

The Sentinel

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a dynamic community,
centered in Christ, called nurtured and sent --
to celebrate, serve and do justice.*



OUR SAVIOUR'S
Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship: 10:30am

New Prayer Requests

Lynn Borgen

Glenda Elder

Deb Swenson- Klatt

David Scheie and his family, at the death of his mother, Margery

Esther Lavien's mother, Kema, as she recovers from a stroke

Amanda Steepleton's father, Joseph

Garmai Howard's daughter, Kolu

(Additional requests are printed inside. Thank you!)

How to Reach Us

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In Support of Holy Week...

Pastor Laurie Eaton

During this Lenten season we are turning our attention to those hungers that gnaw on us at our core. In the midst of political turmoil and dysfunction, in the midst of yet more senseless gun violence targeting our children, in the midst of war and genocide around the world and dramatic weather events due to climate change we find ourselves hungering deeply for peace, and some sense of sanity, and for hope in the face of seeming chaos.

At a more personal level we certainly hunger for a sense of meaning and purpose for our lives. Many of us are hungering for health and well-being – for ourselves or for those we love. Perhaps we hunger for just a little more time with those who are nearing death. Maybe we hunger to know that we actually *belong*, and that our lives *matter*. Often we can hardly bear our craving for something new to break in and fill the gaping hole at the core of our being.

My friends, as one of your pastors, one who cares deeply about your spiritual wellbeing, I want to hold up for you the important likelihood that what you most need to fill your hunger is not something new, but rather something that is ancient. While the particulars of our existence change with every age, the longings of our hearts are part of what it means to be human. At a time when the very relevance of religious practice is being called into question I urge you to delve deeply into our faith practice this year as we enter into Holy Week and observe the great Three Days. In the mystery of story and ritual we can find nourishment for our deepest hungers.

It seems that we are very willing to invest vast amounts of time in pursuit of all kinds of activities and busy-ness – a sort of striving to feel ok in a world that tells us we are never enough. That very busy-ness makes it seem impossible (or irrelevant) to invest significant time into observing the highest holy days of our faith. I invite you, this year, to flip your priorities and delve deeply into the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter. You just may find that God meets you exactly there to satisfy your hungers. This is the heart of our Christian faith, and has sustained generations in their spiritual journey.

Palm/Passion Sunday begins the events of Holy Week. We experience the tension of the crowds as cries of “Hosanna!” turn to “Crucify him!” How easily crowds can be manipulated by unscrupulous leaders. On Maundy Thursday we make ourselves vulnerable to the deep love of Jesus – and our community – as we tenderly wash one another’s feet. We acknowledge our own complicity in betraying Jesus for the values of this world...and we eat and drink forgiveness in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Good Friday brings us face to face with our own mortality as Jesus bears the weight of death, not in mourning but in triumph, as we await and trust the mercy and power of God to redeem even our greatest evil.

The Vigil of Easter wraps us in this history of God as we engage with the deep stories of our faith. From the very beginning of creation to God’s victory over death and the grave we find healing balm for our sorrows and nourishment for our souls. We celebrate the rebirth of baptism that is the promise of our identity as Beloved. We hear the shattering of the tomb and rejoice at the promise of life everlasting. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

These rituals are old, yes. They take a lot of time, true. But their power is in their connectedness, and can only be experienced in their wholeness. Give yourself the gift this year of committing to participate fully in the services of Holy Week and Easter. It will fill what you are hungering for.

Mission of the Month – Community Emergency Service (CES) and MN FoodShare

Maryellen Skan

Food for All MN! Our Saviour’s will be joining faith communities, businesses and other organizations in the largest food and fund drive in the State – the Minnesota FoodShare March campaign. In 2017 CES distributed more than half a million pounds of food. In 2018 the need for food shelf services continues to increase. Let’s work together toward ending hunger and food insecurity in MN; and closer to home – in the Phillips neighborhood. Here’s how you can help ensure that all residents have access to healthy foods:

- Donate non-perishable foods: 100% fruit juice, cooking oil, flour & sugar (4# bags), rice, dry beans, canned goods (chicken, tuna, salmon, beef stew/meat soups, chili w/meat, fruit, and tomatoes/sauce), jelly/jam, and small bags of

coffee. **Do:** Give generously and donate your favorite foods. **Don’t:** Give expired items or use this opportunity to clean out your cupboard. Food donations will be collected during the service and placed in the baskets near our Communion Table (or under the Table as needed).

