



# The Messenger



APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

## Holy Week and Easter Worship – Both In Person and by Livestream

Now that we are coming out of the pandemic we hope the congregation will begin to experience the joy of worshipping in person again without masks this Holy Week and Easter Season. Here are the worship opportunities this year with descriptions of each.



**Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7:00pm:** This service has three foci and we encourage you to participate with the following suggestions.

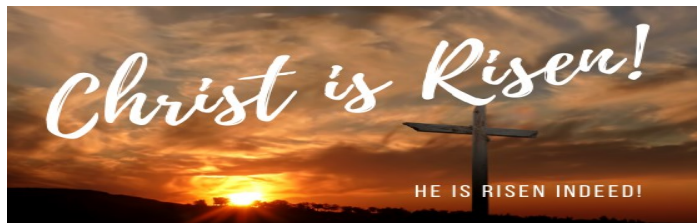
*Absolution by Laying on of Hands:* Whether you are in the church or at home you are invited at the time of absolution to place your hands on your head, as Pastor Wayne proclaims the absolution in worship. This may seem weird but you are encouraged to imagine you are feeling the hands of Jesus on your head, offering forgiveness.

*Foot Washing:* For those in the sanctuary this will be more of an observation than participation part of worship. However, for those participating by livestream you might consider placing your feet in a basin of warm water during the foot washing portion of the service. Have a towel handy to dry off as well.

*Holy Communion:* Communion will be distributed by intinction (dipping the wafer into the cup) for those worshipping in person. For those participating by livestream we invite you to have some bread and wine/grape juice available to share and eat when Holy Communion is celebrated in worship so you might feel connected to the Lord's Supper being shared by the body of Christ on this day.



**Good Friday Tenebrae, April 7 at 7:00pm:** We will hold the service of shadows on Good Friday that includes the reading of John's Passion narrative as well as the Bidding Prayer and prayers centered on the seven last words of Christ on the cross. While those in the sanctuary will have kneelers to use we invite livestream participants to create a way for you to kneel during the Bidding Prayer so you might experience the physical penitential aspect of this worship. You may also choose to light some candles in your home and darken the room where you are watching the livestream.



**Resurrection of Our Lord, April 9 at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am:** A string ensemble will replace the brass of years past to accompany our Easter celebration this year. Communion will be by intinction for those attending in person. The livestream worship will be at 9:30 for those celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord from home, and you are encouraged to prepare for Holy Communion worship with elements of bread and wine (or grape juice) for the Meal.

*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.*



## “Where Does Resurrection New Life Fit with Cancel Culture?”

By Pastor Wayne Zschech

You may or may not know what cancel culture is, but I’m sure you’ve heard the term used in the media or wherever people gather for conversation. According to Meriam Webster “Cancel culture is the practice or tendency of engaging in mass canceling as a way of expressing disapproval and exerting social pressure.” More simply put, it’s boycotting on steroids. Boycotting addresses the injustice and exerts economic and societal pressure on the people and systems that perpetuate an inequity in order to effect change. From what I understand about cancel culture the masses effectively cancel the very person or people who are at the source of the injustice. It is as if they are dead to the cancel culture proponents. There is no room for redemption. There is no room for reconciliation or renewal or new life. I may have this incorrect and would welcome a conversation about it.

So, in a month when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and the hope of new life, new beginnings, in which the world now has access to because Jesus is risen (indeed) I began to wonder how one’s faith and trust in the Resurrection could ever fit into a cancel culture perspective. It is the resurrection that enables us to boldly confess our sins to God and neighbor, confident that we are forgiven and receive new life as a result. As “Resurrection people” Christians are all about new life through death rather than being cancelled forever as a result of our actions or words. Imagine if God was a member of cancel culture. Would there be any hope for a new tomorrow, a new way of living life, an opportunity for transformation?

If Cancel Culture is truly a practice of cancelling people, institutions, and organizations not just to effect change, but as a permanent practice, regardless of whether there has been true contrition and transformation, then I don’t see where there is room in such a mindset and practice for those who follow a Risen Lord who offers new life through death. We proclaim in our Affirmation of Baptism that we will strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Participating in acts that effect economic and social pressure to can lead to injustices and inequities being remedied fits within that promise we make at the baptismal font. Cancelling the person, institution, or organization beyond their contrition and reconciliation is not consistent with what disciples called into a ministry of reconciliation are commanded to do. Love your enemies. Pray for your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you. None of this sounds like cancelling people for the rest of their lives regardless of their penitence and contrition.

