

March 2024

newsletter



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*"Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;
Your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day."*

Bless Now, O God the Journey, ELW #326

We are one-third of the way through Lent. This month will end with Holy Week and Easter. We are making our way to Jerusalem where the central action will take place. As we travel through the stories of the covenants God made in the past, we are reminded that our ancestors in faith had winding journeys. The world around them was often full of threats. Holding on to their faith in the God who had initiated a relationship with them was far from easy.

Again and again, God took the initiative. Although each covenant has different expectations in terms of how people are to respond, it is God's action that is consistent through the centuries. In time, God took on flesh and blood and lived among us as a human being in the person of Jesus. He brought hope to those who were hurting. But he also angered a lot of religious and political leaders when he spoke out against the communal sins that hurt the vulnerable. His call to reflect, repent, learn, and grow was not always welcome.

His protests against institutional greed and abuses of power prompted the authorities to arrest him. He went to the cross where his blood was shed, and he died. But as you know, that was not the end of the story. Each gospel tells what happened on the third day in a slightly different manner. In Matthew, the earth shook, rocks split, tombs fell open. In Mark, the women left the tomb in terror, saying nothing to anyone. In John, the first knowledge of the new life won by Jesus came to Mary as she stood weeping outside the tomb. John's words will be the gospel we hear this year as we celebrate the resurrection. We will remember once again that God's love sustains life on Easter and every day.

So, dear People of God, I invite you to enter the stories of covenant each weekend. Let us journey through this month together. And then, on March 30th and 31st, come and celebrate as Mary encounters Jesus and runs to the disciples telling them "I have seen the Lord." We too have a chance to see the Lord, as Jesus brings life to us and to all people.

Pastor Darla Ann



OUR LORD'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Called to share Christ's Love with all."

THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

March, 2024 | Volume 58, No. 3

A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.ourlords.org

March 2 & 3

3rd Weekend in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

John 2:13-22

"Instruction for Living Well"

March 9 & 10

4th Weekend in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9

John 3:14-21

"Lifted Up"

2nd Sunday 2nd Service

March 16 & 17

5th Weekend in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

John 12:20-33

"Knowing by Heart"

March 23 & 24

Palm Sunday Weekend

Procession begins in the Fellowship Hall

Entry into Jerusalem: Mark 11:1-11

Philippians 2:5-11

Story of the Passion: Mark 15:1-47

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

"Expressions of Love"

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1 - 19:42

"The Tree of Life"

Saturdays at 5 pm and Sundays at 9 am

2nd Sunday at 10:45 am

5:00 pm and 9:00 am services will be livestreamed
except on 2nd Sunday.

2nd Sunday Service livestreamed at 10:45 am

"MID-WEEK LENTEN SERIES

"Restored In Christ"

The season of Lent is a time for us to face together the brokenness of our lives and our world, and then turn that brokenness over to Christ so that we can be restored by him through the cross. Each service in this stirring series focuses on a certain event in the Lenten story and takes a good, hard look at a broken element from that particular story. Coming to an understanding of how each of these broken elements leads to restoration in Christ is key to understanding what it ultimately means to live today as new creations in Christ.

Week 3 of Lent — March 6

"Broken Bread Restored" • John 6:48-58

Bread is broken at the Last Supper; we are restored through the Bread of Life, Jesus.

Week 4 of Lent — March 13

"Broken Promises Restored" • Matthew 26:69-75

Peter's broken promises to never deny Jesus are restored by the surpassing love of Christ.

Week 5 of Lent — March 20

"Broken Justice Restored" • 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

A broken justice system put Jesus on the cross; we are restored when we are declared not guilty.

Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Saturday - 5 pm

Palm Sunday - 9 am

Maundy Thursday - 6:30 pm

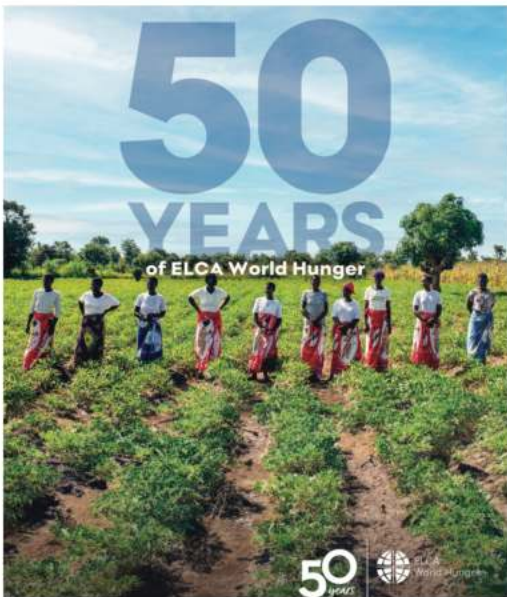
Good Friday - 6:30 pm

Easter Eve Mini-Vigil - 5:00 pm

Easter Day Early Service - 8 am

Easter Day Late Service - 10:45 am

LENTEN GIVING EMPHASIS: ELCA WORLD HUNGER



February 14th to March 31st, the Giving Emphasis donations will be for ELCA World Hunger. ELCA World Hunger began in 1974 when drought, rising costs, and other problems left millions around the world in hunger, thus Lutherans in the United States started the World Hunger Appeals. Since then, more than \$650 million has been contributed for world hunger.

-----CURRENT CHALLENGES -----



As many as
828 million people
worldwide live in hunger.

In the United States
1 in 8 people
isn't sure where their next meal will come from





The root causes of hunger
are complex and include rising costs, global conflict, climate change and the lingering impact of COVID-19.
*Information from 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger publication.

Part of the ELCA's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to the hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in 64 countries -- including the United States -- to create unique solutions to specific challenges. With your help, the church can grow its support for our most vulnerable neighbors in a changing world.



