devil is the cause of unbelief in the world (Ephesians 2:1-2). Every person who does not believe the good news of Christ Jesus is thinking and doing what the devil wants. Unbelievers are described in the Bible as being in the devil's kingdom and under his power (Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:13). The very fact that people do not realize this, and even deny it, is the devil's greatest deception. The devil is so deceptive, at times he will even disguise himself as an "angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). In fact, the Old Testament once refers to Satan as "Lucifer," which means, "light bearer" (Isaiah 14:12; KJV).

We need to keep in mind that all the Bible says about evil angels, and their eternal punishment, is for the purpose of making us recognize the

need to repent and to believe in God's Son, Jesus Christ, who has ransomed mankind by His death, and saved us for eternal life, not in hell, but in heaven.

What do good angels do?

Good angels enjoy the blessing of being able to see God. They are in the immediate presence of God, always beholding His great glory, majesty and power (St. Matthew 18:10). This is called the "beatific vision," which all Christians will enjoy one day when they are in heaven.

God's Word reveals the following things about the activity of good angels: They praise God (Is. 6:3; Luke 2:13), and they are the Lord's servants in the world and in the Church (Psalms 103:20-21; Hebrews 1:14).

God sends angels to serve and to protect Christian believers in their work and their callings in life (Psalms 91:11-12). They attend to the dying (St. Luke 16:22). They care for children (St. Matthew 18:10). Angels are deeply interested in all that occurs in the Church. They adore and take great joy in the work of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world (St. Luke 2:13; Ephesians 3:10). They rejoice over every sinner who repents (St. Luke 15:10).

Scripture mentions the presence of angels at every great event in the Kingdom of God. Angels were present when God gave His law on Mount Sinai (Deuteronomy 33:2; Galatians 3:19). Angels were present at the conception, birth, resurrection and ascension of our Lord (St. Luke 1:26; 2:11; St. Mark 1:13; 24:5ff; Acts 1:10ff). Angels will come with Jesus when He returns on the last day (St. Matthew 13:41ff.; 24:31).

The Bible tell us that angels are present in the public worship of Christians (1 Corinthians 11:10). God also uses angels to help the family and to preserve law and order (Genesis 24:7; St. Matthew 18:10; Daniel 10:13).

How are we to treat angels?

We need to praise and thank God for good angels. We are told that we are to take care not to offend them through sin and unbelief (1 Corinthians 11:10; 1 Timothy 5:21). But the Scriptures are also clear that we must not pray to angels, nor offer them our worship. The angels themselves protest any worship given to them (Revelations 22:8-9).

As believers, we have the privilege of having angels surrounding us and protecting us and working to do God's

good and perfect will in our lives. Our hope and trust is always in God, whom we know sends His angels to watch over us and to see us through whatever difficulty in life may come our way.

Because of our Lord Jesus Christ's perfect life and sacrificial death for the sins of the world, we have the assurance of the complete and total forgiveness of all our sins. We know that God loves and cares for us as His own dear children. Furthermore, we know that the Lord sends His angels to care for us in order that someday we may join them, and all the company of heaven, in seeing God and singing His praises for all eternity.

—Dr. A. L. Barry President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Private Confession and

Absolution

Available on

Thursdays, 8:00-8:30 a.m. and
Sundays, 8:00-8:45 a.m.

Or by appointment, See Pastor
Parent

Sunday Readings (Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
Jan 5	Genesis 16:1-7	1 Peter 4:12-19	Matthew 2:13-23
Jan 12	1 Kings 8:6-13	Romans 12:1-5	Luke 2:41-52
Jan 19	Exodus 33:12-23	Ephesians 5:22-33	John 2:1-11
Jan 26	2 Kings 5:1-15a	Romans 12:16-21	Matthew 8:1-13
Feb 9	Exodus 34:29-35	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9

FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

As the year closes, we recall many moments: family members missed, when a disaster hits, new friendships arrive, old ones thrive — not an end or a beginning but a continuation. The gift of time is a blessing.

Pray for opportunities to share those blessings — for God to open ways to make sharing happen and to share His love in quiet or overly Christian ways.

The point — do and share. When you see what is needed, pray, and under God's grace and guidance, do

it. God is making the way whether it is at the end or beginning, in secret or in public.

Finally give God the glory in all things. Thanks be to God.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods (Psalm 95:2-3).

