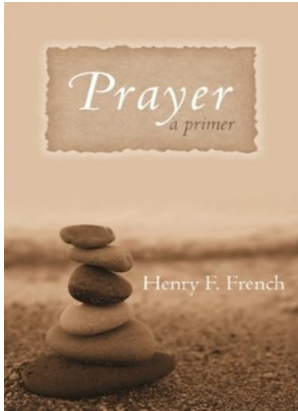




The Messenger



FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR



COMING IN MARCH: Lenten Midweek Discussion of Prayer: A Primer

Prayer is often identified by people of faith as of first importance in the life of faith, at the same time, it is one of the least understood and least consistently used of spiritual practices among ordinary Christians. *Prayer: A Primer*, clears up misconceptions and myths about prayer that often stand in the way of actually praying, and offers the reader "a way in" to a life grounded in and enriched by daily prayer. A variety of forms of verbal prayer, meditation, and contemplation (or the prayer of silence) are clearly described with the needs and questions of beginners at prayer in mind. The book aims — through prayer — to move beginners at prayer to a growing and deepening awareness of God's presence in our complex and often morally ambiguous world. Books will be available in the church office in the beginning of February for a \$15 donation.

The midweek discussions will be begin at 6:30 PM starting Wednesday March 1.

Ash Wednesday Worship Feb 22 at 7:00 PM.

Ash & Dash 7:00-8:30AM at Westmont PATCO Station

Ash Wednesday worship has long heralded the beginning of Lent. On Feb 22 at 7:00PM The Lutheran Church of Our Savior will hold this worship service of confession, reflection, and the imposition of ashes to begin the Lenten journey toward Holy Week and Easter. This evening service will also be available by livestream. Click on the SPECIAL SERVICE link from our website homepage.

This ancient ritual is filled with spiritual significance for Christians. Here are the main ones. "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These are the words spoken by the pastor as an ashen cross is smudged on one's brow. Like the words spoken at a funeral committal, ashes are a reminder of our mortality and finitude. They remind us we cannot escape death, no matter how hard we may try to keep it at arm's length or deny its reality in our lives.

Ashes remind us how at one time they were rubbed on one's skin to eliminate hard to remove dirt. Lent is also a time of cleansing and renewal. We pray along with the psalmist to "create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me", and are reminded of God's cleansing Spirit of renewal in our lives.

Finally, because the smudged cross is made with ashes mixed with oil, we are reminded of the mark with oil placed on our brow at baptism. We remember the promise we were given, "Child of God, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit, and marked with the cross of Christ forever." In the waters of baptism we have been joined to both the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And while the ashes remind us of our eventual death, the smudged cross reminds us death does not have the last word. As people "of the smudge" we are people who trust in the resurrection to new life it offers through faith in the risen Christ. In Lent we journey both toward the cross and the empty tomb. And this gives us hope.

In these days we need a reminder of hope as we rush from one place to the next. So **Pastor Wayne Zschech** and any who choose to join him will be offering the imposition of ashes at the Westmont PATCO station for an "Ash & Dash Experience" from 7:00-8:30 am on February 22. Contact Pastor Wayne if you want to join him on Ash Wednesday at the station.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a faith community that worships Jesus as our Lord, proclaims and shares God's Word, welcomes all people, serves human needs, and nurtures personal and spiritual growth through fellowship all to the glory of God.



“What Defines a Welcoming Church?”

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

What defines a “welcoming” church? I received an email from a woman who was visiting from out West during the holidays who shared how “unwelcomed” she felt when attending our Christmas Eve worship service. No one greeted her. No one said anything to her as she sat in her pew and others began to fill in pews around her. While she enjoyed the sermon, carols, choir, and candlelight portions of the worship she was disappointed that the first welcoming words she heard were mine as she was leaving that night.

In my response I thanked her for her candid and caring critique of our congregation’s inactions that created such a feeling of unfriendliness and being unwelcomed at Our Savior on Christmas Eve. I invited her to give us another chance if she is ever back in the area again as many of our visitors who become new members share a common quality of why they kept coming back to Our Savior. “This congregation was just so welcoming to us we felt right at home!” I didn’t defend, deny, or debate her experience as I can completely understand why she may have felt unwelcomed on Christmas Eve. My top three reasons would be:

1. Christmas Eve worshippers may be infrequent worshippers themselves and unaccustomed to greeting people in the pews with words of welcome.
2. Parishioners may fear welcoming someone they don’t recognize as a visitor and thereby offending a member of 40 years who attends the other worship service on Sundays.
3. Families with out-of-town guests (grandparents, parents, etc.) may be more focused on their own family getting settled in for and during worship on Christmas Eve than being sure those around them are feeling welcomed and greeted.

However, the above reasons don’t negate this woman’s experience of unwelcomeness on Christmas Eve and it is not the reputation I would imagine any of our congregation would want anyone to have regardless of the type of worship service being celebrated. We may be welcoming most of the time, but are there ways everyone can be more welcoming every time we gather to hear God’s word and share in the Lord’s meal? I believe there is.