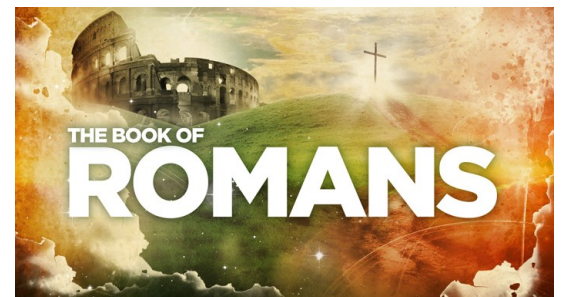
We promise in our Affirmation of Baptism that we will both “proclaim the good news of God in Christ in word and deed” and “strive for justice and peace in all the earth.” When we do we need to be sure that the means that we do the second is also aligned with what we practice in the first. The good news is that by Christ’s death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter we are free to forgive as we’ve been forgiven so new life might be experienced by both oppressor and victim. We are also free to confess our sins so we might hear the good news of absolution and experience the new life that comes from forgiveness. Cancel culture has a place in striving for justice and peace, but for those who follow a risen Christ it has limits. We cannot cancel our neighbor forever. It’s not what God does toward us. It’s not what God’s children are called to do toward others and the world in which we live. We can’t because Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

## Acts Bible Discussion For Daily Living in April and May

The Holy Spirit is clearly at work in Acts, pouring out on people from many nations on the day of Pentecost, giving Jesus’ disciples the power to speak boldly, gathering early believers together for worship, and sending out Peter and Paul as missionaries. In this course, participants will examine the beginnings of the church and will find meaningful connections between the early church and the church today. Given many of the readings in the season of Easter focus on the book of Acts it is only appropriate to study this Lukan work just prior to and after Easter.

Join the group either in person or by Zoom as they continue their discussion in April and May. The group meets in the Room 112 Conference Room and a Zoom link is available on the church website for both meeting times of Mondays from 7:00-8:30 PM and Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 AM. There are participant books to aid in preparing for each week’s discussion and are available in the church office. The cost of the book is \$10 for those who wish to defray the budgeted expense, but is not a requirement to participate. The reading assignments for each week are as follows.

Week of	Session Discussion Theme	Reading
Apr 3/5	1. The Spirit Creates Community	Chapter 2
Apr 10/12	NO CLASS FOR EASTER BREAK	
Apr 17/19	2. The Empowering Spirit	Chapter 4
Apr 24/26	3. The Spirit on the Margins	Chapter 8
May 1/3	4. The Conversion of Peter	Chapter 10
May 8/10	5. World Upside Down	Chapter 17
May 15/17	6. A Riot in Ephesus	Chapter 19
May 22/24	7. On Trial for the Resurrection	Chapter 24
May 29/31	NO CLASS FOR MEMORIAL DAY	
June 5/7	8. And So We Came to Rome	Chapter 28







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

Laura Oakes, Bob Heinze, Edythe Auster-muhl, Mike Stolarick, Lee Sargent, Carolyn Malecka, Louise Bader, Noelle Corressel, Clive Crosby, Doris Rell, Dick Wilson, Shirley Stambaugh, Caryl Wallace, Wesley Roche, Pamela Ives-Goldberger, Shellee Conley, Shuvanon Shabid, 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 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 Mof-fitt, 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:** "It means a lot to know that people care. I am very grateful for everyone's generosity." "Just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the Acme Gift Cards, it really helps a lot with fresh vegetables!"



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



### Easter Lily Delivery Volunteers Needed April 10 at 9:30

Help is needed to deliver Easter lilies to those in our congregation who could use a "touch" of resurrection life and love this spring. Volunteers need to arrive at church by 9:30 in the morning and gather in the Parish Hall. This is a great family event so parents consider making this a

ministry event for your children as well since they'll be on break. Contact Marianne Aponte:

[maraponte@verizon.net](mailto:maraponte@verizon.net), 856-429-3789 if you plan to participate in this ministry of care and encouragement.



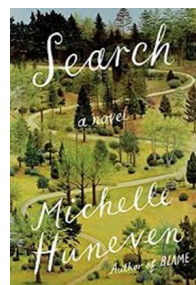
### New Sisters in Spirit Activity: April 30, Mural Mile Center City Walking Tour, presented by Mural Arts Philadelphia.