Happy New Year!

Source: LWML 2-Minute Tuesday

Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Join us in the study of Proverbs

Reminder!

If you are the last to leave the premises, please check all doors to assure they are closed securely and locked.

Thank you!

FROM LWML

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Mites donations 2024:

Jan: \$15.03, Feb: \$14.47, Mar: \$33.04

Apr: \$55.00, May: \$41.50, Jun: \$4.99

Jul: \$70.46, Aug: \$58.29, Sep: \$45.66

Oct: \$33.00, Nov: \$12.49, Dec: \$19.53

Total: \$403.46

Mite box Sunday is the first Sunday of each month. You may bring the mite box any Sunday. If you prefer to donate by check, please make it payable to Our Savior LWML. Mite donations are sent monthly to the Gulf States District LWML to fund mission grants and district expenses and national mission grants.

23 of 31 mission grants are fully funded and 4 are partially funded.

Thank you to all who bought poinsettias for the Christmas services.

The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Winter 2024 issue is available from the magazine rack in the Narthex. This issue has details about the upcoming national convention in Omaha, NE

June 26-29, 2025.

I have the information and application form for young women ages 22-35 to apply to be a YWR-Young Woman Representative.

I will host a Zone LWML Board meeting in February after I attend the Gulf States District LWML Board meeting on Saturday, February 9, 2025 and the Zone Presidents meeting via Zoom prior to that.

Daily Mustard Seed devotion is available on the LWML website.

Websites:

<http://www.lwml.org>

<http://www.lwmlgulfstates.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

OSELC LWML Meeting Date TBD in January

Emerald Coast Zone Christian Growth Workshop, Date/Location TBD

LWML 41st Biennial LWML Convention, June 26-29, 2025, Omaha, NE, "Growing in God's Grace" 2 Peter 3:18

Gulf States District LWML Convention, April 24-26, 2026, Gulfport, MS, "Jesus our Hope, Anchor of our Soul" Hebrews 6:19

Linda Urda

LWML President

[FROM THE BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY]

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are excited for what 2025 holds for us!

As I promised at the end of last year, January is going to be a bit more of a chill month, and I mean that literally! On Saturday January 25th, we are going to have Board Games and Chill! There will be an ice cream bar provided by Social Ministry, and feel free to bring your favorite board game or plan to play one of the ones that are there! It will be from 2 pm to 4:30 pm.

Also, please mark your calendars for February 15th in the afternoon for a social event. More details to come soon, so make sure to keep your ears open!

On the subject of the February event, I

am wanting to have a subcommittee for the event. If you are interested in serving on the subcommittee, please come talk to me so we can get a group chat started and start planning this event!

On the subject of group chats, Signal is an easy to use and great way to keep the entire congregation on the same page. If you are interested in joining the church's Signal group chat and are having any issues, please talk to me!

I am more than happy to play IT support. I believe that is all I have for this month. Once again, thank you all for keeping up with me last year, and I am excited to see what this coming year has to offer!

See you next month, Clare

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps ~ Proverbs 16:9

COFFEE WITH PASTOR



Coffee with Pastor
begins with
Matins at 9:00 a.m.

Men's Group
7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 21st
Pastor Parent's house.

Birthdays:

Frank Sedmara	1/2
Alan Widener	1/4
Steve Kamradt	1/10
Trish Hull	1/16
Alex Franco	1/22
Sean Widener	1/22
Eden Stapp	2/1

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT OSEL C

- Serve on a Board - See Alex Franco, Pres.
- Sign up for Flowers—See sign up list in the Parish Hall
- Sign up for Refreshments—See sign up list in Parish Hall
- Serve on the Altar Guild—See Dcs. Heather Bien
- Ongoing Project on Campus—See Brian Hull, Trustee
- Serve as an Usher—See Julie Blaylock
- Sunday School—9:00 a.m. Sunday, Parish Hall

OSELC Women's Book Club Starting Soon

The OSELC Women's Book Club will be viewing from a Lutheran perspective poems that have been inspired by art. I know that sounds a bit unusual, but several authors have written poems based solely on their study of famous works of art. I have some knowledge of how to analyze poems, but I zero knowledge of how to do that with art! However, as usual, we will share our ideas and learn together. We will meet for about an

hour beginning around 11:30 on the third Thursday of the month (with one exception for Holy Week), but anyone who cannot meet at that time can arrange an alternate time with me.