EASTER BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
WORSHIP CENTER FELLOWSHIP ROOM

**SCRAMBLED EGGS, SAUSAGE PATTIES,
BISCUITS WITH SAUSAGE GRAVY,
ASSORTED PASTRIES, MIXED FRUIT,
ASSORTED JUICES, MILK, COFFEE, TEA**

There is no charge for this breakfast (a freewill offering will be taken). Donations of pastries are welcome. Volunteers are needed for food prep, room set up, serving, and clean up. Sign up sheet is on credenza in the Narthex. For questions or further information, contact Cindy Pugh at 618-334-1046.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING-UPDATE

Many, many thanks to everyone who gave so generously to the Souper Bowl of Caring. Direct donations totaled \$1,728. Proceeds from the Valentine's Dinner and Concert totaled \$740. Before we even had reached the final day of this special appeal, an anonymous donor contacted us and committed to provide what was needed to bring us to the goal of \$3,795. Congratulations, OLLC! You have made a world of difference for the high school seniors who will now be able to have their transcripts released.



MISSING KITCHEN LINENS
Please check your kitchen for OLLC Kitchen Linens. The kitchen was well stocked with dish towels and cloths several months ago but it seems that many towels are now missing. If you took linens home, please return as soon as possible. The kitchen is used often and the linens are needed.

OLLC MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

Mission: "Called To Share Christ's Love With All"

Vision Statement: To be a Christ-centered place of belonging.

Value Statements:

Based on our belief that Jesus is Lord and Savior, we value:

- Worship that celebrates our hope through Jesus' resurrection
- Relationships that manifest God's grace
- Compassion for all
- Christian education that encourages faithful questioning and exploration
- Inclusive decision making

Priority Areas:

- Nurture young children, youth, emerging adults, and young families
- Serve one another, our communities, the wider world, and God's creation
- Engage in diverse worship rhythms that engage participants and inspire spiritual growth
- Develop Caring and Connected Relationships

When making decisions regarding governance, congregational involvement, and community engagement, the Ministry Support Team Leaders, the Council, and the Giving Emphasis Team look to the Mission, Vision & Values for direction during the decision process. The congregation approved the OLLC Mission, Vision, & Values at the annual meeting in 2021. During 2024 we will conduct a review of the 2021 document redeveloping and redefining concepts as deemed applicable. If you would like to be part of the review process and have a voice in the future direction of Our Lord's, contact Pastor Darla Ann or a council member.

THANKS & APPRECIATION

Members of Our Lord's Lutheran Church,
We are overwhelmed and deeply grateful for your generous gifts in 2023 (\$3600). Thank you for praying with us and for giving. Because of you, more children will be able to grow up healthy, receive a Christ-centered education, and fulfill the purpose that God has for their lives. *Judi Bertels, President/CEO, African Vision of Hope*



Dear Our Lord's Members,
We are so grateful for the donation of \$636.15 collected as part of our 2023 M & M fundraiser for the S.O.S. Soup Kitchen. We could not help the families of the Collinsville area without support like yours. S.O.S. Soup Kitchen feeds on average 318 people a week. Support like yours makes a difference in our community. Without it, we could not minister to so many of our neighbors. Thank you for your donation. *Faithfully, Dana Callahan*

OLLC SOLAR ENERGY CONSIDERATION.....UPDATE

On January 25 a group of 13 OLLC members met to discuss the potential of the church utilizing solar energy. Cost factors, practicality, and feasibility were discussed and several questions were posed. At this point, we are still waiting to receive final costs and answers to a few additional questions. Once all information has been received, documents describing the systems, costs and the installation plan will be shared with the congregation via email. Two meeting times will be scheduled allowing opportunities for all members to ask questions about the solar project (meeting dates TBD). A congregational meeting will be held at least 30 days following the last scheduled meeting to conduct a congregational vote to determine if we should move forward with the project.



E-GIVING



Many people don't carry cash or a checkbook anymore. To make it easy for both visitors and members to express their generosity, OLLC offers multiple ways to give. You'll find that eGiving options are secure, fast and easy to use. Simply visit the church's donation page <ourlords.org> and donate using your credit or debit card. Another easy way to get started is to simply scan this QR code with your smart phone. The QR code takes you directly to the OLLC giving page. On the giving page you have the opportunity to identify if your contribution is for Benevolence (church expenditures) or for one of the designated funds associated with an Our Lord's ministry. Of course, cash or check are always welcomed. No matter how you choose to give, donations received will help us sustain our ministries throughout the year.

Monies given to Our Lord's are divided into two categories--General Benevolence & Designated Giving.

- **General Benevolence (General Fund)** are dollars used for the operations of the church such as payroll, building expenses, insurances, utilities, administrative costs, building repairs, budgeted ministries, etc. Benevolence includes all items listed within the church budget. The spending plan (church budget) for 2024 totals \$344,096.
- **Designated Giving** includes all funds for which the donor identifies or '*designates*' the fund receiving the dollars. A record of giving and expenditures within each of the designated funds is kept and reported monthly by the OLLC treasurer to the council. Balances of several designated funds are reported each month within the **Financial News** section of the monthly newsletter.