We'll meet at 1:30 p.m. in front of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (Lenfest Plaza next to the Paint Brush sculpture, 128 N. Broad St). The tour will end at 3:00 p.m. back at the starting point. (Note: no bathroom breaks!) The \$25 cost will include a tip for the guide. Each tour group is limited to 14 people. We have arranged for one group, but can add a second simultaneous group if more people sign up. Mural Arts needs a three-week notice to add a second group, **so the deadline to RSVP to Linda Nelson ([lnelson824@gmail.com](mailto:lnelson824@gmail.com) or 908-400-2413) is Friday, April 7.**

### Thank you for your February food donations!

Sisters in Spirit sends a heartfelt THANK YOU to all who donated to our recent food drive for the food pantries of Our Savior and Bridge of Peace Community Church. The two churches benefited from almost 70 bags of food! What a wonderful example of God's people reaching out to share their blessings and God's love to our neighbors.

The dedicated food drive may be over, but don't forget that both food pantries need food all year round. A shopping cart and bins for both are located outside the church office on the lower level. Remember, hunger has no season.



### LCOS Book Club *Search* by Michelle Huneven

From critically acclaimed, award-winning author Michelle Huneven, *Search* is a sharp and funny novel of a congregational search committee, told as a memoir with recipes. This wry and wise tale will speak to anyone who has ever gone searching, and James Beard Award-winning author Huneven's food writing and recipes add flavor to the delightful journey.

**Meeting**  
**April 26, 2023**  
**6:00 pm**

Questions? Contact: Linda Nelson 908-400-2413  
[lnelson824@gmail.com](mailto:lnelson824@gmail.com), Laura Oakes 609-238-9186  
[lauraoakes102848@gmail.com](mailto:lauraoakes102848@gmail.com)



### Lenten Piggy Banks Due Back Palm Sunday, April 2

Thank you for your generosity to Lutheran Disaster Response in helping those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria!



## Flexibility - Could Jesus Touch His Toes? (Or Is This About Different Flexibility?)

Our choir has a warm up song that's a fun and bouncy tune with the words "Flexibility, flexibility, sing with light and short notes, flexibility, flexibility, sing with easy floating breath" (it makes more sense when you actually hear/sing it!). While it may sound fun, flexibility is not actually often something we enjoy or expect! I learned about flexibility the hard way this week when I had to go to the ER due to food poisoning (I was fine, we just had to make sure the baby was okay as well!) and realized that this maternity leave may not be starting when I want it to, but when this baby wants to, and that all my music really needed to be ready to go any day now for whoever was jumping in for me! Thankfully all was well and I am still on track, but do you ever feel like God just wants to make sure you're flexible and ready to go whatever direction He needs you to go? If only flexibility was only about being able to touch your toes (though I can't do that one well these days, either!). I often read stories about Jesus in the Bible and wonder if he ever knew what was about to happen - people

lowering their friend in through a roof hoping for healing, a woman touching him in a crowd, children running to him, etc. It seems that whatever happens, Jesus is flexible and makes sure to pivot and pay attention to what is happening in that moment (you may notice that the disciples are a lot less flexible and often seem surprised or even annoyed that Jesus wants to pivot their plans and heal or listen to the people).

Where in your life does Jesus want you to be flexible? Is it long held on beliefs you haven't questioned because that's just how it's always been since growing up? Is it in things in worship when we introduce a new hymn, a new liturgy, or a new order? A book or Bible study that pushes your understanding of Scripture and God? Or maybe it's something in your personal life that God is wanting you to pivot or expand on. A little extra time in a day for an act of service, or an extra second to breathe before answering to someone who pushes your buttons, or maybe not pushing yourself too hard in a workout to honor where your body is physically or emotionally on a particular day.

As I am writing this last article before my maternity leave, I want to thank you for your flexibility and understanding as I embark on this exciting new journey! First of all, thank you to all who participated in my wonderful surprise baby shower (especially Kate, Sandy, Peg, and Cathe) and showered us with love! It was such a beautiful afternoon. I also hope that while the music has been planned out ahead, if there are any hiccups for whatever reasons, you may meet them with flexibility and grace. I am writing this a little under 4 weeks away from the official start of my maternity leave, but if things change between now and then, I thank you in advance for your patience and flexibility even then! I hope you will keep me and my little family in your prayers as I keep you all in mine, and I am looking forward to hopefully walking through the end of Lent and our Easter celebration with you, but if not - flexibility!

