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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Volume 64 – Number 3

March 2026



A deep treatment of this subject will no doubt fill many books. The exact nature of technological tools has been sliced many different ways. We have all heard the claims that some new technology will give us unlimited potential to reach

our dreams. While academic schools can be found speaking in a more measured pace about aspects such as affordances (the things technology makes possible, impossible, etc.). However, language like this seems to either be overly simplistic, or confusing, to describe what we encounter every day. What follows is a simple and (hopefully) usable framework. It is the best I have come up with so far and has helped me more thoughtfully engage and evaluate particular tooling.

### Technology Understood as Human Tooling

Many discussions of technology paint with a very narrow scope. I believe to truly understand the implications of technological tools; we first need to become aware of the tooling that is living within all of us. We all have tools such as memory, reason, attention, and language that are basic tools we use to navigate our lives. Much of the early years of a child's development is dedicated to the foundations of these tools. Therefore it is appropriate to draw the connection between particular external technologies and how they are connected with the internal technologies we hold within ourselves.

### Putting Things into a Basic Framework

Therefore to truly treat the full scope of this topic faithfully, we need a clear picture of what it means to use our internal technologies well. From there we can approach external technologies with a grounded perspective.

Without getting into the weeds, we can use the distinction between internal and external

technologies to chart common characteristics between them all. These are by no means definitive categories but are a start for observing salient aspects and offering a framework to help make decisions or inform questions. Said another ways, all tooling whether it is within our being, or an external instrument, have the following things in common:

- All technology has **Requirements** in order to be used.
- For example, think of the fact that using a hammer requires a hand and arm to swing it. Without those requirements it will sit useless on the ground.
- These requirements shape the particular **Rituals** humans must perform to use the tool.
- Thinking of the hammer again, swinging is a well-defined action that must be performed over and over until the job is done.
- Every tool brings with it **World Constrictions**, or things that are harder (or impossible) to do because of the way the technology works and the rituals it promotes.
- There are many different hammers for various purposes. That being said using a sledgehammer to hang a picture frame will most likely not go well. Likewise, enjoying a calm afternoon walk on a highway is all but impossible because of its world construction and primary use (i.e. the ritual of driving makes the ritual of walking nearby more difficult).
- Every tool also brings with it unique **Positive or Negative Use Potential** for how it can be used well or poorly.
- What we hear most in advertisements is the positive side of this potential. "Just wait until your life changes with a new -insert technology here-!"
- Bringing both sides together gives a more balanced understanding. Once again to the hammer, swinging it (carelessly or maliciously) can do a lot of damage to yourself or others. Yet trying to drive a nail without one is difficult to say the least. There is potential for both benefit and harm within a hammer's use.

- The distribution toward positive or negative use is not always the same. For example, there are many many ways to misuse a nuclear bomb and very few ways to use it well.

Let us go through the framework again but this time use an internal technology: Memory.

- Memory also has specific **Requirements**.

- Attention is a primary requirement. It does not matter how important something is if it is not attended to it will never be remembered.

- There are many forms and types of memory

**Rituals**.

- But no matter how one goes about remembering, there is at least the foundational ritual of stopping to pay attention to something. Recitation and review are other common rituals. In all of these cases, you have to actually perform the ritual for the tool (memory) to be engaged and used.

- Internal technologies are less susceptible to **World Constrictions** compared to external tools. However there are still clear limits.

- For memory, some of these are the speed of acquisition, the choice of what to focus on, overcommitment to something already memorized, or personal effectiveness of different memory strategies, etc. In other words, memory has a particular shape and mechanics to it that are impassible. Effective memory techniques work within (not opposed) to these constraints.

- **Positive and Negative Use Potential** are easy to see here.

- Human memory is and has been used for many good and bad endeavors. Techniques for stealing or lifesaving CPR can both be stored within ones memory. No doubt this is why Psalm 1 advises us to meditate on God's word continually.

To summarize, every technology has:

- **Requirements** in order to be used.

