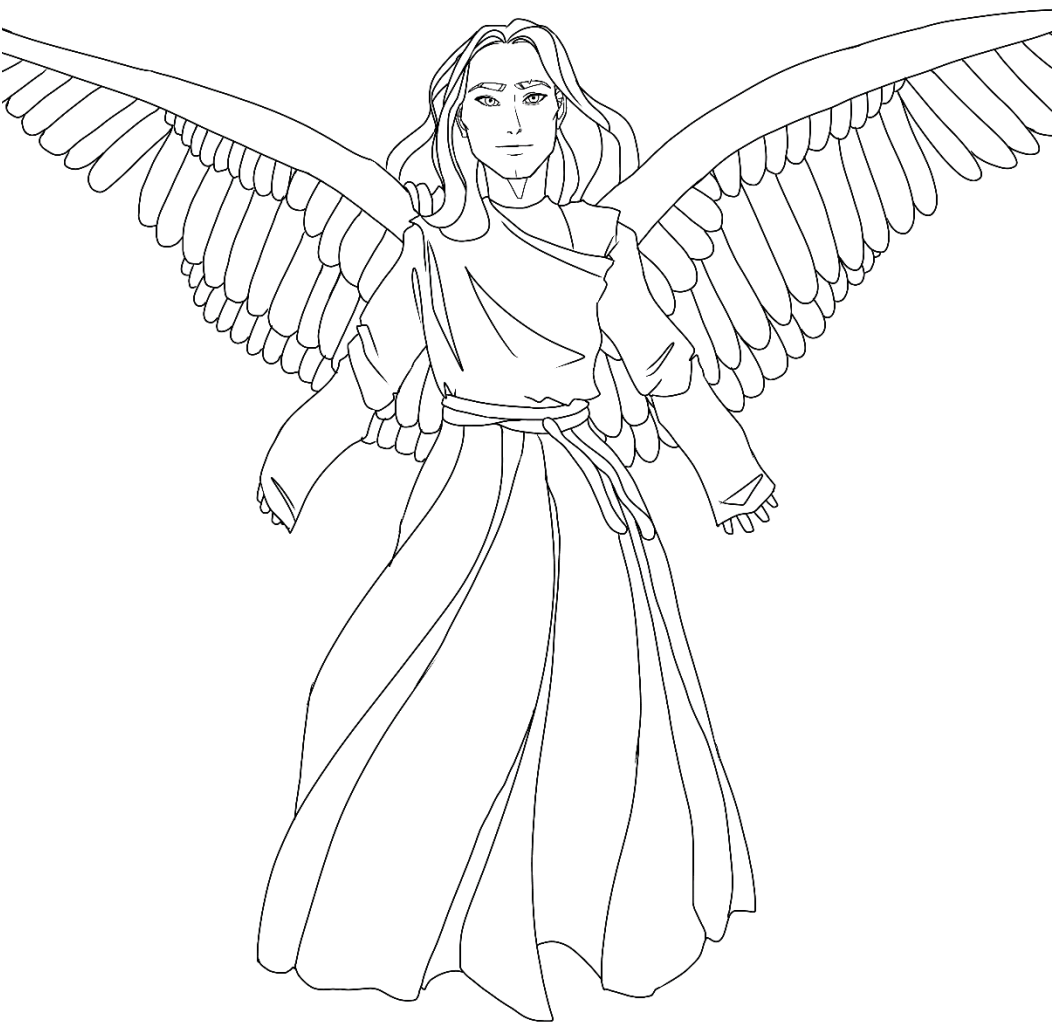


# Come & See

a meditative Scripture walk



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL



# Welcome!

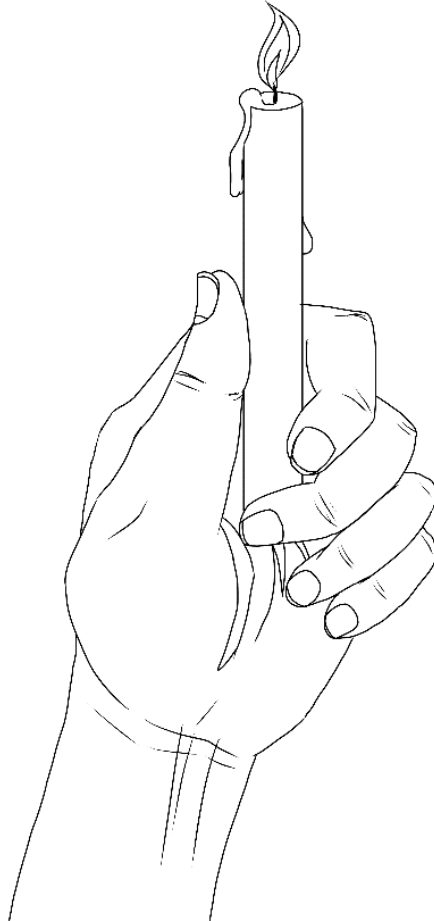
It is easy to become overwhelmed during the Christmas season. Endless to-do lists, expenses of buying gifts and special food, people to see and appointments to keep – where can we find a moment to breathe and bask in the wonder of the season? We invite you now to take a few moments to do just that:

Seek with the Wise Men the Light that shines in the darkness...

Rejoice in the angels' song and the shepherds' wonder...

Be still with Mary and Joseph, marveling at the birth of this Baby...

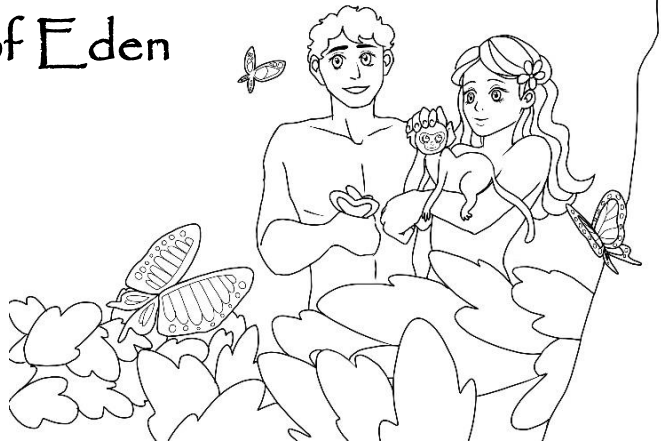
Come and see the newborn Savior.



# The Garden of Eden

## a home in paradise

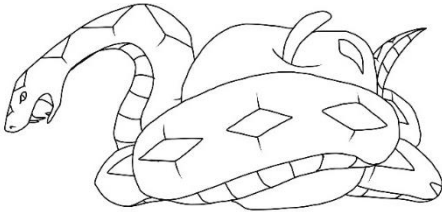
The Garden of Eden was created by God to be the perfect dwelling place for humanity. All Adam & Eve needed was provided for them by God through the Garden. Eden was paradise.



see Genesis 1-2

## when “me” comes first

Despite God's command to not eat of the tree in the middle of the Garden, Adam & Eve's own pride and doubt allowed them to be tempted by the serpent, and they ate. Because they had disobeyed God, they were cast out of the Garden, and sin and death entered the world. Humanity now needed a Savior.



see Genesis 3

## a God of Grace and Love

We need a Savior indeed. All of Scripture tells how God fulfilled His promise, given in the garden, of sending that Savior. In His presence with sinful humanity, Jesus demonstrates how broad and how deep is the love of God.

# The Prophets

the Word of the LORD came to me

Although the New Testament was written about 2,000 years ago, the prophecies about Jesus coming as Savior go back more than 3,500 years in the Old Testament. The first promise of a Savior is in Genesis. Throughout the Old Testament, there are many promises that God would send a Messiah - an Anointed One to save us from our sins.

One of the most important prophecies comes from Isaiah, a prophet who lived about 800 years before Jesus' birth. He wrote,