Here are my tips for every person to be welcoming to anyone they encounter who gathers for worship or any other ministry activity.

1. **Greet three people you don’t know.** You may have your church friends you sit with during Coffee Time or during worship, but I know there will likely be three people you don’t know. Make a point to identify them and say “Hello” sometime during worship.
2. **Introduce yourself.** Don’t assume they are visitors. The greeting can be as simple as this; “Hello, I’m Wayne. I don’t think I know you. I’m glad you’re here today.” This greeting doesn’t assume they are a visitor as they may be a member who attends a different worship service. Most likely they will share if their name and if they are a member or not. If they are a visitor, you might offer the third tip.

Invite them to join you/your group. If you’re worshipping, invite them to join you in your pew. If you’re having coffee or at a church meal invite them to join your table. This is a big ask but makes a HUGE impression on visitors and ensures they can follow along with the worship if our Lutheran liturgy is a bit foreign to them.

The woman who joined us on Christmas Eve said she might give us another chance when she visits again. I hope she does. And when she does, I hope her experience is like what so many others have found when worshipping at Our Savior. I hope she finds that she is welcomed here because all are welcome here. Let me know how these tips work out for you and don’t be surprised if you make a few new friends in the process.

6-Week Bible Study on Romans begins Feb 13/15

Paul’s letter to the Romans is very different than any of his other letters. Paul addresses many of the important questions that arise when one considers the relationship between God and creation, as well as topics such as salvation and grace. Participants will engage in vibrant discussion around each of these topics in the course.

This **6-session** Bible study explores selected passages from the book of Romans. While the whole book of Romans will be read the following selected readings and topics will be covered on the corresponding dates. Participants will receive a participant book with background and questions to enhance group discussion of the topics. The Monday night group meets from 7:00-8:30 PM and the Wednesday group meets from 9:30-11:00 AM. The groups both meet in Conference Room 112.

Feb 13/15: What must I do to be saved? (Romans 3:9-31)

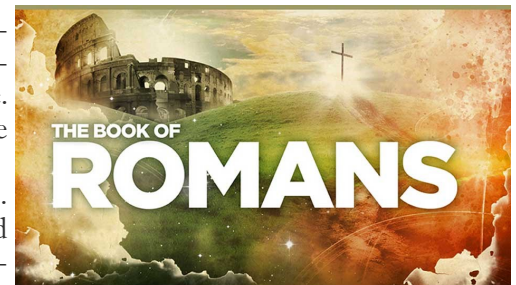
Feb 20/22: Saved by grace . . . isn’t that too good to be true? (Romans 5:1-11)

Feb 27/Mar 1: If what I do doesn’t save me, does it matter how I live? (Romans 6:1-23)

Mar 6/8: Where is God when we suffer? (Romans 8:18-39)

Mar 13/15: How can I keep from sinning? (Romans 10:1-21)

Mar 20/22: What does God want from us? (Romans 12:1-21)





Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Mike Stolarick, Lee Sargent, Janis Rice, Susan Myers, Carolyn Malecka, Louise Bader, Noelle Corressel, Clive Crosby, Doris Rell, Dick Wilson, Shirley Stambaugh, Caryl Wallace, *Shuvanon Shabid*, John Breitling, Debbie Hodulik, Kody Schneider, Dolores Littleton, Kelly Mosteller, Maggie Koehler, Joe Melchiorre, Angela Melchiorre, Frederick Kluck, Gene Richards, Baby Sheamus Joseph Kinnarney, Mike DiMartini, *Shuvanon Shabid*, Eric Kelly, Shellee Conley, Steven Alutore, Brenda Jarger, Dale & Maureen Runge, Lois Cummins, Suzanne Ferguson, Rich DeBella, Ralph Volpe, Charles Bakes, Jack Kain, Peggy Miller, Rosemary Dougherty, Caren Kaufman, Colin Lawlor, Amelia Marchese, Albert Kern, Michelle Mavis, John Rell, Larry Thatcher, Scott Hansen, Abby Phelps, Bill Getty, Carmela Crawford, Jacob Berard, Keith Maull, Connie Verner, Judy Yerkes, Daniel Mandel, Susan Mazeika, Saunders Family, Barbara Kerrane, Sandy Ferguson, Terry Mitchell, Bette Roncace, Nicholas Juele, Beckham Williams, Ed Clark, Col. Fred C. Anderson, Fred Mofitt, Lily Gregorio, Julie Bartlett, Jimmy Lombardo, Betty Schurmann, Elva Mastrando, Chuck Atkinson, Sophia Campos, William T family, Ryan Roberts, Ed Miller, David Wenck

Pantry

Thank you for your continuing generosity! We are serving 11 Families: 41 people including, 18 Adults, 14 Teens and 9 Children.

