Turning Again
Pastor Laurie Eaton

February, it seems, is a little bit like November in the liturgical year, almost a season unto itself. As the winter drags on in our part of the country the light of Epiphany begins to feel a little dim, and we long for a change of pace. Some may escape for a bit to sunnier places. All of us recognize our deep need for the light of Christ – the Light to the Nations – to sustain us in this ordinary time. In February we give special focus to the business of the church. A budget needs to be approved. New leadership needs to be elected. For the sake of good order, we gather for our **Annual Meeting on February 9**, where we will acknowledge and give thanks for the work we have done together, and invest ourselves in our shared ministry going forward. In these rather mundane tasks we are reminded that living and working in community requires something of each of us; and blesses us in ways we can rarely anticipate. Giving of our time, our financial resources, our commitment, and our investment in being church together is the ground in which deep relationships can flourish. Paying the utility bill is not glamorous; just necessary so that we have a space to hold us when we gather, and from which we can welcome and serve the community. Approving budgets may not feel very spiritual, but where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. And so, we invest in the work of the church, and find that we belong.

February, this year, also brings the beginning of Lent (meaning “spring”). On **Ash Wednesday, February 27** we will confront our mortality and dwell in the power and practices of prayer, fasting, and generous giving. We will turn again to the journey with Jesus to Jerusalem, learning to follow the way of the cross. This, too, is the work of the church. As our country endures the trial of a presidential impeachment, as we gear up for the chaos and rancor of an election year, as Christian community we will renew our trust in Jesus, who is our Rock in a Weary Land.

**Prayer List**
Jack and Shar Hauer’s daughter, Christine
Amy Hartman’s grandniece India
Kema Vah
Alfred and Gertrude (traveling in Liberia)

**Sunday Worship Service 10:30am**
Earworms Now Available:
Love’s Wide Embrace

Bret has finished recording the ten songs he wrote on commission for our 150th Anniversary. It includes Tom Witt on piano, and a gaggle of singers. If you want to listen/learn/enjoy the songs, there are three ways to purchase a copy:

1) talk to Bret on a Sunday,
2) email bret.hesla@gmail.com, or
3) download at www.brethesla.com.

Format options: CD, digital download, songbook and/or piano scores
—sorry, no wax cylinders.

Celebrating 20 plus years of Increasing Skills, Improving Lives
Pastor Laurie Eaton

Sandy Aslaksen has ably served as the Executive Director of Our Saviour's Community Services for more than 20 years, navigating the challenges of city regulations, county funding, supervising staff, maintaining buildings and property, wrangling Boards of Directors, and so much more, all in the service of "Increasing Skills, Improving Lives" for people experiencing homelessness and immigrants learning to thrive in a new country. She has more than earned a good retirement!

As a Deacon, a rostered leader in the ELCA, Sandy's call to ministry has been through Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, and she has faithfully stewarded the relationship between the two organizations through her engagement with both. It is only fitting that the church express our gratitude for her work and celebrate her ministry and legacy as she retires.

On Sunday, March 1, 2020, we will bless Sandy during worship at 10:30 am, and follow it up with a reception in her honor after worship, in the Gathering Space. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to add your well-wishes on that day. If you would like to contribute towards this reception and a personal gift for Sandy, please let Pastor Laurie know by February 16.

Let us mark this occasion with the love and care it deserves! Thank you, Sandy!
Mission of the Month – Community Emergency Service (CES)

Community Emergency Service is a non-profit relief and empowerment ministry that has provided services to our neighbors in south Minneapolis for over 40 years. CES assisted over 12,000 households in 2019; many returning multiple times. CES operates a food shelf, delivers Meals on Wheels and responds to other emergency needs, all through one-on-one counseling that gives every client a chance to explore the route to long-term stability. CES’s goal is to move individuals beyond crisis to financial stability. A few of the services provided by CES include:

- General Emergency Aid/Referral Assistance – client advocacy (resource finding), transportation assistance, etc.
- Client Wellness/Spiritual Outreach – periodic screening for blood pressure and other basic health issues; weekly outreach from outside organizations, and Christian prayer and care.
- Food Program – Neighborhood Food Shelf (including fresh and frozen foods), Home Delivery Food Shelf, Bonus Friday program, Meals on Wheels and East African Food Program.

