## **MARCH 2025**



## Our Savior's Lutheran Church

9:30 am Worship Service 9:45 am-10:45 am Sunday School Our Savior's Lutheran Church ELCA (715) 394 3472



#### Pastor's Report March 2025

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

Winter finally caught up with us last month with several inches of snow and temps hovering around zero for most of the month. But guess what? Spring slowly eases its way into our world this month...at least technically. It's only fitting that our spring slowly creeps back in since our winter slowly creeped in. We don't want it too warm out there as we begin out season of Lent

this month, a season of pondering and reflection before the busy seasons of spring and summer get underway. We have much to reflect on this year as we discern the work of the Spirit in our congregation. How is the Spirit forming us into the body of Christ? How are we participating in the work of the Spirit?

We have to constantly ask ourselves these questions as we build our ministry together. What does God want us to be doing this year and in this place? We're going to have to get creative and take some risks if we want to be true to God and our calling to serve him. We're going to have to grow and stretch our comfort zones. God wants us to grow and bravely venture into the unknown with his Son leading our way. Let us use this season for very deliberate reflection and visioning of

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Greetings OSLC friends! I would like to thank you all for giving me the chance to serve our congregation. I am excited for this opportunity and look forward to growing our faith together!

Ben Gaard

#### Council Meeting February 18, 2025

Present: Stephanie Shaw, Bonnie Wentzel, Carol Arthur Dianne Tomczak, Kandee Rosburg, Ben Gaard, Steve Shaw, Jim Splinter, Donna Liebaert, Linda Clark, Dawn Wicklund, Pastor Sean Koos

The Board meeting started at 5:20 with devotion and prayer.

No additions to the agenda.

Secretary's Report – as written in the board reports. Motion to approve minutes, second and passed (M/S/P).

Treasurer's Report - Bonnie gave a verbal report. Income for January was \$20,299.60 and expenses were \$19,474.14, with a surplus of \$825.46. M/S/P to accept Treasurer's report.

#### **Board Reports**

Board of Education:

The confirmation group will be helping with the Lent Services. Need to review the mentors so that each confirmation student has one. Discussion of ideas for the program. (twice a week for 2 hours, combined with other churches, (Zion has weekly for 3 hours, includes dinner), talk to parents for ideas.

Lock-in looks like it will be on April 4th. Details in March.

#### Board of Deacons:

Decided on roles for members and divided up the year for weekly services.

The Lenten sign-up needs to get out.

Lenten service at 6:30 with soup suppers starting at 5:30.

Prayed for members of our church.

#### Mission and Outreach:

The Children's Clothes Closet handed out 89 items in January. The are always in need of socks and underwear. Cheri took the items collected in January to St. Vincent de Paul and we received a lovely thank you note from

Februarys collection is for the Ruth House and March will be for Faith United Methodist Food Pantry.

Winter items on sale at Walmart and other area stores if anyone wants to purchase items to be stored until next

#### Stewardship:

Decided on member roles and Steward of the month.

Reviewed the Stewardship Board job descriptions and completed some tasks on the list.

Reviewed the Usher job description and discussed signup vs. asking someone.

Meeting once a month, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 4:30.

Discussion on plowing, received a quote for plowing at \$100.00/time.

Set goals for the year, including fixing the lights in the parking lot, mortgage renewal, remove the old shed, fix cracking floor tiles, discuss fixing bathrooms in the Fellowship Hall and a lock-up schedule.

Itemize accounts

M/S/P to accept all board reports.

#### Pastors Report:

Lock-in will be the first week in April.

The Campus Ministry has shifted to a community meal. We are in charge of the first Sunday of the month with Concordia. Vision Victories:

The clothes closet is well used, and our volunteers do a quite a bit of work.

Mystery plow man in the white truck who plowed our parking lot on Saturday and just asked for a prayer.

Response from the Church Angels to providing the bars, set-up and clean-up.

On-going Business: None

New Business: Already done above.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

List for soup suppers - Linda will get it out.

Pastor will work with the confirmation group for Lenten Services

February 23 service is at Zion. They are serving sloppy Joe's. We need to bring salads and sweets. **Upcoming Meeting Dates:** 

March 11<sup>th</sup> – All Board Meeting March 18<sup>th</sup> – Council Meeting March 5<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday

Thanks to Jim and Gene for working on the pipe insulation downstairs. Thanks to Jim, Steve, Stephanie and the mystery man in the white truck for plowing last Saturday. (2-15-25).