Pantry Families Thank You: Thank you so much for all the very useful groceries and gift cards. Prices have really shot up and I really appreciate your kindness. The gift cards really help a lot, thank you." "Thank you for all you do. The special items of cat food, litter and cat toys are very much appreciated. Sklyer and Buddy are having fun. My heart goes out to whoever donated them for their loss. Thank the congregation again for their gen-



- Canned meat
- Rice packets
- Cereal
- Canned chicken, tuna
- Acme or Shop-Rite Gift Cards
- Monetary Donations

erosity."

Poinsettia Delivery Thank You!

Thank you to a record number of people who came on December 26 to help deliver poinsettias!

The Querns Family with a special shoutout to Paul for his expert wagon skills!

Eva & Stacey Shaw

Betsy Kuehn

Cindy Murphy

Bob & Nancy Dempsey

Cheryl Hastings

Jeanne Coleman-Jones and to

Marianne Aponte who heads this important ministry!



Sisters in Spirit Collecting Food for Church Food Pantries

The economy may be slowly improving for some, and inflation is gradually coming under control, but hunger remains a major problem for many. The demand never stops at the food pantries at Our Savior and at Bridge of Peace Community Church. To help keep their pantry shelves full, Sisters in Spirit is once again sponsoring a February food drive to benefit both churches. Food donations for LCOS may be placed in the supermarket cart just inside the church lower level sliding doors. During February please place any donations for Bridge of Peace in the pantry bins across from the office. You also may drop off or mail check donations for LCOS to the church office. Bridge of Peace donations may be mailed to Connie Wolf at 310 Portsmouth Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034. VENMO money donations may be sent to Connie using @connie-wolf-1.

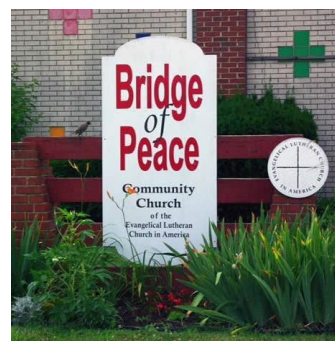
Especially needed by Bridge of Peace

Packages of mac & cheese
Canned pasta (Spaghettios, etc.)
Soup
Canned fruit
Canned vegetables
Canned tuna and chicken
Spaghetti sauce in cans or plastic bottles
Paper goods
Laundry & cleaning supplies
Toilet paper, paper towels, tissues
Feminine hygiene products

Especially needed by LCOS

Packages of mac & cheese
Canned meat
Meals in a can
Canned tuna
Individual rice packets
Cereal
Toilet paper, paper towels
Tooth paste
Tooth brushes
Soap

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!





Transforming White Privilege Workshop; 7 PM Friday, Feb 3 – 5:00 PM Saturday, Feb 4

What is white privilege? How has it been misinterpreted? How does it contribute to systemic racism? These are just some of the questions participants will address in this 9-hour workshop over the course of Friday night and Saturday. The goal of the workshop is to help people better identify, talk about, and intervene to address white privilege and its consequences.

Why attend?

In the 2019 ELCA Statement to People of African Descent we claim at the end of the document, “An apology is only empty words and promises unless it is accompanied by action, which is grounded in prayer, education, and soul-searching repentance.” This workshop works toward beginning such a journey.

What will we talk about? Some are:

- Understanding the system of inequity
- Accumulated advantages for whites and accumulated disadvantages for people of color
- Clarity on the different types of white privilege
- The impact of internalized racism and internalized privilege

What skills will be learned?

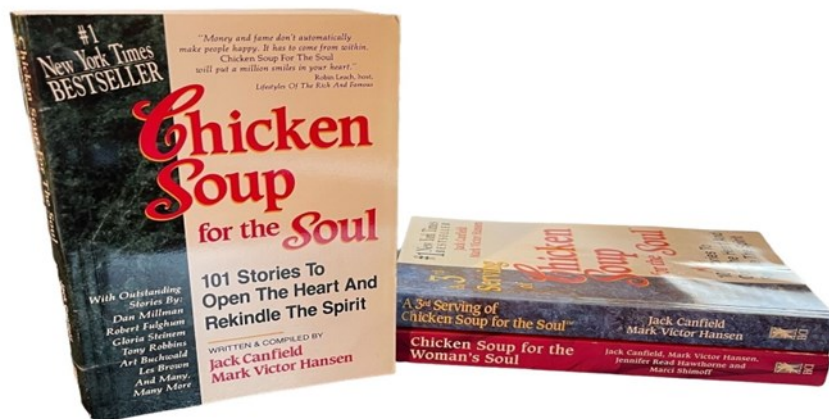
- Identifying and analyzing white privilege and white culture, and practicing how to address them in different settings
- How to identify entry points for conversation and transformation
- How to talk about white privilege and structural racism with individuals and groups

What are some hopeful outcomes?

