

There is warmth in the air, a new season has arrived. This is true for your church as well. We enter this month of April by celebrating the most holy of days: Easter. As you read this Epistle, Easter is on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Over a period of many years, I've enjoyed conversations with Bishop Mark Hanson, presiding Bishop of the ELCA from 2001-2013. Bishop Hanson always attended the ELCA Large Church Conference where I served as a member of the executive committee. His conversations always centered on keen theological concepts and the role of churches in forming disciples. I share an Easter message from him which seems extremely pertinent to the divisions we face today as a society.

*"Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,  
Christ is risen! Imagine the power in those words of promise. When the disciples first heard Jesus speak of his death and resurrection, "they kept the matter to themselves" (Mark 9:10). But the news is too good to keep to ourselves. The life of Jesus Christ has been unleashed into the world.*

*Because Christ is risen, you can embrace life's complexities and uncertainties with a living, daring confidence in God's grace. The risen Christ goes ahead of you, meeting you in the most surprising faces and unexpected places. Christ's resurrection puts us right where God wants us to be- in the thick of life.*

*Because Christ is risen, you have a word of hope. To those weary from mourning loss and fearing death, the assurance is given that nothing in all creation will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. The life of Jesus, God's own life, has burst into the world, restoring community. At the barriers we erect to divide us, the risen Christ meets us, turning those walls into tables of reconciliation. To those who live in fear and feel unworthy, the promise is given. "You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19).*

*Every morning you awaken with the mark of Jesus's death on your forehead and the promise of Christ's resurrection on your lips.*

*Christ is risen! Alleluia!"*

*-Bishop Mark Hanson*

Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, we will worship at 7am, 9am, and 10:30am. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Come and celebrate new life! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Peace to you and your loved ones,

**Interim Pastor Dennis E. Ellisen**

## Confirmation News

**Confirmation Class** resumes on Wednesday, April 4 at 5:30 p.m.

**Confirmation Camp** - All 7<sup>th</sup> graders who registered for camp will be receiving more information from Crossways as the date approaches.

**Grade 8 Confirmation Meeting** - Parents and students – mark your calendar and plan on attending the confirmation meeting on Sunday, May 6 at 9:15 a.m. (date changed from April 29). We will discuss the requirements and projects that students must complete before being confirmed in the fall.

**HONORING OUR 8<sup>th</sup> GRADERS AND HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS** – on Sunday, May 6 at the 10:30 service. Please mark your calendar and plan on being here. We'll celebrate with cake and punch after the service. Watch your mail for more details.

### April Youth Event

Our next Youth Event is coming up right after Easter. We'll be playing Our Savior's version of Cake Wars! Don't miss it!

**Date:** Wednesday, April 4

**Time:** 4 p.m. (Kids are invited to come right from school for a snack before the activities begin.)

**Cost:** \$3 donation to cover the cost of dinner.

Contact Karen Whitmer at [kwhitmer@our-saviors.org](mailto:kwhitmer@our-saviors.org) for more information.

## Sunday School News

Please mark your calendars—the last day of Sunday School is May 6.

## Middle School Adventure Night

Nearly 30 middle school students participated in Adventure Night. The theme of the event was "Let Your Light Shine," and included an evening trip to the Oshkosh Y, and late night activities, game and devotions with glow sticks.

Activities such as Adventure Night would not be possible without the help of our wonderful parents. Special thanks to all those who helped with Adventure Night, including Christine Rondeau, Kristin Bluemke, Angie Schabo, Stacey and Adam Kreuter, Niki Zemlock, Cary Myska, Chad Meyer and Tom Whitmer.