Dates: Feb. 20, Mar. 20, April 10 (2nd Thurs. due to Holy Week), and May 15

Please join this wonderful group of women as we apply our Lutheran beliefs to the world of literature. Blessings, Jennifer Currid (850-803-1196)

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Agenda (TEAMS)
December 10, 2024



President – Alex Franco
Vice-President- Brad Bien

- 1) Attendance: Pastor Parent, Dcs. Heather Bien, Brian Hull, Mahlon Haunschild, Julie Blaylock, Alan Widner, Emily Bien, Clare Jones, Cindy Parent, Jennifer Currid
- 2) Alex called the meeting to order at 6:30, and Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.
- 3) The previous council minutes were approved (Brad/Julie).
- 4) Reports:
 - a) Pastor's Report (Fr Parent) – Pastor has visited or plans to visit Sue and Rhett Cadenhead, Bobbie Parent and Linda Combs. He commends the herculean effort put forth by Emily and Clare to make our Christmas parade sentry a huge success. Alicia Herman, a member of a LCMS church in Fort Wayne, will be joining our church. The baptism of the Stapp family followed by their joining the church was a joyous occasion on Sunday morning Dec. 1. Advent services have been going well, two more to go.

- b) Deaconess Report (Dcs Bien) - The veils and burses to match the new gold and rose paraments are being made.
 - c) Financial Report (Mahlon) – See attached. The hutch that has been residing in the Fellowship hallway sold for \$150 to be categorized as pass through money.
 - d) Treasurer (Brian) – See attached. With the agreement of the donor, the parament fund has been closed after moving the residual funds to the operation fund.
 - e) Board of Security (Julie)- On Sunday, Dec. 1, a man walked into the fellowship hall during Bible study. This served as a good reminder for us to lock the doors while we are present and when we are away. Julie was concerned about our neighbors' open fires on their property. Alex recommended that she call the fire department to report the fire if it escaped their property.
 - f) LWML (Linda) – See attached.
 - g) Board of Education (Cindy) – The children are studying Pastor Will Weedon's book Thank, Praise, Serve and Obey . The adult Bible class is studying the Book of Revelation, currently in Chapter 2.
 - h) Board of Youth (Emily) - On Friday, Dec. 13, Emily and Jennifer will be delivering the donated school supplies to Baker School. Several people have indicated interest in a cookie baking session, day and time TBA.
 - i) Board of Elders (Alan) - No update.
 - j) Board of Trustees (Brian) – See attached.
 - k) Board of Social Ministry (Clare) – See attached. Sincere thanks to all who worked on the parade entry from beginning to the end. Alex has dubbed Clare and Emily as the “Dynamic Duo!”
 - l) Board of Evangelism (Alex) - The incoming evangelism chair, Melania Ruef, met with Alex to review the workings of our web page. He will continue to support her in the new year. The website is targeted to LCMS members who are looking for a church and to the citizens of Crestview to let them know there is a Lutheran church in Crestview.
- 5) Unfinished Business: None
- 6) New Business:
- a) Staff Appreciate Gift set for Christmas morning
 - b) Council transition (give a good handoff to your replacement)
 - c) New council installation will be 5 Jan 2025 (that is also the 5th anniversary for Father Parent as our pastor). The Parents are hosting a gathering for the outgoing and incoming council members on Jan. 4, time TBA.
 - d) Farewell and deep appreciation to Brad Bien for his years of service on the council, holding almost every position in the past.
- 7) Brad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 (Brad/Julie). Pastor closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Currid

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

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We are on the Web!

www.Oselc.net



Council President: Alex Franco

Council Vice-President: Alan Widener

Secretary: Jennifer Currid

Treasurer: Brian Hull

Financial Secretary: Mahlon Haunschild

Board of Elders: Alan Widener

Board of Christian Life: Linda Urda

Board of Trustees: Brian Hull

Board of Education: Cindy Parent

Board of Youth: Emily Bien

Board of Evangelism: Melania Ruef

Board of Social Ministry: Clare Jones

Board of Security: Julie Blaylock

LWML: Linda Urda

Library: Jennifer Currid

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull

Office Administrator: Trish Hull

Newsletter Editor: Dcs. Bien

Pastor Raymond Parent · Deaconess Heather Bien