OLLC designated funds

(Balances for each fund as of 1/31/2023)

- **Building & Grounds Fund (\$4549)** - Covers expenditures for the church buildings and grounds beyond budgeted building and repair expenses.
- **Disaster Relief Fund (\$0)** - All funds received are paid directly to Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) for disaster relief. Donations to LDR make it possible to provide fast and effective support to communities in need, whenever and wherever a disaster may strike. All funds received are forwarded directly to LDR.
- **Elmwood Project (\$942)** - OLLC conducts several ministries with Elmwood Nursing & Rehab -- Christmas with our Neighbors & Elmwood Bingo Items. Funds giving to Elmwood Project are used to serve the needs of Elmwood residents.
- **Fellowship After Church (\$514)** - Fellowship is valued and supported at OLLC. With the addition of fellowship following Saturday worship, Sunday morning worship, and increasing numbers of special events the supplies for fellowship has increased. All monies from this account are used to purchase supplies such as coffee, creamers, cups, plates, plastic dinnerware, etc.
- **Funeral Lunch (\$2,411)** - Funds defray cost of expenses from funeral luncheons.
- **IT Fund (\$498)** - Pays for technology expenditures beyond budgeted items.
- **Kitchen Team (\$341)** - Used for kitchen supplies such as cleaning products, trash bags, small appliances, serving utensils, etc.
- **Memorial Funds (\$6,641)** - The OLLC Memorial Fund was established to provide for the receipt, recording and holding of memorial gifts. Gifts recorded in the Memorial Fund are used for needed items of lasting value to the church. A committee of four congregation members including the Pastor review requests and approve all memorial fund expenditures.
- **Mind the Gap (\$752)** - Funds are used to serve the personal needs of people that are homeless.
- **Musical Performance - Traditional (\$350)** - Performance expenses and special equipment costs beyond dollars budgeted for Traditional Worship come from this account
- **Our Lord's Youth (\$14,038)** - The majority of the funds in this account came from youth fundraisers to raise money to attend the Youth Gathering (held every 3 years). Due to COVID-19 and other interruptions, OLLC youth have not attended a Youth Gathering since 2018. In 2024, two youth & Pastor Darla Ann will be attending. Expenses for the trip are covered from this fund.
- **People in a Pickle (\$669)** - Funds from this account are used to provide financial assistance (such as lodging, gas cards, meals or bus tickets) to people in need. Transient population, as well as homeless, in Madison and St. Clair Counties benefit from these funds. A committee of three congregation members assist with the application process, identification of need, and monitoring assistance provided.
- **Pet Expo (\$0)** - Funds are used to pay for advertising, supplies, and other needs for the Pet Expo event in October.
- **Praise Band Performance (\$0)** - Performance expenses and special equipment costs beyond dollars budgeted for the Praise Band come from this account.
- **S.O.S. Soup Kitchen (\$773)** - funds are used to pay for food and other miscellaneous expenses related to S.O.S. Our Lord's host one meal each month. Costs total approx. \$400 per month.
- **Thiel Estate (\$21,493)** - The funds from this account were given to Our Lord's by Harry & Lyn Thiel, longtime OLLC members. Harry and Lyn were passionate about working with the youth of the church and supporting them in their spiritual growth. In the spirit of Lyn & Harry, these funds are used to support projects and activities that encourage youth and young adults.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Congratulations Our Lord's Lutheran! In 2023 you received \$243 in Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funding. We're proud to help support the important work you do and hope, together, we can do even more in 2024!

Are you a Thrivent member?

Do you have Choice Dollars to direct?

You have the power to recommend where Thrivent gives back!

There are two ways to direct your Choice Dollars:

Online

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. In the "GET STARTED" section on the right, click Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®.
3. Log in by entering your user ID and password.
(If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for account access.")
4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars. Enter keywords(s) like Our Lords Lutheran Church, Maryville or other organization.
5. Choose "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now." Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

By phone

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars® program Terms and Conditions.
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.



**YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE
DOLLARS MUST BE DIRECTED BY
MARCH 31!**

SERVING OUR LORD'S



MARCH 14TH

For the next few months, we are trying something different regarding SOS. Assistance with preparation and serving the meal is needed. However, in effort to minimize cost, we will purchase food through a local wholesaler, therefore, **rather than donating specific items, we are asking anyone interested in supporting this ministry to provide cash contributions.** Donations can be given via check, cash, or through Vanco online giving, please note S.O.S. in the memo line. We will be serving March 12th at First Presbyterian in Collinsville. **Assistance with preparation and serving the meal is still needed.** The signup list is available in the Narthex. Please contact Gail Jorgensen or the church office with questions.

Worker Bees: Saturday, March 2, at 7:00 am

If you plan on attending, please confirm by email or text to Chuck Pugh.



SATURDAY & SUNDAY HOSPITALITY HOSTS NEEDED

Contact Kay Chaffee (618-210-9876) or Cindy Pugh (618-334-1046) with any questions

SUNDAY SINGERS AND RINGERS NEEDED!

Please contact Cady Thomas Potts at 417-268-8777 or cady.thomas@ourlords.org for more information.

OLLC PRAISE BAND

To join, contact Olivia Cross or the church office.



ELMWOOD BINGO REQUEST

Elmwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center staff have appreciated the many donations OLLC members made to the monthly General Store, but it has been decided to close the store. A new request has been made for BINGO prizes. The items requested include jewelry (used is fine), toiletry items, crossword and other game books, coloring books, and colored pencils. Donations can be left in the Elmwood bin in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support of Elmwood Ministries.

Carol Gocken & Karen Tilshalski

FAIR TRADE CELEBRATES 75 YEARS!
Help Celebrate And Support a GREAT Cause.
WOW 75 Years
Supporting Small Farmers & Artisans



FAIR TRADE SINCE 1949

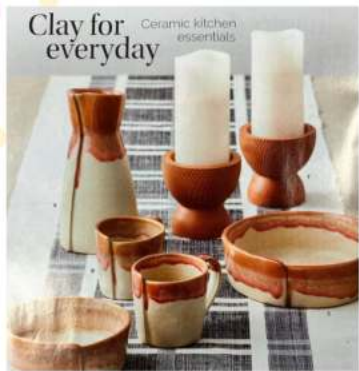
Key dates in SERRV history

- 1950 SERRV's first store, the International Gift Shop, opens in New Windsor, Maryland.
- 1951 The first catalog is printed. First products are sent out on consignment.
- 1976 SERRV begins importing handicrafts from artisan groups Asha Handicrafts and Tara Projects (both in India), as well as Community Crafts Association of the Philippines—all groups we continue to work with today.
- 1989 Becomes a founding member of the World Fair Trade Organization.
- 1994 Becomes a founding member of the Fair Trade Federation.



