

WHAT'S INSIDE

PASTOR'S COLUMN

*Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach,
but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.
John 21:4*

Deep orange and purple Tulips filled the median between the incoming and outgoing traffic at the Botanical Garden. Inside the gardens there were even richer colors, as well as the basic yellow, white, pink, red, and purple. Some of the Tulips had so many layers of petals that, from a distance, I thought they were roses. When we planned our excursion, I had hoped that a few Iris plants would be blooming, even though it's a bit early for them. I had not given a thought to Tulips. But it was what I didn't expect that filled me with awe.

The word "surprise" doesn't appear very often in the Bible. (In the NRSVUE translation there are only 7 occurrences.) Yet over and over again, people whose stories are recorded in the biblical books are surprised. Events and beings that they didn't expect show up. Angels appear and tell them not to be afraid. Enemies appear and God rescues the people - sometimes guiding them through the waters and at other times walking with them in the fire. Throughout this season of Easter, Jesus will show up in unexpected ways in unexpected places. One story we will hear this month is when Jesus surprises the disciples by showing up at the lakeshore and mixing them breakfast on the beach. It is one of my favorites and very fitting for Confirmation Day. Jesus nourishes his disciples, asks a disciple if he loves Jesus, and then commissions that disciple to feed and tend God's people. Confirmation day is a commissioning: vows are made after being nourished by the love and instruction of the congregation. As Kaitlyn makes her vows on May 4, I invite you to silently renew your own. After all, Jesus keeps showing up in unexpected places to feed you. Then he invites you to love him by being his hands and feet in the world. That is enough to fill anyone with awe!

Pastor Kratzer

GRADUATION INFORMATION NEEDED

If you or a relative/friend are graduating this year and wish to be acknowledged in the July newsletter, please notify the church office.

Information required:

*name, date of graduation, school degree level, degree subject,
(optional) future plans after graduation*



OUR LORD'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ Coming Together ✠ Growing in Faith ✠
✠ Serving the Lord ✠

THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

May, 2025 | Volume 59, No. 5

A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.ourlords.org

May 3 & 4

Third Sunday of Easter
"Breakfast on the Beach"

Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Confirmation Day

Reception following the Worship Service

May 24 & 25

Sixth Sunday of Easter
"The Advocate"

Revelation 21:10 and 21:22-22:5
John 14:23-29

May 31 & June 1

Seventh Sunday of Easter
"Jesus Prays for Us"

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

May 10 & 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day

"Shepherd Me, O God"
Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 23
John 10:22-30

May 17 & 18

Fifth Sunday of Easter
"Love"

Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

OLLC Church Picnic

Saturdays at 5 pm

Sundays at 9 am

2nd Sunday at 10:45 am

**Saturday and Sunday 9:00 am services
will be livestreamed.**



Listen to services using your phone or tablet!

Scan the QR code or download AudioFetch
on Google Play or iTunes.

MAY GIVING EMPHASIS: OLLC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"Jerusalem Marketplace" **June 9th-12th, 2025**

Vacation Bible School at Our Lord's is a summer education program designed to teach children about the Bible through fun and engaging activities. It's an opportunity for kids to learn about God's love and Jesus through stories, songs, crafts, games, and other interactive experiences. With every hour of planning, every helping hand, and every dollar donated, we build a magical adventure for the young—and the young-at-heart.

This summer, children will journey to Jerusalem Marketplace, walking the streets just as they were in ancient times—full of sights, sounds, and stories from the days of Jesus.

Register your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors—
anyone you know who would love a week of fun, faith, and unforgettable memories!

A list of volunteer opportunities and supplies needed for VBS can be found on page 4 of this newsletter. Monetary donations are appreciated as well. Contributions can be made via ACH bank transfer, by check (please note "VBS" in the memo line), or by using your smart phone and following the following QR code (takes you to the OLLC giving page, select "Vacation Bible School" to make a donation).



