

# March

newsletter



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3 Though an army encamp against me,  
 my heart shall not fear;  
 though war rise up against me,  
 yet I will continue to trust.

Can I really pray these verses with the Psalmist and mean it? It's much easier to pray the verse that follows verse 3:

4 One thing I asked of the Lord;  
 this I seek:  
 to live in the house of the Lord  
 all the days of my life,  
 to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
 and to inquire in his temple.

Psalm 27

These verses sit side by side during Lent while we are watching the suffering of so many people due to war. We see the burden of human violence. We feel sadness and exhaustion as people continue to feed the cycle of vengeance and violence. And in the face of that pain, we make our way toward the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. We move back and forth "between what is happening in our violent world and what happens in the Bible as Christ moves toward Jerusalem and death." (Thomas Troeger) Christ leads us through the suffering and reconnects us to the heart of the God of love. Because God is love, we can trust that we will see the beauty of God – in glimpses while we live on earth, and in its fullness someday in the future. Hold the pain you feel close to the holy hope within you. Jesus will feed that hope and help us see beauty as we journey with him toward cross and resurrection.

--Pastor Darla Ann

March 9  
 Turn clocks ahead 1 hour



OUR LORD'S  
 LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharing Christ's Love With All -  
 Fulfilling God's Mission With Our Hands

## THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

March, 2025 | Volume 59, No. 3

A PUBLICATION OF OUR LORD'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

[www.ourlords.org](http://www.ourlords.org)

## March 1 & 2

*Transfiguration of Our Lord  
and Bold Women's Day*  
Exodus 34:29-35  
Luke 9:28-36  
"Reformation Lights"

## March 5

*Ash Wednesday*  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
"Lament and Restoration"

## March 8 & 9

*First Sunday in Lent  
and Scout Sunday*  
Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Luke 4:1-13  
"Survival in the Wilderness"

## March 12

*Holden Evening Prayer*  
Luke 19:1-10  
"Sight"

## March 15 & 16

*Second Sunday in Lent*  
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18  
Luke 13:31-35  
"Shelter"

## March 19

*Holden Evening Prayer*  
Acts 2:1-21  
"Sound"

## March 22 & 23

*Third Sunday in Lent*  
Isaiah 55:1-9  
Luke 13:1-9  
"Reprieve"

## March 26

*Holden Evening Prayer*  
John 12:1-8  
"Scent"

## March 29 & 30

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
Joshua 5:9-12  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32  
"Extravagance"

**Wednesday Services at 6:30 pm**  
**Saturdays at 5 pm**  
**Sundays at 9 am**  
**2nd Sunday at 10:45 am**

**Wednesday, 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.

## MARCH GIVING EMPHASIS

### *Lutheran Social Services of Illinois*

During the Season of Lent (March 5 to April 20) Our Lord's Lutheran Church will focus its Giving Emphasis toward Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). LSSI is a non-profit social service organization connecting with Illinois residents through over 50 affiliations, accreditations, licensors, certifications and memberships.

Between July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 LSSI was able to connect with 50,291 people in Illinois, that is 1 in every 252 people in the State. A snap-shot of some of the services provided by LSSI during that time include:

- Being the largest provider of foster care services in Illinois, LSSI was able to provide foster care placements for 2,607 children.
- LSSI enrolled 1,391 families in its Intact Family Services program designed to stabilize, strengthen, enhance, and preserve family life.
- Critical mental health services were available for 15,352 individuals.
- 127 people aged 18+ with intellectual/developmental disabilities received guidance from LSSI to live successfully in their community.
- A total of 2,399 individuals with substance use disorders received various services, including DUI counseling and education, healthy start recovery homes, inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient substance use treatment, and sober living programs.
- 1,447 Illinois residents, aged 62+ or 18+ with disabilities, who earned between \$5,000 and \$25,000 annually, received offers for affordable housing at one of 20 housing sites throughout the state.

Donations assist LSSI to stay connected with Illinois residents and help them fulfill their Mission Statement of "Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois brings healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities."



**Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**





**“Lenten Worship through the Senses”  
with Holden Evening Prayer  
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm**

This five week series is intended to center our five senses as a way of exploring the significance of Christ’s incarnation throughout our Lenten journey. We all are made in the image of God, who chose to share our humanity by joining in our embodied experience. Meditation stations and the lighting of handheld candles at each service will deepen our experience of the ways God comes to us in worship.

**Mar 12 – Sight**

**Mar 19– Sound**

**Mar 26– Scent**

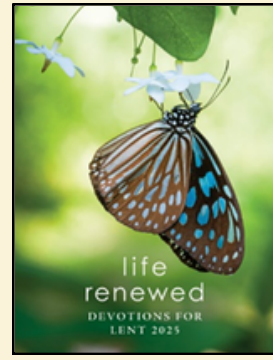
**Apr 2 – Touch**

**Apr 9 – Taste**

Mid-week services usually last between 35 and 45 minutes. The music for Evening Prayer that was written at a Lutheran Retreat Center by Marty Haugen creates a sense of peace and hope. If you would like to know the story of the creation of Holden Evening Prayer, you may find it at

[Story of Holden Evening Prayer - Marty Haugen](#)

Devotional materials for the season of Lent are now available in the Worship Center and in the office at the Life Center. Printed Lenten calendars and pocket-sized books for daily devotions are on a credenza. Children and teens will receive their materials in during Sunday School classes.



God brings new life in unexpected ways and in the most unlikely situations. This devotional reflects on how God does this in the creation of all things, the Israelites’ rescue from slavery in Egypt, the dry bones and Ezekiel, the fiery furnace, the big fish and Jonah, and more. Life Renewed provides devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (March 5 to April 19, 2025). The devotions begin with evocative images and brief scripture readings drawn from traditional Easter Vigil texts. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

You may sign up for Lenten devotions written by the author of our 2024 Advent devotional materials at <https://katebowler.com/lent/> Kate says, “Life is this strange, tender mix, isn’t it? Joy and sorrow, love and loss, heartbreak and hope, all tangled together.

This year, embrace Lent as it is—raw, honest, and tender. Let these 40 days be a time to pause, reflect, and find the courage to stay with the hard part, trusting that the good part is still coming.”

**BOLD WOMEN’S DAY**

**Celebrate the bold women in your life!**

Bold Women’s Day—observed the first Sunday of March—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?**

*Join us for worship on March 1 & 2 as we give thanks for the witness of bold women and hear the stories of Katharina Schutz Zell, Argula von Grumbach, Olimpia Fulvia Morato, Katharina von Bora Luther.*



Olimpia Fulvia Morata (1526-1555), Italian scholar, poet, and writer who sought to advance the Protestant Reformation in Italy.



Argula von Grumbach (1492-1554), Bavarian writer and noblewoman who became involved in the Protestant Reformation debates in Germany. She became the first Protestant woman writer, publishing letters and poems promoting and defending Martin Luther.



Katharina Schütz Zell (1498-1562) a religious reformer who campaigned for the right of clergy to marry and the responsibility of lay people—women as well as men—to proclaim the Gospel. As one of the first and most daring models of the pastor’s wife in the Protestant Reformation, she demonstrated that she could be an equal partner in marriage.



Katharina von Bora Luther (1499-1552), a former nun who married Martin Luther in 1525. Katharina is recognized as the stabilizing force in Luther’s life, enabling his later works.



**Friday evening April 4 & Saturday morning April 5  
LeClaire Christian Church, Edwardsville**

A service project for all ages. This favorite activity of teens in past Confirmation Classes and Youth Group, is open to anyone who is above the age of five. The shift lasts for two hours allowing both the young and those who are aging to participate in preparing meal packs for those in need. (There are tasks available for those who need to be seated.) Please contact Ed Foppe or Pastor Kratzer if you would like to participate this year at one of the shifts.

The MannaPack meals are specifically designed to assist in preventing and reversing undernutrition. The impressive history of Feed My Starving children can be found at <https://www.fmsc.org/about-us/history-of-feed-my-starving-children>.

**OLLC 3RD ANNUAL PET EXPO**

**Come and enjoy the fun!**

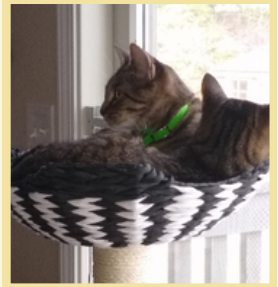
**A Family-Friendly FREE event on the grounds of OLLC.  
This event is open to all ages and pets of all kinds.**  
*--Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier--*

**Saturday,  
April 12,  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm**



At 11 am Andy Canning, recipient of a **Got Your Six** support dog and his dog, Arkum, will give a special presentation.

- Canine Demonstrations
- Face Painting
- Teddy Bear Clinic
- Rescue Organizations
- Vendors
- Pet Blessings
- Prairie Walk
- Door Prizes
- Simple lunch items will be available for a small donation.



**Rain date - Saturday, April 26**

**PREPARING FOR EASTER**

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**April 12 & 13**

**Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion**  
5 pm Saturday, and 9 am & 10:45 am Sunday

**April 17**

**Mauddy Thursday Mediterranean Meal**  
6:30 pm

**April 18**

**Good Friday**  
6:30 pm

**April 19**

**Easter Eve Mini-Vigil with First Celebration of Easter**  
5 pm

**April 20  
Easter Day**

8 am & 10:45 am with Easter Breakfast at 9 am

**EASTER BREAKFAST - HELPERS NEEDED**

Once again we will be serving our **Annual Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 20th** between services. All are welcome to come and enjoy a delicious, hot breakfast.

If you would like to help with food preparation, please contact Ginger Trucano or Cindy Pugh. Watch the weekly bulletins for further information!



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## 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.



## BINGO ITEMS NEEDED FOR WELL CARE OF MARYVILLE



The Activity Director at Well Care of Maryville has shared a list of items requested as BINGO prizes. Any donations you make can be put in the designated "Well Care" tub in the hallway of the Worship Center. The items are: food (popcorn, canned soda, canned water, and flavored popcorn seasoning), personal care items (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, body spray, lotion, body oil, bar soap, body wipes and make up), nail care items (polish, polish remover, cotton balls, files, and fake nails), sunglasses, reading glasses, jewelry, and men's and women's shorts, t-shirts and underwear of all sizes (small to XXXXL).

Your donations are appreciated!  
*Carol Crocken + Karen Tilashalski*

## MAINTENANCE TASKS NEEDING ATTENTION



Task	To be completed by
Clean ext. of LC, paint front overhang, paint lower concrete to match brick, clean up grounds and rear parking area	Max Eakin, K. Larson, special work day
Examine, repair, replace railroad ties & nail spikes around playground	
Repair drywall damage right side of fridge in WC	Karen Larson
Hide wiring on newly installed security light over rear entrance to WC near fellowship hall	
Install lighting to illuminate front parking area of LC	
Repair door lock on double doors near counter in FH	Chuck Pugh
Repair outlet near counter in FH (located on east wall)	
Repair electric box in countertop of FH	
Repaint exposed wood support beams and trim along front eave of church	
Inspect/replace/repair narthex entry door seal as well as seals on all other entry doors of WC	
Repair holes in wood around rear entrance by commons, damage done by Carpenter Bees	
Sand and paint trip on exterior windows of FH	
Paint trim and wood siding around rear entrance to WC	
Run new electric wire for exterior flood light in front of sanctuary	
Refinish floor (strip & wax) in lower level of Life Center	\$1500
Pressure wash and repaint interior of side entrance to lower level of LC	
Repaint steps leading to lower level of LC	Laura Foppe
Order new low chairs with armrests for sanctuary seating	Memorial Funds?
Clean carpet of sanctuary, narthex & hall, & FH	Spring, cost?
<b>LONG TERM CONCERNS</b>	
Evaluate leaks of sanctuary ceiling (exterior solution?)	Ongoing dilemma
Water barrier installed below shingles (recommendation by Cardinal)	
Create archive closet in LC	\$4,500
Reseal & line parking lot of LC – worker bees	\$4,000
Reseal & line parking lot of WC - contract work	Seeking bids

Several building & maintenance projects were completed during 2024, yet the list of to-dos continues. It takes time, energy, and funds to complete church maintenance. Resealing of the WC and LC parking areas are planned for 2025. However, there are several additional tasks needing attention. Please review the list of maintenance needs identified here. If you have any questions, are willing to work on one of the jobs or able to assist with the funding for a project, contact Karen Cummings-Larson.

*Your efforts are greatly appreciated!*



**OLLC will serve on Tuesday, March 11.**

Assistance with preparation and serving the meal is needed. Sign up on the sign-up 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, March 1**

**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.

**EDUCATION AT OUR LORD'S**

- **PRE-SCHOOL - FIRST GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL;** Sundays in the LC in Room 4 at 10:15 am
- **ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL;** Sundays in the LC in Room 2 at 10:15 am
- **CONFIRMATION CLASS - grade 6-8;** Sundays at 10:15 am  
The Confirmation class is now studying the Apostle's Creed, taking notes on the worship service, and continuing to help lead worship at the 2nd Sunday 2nd Service
- **HIGH SCHOOL CLASS;** Sundays in Harry's Hangout (Youth Room) at 10:15 am
- **OUR LORD'S YOUTH GROUP** will meet Sunday, March 16, 11:30 am. This month the Youth Group will put together Hygiene Kits for teens living at the Madison County Juvenile Justice Center.
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY (led by J. Lemke);** Sundays in the WC Fellowship Hall at 10:15 am. Join us as we take a closer look at the Gospel of Luke.
- **QUESTIONS BIBLE STUDY;** Mondays at 10:00 am -- Conference Room (LC). This session we are studying the "Dead Sea Scrolls."
- **MORNING GLORIES BIBLE STUDY;** 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 10:00 am, WC Fellowship Hall  
Faith adventures: Peter and Cornelius  
We do not always see eye-to-eye with our neighbor. And yet, we are called to love our neighbor. Peter's experience with someone different gives the Holy Spirit an opportunity to teach Peter, the church and us to see others as God sees them.
- **FEEDING THE SOUL;** Wednesdays at 3:00 pm Conference Room (LC). **Feeding the Soul** will not meet March 5, 19, & 26.



**OLLC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

*Congregation Game Afternoon*  
Fellowship Hall

**March 9**  
3:00 - 5:00 pm

*Bring your favorite game and a snack to share!*

**FUN FOR ALL AGES!**

**OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS -**

Crafters will meet **March 26th** in the Fellowship Hall from noon - 3 pm. Contact Kathy Nehrt with any questions!

**SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB -**

Next Book Club meeting will be March 17 at 11:30 the Book they will be discussing is "Book and Dagger" by Ellyse Graham.

**CRAFTS & LAUGHS**

Crafts & Laughs will meet next **April 8**. A spring/summer craft is planned. Additional information will be in the April newsletter.

**TUESDAY TEA**

Will meet quarterly in the 2025. Stay tuned for information on the next planned event.



**HERDING ALPHAS**

**"Herding Alphas"**

**OLLC ministry for families with children of the alpha generation!** (children born 2010 through 2025)

**March 29th, 1pm-5pm, Camelot Bowl, Collinsville**  
**April 4 & 5, Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Event, Edwardsville**  
**May - TBD**

*For additional information contact the church office.*

# Chancel Choir & Handbell CHOIR

March 5 - Ash Wednesday - Bell Choir Performance,  
No voice or bell choir practice.

March 12, 19 & 26 - Immediately after service, voice choir rehearsal for 25 min.  
Bell choir 7:20 - 8:20 pm

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



## CENTRAL-SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD NEWS

### Registration Open for Crossways Confirmation Camp June 9-13 at Augustana College

Crossways Confirmation Campers have the opportunity to grow in their discipleship journey by engaging in lessons, sermons, and Bible stories each day. Each year we visit the home of a faith tradition different than ours, and we tour a local agency doing God's work in the community.

This year's camp theme is #SPIRITSTRONG and will take place June 9-13 at Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill. Crossways Confirmation Camp is for confirmation-age students who have just completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. The registration fee for 2025 is \$350/person. The cost includes all meals while at camp, a t-shirt, our stay in the dorm, and all activities during the week.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE is March 31. If you have any questions, please contact the camp dean, Pastor Mauricio Vieira, at [crosswaysdean@gmail.com](mailto:crosswaysdean@gmail.com) or 217-377-2094.



### Adult Faith Formation: Worship Starts March 29

What is worship? What is Lutheran worship? What is essential in worship? Why do we worship? Who do we worship? What goes into planning and leading a worship service? This course will focus on both the Biblical and theological backgrounds for worship, particularly the Sacraments, as well as providing opportunities for practical application. The course will be taught primarily on Zoom; however, there will be one additional practicum session for those who have registered for credit — Synod-Authorized Ministry students. The date and location will be determined.

Each class will be divided into two parts: 1) background, Bible and theology of worship; and 2) practicum. The length of the parts may vary, but in general Part 1 will last two hours and Part 2 will take up the last hour. Those who register for credit will be expected to remain for the entire three hours. Non-credit auditors will attend only part 1. The exception is for the first class which will last for 3 hours for everyone.

The primary text for the class will be "Central Things — Worship in Word and Sacrament" by Gordon W. Lathrop. Additionally, everyone will also be expected to have a copy of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (the current cranberry red hymnal).

The spring Adult Faith Formation course on worship will be held starting at 9:00 a.m. on March 29, April 12, April 26, May 3, and May 17. The cost is \$25 for general learners and \$50 for Synod-Authorized Ministry students. Register at [CSIS-ELCA.org/aff25spring](https://CSIS-ELCA.org/aff25spring).

## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS



Do you have Thrivent Choice Dollars to direct? You can direct your Choice Dollars online or by phone.

#### Online

- Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice)
- Log in to your account
- Find your Choice Dollars on the right side of the screen
- Click Direct Choice Dollars
- Search for the organization you want to support
- Click Direct Choice Dollars Now

#### By phone

- Call 800-847-4836 \Say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted
- Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars
- A representative will work with you to direct your Choice Dollars



thrivent

Making  
generosity easy

You can direct Choice Dollars to 501(c)3 qualified nonprofits on Thrivent's enrolled list. If you would like to direct your Choice Dollars to OLLC, search "Our Lords Lutheran" or "Maryville, IL" in the search box. Several organizations will appear on the list; select "Our Lord's, Maryville, IL." You will then have the opportunity to direct all or part of your Choice Dollars.

What you need to know

- You can direct Choice Dollars designated for 2024 until **March 31**.
- You can learn more about the Thrivent Choice program at [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).



## PRAYER CONCERNS

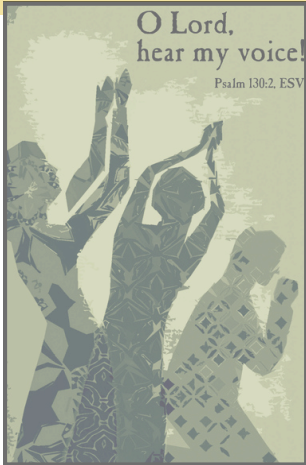
Everyone listed here is important to a person of the congregation. Please include them in your praying throughout the week so that they know and feel God's power and presence. We will usually keep names on this list for three to four weeks. Please let us know if an individual should be removed before 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

Don Klingsick	Joyce Tatjenhorst
Dan Homes	Brian Kassing
Rod Orr	Mike Williams
Don Simonson Sr.	Emily Callahan
Nicole Williams	Dave Chaffee
Jan Jensen	JoAnn Hartke
Linda Spencer	April Clark
Robin Wellener	Cynthia Haggitt
Keith Jensen	Meg Oberlag
Barbara Watz	Jeanette Goetter

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Jamie Moravec	Tim Garber
Ken Bunetic	Rose K.
Tommy Banks	Jim R.
Carl Bruntjen	Nicci Essington
Shelley Bruntjen	March Banks
Michael Echevarria	Kitty Jo Edgar
Dave Ritcher	Marilyn Dichsen
Phil Childers	Denise Burton
Paul & Paula Simonson	Marilyn & Paul
Marshall	Bob Meyer
Bob Dunn	Spurgeon Family
Amanda Seelbach	Bill Larson
Robert Lee "Bobby" Kirkman	Janet Borowitz
Marilyn Wolfe	Tate
Nancy Easton	Dan & Martha
Mary Barker	Jim
Jean Walker	



### PRAY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED & FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING

Family and Friends of Myrna Curtis (cousin of Deanne Holshouser).

Family and Friends of Clyde Donovan (friend of Dona Racich).

### 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

## March Birthdays

Steve Hoelscher	Erin Helms	Penny Waterman	Kate Henderson
Sarah Speicher	Anna Redenius	Julie Gruber	Vicki Lottes
Stefanie Vesper	Melinda Stein	Paige Micnheimer	Ian Comrie
Faith Hoelscher	Ginger Trucano	Paul Huster	Robert Hancock
Angela Nemsky	Caleb Hancock	Jaxon Lange	Dom Echevarria
Mark Callahan	Sara Schipkowski	Michael Blotevogel	Barbara Watz
Brian Henderson	Jan Vinson	Kalony Short	

## 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 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](http://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/>



## APRIL

- April 2 & 9 - Holden Evening Prayer Lenten Worship
- April 4 & 5 - Feed By Starving Children (FMSC) Mobile Pack Event
- April 12 - 3rd Annual Pet Expo
- April 13 - Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion
- April 17 - Maundy Thursday Mediterranean Meal
- April 18 - Good Friday
- April 19 - Easter Eve Mini-Vigil w/ Celebration of Easter
- April 20 - Easter
- April 21 - Office Closed
- April 26 & 27 - Easter 2 & Faith in Action Sunday

**Giving Emphasis: Lutheran Social Services of Illinois / Faith in Action**

## MAY

- May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- May 10 & 11 - Good Shepherd Sunday
- May 11 - Mother's Day
- May 18 - Confirmation Day for Kaitlyn Blotvogel & ALL CHURCH PICNIC
- May 26 - Memorial Day, office closed

**Giving Emphasis: Vacation Bible School**

## JUNE

- June 5-7 - Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly
- June 7 & 8 - Pentecost
- June 9-12 - Vacation Bible School
- Jun 14 & 15 - Holy Trinity
- Jun 19 - Juneteenth - Office Closed

**Giving Emphasis: Medical Debt Relief**

## 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

Each month I include within the Council Briefs a story, message, or devotion that contributes to the business dealings of the church council. Some months are easier than others. My heart tells me God has a plan, but in my thoughts I don't always want to listen. Lately I have been struggling with doubt. Am I doing the right thing? What more can I do? As a church, are we moving in the right direction?

During the February Council meeting we welcomed two new council members: Terry Ackerman and Steve Perry. It was good to hear new voices—new ideas and suggestions. Meeting topics included the solar project update, proposed maintenance projects, purchasing armed chairs for the sanctuary, and identifying a committee to discuss and prepare a Gift/Estate Giving Policy. Following each monthly meeting I feel we are moving in the right direction; however, I am always questioning. What more can we do to fulfill our mission?

Today, my morning devotion was about doubt and insecurities. We all have these traits. The author reminded me that these qualities can be a positive call to action to make healthy changes in our lives. However, insecurities can also hold us back from stepping into the assignments God calls us to do.

The devotion was from Exodus:

*"Moses said to the LORD, 'Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.'" Exodus 4:10 (NIV)*

The Lord replied with these powerful words:

*"Who gave human beings their mouths? ... Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say" Exodus 4:11-12, NIV).*

God did more than answer Moses' doubt; He reassured Moses of who He was. Moses knew exactly what to say, knew what God planned to do, knew God would be with him. So what could hold him back when things seemed so very clear? It was the same thing that sometimes holds you and me back: Moses doubted God had created him for the calling God gave him.

The author went on to state, the exact way He made you is in keeping with how He will use you. Trust this. Embrace this. Even if you don't know all the details of your calling, thank God for making you perfectly equipped for your assignments ahead. **God does everything with purpose and precision.**

Yours in Christ, *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

January 2025..... \$81,370

### General Benevolence Expenses

January 2025 ..... \$21,376

*Cash - Unrestricted* ..... \$75,566

*Cash - Designated* ..... \$68,483

**Total Cash** ..... **\$144,049**

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

### During January:

- The balance of the Monthly Emphasis Fund at the end of January 2025 was \$265.53 (School Supplies \$190.53, Souper Bowl of Caring \$75.00).
- General Benevolence Income in January was \$81,299.50. \$7,326 (9% of GB giving) to CS/IS for Synod Benevolence for January.
- Local Benevolence for January totals \$814. In January, \$300 was given to the SIUE Foundation toward Cougar Cupboard, leaving a balance of \$514 (to be allocated in March).
- The Employee Retention Credit check for \$13,036.34 was credited to the Miscellaneous Pass-Through Fund. Of that total, \$5,953 was to pay for the records preparation. The remainder of \$7,083.34 was transferred to the General Fund for parking lot repair.
- 5.111.100 Maintenance reflects a charge of \$2,285 for snow removal in January.





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.

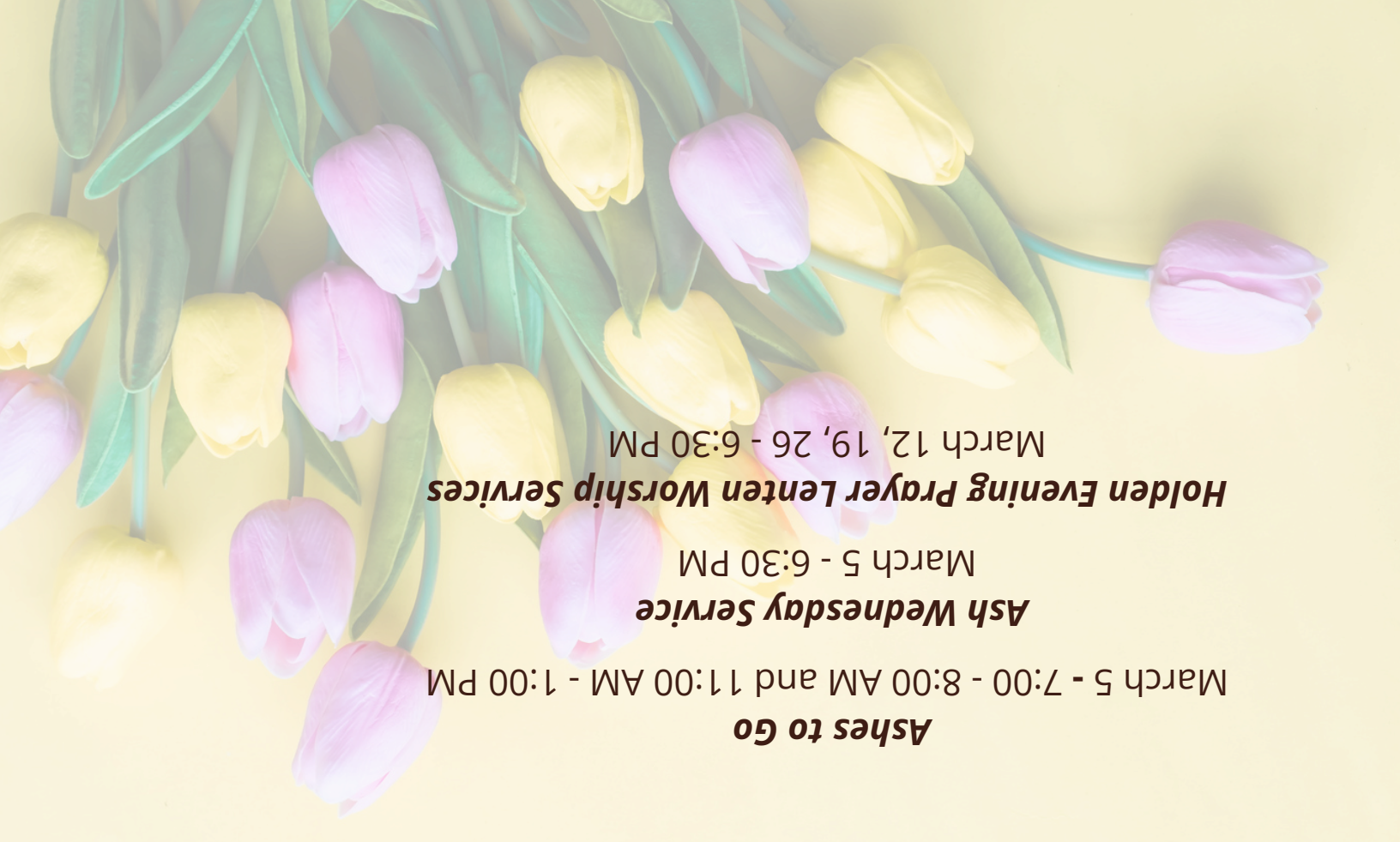






# MARCH 2025 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						<b>1 Bold Women's Day</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> Worker Bees breakfast <b>8:00 AM</b> Worker Bees - OLLC <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality
<b>2 Bold Women's Day</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> - <b>Education Classes</b> Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, Adult Bible Study <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room	<b>4 Shrove Tuesday</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service at Well Care Home (Elmwood) <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>5 Ash Wednesday</b> ✝ <b>7:00-8:00 AM</b> Ashes to Go <b>11:00 AM-1:00 PM</b> Ashes to Go <b>6:30-7:30 PM</b> Ash Wednesday Worship Service (Bell Choir Performance during worship)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	<b>8 Lent 1</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality
<b>9 Lent 1 Scout Sunday</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> - <b>Education Classes</b> Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, Adult Bible Study <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship - 2nd Sunday, 2nd Service <b>3:00-5:00 PM</b> OLLC Game Day Event 	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts - LC <b>6:30 PM</b> Ministry Support Team - ZOOM	<b>11 OLLC Serves SOS</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Service at Well Care Home <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>12</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room <b>6:30-7:30 PM</b> Holden Evening Prayer Worship Service <b>Immediately following service</b> , choir for 20-25 min. <b>7:00 PM</b> Lakeview Garden Club Meeting - WC <b>7:20-8:20 PM</b> Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Glories - WC	<b>14</b> <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	<b>15 Lent 2</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> La Leche League - WC <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality
<b>16 Lent 2</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> - <b>Education Classes</b> - Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, Adult Bible Study <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality	<b>17 Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room <b>11:30 AM</b> Serendipity Book Club - LC <b>6:30 PM</b> Church Council - LC 	<b>18</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Service at Well Care Home <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>19</b> <b>6:30-7:30 PM</b> Holden Evening Prayer <u>Worship Service</u> <b>Immediately following service</b> , choir for 20-25 min. <b>7:20-8:20 PM</b> Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	<b>22 Lent 3</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality
<b>23 Lent 3</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> - <b>Education Classes</b> - Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, Adult Bible Study <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality	<b>24</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scouts - LC	<b>25</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service at Well Care Home (Elmwood) <b>7:00 PM</b> NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room <b>7:00 PM</b> NA Recovery - LC Basement	<b>26</b> <b>12:00-3:00</b> OLLC Crafters - FH <b>6:30-7:30 PM</b> Holden Evening Prayer Worship Service <b>Immediately following service</b> , choir for 20-25 min. <b>7:20-8:20 PM</b> Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Morning Glories - WC	<b>28</b> <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	<b>29 Lent 4</b> <b>1:00-5:00 PM</b> Herding Alphas <b>3:30 PM</b> Praise Band Practice <b>5:00 PM</b> Worship: Praise Service <b>6:15 PM</b> Hospitality
<b>30 Lent 4</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> - <b>Education Classes</b> - Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, Adult Bible Study <b>10:15 AM</b> Hospitality	<b>31</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room	<div style="text-align: center;">  <h2>March Giving Emphasis</h2> <h1>Lutheran Social Services of Illinois</h1> </div>				



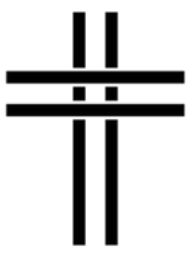
**Holden Evening Prayer Lenten Worship Services**  
 March 12, 19, 26 - 6:30 PM

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
 March 5 - 6:30 PM

**Ashes to Go**  
 March 5 - 7:00 - 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**“The Spirit of Our Lord’s News”**  
 Our Lord’s Lutheran Church  
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 (618) 345-5692 (Office Bldg.)  
 www.OURLORDS.org

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**March 2025 Newsletter**

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