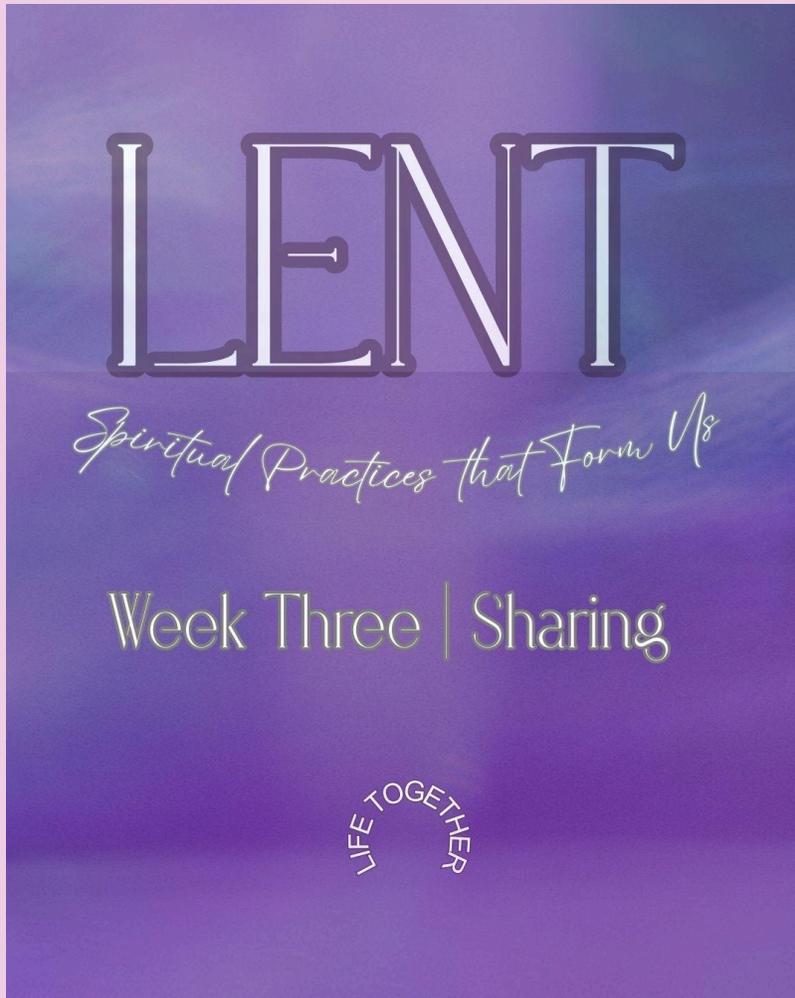


Lutheran Church
OUR SAVIOURS



Lenten Weekly Devotional & Connections

March 6, 2026



A Message from the Pastors

Lent calls us to loosen our grip on our time, our resources, and even our assumptions. Sharing is not about scarcity, but about trust: trusting that God's abundance grows when it is given away. As we practice sharing this season, we participate in God's work of building community, where no one stands alone, and everyone has a place at the table. Words are a way of showing what we choose to share with the world.

How will you use words that encourage, heal, and build up this season?

This is a season to try new or recommit to faith and spiritual practices on the journey to the cross. If you'd like to make a commitment to "Life Together" this season, join in on the ["Lenten Practice for Life Together"](#) as a commitment to pray and be prayed for by your pastors and faith community this

season. You can also visit the Pastor Moments [tab](#) on our website to watch Pastor Ben's video, inviting us to share if the Bible stories we grew up with have something new to say.

Walking the Way: The Memorial Garden Labyrinth

This season, we are raising \$10,000 to complete a labyrinth in the Memorial Garden at our Celebration Campus. A generous gift from Jeff Colaianni and Alexandra Colaianni launched this project in memory of Jeff's father, Angelo Colaianni. A labyrinth is not a puzzle to solve, but a path to walk, inviting reflection, renewal, and new life. Your gift helps bring this sacred space to completion. Watch Jeff's Impact Video [here](#).

