Our Savior’s

Lutheran Church

MARCH 2020 Newsletter

Dear Our Savior’s members and friends,

Welcome to the season of Lent, a time of reflection, repentance, renewal ad recommitment. Lent is a time to draw closer to God with humility and gratitude, remembering what Jesus has done for us through his cross and resurrection. In Christ, we receive what we long for: forgiveness, acceptance, and new life.

Lent is a time of Christian devotion. Many Christians around the world participate in Lenten practices of prayer, worship, fasting, acts of service and studying God’s Word. Our mid-week worship and meal on Wednesday evenings are a wonderful way to be nourished in faith and renewed for lives of love and service in our world. The beloved words and music of Holden Evening Prayer have a way of echoing in our hearts and minds throughout the week.

Our theme this year is “Open wide your hearts”, a phrase from Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians, 6:13. He urges us, as faithful disciples, to open ourselves to God and to one another so that we may live fully into the grace and hope Christ offers. Each week, we will explore one aspect of how God can move and change our hearts by faith, so that we may discover greater joy for each day.

I invite you to take part in other Lenten acts of devotion, as well. For example:

\*Meditate on the reflections our the devotional resource, The Sanctuary for Lent 2020 “ available in the narthex.

\*Commit to at least one act of service to others each week

\*Read through the gospel of Matthew over these 40 days, to appreciate the cross and resurrection of Jesus as the culmination of his life, ministry and teaching. As you read it, reflect on what Matthew reveals to us about Jesus as truly human, and Jesus as truly God. What does Jesus’ cross and resurrection mean for us?

May you find renewal, refreshment and hope in this Lenten season, as we open wide our hearts to God’s abundant grace.

May we, in turn, extend that grace to one another!

God’s peace be with you,

Pastor Susan

**Call Committee Update**



The Ministry Site Profile(MSP) was finalized and submitted at the beginning of February.  The document has been approved and the call committee will be receiving names from the Synod office soon.  Once names have been received and their paperwork looked through, we will begin interviewing candidates.  This is a very exciting time for OSL!

Reflections

with Pastor Betsy Dartt

What a wonderful and awesome God we have! All creation from stones to lambs, from apples to stars display the handiwork of God’s blessings and imagination. God comes to us as a good shepherd call us by name. God prepares a table before us filled with all we need. In the face of crisis or fear, the Lord promises his presence even through the shadow of death.

There’s a saying that goes, “Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the apples in a seed.” Today is a good day to count the seeds of good will that have been planted by the many volunteers in ministry through Our Savior’s. Hundreds of hours each month are faithfully given by people who use their hearts, hands, eyes, ears, feet, ad minds to show the gospel in action. God has been very good to us and it is our privilege to return our thanks by using our talents for Christ’s sake.

During the season of Lent, you will be invited to take home with you a special gift. At Saturday, Sunday and midweek Wednesday services you will be given soul food through gift of the Word and song. It is the planting of God in our hearts of the seeds of the Lord’s mercy and grace. Try an experiment at home. Cut open an apple and you will be able to count the number of seeds inside. If you were to plant those seeds like Johnny Appleseed did across the Midwest, trees will grow. These trees will produce more apples. Only God can guess how much fruit can come from one seed.

Let your heart be good soil for the seeds God is ready to plant in you. Be nurtured in the community of worship and service. Feel the warmth of God shining on you as you do God’s work with your own hands. The fruitfulness of service in God’s name means that others are also nurtured by The Lord’s mercy and grace. The Lord has been very good to us. We are capable of growing and thriving by using our talents and treasures in Jesus’ name. Come worship with your friends and neighbors especially during this Lenten season. You will be blessed abundantly.

Senior Choir Schedule

March 2020

1st 7:45 Rehearsal Klevans

9:00 Worship **Youth Colored**

**Bells Play**

8th – Daylight Savings Time Begins

7:45 Rehearsal Lori B

9:00 Worship **Choir Sings**

15th 7:45 Rehearsal Elliott G.

9:00 Worship **SS Sings**

22nd  7:45 Rehearsal Elliott G

9:00 Worship **Choir Sings**

29th7:45 pm Rehearsal Darlene P

9:00 Worship

WELCA NEWS

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran

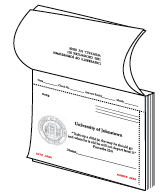
Church in America

All women of the ELCA are welcome to join a meeting. Please notify the hostess if you plan to attend.

Rachel Circle willmeet March 18, 2020 at 2:00 PM at Sandy Richardson’s.

Rebekah Circle will meet on Tues., March 17, 2020 at 2:00 PM at the church.

