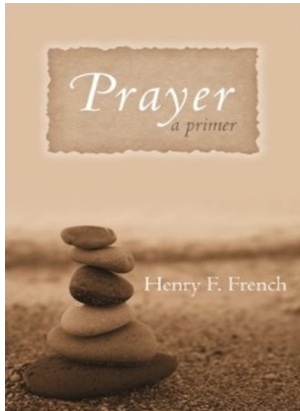




# The Messenger

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR



## Lenten Midweek Discussion of Prayer: A Primer Begins March 1 @ 6:30 PM

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 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. The midweek discussions will begin at 6:30 PM starting Wednesday March 1. The chapters of the book we will discuss each week so you can read in advance are as follows.

March 1: **Chapter 1** (Getting Started in Prayer) & **Chapter 2** (Beginner's Mind)  
March 8: **Chapter 3** (Praying in the Name of Jesus) & **Chapter 4** (Praying Jesus' Prayer)  
March 15: **Chapter 5** (What to Do during Set Times of Prayer)  
March 22: **Chapter 6** (Prayer on the Run)  
March 29: **Chapter 7** (Meditation/Contemplative Prayer)



## LCOS Lenten "Piggybanks" Return! Almsgiving Benefit Lutheran Disaster Response: \$1500 Challenge Goal Set

The Middle Eastern earthquake in Turkey alone has claimed the lives of over 30,000 people as of this article. The devastation has been horrific and the demand for disaster response continues to be a monumental undertaking. As baptized disciples of our Lord we have promised to "serve the needs of all people, following the example of Jesus." Certainly, this includes those experiencing devastation from natural disasters.

As such, this Lent we will direct our Lenten Piggybank Almsgivings to Lutheran Disaster Response toward the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Christians care more than a "nickel" for their neighbors in need so our goal is to raise \$1,500 for ELCA Disaster Response this Lent through our Piggybank Lenten Self-Denial offerings or designated individual offerings. You can even go onto Our Savior's website and click on the GIVE/PAY link and then SIMPLY GIVING to make an online contribution under ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE.

**Lenten Self-Denial Piggybanks will be given out on February 19** as Ash Wednesday begins Lent on February 22. Households are asked to put their change in the banks during Lent. If you are giving up something for Lent that has a cost, we ask you to put that amount in the bank instead. New Jersey may not have the best weather, but we rarely experience natural disasters. This Lent, let us remember and contribute to the needs of the saints who suffer from the severe weather of wind, fire, and rain that destroys homes and takes the lives of loved ones.

## Fastnacht Donuts Available February 21 in Kitchen 7:00AM – 4:00PM

Ever since Caryl Wallace first started ordering Haegle's Bakery Fastnacht donuts for the congregation's Fastnacht celebration Our Savior's congregation has enjoyed these airy donuts that melt in your mouth. While the days of members getting on stage and providing funny skits, telling jokes, or sharing their talents have passed, the tradition of enjoying these treats has not.

So, before you begin your Lenten discipline of fasting on Ash Wednesday this year, be sure to stop by the kitchen at Our Savior for a Fastnacht donut for you and your family. They're light and practically melt in your mouth. We'll have the coffee on too so, if you want to sit down and enjoy them with others either in the Parish Hall or up in the Parlor (we'll make coffee up there too) feel free to do so.



*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.*

## “Altarpiece Symbolism – Do You Know It at Our Savior?”

By Pastor Wayne Zschech



You see it every week when you gather for worship at Our Savior. It's the chancel altarpiece, the relief work of art that decorates the space above and behind the altar. You see it from a distance and even if you sat in the front pew you may not be able to distinguish the detailed symbols that make up the relief artwork. The following is a list of those symbols and their meaning, which, as we journey through Lent, can become a focal point when preparing for worship or redirecting our attention from the random thoughts that invade our concentration when focusing on our relationship with God in Christ. During Lent, I invite you to come up onto the chancel to get a closer look at the symbols.

### SYMBOLS IN THE FOUR CORNERS

These are the symbols of the four gospel evangelists from left to right, top to bottom.

Matthew is the Man                      Mark is the Lion  
Luke is the Ox or Calf                  John is the Eagle.