The "Walking the Way" labyrinth fundraiser held on Sunday, March 1, was a resounding success! It was truly a wonderful gathering that brought us together as a community to dream and plan for an inspiring space dedicated to prayer, remembrance, and healing. During the event, participants had the chance to explore beautiful drawings that showcased the vision for this lasting space. It was heartening to see so many engaged individuals eager to discuss ways to help make this dream a reality.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved, we raised a nice amount of funds to support our mission. However, we still have a little way to go in reaching our ultimate goal.

Total cost of labyrinth: \$24,000
Amount raised to date: \$20,119
Amount remaining to raise: \$3,881

We appreciate every contribution and encourage everyone to continue spreading the word and supporting this meaningful project. Together, we can create a restorative space that will benefit our community for years to come!

Click [here](#) to make a donation. (Indicate Labyrinth Fund in the memo.)



Labyrinth: A Path of Grace

Luann Gerth, a self-proclaimed labyrinth enthusiast, shared a poem she had composed specifically for the evening. We invite you to take a moment to enjoy her heartfelt words.

The first time I experienced a labyrinth, was on a cold gymnasium floor
And as soon as I completed my walk, **I knew I wanted more**

It was over twenty years ago, a piece of canvas on the ground
A path was drawn upon it, candles were lit all around

I was at my sister's church, people gathered in the space
Where two or more are gathered—**grace upon grace upon grace**

Each one started at a different time, walking the path so slow
Praying or listening or meditating, feeling the candles' glow

I was hooked at that very moment; went back there a time or two
And then I searched other spaces, finding labyrinths anew

On the riverwalk in Naperville, a brick labyrinth is found right there
A grassy one in Plano, at a retreat center I hold dear

There's one at Holden Village, rocks wind along the lane
Another at an Indiana convent, amid a grassy plain

So what is the draw to these labyrinths, you ask?
Why do people go to them, what then is the task?

Labyrinths date back 4000 years or more
They're found in many churches and along the grassy shores

There are multiple designs, classical ones include the cross
A labyrinth is not a maze, in a labyrinth you won't get lost

You can choose your attitude when the path you begin
Will you pray, sing or meditate, you decide within

For me, **I pause at the entrance, with deep breaths** I start
I step in and meditate, and **listen with my heart**

Sometimes a verse, a song or hymn comes to my open ear
Or **I listen to the wind**, singing birds or whatever's near

I slowly walk the path until I reach the sweet, center spot
A sense of relief and calm, consumes me more often than not

Once I've paused, for whatever feels to me just right
I start my journey outward, thankful phrases I recite

With each turn I breathe again, **releasing all my fears**
This quiet, simple practice, I've loved throughout the years

When I find myself at the exit, I often turn around
To observe the labyrinth and **the grace there I've found**

To me there's something holy, for me it's a sacred space
A time for me to feel the love, like I'm seeing the Saviour's face

What I like about a labyrinth, is that there's **no right way**
You get to choose your attitude, depending on your day

Are you feeling grief, are you feeling joy...the labyrinth is there
To provide a space for you to walk, sing a song, or say a prayer

And the thought of a labyrinth here, to me **feels like a dream**

Something I've only imagined, and I'm so thankful for this team

Who have worked hard on this project, to make it a reality
Something for all, young and old alike, a path for you and me.

This event is just the start of a place to **bring us pause,**
I hope that you will see, this labyrinth's a wonderful cause

So thank you for listening to my little tale, something close to my heart
I'm elated about our labyrinth and can't wait for this project to start!

Lent 2026 | T-shirts & Hoodies

50% of
proceeds → Labyrinth
Fund

←
Build Cool Prayer
Labyrinth



YES. Actually, I DO want a T-Shirt or Hoodie **BUTTON**

Season of Lent

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

On Ash Wednesday, we entered a season that shapes us through the shared practices of belonging, listening, serving, and hope-filled waiting. *Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are invited.* Know that there is a place for you in this season of grace and new life.

