

Weekly Connections

March 10-17, 2019

Lutheran Church
OUR SAVIOURS

In anticipation of the arrival of Easter, see how you can give of yourself through reflection and preparation. Here are some ideas on how you can put your faith into action today.

Living Lent Out Loud

From coffee to chocolates, soda to social media, millions of Christians give something up for Lent each year to prepare their hearts for Easter. Almsgiving is the Lenten tradition of showing care and concern for our neighbor. Today, many refer to it as Living Lent Out Loud – giving of yourself and putting your faith into action.

Ideas for living Lent generously

- Make a top 40 list: Commit to doing one act of generosity each day.
- Pray it forward: Each day of Lent, add another person to your prayer list.
- Offer it up: If you've held onto a grudge, try forgiving/to let it go. Forgiveness is a special Lenten gift only you can give.
- Give thanks: Send thank-you cards to people who have touched your life.
- Give back to the environment: Plant a tree, carpool, recycle or repurpose something you were thinking of throwing out.

(As seen on Thrivent Financial Facebook post. For more ideas, check out livinggenerously.com or Thrivent.com)

Mid-Week Lenten Services

Midweek Lenten Services at noon and 6:30pm at Our Saviour's Campus

- March 13, 20, 27, April 3 and April 10.

Our Saviour's Campus: Before each Lenten evening worship service, from 5:15-6:30pm, we will serve light soup suppers, which are hosted by various groups. We invite teams and individuals to make soup. Interested? Contact Debbie Montrose at debbiemontrose@oursaviours.com or 630-281-4211.

Mid-week soup supper dates and hosts:

- March 13: Bach Bells and Bach Ringers
- March 20: Church Council
- March 27: Women's Ministry
- April 3: Men's Ministry
- April 10: Pickleball and Small Group

Holy Week

- **April 18 Maundy Thursday Services:** noon, 7:00pm, Our Saviour's Campus
- **April 19 Children's Crosswalk:** 9:30 and 11:00am, Our Saviour's Campus
- **April 19 Good Friday Service:** 7:00pm, Our Saviour's Campus

Easter Weekend, April 20 and 21:

Our Saviour's Campus:

Easter Saturday at 5:00pm, Easter Sunday at 7:45, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30am

Celebration Campus:

Sunrise at Celebration! (New Location)

Come start your day with us and worship at 6:30am at the Celebration Campus. Regular Worship at 10:00am at Celebration Campus



Faith Formation

Sunday's Stepping Stone Participants

Maxwell Aguilar, Luke Bartkowicz
George Cammarata, Megan Jacks
Logan Monroe, Tyler Monroe
Sophia O'Neal, Henry Olson
Laina Ramsey, Conner Tatman

Grow in faith through reflection and discussion

Dialogues in Faith on Sundays at 9:00am and 10:30am, Fellowship Center, Our Saviour's Campus

What's up with Fish Fridays and no chocolate for Lent? Have you ever wondered about some of our Lenten traditions and practices? How did they begin? When did the church start observing the 40 days of Lent? Do you or your family do anything special during this time?

Join Dialogues in Faith to discover something new about Lent that might enrich your faith and practice.

March 17 - NO CLASS, Women's Retreat

March 24 - April 14 - Praying the Psalms, more information to follow.

Active Seniors Spring Social

Thursday, March 14, 1:00pm

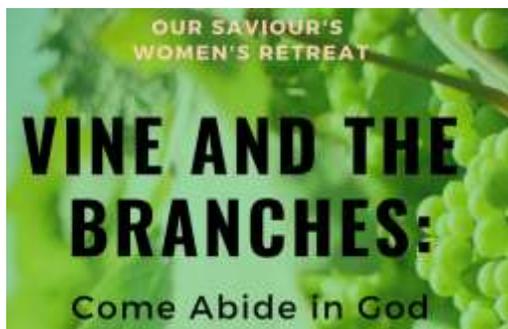
House of Emperor Chinese Cuisine

A lunch event to get into the Spring and Easter spirit, share your upcoming Easter plans and partake of good Chinese food and fellowship with friends. Sign up in the Fellowship Center by Sunday, March 10. No need to prepay. We'll order and pay individually.

Women's Retreat

March 16-17

Join us as we enjoy faith, fellowship, and fun at the annual women's retreat. The retreat is located at LaSalle Manor in Plano, Illinois. The cost is \$115 (Saturday-Sunday) or \$165 (Friday-Sunday). Includes housing and three meals. Register online at oursaviours.com/happenings/registration, or through Realm (go to Events). We hope you will attend and be part of this amazing experience!