*Fair Trade Friends,
 New Catalogs are in the shop. As always there are many more items available on the Website (SERRV.org). I already have some of the NEW items in the Fair Trade Shop, but it's minimal compared to the Website. Be warned though, I have found out SERRV expects some of the items to move quickly.
 I usually get between 2 & 5 orders when the NEW Catalogs come out. This is such a huge support for the ministry as well as helping me be able to bring more new items in to the shop. I truly look forward to hearing from you.
 Remember, the prices you see are Retail. Contact me for your Discounted prices.*

Yours in Christ,
 The Fair Trade Ministry
 Mike Williams (618)772-9260 Talk/Text



OLLC EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

PRE-SCHOOL - Grade 5 SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Sundays in the Life Center at 10:15 am!

CONFIRMATION CLASS *Sundays at 10:15 am*
 Meets weekly. 2nd Sunday of the month in Sanctuary.
 All other weeks in the Life Center Conference Room.

HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS *Sundays at 10:15 am*
 Meets weekly in the Worship Center Youth Room.

OUR LORD'S YOUTH GROUP
 The March meeting of OLY will be Sunday, March 10 at 12 noon following the 2nd Sunday 2nd Service. The group will meet in the kitchen to prepare cookie dough. While the dough is chilling, we will have lunch and talk. Then we will bake 300 cookies for the SOS Soup Kitchen meal on Thursday, March 14.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY *Sundays at 10:15 am*
Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation

QUESTIONS BIBLE STUDY *Mondays at 10:00 am*
Luther: Gospel, Law, & Reformation

MORNING GLORIES BIBLE STUDY
Winter/Spring Session *2nd & 4th Thursday @ 10:00 am*
"Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith" by Rev. Sara Olson-Smith
 Morning Glories meets the of each month in the Commons (WC)

FEEDING THE SOUL
 "On hiatus until April 3
Wednesdays at 3:00 pm LC Conference Room

OLLC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Calling all Late Boomers!

Let's Get together!!

Saturday, March 9, 6:30 pm

Sugo's Spaghetteria in Edwardsville

RSVP with name and number to:

Deb Ackerman, dackerman0806@gmail.com

Text: 336-414-7284

CRAFTS & LAUGHS

Next meeting will be March 12 at 6:30 pm

During March we will be completing table centerpieces for the Easter Breakfast. Contact Cindy Pugh (618-334-1046) with questions. *Cost for each session is \$10.*



SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB

**Book Club will meet
March 18th at 11:30 am**

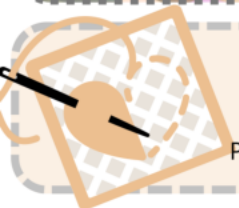
We will discuss "The Art of Mending" by Elizabeth Berg
Bringing your lunch is optional. Zoom will be available on request. New members ALWAYS welcome!

OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS

Crafters will meet March 27

in Fellowship Hall from 12 pm - 3 pm.

Please contact Kathy Nehrt with any questions!



TUESDAY TEA

Time: 3:00 PM Central Time - every week on Tuesday. All are welcome to join us!

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839398550?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839398550?pwd=cTZUVi8ycjNjS296ZnZ4U3ErTGwQT09)

[pwd=cTZUVi8ycjNjS296ZnZ4U3ErTGwQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839398550?pwd=cTZUVi8ycjNjS296ZnZ4U3ErTGwQT09)

Meeting ID: 868 3939 8550 Passcode: 511171



COMMUNITY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Lutheran School of Theology is pleased to invite you to participate in our spring class on

The Psalms for Justice-Seekers and Peacemakers

Dr. Clint McCann, Facilitator

Thursdays, April 18 & 25, May 2 & 9, 2024, 6:30-8:00 p. m. via Zoom

The Book Of Psalms Has For Centuries Been A Source Of Comfort, Consolation, And Encouragement For Jews And Christians. It Is Clearly A Spiritual Classic! The Spirituality Resourced By The Psalms Has Almost Always Been Individually-Focused And Often Meditative, And This Is Of Great Value. But The Psalms Can Do More, And These Sessions Will Explore How The Psalms Can Also Be A Resource For A More Activist, Outward-Looking Spirituality Oriented To Justice-Seeking And Peacemaking.

J. Clinton McCann, Jr. (Clint) is the Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, MO. He is a graduate of Davidson College (A. B.), Union Presbyterian Seminary (D. Min., Th. M.), and Duke University (Ph. D.). He was chair of the Psalms Section of the Society of Biblical Literature from 1989 to 1998, and much of Clint's research and writing has focused on the Book of Psalms. He is author of numerous books on the Psalms as well as many published articles and writings. including over 40 essays for workingpreacher.org that is a program of the Center for Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary.

Dr McCann is a Teaching Elder (Ordained Minister) in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and member of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. He has served as pastor for 10 years in North Carolina, as Resident Minister of the New Piasa Chautauqua near Elsau, IL; and he is an Associate Member of the Iona Community in Scotland which is committed to the pursuit of peace, justice, and the flourishing of creation.

The depth of his scholarship and his commitment to teaching from texts that inspire and inform people toward justice-seeking and peacemaking make this class a rich opportunity.

Register today for \$55 at

<https://lststl.org/the-psalms-for-justice-seekers-and-peacemakers/>

Recordings will be available for missed classes.



Lutheran School of Theology

Teachers and life-long learners in theological study. Together.