- **Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship & Meals: Feb. 25 through March 25**
 - Worship 12pm and 5:30 pm, Our Saviour's Campus
- **Daily Lenten Devotional and Calendar will be available in print and online.**
- **Spiritual Practice Groups and Bible Study**
- **Acts of Service Throughout Lent**
- **Friday Concert Series at Our Saviour's Campus: March 6 and 13, 12 pm**
- **Augustana Band Concert: Saturday, March 21, 1 pm**
- **Holy Week: March 29 through April 4**
- **Easter Sunday: April 5**

Details are available on our [website](#).

Volunteer

HELP DURING HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Every Sunday, friendly volunteers help make worship run smoothly:

- Handing out bulletins • Reading scripture • Running the slides
- Making the coffee appear like a small miracle

Kind volunteers. Faithful helpers. People just like you.

Help make Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter welcoming for everyone.

- ✓ Choose the roles that interest you ✓ Pick the service you attend
- ✓ Training provided (even for tech!)

Click on the link below and we'll follow up with details.

We are grateful for you!

Click [HERE](#) to make Holy Week Volunteering a reality!(It's FUN to click on buttons!) Trust us, it will make you smile.

Midweek Meetup Lent Edition

ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS BIBLE STUDY

One reason the Gospels are so full of energy is that Jesus never stood still. He was on the move (on foot!) throughout his entire ministry, at least several thousand miles. Everywhere he went, Jesus impacted the lives of a stunningly broad range of people: from a socially outcast woman to a wealthy prince to a Gentile woman to leprous outcasts to mourning travelers.

These encounters on the road resonate today because Jesus so clearly understood and responded to the needs, motivations, and desires of the person(s) with whom he interacted. We 21st-century Christians are no different from them.

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent for an open discussion Bible study of five of Jesus's encounters on the road and how each one impacts our lives. Bible Study [Sign-Up](#).

DATE	WHO	THEME
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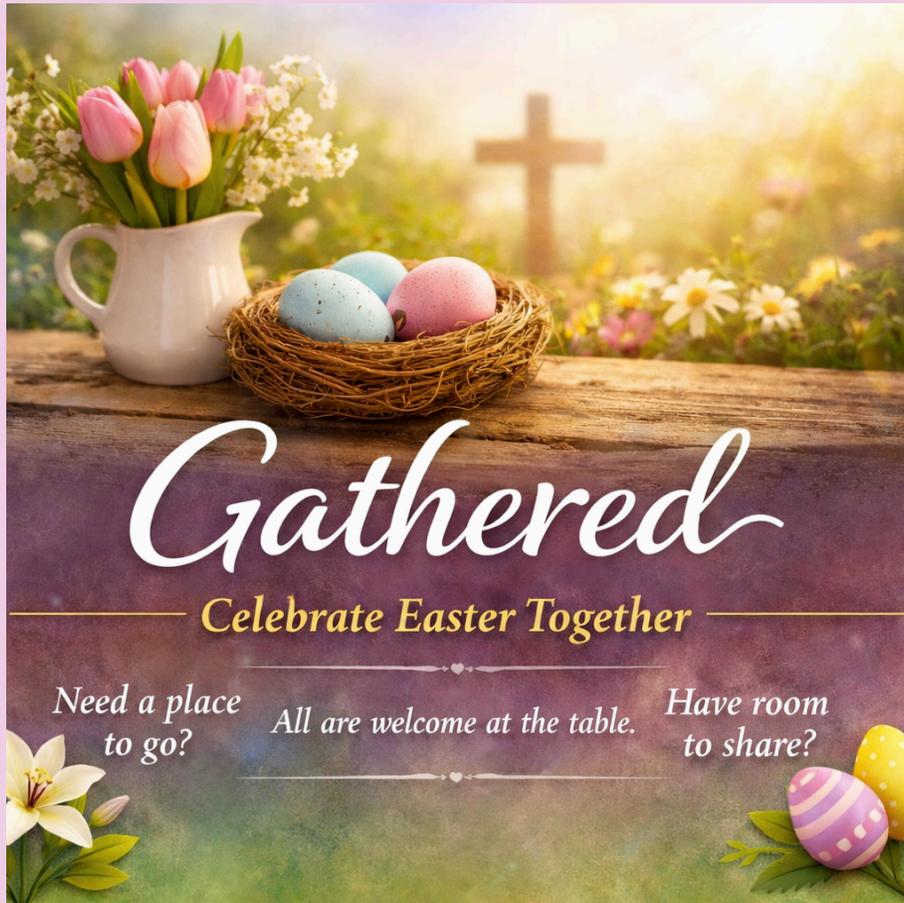
MARCH 11	THE SYORPHOENICIAN WOMAN	FAITH
MARCH 18	JESUS' FRIEND MARTHA	WORK/LIFE BALANCE
MARCH 25	TWO TRAVELERS ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS	WALKING WITH JESUS

