

# The Messenger

March  
2026

## Did you know that Lutheran Advocacy has a Minnesota branch?



Lutheran Advocacy-MN (LA-MN) is a state public policy office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). LA-MN advocates for justice in the areas of hunger, poverty, and care of God's creation. They work together with congregations, coalitions, and legislators throughout the state of Minnesota to create networks for advancing public policies that promote and protect the common good. Here is more information about LA-MN:

### Who we are

Lutheran Advocacy-MN (LA-MN) and its citizen advocates work for justice in the areas of hunger, poverty, and care of God's creation. LA-MN is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the six Minnesota ELCA Synods. We seek to live into the ELCA vision to "Step forward as a public church that witnesses boldly to God's love for all that God has created."

### Why we do it

To advocate is to plead the cause of those suffering injustice. Advocacy ministry is rooted in Scripture, Lutheran theology, and our baptismal calling to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. It is expressed by advocating with and for our neighbors for mutual well-being in places where important decisions are being made.

### How we do it

We work with and through synods, congregations, campus ministries, church members, and others to create and use networks for advocacy. Lutheran citizen advocates write personal letters and emails, make calls, and meet with their state legislators (or members of Congress) to impact decisions. Lutheran Advocacy-MN is non-partisan and participates in faith-based and other coalitions to enhance advocacy effectiveness and build political will to address important issues in God's world.

During each Lenten Wednesday, there will be a different advocacy issue and sample letter made available. If you are moved by the issue of the week, you may write a letter of advocacy. Writing supplies will be available for use. Please note again that advocacy is non-partisan since an advocacy letter is addressed to all legislators and leaders regardless of party affiliation. You can share your faith in the form of advocacy. This is one more way you can share the gospel of Jesus Christ: good news for the poor, the hungry, and all of Creation.

*Pastor Luke*





**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED!**  
**the Concert Fundraiser for**  
**Ministry in Medical Mission**

Ministry in Medical Missions



**Haiti Medical Team**  
**Concert Fundraiser**

Sunday, March 1  
 6:00 PM

Moose Lake Covenant Church  
 (700 5th St., Moose Lake)

*Join us for a great night of music with*  
 Steve Gerdes  
 Barry Anthony  
 Grant Kaihoi  
 Keith Herzog

Donations are welcome!  
 ALL money goes to  
 the Haiti Medical Team

Want to add your support for Haiti?  
 Scan here and donate through  
 Vanco: ----->



Thanks for your continued prayers and support,  
 Mary Krohn for Ministry in Medical Mission (MMM)



**PLAN TO ATTEND**

**VBS**  
**MEGA**  
**SPORTS**  
**CAMP**

Register for  
 Vacation Bible  
 School

June 22-25  
 8:30a to 12:30p

Our Savior's  
 Lutheran  
 Church  
 Cloquet, MN

**ATHLETES**  
**PRE-K THRU 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE!**

Register here!

Lunch and Snack included!  
 Questions: Contact OSLC Office  
 218-879-1535

**RADIO BROADCAST**

Share your joy via worship on the airwaves!

Be a broadcast sponsor for \$67.00!

3 steps to sponsorship:

- 1) Sign up on the bulletin board by the Fireside Room with your dedication
- 2) Pay in the office, and
- 3) VOILA! Tune in and hear the word!

Thank You!



**Radio Broadcasts for March 2026**

- 03/01 **GOLDEN SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY!**
- 03/08 **GOLDEN SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY!**
- 03/15 **GOLDEN SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY!**
- 03/22 **GOLDEN SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY!**
- 03/29 **GOLDEN SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY!**



# Weekly Lenten Themes and Private Confession Times:

## **Week of March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

*All In for the Unknown.*

Private confession with Pr. Luke will be available in the Chapel after worship on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Week of March 8<sup>th</sup>**

*All In for Wonder.*

Private confession with Pr. Luke will be available in the Chapel after worship on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Week of March 15<sup>th</sup>**

*All In for Relationship.*

Private confession with Pr. Luke will be available in the Chapel after worship on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **Week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*All In for Letting Go.*

Private confession with Pr. Luke will be available in the Chapel after worship on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Holy Week.**

*All In for the Highs and Lows.*

March 29<sup>th</sup> Palm and Passion Sunday

April 2<sup>nd</sup> Maundy Thursday Dinner Church

April 3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday joint service at Our Savior's

## **April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday.**

*All in for the Resurrection!*



# First Communion Classes

Third grade and older? Please join us for first communion classes AND baking of communion bread! This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Lord's Supper and all are welcome to the Lord's table. Younger than third grade but ready and eager to learn - please join us.

Please RSVP to the church office 218-879-1535 or email@oursaviorscloquet.org.

## First Communion Class

Sunday, March 15

11:30am-2:30pm

Fellowship Hall

Lunch will be served. Please let us know if your child has any food allergies.

## Communion Bread Baking

Wednesday, April 1

6:00 pm

Kitchen

## First Communion Service

Maundy Thursday April 2

6:30 pm

Sanctuary



# Dinner Coordinators Needed

Your intrepid lutefisk committee members--Rich and Shannon Krikava, Curt Nelson, and Bob DeCaigny--have already met with Marketplace Catering to pick the 2026 lutefisk dinner date, **November 14, 2026!** It's a great time for fellowship, a wonderful meal, and the proceeds have helped fund thousands of dollars of worthwhile causes within and outside of the church.

2026 is going to be a year of transition as Scott and Sue Johnson of Marketplace Catering are retiring and this will be the last year they will be preparing the lutefisk dinner. But the tradition can continue - we have a plan. OSLC can produce the dinner in-house, just as in the past.

This is where **we now need YOU!** We need two to four people to step forward and commit as co-coordinators so we can share details with you and continue the transition. Come learn the great Lutheran lore and ways of the lutefisk dinner, just contact one of our committee members! Need childcare to be able to participate? We've got you covered. We're already planning to accommodate that need and have day care available for team members and volunteers during planning meetings, food prep days and the day of the dinner. Thank you.



May the piece of **COD** be with you



# Happy Birthday

**Mar 1**

- Aili Buytaert
- Gavin Thorp

**Mar 3**

- Jaxton Ochis
- Shelby Peil
- William Schlenvogt

**Mar 4**

- Jordyn Sorenson
- Stephanie Wagner

**Mar 5**

- Ray Manisto

**Mar 8**

- Samuel Bailey
- Clair Krikava
- Sophia Krikava
- Ryan Salo Korby

**Mar 9**

- Suzanne Nanti
- Jill Skowlund

**Mar 11**

- Carolyn Watson

**Mar 12**

- Jennifer Gangelhoff

**Mar 13**

- Erika Blesener

**Mar 14**

- Carrie Crowser
- James Gerth

**Mar 16**

- Arlo Abrahamson

**Mar 18**

- Katie Bailey
- Brianna Tinguam
- Jessyka Umhauer
- Laura Williams

**Mar 21**

- Chris Wagner

**Mar 22**

- James Gamache

**Mar 23**

- Doug Christofferson

**Mar 24**

- Tyler Mattson
- Lennox Rossing

**Mar 26**

- Donna Redding

**Mar 28**

- Darla Calverley
- Edward Hietala
- Nicholas Lennartson
- Madelyn Smedshammer

**Mar 29**

- Daryl Hendrickson
- Heather Young

**Mar 30**

- Sarah Klyve

**Mar 31**

- Patricia Bloom
- Bradley Browers
- Jack Hagen



## Community of Hope 2:16 March 2026 Dinners

Date	Location	Main Course
03/01	Zion Lutheran Church	Crock Pot Hamburger Stew
03/08	Our Savior's Lutheran Church	Chicken Teriyaki on Rice
03/15	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Taco Salad
03/22	Good Hope Church	Chicken and Vegetables on Rice
03/29	St. Paul's Lutheran Church	Shredded Ham Sandwiches

## Are you graduating in 2026?



If you are graduating from high school next spring, we want to hear from you!

Please contact the church office at 218-879-1535 or [email@oursaviorscloquet.org](mailto:email@oursaviorscloquet.org)

## FOOD SHELF SUNDAY

The first Sunday of the month is designated as Food Shelf Sunday.

Monetary gifts collected help **BOTH**



Second Harvest and



Cloquet Salvation Army.

Every \$1 donated ensures 3 meals for families, children, and seniors in need.

**THANK YOU!**

*Let's share our blessings.*

*Thank you from Katie Nisula, Irene Rudnicki, and Jen Behrens*

**Contributions 01-26-2026 to 02-22-2026**

**\$438.00**

## PPC Minutes 02/17/2026

**Present:** Brad Browers (Worship, Arts and Music), Bob DeCaigny (Secretary), Jill Elwood (Youth), Roxanne Frederick via Zoom (Christian Education), Connor Hecht (President), Lisa Hecht (Stewardship), Linda Holmstrand (Fellowship and WELCA), Sarah Klyve (Vice President), Pastor Luke Lekander, Shannon Matzdorf via Zoom (Welcome), Kathy Rye (Past President, Palanca Deacons and Church in Society), Marty Rye (Properties), Deb Templeton via Zoom (Treasurer)

**Unable to attend:** NHCP

**1. Welcome and Sharing of Highs and Lows:** Members shared as they desired.

**2. Devotion and Opening Prayer:** Sarah Klyve – Centered on purpose, Ephesians 2:10.

**3. Approval of January 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes:** Deb made a motion and Jill seconded to approve the minutes as written, the motion carried unanimously.

**4. Treasurer's Report/ Financials**

- Bruce Larson provided the following information after the meeting was held: for January income was \$18,784 compared to our budget of \$19,678 (\$894 below plan) and expenses were \$20,901 compared to our budget of \$21,648 (\$747 under plan) for a net loss of \$147. Year-to-date 2026 is \$147 behind plan.

**5. Pastor's Report**

- Since we last met, I have been participating in Clinical Pastoral Education. Online classes are on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons with individual supervision one hour/week and meeting with my mentor every two weeks. It has been a greatly enriching experience thus far.
- Along with Christian Education, I helped to organize and lead two Sunday School Listening Sessions and received feedback from families who could not attend in-person. We will take the results of those sessions and make a plan for Sunday School that best serves our children and families.
- Confirmation students are making the transition from classroom learning to mentoring during Lent. We celebrated this transition with a Shrove Tuesday celebration. Much fun was had by all.
- Scouting Sunday took place and was quite wonderful. Thank you to all our scouts, scout leaders, and families who participated.
- Our annual meeting went well.
- I attended the Kettle River Conference annual meeting along with our delegates, River and Sophia Krikava. We did the important work of electing nominees for the upcoming Synod Assembly, where we will elect a new Synod Bishop.
- I led one funeral, one commitment ceremony, and had two visits.

**6. Team Leader Reports**

- Christian Education: Listening sessions held for the future of Sunday school, First Communion will be on March 15 from 11:30 – 12:30 with lunch provided. Bread will be baked 4-1 for Maundy Thursday/First Communion. Vacation Bible School will be taking place Monday – Thursday 6-22 through 6-25 from 8:30 to 12:30 each day. The theme will be Mega Sports Camp!
- Church Properties: Van is at repair shop, Jason Kadelbach contacted Marty regarding the survey to be done in the spring.
- Palanca Deacons: Team members would like everyone to know they are here to offer mutual ministry and pastoral care. Do you need something brought up to our Pastor? Need some prayers? How about confidentiality? We can do all that! So please reach out to one of our team members and let us support one another doing good for each other and everyone else.
- Welcome: We celebrated seven families joining OSLC as new members on 2-1. We provided each family with a welcome plant and cake was enjoyed by all.
- Fellowship: Nothing new to report.
- NHCP: No report
- Stewardship Team: Nothing new to report.
- Worship, Arts & Music: Preparing for Lent.
- Youth Ministry: Attendance at Middle School Youth Group has slightly declined due to basketball practice. When learning about "fellowship" and what it may look like, we invited Ron Stahl, Roy Ober, Curt Nelson and Chris Wagner to teach us how to play dartball and it was a big hit! For Valentine's Day we learned about one of the bible's greatest love stories - Ruth, Boaz and Naomi. We also decorated cookies for Valentine's Day or the Olympics. Our group will again set-up for the Lent Soup Suppers. Youth Team members, Sarah and Jill, will be organizing a sports themed Christian day camp at Our Savior's in June.

**7. Team Leader Reports - continued**

- WELCA: The 2-10 Valentine event was well-attended. Valentine cards were addressed and sent to 46 individuals from our congregation, including those in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and others unable to attend church. A social time followed with refreshments.
- Church in Society: Nothing new to report.

**7. Old Business**

- Community of Hope: Dinners are on the second Sunday of the month, next one 3-8.
- Rental Space: Nothing new to report.
- NHCP Steering Committee: Nothing new to report.
- Establishing Core Values for Mission: The videos are complete and will be edited by Pastor Luke.
- Fireside Room redecorate: The project is completed, final expense numbers are not available yet.
- Minnesota Power energy audit: The report has been received, a copy is available to anyone who'd like it.
- Lutefisk dinner 2026 planning: The temple talk discussed earlier was given 2-1. To date no one has come forward. The same info will be shared in the March Messenger.
- New member Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>: Details above in the Welcome Team report.

**8. New Business**

- Zoom meeting quorum count and voting: Discussed the issue with Pastor Rollie Bockbrader at the CAT meeting earlier this evening (attended for discussion on a separate topic). He referred us to Section 10.8 of the ELCA model Constitution for language which is applicable. This will be discussed further at the CAT and a recommendation given to the CC.
- Lent services and soup suppers: Everything is set to go. Middle School Youth Group and Confirmation students will assist with set-up and serving. Pastor Luke advocating everyone participate in confession which will be offered after Lent services and Sunday services. To see what is involved with the service, review it in the ELW.
- Action items and governing documents potential changes lists: The new documents were distributed and discussed.

9. **Next Meeting March 17, 2026, 6:30 p.m.:** Devotion and opening prayer--Palanca

10. **Closing Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer

11. **Adjournment:** Bob made a motion and Sarah seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m., the motion carried unanimously.

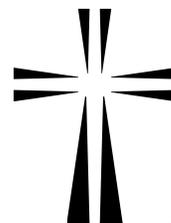


# Lenten Soup Suppers and Services



Wednesdays March 3-March 25, 2026 | 5:30-6:30 pm Soup | 6:30 pm Service

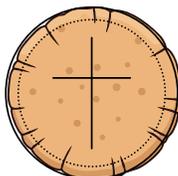
# Holy Week



**March 29, 2026**

Palm and Passion Sunday

9:30am



**April 1, 2026**

Communion Bread Baking

6:00pm



**April 2, 2026**

Maundy Thursday

Dinner Church 6:30pm

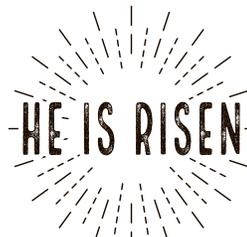


**April 3, 2026**

Good Friday Joint Service

6:30pm

at Our Savior's Lutheran



**April 5, 2026**

Easter Sunday Services

8:00am | 9:30am | 11:00am



**Altar Guild**

- 03/01 9:30 Sherri Waller
- 03/08 9:30 Linda Boyd
- 03/15 9:30 Rob Macaulay
- 03/22 9:30 Sherri Waller
- 03/29 9:30 Linda Boyd

**Readers**

- 03/01 9:30 Linda Boyd
- 03/08 9:30 Crimsen Hanson
- 03/15 9:30 Lauren Herbert
- 03/22 9:30 Keith Matzdorf
- 03/29 9:30 Rich Krikava

**Sound Board Operators**

- 03/01 9:30 Terry and Sue Nanti
- 03/08 9:30 HEAR NEED VOLUNTEER!
- 03/15 9:30 HEAR NEED VOLUNTEER!
- 03/22 9:30 Randy and Amy Stahl
- 03/29 9:30 HEAR NEED VOLUNTEER!

**Communion Servers (Palanca Deacons):**

- 03/01 9:30 Denny Painter, Linda Holmstrand, Duane Buytaert
- 03/08 9:30 Sherri Waller, Roy Ober, Duane Buytaert
- 03/15 9:30 Rob Macaulay, Linda Jankowski, Sherri Waller
- 03/22 9:30 Marty Rye, Kathy Rye, Denise Mykkanen
- 03/29 9:30 Shannon Matzdorf, Shannon Krikava, Rich Krikava

**Ushers**

- 03/01 9:30 Hagen Family
- 03/08 9:30 Randall Family
- 03/15 9:30 Matzdorf Family
- 03/22 9:30 Linda and Jim Boyd; Sherri Waller
- 03/29 9:30 Linda and Jim Boyd; Sherri Waller

**Video Booth Operator / Video Editor**

- 03/01 9:30 NEED OPERATOR / NEED EDITOR
- 03/08 9:30 NEED OPERATOR / NEED EDITOR
- 03/15 9:30 NEED OPERATOR / NEED EDITOR
- 03/22 9:30 NEED OPERATOR / NEED EDITOR
- 03/29 9:30 Bruce Larson / NEED EDITOR

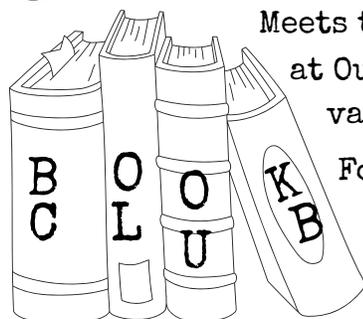


## #OSLC Walking Path

1 lap = 887 feet | 6 laps = 1 mile!



- Start at the Fireside Room
- Walk past the Kitchen and Room 3-4-5 into Fellowship Hall
- Walk around the perimeter of the Fellowship Hall 2 times
- Second time around, exit double doors to door #2 (not where you came in!)
- Come back down hallway towards room 3-4-5
- Head back down the hall past the Fireside Room
- Walk through the Narthex past the sanctuary
- Go down hallway past church office
- Turn before the door out to the chapel
- Go down past choir room to end of the hallway
- Turn around, and walk back to the Fireside Room. the Fireside Room.



Meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm  
at Our Savior's in the Fireside room to discuss  
various books of interest for both men and women.

For more information contact Jan Larson or Mary Krohn.

The March book is "My Friends" by Fredrik Backman.

The April book is "The Round House" by Louise Erdrich.

	<u>January 26 Budget</u>	<u>January 26 Actual</u>	<u>YTD 2026 Budget</u>	<u>YTD 2026 Actual</u>
<b>Income</b>	19,678	18,784	19,678	18,784
<b>Expenses</b>	21,648	20,901	21,648	20,901
<b>2026 Net Income</b>	(1,970)	(2,117)	(1,970)	(2,117)
<b>2025 Net Income</b>	(1,955)	(871)	(1,955)	(871)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Offering Needed</u>
<b>January 25</b>	NO CHURCH COLD	1,435	4,581
<b>February 1</b>	136	6,628	4,581
<b>February 8</b>	120	9,336	4,581
<b>February 15</b>	106	3,184	4,581
<b>February 18 Ash Wed.</b>	44 (Blizzard)	80	
<b>February 22</b>	106	3,502	4,581
<b>Totals</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>24,165</b>	<b>22,905</b>

### Gifts & Memorials:

- Mary Krohn in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the Gift and Memorial Fund
- Richard and Cindy Raun in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the General Fund
- Jill and Scott Elwood in memory of Dennis Painter, Sr. to the General Fund

IN LOVING **Robert "Bob" E. Fuller**  
*memory* February 19, 2026



## 2026 Easter Lily Order Form

Cost: \$20.00 per plant



30 lilies will enhance the church sanctuary for Easter! Want to donate a lily?

Please fill out this form, drop it in the offering plate, in the mail, or just give it to the church office.

Please pick up your lily after the last service on Easter Sunday. Remaining lilies will be shared with shut-ins, nursing home residents and others to enjoy.

Can you help deliver lilies? Let the office know! **Please return the form before March 25, 2026 and fill in the lines below.**

Name(s) of Buyer: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please designate and check one:  Gift  Memorial  In Celebration of  In Honor of

FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

For office use only:  Date Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_  Cash \_\_\_\_\_  G&M List \_\_\_\_\_  Messenger \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amt: \_\_\_\_\_  Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  ShepStaff \_\_\_\_\_



Lutheran Church  
 615 12th Street  
 Cloquet, MN 55720-2321  
 oursaviorscloquet.org  
 Office: (218) 879-1535  
 email@oursaviorscloquet.org

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the members of our congregation that are former or current military. Please contact the Church office for any other members we may have missed or if any of these names should be removed.

Tim Schlenvogt  
 Tim Larson

Erika Blesner  
 River Krikava



<https://www.facebook.com/oursaviorscloquet>

**Pastor:** Pastor Luke Lekander (ext. 11)  
 pastorluke@oursaviorscloquet.org

**Visitation:** visitation@oursaviorscloquet.org  
 (218) 879-1535

**Administrative Assistant:** Kristen Adams (ext. 10)  
 email@oursaviorscloquet.org

**Accounting:** Bruce Larson, Bookkeeper  
 bruce@oursaviorscloquet.org

**Sr Choir/Praise & Worship:** Ryan Hanson, Director  
 ryan.hanson77@gmail.com

**Church Website:** oursaviorscloquet.org

**Church Office Hours:** Sat-Sun: CLOSED  
 Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am - 2:30 pm  
 Friday: 8 am - Noon

**Deadline for submitting articles is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.**  
 Articles submitted after the 15<sup>th</sup> will be published in the next issue.  
 If possible, e-mail your article to: email@oursaviorscloquet.org.



**Join us for Worship!**

**In Person and on** **Sundays at 9:30am**

**YouTube**  
 By 3:00 pm Sundays

**Radio**  
 WKLK AM 1230  
 @ 11:00am Sundays

**CAT-7 Broadcast**   
 2:00pm - Tuesday  
 3:30pm - Wednesdays  
 3:30pm - The Following Sunday  
 9:00am - Monday

*Please remember the following friends below not always able to join us on Sundays:*

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Mabel Clemens   | Sharon Harney           |
| Robert Fountain | Lyle and Candy Hultgren |
| Ray Manisto     | Carol Maki              |
| Joan Essen      | Karen Splett            |
| Donna Gillmor   | Donna Redding           |
| Carolyn Watson  | Jeanne Brenna           |

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
615 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cloquet MN 55720  
Phone: 218-879-1535

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Cloquet, MN  
Permit 50



**Address Service Requested**  
February 2026

## Upcoming Events!

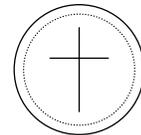
Get an e-copy of *The Messenger* too!  
See all the colors; zoom in for easy reading.  
Let the office you'd like to be added to the email list. You can even get the PRINT and the E-Version!



**March 15, 2026**  
First Communion Class  
3rd Grade and up  
11:30am-2:30pm



**March 29, 2026**  
Palm and Passion Sunday  
9:30am



**April 1, 2026**  
Communion Bread Baking  
6:00pm

**Lenten Soup Suppers & Services** ✦ Wednesdays March 3-March 25, 2026 | 5:30-6:30 pm Soup | 6:30 pm Service



**April 2, 2026**  
Maundy Thursday  
First Communion Service  
Dinner Church 6:30pm



**April 3, 2026**  
Good Friday Joint Service  
6:30pm  
at Our Savior's Lutheran



**April 5, 2026**  
Easter Sunday Services  
8:00am | 9:30am | 11:00am