By the conclusion of the training, we hope participants will:

- Be aware of how white privilege operates
- Learn more about how to instigate change in one's sphere of influence
- Increase one's confidence in talking about white privilege
- Advance their ability to make a compelling case for addressing white privilege

Interested in attending? Here's what you need to know. The cost is free. Participants are asked to arrive between 6:30-7:00 PM to meet and get to know other participants. The workshop will begin promptly at 7:00 PM and then continue again at 9:00 AM on Saturday before concluding by 5:00 PM. Lunch will be provided on Saturday. Please call the church office, 856-429-5122, or email Sandy, lcossandy@gmail.com to reserve your spot and to ensure we have enough materials for everyone.



Check out our large selection
of Chicken Soup For The Soul books.

~ The Library Ladies





Justice and Peace Committee: Looking Behind the News

Should Black history be limited to one month?

(Historical content and quotes from *Wikipedia*)

What began as Negro History Week in 1926 as a way to remember important people and events in the history of the African diaspora is now observed in the US as a month-long focus on the accomplishments and achievements of Black Americans. Black History also is officially recognized in Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Germany.

The precursor to Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States by historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The second week of February was chosen because it coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and Frederick Douglass on February 14, dates that Black communities had celebrated since the late 19th century. Woodson felt that the teaching of Black History was essential to ensure the physical and intellectual survival of the race within broader society: "If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated." Education departments of North Carolina, Delaware and West Virginia and the school districts of Baltimore, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C took part in the first Negro History Week. The observance week grew in popularity throughout the following decades, with state departments of education, churches and mayors across the United States endorsing it as a holiday.

Black educators and students at Kent State University proposed the idea of a US Black History Month, and the first celebration took place there from January 2 to February 28, 1970. Within six years Black History Month was being celebrated across the country in schools and centers of Black culture, both great and small. President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976, during US Bicentennial, saying that Americans should "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

In the Black community Black History Month was met with enthusiastic response, but it was not without its critics and controversy. Some questioned why celebrate Black history for just one month, as opposed to integrating it into mainstream education all year. Others feared that American schools would only portray Black historical figures as slaves or colonial objects. Critics refer to the celebration as a form of racism. Actor-director Morgan Freeman and actor Stacey Dash have criticized the concept of declaring only one month as Black History Month. Freeman noted, "I don't want a Black history month. Black history is American history."

Even so, Black History Month has grown beyond its start in educational institutions to include observances and events throughout most American institutions. News media, TV, social networks, libraries, museums, churches, civic groups, just about every aspect of American life includes a nod to Black culture in their February programming. Not to be left behind or to overlook a consumer group, corporate America has become part of it all. Coca-Cola, Google, Target, Macy's, UPS, Under Armour—to name a few—all commemorate Black History Month.

But the question remains: When will we as Americans recognize that from the beginning, Black history has been American history?

Black History Month at Our Savior

This February at Our Savior we have the opportunity to take part in the Transforming White Privilege Workshop (Feb. 4-5). The Justice & Peace Committee is proud to support this effort with Pastor Wayne in understanding the impacts of racism on White people, as well as Black. Please prayerfully consider how joining us can enrich your life. We hope to see you there. Email or call the church office to register. The work is cumulative, so you must attend Friday's session in order to also be part of Saturday's.



EPIC (Experienced Persons in Community)

The EPIC (Experienced Persons in Community) Group looks forward to seeing you whenever you can join us; we gather again on Tuesday, February 28 at noon for another enjoyable lunch and afternoon of cards, Mexican Train, and fellowship. Each month we will meet on the 4th Tuesday. Invite your friends of all ages to join us, the more the merrier!

The schedule for the year is: Feb. 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27



It would be helpful for me if you would RSVP a week before the scheduled date so that I can purchase enough food and drinks for everyone.

Please RSVP to : Judy Caravelli Text/Call: 609 471-5830 Email: 2006jac@comcast.net

We are asking each person to make a one-time donation for the year, up to June of 2023, which will help defray the costs of the lunches. Members of Our Savior are asked to pay \$25 and non-members \$35. This can be paid by a check made out to "LCOS" and marked EPIC Group and mailed to the above address or by bringing a check or cash (exact amount please) with you when you attend for the first time.

We hope the cost will not be a burden to you but if it is please talk to me. We also hope you will continue to contribute to our Pantry which helps several families in need in our area. Our Book Cart will be available for you to peruse and if you have books to contribute, we will welcome them. Once again, we look forward to seeing you soon! *Peggy Hartmann*



Songs and Sweets: An Informal Desert Theater Concert

You are cordially invited to Songs and Sweets, a dessert theater experience! On February 11th at 3pm, our choirs will be serenading you with music from everyone's favorite musicals while you get to enjoy some delicious desserts – what's not to love? Think of it as a musical Pre-Valentine's Day (and before the Superbowl)! We will be singing some old school favorites from South Pacific, Phantom of the Opera, Pippin, and many others. If you have a song you love to sing (it can be a duet or trio with a partner, friend, or family), let Pauline know by January 30th and we could include you in the program! Want to contribute a dessert? Just let us know!