LOOKING AHEAD

APRIL

- April 1 - Easter Monday, Church Office Closed
- April 12 & 13 - Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Event
- April 15 - Tax Day
- April 15-30 - OLLC Spring Cleaning

**Giving Emphasis:
Spring Clean-up**

(items/materials, workdays at Faith in Action, Camp Wartburg, and at OLLC)

MAY

- May 1 - First Day Of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
- May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- May 12 - Mother's Day
- May 19 - Pentecost Sunday
- May 27 - Memorial Day, Church Office Closed

**Giving Emphasis:
Madagascar Companion Synod**

JUNE

- June - VBS (dates TBD)
- June 1 - First Day Of LGBTQ+ Pride Month
- June 6-8 - Synod Assembly
- June 16 - Father's Day
- June 19 - Juneteenth

**Giving Emphasis:
Vacation Bible School**

UPDATE FROM COLLINSVILLE FAITH IN ACTION

A Monthly Updates for Partner Churches,

- Each month, Collinsville Faith in Action brings community members ages 60+ together for social time and lunch. If you'd like to make some new friends, call us to reserve your place for Elder Connection on Wednesday, March 13, 11AM-1PM. Let us know if you need transportation. All our services are free to clients, but reservations are required, and space is limited. Call 618-344-8080 for more information or to reserve your place at this event.
- Attention all retirees! Call Collinsville Faith in Action to become a volunteer and serve the community's members ages 60+. CFiA has been partnering with community congregations and organizing volunteers for 26 years, and we'd love to tell you more about the benefits of volunteering with us. Call Karen at 618-344-8080, extension 106 for details.
- Need to update your will or assign a power of attorney? On Thursday, March 21, at 10 AM, Collinsville Faith in Action will host a presentation on Advanced Directives. Call our office to reserve a seat for this special presentation by Land of Lincoln Legal Aid. This is a free service offered in March, June, and September. Call 618-344-8080 to make your reservation.
- Thursday, March 21, Collinsville Faith in Action is hosting our quarterly Senior Housing Options seminar. Join us at 11AM to learn more about the variety of housing options for seniors, including making accommodations to your current home that will allow you to safely age in place. This is a free service. Questions? Want to reserve your seat? Call 618-344-8080.

In faith and gratitude,
Lisa C. Brennan, Executive Director

CENTRAL/SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD NEWS AND EVENTS



Bishop of Central/Southern Illinois Synod

The Rev. Dr. Greg G. Busboom, Bishop
greg.busboom@csis-elca.org



Ordained in 1999, the Rev. Dr. Greg G. Busboom grew up near Flatville in east central Illinois. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and History from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in 1995, a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio in 1999, and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Congregational Mission and Leadership from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota in 2018. His doctoral thesis is titled *Perichoretic Worship: Cultivating Relationships with the Triune God, with One Another, and with the World.*

Bishop Busboom served as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Carthage, Illinois from 1999-2007, the Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship at St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield, Illinois from 2007-2011, and the Lead Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield, Illinois from 2011-2023. He was elected bishop of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod in June 2023.

Bishop Busboom has been married to his wife, Maressa, for 27 years. Maressa is an R.N., B.S.N. who works as a school nurse at Rochester Elementary School. Bishop Busboom enjoys good food, good music, and a good book.

Women of the ELCA Bold Women's Day Sunday, March 3

Observed the first Sunday of March, Bold Women's Day celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. Are you bold?

Celebrate the bold women in your congregation on Sunday, March 3. A litany and other resources are available at WomenoftheELCA.org/Bold-Womens-Day.

Solar Eclipse Event at Trinity, Olney, IL April 6-8

You are invited to Trinity Lutheran Church's Eclipse Weekend Event, April 6-8. Join for the weekend or just a day. Free camping is offered at the church; you are invited to sleep inside the church or outside. A limited number of RVs/campers can be accommodated (no electricity/water/sewer available).

There will be an astronomy program about viewing and photographing the eclipse with telescope viewing and stargazing at night, and activities will be provided for kids. Bishop Greg Busboom will preach at the worship service on Sunday, April 7.

For more information, contact the church office at trinityolney@gmail.com or 618-392-4181.

PRAYER CONCERNS

CONGREGATION MEMBERS

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Don Klingsick
 Dan Homes
 Kim Payne
 Linda Spencer
 Brian Kassing
 Don Simonson Sr.
 John Nehrt

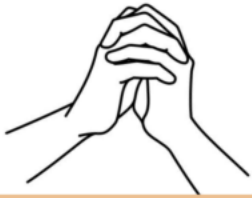
Chuck Jorgenson
 Sonja Cheatham
 Rod Orr
 Steve Perry
 Joyce Tatjenhorst
 David Kassing
 Luke Huster
 Kendyll Pugh
 Sarah White
 Brian Hartke
 Greg Fremder
 Dave Chaffee

Mary & David Findley
 Carol Gendron
 Diane Daubs
 Rosy Park
 Fran Baker Black
 Yvonne Tritt
 David Lee
 Aryan & Trinity Spurgeon
 Greg Beaver
 Tammy Green
 Barb Carver

Janet Borowitz
 Sheryl McBride
 Dale & Carole
 Larry Estal
 Donna Fisher
 David Dow
 Burk Bruninga
 Bonnie Isom
 Shelley Bruntjen
 Wyatt Owens
 Richard Henderson

Pearl & Sean
 Stuart Stickel
 Jim Kilgore
 Barbara & Joyce
 Beverly Boewen
 Dave Galyon
 Rose K
 Justine F
 Julie
 Kathy
 Margaret
 Dean

KC
 Ruth B
 Mark
 Grace
 Teresa
 Anne
 Elisha
 Diane
 Chris
 Marg L.
 Jamie



PRAY FOR FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING

Clarence Hauschild (Karen Tilashalski's uncle)
 Ed Swase (request submitted by Max and Linda Eakin)
 Diane Vukson (former OLLC member)
 Lally Lacy (former classmate of Mike Williams)
 The Hoelscher Family as they mourn the death of Steve's father