A motion was made to adjourn and the meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Wicklund, Council Secretary

### **Narrative Lectionaries March 2025**

March 2nd Luke 9:28-45 Transfiguration

March 9thLuke 10:25-42 Good Samaritan

March 16th Luke 13: 1-9, 31-35 Lament over Jerusalem

March 23rd Luke 15:1-32 Lost Sheep, Coin, Son

March 30th Luke 16:19-31 Rich Man and Lazarus

### Servers for the month of March

Deacon: Steve Shaw

Altar: Bonnie Wentzel and Robbye Johnson

### Alcolytes:

March 05 (Ash Wednesday) Tyler Dahl

March 09 Darren Porter

March 12 (Lent) Tyler Dahl

March 16 Jamie Koos

March 19 (Lent) Darren Porter

March 23 Tyler Dahl

March 26 (Lent) Jamie Koos

March 30 Tyler Dahl

#### Bible Studies March 2025

Wednesdays (Our Savior's)/2nd Thursday (Concordia), 10:30-11:30

(Zoom meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/i/6627675381 or call 1-312-626-6799, passcode: 046800)

#### 03-05-25 Luke 10:25-42

- 1. What question does the lawyer ask Jesus to test him, and what is his motivation behind this question?
- 2. How does Jesus use the lawyer's response to "love God and love your neighbor" to set up the parable?
- 3. Who are the key characters in the parable, and how are they portrayed?
- 4. Why does the story include a priest and a Levite passing by the injured man, and what does this signify?
- 5. What actions does the Samaritan take that demonstrate his compassion and "neighborliness"?
- 6. How does Jesus redefine the concept of "neighbor" through this parable?
- 7. How does the story of Mary and Martha relate to the parable of the Good Samaritan?
- 8. What does Jesus mean when he says "Mary has chosen what is better"?
- 9. What are the potential dangers of being overly focused on "busy work" compared to the importance of spending time in quiet reflection with God?
- 10. What are some societal barriers or prejudices that might prevent us from seeing others as our neighbors?

#### 03-12-25 Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

- 1. What does the parable of the barren fig tree represent?
- 2. How does Jesus portray God's patience and desire for repentance?
- 3. What does "bearing fruit" signify in this context?
- 4. How does Jesus' warning about Jerusalem reflect his concern for the city, and what does it mean to "gather her children under her wings"?
- 5. What details in the story highlight the severity of the situation for the fig tree?
- 6. How does this parable challenge us to examine our own spiritual fruitfulness?
- 7. What does Jesus mean by saying he is "going up to Jerusalem" and why is this significant?
- 8. What does the phrase "the days of the Son of Man" refer to, and what does it imply about the urgency of Jesus' message?
- 9. How does this passage challenge us to consider the consequences of rejecting God's love and grace?
- 10. What does it mean to "strive to enter" the Kingdom of God?

#### 03-19-25 Luke 15:1-32

- 1. How does this parable illustrate God's love and forgiveness towards sinners?
- 2. What does the father's immediate response to the returning son reveal about his character?
- 3. How does this story challenge our understanding of who is considered "lost" and who deserves God's grace?
- 4. How does the younger son's behavior reflect the actions of someone who has strayed from God?
- 5. What does the older son's attitude reveal about his understanding of God's love and forgiveness?
- 6. What is the significance of the younger son asking for his inheritance early?
- 7. Why does the father run to meet his son and welcome him back with such celebration?
- 8. What does the "fatted calf" symbolize in the story?
- 9. How does this parable encourage us to reach out to those who are considered "lost" or struggling?
- 10. What does it mean to truly r03-26-25 Luke 16:19-31

#### 03-26-25

- 1. Why didn't the rich man help Lazarus, even though he saw him every time he went out?
- 2. What does this story teach us about helping those in need?
- 3. How does this story illustrate the concept of judgment after death?
- 4. What do we learn about a heart of unbelief and unrepentance from this story?
- 5. Should we serve others instead of being served without expecting others to do the same for
- 6. How does the fate of the rich man and Lazarus affect our understanding of justice and fairness?
- 7. What insights can we gain from this parable about the consequences of our actions and choices?
- 8. How do you feel about the rich man's crying out for mercy?
- 9. Why did the rich man beg for Lazarus to be sent to his brothers?
- 10. What did the rich man learn during his brief (so far) stay in Hades?