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6

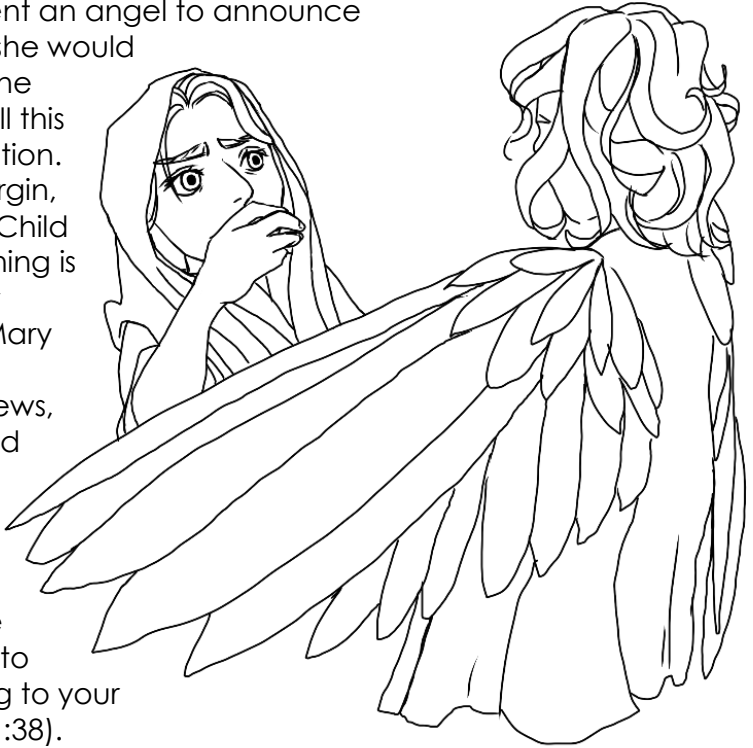


Prophets like Isaiah knew in faith that there would be a Savior even though they didn't get to see him.

# The Annunciation

## according to your word

When God sent an angel to announce to Mary that she would give birth to the Savior, we call this the Annunciation. Although a virgin, she bore the Child because nothing is impossible for God. When Mary was told this astonishing news, she responded in faith saying, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

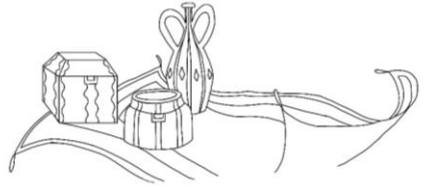


## God showed His love for us in this

Imperfect like us, and in need of a Savior, Mary bore God's Son, a Savior for her and for all mankind. This shows us how God's love reaches out to us, wherever we are, and does not depend on how holy we are.

*For further reading, see Luke 1 and Matthew 1.*

# Wise Men



## Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

## scholarly adventure

Also called Magi, the Wise Men were the scholars of the ancient eastern world. Most likely from Persia, these men traveled for months to find the One hailed by the star.

## a shining light

There are theories as to how the star appeared in the sky, but we know that the same God that created the heavens and the earth from only His words was more than capable of arranging the heavenly bodies to cause this miracle.

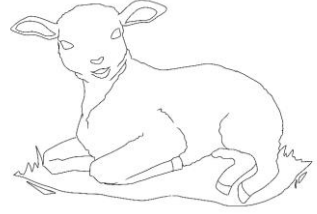
## Numbers 24:17

I see him, but not now;  
I behold him, but not near:  
a star shall come out of Jacob,  
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;  
it shall crush the forehead of Moab  
and break down all the sons of Sheth.

See Matthew 2  
for further reading.



# Shepherds & Angels



Isaiah 40:11

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

## unlikely witnesses

Shepherds were sometimes seen as social misfits since they would have to work on the Sabbath (God's Holy Day). Their invitation to see the birth of Jesus reminds us that God's grace is for all people.

## heavenly messengers

Angels are the spiritual messengers of God. They must be quite a sight to humans, as they nearly always must first say "Don't be afraid!"

Psalms 148:1-2

*For further reading, see Luke 2.*

Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!  
Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his hosts!

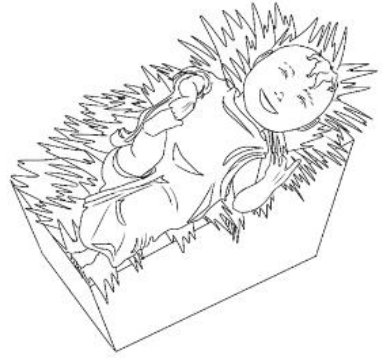




# The Nativity

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



**no crib for a bed**

During this time, birthing was done in the home; because Mary and Joseph had traveled to Bethlehem, she gave birth in the place God provided.

**a father's care**

Although not Jesus' biological father, Joseph took on the responsibility to raise Him, and no doubt trained him in his own craft of carpentry.

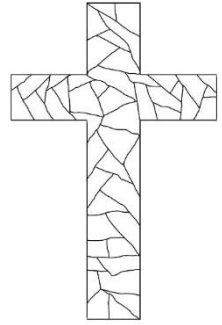
Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government  
shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.



*See Matthew 1 & Luke 2  
for further reading.*

# From Manger to Cross...



Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

## the early years

Not much is known about Jesus' childhood.

Because He is fully human in addition to being fully God, we can assume his childhood was similar to most others, except for the fact he was without sin. As a child, Jesus played, laughed, cried, and made friends.