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lance Cpl. Clayton Campbell
 Major James Carmichael
 Airborne Ranger Keegan Crosby
 Staff Sgt. Tyson Crosby
 Erica Webb, US Private E-3

Zach Huff
 John Meyer
 Zachary Neubauer
 Amador Ochoa
 Capt. Blake Crosby

Josh Pace
 Scott Prengel
 Jake Randall
 SPC Bill Homes

SrA Paul Kampwerth
 Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith
 Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)
 Staff Sgt. Stephan Spencer

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

MARCH Birthdays

Steve Hoelscher
 Sarah Krueger Speicher
 Stefanie Vesper
 Faith Nicole Hoelscher
 Angela Nemsky
 Mark Callahan
 Brian Henderson

Erin Helms
 Anna Redenius
 Melinda Stein
 Ginger Trucano
 Caleb Hancock
 Sara Schipkowski
 Jan Vinson

Penny Waterman
 Julie Gruber
 Paige Micnheimer
 Paul Huster
 Jaxon Lange
 Michael Blotevogel
 Kalonny Short

Kate Henderson
 Vicki Lottes
 Ian Comrie
 Robert Hancock
 Dom Echevarria
 Barbara Watz

MARCH Anniversaries

Ted & Angela Nemsky

REMINDERS

PRAYER LIST - Please let the office know if you would like to add a new person, remove a current person, or change the status of anyone on our prayer list. OLLC practice include removing individuals from the prayer lists **after 8 weeks** unless an update is received

PRAYER VENTURES - Two pages of monthly prayer support for ELCA ministries are available at: www.elca.org/prayerventures

WHEN YOU HAVE CHANGES - Please let the church office know of changes to e-mail address, mail/resident addresses, telephone numbers, job, college, graduations etc.

OTHER INFORMATION -

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America -- <https://www.elca.org/>
 Central Southern Illinois Synod -- <https://www.csis-elca.org/>

COUNCIL BRIEFS

I love the layering process involved when I create my 'thread paintings.' I begin with a plan for my work. The plan starts with a drawing; then, working on a backing fabric, I add hand-dyed fabric that has been cut and reassembled to create the image. When the design is done, I begin the process of adding machine stitching to complete the work. Throughout the creative process there are many decisions made regarding design, color, fabric, and composition. Often times there are dramatic changes when my original ideas do not work as planned. Despite setbacks, I am always moving forward.



Life at OLLC is similar. I think of the decisions and actions taken by the council, the ministry support team, and members are similar to that of a creative artist. Life at OLLC involves a process---making a plan, responding to changing circumstances, redesigning, and then reworking ideas as needed. Decisions are continually being evaluated and discussed, revisions made and changes put into place when determined appropriate, yet we are always moving forward.

The February Council meeting encompassed many topics of discussion; however, few action items. One topic of interest is the reinstatement of the Staff Support Team. This Team will meet with staff members to provide support and encouragement within his/her position. Erick Larson was the lead on this team prior to the pandemic and has agreed to lead the team once again. In addition, we discussed the review of the OLLC Mission, Vision, & Values. This document is used as the basis when many decisions. Adopted in 2021, it is time to review the mission, vision, values and priority areas within OLLC. In the next few months, a team will be assembled to discuss the church mission, vision, and values (see page 4 of the newsletter).

May God continue to bless our congregation as we make decisions and move forward fulfilling our mission. We ask that God grants us the wisdom to make wise decisions and the discernment to choose the right path.

Yours in Christ,
Karen Cummings-Larson

If you would like to discuss becoming involved in the leadership at OLLC, (serving on church council or as part of the ministry support team) please contact Pastor Darla Ann or a council member. If you are interested in attending a meeting, contact the church office for access information.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

OLLC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann Kratzer, Pastor
Cynthia Haggitt, Administrative Assistant
Cady Thomas Potts,
 Director of Worship Music for Sundays & Special Services
Olivia Cross, Leader of Non-Traditional Worship Music
Dr. Rhonda Comrie, Organist
Matt Gross, Streaming Tech
Benjamin Maynard, Worship Tech

CHURCH COUNCIL

Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson, President
Dr. Emily Truckenbrod, Vice President
Jeanette Goetter, Secretary
Dr. Laura Schoenecker, Treasurer
Linda Hester, At Large
The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann R. Kratzer, Pastor

MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

Kathy Nehrt (Education)
Cindy Pugh (Fellowship)
Ed Foppe (IT)
Carol Orr (Service)
Dr. Rhonda Comrie (Worship)

Sunday School: Lisa White

Fair Trade Store: Mike Williams
 vablu2@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: K. Cummings-Larson

FINANCIAL NEWS

Cash Assets of the Congregation

(financial figures are taken from the February 2024 Treasurer Report given to the OLLC Council by Treasurer Laura Schoenecker)

January 2024 Giving	\$53,223	Cash - Unrestricted	\$ 41,423
(Includes "General Benevolence" & "Designated" giving)		Cash - Designated	\$ 59,524
January 2024 Expenditures	\$26,907	Total cash	\$100,945
(Includes "General Benevolence" & "Designated" expenditures)			