#### **Catechism Mentor 6 Questions**

- 1. Which do you think is better: praying aloud or silently praying? Why?
- 2. Which do you think is better: praying alone or praying with others? Why?
- 3. Which do you think is better: praying for yourself or praying for others? Why?
- 4. What is the first image that comes to mind when you hear the word, "grace?"
- 5. Are you more likely to receive grace or extend grace? Why?
- 6. Which is harder for you to understand: God's forgiveness, forgiving others, others forgiving you, or forgiving yourself?
- 7. On a scale of 1 to 10, how willing are you to forgive others?
- 8. Do you think there are limits to God's grace? If so, where does God draw the line?
- 9. To what extent do you trust others? To what extent do you trust yourself?
- 10. What amazes you most about grace?
- 11. How would the world be different without God's grace?
- 12. What is the purpose of baptism?
- 13. Is baptism necessary for salvation? Why or why not?
- 14. Is it necessary to re-baptize people?
- 15. Why is baptism an important part of a person's spiritual journey?
- 16. How does baptism connect us with Christ?
- 17. What is the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism?
- 18. What is the purpose of confession?
- 19. Is confession necessary for salvation? Why or why not?
- 20. Is confession a sacrament? If not, should it be a sacrament? Why?



### Lent 2025

Ash Wednesday is on March 5th. OSLC is having a service at 6:30 p.m. with Pastor Koos presiding.

We will be having a soup supper prior to the Lenten service each week. This will be at 5:30 p.m. with the service to follow at 6:30 p.m. We are asking volunteers to provide the food. The suggestion is for one family or group to provide the soup and bread or crackers and another group the dessert. There are Thrivent cards available to help with expenses. There are sign up sheets in the narthex.. This will start March 12th.

Pastor Koos will be leading a 5-week sermon series for the midweek services entitled, "The Hand of the Lord." We'll explore how Jesus is hard at work in our world doing things to show his love for us. Individual sermon titles are:

03/12/2025 "Creates and Saves" Matthew 14:22-33

03/19/2025 "Casts Out Demons" Luke 9:37-43, 11:14-23

03/26/2025 "Heals the Sick" Matthew 8:1-17

04/02/2025 "Raises the Dead" Luke 7:11-17

04/02/2025 "Holds All Things" John 3:11-18, 22-36



## MARCH

Maci Heytens	3/1		
Johanna Koos	3/3	Linda Clark	3/18
		Caleb Stank	3/19
Clancy M. Johannesson	3/3	Renada Fall	3/22
Tim Neisor	3/5	Kim Willie	3/24
Lynne Haff	3/6	POD 88 3 3	
Katrina (Katie) Perrault	3/8	Sharon Schultz	3/2/
		Tanı Raeber	3/27
Nancy Gregory	3/8	Dennis Schultz	3/28
David Jokela	3/8	Michelle Krob	3/29
Thoren Netland	3/9		
Jack Rivord	3/10	Dea Gran	3/29
Lynn Haglin	3/13	Nora Wells	3/30
		Logan Lancour	3/30
Kyler Krab	3/13	Olivia Johnstad	3/31
Jill Brano	3/15	Gracic Johnstad	3/31
Roger Prescott	3/15	Ci acic Joillisted	3/3 (



John and Lissa Henoricks

Wedding

3/23

### Are you starting spring cleaning yet?



### Rummage Sale Reminder!

A list of what we ask for when leaving items:

- Put items in a box for easier stacking.
- No clothing
- We only want things that work.
- If something has an operator's instruction book please include if you have it.

**Don't give us things** that we would have to **PAY** to get rid of. That includes analog TVs, microwaves, computers computer printers mattresses, etc. The only exception is if you talk to Linda Gran in the office or me about it.

Thanks

Kandee Rosbury



The weekly meals for a campus ministry had not been attracting students as had been hoped. They have been discontinued for the present time. Instead there will be a community fellowship and meal. It will still be held on Sundays at Pilgrim Lutheran Church beginning at 5:30 p.m. OSLC will continue to share providing the meal with Concordia, We will be responsible the first Sunday of the month.

#### **Scrip Cards**

Remember to purchase your Scrip cards. It's such an easy way to make money for the church without costing you any morel

The next order will go in March 25th. You can place your order and payment in the box in the narthex on Sundays or turn it in at the office.



