

WEEKLY CONNECTIONS

February 11 - February 17, 2018

Lutheran Church
OUR SAVIOURS

Lenten Preparation

Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are the same day this year. That doesn't happen very often. In fact, the last time Ash Wednesday was on February 14 was before I was born, so it's something new for me. Since Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, it's often the first day we give something up for the season, until Easter. However, perhaps Valentine's Day on Ash Wednesday will remind us of something to add as well. What did Jesus say was the greatest commandment? Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and soul and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. How could I love God and my neighbor better during Lent (which would help teach me to love more all year round)? How could you? Have a blessed and loving Lent.

In Christ,

Pastor John Gerike

OUR SAVIOURS

Ash Wednesday Services
Our Saviour's Campus - 6:30 am, noon, and 6:30 pm
Celebration Campus - 7:00 pm

Midweek Lenten Services
February 21, 28 and March 7, 14, 21
Our Saviour's Campus - noon and 6:30 pm

Promises... Promises

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Our Saviour's Campus

Hosted and prepared by the Our Saviour's Youth. A free-will offering will help raise money for the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston.

All are welcome!

Midweek Suppers during Lent

A light soup/salad supper is served each Wednesday from 5:15pm - 6:15 pm before the 6:30pm service at Our Saviour's Campus. All are welcome!

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday:

March 29, noon and 7:00pm, Our Saviour's Campus

Good Friday Crosswalk:

March 30, 9:30 and 11:00am, Our Saviour's Campus

Good Friday Service:

March 30, 7:00pm, Our Saviour's Campus

Easter Services at Our Saviour's Campus

Saturday, March 31: 5:00pm

Sunday, April 1: 6:30am, 7:45am, 9:00am, 10:15am, 11:30am

Easter Service at the Celebration Campus

Sunday, April 1: 10:00am



**Time is running out -
Sign up today!**

Help turn hunger into hope with your own hands by packing nutritious meals for hungry children around the world. **February 17/18** at North Central College.

Sign-up today at
oursaviours.com/happenings/registration
Hope to see you there!

Dialogues in Faith (Adult Education), held each Sunday morning in the Fellowship Center at 9:00am and 10:30am. Join in the discussion.

- **February 11** - The Bible Since the Reformation: Is the Bible Set in Stone? Andrea Field will lead us in this discussion as we look at how our understanding of the Bible has changed since the Reformation, from Luther's view on canon to new translations.
- **February 18** – Animate (same content as the Lent small group). This week we'll discuss the ways that we view God and how our images of God has changed over time. Does the way we view God affect how we relate to God? Does our view of God affect how we relate to other people? How does the notion of the Trinity relate to the way that we actually view God.

Monday Morning Moms - February 12 (2nd and 4th Mondays) 9:30am - 11:30am, Market Place at Our Saviour's Campus. Bring yourself, your kiddos, and your eagerness to be in a learning community with others. Join fellow moms as we spend time getting to know each other, supporting each other, and reading together *Love Lives Here* by Maria Goff. You may purchase *Love Lives Here* on Amazon. Participants will be asked to read before each gathering. Childcare is provided. Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.



Holy Family Ministry and Read Across America

On Monday, March 5, Holy Family Ministries is hosting a fun day of reading with students on the popular "Dr. Seuss Day." Join fellow Our Saviour's members, and enjoy reading with students. Questions? Contact Jan Dusek at jandusek@comcast.net or 630-369-4283.



Women's Retreat, March 17-18

Join women of Our Saviour's in a weekend filled with study, fellowship, fun, and prayer. Gather at LaSalle Manor Retreat Center to center ourselves in the story of "The Woman at the Well" in order to deepen our relationships and faith. This laid-back retreat will provide rest, renewal, and sparks of new faith. Check out the retreat center's website for free time activities. The retreat costs \$110 which includes private rooms, three meals, and a great time together as sisters in faith.

Register at oursaviours.com/happenings/registration

All women are welcome!

People we are praying for this week:

Valerie Kincaid	Lewis Hosters
Chris Longhitano	Joe Tomaskovic
Glenda Hoelting	Sara Ondera
Dorothea Pauschke	Ryder Clark
Gale Foust	Verne Ohst
Philip Wray	Steve Mazzarella
	Cece Berg

Love!

Next Wednesday is Valentine's Day and among other things, it is a commemoration of love. Through the years that I have been doing marriage counseling, both before marriage and during, I have accumulated tidbits that I offer as things to think about and talk about together. I offer a few of these to you. While much of the focus is on marriage, these may also do you well in any loving relationship.

"Marriages are like fingerprints; each one is different and each one is beautiful."

"A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers."

"The best time to love with your whole heart is always now, in this moment, because no breath beyond the current is promised."

"We come to love not by finding a perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly."

"Where there is love, there is life."

"Once we figured out that we could not change each other, we became free to celebrate ourselves as we are."

"Love is the greatest gift when given. It is the highest honor when received."

"The first to apologize is the bravest. The first to forgive is the strongest. The first to forget is the happiest."

"Love is always bestowed as a gift -freely, willingly, and without expectation. We don't love to be loved, we love to love."

"To keep your marriage brimming with love, whenever you're wrong, admit it; whenever you're right, shut up."

"Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy. Love does not boast. Love is not proud. Love is not rude. Love is not self-seeking. Love is not easily angered. Love keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil. Love rejoices with the truth. Love always protects. Love always trusts. Love always hopes. Love always perseveres. Love never fails."

-1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

Jesus loves you.

I do too.

Happy Valentine's Day.

Pastor Al

Join the team!

Our Saviour's is looking for team-oriented, proactive, interpersonal, flexible, and growth-oriented individuals to join our staff team. There are currently openings for the following paid staff positions:

Vacation Bible School Coordinator - Oversee and implement a successful and safe Vacation Bible School experience that encourages family involvement and builds relationships; equips children, their families, and volunteers with strong knowledge of Bible stories and God's love; and empowers families to love God by serving others. Interested in more information? Contact Pastor Emily at pastoremilyp@oursaviours.com.

Nursery Assistants - Our Saviour's is looking for individuals that would like to work in the nursery for Our Saviour's events. These positions are paid per hour. Contact the nursery coordinator at nursery@oursaviours.com.

30th Annual Youth Auction

Sunday, March 4, 4:30pm, Celebration Campus. Entertainment Tickets are still available. Funds raised go to support various mission trips for the youth including: Ministry Tour, Youth Haiti Mission Trip, and ELCA Youth Gathering. See Service Opportunities on back page for donation information.



What's going on...

Sunday, February 11

Worship Services:

- 8:00, 9:00 & 10:30am (OS)

Sunday School after the children's message in Worship

Worship Service 10:00am (C)

Sunday School after the children's message in Worship

New members - 11:45am (OS)

Surge - noon (C)

Children's Musical Rehearsal - noon (OS)

Ignition - 6:00pm (C)

Monday, February 12

Monday Morning Moms - 9:30am (OS)

Haiti Team Parent Meeting - 7:00pm (C)

Stephen Ministers - 7:00pm (OS))

Tuesday, February 13

Bible Study - 9:30am (OS)

Bach Bells - 1:00pm (OS)

Pickle ball - 2:30pm (C)

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:30 pm (OS)

Troop 107 - 7:15pm (OS)

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Weds. Service - 6:30am (OS)

Men's Small Group - 6:00am (C)

Ash Weds. Service - noon (OS)

Light Luncheon - 12:45pm (OS)

Cherubim Choir - 4:30pm (OS)

Seraphim Choir - 4:30pm (OS)

Surge make-up - 5:00pm (OS)

Ash Weds. Supper - 5:15pm

Senior Youth Leadership Team - 5:45pm (OS)

Praise Express - 6:00pm (OS)

Praise Percussion - 6:00pm (OS)

Ash Weds. Service- 6:30pm (OS)

Ash Weds. Service - 7:00pm (C)

Eagles Wings - 7:00pm (OS)

Thursday, February 15

Prayer Shawl - 10:00am (C)

Library Meeting - 1:00pm (OS)

Hearts in Puppetry - 7:00pm (OS)

Men's Chorale - 6:30pm (OS)

Women's Chorale - 6:45pm (OS)

Sanctuary Choir - 7:30pm (OS)

Friday, February 16

Men's Small Group, Bruce Riley - 6:00am (C)

Saintly Stuffers - 9:00am (OS)

Saturday, February 17

Pickle Ball - 9:00am (C)

Feed My Starving Children - offsite at North Central College

Noon - 6:00pm

Worship Service - 5:00pm (OS)

Our Saviour's (OS)

Celebration (C)

Find us on Facebook at OurSavioursLutheranChurch

Interested in membership?

Our Saviour's is happy to answer any questions you might have about church membership. Email us at: membership@oursaviours.com. We will be glad to follow up with you. Thank you.

Financials and Attendance

Weekend of Jan 27/28

Worship attendance	692
General offering	\$ 25,125.13
Debt Free offering	\$ 909.23

Weekend Feb 3/4

Worship attendance	678
General offering	\$ 27,353.16
Debt Free offering	\$ 19,030.57

Looking for opportunities to serve?

Looking for ways to serve, give or get connected? Here are a few opportunities for you:

30th Annual Youth Auction:

Each year the Silent and Live Auction brings in over \$25,000. Funds raised go to support various mission trips for the youth including: Ministry Tour, youth Haiti Mission Trip, and ELCA Youth Gathering.

If you would like to donate experiences (such as dinner, golf outing, babysitting). We are also in need of basket shreds/fill paper for youth auction baskets.

Contact Lynn Panosh at lynnpanosh@oursaviours.com or at 630-281-4236 or Pastor Emily at pastoremilyp@oursaviours.com or at 630-281-4233, you can help.

Refugee Needs:

Two of our families need cars. One Burmese family (soon to be 6) needs an SUV or mini-van that will accommodate at least 6; our other Burmese family (soon to be 4) would welcome any type of sedan that will accommodate 2 child seats. Both families need cars for work, medical appointments, and grocery shopping.

Also, we are helping a Burmese Congregation furnish their newly bought church building. They need rugs (8 x 10 or larger), toys and bin containers, and whiteboards.

Contact Anne Wentz at 630-779-7076, or annecwentz@wideopenwest.com or Lee Thomsen at 630-851-2587, or leethomsen64@gmail.com.