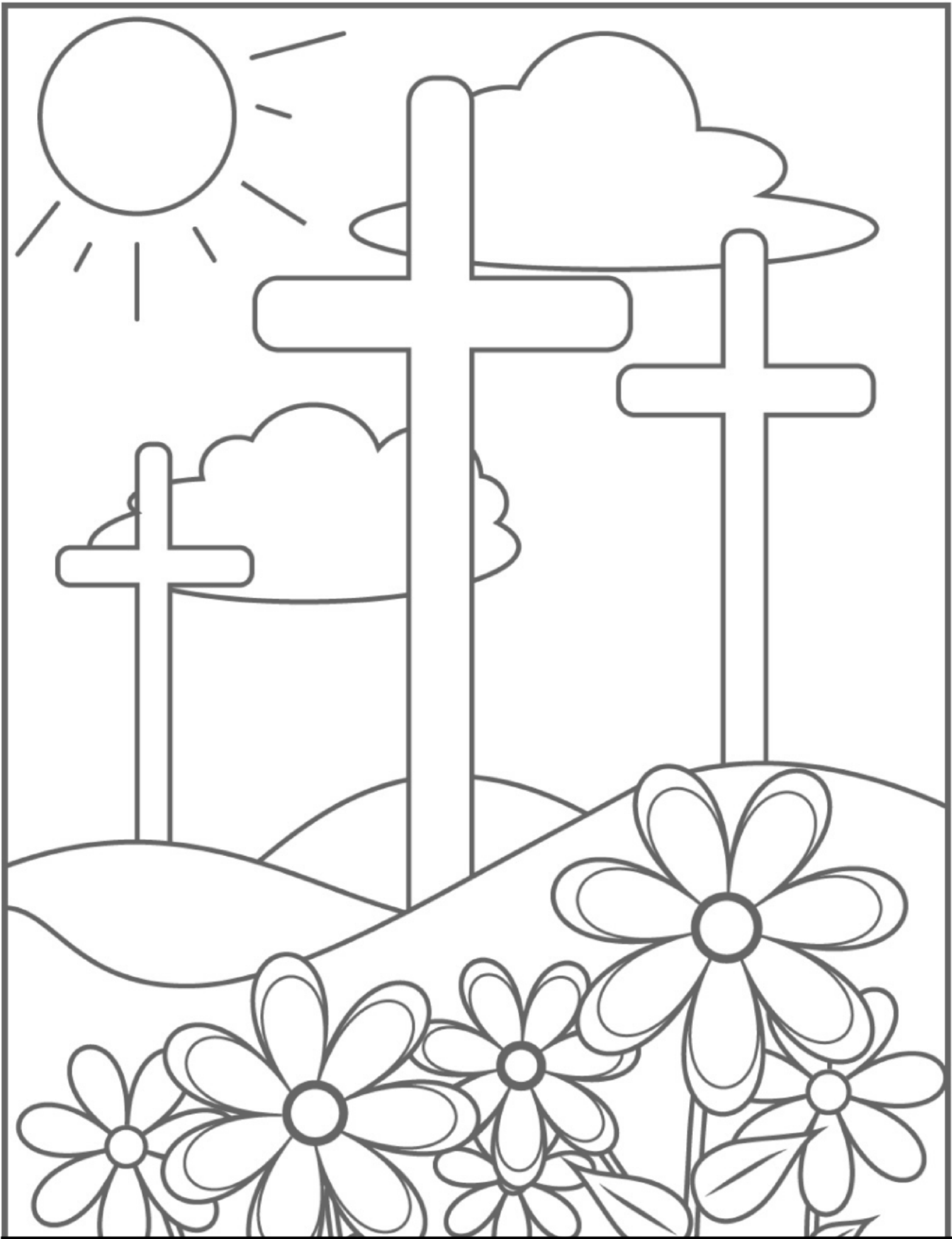
Balances in Selected Designated Funds

as of January 31, 2024

Building and Grounds	\$4,549	Our Lord's Youth.....	\$14,038
Fair Trade.....	\$1,417	Thiel Estate Bequest.....	\$21,493
Funeral Luncheons.....	\$2,411	Memorial.....	\$6,641
IT.....	\$498	Elmwood Project.....	\$942
Kitchen Team.....	\$341	Mind the Gap.....	\$752
After Church Fellowship.....	\$514	People in A Pickle.....	\$669
		SOS Soup Kitchen.....	\$773

Note: payments labeled "Cooling Our Lord's," "Restoring Our Lord's," or "VIF/Boom, Mortgage, etc." will be deposited into "Building and Grounds," as the aforementioned funds are no longer active.

Thank you for sharing your financial resources with this congregation in support of the mission we share.