*Join us in making Jerusalem Marketplace an unforgettable experience for all—
your contribution makes a difference!*



**OLLC Confirmation Day
and Reception Sunday
May 4th**

Confirmation Sunday is not a day just for the confirmand and their family, it is a day for the whole congregation. Yes, this is a day to recognize and celebrate Kaitlyn Blotvogel as she publicly declares her faith and commitment to following Christ. It is also a day that we, as the congregation, come together to celebrate how we share our faith with others from Baptism through Confirmation.

The entire congregation is encouraged to attend the reception, to congratulate Kaitlyn on her confirmation, and to celebrate in our own affirmation of faith.

May 18; 10:30 am – 1:00 pm
Willoughby Farm, Collinsville
If inclement weather we will move to OLLC Fellowship Hall

**Celebrate the end of Sunday School
& the beginning of summer!**

We will be serving a picnic lunch under the pavilion at 11:00 am with hotdogs, hamburgers & veggie burgers (chips, drinks & tableware provided). You are welcome to bring a side or dessert to share. Explore the hiking trails after lunch! Many areas on the farm are accessible to people with disabilities including parking and restroom facilities.

The Willoughby Farm and Conservation Reserve encompasses over 30-acres of wildlife preserve. The property is inspired by 1940's farm life, complete with tractors, barns, a 1930's Craftsman style farmhouse, and even live animals such as donkeys, a heifer, chickens, and goats!

631 Willoughby Lane, Collinsville, IL 62234
(or Google "Willoughby Farm")



SPRING CONCERT

Praise Music Concert
---in loving memory of Andrew Kassing---

Friday, May 30; 7:00 pm.
Chapel in the Pines
(Concert will be moved to the Fellowship Hall in the case of rain)

**Come to hear OLLC Praise Worship favorites as well as new music
performed by members of the OLLC Praise Band
& musical guests both familiar and new.**



**Bring lawn chairs and plan for a
wonderful evening of great music
and fond memories!**





We seek assistance in the following areas:

someone to cut wooden crosses and dreidels (to be used in the shops); shopkeepers to lead crafts in the areas of carpentry, jewelry, tie-dying, and toy making; tribal leaders (leading a group of four or more children to the various activities); music/song leaders; game leaders; storytellers; assistants to help where needed. Lastly, we will need adults to decorate, promote publicity, assist with costumes, and set up/clean up.
The VBS staff is grateful for any assistance and time our congregation can offer.

Volunteers Needed for Preparing & Serving Meals

Volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve, and clean up with the nightly meals at VBS. Date of VBS is June 9-12. Sign up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Contact the church office with questions or for information.

Our Lord's Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School Signup June 9-12, 2025

(Family meal at 5:00 PM, VBS at 6:00 PM)

Please fill out one form per child. Return completed form to the office.

Our Lord's Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School Signup June 9-12, 2025

Please fill out one form per child.

Child's Name _____

Child's Age _____ Child's Date Of Birth _____

Child's Gender _____ Child's Last School Grade _____

Child's T Shirt Size (optional) _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Phone _____ Parent's Email _____

Home Address _____

Who Can Pick Up My Child? _____

(You can list yourself, spouse, family members, friends, or any other authorized individual to whom we can release your child to at the end of the day.)

Please list any known allergies or medical concerns: *If none, please put "none."*

Does Our Lord's Lutheran Church have permission to take video footage and/or photos of your child for the purposes of publication to the congregation through the monthly newsletter and/or weekly announcements?

Yes/No

Donations Needed

The Vacation Bible School staff needs the following items:

- Clorox wipes
- Water Wipes brand hand-wipes;
- plastic tablecloths;
- buttons;
- clothes pins;
- old pieces of jewelry;
- paper towels;
- small paper plates (white);
- washable paints (Crayola box of 6 containers);
- tie-dye kits;
- small individual packets of chips, goldfish, and cookies;
- boxes of packaged juices (preferably Kool-Aid packets);
- small bottles of water;
- scraps of wood (to cut out dreidels and crosses);
- fine sandpaper;
- artificial flowers/fruit/greenery;
- clean used rugs, bedspreads, and blankets;
- monetary donations to purchase t-shirts for tie-dying (please make checks payable to Our Lord's Lutheran Church and write VBS in the memo).

