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 Allen Steinbeck, Intentional Interim Pastor

Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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## FROM THE INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR...

**Dear People of God at Lutheran Church of Our Savior,**

Perhaps you've looked ahead on your calendar and noticed that Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day coincide this year. A day when we see and send hearts all over the place, we also begin the Season of Lent, celebrating God's intense and everlasting love for us in Jesus Christ our Lord. This Lent/Holy Week/Easter we will be privileged to walk with Jesus to his Places of the Passion, as follows:

- Ash Wednesday, February 14, The City of Jerusalem
- The five following Wednesdays, February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, Bethany, The Mount of Olives, The Garden of Gethsemane, The High Priest's Courtyard, and Pilate's Judgment Hall.
- Palm Sunday, March 24, Bethphage
- Maundy Thursday, March 28, The Upper Room
- Good Friday, March 29, Golgotha
- Easter Sunday, March 31, The Garden Tomb

All of the Wednesday services, along with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, will begin at 7:00 p.m. Easter services will be at 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt in between. Soup and Salad Suppers are being planned for FIVE of our Lenten Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. (NONE on Ash Wednesday). Please mark your calendars accordingly. Please also be on the lookout for any further details as these important days draw near.

In preparation for this Season of the Church Year, the words of Hebrews 12:2 encourage:

[Oh, come,] let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

At the same time, the words of Romans 5:6-8 sharpen our focus on God's love for us in Jesus:

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

That, dear friends, is Love to Celebrate, in Christ Jesus our Lord!

**Pastor Allen**



## ALTAR GUILD FLOWER RATES for 2024

Effective January 2024 the cost of altar flowers is as follows:

**Regular Arrangements: \$49.00**

**Special Arrangements: \$65.00**



- Feb 01 Gary Lange
- Feb 07 Christopher Summers
- Feb 09 William Moffatt
- Feb 11 Kathryn Pierce
- Feb 13 Piper Chaney, Marjorie Hord
- Feb 22 Valeria Keinert
- Feb 24 Jedidiah Allred
- Feb 28 Michael Foley, Keith Struve



- Feb 01 4:00 pm Elders' Mtg.
- Feb 04 9:00 am SS/Bible Study
- Feb 04 10:00 am Comm. Svc.
- Feb 11 9:00 am SS/Bible Study
- Feb 11 10:00 am Worship Svc.
- Feb 12 6:00 pm Men's Group
- Feb 14 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Comm. Svc.  
(No Soup Supper)
- Feb 15 9:00 am Feb. Ministry Schedule Due
- Feb 17 10:00 am - 1:00 pm – Snow Day
- Feb 18 9:00 am SS/Bible Study
- Feb 18 10:00 am Praise/Comm. Svc.
- Feb 20 9:00 am Feb. Newsletter Deadline
- Feb 20 4:00 pm P/S Board Mtg.
- Feb 21 6:00 pm Soup Supper
- Feb 21 7:00 pm Lenten Svc.
- Feb 24 7:00 pm Concordia Musical Concert
- Feb 25 9:00 am SS/Bible Study
- Feb 25 10:00 am Worship Svc.
- Feb 28 6:00 pm Soup Supper
- Feb 28 7:00 pm Lenten Svc.

## ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE



### FEBRUARY

- Feb 04 – Comm. Svc.  
10:00 AM – Set-Up – Susan Wilcox  
Take-Down – Marjorie Hord  
Flowers:
- Feb 11 – Worship Svc.  
10:00 AM – Stephanie Clavin  
Flowers:
- Feb 14 – Ash Wednesday Comm. Svc.  
7:00 PM – Set-Up – Becky Zielke  
Take-Down – Kelly Olney
- Feb 18 – Comm. Svc.  
10:00 AM – Set-Up – Marjorie Hord  
Take-Down – Connie Hathaway  
Lent – No Flowers
- Feb 25 –Worship Svc.  
10:00 AM – Sara Chaney  
Lent – No Flowers

## VALENTINE DINNER DANCE

**Sunday, February 4 – 5:00 PM**—Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, dancing, and fun! Our Youth Group will host the dinner-dance, serving pasta and meatballs with salad, garlic bread, and dessert. There will be music and dancing for people of all ages at personally decorated tables. Sign up to attend, adopt a table, bring desserts, or help in a variety of other ways. There will be a sign-up sheet in the courtyard after services, or you may contact Kelly Olney at (805) 354-3213. ✨



## HELPING NEW LIFE

Please bring supplies for babies recently born because **CareNet Pregnancy Center** gave their mothers the encouragement and help needed to carry their baby to full term. Needed are: Diapers (size 4,5,6), wipes, baby lotion, baby whole body wash, and clothing for newborns size 0 to 3. We will then buy more with the money from Thrivent. You may also contribute money (cash or check to "CareNet"). Please place baby items or money in the basket in narthex **no later than February 11**. Thank you—Ruth Oliver. ✨



## CARENET PREGNANCY & RESOURCE CENTER

**This center is located** at 201 Miller Street, Suite 101 (near the old Sears). It offers pregnancy tests and sonograms, gives help to new mothers, and also provides post-abortion support. This past year CareNet shared the Gospel 283 times; 32 clients accepted Christ! ✨



## ELDER'S CORNER



### Lenten Questions

**So, here we are approaching the season of Lent** once again and there are always a couple of questions that come up around this time of year... The first question is often, *“What is Lent?”* The second is almost always, *“Do I have to give something up for Lent?”* So, let me start by giving a **brief** answer to the first...