Volunteer at VBS (July 15-19, 9:00am - Noon)

Vacation Bible School is an amazing way to see your children grow in faith, grow in your faith, and meet new friends yourselves! Every year we need 100 volunteers and leaders to make VBS possible, and many parents find it a valuable opportunity to support their children's faith life and give back to the community. Adults who volunteer before or during Vacation Bible School will receive a FREE VBS CD this year for their family.



To register to volunteer, please follow this link: bit.ly/oslcvbs2019 **For more information** about Vacation Bible School, please contact Pastor Emily (pastoremilyp@oursaviours.com).

Lutheranism 101

New to the Lutheran tradition? Want a refresher of basic Lutheranism?

Join us during a five-week adult formation group taking place during Lent following midweek worship:

March 13-April 10, 7:15-8:15pm at

the Our Saviour's Campus. We'll look at history, the Apostles' Creed, Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, and the sacraments (Baptism and Communion).

Questions? Contact Kris Reenstjerna (k2r123@aol.com) or Pastor Emily (pastoremilyp@oursaviours.com).



Take 2 Alumni Potluck Event

Sunday, March 10, 6:00-7:30pm, Fellowship Hall at the Our Saviour's Campus. **Power in Purpose** Alums who have followed their purpose! Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Water and soda are provided but you are welcome to bring wine.

Why I Love Being a Lutheran

By Kris Reenstjerna

I recently saw the play *Hamilton* for the first time and was pleasantly amazed to hear one of the characters use a typical Lutheran phrase, “sinners and saints.” Martin Luther said we all are both sinners and saints, and this phrase ties into why being a Lutheran is so great. Luther was tormented with trying to figure out how he could become right, or saved, with God. Finally, after studying the book of Romans, he realized there was nothing *he* could do to become right with God; *God* has done the initiating, and always does. The book of Romans says we are saved by grace through faith alone – and that is so freeing! And as Pastor Dave Daubert says, “Faith does not make God love us – it helps us trust that God *already* does.” God loves us on the days we are sinners and on the days we are saints. God loves us, as my dad used to say, “...warts and all!”

And this good news lets me live my life boldly, joyfully, knowing that nothing can come between me and God! It allows me to share that love in the world to show what God’s Kingdom looks like here on earth. It allows me to make mistakes, and learn from them, instead of beating myself up over them. We have a rich history of Lutheran theology and tradition (music in worship, the liturgy, the idea of vocation and purpose, to name a few) and I love learning about what Lutherans believe and why we believe. But most important for me is knowing that in my baptism, I am a named, claimed, beloved Child of God, free to be the person God created me to be. And nothing can ever take that away from me.

During this Lenten season, take the opportunity to learn for the first time or rediscover again our Lutheran history and traditions with a five-week adult faith formation class. Lutheranism 101 will meet on Wednesdays starting March 13 after midweek services (7:15-8:15 pm) at the Our Saviour’s campus. We hope to see you there!

Last week at a Glance

Our Saviour’s was very busy last week with Youth Auction, Dr Seuss Day at Holy Family School, Senior Lunch, The Wartburg Concert, Ash Wednesday, and Soup Supper. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped in making these services and events run smoothly. Here’s a look at last week...



Music Ministry

Children's Musical

Table for Five...

Thousand! The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes



Everyone is invited to attend the Children's Spring Musical, which takes place at the 5pm service on Saturday, March 16, and the 10:30am service on Sunday, March 17, at the Our Saviour's Campus.

An ice cream social will follow the Sunday performance in the fellowship center.

Children in the Seraphim and Cherubim Choirs will perform "Table for Five...Thousand!: The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes," which tells the story of how Jesus feeds the 5,000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish, provided by a boy named Benjamin.

Kiersten Spayer, director of the Cherubim Choir, and Caitlin Skrbec, director of the Seraphim Choir, will co-direct the musical. "The musical is such a wonderful way for kids to lead worship and share scriptures in the Bible," Kiersten said. "Through singing, acting, and dancing, the children are able to express the word of God in a beautiful and highly creative way."

"The children love learning the story of the musical each year," added Terry Thompson, choir director. "They look forward to spending time together singing, dancing, and acting. They are growing their relationships with each other and growing their faith. They will remember these songs and stories throughout their lifetime. The musical provides an early connection to their church and lets the children know that the congregation loves them and supports them."

Sounds of Spring with Dueling Pianos and LSSI!