- **Rituals** to initiate and continue its use.

- **World Constrictions** by the nature of how it is build and works.

- **Positive and Negative Use Potential** for how it can be used.

This framework can help us walk through any technology and answer the core question:

- Is my use of this technology pulling me toward God or working to separate me from Him?

As we mull this question over we can flesh it out using the framework:

- What does this technology require from me?

- Is it worth the things required (like time, attention, money, etc.).

- Is there an alternative that requires different things of me?

- What kind of person do the rituals around this technology push or hook me into being?

- What kind of healthy rituals does it make harder to follow?

- What am I not able to do because of this technology?

- What are extra things I need to manage because of this technology?

- What positive things does this technology help me accomplish?

- Do those positive things outweigh any negatives?

- What temptations does this technology make available?

- How susceptible to these temptations am I at this moment in life?

- How easy is it to swing from using this technology well to poorly?

As we work through questions like these, we can quickly begin to see blind spots that are easy to excuse around every technology inside and out! How carelessly we tend to use our memory and attention. How much we are encouraged to inflate the upsides of every external technology but never stop to think of their consequences. Or to shun "technology" on principle without being honest about using indoor plumbing, cars, pens, books and an armada of other technologies without ever blinking an eye.

My prayer is that this kind of honest engagement with the tooling we have inside and out will help us to hear the voice of God and move to a faithful form of life within our own contexts.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit,

**In His Grip,  
Pastor Brenden Harrell**

# MARCH Birthdays

Mar 02	Jeremy Riley
Mar 04	Carter Schofield
Mar 04	Stephanie Clavin
Mar 04	Catherine Menendez
Mar 08	Stefanie Cullors
Mar 08	Ruth Oliver
Mar 12	Mark Hathaway
Mar 15	Lisa DiModica
Mar 15	Charles Willcox
Mar 16	Melissa Crawford
Mar 20	Adrian Vandegraaf
Mar 23	Trista Fry
Mar 25	Noel Rowe
Mar 26	Heidi Summers
Mar 27	Paul Mattson
Mar 30	Phyllis Legg
Mar 31	John Pfginsten

# MARCH Anniversaries

Mar 28 George & Wilma Kennedy



- Mar 01 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
- Mar 01 10:00 am - Communion Service
- Mar 03 3:00 - 4:30 pm - Shelter prep (SH)
- Mar 04 10:00-11:30 am - Sm. Grp. Bible Study
- Mar 04 6:00 pm - Soup Supper
- Mar 04 7:00 pm - Lent Service
- Mar 05 4:30 pm - Elders' Mtg.
- Mar 07 Mowing - Riddiough, Schofield
- Mar 08 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
- Mar 08 10:00 am - Worship Service
- Mar 09 6:00-8:00 pm - Men's Group
- Mar 10 9:30 - 11:30 am - Quilters
- Mar 11 10:00-11:30 am - Sm. Grp. Bible Study
- Mar 11 6:00 pm - Soup Supper
- Mar 11 7:00 pm - Lent Service
- Mar 15 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
- Mar 15 10:00 am - Praise/Communion Service

- Mar 15 11:30 am - Council Meeting
- Mar 16 9:00 am - Ministry Availability Due
- Mar 17 5:30 pm - P/S Board Mtg.
- Mar 18 10:00-11:30 am - Sm. Grp. Bible Study
- Mar 18 6:00 pm - Soup Supper
- Mar 18 7:00 pm - Lent Service
- Mar 20 6:00 - 8:00 pm - Parents' Night Out
- Mar 20 9:00 am - Mar. Newsletter Deadline
- Mar 21 Mowing - Atrops, LaBelle, Allred
- Mar 22 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
- Mar 22 10:00 am - Worship Service
- Mar 25 10:00-11:30 am - Sm. Grp. Bible Study
- Mar 25 6:00 pm - Soup Supper
- Mar 25 7:00 pm - Lent Service
- Mar 29 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
- Mar 29 10:00 am - Worship Service

## ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE



- Mar 01 - Comm. Svc.  
10:00 AM - Becky Zielke  
Flowers: - Lent - no flowers
- Mar 08 - Worship Svc.  
10:00 AM - Emma Olney  
Flowers: - Lent - no flowers
- Mar 15 - Praise/Comm. Svc.  
10:00 AM - Becky Foley  
Flowers: - Lent - no flowers
- Mar 22 - Worship Svc.  
10:00 AM - Lori Williamson  
Flowers: - Lent - no flowers
- Mar 29 - Worship Svc.  
10:00 AM - Connie Hathaway  
Flowers: OPEN

### MOWING for MARCH



- Mar 07 - Riddiough, Schofield
- Mar 21 - Atrops, LaBelle, Allred



It's time to set your clocks ahead one (1) hour Saturday night, March 7, before heading for bed. Daylight Saving begins at 2:00 AM, March 8, and you don't want to be late for Sunday service!

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## PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Make playing with our preschool kids and their siblings at Parents Night Out one of your New Year's resolutions! It is the third Friday of the month from 6-8pm in Stanhke Hall. Plan to be there March 20th, April 17th and May 15th. Any questions, ask Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443.

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You are invited to meet Moses and Frank from Boy With A Ball Kenya. They will be visiting our church on May 17th! Mark your calendars! More details to come! Direct questions to Paul and Lisa DiModica.

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### LENTEN SCHEDULE FOR 2026 7:00 PM

- Lent III – March 4
- Lent IV – March 11
- Lent V – March 18
- Lent VI – March 25

(Preceded by a Soup Supper at 6:00 PM)

## EASTER LILIES

Ten (10) Easter lilies will be available this year. Traditionally, these are purchased in memory of a loved one or for blessings received. **Cost: \$15.00**



Make checks payable to: LCOS (with "Altar Guild" on memo line). Plants may be picked up after the service on Easter Sunday. Please call Diana at the Church Office

(805-937-1116) to reserve your plant(s). **First come—first served!!** ✨

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## ELDER'S CORNER

I pray this true story about Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the "Last Supper" will be meaningful to you this Lenten/Easter season. It is from a book by R. Reed Lessing, "Deliver Us."

When Leonardo da Vinci was forty-three years old, the Duke of Milan asked him to paint the scene. The artist worked three years on the assignment, grouping the disciples into threes with two groups on either side of the central figure, Jesus.

When the masterpiece was finished, da Vinci said to a friend, "Look at it and give me your honest opinion."

"It's wonderful!" exclaimed the friend. "The cup is so real I can't take my eyes off of it!"

Immediately, da Vinci took a brush and painted over the cup. As he did so, he exclaimed, "Nothing shall detract from the figure of Christ!"

*Nothing shall detract from Jesus.* And why is that? Because Jesus was betrayed. Let that soak in. Jesus was betrayed. "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was *betrayed* took break" (1 Corinthians 11:23 ESV, emphasis added). The Words of Institution for the Holy Supper begin, "On the night when He was betrayed" (Small Catechism, Sacrament of the Altar). We hear these words so often that we really don't hear them.



## ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP

**Saturday, March 28, 8:30AM – 12:30PM**

**It's time for LCOS's annual spring housecleaning** inside and outside in preparation for the great feast of the Resurrection – Easter (April 5). All are welcome to come and help. Please bring your own cleaning and/or gardening supplies. Questions: Call Jane at 805-937-5241.

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### **There and Back Again**

By  
August Selby

For the past year I have been looking to visit other LCMS churches throughout the Central Coast. I have wanted to witness other congregations during their service and to share their experience. A couple of months ago I made up my mind and decided I will visit a different LCMS church once a month. In the next series of articles, I will share with the reader my journey.

My first stop was at Lutheran Church of Our Savior on 4725 Bradley rd. in Orcutt and what a great experience it was. The moment I came to the door people were starting up conversations with me, inviting me in for Fellowship and Bible class. I was offered several donuts and always greeted with friendly smiles. Their Pastor, Brenden Harrell, was leading an engaging and knowledgeable bible class as they coursed their way through the book of Zecharia.