Contribute: To support CES through Mission of the Month, please note “CES” on your check or pew envelope.

Visit our website www.cherishallchildren.org for more ways to engage with us or to donate online.

Community Emergency Service (CES)

Food shelf needs: 100% fruit juice; canned fruit (light syrup or own juice), canned chicken, salmon or tuna (in water); chili with meat and meat soups; whole grain cereals or instant oatmeal packets; peanut butter; and jelly and jam; sugar and flour. Please do not donate expired items. Donations can be dropped off in the coat room.

Save the Date: CES Volunteer Opportunity! Volunteer at CES this Saturday, February 1, from 9 – 11. Pack groceries for future delivery. All ages welcome. Contact Maryellen with questions and to sign up. (skan@umn.edu or 612-623-7805) CES is located at 1900 11th Street.

Women’s Retreat coming up. Sign Up Now!

Don’t miss the annual Joint Women’s Retreat with Valley of Peace Lutheran church. Continuing our tradition, women from these two churches will spend the weekend of February 21-23 at Koinonia Retreat Center in South Haven MN. This is a rare, truly intergenerational gathering of women for a time of rest and renewal, sharing of faith stories and fun. This year’s theme is “Mining the Faith, Uncovering the Treasures and Traumas of Growing Up Christian.” You can find more details in the brochure in the Gathering Space. Registration deadline is February 10.
Our Saviour’s Read: White Fragility

Pastor Laurie Eaton

Our congregational study of Pastor Lenny Duncan’s “Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.” was a rich and engaging experience. Many groups took the time to read and discuss his ideas, and already his work has inspired some changes in how we function as a congregation, from sensitivity to language that places a higher value on “lightness” than “darkness,” to how liturgical colors and vestments can perpetuate distorted and misused interpretations of scripture. It’s a good beginning.

It is well documented that it is hard for people who consider themselves “white” to engage in useful conversations about race and racism. Even if we think of Our Saviour’s as a progressive and well-informed congregation, we can be sure that this is true for us as well. We’ll turn our attention to Robin DiAngelo’s book, “White Fragility; Why it’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism.” An excerpt from the book cover reads:

“In this groundbreaking and timely book, antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility. Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth examination, DiAngelo explores how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.”

It is the work of the dominant culture to recognize our complicity in perpetuating unjust systems and structures. It is our call as Christians to participate in God’s healing work of restoration for all creation. If you feel so inspired, please feel free to organize your own small group to read and discuss the book together! Even if you do not read the book, please plan to join in the discussion on February 16. We can all learn together.

A Lutheran Response to the Drums of War

Amy Blumenshine

As the drums beat once more to rev up the nation for war with Iran, the moral, religious, and psychological consequences get little consideration. The Coming Home Collaborative, in seeking to raise awareness before war is declared in an attempt to prevent tragic and unnecessary losses, thanks our presiding bishop. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton issued a statement on behalf of the ELCA in which she concludes: “For our part, we have a window of opportunity to stop the current conflict before it worsens. We should appeal now to our elected officials to pursue the path of dialogue and diplomacy with Iran — for our sake, for the sake of the people of Iran and for the sake of the world God so loves.” (https://www.elca.org) The Our Saviour’s Bible Study sent her thanks!

War is evil. "War is the greatest plague that can afflict humanity; it destroys religions, it destroys states, it destroys families," said Martin Luther. From his perspective in 16th century Europe, he proclaimed, “Any scourge is preferable to it."
Christian military chaplain William Mahedy from his perspective in the American War in Vietnam wrote, “War is a moral sewer.” In war, combatants are encouraged to excel in activities that are crimes in civil society. In lawful societies, we criminalize these activities because they rupture the harmony of how we live together. Our capacity to love and trust and flourish is impaired by violence.