#### Quilters

On Thursday this week I met with other stitchers (Knitters, Crocheters, hand sewer, etc.) from Zion, Concordia, and Our Savior's. Paul Robinson from Zion met with a group last Sunday and decided to start this. Some of the things being worked on were hats and prayer shawls to be donated and also just working on our own thing. They are looking for additional people to join in, this includes anyone who would like to stitch. They will be meeting every Thursday from 2 - 4 pm at Zion. We may look at trying to work together on some projects for your community. If you have any questions. Contact me.

Kandee Rosburg 715-392-4426



Quilters can always use donated materials. Our biggest need is always the back material for the quilt. Top sheets that are in good condition work great. Any cotton or cotton-blend fabric. We also will use polyester fabric. Other things that work and are in good condition include: drapes, table cloths, shower curtains, etc. Thread Yam. Thank you, Thrivent for help with our supplies!!!

Through Thrivent Action Teams we purchase batting and fabric for quilt backs. If you have insurance or investments in Thrivent, you are usually eligible to write for moneys on each account that can be used to purchase materials. This can be worth two (action teams), worth \$250 each, to help pay for projects at church. Talk to Carol Roberts or Kandee Rosburg for more information.

#### **Education Corner**

#### Confirmation

Confirmation classes continue at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. They continue to acolyte each week and read during the service periodically. Confirmation is set for May 16th.

#### Preconfirmation

They now meet at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays as well but as a separate class.

#### **Sunday School**

We use the Spark Story Bible for probably more than 90% of the stories we read in class. It has been our policy to gift the new 3 year olds with a copy of their own. We will be handing out their bibles on March 16th during the children's service. We also give a copy to any older children who attend but have not yet received one.

We are looking forward to having music again. Samantha Koos has agreed to play the piano for us.

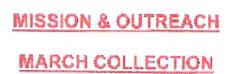


### Offering

We are passing the plate for the offering. You still have the option to place your gift in the plate at the back of the sanctuary or to use the online or mail in options.

### Sharing the Peace

There is an increase again in CoVid and now RSV along with the viruses common in the fall. These variants particularly affect small children and those over 65. We encourage congregants to do only as they feel comfortable for sharing the peace. Masks are optional but are available along with hand sanitizers at the church entrance and in the pews. You may hug, shake hands, touch elbows, wave or simply smile and say the words, as you feel comfortable.



### Faith United Methodist Food Pantry

March 2: Peanut Butter, Protein Drinks

March 9: Canned goods w/flip top cover, tuna fish

March 16: Granola bars, cereal, pop-tarts

March 23: Powdered Milk, Protein Drinks

March 30: Peanut Butter, Graham crackers

We would like to thank everyone for the large donation to RUTH HOUSE last month.



### **OSLC COOKS**

# Happy St. Patrick's Day! Here are some recipes with some Irish roots.



### **Irish Stew Recipe**

A classic Irish Stew is simple and flavorful. It comes together easily with hearty chunks of meat, **Ingredients** 

2 lb boneless, beef chuck roast cut into 1-inch cubes / ¼ cup unbleached, all-purpose flour 1 teasp salt / ½ teaspoon black pepper / 2 tablespoon olive oil / 1 onion finely chopped ½ cup beef broth /1 bay leaf / 2 cup baby carrots / 4 russet potatoes peeled, cut to 1" chunks **Instructions** 

Place the beef cubes, flour, and salt and pepper in a large ziptop bag or bowl. Seal and shake to coat all cubes with flour or stir gently.

- 2. In a large skillet, heat oil until shimmering. Add the beef cubes and brown on all sides. Do not crowd meat in pan. Do this in batches if your pan is not large enough to accommodate all the meat at one time. As the meat browns, remove it to crockpot.
- 3. Add the onions to the drippings in skillet and sauté until tender. Add the onions to the crockpot.
- 4. Stir in the beef broth and bay leaf. Cover and cook on LOW for four hours.
- 5. Add the carrots and potatoes and stir gently to combine. Cook on LOW for another two to four hours or until meat and vegetables are tender. Adjust the seasonings with salt and pepper to taste.

#### **Notes**

To freeze: cool the stew completely. Wrap, label, and freeze in an airtight container. Reheat on the stovetop or in the microwave before serving.

Note: the stew can also be cooked on the stovetop. Simmer on low for 2 to 3 hours until the meat is tender, adding the vegetables in the last 30 minutes of cooking.

Promptly store leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator, for up to 3 days.

Nutritional values are approximate and based on 1/8 the recipe.