Order Easter Lilies and Pies

Easter Lilies: Help us fill our Sanctuary and the Celebration Stage with the beauty and fragrance of Easter lilies as we celebrate the joy of the resurrection. Each plant is \$25 and may be dedicated in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special. Let's adorn our worship spaces with signs of new life and hope this Easter Season. Order your lilies [here](#).

Easter Pies for Mozambique: Crafted with love and just the right touch of sweetness. These pies are perfect for sharing; they come in an assortment of flavors to satisfy every taste bud and dietary need (all pies are available gluten-free). A beloved staple at Our Saviour's, these pies shine throughout the year. There's truly no better way to conclude your Easter meal than with a warm slice of homemade pie, infused with God's Love and made especially for you. All proceeds are directed to food, health, and education initiatives in Mozambique.

- Pick up is from 10-11:00 am on Saturday, April 4, at Celebration Campus. Cost is \$30. Last day to order is Monday, March 30.
- Coconut cream with meringue, Apple, Cherry, Triple Berry, Strawberry Rhubarb, Lemon Merigue, Key Lime
- Order on the Mozambique Mission page or by clicking [here](#).



Gathered: Easter Hospitality: At Easter, we celebrate the hope and new life found in Jesus' resurrection. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus often gathered people around a table, welcoming those who might otherwise feel alone or overlooked. Again and again, he showed us that hospitality is a powerful way we reflect God's love.

***Gathered** is a simple way our congregation lives out that spirit.*

For Easter, members of our church are invited to open their homes to share a meal and celebrate with others in our congregation. Whether you are far from family, new to the area, navigating a difficult season, or simply hoping to spend the holiday with others, there is a place for you.

This isn't about hosting a perfect gathering. It's about making room at the table and living into our OSLC Welcome Statement.

If you would enjoy joining someone for Easter or feel called to open your home to others, we would love to help you be **Gathered** together.

To become a host, please complete this [volunteer form](#).

To request hosting, please complete this [form](#).

| Lent Spiritual Practice |

<service to others>

| Loaves and Fishes Protein Collection |

Week of March 2 | Peanut Butter

Week of March 9 | Paper Towels

Bring to:

Our Saviour's Campus Mission Corner | Celebration Mission Bin

BRING YOUR OWN MUG (BYOM)

Caring for God's creation can start with small, everyday choices, and we are making it easier to do just that. New recycling bins are now available year-round at both campuses for items that are often difficult to recycle, such as crayons, bread tags, old keys, pop tabs, ink cartridges, and eyeglasses. And during Lent, we're bringing back **BYOM** (Bring Your Own Mug), a simple invitation to skip the disposable coffee cups and bring a reusable mug from home. Together, these small actions add up to a meaningful way we can care for the world God has entrusted to us.



CARING FOR CREATION

Please Recycle the Following Items In the Containers



Bread Tags



Pop Tabs



No cases please!

Eyeglasses



No fobs or chains, please!

Keys



Crayons



Ink Cartridges

This Weekend's Gospel Reading

John 4: 5-42

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, hired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is that you are a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that Living Water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship Him."