In recent years, we have begun to identify lasting moral injury that stems from violating these “laws of the heart.” I encourage you to read more at https://www.warandmoralinjury.org/faq

While war-making also destroys homes, psyches, and livelihoods, taking life is an irrecoverable consequence. Here I stand in the midst of countless popular fictions to proclaim a counter-narrative: killing is of profound significance. Rarely does our entertainment community tell the truth about the consequences of taking life; the truth is too painful to be popular. We pretend as though killing is without consequence in fictions such as Rambo and James Bond.

Countless military veterans have struggled with the aftermath of doing what they were trained and sent to do--as have their families and communities. Indeed, there have been little understood ramifications for all of us. Having been targets and perpetrators of lethal violence, one of the common ramifications is never feeling safe again.

To read the rest of this article, please head to our website at www.oursavioursmpls.org. Navigate to Outreach then to Coming Home Collaborative then A Lutheran Response to the Drums of War.

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**Chicago Avenue Urban Farm design workshop with the 24th Street Urban Farms Coalition**

*Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell*

On Saturday, February 29 from 1-5, we will be hosting a workshop to design the Chicago Ave. urban farm lot that is just north of the Our Saviour’s Housing emergency shelter. This lot is part of the 24th St. Urban Farms Coalition, and we are hopeful that this site might be used and enjoyed by members of OSLC; staff, students and residents at OSCS; and other neighbors in our community.

We will spend these four hours meeting each other; learning about ecological gardening (including permaculture and ecological design concepts) from the farm coordinator of the coalition, Michele Manske;, share a history and overview of the Phillips neighborhood and the organizations in the coalition; share our values and vision for the site; and then move into co-creating an initial design working off of the existing site map.

Come to meet neighbors, to learn about gardening and permaculture, to share your dreams and visions for this site and our neighborhood, and to get involved in the design process. Through this process we also step further into relationship with the 24th St. Urban Farms Coalition. The 24th Street Urban Farms Coalition works to create and nurture the culture and practice of local food production, healthy eating, healthy living and related activities throughout the Phillips community, and it is largely led by organizations in the native community, including the Indian Health Board, NACDI (Native American Community Development Institute), the Indigenous Food Network, Waite House, Ventura Village neighborhood association, with support from Indigenous People’s Task Force, Dream of Wild Health.

Clearly, joining in this work is right in line with our strategic goals of living into a process of better engagement with our neighbors, of working for creation care and climate justice, and of dismantling white supremacy. The Spirit is at work in this venture!

If you plan to come, please email Pastor Martha so she can plan for snacks.
Adult Forums for February

February 2: Karen Stevensen on shame in family systems – Our very own Karen Stevensen will lead us in a forum about shame in family systems and claiming our identities as beloved children of God.

February 9: Acts – We will continue our year-long journey through the book of Acts. If you’d like to prepare for this conversation - please read chapters 9-12. We will focus in on these chapters during the forum.

February 16: White Fragility conversation – We will discuss the book White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo. See Pastor Laurie’s article about this OSLC book study opportunity. You are still most welcome to come to the forum even if you were not able to read this book.

February 23: TBD. Look for updates in upcoming worship bulletins and posted on the Hospitality Center glass.

Solar House Party – Thanks for coming! And next steps
Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

THANK YOU to the youth, pizza oven team, and to MNIPL for hosting a fabulous solar house party! We feasted on such good food and on good information on ways we can take practical action towards climate justice for all.

We learned about some great energy saving tips from the Citizen’s Utility Board (CUB). You can access some of those great tips on their website: http://cubminnesota.org/ They also offered to come back sometime to do an energy bill clinic, where a representative comes to meet one to one with whoever is interested to help them learn about ways to cut energy costs and improve energy efficiency. If you are interested in having a bill clinic at OSLC, please contact Pastor Martha.