### SYMBOLS ON THE CROSS

**Chi Rho:** The English pronunciation is *kai row* (as in “row your boat”), and is also known as *Chrismon*. It is one of the earliest forms of Christogram, formed by superimposing the first two (capital) letters *chi* and *rho* (XP) of the Greek word for Christ (Christos) in such a way that the vertical of the rho intersects the center of the chi. By placing it at the center of the cross it represents Christ on the cross instead of a crucifix that would have the body of Christ on it.

**Dove:** The dove at the top of the cross represents the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Jesus' baptism that alighted on him “as a dove.” It also reminds us of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on us at our Baptism.

**Cinched Bag:** Located on the right side of the cross it represents the bag of 30 silver coins Judas accepted in betraying Jesus to the authorities because Jesus wasn't the Messiah Judas believed he should be. Do we “sell Jesus out” as well?

**Rooster:** Located on the left side of the cross the rooster represents the cock that crowed twice after Peter's threefold denial of Jesus that was foretold to him. Are there times we deny our relationship with Jesus in our lives when others challenge our relationship with our Lord?

**Pillar & Whips:** Located just below the Chi-Rho this symbol reminds us of the suffering Jesus endured prior to his crucifixion. How does reflecting on his torture for your sake impact your relationship with Jesus?

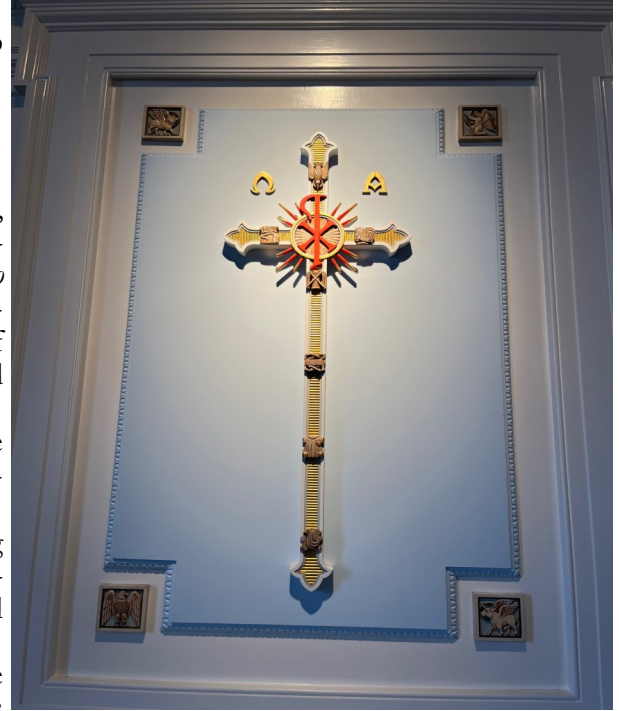
**Crown of Thorns & Sign:** The crown of thorns reminds us Jesus was mockingly “crowned” king by Pilate at his crucifixion. The sign with the letters INRI remind us of the sign Pilate had nailed to Jesus' cross proclaiming him as Jesus of Nazareth – King of the Jews, which in Latin would have been *Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum*. How is Christ the king of your life?

**Robe & Dice:** Below the crown of thorn is a robe and three dice. They remind us how the soldiers “cast lots for his tunic” thereby fulfilling Scripture. The dice show the numbers 1, 2, and 3, which could represent the three hours Jesus hung on the cross.

**Cross with Empty Death Shroud:** The empty shroud that hangs over the cross reminds us that Jesus did not remain dead. God raised Him as promised on the third day by his resurrection. Death was conquered and no longer had the last word. The God of new life in Christ does. How does this give us hope and courage when we are facing death and death-like situations?

**Alpha & Omega:** The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet are the last two symbols on the altarpiece above the arms of the cross. They look like an “A” and a horseshoe and remind us that Jesus is the “beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega” as we read in the book of Revelation. In other words, Jesus is with us always, in good times and bad, amidst suffering and joy. How does this comfort, console, and encourage you in your journey of faith?

I hope when you look again at the chancel altarpiece you not only have a deeper appreciation for the symbols that make it up but also how it can guide you in reflecting on your own relationship of faith in our Savior who came, loved, died, and rose again so that we might have new life in Him. May your Lenten journey be a blessed one.



**IF YOU ARE MAKING COFFEE IN THE KITCHEN OR IN THE KITCHENETTE IN THE LIBRARY, PLEASE DO NOT UNPLUG THE COFFEE MAKER WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED . IT IS DEIGNED TO KEEP HOT WATER CONSTANTLY SO THAT COFFEE CAN BE MADE INSTANTLY.  
THANK YOU!**





### Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Edythe Austermuhl, Mike Stolarick, Lee Sargent, Janis Rice, Susan Myers, Carolyn Malcecka, Louise Bader, Noelle Corressel, Clive Crosby, Doris Rell, Dick Wilson, Shirley Stambaugh, Caryl Wallace, *Shellee Conley, Shuvanon Shahid, John Breitling, Debbie Hodulik, Kody Schneider, Dolores Littleton, Kelly Mosteller, Maggie Koehler, Joe Melchiorre, Angela Melchiorre, Frederick Kluck, Baby Sheamus Joseph Kinnarney, Mike DiMartinis, Shuvanon Shahid, 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 Lamlor, Amelia Marchese, Albert Kern, Michelle Maris, 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 Moffitt, 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 from the bottom of my heart. Your congregation is very generous, I am very appreciative." "The gift card makes a huge difference. I am diabetic and can buy fresh vegetables. God Bless You, you all make a huge difference.."



- Canned; carrots, peas
- Pasta
- Spaghetti sauce
- Toilet Paper, Paper Towels
- Acme or Shop-Rite Gift Cards
- Monetary Donations



### Lunch and the High School Musical

After a two-year pandemic pause, once again Sisters in Spirit are going out to lunch and a show on Sunday, March 12. Plan to join us for lunch at noon at Oriental Pearl on Kings Highway in Haddonfield and then on to a matinee of the HMHS spring musical, "Head Over Heels." Not the usual student show, this year's production is an 80's rock/comedy/love story—a little something for everyone. General admission tickets are \$15; senior tickets are \$12. RSVP to Linda Nelson ([lnelson824@gmail.com](mailto:lnelson824@gmail.com) or 908-400-2413). To make sure we get the number of tickets we need, we've set a Feb. 28 response deadline. Thanks!

### Eagles Blew Out the Chiefs in the Souper Bowl!

While the Super Bowl wasn't a blowout and didn't have the result so many Eagles fans were hoping for the Souper Bowl was a different story. In the LCOS Souper Bowl Challenge the congregation donated \$513.72 for the Eagles and \$51 for the Rams. \$600 donated toward the Peace Center's Pantry at Bridge of Peace in Camden is a clear sign of our congregation's passion and generosity in addressing hunger in our area. THANK YOU!

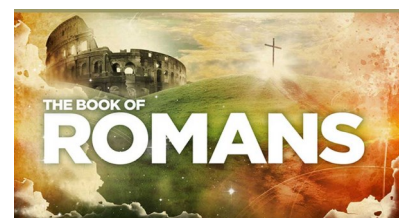


### 6-Week Bible Study on Romans Continues in March – Latecomers Welcome!

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 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 singing? (Romans 10:1-21)  
 Mar 20/22: What does God want from us? (Romans 12:1-21)



## Life Is Calling You Today: On Living and Leaving (for a little bit!)

If you've been reading my articles, you know that my music is usually planned way in advance, so I am currently looking at our Easter season anthems, including our Easter Sunday anthem "This Is A Day for Rising." I chose it for the uplifting melodies and text, including:

*This is a time for new beginnings, this is a day for rising!*

*This is a time for joyful endings, this is a day for rising!*

*Come and walk the upward way, life is calling you today.*

This text seems especially fitting for me as Easter Sunday is supposed to be my last Sunday, a joyful ending, before I go on maternity leave. Of course, babies like to make their own schedule, so there may be some wiggle room, but for now, that is the plan. As I look on my now decade long time at LCOS, I see so many new beginnings and joyful endings, and I know there are many more to come! We have bid farewell to and welcomed several staff members, welcomed many new members and babies into the community, and have started several committees that have led to exciting new beginnings as well (looking at you, Justice & Peace – what a joy the work we do together brings me!).

What endings and beginnings have you experienced in your faith journey, both in the church and your personal faith? What songs have accompanied you? What books and authors walked with you? What friends or congregation members encouraged you? A hymn that has accompanied me through many ups and downs has been "Great Is Your Faithfulness," especially the line "All I have needed thy hand hath provided" – so often when I have felt stuck or unsure, I would think of that line and learn to wait for God to be provided whatever it was that I needed. The book that has been with me on my faith journey has been "Searching for Sunday" by Rachel Held Evans. It's one of the few books I've reread several times and always has a paragraph or chapter that is exactly what I need to learn or be reminded of at that moment. So as I get ready for a whole new journey as a mother, I am confident in God providing – both for my family as we are starting a new adventure, and for LCOS as you will be in Jess Arnold's capable hands for three months! But until then, I look forward to walking through the Lenten season together to Easter Sunday.



### Mustard Seed Community Childcare at Our Savior Taking Summer & Fall Registrations

Mustard Seed Community Childcare is currently accepting applications for their Summer Camp program for children entering Kindergarten through those having completed Fifth Grade. Camp runs from June through August from 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday with daily activities and a "travel camp" during one of the weeks.

Applications for their Kindergarten Extended Day Program (EDP) in the fall are also being accepted. There are already 40 students already enrolled with openings in both their morning and afternoon sessions. Dates and tuition details for both the Summer Camp and Kindergarten EDP can be found on their website ([www.mustardseedccos.org](http://www.mustardseedccos.org)) or contact their Director, Donna Marie Clancy, for more information (856-669-4491).



### 2022 Summer Mission Trip Interest Meeting March 19 @ 6:30 PM for Youth Age 16+

On Sunday night, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. there will be an Interest Meeting for both youth and parents on this year's Summer Mission Trip (SMT) to North Carolina. Any youth who will be 16 or older by July 8, 2023, along with his/her/their parents, is encouraged to attend this highly informational meeting about an event that has literally changed the lives of youth and adults participating. **The dates for the SMT are scheduled for July 8-15 and the group looks forward to working again with the Forsythe Chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Winston-Salem North Carolina.**

Over the last 15 years participants have framed floors, walls and roofs, installed siding and porch railings, built a handicap ramp, large sheds, painted doors and trim, landscaped, and even shingled a roof! This chapter has its own lodge with bunk beds and shower facilities as well as a kitchen and lounge area for volunteers to hang out. They also have volunteers make or provide lunch and dinner, so breakfast is the only meal we really have to make. We hold one or two fundraisers prior to departure to make the required **\$150/participant donation** to HFH that goes toward building materials as well as afford van rentals. **The group is limited to 25 teens and five adults** to insure sufficient work for the number of workers. Due to Covid **all participants are required by Habitat for Humanity to provide proof of Covid vaccination** in order to participate. As mentioned above, it is a life changing event for any and all who participate. Come out on Sunday night, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. and find out how.







## Keeping Up with Justice & Peace

• **A message from LEAMNJ** (Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry, the governmental advocacy arm of the NJ Synod of the ELCA) on the death of Tyre Nichols:

“...Although this tragic act of violence took place in Memphis, Tennessee, it has sparked discussion about the role of police and the necessity of police reform across the country. New Jersey is one such state. New Jersey has failed to pass a full chokehold ban, failed to establish civilian review boards with subpoena power, failed to enact transparency of disciplinary records and failed to end qualified immunity — all reforms that other states have established. We must fight to establish these protections in our state. Please tell your elected officials to pass, and the Governor to sign, S265 / A2431 to completely ban the use of deadly chokeholds.”

If you are interested in receiving the LEAMNJ weekly email update on the issues in Trenton, please visit [learnj.org](http://learnj.org)

• **Behind the News: Women's History Month** is observed in March in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8. Women's contributions throughout history and contemporary society also are recognized in various ways in Russia, Ukraine and Hungary. What started in 1978 as Women's History Day in California grew nationally to a week in 1980 with a declaration by President Jimmy Carter, and then a month by 1987 in the US, thanks to bi-partisan Congressional resolutions. From there the observance spread internationally. In March 2011, the Obama administration added to the observance by releasing *Women in America: Indicators of Social and Economic Well-Being*, showing women's status in the U.S. and how it had changed over time. This report was the first comprehensive federal report on women since the report produced by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1963.

• **Looking ahead:** Planning has begun for LCOS' second annual Pride Month observance. Building on last year's successful Haddon Township Pride Parade appearance, we'll be marching again on June 8. Interested in helping to plan additional June activities? Please contact Jeanne Coleman-Jones ([rmj2708@gmail.com](mailto:rmj2708@gmail.com) or 856-912-6565) to join the group.

• **Find Your Passion: Join a Justice & Peace Team**

Interested in furthering the work of Justice and Peace, but too busy to be part of the full committee? Please consider joining one of the sub teams focusing on specific issues. Current topics are LGBTQIA Acceptance, Environmental Justice, Racial Justice and Gun Violence Prevention. More areas can be added if there's interest. Please contact Lynn Block to find out more ([blockstar59@hotmail.com](mailto:blockstar59@hotmail.com)).

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Invite your friends of all ages to join us, the more the merrier!

The schedule for the year is: February 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](mailto: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*



Thank you to all who sent their thoughts, love, prayers and cards during my brother's illness and after his passing. Our family really appreciated your thoughtfulness.

I am truly blessed to have such a support team at LCOS!

*Sandy DeDonatis*

# CROSS ROADS

## CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

**CAMPS**

**RETREATS**

**EVENTS**

**SUPPORT**

### BE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUTH THIS SUMMER

Spend this summer as a team member on the 2023 Cross Roads Summer Staff. Work directly with youth and serve as a role model. Learn valuable leadership and practical career skills. Cross Roads offers a place to be yourself, discover your potential, and make life-long friendships while growing in your faith.

### MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

**March 10-12, 2023**

Gather for an amazing weekend at Cross Roads. Whether a long-time summer camper or a first-time participant, attendees are guaranteed to have a wonderful weekend filled with activities, worship, and laughter.

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT: MARCH 3**



### BRING A FRIEND TO CROSS ROADS

**YOUTH CAMP 3**

**JULY 23-30, 2023**

Campers bringing friends that are new to Cross Roads can get **\$25 OFF** their own camp registration **AND** an additional **\$25 OFF** their friends' registration

**INVITE 4 FRIENDS AND  
YOUR WEEK OF CAMP IS FREE!**

Contact the Office for full details:  
908-832-7264 or [officemanager@crossroadsretreat.com](mailto:officemanager@crossroadsretreat.com)

**ADDRESS:**  
29 Pleasant Grove Rd.,  
Port Murray, NJ 07865





### **Ash Wednesday Worship Feb 22 @ NEW TIME – 7:00 PM.**

**Ash & Dash Distribution Reinstated at Westmont PATCO from 7:00-8:30 AM**

Ash Wednesday worship has long heralded the beginning of Lent. On **March 1 at 7:00 PM 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.

Pastor Wayne and any other volunteers who wish to join him will provide the imposition of ashes at the Westmont PATCO station from 7:00-8:30 AM as an Ash & Dash service for those on the run to work.

#### ***WHY DO WE OBSERVE ASH WEDNESDAY? A REFLECTION***

“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.



**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](mailto:betsy406@comcast.net)) if you are interested, or Kathy Wright (856-325-0496) 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 sign up: <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 canned or bottled drinks are also very much appreciated, but please keep them in their original case for easier delivery. Please contact Amelia Wright (856-325-0496) with questions, or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4eaaa82aa0f9cf8-snack> to sign up. Thank you!

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR: JANUARY 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

## FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

Envelope offering of \$63,613 for January exceeded expectation. It appears that some may have front ended their offerings for the year. Expenses are as estimated. No other surprises.

It is too early to estimate year end variances from budget.

<u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</u>	2023	JANUARY	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR END	ESTIMATED YE VARI- ANCE
	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Envelopes	451,250	63,581	63,581	451,250	0
Other Income- Ex					
MGB Support	59,700	4,503	4,503	59,700	0
Congregational					
Challenge	5,000	32	32	5,000	0
Memorial Gift					
Board Support	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	515,950	68,116	68,116	515,950	0
<b>EXPENSE</b>					
Salary & Benefits	343,515	27,634	27,634	343,515	0
Property	66,625	6,242	6,242	66,625	0
Administration	48,297	5,189	5,189	48,297	0
<u>Program Minis-</u> <u>tries</u>	<u>57,513</u>	<u>4,443</u>	<u>4,443</u>	<u>57,513</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expense	515,950	43,507	43,507	515,950	0
<b>INCOME</b>	0	24,609	24,609	0	0

Congregational Support: January 2023		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2021	183*	\$ 41,500
2022	174*	\$ 43,142
2023	162*	\$ 63,581

\* 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. Thanks very much for sharing your blessings so that others may know God's love.





## March 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 Classes  4:40-6:30 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- 9:00PM Art Classes  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		

## March 2023 Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00-8:00PM Lenten Discussion	2 9:00 AM Fix-It Team  9:30 AM Mission Quilts  12:45-3:15 PM SJ Singers	3 3:00-6:00 PM CPR Class	4 8:00-11:00 AM ChildrenSong
5 No Confirmation  10:45-11:30 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Class	6 8:00 AM-5:30 PM Lifeline Screening	7 7:00 Church Council  7:00 PM Toastmasters	8 10:00-12:00 AM Singing Angels  7:00-8:00PM Lenten Discussion	9 9:30 AM Mission Quilts	10	11 8:00-11:00 AM ChildrenSong
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins  10:45-11:30 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Class  S~I~S Oriental Pearl & HMHS Musical	13	14 11:30-2:30 AM HGC  3:30-5:00 PM Girl Scouts  7:00 PM Toastmasters	15 7:00-8:00PM Lenten Discussion	16 Messenger Deadline  9:00 AM Fix-It  12:45-3:15 PM SJ Singers	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19 10:45-11:30 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Class  10:45 AM J & P Mtg.  6:00 Mission Trip Interest Mtg.	20	21 7:00 PM Social Ministry  7:00 PM Toastmasters	22 10:00-12:00 AM Singing Angels  7:00-8:00PM Lenten Discussion	23 Messenger Mailing	24	25
26	27 6:00 PM Congregation Resources Mtg.	28 12:00 noon EPIC  3:30-5:00 Girl Scouts	29 7:00-8:00PM Lenten Discussion	30	31	

The monthly calendar is subject to change. Please check the weekly calendar posted in the Sunday bulletin.

## Easter Lily Memorials



Each year the altar is decorated with lilies for the Easter Services. If you would like to donate a lily in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a special occasion, please fill out the form below and enclose a check for \$25, made payable to "LCOS" and please note "Altar Guild" in the memo line. The lilies are delivered to our homebound members and nursing home residents on Monday, April 10. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 26. If you can help deliver lilies, please contact Marianne Aponte:

[maraponte@verizon.net](mailto:maraponte@verizon.net), 856-429-3789.

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of donor to memorialized one \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the church office no later than March 26.



## ***Sabrina LaBelle, Director of Youth and Family Ministries***

When I was younger, my parents had a cleaning service that would come every other week. They loved it, but I didn't! And the reason I didn't was because my mom would always make my sister and I clean the day before the cleaning company came. I felt like they were missing the point. Of course, now I realize that sometimes it is necessary to tidy up before someone can come in and do a really deep cleaning. (And now that I have kids, I recognize that if I don't make them do some serious straightening up regularly, things can get out of hand very quickly!)

In some ways, though, this is what Lent is all about. We observe the Lenten season because it gives us the chance to tidy up a little bit, to step outside of our routine and our daily existence and to look closely at our lives, at our choices, at our priorities. The season of Lent grants us the opportunity to reflect on whether we are making plenty of room for God in our lives or whether we are trying to squeeze God in when it's convenient and easy. It makes us think about the sacrifice that Jesus made – not in a negative, guilt-inducing kind of way; instead, Lent makes us think about the sacrifice that Jesus made in a grace-filled, life-giving, forgiveness is guaranteed, kind of way.

We go into the Lenten season knowing that it is a finite 40-day journey that will end with Easter morning. We may make changes or sacrifices, but we do so knowing that resurrection is coming. How good it is to know that God's light shines even in our darkest times.

I recently read a meditation by former Pope, Benedict the XVI, as he reflected on the cross, that might be a good one for us to think about as we continue through this season of Lent:

"Brothers and sisters, our gaze is frequently distracted by scattered and passing earthly interests; let us direct our gaze today toward Christ. Let us pause to contemplate his Cross. The Cross is the source of immortal life, the school of justice and peace, the universal patrimony of pardon and mercy... His nailed arms are open to each human being and they invite us to draw near to him, certain that he accepts us and clasps us in an embrace of infinite tenderness: 'I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself'" (John 12: 32).



### **Parents of Young Children Fellowship Group**

We will be meeting for a playdate at a park in March. 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](mailto:smgvasta@gmail.com)

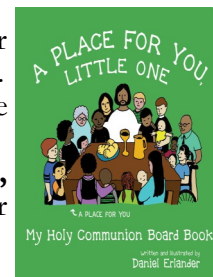
### **First Communion classes for 2nd graders**

All second graders are invited to participate in the next Faith Stepping Stone, which is preparation for First Communion. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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). Email Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Sabrina LaBelle, with questions: [smgvasta@gmail.com](mailto:smgvasta@gmail.com).

### **First Communion**

Please pray for the youth who are taking classes to learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion and join the entire congregation in welcoming all of our First Communion participants on Palm Sunday, April 2, during the 9:30 service.



### **Vacation Bible Camp**

Registration for Vacation Bible Camp will open on Thursday, March 2. The theme this year is **Hero Hotline: Called to Serve God Together** from Romans 14:19: "So let's strive together for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up." Vacation Bible Camp will take place July 24 – 28 from 1:00 – 4:00pm and is open to all children (members and friends) ages 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We are also looking for volunteers to help with crafts, snacks, games, and to be group leaders. Confirmation and high school youth are especially encouraged to volunteer! But we do need adult leaders, as well. Please email Sabrina for more information: [smgvasta@gmail.com](mailto:smgvasta@gmail.com).

### **Easter Eggstravaganza and Egg Hunt**

On Saturday, April 8, there will be an Easter Eggstravaganza and Egg Hunt for all youth ages 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade at the church from 9:00 – 12:00. In addition to timed egg hunts by age group, there will be five stations with different activities for children to participate in from games to crafts. They can collect stamps at each activity for a prize at the end!

**We need plastic egg and candy donations for the egg hunts.** Please drop them off in the church office. We also need volunteers to help run each station. Please email Sabrina if you are available: [smgvasta@gmail.com](mailto:smgvasta@gmail.com).



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



### What is Earth Hour?

Earth Hour is a global event organized by WWF (World Wildlife Fund). The event takes place annually to encourage individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off all non-essential lights and electronics for an hour. The event will happen between 20:30 to 21:30 on the 26th of March 2023.

It is described as symbolizing our commitment to the planet. The goal is to help raise awareness around the globe of our energy use, consumption, impact and long-lasting effects on the environment. Earth Hour is a movement to help our future and encourage urgent change around the world. Every single day, we contribute to our planet heating up, by using or wasting electricity! In recent years the Earth Hour movement has seen entire streets, buildings, landmarks and city skylines go dark to take part! This draws attention to the issues of climate change and global warming. ~ taken from Earth Hour website

### 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](http://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

Ann Querns	Vice President/Personnel	ahodulik@gmail.com	856-905-5115
Paul Knauer	Treasurer	prknauer@gmail.com	856-427-6595
Shannon Foskett	Financial Secretary	sgfoskett@yahoo.com	856-904-1828
Debby Madiraca	Secretary	debby78@comcast.net	609-709-4739
Rich Morris	Christian Education	richardmorris2073@gmail.com	856-429-1175
Wendell Gulick	Church Property	wgulick1021@gmail.com	215-527-3393
Lourdes Starr	Social Ministry	lourdes.starr.demers@gmail.com	215-219-4444
Millie King	Congregation Resources	mmking0105@gmail.com	856-669-7794
Ruth Fisher	Fellowship Together	rfisher11253@gmail.com	484-366-6771
Lynn Block	Justice & Peace	blockstar59@hotmail.com	609-238-7419
Kristine Monsen	Outreach	kemlmm@aol.com	856-858-0502
Cathe Bare	Worship & Music	b45away@gmail.com	609-238-6527