²⁴God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

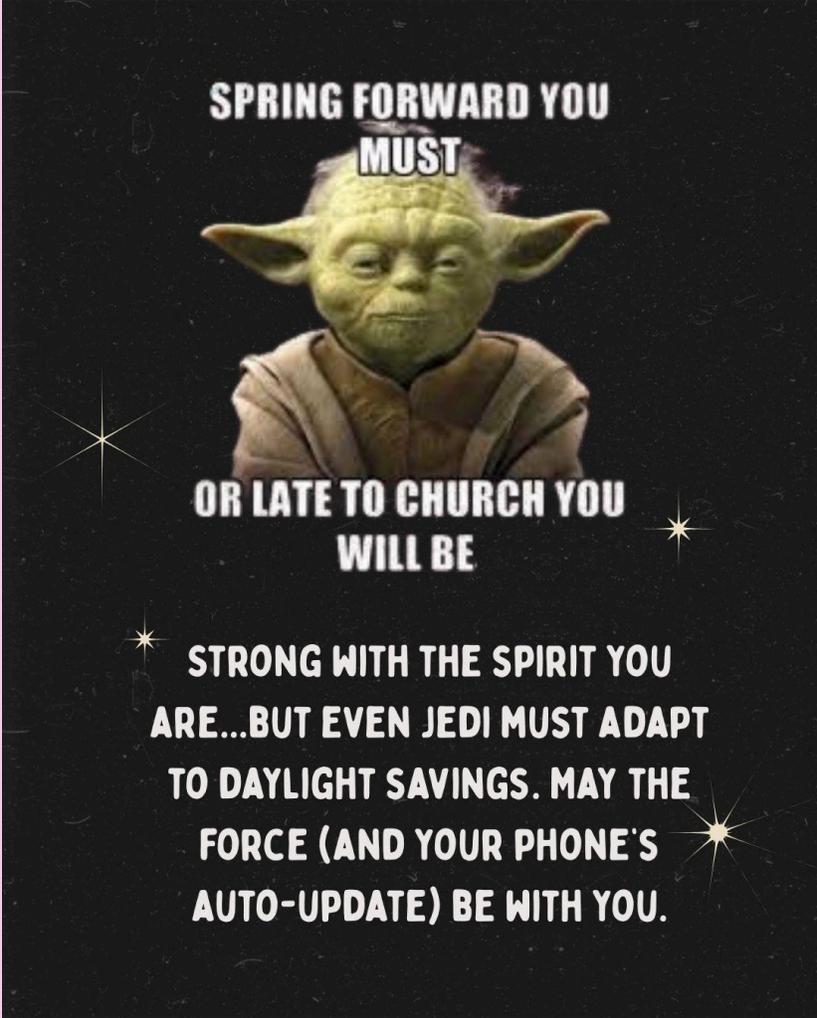
²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about. ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest? But I tell you, look around you and see how the fields are right for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering food for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, but we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