March 6th, 2020: World Day of Prayer hosted at OSL. Watch for more details!!

****

**Offering Envelopes for 2020 are here.** Please pick up in the Narthex. If you cannot find yours, please contact the church office via phone at 507-346-7251, email at oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com.

**Remember our Deadlines**!

Articles and announcements for the newsletter: The 17th of each month. Announcements for the worship bulletin: Thursday, noon.

Readings for March

Feb. 29-Mar. 1– First Sunday in Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7

Psalm 32

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

March 7-8 – Second Sunday in Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

2nd Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Gospel: John 3:1-17

March 14-15 – Third Sunday in Lent

1st Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Gospel: John 4:5-42

March 21-22 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

March 28-29 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

1st Reading” Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

2nd Reading: Romans 8:6-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Scriptures subject to change.

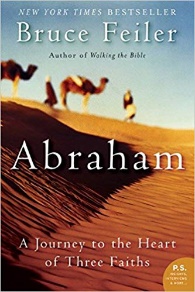
**Bluff Country Singers Rehearsals:**

**March 8 & 15 @ 3:00 PM,**

**April 5 & 19 @ 6:00 PM; 25 @ 10:00 AM**

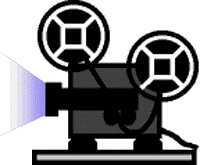
**Concerts April 26 at 2:00 & 7:00 PM**

**If you would like to be a part of the BCS, please call Elliott Grandall at 507-346-7882**

The Monday morning book study will resume on Monday, March 2 at 10:15 and will continue to meet thru and including May 18. We will NOT meet on Easter Monday, April 13. We will be reading *Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths by Bruce Feiler.*Cost of the book will be $10.  Please call the church office at 346-7251 if you are interested in participating.

**New Devotionals** are available outside the office door.

The basement projector has not been working for over two years. Working together, the membership and education teams decided it was time to replace the projector. Funds were provided by the Kumm membership and education funds. A big thank you to Matt and McCormick Fowler and Pastor Dennis Timmerman for their help with the installation. We look forward to offering movies on site, using it for Sunday School and VBS, along with other possibilities.





You are all invited by

The Membership Team to a **Luncheon/Movie Day**

at church!

**March 22 at 11:15am**

Lunch: Lasagna, Garlic Toast, Salad, Ice Cream

Movie will be announced in future bulletins

***Praise God with strings and pipe...Ps 150***

The sound of our pipes will be leaving us soon. That's great news! Thanks to the efforts and generosity of many in our congregation and community, the organ repairs will begin shortly. We have reached our goal to complete phase 1 of our organ repairs. We will have piano worship while the repairs take place. The organ fund, however, remains open to provide funds to continue with tuning and future repairs. Thank you to all who supported this effort.



*Silent Messengers* will be presenting a drama called "Celebrating a Savior" on Saturday, April 4 during our 5:30 Saturday service. The drama will be a presentation of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ using dramatic clowning set to music.  After the service, please stay for pizza, pop, and a time of fellowship.

*Silent Messengers* is a group of 25 plus people from junior high and high school ages from Baldwin, Wisconsin. Their director is Jennifer Lokker who has directed the group for 24 years. Information from their web site stated they chose their name *Silent Messengers* because before each service they give their voices to God as an offering. They remain "silent" throughout their services and pray that God will use them as His "messengers' to bring the promise of salvation to all who believe. Check out more information about the group at <https://www.silentmessengers.net/>.

Spread the word and invite your friends and family to this unique opportunity that will be a celebration for our community and area churches.

Attention OSL members who have Thrivent contracts. If you have not designated the 2019 Choice Dollars you earned in the past year, you must do that during March or those dollars will not be redeemable. Earnings can be donated to OSL, Good Earth, or many other charitable organizations.  You can designate on the Thrivent website or by calling 800-847-4836 and indicate you want to designate Choice Dollars. Please put these dollars to use in the coming month. Thank You.

**Caring & Concerns for members & friends in Special Care Facilities:**

Spring Valley Senior Living & Rehab:

*Delores Erichsen, Eileen Freeman, Mary Jane Island (Ken Kraut’s mother), Bob & Maxine Jahn, Maxine Mlenar, Donna Rowe*

Spring Valley Senior Living-Evergreens:

*Roy & Jan Christopherson, Dorothy Hafner, Mick Rathbun, Elaine Sheldon, Lorraine Hancock*

Spring Valley Estates:

*Bev Jertson, Joan Baarsch, Anita Nelson*

Ostrander Care & Rehab:

*Dale Ristau*

Cottagewood: Rochester

*Karilyn Reiland*

Prairie Meadows Senior Living, Kasson:

*Wil & Evelyn Mohlis*

Known to have been hospitalized in February

*Mick Rathbun Melvin Schmidt*

Known to be in hospice

*Dale Ristau, Melvin Schmidt, Don Rose*

Please note!