- Make a financial contribution through Mission of the Month. Food shelves can stretch cash further than food donations. They have access to discount products and programs. Make checks out to OSLC and write CES on the check or envelope.

MN FoodShare Campaign will multiply your donations of food and cash. All food and cash donations from OSLC will be delivered to Community Emergency Service.

2017 Budget Shortfall – Wow!

*Pastor Laurie Eaton, on behalf of
the Church Council*

This congregation is generous and amazing! At our Annual Meeting your Council made an appeal to fill the shortfall from our 2017 Budget Year – and you responded! We have over \$11,000 either given or pledged to fill the gap of \$7500. Thank you, Thank you! Your generosity means we will begin 2018 on solid footing and be able to restore some money to our Property Reserve Fund, helping us to be better prepared for future property repair needs. I never cease to be amazed by what God accomplishes through the willing hearts of faithful members. Thank you!

Praying Through Lent: Ideas for your Practice

Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

Prayer is one of the ancient disciplines of Lent. Sometimes it's hard to know where to start when we try to take on a new prayer practice. Here are a few simple ideas.

1. Light a candle to remember the presence of God with you. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead and say silently or aloud: I am a beloved child of God. Sit in silence for as long as you like, resting in God. Close with the Lord's Prayer.

2. An idea for family prayer: Sit together and take turns sharing the best part of your day and the hardest/most difficult part of your day. And, share if there's anything or anyone you are concerned about. Then, open up a time for prayer, lifting up each other's joys and concerns to God (pray for the person on your right, and on around the circle). A parent or child could also sum up everyone's sharing as an alternative.

3. The book of Psalms is a prayer book right in the middle of your Bible, just waiting to be opened! With our theme of "Hungering for God," Psalm 42 came to mind. Try meditating on this part of the psalm this month for your prayer.

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?
My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
"Where is your God?"
These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.
Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.
My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.
Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.
By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

Why Christian? Our Living Question for the Season of Lent

Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

Why are you Christian? Sure, some of us were born into faithful families--for some of us it's simply the water we swim in. But why do we continue to come to church and confess faith in Christ when much of our world is turning away from religion? How does our faith help us make sense of our daily life? Perhaps you haven't had a chance to stop and wonder about this in a while. Well--Lent, a season of self-reflection and baptismal renewal, is a great time to dig in.

Over the season of Lent, we will explore why we are Christian by looking at ancient practices and texts of the church. For centuries, these central things have been used to teach people about God and the shape of the Christian life—they have formed the content of the catechism. And beyond being used to teach sound doctrine, these practices and texts have been a source of strength, life, holy resistance and renewal for people of God again and again.

What might these things mean for us today, as we struggle to live Christian lives—as we hunger for God in 2018?

Mysteries at Our Saviour's

Sherlock Holmes, Special Consultant to OSLC

Over the last few months some items have gone missing from the kitchen and storeroom areas.

WHAT you say? How can that be?

Maybe it is a glass bowl (or two or three.) Or a nice white, large square plastic bowl. Some green tablecloths, some lilac tablecloths (6 of them). We do know items are borrowed, maybe taken home to be laundered and then just forgotten. That's okay, it is never too late to return them.

Amnesty Day! Thank you, Sherlock Holmes.

Adult Forums -- Sundays 9-10am

Join us for Adult Forums on Sundays from 9 – 10am (beginning promptly at 9:15). Living Questions participants will also explore these topics further on Sunday nights, from 5-7 pm.

February 25 – Why Communion?

March 4 – Why the 10 Commandments?

March 11 – Why Prayer?

March 18 – Why Creeds?

March 25 – Why Holy Week?

Last Wednesday Connections: March 21

Our last Wednesday Connections gathering will be March 21, for dinner and Lent Evening Prayer. After that, we are taking a break for the rest of the spring and summer. Part of the reason we are pressing pause on this weekly gathering is because of costs. We are not taking enough money in to support the delicious meals and cooking that Linda provides. Another, deeper reason to press pause is to make some space for reflection and discernment about the future of Wednesday Connections. Stay tuned for more opportunities to discern together.