Living Questions is coming!
Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

Living Questions, our ministry of welcoming newcomers into our midst, will begin on Sunday, March 1. We will meet together every Sunday night of Lent (March 1 – April 5) from 5-7 pm over dinner and in small groups, engaging in faith practices and sharing our lives and our questions together. During this month, Pastor Martha will be reaching out to many of you to serve in this ministry as sponsors for newcomers. Please see this invitation as an opportunity to extend God’s gracious hospitality and to grow in faith yourself as well. If you are not directly involved in Living Questions, please pray for this process – that questions may be honored and shared with openness, that we all might have our ears and hearts opened to listen to each other and to God, and that the Spirit may guide and enrich us as we are knit together in new ways and nurtured as the body of Christ.

Welcome to our new cook, April Smith!
Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

We have a new cook! April Smith will be cooking for us on Wednesday nights for Wednesday Connections and on Sunday nights for Living Questions. She has a lot of experience cooking, and she works for the UMN Extension as a SNAP-Ed nutrition educator in the native community. She is also an active member of the 24th St. Urban Farms Coalition, and she is currently working with the UMN Extension and with the coalition to develop a Veggie Rx program for the native community. When you see her working on Wednesdays or Sundays, please take a moment to introduce yourself, to welcome her, and to thank her for her marvelous cooking!
## February 2020 at Our Saviour’s

**Sat, Feb 1**
- TBA
- ISAIAH Caucus Training (HC)

**Sun, Feb 2**
- 9:00 **Education for All Ages**
  - Adult Forum—Shame in Family Systems (HC)
  - Godly Play—Parable of the Pearl for Grades 1-5 (GP)
- 10:00 **Hospitality (HC)**
- 10:30 **Worship (S)**
- 12:00 **ISAIAH Team Meeting (CR)**
- 12:00 **Youth Montana Trip mtg (HC)**

**Mon, Feb 3**
- 7-8:30pm **Church Council Meeting**

**Tues, Feb 4**
- 12:30-2pm **Staff Meeting (CR)**

**Wed, Feb 5**
- 10:15-12pm **Bible Study (CR)**
  - Neighborhood Quilting (HC)
- 12-4:30pm **Choir Rehearsal (S)**

**Thurs, Feb 6**
- 7:30-9:30am **Women’s Breakfast at The Birchwood Café**

**Fri, Feb 7**
- 7-8am **Men’s Breakfast at Butter Bakery Café**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**Sat, Feb 8**
- 9-11am Communion Bread Baking (K)

**Sun, Feb 9**
- 9-10am **Education for All Ages**
  - Adult Forum—Book of Acts (HC)
  - Godly Play—Parable of the Sower—PreK-K (GP)
- 10-10:30am **Hospitality (HC)**
- 10:30 **Worship (S)**
- 11:45 **Annual Meeting (HC)**

**Mon, Feb 10**
- 11-12pm **Anniversary Committee Meeting (CR)**
- 6-7:30pm **OSCS Board Meeting (HC)**

**Tues, Feb 11**
- 12:30-2pm **Staff Meeting (CR)**

**Wed, Feb 12**
- 10:15-12pm **Bible Study (CR)**
  - Neighborhood Quilting (HC)
- 12-4:30pm **Choir Rehearsal (S)**

**Thurs, Feb 13**
- 7:30-9:30am **Women’s Breakfast at The Birchwood Café**

**Fri, Feb 14**
- **OFFICE CLOSED**

**Sat, Feb 15**
- 10-2pm **Saturday Quilting (HC)**

**Sun, Feb 16**
- 9-10am **Education for All Ages**
  - Adult Forum—White Fragility Discussion (HC)
  - Godly Play—Parable of the Sower—Grades 1-5 (GP)
- 10-10:30am **Hospitality (HC)**
- 10:30 **Worship (S)**

**Mon, Feb 17**
- 9-11am **Archives Committee Mtg**

**Tues, Feb 18**
- 12:30-2pm **Staff Meeting (CR)**

**Wed, Feb 19**
- 10:15-12pm **Bible Study (CR)**
  - Neighborhood Quilting (HC)
- 12-4:30pm **Wednesday Connections**
- 5:30 **Dinner**
  - 6:30 **Worship & Godly Play**
- 7:30-8:30pm **Choir Rehearsal (S)**