Pauline

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR: 2022 YEAR END

2022 NARRATIVE

Year End Envelope Offering exceeded Plan by \$11,766 as a result of the Congregation's generosity. This allowed us to not require Partch or Davis Fund Dedicated Account revenue support and we were able to reduce our Memorial

Gift Fund support from \$31,760 to \$29,289 to balance the 2022 Income Statement.

DEDICATED ACCOUNTS

The Dedicated Accounts continue to be generously supported by the Congregation. In 2022 we established the Justice & Peace and Refugee Relief Accounts to further expand our social ministries.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>2022 YEAR END</u>	<u>2022 BUDGET</u>	<u>2023 BUDGET vs 2022 YE</u>
REVENUE				
Envelopes	451,250	429,766	418,000	21,484
Other Income- Ex				
MGB Support	59,700	30,344	37,652	29,356
Congregational				
Challenge	5,000	0	0	5,000
Memorial Gift				
Board Support	0	29,289	31,760	(29,289)
Total Revenue	515,950	489,399	487,412	26,551
EXPENSE				
Salary & Benefits	343,515	313,702	310,312	29,813
Property	66,625	55,172	54,600	11,453
Administration	48,297	45,056	47,100	3,241
<u>Program Ministries</u>	<u>57,513</u>	<u>75,469</u>	<u>75,400</u>	<u>(17,956)</u>
Total Expense	515,950	489,399	487,412	26,551
INCOME	0	0	0	0

Thank you to all who helped "undock the halls". "Many hands make light work."

We were finished in an hour thanks to Pastor Wayne getting all the containers and ladder out beforehand!

Nancy and Bob Dempsey

Paula Horner

Jeannette Jelonek

Betsy Kuehn

Eva and Stacey Shaw

Pastor Wayne

Pauline Worusski

Dave Wyche

Gabby and Angel Berrios

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Cathe Bare





Sabrina LaBelle, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Lent begins fairly late (February 22) this year. Which means, of course, that Easter is later – April 9. I love when Easter falls squarely in the spring. It seems so appropriate when the warmer weather and all of the new plants springing out of the ground echo the message of the resurrection. We proclaim the message of new life, while being surrounded by new life! According to the ancient church, Lent was meant to begin in the darkness and journey toward the light. We experience that in miniature at the sunrise service on Easter morning, which begins in the predawn darkness and ends after the sun has started to rise.

I have never been one to emphasize giving up something for Lent. I tend to think it involves too much guilt and/or focus on self-improvement rather than making room or making time in our busy schedules for reading, contemplation, or acts of service that we believe God wants us to do. Of course, there's nothing wrong with giving up Facebook or Twitter, sweets, alcohol, phone games, scrolling through social ministry (in my case, I'd love to give up Charades for Lent since my kids have been insisting we play it every day since they received it for Christmas!).

Generally, I'm usually more interested in starting a new habit, picking up a new devotional, or spending more time in prayer than I am in giving anything up. But I was reminded this year that there is some value in occasionally denying ourselves a particular vice. It reminds us that there is very little we could live without. In fact, besides God, the basic necessities that God provides, and our loved ones, we can probably live without everything else in our lives. And that is good to remember every once in a while.

If you are looking for something to give up, I can make one suggestion. How about giving up a little more time than usual each week and really committing to attending church or a new Bible study or a different volunteer opportunity. Time is a precious resource and when we give more of our time to what is most meaningful in our lives, we may just find ourselves having a different kind of Lent experience. I hope you have a meaningful Lent!



Parents of Young Children Fellowship Group

We will be meeting for a playdate in February. Time and place to be determined. If you are interested in taking part in this group or if you have any other ideas for activities for this group, please email Sabrina LaBelle: smgvasta@gmail.com

First Communion classes for 2nd graders

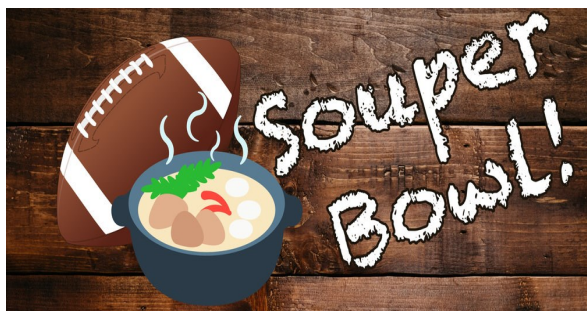
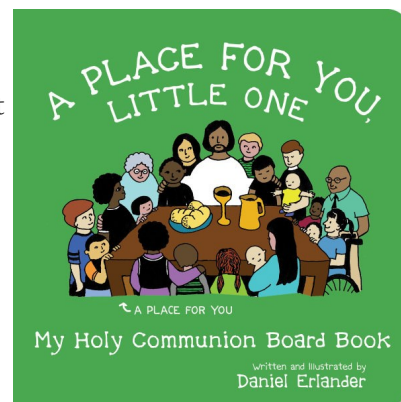
All second graders are invited to participate in the next Faith Stepping Stone, which is preparation for First Communion. 3rd graders are also invited to participate if they have not yet taken First Communion.

There will be three mandatory classes: **Sundays, March 5th, 12th, and 19th, from 10:45 - 11:30** at the church. At least one parent must attend with their child.

In addition, all students will be invited to make a chalice at All Fired Up! in Collingswood on **Saturday, March 11 at 11:00am** as a group (or on your own if you can't make that Saturday time).

First communion will take place on Palm Sunday, April 2, during the 9:30 service.

Please email Sabrina LaBelle, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, with any questions: smgvasta@gmail.com.



Souper Bowl Sunday Feb 12 to Benefit Peace Center Pantry at Bridge of Peace LC

Every year one of the fundraisers the Oasis Youth Group sponsor is Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday to help feed the hungry and homeless. In comparison to the smorgasbord of food some will have spread out on Super Bowl Sunday there are those in our county who would be thankful for a simple bowl of soup. You can help make that a reality in Camden.

Two soup kettles will be put out with the emblem of whoever wins the NFC and AFC Championships (which at this point is really up for grabs as at the time of this article the playoffs begin today) on their own kettle de-

pending on who wins their respective conference title. Despite the outcome of the game later on that day those in worship can determine who "wins" the Souper Bowl by placing donations for one of the two teams in their respective kettle. The kettle with the most cash is the Souper Bowl winner.

Who's playing in Super Bowl LVII doesn't really matter much when you're hungry and on the street. Help those who are hungry this winter with your participation in the youth's version of the Souper Bowl of Caring this year as you leave worship. Show your support for those for whom a bowl of soup means a lot more than a football game. In this bowl "game" the real winners are the hungry who are fed of our land.



Memorial Gifts Fund Corner

2023 has just begun, but let's take a quick look back on 2022 and focus on the Lou Dunkle Endowment Fund. In the establishment of the Endowment Fund, it is the intention of the congregation to provide a means, over and above provisions made in the general operating budget, of fostering local outreach, furthering denominational and ecumenical causes, and addressing special ministries and other purposes set forth herein. Such as: Capital expenditures, Grants, Scholarships, Mission development, Outreach and Special Needs. In 2022, the Lou Dunkle Endowment Fund provided the following support:

\$12,00 to support our Intern Tom Natalini.

\$3000 to Interfaith Caregivers

\$5000 to support the Haddonfield Community Caseworker

\$1000 to help fund June Pride Month and our Justice & Peace Initiative.

\$29,289 toward the Church Operating Budget due to Covid-19 hangover.

\$4,665 for Office Computers.

The above highlights some of the projects supported by the Endowment Fund. The Memorial Gift Board would like to thank Lou Dunkle and members of the congregation for their vision in developing this fund. It is clear the intention of the fund is being faithfully carried out. Now it is our turn. The Lou Dunkle Endowment Fund continues to need contributions for its mission to continue and grow. Do you want to leave a legacy of faithful stewardship to your Church for future generations? The Lou Dunkle Endowment Fund provides members with a vehicle to make contributions to the Fund knowing that the money will be invested and the earnings from those investments will be used to support the future work of the church. Just look at the support provided in 2022 because of the vision of former and current members.

Last January, the Memorial Gift Board approved a method of providing the opportunity for a weekly memorial to honor a loved one which will help fund the growth of the Endowment Fund. This memorial gift to the Endowment Fund (recommended contribution \$25) will work similar to how Altar Flowers are given. The individual honored will be printed in the weekly bulletin and recognized by a yellow rose on the altar. The response to this opportunity has gotten off to a slow start. We hope you will find this opportunity worthwhile and take advantage of honoring a loved one in 2023. A form for this purpose is below and can be found on tables throughout the church. Any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to any member of the board.

LOU DUNKLE ENDOWMENT FUND MEMORIAL GIFT

Date of Memorial _____ Amount given _____

Given by _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Relationship of donor to Memorialized One(s) _____

Make check payable to "LCOS" and mark on the memo line "Endowment Fund"

RETURN FORM TO CHURCH OFFICE

Congregational Support: January – December 2022

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2020	208	\$ 430,989
2021	168*	\$ 410,352
2022	172*	\$ 429,766

* Since March 2021, when church reopened, the in-person attendance at all services is added to the livestream Facebook numbers to get the total number in attendance for any given week. Livestream attendance is calculated using a formula provided by the ELCA: number of one-minute views on livestream multiplied by 2 to get the number of people worshipping by livestream.