New Info from Cherish All Children – And a Thank You to Amy Hartman

Amy Blumenshine

OSLC members will want to check out the latest free publication “My Neighbor is Not for Sale” in the excellent LSS-MN series of guides.

www.lssmn.org/congregations/resources/

This is a four-session guide designed to give church groups a theological overview of sexual exploitation and trafficking – and how individuals can be part of preventing it. I am delighted that Lutheran Social Services of MN with its expertise and resources is now allied with Cherish All Children in dealing with this scourge.

I'd like to shout out the achievements of Amy Hartman. Way back in time, a member of this congregation, Al Erickson, had a family tragedy that caused him to start a ministry to protect children from sexual exploitation. Amy became a staff member (possibly his first) and then continued to lead the ministry when he left. That became Cherish All Children. Amy shepherded it nationally for many years, against great odds. Among other challenges, the topic of sexual exploitation was not considered appropriate for church discussion, and there was widespread disbelief that much could change.

Nevertheless, she persisted. While she certainly didn't act alone, and recently determined that it was time to

move on from Cherish All Children, she deserves credit for this major accomplishment.

Thank you, Amy.

Save the Date: Annual Easter Breakfast. Support the Youth!

At 9:00am on Easter morning, Sunday, April 1, our youth and their families will serve our annual Easter Breakfast. It's always a yummy affair, with egg bakes galore, fruit, juice, etc. The Easter Breakfast also functions as a fundraiser for our youth summer trip. This year, three youth (Claire Lind, Denis Johnson, and Sophia Stout) are heading to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering, which happens nationally every 3 years. This year, the trip costs are higher than usual due to air fares. Come and feast and rejoice in the resurrection, and give generously to our youth!

Communion Bread Baking

Come bake bread on Saturday, March 10, 9:00-11:00am in the church kitchen. Everyone welcome; no experience needed.

Double the Concerts Double the Fun!

Amanda Steepleton, Communications Specialist, OSCS

Join Our Saviour's Community Services at your pick of two (or come to both!) upcoming benefit concerts. No matter your musical taste, you're sure to find something that strikes your fancy!

Metropolitan Men's Choir

benefitting the English Learning Center
Sunday, March 3, 3-4:30pm
at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Caritas Vocal Ensemble

benefitting Our Saviour's Housing
Sunday, March 11, 3-4:30pm
at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church

Both concerts are free will donation with a reception following the concert. We hope to see you there!

Art as Antidote

Amy Blumenshine

Perhaps you've noticed the new painting of flowers in the Hospitality Center. The artist, David Cooley, was

one of our Coming Home Collaborative Vets Ministry Roundtable presenters in January. He is loaning OSLC this painting that depicts the contrast between vets and civilians.

Cooley is one of the Vietnam sailors who regretted what he was doing even while he was doing it. In his predicament, he wrote messages of ending the killing on the bombs that he handled. More recently, he has found creating art like this an antidote to the moral injury he sustained.

It's clear that many Americans continue to suffer from the war in Vietnam. The Coming Home Collaborative is considering holding a service of lament. Please let us know if you would be interested in participating.

Our next Vets Ministry Roundtable will address the moral injury issues involved with being in the chain of command on nuclear weapons. Our speaker has not yet been scheduled, so time and date are still to be determined, but watch for more information.

Requests for Your Continuing Prayer

Please lift up these brothers and sisters in prayer:

Kay Knutson

Ed Lewis

Elton Claussen

John Thurow

Blanche Austin

Karen Wogstad (Marki's sister)

Naomi Hartman (Amy's mother)

Mary Strom (Diane Rowe's mother)

Sarah Hepner (Cindy Devereaux's daughter-in-law)

Shayne, Sequoya and Matias Knutson

Gertrude & Alfred Flomo, as they travel in Liberia.