## behold the Lamb of God

Jesus began his ministry after his Baptism by John the Baptist. He performed many miracles and taught many lessons about God's Word. His primary ministry would be completed when He willingly went to the Cross to pay for the sins of all people.

John 20:30-31

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



# The Garden of Gethsemane



1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

## the Anointed One of God

*Messiah* is a Hebrew word meaning "Anointed One," but we mostly know the Greek word, "Christ." The Christ is the one whom God promised to send way back in Genesis 3 after Adam and Eve had sinned. He would be True God and True Man, and He would deliver humanity from both sin and death.

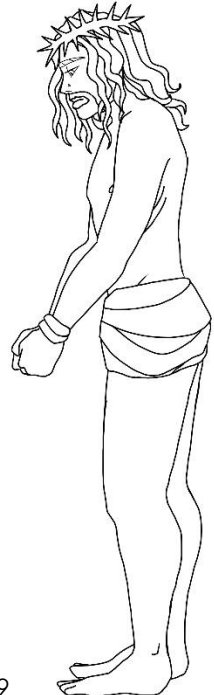
## the suffering Servant

Crucifixion was the way Romans executed non-citizen criminals. They were nailed to the crosses and their bodies were left to rot and serve as a warning to future criminals. It was a very painful, gruesome, and humiliating way to die.

Isaiah 53:3-5

He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement  
that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

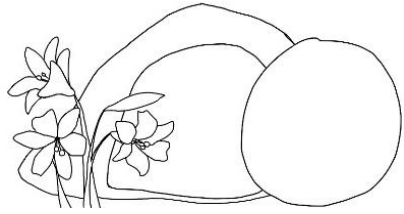


# The Resurrection

## Romans 5:8-10

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since,

therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.



## the guard and the seal

When Jesus was buried, some of the Jewish leaders feared His followers would steal the body and then pretend He had risen. To prevent this, they placed a seal over the tomb entry along with guards, so that they would know if anyone had moved it away. When Jesus rose, the seal was not broken!

## burial preparations

Ancient Jews wrapped dead bodies in cloth for burial. Once the body had decomposed, they would transfer the bones to an ossuary ("bone box"). On that first Resurrection morning, Jesus' burial cloths were found in the tomb, but His body had risen!

## John 11:25-27

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."



# As you leave...

Christmas is a time of gathering with family and loved ones, but at the heart of the season is a tiny Baby born in humble surroundings, for the purpose of doing something that no other human on earth could do: bear the punishment for the sins of the whole world.

The brokenness of the world is evident all around us – sickness and heartache, damaged relationships and bodies that begin breaking down all too soon. None of this was how God designed it to be. But the brokenness isn't because of Him, because of a flaw in His design. His design is good, perfect. We broke it.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. ~Romans 3:23