Drop off your donation(s) at the wishing well in the back of the church.

Thank you for contributing to the success of "Jerusalem Marketplace"

Our Lord's is establishing College Connection Teams to foster support and encouragement for OLLC college students as they navigate their education. There will be nearly 25 students attending college next year. The plan is for five OLLC ministry groups to each 'adopt' five college students. Ministry groups such as Morning Glories, Boomers, OLLC Crafters, Bible Study, etc. are encouraged to 'adopt' students. Individuals or families can 'adopt' a student as well.



What is a College Connection Team: A dedicated team of church members that stay in touch with college students through emails, texts, or notes, offering encouragement and support. The team reaches out to the college student at holidays, provides encouraging notes, and may send small gifts and care packages. The intent is for the congregation to simply stay in touch and express well wishes.

How do you begin: Identify a group of people to be a part of your team. Notify the office of your team members. Your team will be assigned several OLLC college students (names and contact information will be provided). Begin by introducing your self and your team to the college student via card or note.

What do you do throughout the year: Provide encouragement and support throughout the year such as send encouraging notes each month, sign and send holiday cards and birthday greetings, mail a small care package such as "Joy in a Jar" (a container of candy bars) for finals week, send homemade goodies during December, etc. Be creative, it is not necessary to spend large amounts of money. Simply offering words of encouragement, empathy, and prayer doesn't require any financial cost.

By implementing these strategies, Our Lord's will connect with the congregation's college students and provide them with support and encouragement to make a difference in their academic and personal lives.

SPRING FLING, SPRING CLEAN!

OLLC contracts a cleaning crew for routine cleaning of Worship Center and the Life Center (emptying trash, cleaning bathrooms, vacuuming, mopping as needed) however, deep cleaning is not included within the contract.

We are blessed to have beautiful facilities and it is time for our annual SPRING CLEANING! To share in the work involved, we are asking congregation members to contribute a few hours of their time to assist with cleaning specific areas of the church. In order to share the workload, please 'adopt' a room or space and complete a "spring cleaning" of the space. Adopt a room as an individual, partner with a church friend, sign up as a family, or identify a group/committee to clean. If you cannot take on an entire space but feel you can assist with one or two tasks within a space, let us know and we will include your help within one of the spaces.

You can work during a time that is convenient for you; however, we are asking that the spring cleaning of OLLC is completed by the end of May.

Sign up for your space and pick up a cleaning checklist from the church office. A sign up sheet is available in the Narthex. As you clean your self-identified space make a list of repairs needed and pass the repair information to Linda. In the months ahead, arrangements will be made to complete the repairs. Once you have completed your cleaning, please notify Linda so the space can be removed from the cleaning list. Spaces to be cleaned in the Worship Center include: Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Men's Restroom & Women's Restroom, Nursery, Conference Room, Fair Trade, Commons, Narthex & Hallway, Sacristy, and Sanctuary. Life Center spaces include: Entry, Main Office Area, Box Room, Sunday School Room 1, Sunday School Room 2, Upstairs Restrooms (2 spaces), Conference Room, Upstairs Kitchen & hallway.

Questions about **Spring Fling, Spring Clean!** should be directed to Karen Cummings-Larson 314-306-5987.



SPRING MEMBER INQUIRY CLASS PLANNED

If you are interested in knowing more about what it means to be a part of Our Lord's Lutheran, the next sessions will be offered soon. Lent is a great time to prepare for entering more deeply into the walking with the disciple of Our Lord's as together we follow Jesus. Please let Pastor Kratzer know (by texting 330-244-7963) that you would like to be a part of this exploration of core beliefs, core values, ministry priority areas, and the nuts and bolts of how we organize to do God's work with our hands.





OLLC will serve on Tuesday, May 13th

Assistance with preparation and serving the meal is needed. *Sign up on the signup sheet in the narthex.*

Donations to support OLLC S.O.S. can be given via check, cash, or Note "S.o.S." in the memo line. Contact Gail Jorgenson or the church office with questions.

Worker Bees

Saturday, May 3

Breakfast 7:00 am, Red Apple Restaurant Church 8:00 am

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



MOWING SCHEDULE

A dedicated group of men from Our Lord's are responsible for all the landscaping and upkeep of the church grounds. Next time you see one of these men, please take time to thank them for their contribution to OLLC.

Date	Riding Mowers	Trimmers
May 1-3	Bill Homes	Steve Hoelscher
May 8-10	Chuck Pugh	Brian Hartke
May 15-17	Chuck Jorgenson	Tom Messina
May 22-24	Jim Spencer	Tom Steinman
May 29-31	Bill Homes	Steve Hoelscher

MUSIC AT OUR LORD'S

Chancel Choir &

Handbell CHOIR

Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays 6:15pm - 7:15pm
Handbell Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays 7:15pm - 8:15pm

PERFORMANCES: 1-2 Sundays a month

Contact Addie Mays for additional information.
love2haveu@ourlords.org



Praise BAND

REHEARSALS:
Saturdays 3:30 pm
PERFORMANCES:
Saturdays 5 pm

Contact Olivia Cross for additional information.
oecross@gmail.com



EDUCATION AT OUR LORD'S

All education classes will be on summer break beginning May 25.
Last gathering of classes will be at the OLLC Church Picnic at Willoughby Farm.

- QUESTIONS BIBLE STUDY;** Mondays at 10:00 am -- Conference Room (LC) This session we are studying the "Dead Sea Scrolls." Last session will be May 19. Class will resume September 8th and continue with the study of the "Dead Sea Scrolls."
- MORNING GLORIES BIBLE STUDY;** 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 10:00 am, WC Fellowship Hall
Receiving the Spirit's Flame: Spiritual Gifts in the Life of the Church, by Cara Strickland
As we begin to dig into Scripture and talk about our spiritual gifts, its important to remind ourselves that these gifts are given to us by Someone who knows us intimately. A spiritual gift is nothing we can even earn, and usually not something we'd think to ask for, yet a gift that is exactly right for us, our lives, our communities and our world.
Join us for this one month study. *Morning Glories will continue to meet the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month throughout the summer.*
- FEEDING THE SOUL;** Wednesdays at 3:00 pm Conference Room (LC). Feeding the Soul will not meet in summer. During May we will be completing a 4-week series on the natural world. It has both conversation prompts for significant discussion and video segments for content. The natural world has a significant impact on the Church Year and our rituals.

OLLC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS -

Crafters will meet **May 28** in the Fellowship Hall from noon - 3 pm.
Contact Kathy Nehrt with any questions!

SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB -

Next Book Club meeting will not meet in May, The next book club will be June 16 at 11:30 am. We will be discussing "The Bluest Eyes" by Toni Morrison.

CRAFTS & LAUGHS -

Crafts & Laughs will meet May 13 @ 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be creating a summer craft for the 4th of July. Contact Cindy Pugh if you plan to attend so supplies can be purchased. Cost is \$10 per person - all supplies will be provided.



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Congregation Game Afternoon Fellowship Hall

No meeting in May,
Looking forward to meeting together in June!

Bring your favorite game
and a snack to share!

**FUN FOR
ALL
AGES!**



HERDING ALPHAS

Will not meet in May
A fishing trip is being planned for June or July

For additional information contact the church office.

CENTRAL-SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD NEWS

2025 Synod Assembly

The 2025 Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly will be held June 5-7 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Bloomington. The theme for this year's assembly is "Carrying On in Christ's Mission" based on John 14:12: "The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father."

The festival worship service will be held at 7:30 PM on Thursday, June 5, and will be livestreamed at [YouTube.com/@csiselca](https://www.youtube.com/@csiselca). All in the synod are invited to attend.



Ecumenical Celebration of the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea – May 4 in Springfield



The Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 gave us the Nicene Creed — a bold declaration of faith in Christ that continues to unite Christians around the world. In honor of its 1700th anniversary, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (524 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield) will host an Ecumenical Celebration on Sunday, May 4, at 2:00 p.m.

This celebration echoes the spirit of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, reminding us that unity is not a one-week event but a year-round journey. Inspired by John 11:17-27, we join to proclaim with Martha, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God." All are welcome and invited to come together to pray, reflect, and renew our commitment to the unity Christ wills for the Church.

Registration Open for Leadership Lab -- June 23-28 at Augustana College

Registration is open for Leadership Lab, which will take place June 23-28 at Augustana College in Rock Island with the theme "Nothing But Joy!" The cost is \$470 per person.

Leadership Lab is designed to assist youth in acquiring skills that will be useful in congregations, local communities, and the world while experiencing Christ's love in community. It is open to young people who have completed freshman year of high school and up. There are also levels for college-age youth and for adults too.

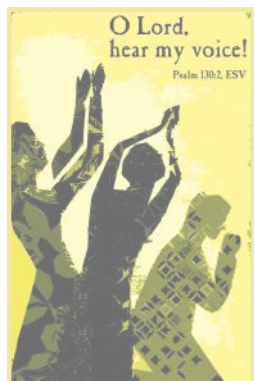
Visit LeadershipLab.net for more level information and to register. For questions, please contact the directors at leadershiplabdirectors@gmail.com.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Everyone listed here is important to a person of the congregation. Please include them in your praying throughout the week so that they know and feel God's power and presence. We will usually keep names on this list for three to four weeks. Please let us know if an individual should be removed before then or if there is a change in their condition that requires ongoing prayer. Member names may be listed for much longer periods of time

CONGREGATION MEMBERS



Dan Homes	Joyce Tatjenhorst
Rod Orr	Brian Kassing
Don Klingsick	Mike Williams
Don Simonson Sr.	Emily Callahan
Nicole Williams	Dave Chaffee
Keith Jensen	JoAnn Hartke
Linda Spencer	Cynthia Haggitt
Jeanette Goetter	Julie Gruber
Ruth Ann Blotvogel	Mary Ann Fritz

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Ken Bunetic	Tate Buckhaus
Tommy Banks	Joe
Shelley Bruntjen	Nicci Essington
Michael Echevarria	Kitty Jo Edgar
Phil Childers	Denise Burton
Bob Dunn	Marilyn & Paul
Robert Lee "Bobby" Kirkman	Bill Larson
Bob Meyer	Janet Borowitz
Marilyn Wolfe	Dan & Martha
Nancy Easton	Mary Barker & Jim
Paula P.	Jean Walker
Elaine Kendall	Brie Jenkins
Rosemary Gibbons	Marilyn & Paul
Sam & Samuel Jensen	Pearl
Judy Lott	Ted F.
Doris Gocken	

PRAY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED & FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING

Family and friends of Donna M. Fisher (cousin of Don Simonson)

Family and Friends of Blake Paterson (grandson of Alice Azure)

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lance Cpl. Clayton Campbell	Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith	Erica Webb, US Private E-3	Amador Ochoa
Major James Carmichael	Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)	SrA Paul Kampwerth	Capt. Blake Crosby
Airborne Ranger Keegan Crosby	Staff Sgt. Stephan Spencer	John Meyer	Josh Pace
Staff Sgt. Tyson Crosby	Zach Huff	Zachary Neubauer	Scott Prengel
SPC Bill Homes	Jake Randall		

CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

May Birthdays

Dora Clawges	Aidan Truckenbrod	Eric Sutton
Adam White	Devon Sallee	Krissy Gunderson
Kirby Orr	AJ Wieser	Kurtis Nemsky
Claire Blind	Deb Perry	Elizabeth Kinney
Cindy Pugh	Terry Ackerman	Anya Cvjianovic
Alison Messina-Hancock	Becky Fremder	Cindy Diggs
Ed Foppe	Jeff Scheiter	Linda Eakin
Adam Rimar		

May Anniversaries

David & Lisa White
Brad & Lisa Bush
Billy & Diana Huster
Bryan & Nicole Soehnlin
Kelvin & Susan Peterson
Erik & Stacie Kirk
Cynthia & Charlie Jorgenson
David & Sharon Schroeder
Andrew & Jodie Nehrt
Julie & Jacob Preston

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 includes 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/Resources/Prayer-Ventures

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/>

LOOKING AHEAD

JUNE

- June 5-7 – Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly
- June 7 & 8 – Pentecost
- June 9-12 – Vacation Bible School
- June 14 & 15 – Holy Trinity
- June 15 - Father's Day
- June 19 – Juneteenth – Office Closed
- June 29 - LC Painting Day (tentative)

Giving Emphasis: Medical Debt Relief

JULY

- July 4 - Independence Day - Office Closed

Giving Emphasis:
"Back to School" - School Supplies

AUGUST

- August 24 - Confirmation Orientation

Giving Emphasis:
Area ELCA congregations raising funds for AMARE

OLLC MINISTRY TEAM

OLLC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann Kratzer
Pastor

Linda Spencer
Administrative Assistant

Addie Mays
Director of Worship Music for
Sundays & Special Services

Olivia Cross
Leader of Non-Traditional
Worship Music

Dr. Rhonda Comrie
Organist

Benjamin Maynard
Worship Tech
Livestreaming Specialist
ProPresenter Slide Designer

CHURCH COUNCIL

Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson
President

Dr. Emily Truckenbrod
Vice President

Terry Ackerman
Secretary

Dr. Laura Schoenecker
Treasurer

Steve Perry
Member 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

Jan Vinson: Worship

Sunday School:
Lisa White

Fair Trade Store:
Mike Williams
vablu2@aol.com

Newsletter Editor:
K. Cummings-Larson

Facebook:
Maureen "Mo" Johnson

COUNCIL BRIEFS

The council meeting began with the following devotion by P. Thorn, "The Monday After: Reflecting After Holy Week."

Monday is perhaps the most forgetful day of the week. We live much of our lives with this escapist drive toward the weekend, thinking the weekend will fulfill all of our needs and fantasies. More sleep! More time to work on those assignments! Time with God! Time with my good friends. Then Monday rolls around and our accomplishments seem meaningless and often forgotten.

As Christians, we have spent the past few weeks in anticipation of Easter. We prepared our hearts. We reflected on the cross and its significance. We felt the long, heavy pause between Good Friday and Easter Sunday – waiting for the discovery of an empty grave and a risen Savior. And then it comes. He comes. And then it's Monday. The temptation is to treat Easter like it's an ending. The eggs have all been found, Jesus is risen, we went to church,...and now it's back to "normal life."

But nothing was normal after Jesus. Easter was a revolution. It was the day after which nothing was the same ever again. When a man who claims to be God rises from the dead, "business as usual" isn't a thing. Easter isn't just a time to pause and reflect on some nice truths we tend to forget about the rest of the year. It is the entire crux of our faith. It is the only reason we have to hope.

We come into the Monday after Easter as a changed people. Not because we finally got to catch up on sleep. Not because we feel shiny and new and different. Not because of what we have accomplished. But because of what was done on our behalf.

Let us give Easter the place it deserves, not relegated to a day on the calendar but to a defining moment we celebrate over and over again with our choices and with our lives. How might God be giving you new hope and life?

Thoughts of new hope and new life were on our minds throughout the meeting. We discussed the OLLC services during Lent, particularly Holy Week. The meditation stations, new ways of conducting worship, and the numerous gathering opportunities of Holy Week were mentioned. The involvement and dedication of OLLC members was deeply appreciated and we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone that contributed to the services.

The efforts to coordinate and host the multitude of OLLC events is quite exhausting. There is the desire and need to offer worship, education, fellowship, and service opportunities yet we must consider how to achieve this without over taxing Pastor and the congregation. Recently a request to host a blood drive was received from the American Red Cross. Although this is a wonderful opportunity, unless someone from the congregation is willing to spearhead the project, the event will be set aside for the time being. It is opportunities like the blood drive that are possible and do contribute to our church mission; however, the workload cannot rest on the shoulders of a few members. Involvement from everyone is needed.

As you make plans for your summer, remember Easter! Christ has risen. The grave is empty. Everything is changed.

--- Karen Cummings-Larson

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summary taken from report provided by OLLC Treasurer Laura Schoenecker
If you have any questions, please contact Laura at lswanso@siue.edu.

General Benevolence Income \$21,339

March 2025.....

General Benevolence Expenses

March 2025 \$39,266

Cash - Unrestricted\$41,284

Cash - Designated \$86,577

Total Cash **\$127,861**

During March:

- The balance of the Monthly Emphasis Fund at the end of March 2024 was \$1031.03 (191.53 School Supplies and \$839.50 LSSSI).
- \$1,921 to CS/IS for Synod Benevolence for March (approx. 9% of \$21,339.24 of March General Benevolence Giving)
- Property Insurance and Worker's Compensation for April 2024 - April 2025 was paid in March.

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

To give, 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. Of course, cash or checks are always welcomed. No matter which method you choose when giving to OLLC, all donations received will help us sustain our ministries throughout the year.





MAY 2025 CALENDAR

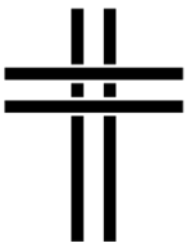
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
 <p>May Giving Emphasis OLLC Vacation Bible School</p>				1 Mayor's Prayer Dinner	2 Pastor's Sabbath	3 7:00 AM Worker Bees breakfast 8:00 AM Worker Bees - OLLC 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
4 Confirmation Day & OLLC Reception 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - Education Classes Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Hospitality	5 Cinco de Mayo 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room	6 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	7 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room 6:15-7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Lakeview Garden Club Meeting - WC 7:15-8:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	8 10:00 AM Morning Glories - WC 6:30 PM Ministry Support Team Calendar Planning Meeting- ZOOM	9 Pastor's Sabbath	10 Good Shepherd Weekend 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
11 Good Shepherd Weekend 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - Education Classes Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:45 AM Worship - 2nd Sunday, 2nd Service <i>Mother's Day</i>	12 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room 6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC	13 OLLC Serves SOS 6:30 PM Crafts & Laughs 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	14 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room 6:15-7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15-8:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 10:00 AM La Leche League - WC 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
18 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM - End of Sunday School Celebration -- OLLC Church Picnic 	19 6:30 PM Church Council - LC	20 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	21 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room 6:15-7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15-8:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	22 10:00 AM Morning Glories - WC	23 Pastor's Sabbath	24 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
25 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Hospitality	26 Memorial Day Office Closed 6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC	27 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	28 12:00 - 3:00 PM OLLC Crafters (FH) 6:15-7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15-8:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	29	30 Pastor's Sabbath	31 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality

If inclement weather gathering will be moved to OLLC Fellowship Hall

OLLC Church Picnic May 18; 10:30 am – 1:00 pm Willoughby Farm, Collinsville

**"The Spirit of Our Lord's News"
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150 Wilma Drive
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