MARCH 2024 CALENDAR

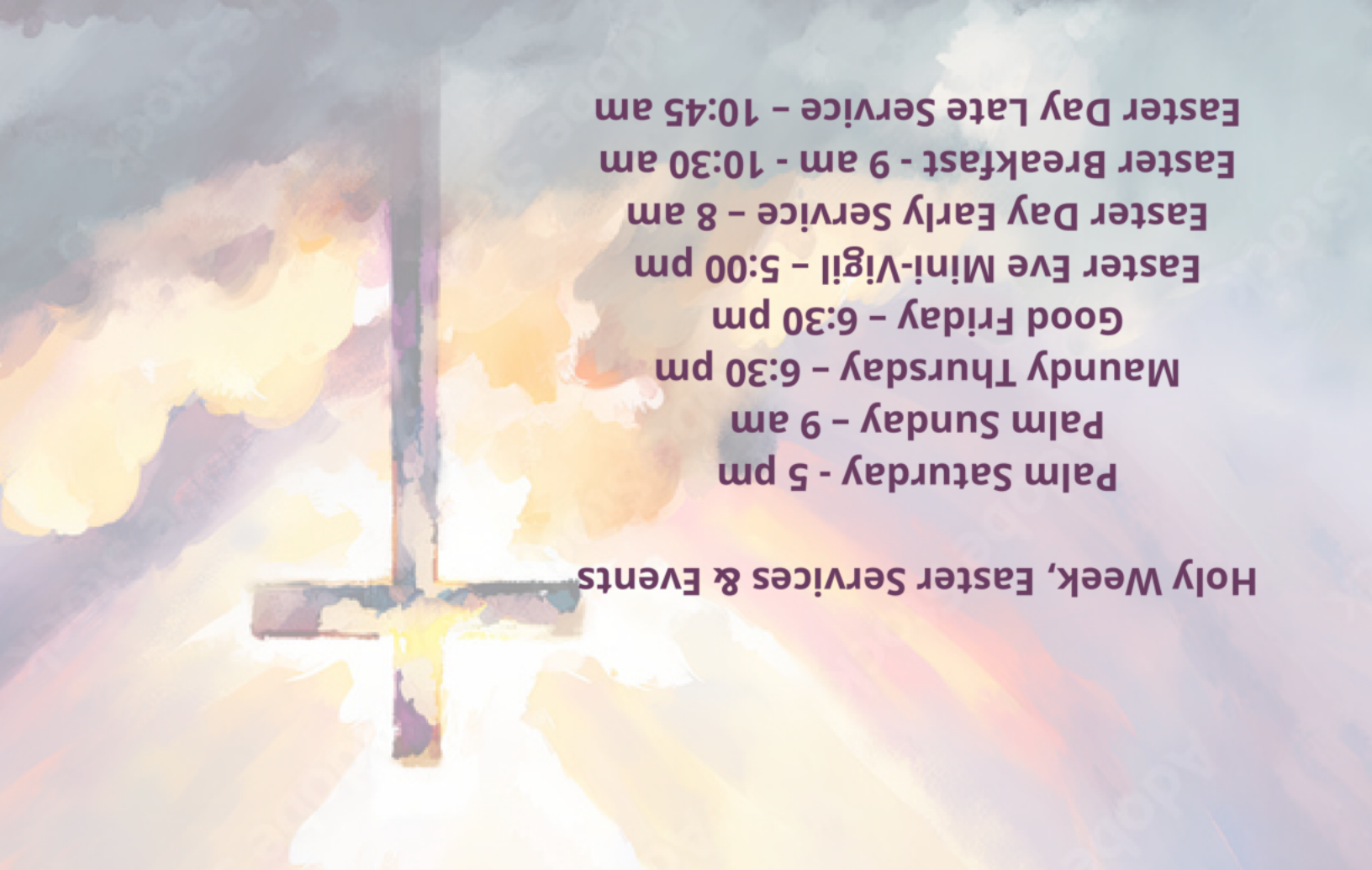
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2024: A NEW ERA OF GIVING!					1 Pastor's Sabbath 3:30 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -WC	2 7:00 AM Worker Bees 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service
3 Lent 3 9:00 AM Worship: Traditional Service 10:15 AM Pre K - HS Sunday School Classes 10:15 AM Confirmation 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study ELCA Bold Women's Day	4 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -WC	5 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea- Zoom 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	6 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts 6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer	7 10:00 AM Morning Glories 5:00 PM Music Lessons - WC 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	8 Pastor's Sabbath 3:30 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -WC	9 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service Daylight Savings Time Begins 3/10! Turn your clocks back before going to bed.
10 Lent 4 9:00 AM Worship: Traditional Service 10:15 AM Pre K - HS Sunday School Classes 10:15 AM Confirmation 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study 10:45 AM Worship: In-Building Traditional Service 12:00 PM Our Lord's Youth	11 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas-Potts -WC 6:30 PM Ministry Support Team Meeting	12 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea- Zoom 6:30 PM Crafts & Laughs (WC) 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	13 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts 6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Lakeview Garden Club Meeting - WC	14 OLLC Serves SOS 5:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts - WC 6:00 PM MOC Committee Meeting @ New Rivers 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	15 Newsletter Deadline Pastor's Sabbath 3:30 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas -WC Fellowship Hall reserved for decorating	16 10:00 AM La Leche League - WC Conference Room 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service Fellowship Hall reserved
17 Lent 5 9:00 AM Worship: Traditional Service 10:15 AM Pre K - HS Sunday School Classes 10:15 AM Confirmation 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study	18 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 11:30 AM Serendipity Book Club 3:00 PM Music Lessons -WC 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	19 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea- Zoom 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	20 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts 6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer	21 10:00 AM Morning Glories 5:00 PM Music Lesson - WC 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - WC 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal - WC	22 Pastor's Sabbath 3:30 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -WC	23 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service
24 Passion/Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Worship: Traditional Service 10:15 AM Pre K - HS Sunday School Classes 10:15 AM Confirmation 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study	25 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -WC	26 3:00 PM Tuesday Tea- Zoom 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	27 12:00 PM Our Lord's Crafters - WC 3:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts	28 Maundy Thursday 5:00 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas - WC 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service	29 Good Friday 3:30 PM Music Lessons, C. Thomas Potts -WC 6:30 PM Good Friday Service	30 Easter Eve 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Easter Eve Mini-Vigil; Praise Service

31 **EASTER**
He is risen, Alleluia!
8:00 AM Easter Day Early Worship Service: Traditional Service
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM OLLC Easter Breakfast (WC Fellowship Hall)
10:45 AM Easter Day Late Worship Service: Traditional Service



March Giving Emphasis:

13

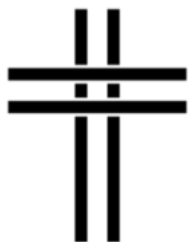


Holy Week, Easter Services & Events

Palm Saturday - 5 pm
Palm Sunday - 9 am
Maundy Thursday - 6:30 pm
Good Friday - 6:30 pm
Easter Eve Mini-Vigil - 5:00 pm
Easter Day Early Service - 8 am
Easter Breakfast - 9 am - 10:30 am
Easter Day Late Service - 10:45 am

"The Spirit of Our Lord's News"
Our Lord's Lutheran Church
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March 2024 Newsletter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED