Lutheran Church
OUR SAVIOURS
ELCA

APRIL 2026 SHINE

Paris Street; Rainy Day, 1877, Gustave Caillebotte

A Message from Pastor Brian

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

There is something about Easter that does not stay contained to a single morning. It spills over. It lingers. It keeps showing up in places and meets us on the road of life.

I love springtime because it reminds me that new life is always finding a way to rise around us. Sometimes it looks like the world is waking up again. Sometimes it looks like a conversation that brings healing or a prayer that finally finds words after a long season of silence. These are resurrection moments too, the kind that meet us right where we are and gently remind us that God is still bringing life out of places we thought were finished.

I see it in our community.

I see it in the way you continue to show up for one another. I see it in the meals we share, the generosity that keeps expanding, the names and stories we are learning to carry together. I see it in the courage it takes to begin again, even when life has been heavy.

This is what new life looks like. Not perfect. Not finished. Still becoming. And somehow, that is exactly where Jesus meets us. Not at the end of the story, but right here in the middle of it. Calling us by name. Reminding us that hope is not something we wait for, it is something God is already doing among us.

Easter tells the truth that death and despair do not get the final word. Love does. Life does. And that changes how we live right now.

So as we move through this Easter season, I hope you will pay attention to the signs of resurrection around you. In your homes. In this church. In your own heart.

Because Christ is not only risen, he is still at work. And we get to be part of that story. I am deeply grateful for this church, and I am filled with hope as I watch God continue to bring new life through you.

Happy Easter and God's Peace,
Pastor Brian

Easter isn’t over! There is still so much to celebrate! From Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday, we showed up in so many meaningful, intentional ways. Every moment, every gathering, every act of love reflected who we are when we lean into “Life Together, ” and it was truly something special! We’ve captured so many of those moments, and we can’t wait to share the photos and videos that tell the story. Take a look, celebrate what God has done, and remember…this season of new life is just getting started. For the newest video reels, click **here.**

Anniversaries & Birthdays

Church Anniversaries over 40 years:
David & Kodee Aronson
Daniel Beirne
Andie Krause
Marianne Schwab

Birthdays 80 years +
Tinny Bixel
Barbara Borghoff
Ross Carlson
Jack Ehlert
Andie Krause
Clara Mae Locascio
Phyllis Nash
Marcia Patterson
Judy Wozniak

Held in Faith

Welcomes & Remembrances

Since January, we've been blessed to welcome 11 new members into our church community, four through the beautiful gift of baptism. Those baptized: **Eleanor Stacey Doherty, John Jo Duffy, Owen James, and John Parker Sippel.**

To each of you, welcome! We give thanks for the unique gifts, stories, and spirit you bring. It is our hope and prayer that this becomes a place where you feel deeply known, truly supported, and continually drawn closer to God.

Over the past three months, we have mourned the loss of several cherished members of our congregation. They are: **Wilma Roose, Ann Ahlman, Diana Duda, Ronald Alan Selk, Ronald A. Krause, Jim Healy, John Van Beek, and Vera Bergren.**

We hold them with deep gratitude for the ways they shared their faith, their kindness, and their lives with us. Even in our grief, we trust in God's promise of eternal life and give thanks for the hope we have in Christ.

Their presence continues to shape who we are, and their memory lives on in the love we carry forward. May we surround one another with comfort and compassion, holding fast to the assurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Thank you, volunteers!

Contributed by: Debbie Montrose

Thank you, Our Savio**u**r's Volunteers!

Without "**u**", we couldn't do what we do!

Volunteer roles are not paid. It's a choice, a gift to others, and for some, an honor to serve.

Volunteering is an opportunity to connect with others and get to know the church community, whether it's behind the scenes or in front, from the first smiling face you see when walking through the doors to when you visit us online.

Worship services, ministries, and missions couldn't happen without all of our volunteers, and for that, we thank **YOU**.

Thank you for your time, your smiles, your energy, your gifts, and your talents that you bring to Our Saviour's.