#### Irish Soda Bread Recipe | Ina Garten | Food Network

## Irish Soda Bread



#### Recipe courtesy of Ina Garten



Level: Easy

Total: 1 hr 15 min

Prep: 20 min

Cook: 55 min Yield: 1 loaf

### Ingredients:

- 4 cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for currants
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 4 tablesooons (1/2 stick) cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1 3/4 cups cold buttermilk, shaken
- 1 extra-large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon grated orange zest
- 1 cup dried currants

#### **Directions:**

- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper.
- 2 Combine the flour, sugar, baking soda, and salt in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Add the butter and mix on low speed until the butter is mixed into the flour.
- 3 With a fork, lightly beat the buttermilk, egg, and orange zest together in a measuring cup. With the mixer on low speed, slowly add the buttermilk mixture to the flour mixture. Combine the currants with 1 tablespoon of flour and mix into the dough. It will be very wet.
- 4 Dump the dough onto a well-floured board and knead it a few times into a round louf. Place the loaf on the prepared sheet pan and lightly cut an X into the top of the bread with a serrated knife. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes, or until a cake tester comes out clean. When you tap the loaf, it will have a hollow sound.
- 5 Cool on a baking rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

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#### Chocolate Stout Cupcakes

Ingredients:

3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa, plus more for dusting finished cupcakes

2 cups sugar

2 cups all purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

Pinch fine salt

1 bttle stout beer (recommended Guiness)

1 stick butter, melted

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

3 large eggs

3/4 cup sour cream

8 ounce package cream cheese, softened at room temperature

3/4 to 1 cup heavy cream

1 (1 pound) box confectioners' sugar.

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350\* F. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the cocoa, sugar, flour, baking soda and salt. In another bowl, combine the stout, melted butter and vanilla. Beat in the eggs one at a time. Mix in sour cream until thoroughly combined and smooth. Gradually mix the dry ingredients into the wet mixture.

Lightly grease 24 muffin tins. Divide the batter equally between the tins, filling each about 3/4 full. Bake about 12 minutes and then rotate pan. Bake another 12-13 minutes until risen, lightly domed and set in the middle but still soft and tender. Cool before turning out.

To make the icing: In a medium bowl, with a hand mixer, beat the cream cheese on medium speed until light and fluffy. Graduall beat in heavy cream. On low speedslowly mix in confectioner's sugar until incorporated and smooth. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to use. Icing can be made several hours ahead and kept covered and chilled. Frost each cupcake and dust with cocoa.

For the kids or the kids at heart.

### Lucky Charms Marshmallow Treats

Ingredients:

4 tablespoons unsalted butter, plus more to butter the pan

One 11.5 ounce box Lucky Charms Cereal (about 6 cups)

One 10 ounce bag standard marshmallows

8 ounces white chocolate, chopped

Directions:

Line a 9x13 inch baking pan with foil leaving a 2inch overhang on at least 2 sides; butter the foil. Pick ou and reserve 1/2 cup of the colorful marshmallows from the cereal.

Melt the butter in a larger saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the standard marshmallows and stir continuously until melted. Remove from heat and stir in the cereal until coated.

Press the mixture into the prepared dish and let cool completely at room temperature, about 1 hour.

Meanwhile put the chocolate in a medium microwave safe bowl. Microwave in 30 second intervals, stirring after each until melted.

Lift the treats from the pan using the foil overhang. Drizzle the chocolate over the top and sprinkle with the reserved colored marshmallows. Let the chocolate harden at room temperature, about 2 hours. Cut into bars.

### **Sub Sandwiches**

Thank you to everyone who purchased sandwiches. We sold 47 sandwiches and could have sold more. The expenses were covered by a Thrivent card Bonnie secured for us. A BIG THANKYOU to the sandwich crew; Len Wicklund, Bonnie Wentzel, Karen Kangas & Linda Gran.

47 Sandwiches Profit \$377.00

Left over meat Profit 20.00

Pasties/Burritos Profit 80.00

TOTAL Deposited in BLDG Fund \$477.00.



We are still looking for ideas for any other fundraisers. Contact a board member or the office with any ideas.

### Threads of Hope Children's Clothes Closet

Thank you Diane Tomczak & Carol Arthur for continuing to maintain the closet. It is definitely being used by the community. 82 items were given out in February. Remember we only collect and distribute children's items. They should be clean and in good condition. The items now been fall and winter.

Warm winter gloves and mittens are needed in all sizes.