

During this month of March, we continue and conclude our season of Lent. (Holy Week is the last week of March with Easter Sunday quite early this year on April 1st). Lent has been a wonderful opportunity to focus on “taking on newness”, rather than just focusing on “giving things up”. To assist us, we have been directing our attention to a well known prayer- the Prayer of St Francis.

St Francis was born in Assisi, Italy, in 1182. He was an extremely spiritual person who founded the Franciscan Religious Order. This is the prayer that has been our focus for Lent:

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O, divine master, grant that I may not so
much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it's in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

Each Wednesday at 10am and 6:30pm, we pause during worship and focus on this prayer for our Lenten journey. If you haven't attended these Wednesdays in Lent- NOW IS THE TIME. You and your loved ones will be refreshed. You might also consider coming early for the 6:30pm worship and attend the weekly Soup Supper at 5:30pm. This is a great way to reconnect with folks at Our Savior's and perhaps meet some new people as well. See you at worship!

May God Bless Our Journey Together

Interim Pastor Dennis E. Ellisen

Confirmation News

Confirmation Class During Lent—There is no confirmation class during Lent, *HOWEVER*, confirmation students are expected to attend all mid-week Lenten services. Attendance will be taken and points given.

Confirmation Camp-

Confirmation camp is June 10-15. All 7th grade students received the registration information. Completed registration forms need to be turned in to the church office no later than Sunday, March 4. Contact Karen Whitmer with questions at kwhitmer@our-saviors.org.

Youth Adventure Night-

Our Youth Adventure Night is coming up on **Saturday, March 3**. This night of fun activities replaces the Youth Lock-in. The change was made to better accommodate our busy kids' schedules and to ensure we have enough chaperones to create a fun and meaningful night for our kids.

The event will start with the 5 p.m. worship service and go until midnight. Sign up is in the Gathering Area and will be limited to 40 kids. The cost is \$20. One guest per student is allowed until we've reached our 40-kid limit. Contact Karen Whitmer at kwhitmer@our-saviors.org with questions.

Sunday School News

Palm Sunday-Donkey Walk

Please join us on Palm Sunday, March 25, as we hold our Donkey Walk outside around the church. We will begin at 9:15. Following this we'll have our procession of palms throughout the church at the 10:30 service.

Vacation Bible School

We want vacation bible school (VBS) to be whatever our families want it to be! With that in mind, I am looking for a couple of people to run the program. I am willing to help with the planning and finding volunteers, but I really need people to take over the program. It can be a weeklong VBS in the morning or at night, once a month for June, July, August, or it could be three or four days a week and it could be intergenerational. VBS is what you want it to be. Please prayerfully consider this wonderful opportunity to bring God's word to the children. If you are interested let Ruthie Melzer know at rmelzer@our-saviors.org or give me a call. -Ruthie

Summer Mission Trip, 2018

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 – 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!

Youth Visit Valley VNA

On February 7, our youth visited Valley VNA to play BINGO and make Valentines with some of the residents. Everyone had a great



time...and the VNA staff and residents appreciated our visit. The kids then returned to church for some delicious OSLC pizza!

"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 Youth

2018 Pizza Build

Thank you to all those who helped build and who bought pizzas for our annual church Super Bowl Pizza Sale. We made and sold more than 500 pizzas.

All proceeds from these fundraisers will be used to sponsor the high school youth and chaperones attending the National Youth Gathering in Houston this summer. Thank you for supporting our youth, mission and outreach ministries!

Our high school youth's upcoming trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston is possible because of YOU – our compassionate and generous congregation. Please consider supporting these upcoming fundraisers...

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. Contact Karen Whitmer at kwhitmer@our-saviors.org for more information.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST: Pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverages will be served on Palm Sunday.

When? Sunday, March 25 from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Where? Fellowship Hall

Cost? "Free-will offering" - Suggested donations: \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child (10 and under).

THEME BASKET AUCTION: Our Theme Basket Silent Auction will take place during the pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday. Baskets will go to the highest bidder – winners will be announced at the end of the 10:30 worship service. The youth headed to the NYG in Houston are heading up this year's auction ... but would welcome assistance and support from the congregation. If you have something you would be willing to donate for our Silent Basket Auction (gift cards, new items or business services), please contact Karen Whitmer at kwhitmer@our-saviors.org. Thank you!

THANK YOU: Thanks to all those who came out to Solea on February 23 for our first youth 'restaurant night' of the year. Future restaurant nights include:

Monday, April 8, Pizza Ranch from 3:45 to 9:16 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1, Culvers in Appleton from 4 to 8 p.m.

Mark your calendars for these special nights!

Souper Bowl Success

On February 3 and 4, our Confirmation Youth participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring, a nationwide youth movement to raise awareness and money to fight poverty and hunger in America. Through the children's sermon and a slide show, we discussed how we can use compassion and love to respond to the needs of our community.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, our youth collected nearly \$400, which was donated to ELCA World Hunger. We also were able to completely restock our own food pantry shelves with food and paper goods.

Thanks to all of our youth who participated ... and to our congregation for their generous donations!



A couple of our youth with the money they collected in a soup bucket.

Soup Suppers

Soup Suppers will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 14 and 21 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Gathering Area. Lent Worship Service will follow supper.

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 March 10 and 24. 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:

March 1 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

March 15 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

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 March 27. Come join us!

Easter Worship Services

*March 24-25 Palm Sunday, Donkey Walk at 9 a.m.
March 29, Maundy Thursday at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
March 30, Good Friday at 6:30 p.m.
March 31, Easter Vigil at 5:00 p.m.
April 1, Easter Sunday at 7:00, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.*

Moving?

Please call the church office with your new mailing address if you plan to move or will be away temporarily. This will ensure that we have accurate records in our database as well as prevent having to pay extra postage for mail that is returned to church.

LOVE > Series

Join us on Sunday mornings, from 9:15-10:15 a.m., as we continue our Listening Deeply series, "LOVE >". We'll listen, learn and explore a variety of topics through Bible study, videos, Q & A and guest speakers.

March Sessions

March 5 – Suicide Debbie Peters, Executive Director of Community for Hope in Oshkosh, will be our guest speaker. It is important to know that most suicides are impulsive acts. Suicide victims are not trying to end their lives...they're trying to end their pain. Many millions of hours are spent by survivors trying to cope with the loss of a loved one to suicide. The lives of those left behind...friends, parents, siblings and many others...will never be the same.

March 11– Mental Health and AODA (alcohol/drug abuse) Through this discussion, we'll gain a better understanding of this important issue. Our guest speaker, Hannah Keesler, is a therapist at Samaritan's Counseling Center. Hannah's therapeutic approach focuses on healing the mind, body, and spirit. She works with children, adolescents, adults and families for a variety of mental health concerns.

March 18 – Mental Illness 101 This presentation will provide an overview of mental illness, treatment and recovery, advocacy and breaking the stigma. Our guest speaker is from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

March 25 – Palm Sunday

April 1 – Easter

Upcoming Topics – Hunger, Immigration, Addiction

Don't forget to Spring Ahead!

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11, at 2:00 a.m. Remember to turn your clocks ahead on Saturday night so you aren't late for church on Sunday!

New Members/ Baptism

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR SAVIOR'S? – If you are interested in joining Our Savior's, please contact Pastor Ellisen. New members will be received at the Easter Vigil service on Saturday, March 31, at 5:00 p.m.

BAPTISM – If your family is planning a baptism due to an anticipated or recent birth or if you are a person of any age who has not yet been baptized, please contact Pastor Ellisen. Consider being part of the Easter Vigil Baptism Festival at the Easter Vigil service on Saturday, March 31, at 5:00 p.m.

NOTE – These are somewhat different than what's been included in the past!

LUTHER TIDBIT

**"FAITH IS A LIVING, DARING
CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S GRACE,
SO SURE AND CERTAIN THAT
A MAN COULD STAKE HIS
LIFE ON IT A THOUSAND
TIMES."**

-MARTIN LUTHER

Easter Flower Sale

Help fill the church with beautiful blooms! Lilies, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths are on sale. Order (with payment) by March 25. Envelopes with order forms will be available starting March 10 in the Gathering Area with a drop box. Please fill out the order form completely. Flowers may be purchased "in honor of" or "in memory of" family members and friends.

Pick up flowers after the final worship service on Easter Sunday, April 1, or during church office hours, Tuesday, April 3. Flowers remaining at church after April 3 will be donated to a local care facility. The flower sale is sponsored by the Joyous Ringers hand bell choir. Funds will go toward their Music Program. Thank you for your support!

New Staff Photo



Here is our most recent staff photo. From left to right are Karen Whitmer, Marcie Kimmes, Ruthie Melzer, Pastor Ellisen, Cheryl Timm, Jennifer Hurley, Dave Zernicke and Chris Swender.

*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer. Another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.
~ Proverbs 11:24*

Generous People...

Volunteers

Our church requires many volunteers to keep it running smoothly. We currently need volunteers in all areas. Please consider helping in one or more of these areas—ushering, altar guild, office help, singing in our choirs, reading during worship, and many more. We will have a Volunteer Fair coming up in the near future where you can sign up to get involved. Watch for details. Or contact Cheryl in the office and she will be glad to point you in the right direction to help out!

Generosity is...

...remembering that God is the owner of all we have. We are simply stewards of what we have been given. Generosity begins with seeking God's guidance and direction as we plan for the future.

From the Pews

Why I volunteer...

I am doing what I love best—playing guitar. Over the last 30 years, I have played with many different musicians and I am still learning new things. In the process, I have improved my skills. Most of all, music is a gift from God. By playing in church, I am using this gift for God's work.
-Bryan Gilbertson

Opportunities For Giving...

Help Fund

This fund is designed primarily for emergency situations. When possible, we work with local organizations and will help by writing a check to that organization. We have used this fund to help people with housing and utilities, provide scholarships for mission trips and confirmation camp, medical assistance, and purchase Christmas gifts for group homes and members. All names are kept confidential. Contributions can be made using the envelopes in the pews and writing Help Fund under 'other'.

Generous Congregation...

Unified Budget YTD

Through January

Income \$ 29,314.65

Expenses \$ 45,022.45

(\$ 15,707.80)

**Check out our
online donation
feature on our
website at
*www.our-saviors.org***

Building Fund...

Through January

**Remaining on Loan:
\$486,509.54**

**Principal Paid on Loan
\$ 5,072.84**

**Total Contributions:
\$ 4,217.67**