It's a pleasure to work side by side with you and to bring joy to others by being present.

Thank you for being an AWESOME VOLUNTEER!

Caring for Creation

Contributed by: Lora-Lee Wike

What's for dinner? We put a lot of time and money into our meal preparations. We should also consider the growing problem of food waste. Each year, the average American family wastes over $1,500 worth of food. The United States discards nearly 60 million tons of food annually, equating to 325 pounds of food waste per person. This contributes to environmental damage through methane emissions and the waste of resources such as water and land.

So when planning your meals, do so in a way that cuts down on food waste. Here is how to get started:

- Look in your cabinets, pantry, and refrigerator to see what you have available. And while you are looking at what you have, try to use the items that are getting close to their expiration date.
- Make a shopping list based on the meals you want to prepare and what ingredients you have, and then buy only what you need.
- Don't toss your leftovers. Use your leftovers from meals for lunch, or create a new meal, such as soup or veggie stir-fry. Store vegetable trimmings and leftover meat or poultry in the freezer for later use in stock. Stale rolls and bread can be made into breadcrumbs.
- When waste happens, compost it. Keep a compost container nearby and when it is filled, empty it at one of two Naperville Food Scrap Composting sites, which are open from mid March to mid December, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. They are

located at: CNG Station, 1720 W. Jefferson Ave. Naperville and the city-owned parking lot at 91st Street and Wolf Crossing Road.

"We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly." **-- The Zero Waste Chef, Anne Marie Bonneau**

Lutheran World Relief

Contributed by: Jim Bono

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) was founded by U.S. Lutherans at the end of World War II to reduce global poverty – specifically among European Lutherans impacted by the war. Today, LWR provides economic and program support to all people groups globally in response to natural disasters and chronic poverty. Their goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches that will endure long after their projects end.

Lutheran World Relief operates in East and West Africa, Latin America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and the United States, helping some of the world's poorest communities build the resilience they need to thrive.

OSLC has long been a supporter of LWR. In the last budget year, $6,000 was allocated to World Relief. Additional special offerings may be taken in response to specific disasters.

In Uganda, LWR has created farmers' cooperatives to grow, process, and market both coffee and cacao (chocolate) products. OSLC also supports the Dusek Primary School and Childcare Centre in western Uganda. OSLC congregation members Jan & Tom Dusek (along with daughter Robin and friends) helped to raise start-up funds for the school, which is now largely self-sufficient in its daily operations. While operational costs are covered by tuition, the school does not have money for new buildings or equipment.

LWR is partnering with OSLC to support the School by making coffee and chocolate products from the Ugandan co-ops available for purchase. Farmers in the cooperatives get a fair-market price for their products. LWR receives a small share of each sale to continue its global outreach and programs. The Dusek school will get a small share of each sale to help build a much-needed student dormitory.

On April 25-26th, you will have a chance to sample and order this Ugandan coffee at Dusek School information tables that will be set up at both campuses. Orders benefiting the Dusek school can be made at either of the information tables at that time. Chocolate samples are on their way from Uganda, but we will have example bars available so you can become familiar with these delicious products.

Feed the Need 2026

Contributed by: The FMSC Mission Team

On March 7 and 8, OSLC volunteers continued a years-long tradition of packing meals for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC).

Spearheaded by Les and Laurie May, and Ken and Sharon Votava, a total of 1731 volunteers packed 412,344 meals in just two days. That means 1,130 children will have a meal to eat every day for an entire year because of our efforts, combined with those of other area churches. Our Saviour's provided a total of 159 volunteers for the mobilepack and funds (~$15,100) for the ingredients for almost 52,000 meals.

The packed meals were shipped to the following countries and respective FMSC partners.