"A big heartfelt THANK YOU to all who have surprised us (several times!) with your sweet wishes and gifts for our baby! Our nursery now has a little LCOS corner with a changing table given by the Adult Choirs and a bookshelf (filled with books!) given by various church members, as well as many outfits and baby items, and beautiful quilts lovingly made by Carolyn Malecka, Caralyn Baine, and Sue Danton. We feel truly showered with love as we embark into this new season of our lives! *Pauline, Sebastian, and baby*"







## Justice & Peace Committee: Earth Day Round Up

Earth Day 2023, Saturday, April 22, reminds us of our responsibility as Christians to be stewards of God's creation, not only for our own benefit, but for the world's poor and disadvantaged who feel the biggest impact. Many thanks to Pastor Sarah Lilja and the efforts of Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry (LEAMNJ) for representing our NJ Synod congregations in Trenton and keeping us all informed. Some recent LEAMNJ updates show how much is at stake. *Linda Nelson*

### • Gov. Murphy's Green Energy Push

Gov. Phil Murphy recently announced new goals and initiatives to bring NJ closer to a 100% clean-energy economy. Along with plans to retrofit over 400,000 new and remodeled homes with zero-emissions cooling and heating systems, the governor also moved up the date to 2035 for banning the sale of gasoline-powered vehicles.

### • Pinelands Face Development Pressure

The NJ Pinelands, an internationally recognized region of natural and scientific importance, has faced continued attempts to develop its land into pipelines and sports complexes. This is worsened by the appointment of developers and corporate lobbyists to the NJ Pinelands Commission, an agency meant to preserve and manage the protected area. Poor oversight in the Pinelands could lead to major future development.

### • NJ Watersheds at Risk

NJ's ample watersheds are at continued risk of pollution and damage from climate change. Advocates urge that changes need to be made. Run-off introduces dangerous chemicals into the water supply, and rising sea levels already are adding salt to some watersheds. This not only endangers the safety of our drinking water, but also the preservation of protected land and forests and the diverse wildlife that lives there.

### Want to Get involved?

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 teams focusing on specific issues. Current topics are Environmental Justice, LGBTQIA Acceptance, 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)).

### On Our J&P Calendar

- Sunday, April 16, 10:45 am, LCOS Parlor and on Zoom: Justice & Peace Committee meeting. All are welcome.
- Sunday, May 24, 7:00 pm, Parish Hall: BeSmart Campaign—This educational safety program is not about gun ownership, but instead focuses on good practices for responsible gun ownership.
- Thursday, June 8: Building on last year's successful Haddon Township Pride Parade appearance, LCOS will be marching again. Please contact Jeanne Coleman-Jones ([rmj2708@gmail.com](mailto:rmj2708@gmail.com) or 856-912-6565) for more information or to join the group.

**THE JUSTICE & PEACE COMMITTEE WILL BE SPONSORING THE "BESMART CAMPAIGN" AT OUR SAVIOR ON MAY 24 AT 7:00 PM IN THE PARISH HALL..** Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America launched this campaign to take action to promote responsible gun ownership and reduce child gun deaths. This educational safety program is not about gun ownership, but instead focuses on good practices for responsible gun ownership. All are welcome. *Bob Dempsey*

### EPIC (Experienced Persons in Community)

We gather again on Tuesday, March 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: 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)

**Come at noon on April 25 for a special Senior Information Presentation given by Home Instead. The congregation is welcome to attend with lunch provided by Home Instead. Please RSVP to Judy so they know how many to prepare for. They will be providing essential information on home care, rehabilitation, and elder law in a fun no pressure environment. The presentation will be an hour long and door prizes and useful giveaways will also be given. The group will remain on site for a brief time to answer any questions.** *Peggy Hartmann*





## Stewards of God's Gifts...the Five Gifts of Discipleship

According to the ELCA website, a steward is one who takes care of that which belongs to another, including gifts given by God. Over the past three years here at Our Savior, we've striven to be Stewards of God's Love. We've come to understand that everything we are or have has come down to us in God's love. As stewards of that love, our congregation has done an outstanding job of sharing our earthly blessings with others. This year we're shifting our focus slightly to think about being Stewards of God's Gifts.