After bible class, we all made our way to the Sanctuary for service. Just a few announcements regarding church business, and then we rose for the first hymn. As we sang a young acolyte lit the altar candles which made an impression on me. Seeing this boy in white robes performing his duties was so wonderful that it set the tone for the entire service. The congregation sang with one voice; they then prayed with one voice and finally exclaimed "Amen!" in perfect unison. Powerful.

Hear them again, as though for the very first time. "On the night when He was *betrayed*." Betrayed by Judas, one of the Twelve. Betrayed for thirty pieces of silver. Betrayed with a kiss - imagine that! Betrayed in a garden east of Jerusalem called Gethsemane. "Nothing shall detract from Jesus!" Why? Jesus was betrayed for us.

*For us.* When spoken by God, these are two of the most powerful words on the planet. God isn't against us. God isn't our opponent. God isn't our enemy. God is for us. Not just for her and him, for those and them. God's love is intensely personal. It's for us!

God is for us, in the past. "The LORD brought *us* out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm" (Deuteronomy 26:8 ESV, emphasis added). The Last Supper begins with Jesus reviewing this exodus story. Yahweh used lamb's blood on doorframes to save *us* from the angel of death. God led *us* out of Egypt with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God defeated Pharaoh's horses and chariots in the Red Sea while *we* walked through on dry ground.

*This is still our story!*

Did you know that since its completion in 1498, *The Last Supper* has been falling apart! Leonardo da Vinci – always the inventor – tried employing new materials for the painting. Instead of using the customary wet plaster, he used dry plaster, which worked well artistically but not well for the painting's sustainability. Experts have been trying to restore the original ever since.

How fitting! The Lord's Supper is for people whose lives – like da Vinci's painting – are always falling apart. In this life, we never get it right. But we have the Gospel. God is for us in the past. He performed a Red sea-like deliverance for all the baptized. God is for us in the present. Referring to the Lord's Supper, Paul records these words of Jesus: "Do this in *remembrance* of Me" (1 Corinthians 11:24 ESV, emphasis added). Remembrance helps us recall our story – our exodus story. Remembrance also brings Calvary to us – God's current mighty act.

Yours in Christ, Rudy Stowell

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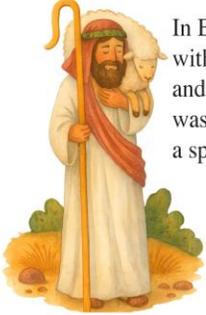
This liturgical service hit all the right notes while adding their own unique identity. When the Preschool Director came up to the altar for children's message and all the children gathered around her it was both educational and fun. But the most impressive part was while the Preschool Director prayed, the children repeated her prayer and then the whole congregation repeated. Learning to pray can be challenging and I realized what an effective way for children to practice prayer while growing confidence and feeling encouraged.

Then Pastor Harrell gave a sermon that was not only topical but thought provoking. During this epiphany Sunday service, Pastor Harrell spoke of the wise men and their journey searching for the King and whimsically likened their journey to that of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins. I began to think of my own personal journey in search of the King as I sat in a church 40 miles away from my home. His sermon was succinct and fed my spirit.

After the sermon the congregation greeted one another with the "Peace of the Lord." There was no rush. For a service filled with at least 80-100 people, everyone took their time greeting everyone else with open hearts and warm smiles. I felt at peace. We ended the service with a hymn as the acolyte snuffed out the candles. A truly grand experience and I am happy to have joined them and feel blessed to have been their guest.

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?? **Bible Quiz** ??



In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A Salt Solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5, ESV)

## Faith That Blooms Anew



"Why are you anxious?" asked our Lord. Then He said, *"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."* (Matthew 6:28–29, NIV)

Jesus' words remind us that just as God clothes the lilies of the field in beauty and splendor, he also provides faithfully for his people. The same Creator who tends to the flowers of spring cares for every detail of our lives.