Lent originated in the very earliest days of the church and was a time for prayerful and penitential preparation for the feast of Easter. Lent was also a time when new converts would be instructed in the teachings of the church and be prepared for baptism. This was, interestingly enough, only performed once a year on Easter. Why is Lent 40 days? The number 40 is a significant number for Christians. By observing the 40 days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus being sent into the wilderness for 40 days. Noah had to wait 40 days for his ark to float. And Moses, along with his followers, traveled through the wilderness for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land.

In most traditions, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (the 7th Wednesday before Easter) and continues for 40 days. Now I know some of you are thinking, “But you numbskull, there are more than 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter.” And you would be correct in thinking that. BUT, because Sunday is considered the “day of resurrection” or the “Lord’s Day” and is a day of rest, it is therefore excluded from Lent in order to allow people a day of rejuvenation and joy amidst the somberness of the season. So, 46 days from Ash Wednesday till Easter minus the 6 Sundays in Lent equals 40 days! Wow! I can still do some simple math.

**FUN FACT:** In many countries, the last day before Lent (called Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival, or Fasching) has become a last fling before the solemnity of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during

Lent, which is why some people call the festival “carnival,” which is Latin for “farewell to meat.”

Now to the second question... Do we (especially as Lutherans) have to give something up for Lent? The answer is: “If you want to.” It is a purely voluntary practice which depends on one’s own personal piety. But, if you choose to do it, think about this... Unlike some Christians, Lutherans **expect to earn no merit from God** in return for our Lenten sacrifice. WHY? Because, *Christ has already given us the fullness of God’s grace.* So, what would one gain from giving something up? Well, hopefully, it reminds you of Christ’s sacrifice for us. If you find foregoing a favorite food or activity you like helps you remember and give thanks for Christ’s sacrifice, then that’s great!

Now, some probably “give things up” because they know it’s a bad habit in the first place. Quitting smoking, giving up sweets, fast food, etc., all are modern favorites to “give up” for Lent. If Lent is the excuse you need to break a bad habit, you go for it. But think about this. Lent might also be a good time to “take something up” instead. Form a good habit that you’ve been meaning to do. Or maybe and better yet, because Lent is a season of the Church, think about taking up a spiritual habit. Perhaps read your Bible once a day during Lent. Pray for a few minutes at lunchtime. Come to church on Wednesdays for our midweek Lenten series. Take something up for Lent that is God-pleasing and will be a blessing to you.

For Christ took up the cross. He bore our sins and gave His life as our ransom. *May your Lent be a time of solemn pondering and meditative reflection on the great love of our Suffering Servant, Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Something submitted for your Lenten meditation by your elder...


**Dennis Payne**

?? ? ? ? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ? ? ?

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

“Dear friends, let us \_\_\_\_ one another, for \_\_\_\_ comes from God. Everyone who \_\_\_\_ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not \_\_\_\_ does not know God, because God is \_\_\_\_.”

- A. believe
- B. help
- C. love
- D. forgive



## LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

**2022-2024 Mite Update:** Mites collected are at 88%; \$13,109 is needed in the next 2.5 months to fund all 17 CNH grants; Mites Year ends March 31, 2024. We are now collecting for Grant #14 – Connecting Mercy & Church Planting – Latin America - \$5,000—This grant will help provide scholarships for students attending the Lutheran seminary in the Dominican Republic.

Isn't it amazing what we can accomplish when we regularly put change from our wallets into a little mite box!! ✨



**Ash Wednesday Communion Service**  
**Feb 14 – 7:00 PM – No Soup Supper**

**Lenten Services – Wednesdays – 7:00 PM**  
**Soup Suppers – 6:00 PM**

**Feb 21 Feb 28 Mar 6 Mar 13 Mar 20**

## WOMEN'S CHOIR ON TOUR



**You are invited to hear** the *Donne di Canto* women's choir of Concordia University Irvine perform at LCOS on **Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 7:00 PM.**

They are "known for seamless, expressive tone, and engaging programming." They have toured in western states and the country of Austria. Dr. Clarissa Shan serves as the ensemble director. There are 31 choir members that need to be housed for the evening of the 24th. It requires transportation to your home after the concert, sleeping arrangements, breakfast in the morning, and then transportation back to church by 7:15 AM. Please sign up at the treat table. Direct questions to Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443. ✨

## MOWING IN FEBRUARY

**Feb 10 – Art Atrops, Jim LaBelle**  
**Feb 24 – Mark Hathaway, Lucas Mayes, Dick Scholar**

## FROM THE PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE

**Hello, fellow congregants of Lutheran Church of Our Savior!** This is an update from the Pastoral Call Committee. No changes to report. We are in the same holding pattern waiting for a list of potential pastors. Are you feeling impatient? Frustrated? Be reassured that God's got this! We are called to encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact we are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11) The encouragement this time is coming from Pastor Steinbeck's sermon on January 14. We don't know when the list will be given to us. We don't know who or how many pastors will be on the list. We don't know if a pastor will accept our call. We don't know. Who does know? God! God knows!