Saturday, April 27, 10:00am Presented by the Women's Network of LSSI, Spring Fling will be held at the Westin Chicago Northwest, in Itasca. Dueling Pianos! Shopping, raffle drawings, and other fun activities begin at 10:00am. *The first 20 'Early Birds' to arrive will win prizes that will make their shopping experience extraordinary.* **Proceeds from Spring Fling, including 20% off shopping purchases, benefit Family Mental Health Programs of Lutheran Social Services of IL.** Tickets are \$75 each, and student tickets are \$45. Visit LSSI.org/spring-fling.php or Mariah Heinz at 847.635.4656, Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org

Extra! Extra! Youth Auction a Hit!

The Youth Auction is in the books and we are so very thankful to everyone who participated; to all our youth, the many volunteers, cooks, staff, attendees, directors and choreographers, tech teams, and our generous local businesses and contributors, we say thank you from the bottoms of our hearts. We truly could not have done this without you. The final results are still being tabulated so we'll share that information when available. Thank you!!



Thank you! Wartburg Concert a Success!

What a talented fun group of musicians! Dinner was served to the group and Thrivent shirts were handed out to share. At the end of the meal, they donned their shirts and proceeded to sing a thank you song that sounded like a school cheer song! Go Team! Then before the Ash Wednesday noon worship service, the team served the group lunch and the students couldn't have been more appreciative and thankful.

Thank you to everyone who hosted students, made a meal, served and attended! Thanks to our Thrivent team as well! We look forward to seeing and hearing them again soon!



Holy Family Fun!

Folks from Our Saviour's had a fun and informative morning at Holy Family School. They celebrated the wonderful "Dr. Seuss Day" and "Reading Across America" with the students. Both the readers and the students had a fun day.

Thank you to all who read. You made a difference!

Read more about this special day in the upcoming Quarterly Connections.



Thank you for Hope!

Thank you for your generous Hope items for others, and for being a caring congregation and community. To date, here are the totals that were received, boxed and sent:

31 boxes of personal care items, first aid, etc.

42 large boxes of clothing which also includes:
New underwear and socks, outerwear, and blankets.

Thanks to our team leaders, Anne Wentz, Alan Russell, Sandy Martinech, Lee Thompson and his moving crew!

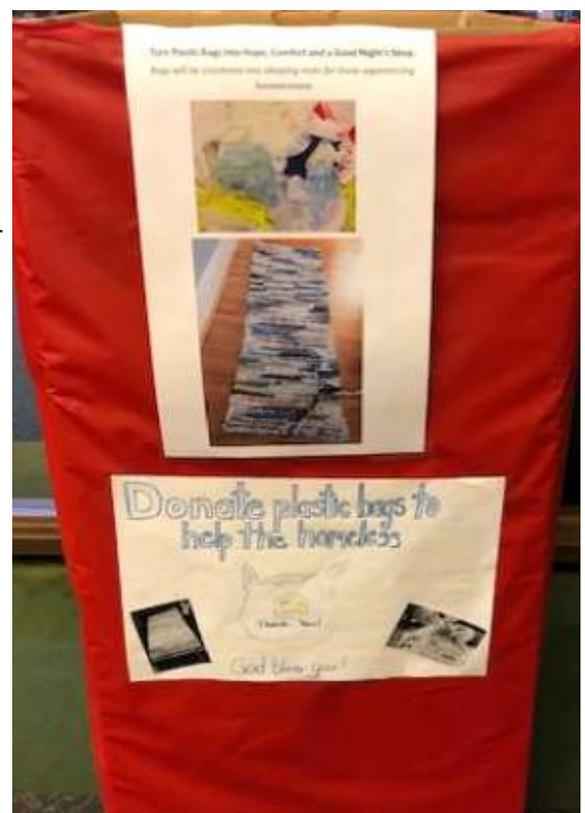


We Asked and You Responded!

What's in the bag...Hope, comfort, and sleep!

We invited you to drop off your plastic bags in the "Bags" box at both campuses to assist Our Saviour's member, Vicki Witt, and her students with a community project. They fold, cut and chain plastic bags, then crochet them into sleeping mats for those experiencing homelessness.

We asked and you responded enthusiastically. Such a simple donation but so very purposeful! Thank you to all who have participated and don't forget, drop your plastic bag in the "Bags" box. It's a win-win for everyone!



Update

During the finance transitions you may have questions about contributions, statements, or other processes. As an interim solution, Jean Jepson will be the point contact for any questions regarding financial items.

You may contact Jean at accounting@oursaviours.com, or at 630-355-2522.