Peru: *World Help*, 1,260 boxes, 272,160 meals
Togo: *LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry*, 109 boxes, 23,544 meals
Mozambique: *Matter*, 144 boxes, 31,104 meals
Columbia: *Food for the Poor*, 396 boxes, 85,536 meals
TOTAL: 1,909 boxes, 412,344 meals

World Help is a Christian humanitarian organization that works primarily in communities, feeding centers, refugee camps, and through churches.
LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry is dedicated to feeding the poor and hungry around the world and sharing the hope that comes through Jesus Christ. FTH uses FMSC meals in its EveryChild EveryDay program that works with primary schools in Africa, Asia, and Central America.
Matter is a faith-inspired non-profit organization distributing FMSC meals in Africa, Central America, and the Middle East, and works primarily in hospitals, schools, orphanages, communities, and nursing homes.
Food for the Poor links the church of the First World with the church of the Third World in ways that help both the materially poor and the poor in spirit. FFTP has distributed FMSC meals in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

What many may not know, however, is that OSLC volunteers play a critical role in the event's logistics. Not only do Les, Sharon, and Ken provide representation from OSLC to the local “Feed the Need” team, who oversees the local event, but OSLC also stores many of the supplies for the event (the displays, tables, and signs) in the Celebration basement. And OSLC volunteers play a critical role in setting up and breaking down the event space.

If you missed the annual mobile-pack event, there is a permanent FMSC packing location at: 555 Exchange Court, Aurora, IL 60504. Phone: 630-851-0404. Individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to sign up for any of the many available packing slots.

Thank you from the FMSC mission team.

If you missed our recap video, you can see it on the FMSC Mission **page.**

Finding a Voice in the Silence:

Why I Started The Singing Resistance

Chicago West Burbs

Written by: Lynn Phillips

Anger is a heavy burden to carry alone, and fear is a silent thief. For a long time, those were the primary colors of my emotional landscape as I watched the world fracture. My heart, however, was 400 miles north in South Minneapolis, where my two children, Katie and Courtney, were living in the epicenter of a movement.

As a mother, I exist in a constant state of dual reality. On the one hand, I am bursting with a fierce, incandescent pride as Courtney tirelessly raises funds for families trapped, unable to go to work because the simple act of leaving the house carries the terrifying risk of being detained. As a trans person navigating a world that can be so hostile, Courtney's dedication to protecting others is nothing short of heroic. On the other hand, I watched Katie find her power in the Twin Cities' Singing Resistance group, using melody as a weapon against injustice.

But my pride also has a shadow of terror. Every time my phone buzzed, a dark corner of my mind braced itself, wondering if my own children would be the next victims on the pavement. That level of chronic fear changes you; it turns your bones to glass and your spirit to flint.

The turning point came during a Women's Retreat. The room was filled with reflection, but my soul was restless. I approached Pastor Elisabeth and tentatively asked, "What about a singing resistance group?"

She didn't dismiss the idea. Instead, she looked at me and simply said, "Tell me more."

In that moment of being heard, the spark caught fire.

We were off.

I realized I couldn't just sit in the stillness of the West Burbs while my children were on the front lines. I needed to channel that visceral energy into something that didn't just scream but healed. Inspired by Katie's work, I started The Singing Resistance Chicago West Burbs.

We aren't just a choir; we are a reclamation project. When we sing, we transform our collective anger into harmony and our paralyzing fear into active hope.