Praise Him! How do we praise him? By exercising our faith and trust in God's knowing. We DO know that God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28) God's got this! ✨

## SNOW FALLS IN SANTA MARIA

**In January 2002, Molly Williams**, our first preschool director, initiated Snow Day at LCOS. Our 22<sup>nd</sup> annual **Snow Day** will be held on **Saturday, February 17, from 10 AM to 1 PM.** The Men's Group will lead this great outreach event and hope to negotiate a price of \$350 a ton. Typically, we purchase 10 to 12 tons of ice that miraculously turn into snow. To defray the cost, you may make a tax-deductible donation with a check payable to: **LCOS**, writing "Snow Day" in the memo line. If you have never attended Snow Day, come and check it out! We won't make you go down a sled run, but you will want to watch a bunch of kids having a great time. And, if you get hungry, you can indulge in a free hot dog lunch prepared by the Men's Club gourmet chefs. ✨



**FEBRUARY 2024**  
**CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR**

DAY	TIME	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	USHERS	LESSON READER	SOUND SYSTEM	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
4 Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Riley Olney	Art Atrops Rudy Stowell	Diana Brown	Brent Clavin	Ed Buchholz	Altar: Susan Wilcox – Set-Up Marjorie Hord – Take-Down Flowers: Open
11 Sunday	10:00 am	Elder	Tom Heuchert	Mike Foley	Debbie Heuchert	Karl DiModica	Altar: Stephanie Clavin Flowers: Open
14 Ash Wednesday	7:00 pm Comm.		Dennis Payne Mark Hathaway			Diana Brown	Altar: Becky Zielke – Set-Up Kelly Olney – Take-Down Flowers: Lent
18 Praise Sunday	10:00 am Comm.	Emma Olney	Mark Hathaway Todd Martin	Jim LaBelle	Michael Southern	Dennis Payne	Altar: Marjorie Hord – Set-Up Connie Hathaway – Take-Down Flowers: Lent
21 Wed.	7:00 pm		Art Atrops			Ed Buchholz	Altar: Flowers: Lent
25 Sunday	10:00 am	Ali Mayes	Todd Martin	Bill Williamson	Gary Lange	Estelle Schofield	Altar: Sara Chaney Flowers: Lent
28 Wed.	7:00 pm		Tom Heuchert			Terry Murdock	Altar: Flowers: Lent
<b>Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>		<b>ACOLYTES</b> *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	<b>ELDERS</b> *Tom Heuchert 934-1051	<b>USHERS</b> *Art Atrops 937-0485	<b>READERS</b> *Todd Martin 801-3873	<b>SOUND</b> *Dennis Payne 934-1101	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b> Connie Hathaway 937-9675  <b>FLOWERS</b> Connie Hathaway 937-9675  <b>FLOWER MINISTRY</b> Donna Finlay (805) 937-3690

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 CHANGE(S) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116

## FEBRUARY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 4:00 PM – Elders’ Mtg  4:00 pm – New Members’ Class	2	3
4 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Comm. Svc.	5	6 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	7 10-11:30 AM – Sm. Grp. Bible Study	8 4:00 pm – New Members’ Class	9 3:00 PM – SH in Use (Clavin)	10 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM – SH in Use (Clavin)
11 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc.	12 <b>6:00 – 8:00 PM Men’s Group</b>	13 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	14 10-11:30 AM – Sm. Grp. Bible Study <b>7:00 PM - Ash Wednesday Comm. Svc.</b>  <b>NO SOUP SUPPER</b>	15 <b>February Ministry Availability Due</b> 4:00 pm – New Members’ Class	16	17 <b>Snow Day 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM</b>
18 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Praise/Comm. Svc.	19	20 9:00 AM – Nwsltr. Deadline 4:00 PM – P/S Board Mtg. 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	21 10-11:30 AM – Sm. Grp. Bible Study <b>9:00 AM – Feb. Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>6:00 PM – Soup Supper</b> <b>7:00 PM – Lenten Worship</b>	22 4:00 pm – New Members’ Class	23	24  <b>7:00 – 8:00 PM – Concordia Irvine Musical Concert</b>
25 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc.	26	27 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	28 10-11:30 AM – Sm. Grp. Bible Study <b>6:00 PM – Soup Supper</b> <b>7:00 PM – Lenten Worship</b>	29 4:00 pm – New Members’ Class		