By gifts we mean the gifts that come to us personally through our baptism and again whenever we reaffirm our faith in the covenant God made with us in baptism. Why would a focus on stewardship, which too often we think of only as sharing money, lead to a focus on baptismal vows? Think of it as the safety drill the crew puts us through before an airplane takes off. "In the unlikely event of an emergency," we are to put on our oxygen masks first before helping others around us. Stewarding the spiritual gifts we receive through baptism lays the foundation for stewarding the earthly gifts we receive. We need to make sure we're safely in God's hands before we take off into the world.

When we reaffirm our faith, we make five promises, which are five gifts of discipleship: to live among God's faithful people; to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper; to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; to serve all people, following the example of Jesus; and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. These five gifts help us to practice our faith and serve as a reminder of Who has claimed us. If we do not practice faith, it's easy to get confused, distracted and complacent. Rather than stewarding these spiritual gifts, we chase other dreams and wander away from God's calling.

Since we have made these five promises, it's wise to stop once in a while and think about whether we're fulfilling our side of the covenant. This month we're focusing on our promise to live among God's faithful people. After you've said, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me," what has happened in your life? Is gathering with your church community in worship part of your regular routine, or an occasional event when you can fit it in? Do you take advantage of fellowship opportunities to get to know fellow congregation members? How about responding for requests for help by showing up with a willing pair of hands? After getting to know fellow LCOS members, do you care for them enough to include them in your prayers? Are you living among God's faithful people...or standing on the sidelines?

## 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).

## My Father's House Update



After much thought, prayer, and discussion, the Social Ministry Committee has decided to make some changes to the My Father's House ministry. Due to the increasing challenge of finding volunteers to make meals each week, along with the changing needs and numbers at MFH, we will transition from sending weekly meals to providing MFH with snacks and beverages. We believe this change will be a better fit for our volunteer base, and will enable LCOS to serve a greater number of MFH clients. Anyone who has already signed up to send a meal or who wants to continue to make and deliver meals beyond this transition period is welcome to do so.

Moving forward, we are asking the congregation to donate boxes of individually wrapped, non-perishable snacks (granola bars, popcorn, pretzels, etc.) along with cases of single-serve drinks (water, soda, Gatorade, iced tea, etc.). Donations can be left on the designated shelves just outside of Parish Hall. Kathy and Amelia Wright, along with Gabby Berrios, who will be taking over as coordinator of this ministry, will deliver the food and drinks to My Father's House.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have contributed to the long term success of the Father's House ministry over the years. If you have questions or would like to help deliver donations, please reach out to Kathy Wright (856-325-0496) or Gabby Berrios ([mrsbee8123@outlook.com](mailto:mrsbee8123@outlook.com))

## Thank You for Donations of Deodorant for Caring Hearts

LCOS collected men's and women's deodorant in February 2023. Caring Hearts assembled tote bags filled with various personal care products including the deodorants, that the Cooper staff will give to the families at upcoming appointments. The goal was to fill at least 20 tote bags with these personal care items. Thanks to you, LCOS members, the goals have been exceeded. Ilyse Janove is hoping that Caring Hearts can hold an in-person Back-to-School event in late summer and Christmas party in December.

## Memorial Gifts Fund Corner

Memorial Gift Board would like to once again highlight the Patterson-Plotzke Fund which provides scholarships to local Camden students through Urban Promise for higher education. Included in this newsletter are three letters from Scholarship recipients. Their letters say it all! What a wonderful ministry the Lutheran Church of Our Savior can provide due to the thoughtful gifts of Jean Patterson and Bernadine Plotzke in creating this fund to provide scholarship opportunities for Camden youth. Please continue to help this ministry grow with a gift or memorial to the Patterson-Plotzke fund. Any questions concerning this fund or any of the other funds administered by the MGB- please reach out to any member of the board.



Dear Church Friends,

Words simply cannot express the amount of gratitude I have, so let me start by saying thank you. Attending college has always been a goal of mine, but for a while it seemed unachievable due to the costs. It was hard trying to come up with a plan where I didn't end up in major debt. For a while, I was stuck, and it made it so hard to even think of going to college. Thanks to you and the Ambassadors of Hope Scholarship I can concentrate on my schoolwork and enjoy my time here without the worry of cost.