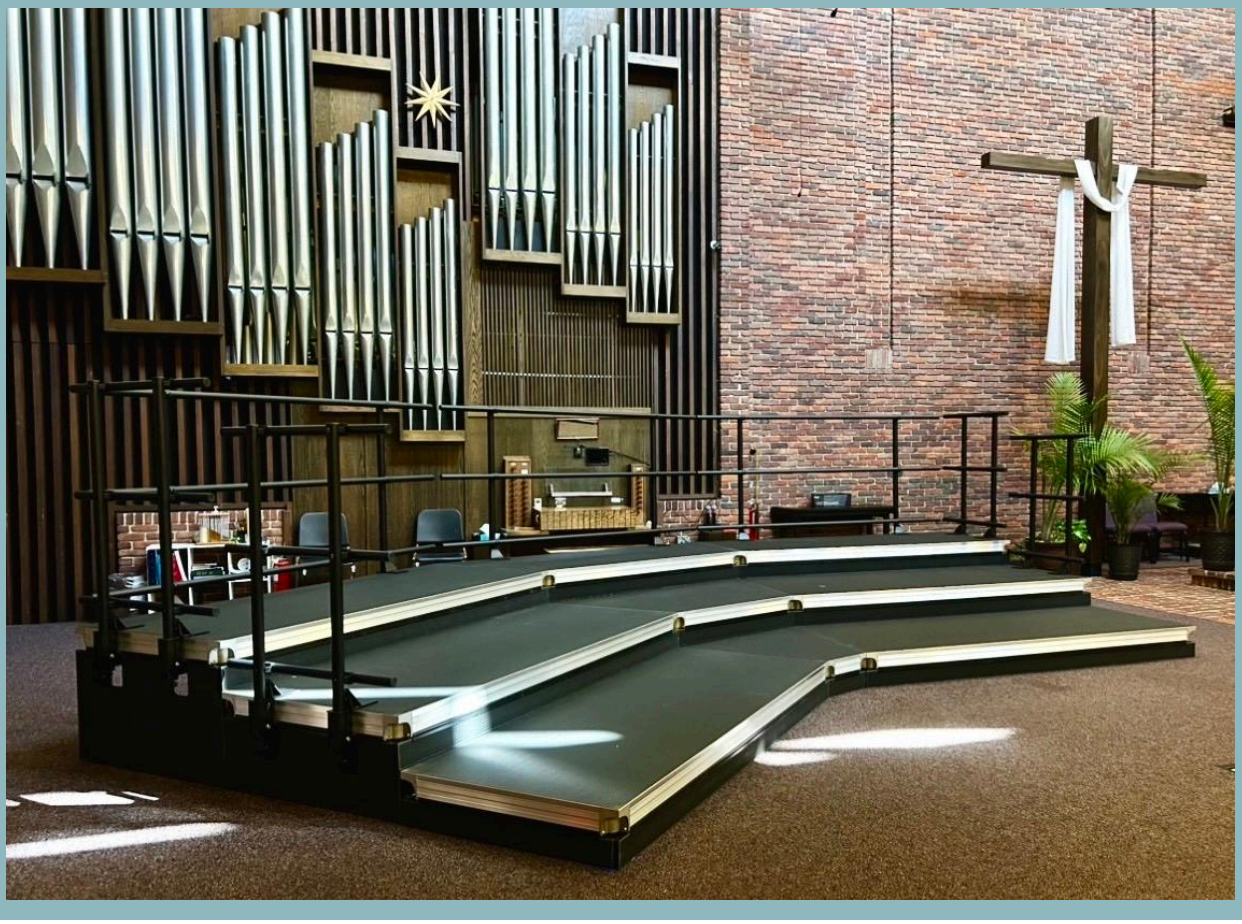
It is a bridge to my children—a way to stand with them even when I am miles away.

We sing to end the silence, not to agree with the status quo. And, we sing because, in the right key, healing is possible.

Check out the Singing Resistance *(March 15,2026)* and the No Kings III *(March 28, 2026)* videos on our **Life Together page**.