**Thurs, Feb 20**
- 7:30-9:30am **Women’s Breakfast at The Birchwood Café**

**Fri, Feb 21**
- **OFFICE CLOSED**
  - **Joint Women’s Retreat at Koinonia Retreat Center**

**Sat, Feb 22**
- **OFFICE CLOSED**

**Sun, Feb 23**
- 9-10am **Education for All Ages**
  - Adult Forum—TBA (HC)
- 10-10:30am **Hospitality (HC)**
- 10:30 **Worship (S)**
- 11:30-1pm **Altar Guild Meeting (CR)**
- 12-2pm **ISAIAH Team Meeting (HC)**

**Mon, Feb 24**
- **SENTINEL DEADLINE**

**Tues, Feb 25**
- 12:30-2pm **Staff Meeting (CR)**
  - **OSCS Executive Committee Meeting (CR)**

**Wed, Feb 26**
- 10:15-12pm **Bible Study (CR)**
  - Neighborhood Quilting (HC)
  - **Ash Wednesday**
- 12-4:30pm **Wednesday Connections**
- 5:30 **Dinner**
- 6:30 **Ash Wednesday Service**
  - 7:30-8:30pm **Choir Rehearsal (S)**

**Thurs, Feb 27**
- 7:30-9:30am **Women’s Breakfast at The Birchwood Café**
  - **Sandy’s Celebration (HC)**

**Fri, Feb 28**
- **OFFICE CLOSED**

**Sat, Feb 29**
- 1-5pm **Urban Farm Coalition Garden Design Meeting**

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**February Wednesday Connection**

Join us on February 19 for Wednesday Connections. A delicious dinner will be served from 5:30 - 6:30, followed by Godly Play for children and contemplative Prayer around the Cross for adults and youth. Come to be fed and to rest in beloved community; be nurtured by God, our source of life and strength.
### Lectionary Text for Home Devotions

| February 2 | Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12 |
| February 9 | Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]  
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]  
Matthew 5:13-20 |
| February 16 | Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or  
Sirach 15:15-20  
Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37 |
| February 23 | Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9 |

### Service teams thru May

Each month a team of people volunteer to help with Hospitality on Sunday morning and other times as needed. We rotate thru our 5 teams by month. People serve as ushers, greeters, help in the kitchen, and other jobs as needed. Each month your team leads should contact you about serving during the month. If you aren’t contacted, you aren’t sure what team you are on, or if you’d like to be on a team, but aren’t, please contact Nancy Nygaard Johnson (n2j2@comcast.net).

- **February** – Team #2 led by Sarah Lindley and Lee Johnson-Scheie
- **March** – Team #3 led by Jeanne Asp and Kim Smith
- **April** – Team #4 led by Laura Kehberg and Tezra Jennings
- **May** – Team #5 led by Jeanne Heer and Rico Morales

### Saturday Neighborhood Quilting

The weather did not cooperate with us last month so we have rescheduled the catch-up day for Saturday, February 15 from 10:00 - 2:00. This is an opportunity for you to participate if Wednesday afternoons do not work for you. You can cut squares, design a top, sew or tie knots and enjoy working on a common project. All skills or a desire to learn a new one are welcome. We will put on a pot of soup. Mark your calendar and join us for a fun and productive time on a winter Saturday!

### How to Reach Us

Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church  
2315 Chicago Ave  
Minneapolis MN 55404  
612-871-2967  
oursavioursmpls.org

**Pastors:**  
Laurie A. Eaton option 3  
Martha Schwehn Bardwell option 4

**Music Director:**  
Mary Preus option 6

**Bookkeeper:**  
Diane Palmer option 5

**Office Manager:**  
Alexander Farino option 7

**Custodian:**  
Matthew Bell  
(Please refer custodial issues to Pastor Laurie)

**OSCS**  
612-871-5900

**Executive Director:**  
Sandra Aslaksen, Deacon option 1