I attend Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach Florida. It is 14 hours away from home. My major is nursing, I plan to graduate with a BSN and become a travel nurse. So far school has been going well. I'm adjusting to the new location but have been a little homesick as of late. I'm finding that if I participate in more school activities it eases my worry and stress

of not fitting in. In two weeks, I plan to try out for the cheer team, which really excites me. I'm just grateful for the chance to experience new things and broaden my horizon.

Again, thank you! *Janasia White, freshman Bethune-Cookman University*

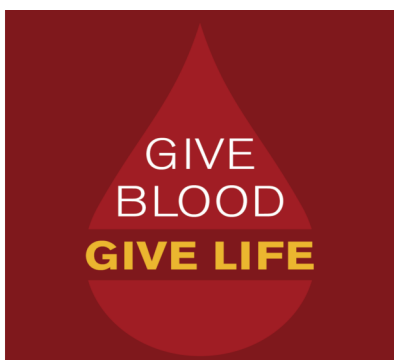


To the Donors of the Ambassador of Hope Fund,

My name is Emmanuel Gilbert Soltero, but I simply go by Manny. I am a student here at Eastern University, which is located in St. David's, Pennsylvania. I am now in my Junior year, and I am pursuing my bachelor's degree in History, while also earning a minor in Criminal Justice. Eastern University has been an amazing experience for me so far. This small, private, Christian campus has a strong core of community, and I feel included in this even more diverse community. I have made lasting friendships through my classes, events, and simply walking to and from my classes. When I am not studying, you will usually find me working out, playing basketball, exploring King of Prussia, or playing billiards with my friends.

I am currently a Resident Assistant at Eastern University. I am tasked with building community in my hall, while also ensuring that policies are being followed and the building is running fine. Some tasks with being a Resident Assistant includes hall events, maintenance orders, checking every hall, and being a resource for anything my residents might need. Being a Resident Assistant has been a challenging, yet growing experience for me. I have built relationships with many of the residents who live in my building, and it has helped me build on being a leader in my community. While being a Resident Assistant, I am also a Goode Scholar Squad Leader. Goode Scholars are leaders from urban areas who are trained to expand their leadership and make a change in their community. I was assigned five new Goode Scholars for the 2022-2023 school year, and I am tasked with being a mentor for the new students in our program. I understand what it is like to be in their shoes, and I want to ensure that they are not alone. I meet up with the students individually and converse with them about life, sports, video games, and anything in which they are interested.

The Ambassador of Hope Scholarship Fund has truly made a positive impact. When I first received the wonderful news that I was awarded this amazing scholarship, it helped my family by allowing to put money aside for my mother and her citizenship process. She is currently in El Salvador working on her process because of the help we have received from the scholarship. This fund has also helped me to stay motivated and thrive in my academics. School has become more expensive this past year, and this scholarship has helped to keep me afloat as I pursue my degree. I would like to thank you all sincerely for all the help I have received. Through my time of uncertainty, you all have lifted my spirit, and I am forever grateful for this amazing scholarship. Again, thank you for this outstanding award. *Sincerely, Manny Soltero*



**Help save a life.**

Schedule your  
blood donation  
appointment today.

**Blood Drive**

**Lutheran Church of Our Savior**

**Friday, April 7**

**1:30 to 6:30 PM**



# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR: FEBRUARY 2023 REPORT

## FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

Envelope offering of \$24,644 for February was below the Plan of \$31,390. YTD, we are ahead of Plan.

It is early, but we are estimating Envelope Offering to exceed Plan by \$2,750. For Other Income, we are estimating below Plan by \$2,750 as we revise our

Matching Fund revenue estimate for the year. Expense estimates are on Plan.

Therefore, Income is estimated a \$0.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2023	FEBRUARY	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR END	ESTIMATED YE VARI- ANCE
	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	
REVENUE					
Envelopes	451,250	24,644	88,225	454,000	2,750
Other Income- Ex MGB Sup- port	59,700	3,236	7,739	56,950	(2,750)
Congregational Challenge	5,000	390	422	5,000	0
Memorial Gift Board Support	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue	515,950	28,270	96,386	515,950	0
EXPENSE					
Salary & Benefits	343,515	30,568	58,205	343,515	0
Property	66,625	5,910	12,150	66,625	0
Administration	48,297	4,107	9,297	48,297	0
<u>Program Minis- tries</u>	<u>57,513</u>	<u>4,375</u>	<u>7,975</u>	<u>57,513</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expense	515,950	44,959	87,628	515,950	0
INCOME	0	-16,689	8,758	0	0

### **Congregational Support: January – February 2023**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average YTD Attendance</u>	<u>Total General Fund Offerings</u>
2021	184*	\$ 67,510
2022	175*	\$ 71,191
2023	172*	\$ 88,225

\* 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.