Photo taken at the No Kings Rally on March 28, 2026

New Choir Loft



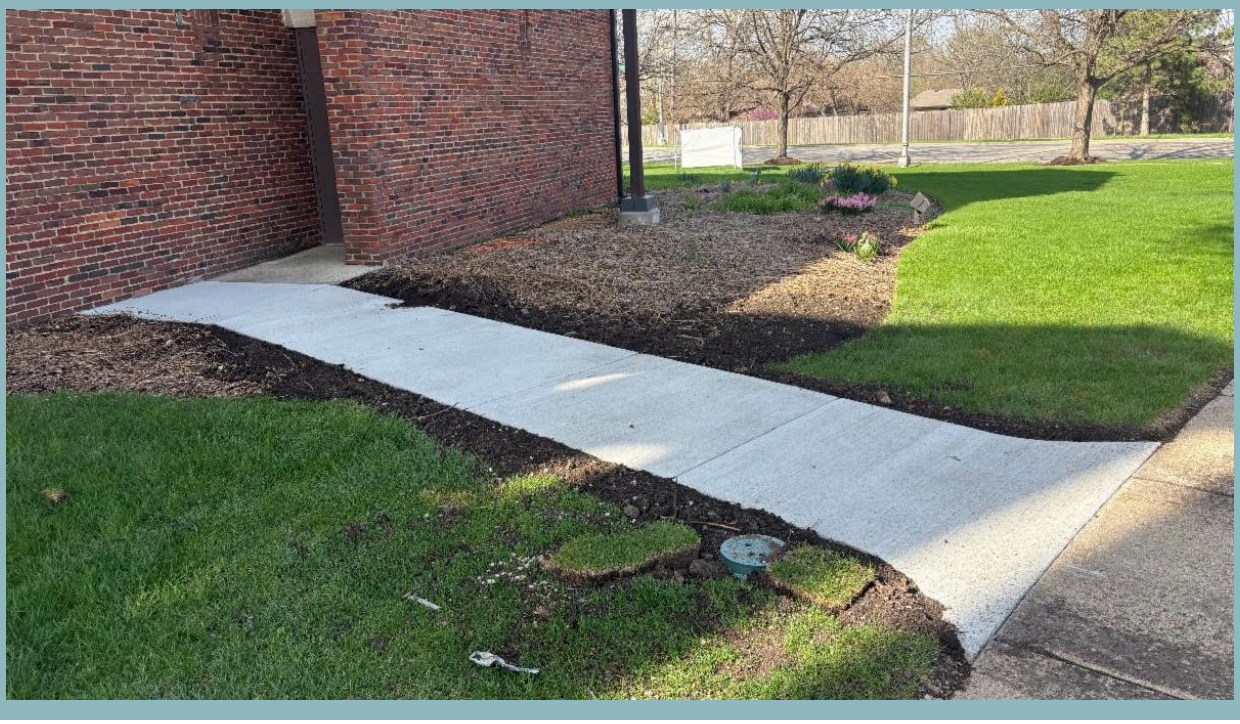
Contributed by: Nicholas Davis, *Director of Worship*

We are excited to share that the new risers have arrived and are ready for use. This purchase was made possible through the generous support of both members and non-members. Safety was our top priority in selecting these risers, which now feature a back railing, side guardrails, and less steep steps.

In addition, the new design allows for more chairs to be placed on each level and provides the flexibility to expand as the ensemble continues to grow.

Thank you for the many volunteers who helped break down the old risers and who were there to assist during the installation.

Building Updates



Contributed by: Greg Nasman, *Facilities Manager*

We’re grateful to share that a new sidewalk has been built outside the sanctuary doors, and another portion has been repaired and leveled, replacing the previously buckled and inaccessible area. This improvement is more than cosmetic; it enhances safety and accessibility for *everyone*, especially in urgent situations when a smooth, unobstructed exit is essential.

Level walkways help prevent trips and falls and allow those using mobility aids to move more freely and confidently. They also ensure first responders can navigate the area quickly with equipment if needed. This simple upgrade helps us better care for one another and our shared space!

We’re also excited to share that our building-wide conversion to LED lighting is now complete! This upgrade brings significant benefits, including using up to 75–90% less energy and dramatically lowering our overall utility costs. LED bulbs also last much longer (up to 25 times longer than traditional lighting), reducing the need for frequent replacements and ongoing maintenance. In addition, they provide brighter, more consistent light while emitting very little heat, making our spaces more comfortable and energy-efficient. It’s a meaningful step toward better stewardship of our resources and care for our environment.

A Psalm for Spring

Even the sparrow finds a home
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
My sovereign and my God.
Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.
Psalm 84:3-4

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