Worship and Arts Director Search Committee

We'd like to introduce you to members of the search committee for the Director of Worship and Arts:

- **Laura Weren, Chair**
- **Susan Moninger**
- **Ken Miller**
- **Mary Mason**
- **Matthew Felbein**
- **Kristyn Reed**
- **Christine Krummel**
- **David Schramm**
- **Robyn Carlson**

The Director of Worship and Arts will oversee all aspects of worship, music and special programs. Requirements include experience in directing adult and youth choirs and developing worship services and special programs to create a meaningful, spirit- and faith-filled experience. You can see a link to the full job position here:

<http://oursaviours.com/home/employment>.

We ask for your help in sharing this information, so we can reach out to as many people as possible. We also ask for your prayers as the search committee continues to review candidates over the coming months.

"We Are Called"

The 2019 Metro Chicago Synod Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will take place on Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8, at the Tinley Park Convention Center. During the assembly, voting members will elect a new bishop to succeed Bishop Wayne Miller, elect synod council members, and vote on a number of synod resolutions. If you are interested in being considered as one of Our Saviour's five voting members to the synod assembly, please contact the church office at 630-355-2522.

Membership at Our Saviour's

Our next new member gathering is Sunday, March 31, at 11:15am, Celebration Campus, with Pastor Brian.

If you are interested in learning more about membership or have questions or concerns, this is a great opportunity to learn more and meet other folks as well. RSVP to Debbie at debbiemontrose@oursaviours.com.

We like to introduce our newest members with a short bio and picture. If you have joined and would like to submit some information, please contact Debbie as well.

Welcome Bill and Susan Leibforth!

Our Saviour's is happy to welcome Bill and Susan to the church and are happy they have become part of this faith community. Thanks Susan and Bill for sharing!

Bill: "We have been blessed with two sons who are both married and live locally as well as two granddaughters. After a long career in the IT world and project management, I retired two years ago after ending 35 years with my last employer. I am currently writing a book based on the unknown black baseball players who followed Jackie Robinson. As an avid baseball fan, it is a labor of love."



Susan: "After being able to be home with our two sons as a stay at home mom for 19 years, I returned to work in 1995 in the field of healthcare management before retiring two years ago. Our children and their families live locally and we enjoy our time with them and our granddaughters (who are 13 and 15) as much as possible."



I enjoy gardening, kayaking, swimming, reading, cooking and being with and helping friends and neighbors.

Bill and Susan: "After attending other local church services, we felt the warmth of the congregation and pastors at Our Saviour's, which made our decision very easy while looking for a permanent church home. We learned a lot during the new member class, which affirmed our decision. We spend half our time at our lake home in Poplar Grove, IL and while there, we attend Immanuel Lutheran Church as visitors. We both enjoy the flexibility of worship times, the relatable sermons and wonderful music. We would like to learn more about Loaves and Leaves (the food pantry).



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MY THRIVENT

Thrivent Choice Dollars(R)

As a Thrivent member, you can conveniently and securely view and manage your accounts online 24 hours a day. Simply register, and you'll have instant access to all of your products, including life and health insurance, annuities, mutual funds, interval funds and brokerage accounts.

By directing Choice Dollars(R) through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations. (Directing Choice Dollars and receiving funds from the Thrivent Choice program are subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice program.)

We are thankful to our Thrivent members who directed their Thrivent Choice dollars last month. Here's what we received from Thrivent:

"We are pleased to let you know that we have made a deposit in the amount of \$1,318.00 in your account on behalf of Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice(R) program. We hope this gift helps to further support your important work."

Thanks to Thrivent Financial for their support and partnership in so many of our missions and ministries in the life of Our Saviour's Church.

Thrivent Grants

How it works...Think about an unmet need in your community and how you could help. Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity, or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit, including:

- A \$250 Community Impact Card you can use as seed money to get your project off the ground and make a bigger impact.
- You may also indicate you would like a promotional banner, invitations and thank-you cards, and Thrivent Action Team T-shirts (Ash Gray is the new color for 2019).

How often am I eligible...All Thrivent members are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team. However, the number of teams each member can lead per year depends on his or her membership type. Benefit members are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and associate members are eligible to lead one per calendar year.

Over the last few years, Our Saviour's Thrivent members have used Action Grants to support many of the Our Saviour's activities, missions, and ministries, outreach, retreats, youth auctions, guest speakers and pastors, and so much more. We have been blessed with the many ways we see God is at work through YOU, and Thrivent's partnership and generosity.

Interested in learning more?

Call your local Thrivent Representative or go to Thrivent.com for information.

Prayers

Judy Stary, Steve Weber, Ron Lentz, and Keith Ray.