## April 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 AM Art Class  4:30-6:30 PM Jess  5:30-8:30 PM ChildrenSong  6:30-8:30 PM Possibility Players - PH  7:00-8:30 PM Bible Discussion Zoom & in-person	10:30 AM Pastors' Pericope  2:00 PM Staff Meeting	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 PM 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		

## April 2023 Special Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00-11:00 AM ChildrenSong
2 <b>Palm Sunday</b>  First Holy Communion  10:45 AM Worship & Music Mtg.  No Confirmation	3	4 11:30-2:30 HGC  7:00 PM Toastmasters  7:00 PM Church Council	5	6 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>  9:00 AM Fix-It Team  9:30 AM M Mission Quilts  12:45-3:15 PM SJ Singers  7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship	7 <b>Good Friday</b>  12:00 Seven Last Words-Methodist Church  12:00-5:00 Blood Drive  7:00 PM Good Friday Worship	8 9:00-noon Choir Rehearsal  9:30-11:30 AM Easter Eggstravaganza
9 <b>Easter</b>  8, 9:30 & 11:00 AM Easter Services  No Confirmation	10  Office Closed  9:30 AM Easter Lily Delivery  No Possibility Players	11 3:30-5:00 PM Girl Scouts  7:00 PM Toastmasters	12 10:00-12:00 AM Singing Angels  6:30 PM Skirmish	13 <b>Messenger Deadline</b>  9:30 AM Mission Quilts	14	15
16 10:45 AM J & P Mtg.	17	18 7:00 PM Toastmasters  7:00 PM Social Ministry Mtg.	19	20 <b>Messenger Mailing</b>  9:00 AM Fix-It Team  12:45-3:15 PM SJ Singers	21	22 Interfaith Caregivers Appreciation Breakfast
23 Schroeder Baptism	24 6:00 PM Congregation Resources Mtg.	25 12:00 noon EPIC Home Instead Presentation  3:30-5:00 PM Girl Scouts	26 10:00-12:00 AM Singing Angels  6:30 PM Skirmish	27	28	29
Sandy Off 30					Pre-Confirmation	Retreat

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 has changed to Sunday, April 2. 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 Sunday, April 2



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

On Easter Sunday we will come together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the knowledge that death could not hold him. And because of that, death is not the end of any of us.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he appears to his disciples with a very specific message. That message is one of peace. Jesus says to them two times, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). But that is not the only message Jesus has for his friends and followers. Jesus then has a command for them, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (v. 21). Peace - rest in the joyful news that Christ is not dead. Sometimes we need those times of thoughtful contemplation on that good news of the gospel and what it means for our lives.

But we can't just stay there, resting in peace. Because Jesus commands us, just like he commanded his disciples, "Go!" This good news is not just for contemplation. It is to be taken out and spread into the world. Easter is not the end, but rather the beginning as we continue to think about how to live out the message of the gospel both collectively, as the church of God, and individually, as disciples of Christ, in Haddonfield, in the larger community, and in the world.



### **Easter Egg-stravaganza**

LCOS is holding an Easter Eggstravaganza for all children ages 1 - 5th grade at the church on Saturday, **April 8** from 9:30 - 11:30am. There will be stations for crafts, games, stories, and timed egg hunts by age group. Each child will receive a passport to collect stamps at the various stations. If all stamps are collected, there will be a special prize at the end. Come when you can and stay as long as you want! This will be a fun pre-Easter event for all ages!

#### ***Needed:***

***Candy for the egg hunt (or prefilled eggs)***

***Volunteers to man the stations and to hide the eggs***

There will be donuts for the kids and coffee (and donuts) for the parents and volunteers.

### **First Communion**

Throughout the month of March, 8 youth of LCOS have taken classes in preparation for their First Communion, supported by their families. Please join us in celebrating with these young people as they observe their First Communion on Palm Sunday, April 2, during the services: Vivien Ottens, Erin Myles, Naomi Doyle, Lukas Hammond, Lydia Nelson, Anna Nelson, Andy Goldthorp, and Sam Chaiken.