*Some of our youth enjoyed ice skating at the Oshkosh YMCA during Adventure Night.*

**"God's Work. Our Hands" - Yes, YOU can make a difference! Here are some opportunities to share God's love in our community.**

## Supporting Our Missions

**THINK SPRING! Living Color Flower Sale:** The youth are selling landscape flats, hanging baskets, color bowls, wave petunias, and vegetable and herb plants. Prices range from \$9 to \$23. Order forms are available in the Gathering Area. Place your order by March 25 (*payment must accompany order*). Delivery will be around Mother's Day. We'll call you when they arrive. Contact Karen Whitmer at [kwhitmer@our-saviors.org](mailto:kwhitmer@our-saviors.org) for more information.

## **Summer Mission Trip 2018**

***There are still several open spots for our summer mission trip!*** We're heading to Milwaukee for a 2 night/3 day mission trip! The dates are June 20-22. We are opening this opportunity up to all members, ages 12 to 100. Give of yourself and discover how amazing mission work is as we feed the homeless, work at a food pantry, read to preschoolers and visit with the elderly. This would be a great family opportunity from teens to grandparents! Contact Marcie Kimmes ASAP!

## Palm Sunday Thanks

Thank you to all those who supported our Palm Sunday breakfast and Silent Auction Basket event! All proceeds will go toward sending our youth and chaperones to Houston for the National Youth Gathering in June. We so appreciate your generosity!

Check out our online donation  
feature on our website at  
***[www.our-saviors.org](http://www.our-saviors.org)***

## Lay Readers Needed

**Help!!!** We are in dire need of lay readers for the 5:00 Saturday evening services. With the departure of Bill Mode, we are now down to only three readers for Saturdays. Won't you please consider giving this ministry a try? Try it once and see if you like it. Scheduling is flexible. Contact the church office or Sue Schultz (751-3725) for more information. We really need your help.

## We're On Facebook!

Check out the Our Savior's Facebook page! Just put our name in your 'search' box on Facebook: **Our Savior's Lutheran—Neenah, WI.**

Click on the LIKE button on our page to check us out. We post regular updates, pictures, events, and other fun stuff happening at Our Savior's.

You can also access our Facebook page through the homepage on our website at [www.our-saviors.org](http://www.our-saviors.org).

## Men's Breakfasts

The men's Bible study meets on the second and fourth Saturday of every month. We meet at 8:00 a.m. in the meeting room of Perkins Restaurant across from Wal-Mart. This month we meet on April 14 and 28. Come and join us. All men welcome.

## OSLC Mission Quilters

Come see how much fun we have! This month we meet in the church gym on:

April 5 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

April 19 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

**Join us today for our annual Cut and Piece Day!**

## Women's Book Club

The book club at OSLC welcomes you to join our friendly group of 10 to 12 women. We generally meet at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the church library. This month we meet on April 24. Come join us!

## Scrip Cards

Scrip cards will be sold at all services the weekend of April 7/8.

## July 3 Parade of Lights

Anyone interested in bringing back the Our Savior's float for the Parade of Lights parade on July 3? Deadline for registration is June 15, and generators by May 18. If you and/or your family would like to chair this project, organize volunteers to build the float, and march in the parade, please contact the church office.

## LOVE > Series

Our Sunday morning series continues through April. Please join us, from 9:15-10:15 a.m. to listen, learn and explore a variety of topics through Bible study, videos, Q & A and guest speakers.

**April 8 – Love > Shame** We are all familiar with the fact that we all have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Sometimes we realize this in ourselves and in others and sometimes we feel shame because of it. So what then do we do with shame? We remember God's power of forgiveness

**April 15 – Immigration** Our guest speaker is Molly Smiltneek, JD. Molly is an immigration attorney, consultant and advocate who will share information about our current immigration system, DACA and other issues facing immigrants in the U.S. today.

**April 22 – Love > Hunger** "The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread. We can do no great things; only small things with great love." – Mother Theresa.

**April 29** – Did you know that nearly 700,000 people in Wisconsin do not know where their next meal is coming from? Hunger does not discriminate; it knows no age, race or sex. Guest speaker (TBD) on Hunger in the Fox Valley and how we can make a difference.

## Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to those who remembered

**Roy Bartz  
Irene Stinson**

## Easter Worship

*Join us for worship on  
Easter Sunday at 7:00,  
9:00 and 10:30 a.m.*



## Faith in Action

Mortgage Retirement Campaign  
"Together We Can Get It Done"

Goal: \$500,000

### History

For several years, Our Savior's studied the need to upgrade the church facilities. Key needs were identified as: make the church handicap accessible, enhance the Narthex, relocate the church offices, modernize the kitchen, update the Sanctuary and expand the church property for future expansion. The initial plan to accomplish these needs was projected to be \$1,400,000.

The Congregation approved the plan. A building committee was formed. The committee initiated a capital fund campaign entitled "Faith in Action". This resulted in pledges of \$726,000 over a three-year period. With this tremendous Faith and Support from the Congregation, "Ground Breaking" took place in September, 2009.

As construction proceeded, several enhancements were included. The outside of the new office structure was changed to match the church and a basement was added. A passageway from the front of the church to the new office structure was included. Fire code required a sprinkling system for the sanctuary and a firewall for the improved kitchen. Enhancements of a new carpet, alter rail, pew removal and music alcove were additions for the sanctuary.

The final cost of the project, including the purchase of the home across the street was \$1,818,000. This project was financed through a loan from the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA with the terms of 25 years with a five year variable interest rate of 6%. We have had two additional three-year capital campaigns in 2012 and 2015 to continue the debt reduction. The current loan balance as of March 15, 2018, was \$481,267.20. Our current refinanced loan with ELCA has a variable rate of 3.85% that is locked in until 2022.

### Plan

Now is the time to put this debt behind us. As of April 2nd, the Faith in Action Building Committee will launch its 4th capital campaign with the goal of rising \$500,000 over the next three years. This will pay off the loan and allow for the leaking roof on the gymnasium to be replaced prior to more damage. Estimated cost of this repair is \$38,000.

During the month of April, there will be temple talks, question and answer forums, displays in the Narthex and letters to request your commitment to this campaign. The results of the campaign will be revealed in late May. Your commitment is vital! Whether it is \$1.00 a year or \$10,000 a year, we must all do our part! By putting our Faith into Action we can become debt free.

**LUTHER TIDBIT**

**"PRAY—AND LET GOD  
WORRY."**

**—MARTIN LUTHER**

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ~ 2 Corinthians 9:7

## Generous People...

### Youth

Our Savior's youth are thankful for YOU, our generous and supportive congregation. Last month's Adventure Night was a complete success due to the help of our parents. Our Theme Basket Raffle and Palm Sunday breakfast wouldn't happen if it wasn't for all of you supporting our kids. Thank you.

The youth committee asks that you continue to support our youth by praying for them, supporting their fundraisers, volunteering your time, and encouraging them throughout the year.

## From the Pews

### Why I volunteer...

...I volunteer because I love to put a smile on the face of someone who may be struggling currently. -Anon

...because I feel like I'm part of the OSLC church family. I've met a lot of people. -Anon.

...because I get to help someone in need. -Anon.

...it takes my mind off myself and helps me put others' happiness and welfare first. -Anon.

...because it makes me feel good and pleases God too!  
-Dee Klein

## Generous Congregation...

### Unified Budget YTD

#### Through February

Income \$ 86,653.30

Expenses \$ 79,135.70

\$ 7,517.60

## Special Offerings ...

### Noisy Coin

Souper Bowl of Caring  
\$266.82

Lutheran World Relief  
\$502.76

## Generosity is...

...to materialism what kryptonite is to Superman.

- Lloyd Shadrach, pastor and author

## Opportunities For Giving...

### OSLC Food Fund

This fund was born of the Buckets for Hunger drive in 2006 and continues today. The contributions are primarily used for gift cards to grocery stores and are administered by the Pastor in strict confidence.

## Building Fund...

### Through February

Remaining on Loan:  
\$481,267.20

Principal Paid on Loan  
\$ 10,315.18

Total Contributions:  
\$ 10,173.34