People of faith come to see that truth unfold year after year — in the budding trees, the soft blossoms, and the steady return of color after winter's gray. God's reliability is woven into creation itself.

As poet Adeline Whitney once wrote:

*God does not send strange flowers every year,  
When the Spring wind blows o'er the pleasant places,  
The same dear things lift up the same fair faces,  
The violet is here.*

Each spring, those familiar blooms whisper the same promise: God is faithful still.

**MARCH 2026**

**CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>ACOLYTE</b>	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>	<b>LESSON READER</b>	<b>MEDIA</b>	<b>ALTAR GUILD/FLOWERS</b>
<b>1 Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 AM Communion</b>	Ali Mayes	Art Atrops Tom Heuchert	Jim LaBelle	Debbie Heuchert	Estelle Schofield	<b>Altar:</b> Becky Zielke
							<b>Flowers:</b> Lent (no flowers)
<b>4 Lent III</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>		Rudy Stowell Tom Heuchert			Diana Brown	
<b>8 Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Lucy Chaney	Mark Hathaway	Bill Williamson	Becky Zielke	Terry Murdock	<b>Altar:</b> Emma Olney
							<b>Flowers:</b> Lent (no flowers)
<b>11 Lent IV</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>		Tom Heuchert Art Atrops			Diana Brown	
<b>15 Praise Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 AM Communion</b>	Trevor Schofield	Dennis Payne Todd Martin	Michael Southern	Gary Lange	Estelle Schofield	<b>Altar:</b> Becky Foley
							<b>Flowers:</b> Lent (no flowers)
<b>18 Lent V</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>		Dennis Payne Mark Hathaway			Diana Brown	
<b>22 Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Piper Chaney	Todd Martin	Paul Mattson	Marjorie Hord	Dennis Payne	<b>Altar:</b> Lori Williamson
							<b>Flowers:</b> Lent (no flowers)
<b>25 Lent VI</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>		Rudy Stowell Dennis Payne			Diana Brown	
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Drew Schofield	Rudy Stowell	Bill Williamson	Reese Riddiough	Terry Murdock	<b>Altar:</b> Connie Hathaway
							<b>Flowers:</b> Palms
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>		<b>ACOLYTES</b> *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	<b>ELDERS</b> *Todd Martin 801-3873	<b>USHERS</b> *Art Atrops 937-0485	<b>READERS</b> *Todd Martin 801-3873	<b>MEDIA</b> *Dennis Payne 934-1101	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b> Becky Zielke 598-6924 <b>FLOWERS</b> Connie Hathaway 937-9675 <b>FLOWER MINISTRY</b> Zielke 598-6924/LaBelle 260-2742

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ANY CHANGE(S) BY TRADING WITH ANOTHER MINISTER

2. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT OF ANY CHANGE(S).

3. INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGES(S) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE - 937-1116

## March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Communion Svc.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 3:00pm SH in use (Shelter)	<b>4</b> <b>10:00am Sm. Grp. Bible Study</b> 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent Svc.	<b>5</b> <b>4:30pm Elders' Meeting</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Mowing: Riddiough, Schofield
<b>8</b> 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	<b>9</b> <b>6:00pm Men's Group</b>	<b>10</b> <b>9:30am Quilters</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent Svc.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 4:00pm Cub Scouts Blue & Gold dinner	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Praise/Comm. Svc. <b>11:00am Council Mtg.</b> <b>2:00pm Adult Fellowship</b>	<b>16</b> Ministry Availability Due	<b>17</b> <b>5:30pm P/S Board Mtg.</b>	<b>18</b> 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent Svc.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Newsletter Deadline <b>6:00pm Parent's Night Out</b>	<b>21</b> Mowing: Atrops, LaBelle, Allred
<b>22</b> 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Lent Svc.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 4:00pm Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby	<b>28</b> 7:00am Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby
<b>29</b> 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Maundy Thursday	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Good Friday	<b>4</b>