### **Vacation Bible Camp**

Registration for Vacation Bible Camp is open on the church website! Payment for camp is also available on the website. 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 - 5th 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).



The Library has a collection of Easter books and DVDs for children, teens, and adults. We also have several shelves of jigsaw puzzles, many with a spring theme.

~ The Library Ladies



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



Let's Invest in the Earth ! We only have ONE !  
Find an Earth Day Celebration nearby, go,  
learn, and proceed in helping our Mother Earth !!

**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

<b>Ann Querns</b>	Vice President/Personnel	ahodulik@gmail.com	856-905-5115
<b>Paul Knauer</b>	Treasurer	prknauer@gmail.com	856-427-6595
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<b>Millie King</b>	Congregation Resources	mmking0105@gmail.com	856-669-7794
<b>Ruth Fisher</b>	Fellowship Together	rfisher11253@gmail.com	484-366-6771
<b>Lynn Block</b>	Justice & Peace	blockstar59@hotmail.com	609-238-7419
<b>Kristine Monsen</b>	Outreach	kemlmm@aol.com	856-858-0502
<b>Cathe Bare</b>	Worship & Music	b45away@gmail.com	609-238-6527

#### MEMORIAL GIFTS BOARD

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

#### STAFF AND VOLUNTEER LEADERS

<b>The Rev. Wayne Zschech, D. Min</b>	Pastor	wzschech@yahoo.com	856-429-7851
<b>Sandy DeDonatis</b>	Parish Administrator	lcssandy@gmail.com	856-429-5122
<b>Pauline Worusski</b>	Director of Music	pworusski@gmail.com	404-931-2317
<b>Sabrina LaBelle</b>	Director of Youth and Family	smgvasta@gmail.com	609-560-0003
<b>Bob Dempsey</b>	Bookkeeper	lcosbookkeeper@gmail.com	856-246-8543
<b>Nick Heinze</b>	Communications Tech.	nicholasheinze1@outlook.com	856-616-0052
<b>Shirley Clinkscales</b>	Nursery Attendant		856-365-5392
<b>Don Richards</b>	Custodian/Sexton	dlrich1@msn.com	856-577-1149
<b>Eva Shaw</b>	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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***April 2023 Messenger***

***Time Sensitive Material Enclosed Mailed March 23, 2023***

***Address Service Requested***



Apr 2	Brett Hintz	Apr 13	Molly Mills	Apr 21	Scott Vaughn
Apr 3	Clive Crosbie	Apr 13	Wyatt Needham	Apr 23	Joyce Fetter
Apr 4	Annabelle Donegan	Apr 14	Stephanie Hintz	Apr 23	Kathryn Rivera
Apr 4	Liam Matula	Apr 14	Matthew Morris	Apr 23	Matt Wolf
Apr 4	Dylan Melcher	Apr 15	Justin DeBerardinis	Apr 25	Rich Morris
Apr 4	Peyton Rhodes	Apr 15	Rick DeMichele	Apr 26	Marie Santore
Apr 5	Collin Duckett	Apr 15	Spencer Fallon	Apr 27	Brian Gensel
Apr 6	Mary Kay DeBerardinis	Apr 16	Patricia Gruber	Apr 27	Frank Marciano
Apr 6	Gabriella Pietrangelo	Apr 16	Solveig Lawyer	Apr 27	Nina Pettersen-Smith
Apr 7	Heather Baxter	Apr 17	Robert Pineiro	Apr 28	Carter Adams
Apr 7	Nicholas Heinze	Apr 19	Linda Harrington	Apr 28	Lucas Lane
Apr 8	Henry Dickerson	Apr 19	Jean Schroeder	Apr 29	Arlene Cooper
Apr 8	Bob Jelonek	Apr 20	Harvey Shaw	Apr 29	Erin Mills
Apr 9	Alexander Pietrangelo	Apr 21	Maryn Gallo	Apr 29	Jeffrey Picker
Apr 9	Madison Schemeley	Apr 21	Thomas Gonzalez	Apr 29	Kristina Thompson
Apr 10	Rich Windle	Apr 21	Jodilyn Turner	Apr 30	Joanna Knauer
Apr 11	Amelia Wright			Apr 30	Emma Morris