Thank You for Your Faithfulness in Being Stewards of God's Love

Thank you to all who put their offering envelopes into the plate in person, mail them to the church office, or give electronically. In 2022 Our Savior's faithful givers brought offering totals to pre-pandemic levels! Thanks very much for sharing your blessings so that others may know God's love.



February 2023 Regular Events

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
8:00 AM Sanctuary Worship, 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship & Facebook Live, 9:30 AM Reflections Worship in Parlor 9:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:40-11:00 AM Cherub Choir 6:30 PM Confirmation	10:00-3:00 Art Class 4:30-6:30 PM Jess 5:30-8:30 PM ChildrenSong 6:30-8:30 PM Possibility Players - PH 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM Bible Discussion Zoom & in-person	10:30 AM Pastors' Pericope 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:00-6:15 PM Tween Choir	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Bible Discussion Zoom & in-person 3:00 PM Tai Chi 7:00-9:00 PM Jess	11:00-1:00 & 7:00-9:00 Art Class 6:00-7:00 PM Jess in Choir Room 6:45-7:45 PM Bell Choir 7:45 PM Music Theory 8:00 PM Adult Choir		

February 2023 Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
.			1	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i> 9:00 AM Fix-It Team 9:30 AM Mission Quilts Sandy Vacation	3 7:00-9:00 PM Transforming White Privilege Until 2-4	4 8:00-10:00 AM ChildrenSong 9:00-5:00 Transforming White Privilege
5 10:45 W&M Mtg	6	7 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM Toastmasters	8 10:00-12:00 Singing Angels	9 Messenger Deadline 9:30 AM Mission Quilts	10	11 3:00 PM Dessert Theater
12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i> No Confirmation	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 3:30-5:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Toastmasters	15	16 Messenger Mailing 9:00 AM Fix-It Team	17	18 12:00-5:00 PM Palmadessa Party in PH
19 Rivera Baptism 10:45 AM J & P Mtg. Play/Serve Event Confirmation	20 <i>President's Day Washington's Birthday</i> Office Closed No Art Classes No Possibility Players	21 Fastnacht Donuts 7:00 Social Ministry Mtg.	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00-9:00AM Ash & Dash 10:00-12:00 Singing Angels 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Worship 8:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	23 No Choirs	24	25
Sandy	Vacation	2-19 – 2-25				
26	27 6:00 Congregation Resources Mtg.	28 12:00 noon EPIC 3:30-5:00 PM Girl Scouts				
Sandy Off						



Stewards of God's Love God's Love Comes Down, God's People Respond

The Stewardship theme at Our Savior for 2022 was “God’s Love Comes DOWN, God’s People Reach OUT,” reminding us that God continually comes down to us in blessings. It highlights God’s call to share those blessings and His love with others.

And the LCOS congregation responded! Pledge responses received by the first week in January totaled \$304,602, not only returning to pre-pandemic totals, but exceeding them. Plus, not only did the amount pledged far exceed that of the past three years, but the total number of 2023 pledges returned to the pre-pandemic level.

Shown below are the final number of pledges and the total dollars pledged in the years 2019-2022:

Final for 2020	97 pledges	total pledged: \$269,754 (pre-pandemic)
Final for 2021	91 pledges	total pledged: \$242,856
Final for 2022	88 pledges	total pledged: \$258,246
Early Jan. 2023	93 pledges	total pledged: \$304,602

Continuing the “cup runneth over” theme, the amount of 2022 total general offering was \$429,766, comfortably surpassing the expected total for the year of \$418,000.

However, this is not a narrative about money and numbers. Behind each of the numbers above are the stories of real people and their decisions, challenges and faith. The Congregational Resources Committee recognizes that. God has truly blessed this congregation, not only with financial resources, but with faithful givers and devoted followers of Christ who know that God blesses us in abundance so that we may share in abundance. Thank you to each and every one of you for responding to His call.

It's not too late for you to respond to God's blessings

As in every year, there will continue to be financial challenges and tough decisions to be made in 2023 so that LCOS can continue maintaining ministry line items in the spending plan and meeting goals for Synod mission support. Much will depend on the faithful, regular giving that congregation members always have shown in the past.

Please consider submitting a pledge for 2023 if you haven't already done so. Pledge cards are at the usher's stations and in the church office. Return them in the offering plate, by mail to the church office, or email to the LCOS Financial Secretary, Shannon Foskett, at sgfoskett@yahoo.com

Thank you for responding to God's love in trust and faith through your pledges.



The Social Ministry Committee is looking for a volunteer to take over LCOS's My Father's House Meals Ministry, as Kathy and Amelia Wright will be stepping down from the role on June 1. Please contact Betsy Kuehn (betsy406@comcast.net) if you are interested, or Kathy Wright (kathyandgregwright@gmail.com) if you have questions about what's involved.