We lift up Ron Lentz and family at the death of Annette Lentz.

If you have a pastoral emergency after office hours, call the on-call pastor (331) 305-4381.

Naperville Community Opportunity **Riverwalk Adult Day Services**

Tuesday, March 12, 5:30-6:30pm

Join us in learning about quality adult aging at home at this very important **FREE** presentation. Please arrive between 5:00–5:15pm for registration, refreshments, and networking.

“Nine Key Principles for Caring for a Loved one with Alzheimer’s/ Dementia.” Patricia M. McClure-Chessier reveals practical guidelines on how to handle the disease and adjust to changes within the family system. Patricia developed these nine key principles to help caregivers avoid pitfalls, be effective, and have a more rewarding experience. Patricia M. McClure-Chessier – MBA, MPA is an award-winning author of *“Losing a Hero to Alzheimer’s, The Story of Pearl,”* which is about her personal journey with her mother who had Alzheimer’s.

Riverwalk Adult Day Services is located at the Alfred A. Rubin Riverwalk Center, 305 W. Jackson, Naperville. Refreshments will be served and will include petite sandwiches, fruit, cheese, and dessert, plus beverages.

Please **RSVP** at 630-357-8166 or at www.riverwalkadulthoodservices.com or riverwalkadulthoodcare@aol.com

New Beginnings

Tuesdays, 7:15pm, St. Raphael’s Church. This is a weekly self-help support group. For more details, go to www.newbeginnings-naperville.com

March Events

March 9, Men’s Breakfast
March 14, Active Senior’s Lunch
March 16-17, Women’s Retreat
March 16-17, Children’s Musical

Serving Opportunities

Sunday Hospitality

Sunday Hospitality needs YOU, your small group, or ministry team.

Take time to host or serve as a group for Sunday Hospitality. It’s a great opportunity to serve and host fellowship. Interested? Please contact Debbie Montrose at 630-281-4211 or debbiemontrose@oursaviours.com

Nursery Position:

We have a paid position available in the nursery. If interested, please email at nursery@oursaviours.com.

Refugee needs:

Cribs (must meet current safety standards, no drop sides), children’s clothing from age 0 to ten years; children’s religious books for the Burmese church. Contact Anne annecwenz@wideopenwest.com or 630-961-3961. Thank you.

Donating flowers for the altar:

Honor or memorialize a family member or loved one. Cost is \$30. Contact Holly at 630-355-2522 or Hollymckinney@oursaviours.com.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 10

Worship - 8:00, 9:00, 10:30am (OS)
Sunday School - 9:00, 10:30am (OS)
Dialogues in Faith - 9:00,10:30 (OS)
Worship Service - 10:00am (C)
Sunday School - 10:00am (C)
Children’s show Rehearsal - noon, OS
Surge - noon (C)
Power in Purpose Dinner -5:00pm (OS)
Ignition - 6:00pm (C)

Monday, March 11

Moms Bible Study - 9:00am (OS)

Tuesday, March 12

Bible Study - 9:30 am (OS)
Bach Bells - 1:00pm (OS)
Pickleball - 2:45pm (C)
Bach Ringers - 7:00pm—(OS)
Troop 107 - 7:00pm—(OS)

Wednesday, March 13

Worship Services at noon, and 6:30pm, Soup Supper at 5:15pm. (OS)

Cherubim Choir - 4:30pm (OS)
Seraphim Choir - 4:30pm (OS)
Surge Make-up - 5:00pm (OS)
Praise Express - 6:00pm (OS)
Eagles Wings - 7:00pm (OS)

Thursday, March 14

Men’s Chorale - 6:30pm (OS)
Women’s Chorale - 6:45pm (OS)
Hearts in Puppetry - 6:30pm (OS)
Sanctuary Choir - 7:30pm OS

Friday, March 15

Men’s Group, Bruce Riley- 6:00am
Sainly Stuffers - 9:00am (OS)
Pickleball - 1:30pm (C)

Saturday, March 16

Worship Service, Children’s Musical part of worship - 5:00pm (OS)

Sunday, March 17

Worship - 8:00, 9:00, 10:30am (OS)
Sunday School - 9:00, 10:30am (OS)
(Children’s Musical part of 10:30am Service with ice cream social after. Everyone is invited to attend).
Dialogues in Faith - 9, 10:30am (OS)
Worship Service - 10:00am (C)
Sunday School -10:00 am (C)
Surge - noon (C)
Power in Purpose - 5:00pm (OS)
Ignition - 6:00pm (C)