Please remember to have family notify the church office if you are in the hospital. The privacy data laws do not allow the hospital to notify the church of your admittance.

Our Savior’s volunteers deliver meals one week a month throughout the year. As some of our regular drivers have current circumstances preventing them from delivering we are asking for more volunteers. The daily time commitment is about 45 minutes. Please contact the church office if you are able to provide this valued and rewarding service.

**Highlights from Church Council Electronic Meeting February 2020**

**Worship Ministry Team**

We have the funds needed for phase 1 of the organ project; reviewed previous worship services; Zach Queensland has expressed interest in becoming an assisting minister; have a couple more videographers—but are looking for more; Linda Kruegel is excited to work on making more banners; Myrna has ordered new lights for the bell tables; Ash Wednesday is February 26; there will be an Easter lily sign-up sheet; palms will be ordered; are discussing the use of the Chancel space

**Education Ministry Team**

Are looking for one more team member; the basement projector has been installed; are working on obtaining storage space for various items; are starting to plan for VBS.

**Membership Ministry Team**

Welcomed new team members; will purchase Lenten Devotionals; are working on Welcome Packets; may coordinate a movie night with the Youth Team; are thinking about ideas for the Membership bulletin board in the front entrance; are thinking about ideas for Easter morning, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.

**Youth Ministry Team**

Youth retreat has only four signed up; letters went to 4th and 8th graders about camp; the February lock-in is rescheduled to March 21; youth will provide the meal prior to Lent worship; April 5 is the pie auction; last day of Confirmation and Senior League will be May 6; Confirmation is May 17.

**New Business**

Due to weather cancellation and rescheduling conflicts, the following motions were made via electronic meeting:

A motion was made by Jay Webster, seconded by Darla Erickson to remove Jerry Klevan from our bank accounts and add Doug Plaehn to all accounts. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Jay Webster, seconded by Darla Erickson to add Nicole Pokorney for a 3-year term and Amy Welch for a two-year term on the Endowment Committee and Megan Queensland as a member of the Youth Ministry Team. Motion passed.

*Detailed minutes are available on the bulletin board by the Food Cart.*

*--submitted by Helen House, Secretary*

Next council meeting is March 8, 2020 at 10:15

Executive Meeting is March 3, 2020 at 5 p.m.

The Sanctuary for Lent 2020 Devotional for Lent is available in the Narthex. Please take one!

**Easter Lily Information 2020**



If you would like to share a lily in memory of, or in honor of a loved one for worship services during the Easter Season, please notify the church office by April 8th.

The cost is $21 and checks should be made payable to Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.

If you prefer, in place of a lily/plant, monetary donations will be recognized to our OSL General Fund, in memory of or in honor of a loved ones.

Please fill out **the form** and bring it into, mail to the church office or scan and e-mail ([oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com](mailto:oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com)),

so we can include the information in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

If buying your own, please bring your lilies/plants, to the church, by Thursday, April 9th by 3 pm. Please leave them in the meeting room next to the church office. They will be placed appropriately by the Worship Team before the Easter weekend worship services.

**Easter Memorial Garden**

**Donations are received in memory or in honor of love ones or friends.**

**\_\_\_In Memory of**

**\_\_\_\_In Honor of**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Easter Lily $21**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Donation to OSL General Fund**

**Given by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Youth News!!***

**7th – 12th grade Lock-in (Reschedule)**



*March 21st, 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.*

Please bring a friend. Forms will be available outside the church office. If you signed up for the original date we are planning on you, let us know if you cannot make it!

**Lenten meals** began on Ash Wednesday, Feb 26th. We look forward to everyone joining the youth group for soup & sandwich meals, before each Wednesday service, 6-6:45 p.m.



[This Photo](http://ipkitten.blogspot.com/2010/05/letter-from-amerikat-i-trade-secrets.html) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)

**Pie Auction** on Palm Sunday April 5th. Those attending the retreat will be asked to provide pies.

Looking for a male chaperone for Retreat trip June 12-14th.



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**Education News**

**Our offering** received from the children supports our sponsor child, Hassani and the organ fund.

Thank you to Helen House for the fun puzzles for our church bags. You should find some new activities in the bags. If the activity is a craft, please take the craft and display at home. The activities are funded through the generosity of the Kumm Funds. We are striving to make the activities fun, seasonal, and educational for our children.

If you have been with us in worship and would like to be a full **member** of OSL, please contact either Pastor Susan Li or Pastor Betsy Dartt.