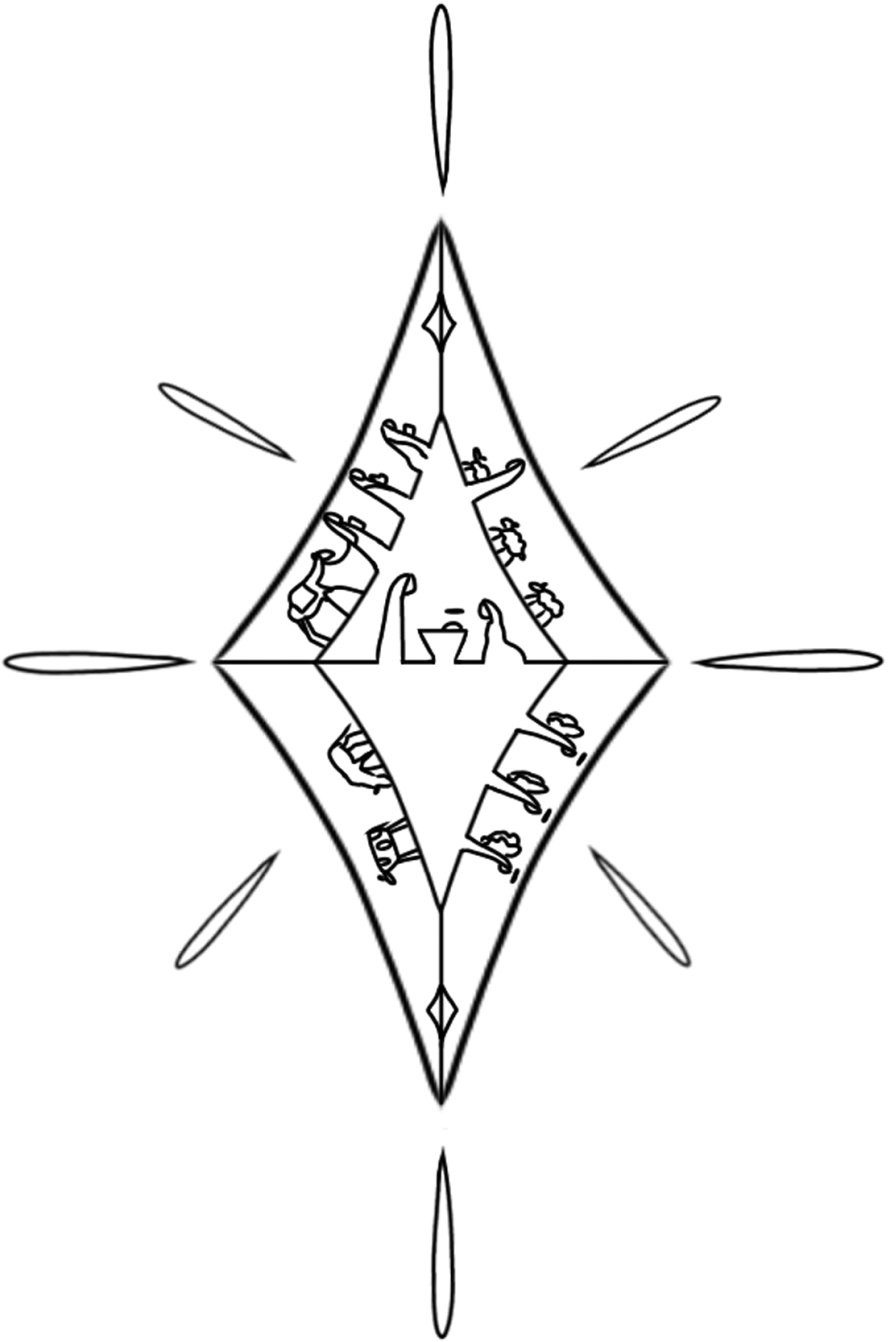
But He was not content to leave us in our sin, to abandon creation because we spoiled it. He planned from the beginning to enter the messiness of our fallen humanity. God became flesh, helpless and tiny, carried within the womb of His mother.

“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.” ~Luke 2:31



He was born. He grew up and began His ministry, His service of teaching and healing and sharing the coming Kingdom of God. But it is hard to hear a message that calls out our brokenness, our sinfulness, and our inability to do anything about it. Because His Words threatened their power, the leaders of His time sought His destruction. In His sacrificial death, He stood in our place and received our punishment for sin. When He rose victorious on Easter morning, His victory over sin, death, and the devil was sealed. As His people, we share in that victory and look forward to the day that we will celebrate it with Him in eternity.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ~Romans 6:4



Thank you for joining us; go with God's blessing  
this Christmas season.



Our Savior Lutheran School offers Houston families a traditional preschool through eighth grade Christian and Classical education that cultivates a child's mind and soul. Our goal is to bring forth eloquent confessors of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and wise leaders in our community.

Our Savior Lutheran School is:

- Christ Centered
- Classical Education
- Community Focused
- Academic Excellence

Interested in joining our school family? Visit us at [olschool.org](http://olschool.org).



Booklet art provided by Magdalena Baughman, member of OSL and high school student.

Booklet historical information provided by Karl Baughman, member of OSL and professor at PVAMU.

We are so appreciative of all our members who have helped to build sets, filled the stations, contributed music, and prayed for this effort.



Our Savior Lutheran Church is a  
confessional congregation of the  
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS).

For over 70 years, we have taught that among God's people learning is drawn from the clear truth of God's eternal Word, the Bible. Our focus is on the cross where our savior Jesus Christ died so that we might live with him here and in eternity.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

~John 3:16

Located in northwest Houston, close to the corner of Tidwell and Antoine near Highway 290, Our Savior Lutheran Church offers a variety of learning and giving opportunities for Houston families. Join us for our Sunday services, Bible Studies, ministries, and fellowship, and experience the power of the Word.

## Contact Us

5000 W. Tidwell Rd.  
Houston, TX 77091

(713) 290-9087

[www.osl.cc](http://www.osl.cc)