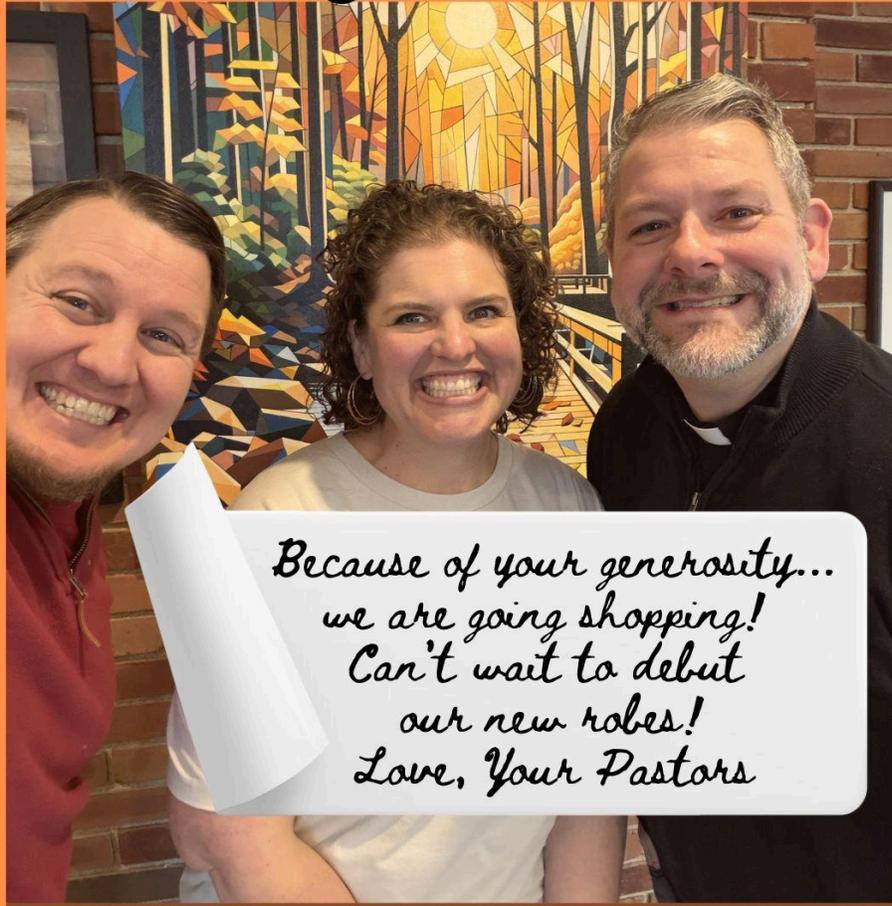
Worship this Weekend

Daylight Savings: Galactic Time Shift



Love Your Pastor Campaign
Robed in Love

Thank you, Church!



*Because of your generosity...
we are going shopping!
Can't wait to debut
our new robes!
Love, Your Pastors*

Upcoming Events



Feed the Need Mobile Pack THIS Weekend

Feed the Need 2026 will be March 7-8! We hope you visit our Feed My Starving Children Missions [page](#) for more information, registration, and sign-up opportunities! You can see our latest FMSC videos on our Life Together Highlights page.

FEED THE NEED!™



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT! TWO WAYS TO FEED THE HUNGRY.

HELP SUPPORT OUR
COMMUNITY PARTNER!



Loaves & Fishes
Community Services

This year, Feed the Need! Illinois is thinking global *and* local.

While we work together to pack nutritious meals for children around the world with FMSC, we're also stocking the shelves right here at home.

We've partnered with Loaves & Fishes Community Services to collect much-needed food items for our neighbors in need. When you arrive for your packing shift, look for the collection bins by the registration desk!

When: During your scheduled packing shift.

Where: Registration area at the MobilePack.

What: Bring a non-perishable food item to help feed our local community. See list of most needed items!

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- CANNED PROTEIN (TUNA, SALMON, CHICKEN)
- CANNED/ DRIED FRUIT
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- SOUP
- SPAGHETTI SAUCE
- WHOLE WHEAT PASTAS
- INSTANT AND WHOLE OATMEAL
- WHOLE GRAIN CEREALS
- RICE, COUSCOUS & GRAINS
- PEANUT BUTTER
- CANNED TOMATOES



SORRY - THEY CANNOT ACCEPT:
CANDY - SODA - ENERGY DRINKS

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS ALSO:

- TOILET PAPER
- DEODORANT
- TOOTH PASTE
- BODY WASH
- SHAMPOO
- PAPER TOWELS
- HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS
- KLEENEX



MARCH 7-8, 2026!

B Benedictine
University

Don't Miss...