My Father's House Volunteers are needed to prepare and deliver simple meals for 16 teens and adults in MFH's substance abuse recovery program. If you are unable to deliver your meal, we will arrange for a volunteer to deliver it to MFH for you! Please contact Kathy Wright at 856-325-0496 or kathyandgregwright@gmail.com for more information, or visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0845a4af2ba31-myfathers>.

Snack Sacks for My Father's House: Volunteers are needed to assemble 24 brown lunch bags with one salty and one sweet non-perishable, factory-sealed snack for the teens and adults who are receiving substance abuse counseling at MFH. Please feel free to add a note of encouragement, draw a picture, or decorate the bags with stickers! Individual drinks (water, iced tea, gatorade) are also very much appreciated, but please keep them in their original case for easier delivery. Please email Amelia Wright (ameliaewright11@gmail.com) with questions, or visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4eaaa82aa0f9cf8-snack> to sign up. Thank you

For God's People and God's Planet and God's Animals



Make sure to turn off and unplug items when they're not in use. The socket draws electricity even when items are "turned off." Some items that are often plugged-in when not in use are blow-dryers, phone chargers, electric kettles, and coffee pots. Other items that are often left in the "on" position when not in use are televisions, computers, and video game consoles. Using the battery-saving function on smart phones and computers helps them last longer, as well as saves energy. Look around your house and find what can be unplugged. You might be surprised by your energy savings!

Be The CHANGE God's World Needs !!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior

204 Wayne Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033 (856)429-5122 (voice) (856)429-7245(fax) www.oursaviorhaddonfield.org

Worship 8:00 AM Traditional in Sanctuary, 9:30 AM in Sanctuary + Facebook Live

Interactive Reflections Worship 9:30 AM in Parlor + Zoom

CHURCH COUNCIL

John Drozdal	Vice President/Personnel	john.drozdal@gmail.com	612-804-7324
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Lourdes Starr-Demers	Social Ministry	lourdes.starr.demers@gmail.com	215-219-4444
Millie King	Congregation Resources	mmking0105@gmail.com	856-669-7794
<u>Volunteer Needed</u>	Fellowship Together		
Cathe Bare	Worship & Music	b45away@gmail.com	609-238-6527
Rachael Simpkins	Youth Representative	rachaelsimpkins1924@gmail.com	856-287-0525

MEMORIAL GIFTS BOARD

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John Drozdal	Vice President/Personnel	john.drozdal@gmail.com	609-238-0184
Pastor Wayne Zschech	Advisory member	wzschech@yahoo.com	856-429-7851

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS

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Pauline Worusski	Director of Music	pworusski@gmail.com	404-931-2317
Sabrina LaBelle	Director of Youth and Family	smgvasta@gmail.com	609-560-0003
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Haddonfield, NJ 08033

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February 2023 Messenger

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Address Service Requested



Sincerest apologies to Debbie Tredinnick, Julia McKeever & Kylie McKeever who celebrated their birthdays on January 31 but were not included on the January birthday list.

Feb 1	Rita Lattanzi	Feb 11	Charlotte Severino	Feb 20	Tobitha Speas
Feb 2	Mary Pat Reiter	Feb 12	Elizabeth Palmadessa	Feb 21	Brian Poliafico
Feb 3	Curt Bogina	Feb 12	Bill Remphrey	Feb 21	William Wilson
Feb 3	Paula Horner	Feb 12	Ed Smith	Feb 22	Caryl Wallace
Feb 4	Allison Baxter	Feb 13	Luca Amato	Feb 22	Mila Parvati Williams
Feb 5	Jeanne Coleman-Jones	Feb 13	Margaret Gensel	Feb 22	Rebecca Windle
Feb 5	Amal Spence	Feb 13	Deborah Roncace	Feb 23	Caryn Lynch
Feb 6	Donna Pfeffer	Feb 15	Kris Pensabene	Feb 23	Margaret Riley
Feb 8	Marianne Aponte	Feb 15	Christine Shah	Feb 24	Paul Querns
Feb 8	James Evans	Feb 16	Samantha Atkinson	Feb 25	Karan Kredatus
Feb 8	Austin Hammond	Feb 16	Abigail Leverick	Feb 26	Alison McCartney
Feb 9	Dorothy Berrigan	Feb 16	Lynnea Martinsen	Feb 26	Sebastian Miller
Feb 9	Sherry Chmielinski	Feb 16	Tanner Roncace	Feb 27	Carrie Greene
Feb 9	Gabrielle McKeever	Feb 17	Susan Ainsworth	Feb 27	Helen Waldner
Feb 9	Ava Poliafico	Feb 17	Fay Marciano	Feb 28	Alison Bogina
Feb 10	Jason Angelone	Feb 18	Paul Gronau	Feb 28	Allison Gensel
Feb 10	Daniel Parker	Feb 18	Gail Hoffman	Feb 28	John McKeever
Feb 11	Joseph Ray	Feb 19	Mary Welker	Feb 28	Michael Miano
				Feb 29	Kathleen Ellis