**\*Dates to Remember\***

March 6 – World Day of Prayer @OSL, watch for more info.

**Weather Cancellation Policy**: Worship service cancellations will be announced on KAAL-TV, channel 6; KTTC-TV, channel 10; FOX-TV, channel 47; and Face Book.

*A Reminder: When Kingsland School is cancelled there are no church activities. If Kingsland lets out early there are no church activities. If the weather deteriorates in the evening we will try to decide in time to cancel activities. If that is not possible we respect each decision made to keep your family safe.*

**Contact Us**

**Our Savior’s Lutheran Church**

805 S Broadway Ave  
Spring Valley, MN 55975

Ph 507-346-7251

Email: [oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com](mailto:oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com)

Website: [www.oursaviorsspringvalley.com](http://www.oursaviorsspringvalley.com)

[](http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://iconbug.com/data/f3/128/da7d689496bcec4957f7beacc3c73ae9.png&imgrefurl=http://iconbug.com/&h=128&w=128&tbnid=M6cHu9Qu8FsRaM:&zoom=1&docid=QTHcHwm4yrBfJM&ei=3lR2VLa0PJDWoATrxILoBw&tbm=isch&ved=0CCoQMygOMA4&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=236&page=1&start=0&ndsp=22)Like us on Facebook Our Savior's Lutheran

Church, Spring Valley, MN [@OSLSV](https://www.facebook.com/OSLSV/)

Pastor Susan Li Interim Pastor

Cell: 507-254-9875

Email: pastoroslsv1950@gmail.com

Pastor Betsy Dartt-Visitation Pastor

Cell 507-884-4853 [betsy.dartt@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.dartt@gmail.com)

STAFF

Audio/Visual – Darla Erickson

Bookkeeper – Kathy Merkel

Custodian – Toni Sanders

Education Coordinator – Gina Jahn Cell 251-1610

Music Coordinator/Choir Dir. – Elliott Grandall

Handbell Dir. – Myrna Legreid

Office Manager – Linda Niemeyer

Youth Coordinator – Ann Oeltjen: oslsvyouth@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday 9-12 noon

Tuesday-Thursday 9am-3pm

Friday: Closed

**Deaths**

***Kevin Beck ~ October 8, 1965 – January 28, 2020***

***Juneus Ristau – March 13, 1933 – February 2, 2020***

**Memorials and Honorariums**

In Memory of **Darrell Vikse**

Building Maintenance Fund Friends

Senior Choir Fund Kelvin & Linda Niemeyer

Organ Rhoda Jones

WELCA Jan Mlenar, Evelyn Clark

General Fund Friends

Bibles Harris & Geraldine Williams

VBS Materials Toni Sanders

In Memory of **Jack Fox**

Senior Choir Fund Kelvin & Linda Niemeyer

Organ Fund Ken & Joanne Vrieze, Dick & Sharon Jahn

Caring Ministries Duane & Annette Hyland

WELCA Evelyn Clark

General Fund Shirley Gangstad

In Memory of **Jeff & Steve Liebold** sons of Marilyn & Charles Liebold, brothers to Sue Gilbert

Senior Choir Fund Kelvin & Linda Niemeyer

In Memory of **Kevin Beck**

Senior Choir Fund Kelvin & Linda Niemeyer

Organ Fund Lee & Carol Himle

General Fund Dick & Sharon Jahn, Shirley Gangstad

Cemetery Fund Vicki Edgar, Dale Klingerman

In Memory of **Bonnie Kiehne**

Senior Choir Fund Kelvin & Linda Niemeyer

In Memory of **Kenneth Bale**

WELCA Evelyn Clark

In Memory of **Shirley Marks**

WELCA Evelyn Clark

In Memory of **Juneus Ristau**

WELCA Evelyn Clark

General Fund Shirley Gangstad

In Memory of **Mentor & Esther Hellickson**

Organ Fund Roger Hellickson

If you are *unable* to serve when scheduled, *please find* a substitute and *notify the church office* with the change.