#### MEMORIAL GIFTS BOARD

Nancy Gulick	Chair	nv gulick@gmail.com	609-238-0184
Karin LaBarge	Financial Secretary	klabarge160@gmail.com	856-428-4709
Jeanette Jones	Secretary	gljjones@comcast.net	856-795-5294
Danielle Deery		danielledeery@gmail.com	317-414-7906
Deb Hartigan		dhartigan2003@yahoo.com	856-795-5789
John Drozdal		john.drozdal@gmail.com	612-804-7324
Rich Windle		r.windle@southwarkmetal.com	215-416-7417
Paul Knauer	Ex-officio	paul_knauer@pmagroup.com	856-427-6595
Ann Querns	Vice President/Personnel	ahodulik@gmail.com	856-905-5115
Pastor Wayne Zschech	Advisory member	wzschech@yahoo.com	856-429-7851

#### STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS

The Rev. Wayne Zschech, D. Min	Pastor	wzschech@yahoo.com	856-429-7851
Sandy DeDonatis	Parish Administrator	lcssandy@gmail.com	856-429-5122
Pauline Worusski	Director of Music	pworusski@gmail.com	404-931-2317
Sabrina LaBelle	Director of Youth and Family	smgvasta@gmail.com	609-560-0003
Bob Dempsey	Bookkeeper	lcosbookkeeper@gmail.com	856-246-8543
Nick Heinze	Communications Tech.	nicholasheinze1@outlook.com	856-616-0052
Shirley Clinkscales	Nursery Attendant		856-365-5392
Don Richards	Custodian/Sexton	dlrich1@msn.com	856-577-1149
Eva Shaw	Altar Guild	eslohboy@verizon.net	856-428-9434



**The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior**  
**204 Wayne Avenue**  
**Corner of Wood Lane and Wayne Avenue**  
**Haddonfield, NJ 08033**

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***March 2023 Messenger***

***Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed February 17, 2023***

***Address Service Requested***



Mar 1	Marissa Rodriguez	Mar 11	Carly Brown	Mar 24	Nadine Hargrave
Mar 2	Joseph DiDario	Mar 11	Nancy Gulick	Mar 24	Jeffrey Mirabello
Mar 2	Pamela DiDario	Mar 15	Valerie Brown	Mar 25	Kathy Shone
Mar 2	Inge Lawyer	Mar 15	Bobbi Gonzalez	Mar 26	Jonathan Baxter
Mar 2	Laura Schaffner	Mar 18	Tom Angstadt	Mar 26	Liliana Floyd
Mar 3	Tom Foscett	Mar 18	Eloise Oakes	Mar 26	Michele Sehdev
Mar 3	Asher Lamprey	Mar 18	Shirley Webb	Mar 26	Gina Villecco
Mar 3	Savannah Remphrey	Mar 19	Ed Rodriguez	Mar 27	Spencer Cowan
Mar 4	Randy Johnson	Mar 19	Erin Ryan	Mar 27	Samantha Wentz
Mar 5	Randi Gordon	Mar 20	Wendy Schlight	Mar 28	Stephen Boyle
Mar 5	Jackie Mokoid	Mar 21	John Drozdal	Mar 28	Taylor Sehdev
Mar 5	Cameron Rivera	Mar 21	Andy Goldthorp	Mar 28	Jacqueline Stillwell
Mar 6	John Simpkins	Mar 21	Reilly Rhodes	Mar 29	James Vassallo
Mar 8	Sarah Fetter	Mar 21	Emerson Riley	Mar 29	Kate Zschech
Mar 8	Alissa Ryan	Mar 21	Tad Fetter	Mar 30	Shannon Ray
Mar 9	Alexander Fabian	Mar 22	Earl Van Cleve	Mar 30	Karl Stauss
Mar 9	Caitlin Schlight	Mar 22	Bennett Wright	Mar 31	Femi Adejuwon
Mar 10	Scott Fogelson	Mar 22	Craig Haswell	Mar 31	Matthew Bergamesco
Mar 10	George Parker	Mar 23	Logan Sehdev	Mar 31	David Graeber
Mar 10	Lourdes Starr	Mar 23	William Gensel	Mar 31	Hailey Melcher
Mar 10	Susan Tharp	Mar 24		Mar 31	William Neveling