Luke and Jacentia Peña, Karen Winan's grandchildren

Lectinary Texts for Home Devotions

March 4: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 11: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21;

March 18: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Psalm 119:9-16 (alternate); Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 25 (Palm/Passion Sunday): Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1--15:47; Mark 15:1-39 [40-47] (alternate)

March at Our Saviour's

Thu Mar 1	7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
	11am – 1pm	Central Conference (HC, K)
Fri Mar 2	Office Closed	
	6:30 – 7:30am	Men's Breakfast @ Butter
	7 – 10pm	Narc Anon (HC)
Sat Mar 3	9am – 3:00pm	Concert Rehearsal (S)
Sun Mar 4	9:00 – 10am	Education (all ages)
	10:00am	Coffee (HC)
	10:30am	Worship (S)
	1:00 – 4:00pm	Reformation Conf (St James Lutheran)
	2:00 – 6:00pm	Prep, Clean (HC, K)
	3:00 – 5:30pm	ELC Conc (HC, K)
	5:00 – 7:00pm	Liv Questions (HC)
Mon Mar 5		
Tue Mar 6	12:30pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
	4:30 – 6:30pm	ELC Cooking (HC, K)
	7 – 8:30pm	TENTATIVE Church Counc (CR)
Wed Mar 7	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)
	12 – 4:30pm	Quilting (HC)
		Wednesday Connections
	5:30 – 6:30pm	Meal (HC)
	6:30 – 7:30pm	Lenten Evening Prayer (S)
	7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (S)
Thu Mar 8	7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
	4:30 – 6pm	Rehearsal -- Stringwinds (S)
Fri Mar 9	Office Closed	
	7 – 10:00pm	Narc Anon (HC)
Sat Mar 10	9:00 – 11am	Communion Bread Baking (K, HC)

	11am – 12pm	Cleanup (K)		7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (S)
Sun Mar 11	Daylight Savings Time Begins		Thu Mar 22	Sentinel Deadline	
	9:00 – 10am	Education (all ages)		7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
	9:00 – 10am	Godly Play (GP)			
	10 – 10:30am	Coffee (HC)	Fri Mar 23	Office Closed	
	10:30am	Worship (S)		7:00 – 10pm	Narc Anon (HC)
	5 – 7pm	Liv Questions (HC)	Sun Mar 25	Palm/Passion Sunday	
Mon Mar 12	6 – 7:30pm	OSCS Board Mtg (CR)		9:00 – 10am	Education (all ages) -- "Why Holy Week?"
Tue Mar 13	12:30 – 2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)		10 – 10:30am	Coffee (HC)
	4:30 – 6:30pm	ELC Cooking Class (HC, K)		10:30am	Worship (S)
Wed Mar 14	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)	Tues Mar 27	12:30 – 2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
	12 – 4:30pm	Quilting (HC)		6:00 – 7pm	OSCS Exec Com Mtg (CR)
	Wednesday Connections		Wed Mar 28	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)
	5:30 – 6:30pm	Meal (HC)		12 – 4:30pm	Community Quilting (HC)
	6:30 – 7:30pm	Godly Play (GP)	Thu Mar 29	Maundy Thursday	
	6:30 – 7:30pm	Lenten Evening Prayer (S)		7:00 – 9am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
	7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (S)		7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Thu Mar 15	7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood	Fri Mar 30	Good Friday	
Fri Mar 16	Office Closed			Office Closed	
	7:00 – 10pm	Narc Anon (HC)		7:00pm	Good Friday Service
Sun Mar 18	9 – 10:00am	Education (all ages)		8:30 – 10pm	Narc Anon (HC)
	9 – 10:00am	Godly Play (GP)	Sat Mar 31	Easter Vigil	
	10 – 10:30am	Coffee (HC)		7:00pm	Easter Vigil Service
	10:30am	Worship (S)	Sun Apr 1	Easter	
	5:00 – 7pm	Liv Questions (HC)		9:00am	Breakfast (HC)
Mon Mar 19	9:00 – 11am	Archives Com (basement)		10:30am	Worship (S)
Tue Mar 20	12:30pm	Staff Meeting (CR)			
Wed Mar 21	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)			
	12 – 4:30pm	Quilting (HC)			
	Wednesday Connections				
	5:30 – 6:30pm	Meal (HC)			
	6:30 – 7:30pm	Lenten Evening Prayer (S)			
	6:30 – 7:30pm	Godly Play (GP)			



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