**March 1:**Acolytes  -  Markay & McCormick Fowler

Altar Guild – Ann Thon – no Comm

Greeters – Evelyn & Rich Apenhorst

Scrip Sellers – T. Pokorney & McCormick Fowler

Scripture Reader – Sherry Wendt

Videographer – Dick Jahn

YouTube Videographer – Ira Schmidt

**March 8:**Acolytes  -  Aspen Kolling & Macy Runck

Altar Guild – Dawn Webster – Comm Sat & Sun

Communion – Judy Frank, Gina Jahn, Verlyn Johnson

Greeters – Kathy & Bob Baarsch

Scrip Sellers – Alexys & Ashlyn Harwood

Scripture Reader – Kathy Baarsch

Videographer – Rick Jahn, train Christopher Knode

YouTube Videographer – Diesel Bronson

**March 15:**Acolytes  -  Blake Oeltjen & Ira Schmidt

Altar Guild – Annette Hyland – no Comm

Greeters – Pat & Harlan Bucknell

Scrip Sellers – Nolan & Nick Fetterly

Scripture Reader – Gina Jahn

Videographer – Garrison Hubka

YouTube Videographer – Gavin Hubka

**March 22:**Acolytes  -  Jacob Warren & Gavin Hubka

Altar Guild – Gladys Peterson – Comm Sat & Sun

Communion – Janice Christianson, Helen House, Jerry Klevan

Greeters – Wendy & Ryan Thon

Scrip Sellers – Brayden Betts & Ellie Archer

Scripture Reader – Jerry Klevan

Videographer – Kaden Rath

YouTube Videographer – Christopher Knode

**March 29:**Acolytes  -  Kaylie & Brayden Betts

Altar Guild–Eileen Rathbun/Carol Ahern–no Comm

Communion – Deb & Jon Dahl, Penny Ness

Greeters – Ann & Brad Ihrke

Scrip Sellers – Blake Oeltjen & William Jahn

Scripture Reader – Ann Ihrke

Videographer – Dan Reiland

YouTube Videographer – Blake Oeltjen

**USHERS**: (9:00) Rick Christianson\*, Doug Plaehn\* Brad Erichsen, Jim Hubka, Rick Jahn, Brayden Oeltjen.

\*denotes head usher

Offering Counter – Darlene Popadak

Deliver Meals on Wheels – Week of March 2-6

Week of March 30-April 3

Nancy Willford

Saturday Service: (5:30)

*Scripture Readers:*

March 7th – Evelyn Clark

March 14th – Linda Kruegel

March 21st – Evelyn Clark

March 28th – Marge Lenz

*Ushers:*

March 7th – Jim Halla

March 14th – Ken Northway

March 21st – Linda Kruegel

March 28th – Carol Ahern & Eileen Rathbun

**March Service Group Organizer: Kathy Merkel**

The service group lists are of people in the congre-gation who are asked to bring items for special events at the church. The lists have gone through some changes to try to even out the lists with people who can be available to respond in service. For a number of reasons, there are people who are not included on the lists (shut-in, live out of town, have indicated a desire not to be contacted, etc.) Thank you to all the people in Our Savior’s who live out their faith in caring support of the ministries of the church.

Andrea Drury Michael Drury & Ginny Nash Travis & Courtney Duxbury

Barb Eastvold Vicki Edgar Brad & Denise Erichsen

Darla Erichsen Ken & Karen Fetterly Billy & Kathy Foster

Matt & Emily Fowler Tom & Sue Fowler Joey & Lisa Fox

Chris Frank Eric & Cassie Frank Paul & Judy Frank

OPEN WIDE YOUR HEARTS

Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent as we gather for a soup supper at 6:00 followed by worship with Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00. Lent is a time to draw near to God and enter the wonder of God’s love. Each week, we will reflect on the ways God’s love opens our hearts, so that we may not only love God in return, but love our neighbors and ourselves.

Lenten Schedule 2020

Ash Wednesday Create in me a clean heart, O God Psalm 51

March 4 A change of heart Jeremiah 31:31-33

March 11 Love with all your heart Matthew 22:34-40

March 18 Let not your hearts be troubled John 14:1-2, 27

March 25 Open wide your hearts 2 Corinthian 6:13

April 1 The peace of Christ will guard your heart Philippians 4:4-7

**Holy Week at Our Savior's**

Palm Saturday April 4 Silent Messengers Mime service

Palm Sunday April 5 Worship with Palm Processional

Maundy Thursday April 9 7 pm Service with First Communion for

5th graders, Choir sings

Good Friday April 10 7pm Tennebrae service, handbells

Holy Saturday April 11 Sunrise service with communion

Easter April 12 Celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord

with choir and Holy Communion

**Milestone Ministry Presentations 9am Worship**

March 1 6th Grade Confession

March 8 5th Grade Sacrament of the Alter

March 15 Kindergarten Lord’s Prayer

March 22 3s and 4s Table Prayer

March 29 2nd Grade Apostle’s Creed

April 26 3rd Grade Books of the Bible

May 3 1st Grade 23rd Psalm

May 12 4th Grade 10 Commandments

Please recycle this newsletter when

you are finished with it.

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church NON-PROFIT, ORG

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March 2020