- **Dialogues in Faith:** Sunday, March 8, at 10:15 am Nic Faison, Illinois Outreach Director with Faith in Place, will join us to introduce her work supporting environmental justice. Faith in Place partners with communities across Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana to support projects like sustainable energy, native gardens and trees, and environmental advocacy. Come meet Nic, learn more about Caring for Creation efforts, and bring your questions!
- **Make a Garden Stepping Stone:** Friday, March 20, 7-9 pm, Celebration Campus. Fee \$20. Limited to 20 participants. Contact: Susan Szymanski 630-605-5119 or Swan716@comcast.net

COMMUNITY & COURAGE

Weekend

- **Braver Angels Workshop: Depolarizing Ourselves:** Sponsored by the Chicagoland Alliance. Join us Saturday, March 14, 9 am –11 am, at the Our Saviour’s Campus, for this free in-person event.

Have you ever wondered, “Am I the problem?” This interactive and engaging workshop explores how polarization shapes the way we see and speak about others. Participants will learn to recognize their own “inner polarizer,” challenge ideas without dismissing people, and disagree without demonizing or stereotyping.

Open to anyone who wants practical tools for healthier, more constructive conversations. Register [here](#) on Eventbrite. (Use promo code BRAVER)

- **Community Sing-In:** Join us on Sunday, March 15, 12:30-2:30 pm at Celebration Campus to sing for dignity, safety, and collective care. This is a welcoming space for reflection, joy, and peaceful resistance against oppression. No experience needed. All music is taught in the moment. *If you can hum, you can come!* Community matters! Invite a neighbor, invite a friend...come and sing! Email [here](#) for more information.

VBS 2026

JUST LIKE ME: An inclusive, 5-day experience for pre-K through 5th grade! Will take place June 22-26, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. VBS will be held on Sunday during the 11 a.m. service on June 28. Picnic lunch and games to follow! Register a participant [here](#). Register to volunteer [here](#).



Portillos Night
Celebration
Children's Center

You're invited to a
Portillo's®
FUNDRAISER



Join us at Portillo's for a fundraiser to support:

Celebration Children's Center

When:
Monday, March 9, 2026
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

at the Portillo's located at:
950 E. Ogden Ave.
Naperville, IL

20% of sales will benefit your organization. Order online or in app for pickup using code **PORTILLOS10** before checkout in the "Coupon Code" this flyer or a digital version to cashier when ordering at the restaurant. Valid on drive thru, pickup, kiosk, and in restaurant orders.

Portillo's
FOR GOOD

portillos.com/community

For online/app orders to qualify for the fundraiser, orders must be placed for pickup only, from the participating restaurant, on the fundraiser date and during the listed fundraiser hours. Gift card purchases, delivery orders, and orders placed on the third party websites are excluded from the fundraiser. Online ordering subject to availability. \$200 minimum fundraising sales required for the organization to receive donation. Cannot be combined with other offer codes.

WE'RE HIRING! APPLY AT PORTILLOS.COM/CAREERS

Highlights Gallery Tab

Not on Social Media? No problem!

Come here to find the latest photo and video recaps.

- **NEW [Life Together Videos](#):**
 - Feed the Need! OSLC over the years and Why FMSC
 - An Evening with the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (Music, Art, and a call to action)
- **NEW [Pastor Moments Videos](#):** Words, reflections, and conversations with our Pastors. Pastor Elisabeth tells us about the Nebraska Wind and the Holy Spirit. And Pastor Ben gets animated!
- **NEW [Impact Video](#) page:** There will be a new video from the pastors during worship this weekend. Head to our website on Monday to view it if you won't be there to join us this weekend.

Weekend Worship

Our Saviour's Campus

- Saturday: 5 p.m.
- Sunday: 9 & 11 a.m.

Celebration Campus

- Sunday: 10 a.m

For livestreamed and recorded worship services, click [HERE](#).

***All Worship information, including the weekend bulletin, is now located on the OSLC [HOME](#) page.**

Looking to make your 2026 financial pledge to Our Saviour's? You can do so securely online through Realm [HERE](#).

Welcome Statement

Council Minutes

Online Giving

Knowing Jesus and Making Jesus Known

Two campuses - one mission

815 S. Washington St
919 S. Washington St.
Church office: 630-355-2522

oursaviours.com



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church | 815 South Washington | Naperville, IL 60540 US

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