A Note from the Pastor...

March Madness

Of course, I borrow this title and theme from all the college basketball games that will be played and watched at courts around our nation this month (coined by the sports world as March Madness). March is a busy month.

Historically, in agricultural portions of our country, March was the time when if you had purchased land or were renting land, you would notice that it takes its toll on church attendance. It’s hard on everyone — but church services are on the “front line” of the battle. With time we all seem to get used to it — but it does seem like a type of madness to mess with our clocks all of the time.

Then this year in the month of March, the “Spring Break” of the school calendar falls on the same week as “Holy Week” on the Church Calendar. As we seek volunteers for extra worship services — this alignment of the moon is enough to drive the scheduler of the church calendar mad. :)

For God’s people, the major focus for us this month will be the Passion of our Lord. I note for you that there is a demeanor on the face of Jesus that the Scriptures capture quite convincingly. Jesus faces all kinds of things that would darken the countenance of our face and certainly make us mad, if we were in His sandals. Yet, He is calm and seemingly unflappable. We will read of and rehearse these things in the month of March. There is perhaps nothing more perplexing than pure injustice — there is nothing more brutal than pain inflicted for the fun of it... there is nothing more sad than watching your friend and loved one suffer when there is seemingly nothing that you can do. This is the Passion of our Lord. This is what the disciples, relatives, and followers of Jesus were confronted with as they became witnesses of His betrayal, His arrest, His trial, His scourging, His crucifixion, His agony, and His death. As the dust is settling, two disciples of Jesus will walk down that road to the town of Emmaus with their faces downcast and their hopes shattered as they are unable to make sense of the madness that they have witnessed in Jerusalem.

For sure we seem to be living in a madness of our own. Our faces are downcast and we grasp for answers as angry young men — from within our own communities, carry out acts of violence against their classmates and schools and teachers in our schools. And this is but one example of our madness today.

March is also the month when taxes are due on agricultural land. Many of us will be working on our taxes as well this month.

We have another kind of madness this month as well. The time changes on March 11th. We “spring forward” at this time of the year. If you were to look at historical records, you would notice that it takes its toll on church attendance. It's hard on everyone — but church services are on the “front line” of the battle. With time we all seem to get used to it — but it does seem like a type of madness to mess with our clocks all of the time.

The Mission of Living Savior Lutheran Church: Alive in Christ, we share the love of Jesus—we serve, care for, support and nourish each other, our community, and the world!

April

1 Easter Sunday
12 Holocaust Remembrance Day
13-15 Stephen Ministry Retreat
29 Group Home Spring Fling

That’s also what we find Jesus doing throughout the Passion Narrative — from the Garden of Gethsemane to the grueling hours endured on the cross — He prays. He prays and He knows that He is heard. He prays knowing the will of the Father will not be thwarted. Of course, we know that the madness of Friday gives way to the joy of Easter Sunday. I know that. You know that. He has taught us to call upon him as “Our Father...” We too are heard and His will is still not thwarted though the world seems, at times, to have gone mad.

Pastor Brandt
**Questions?** See Ginger L., Youth Board Chair, or Heidi Frank with you Sunday morning.

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**SUMMER SNEAK PREVIEW!** …

**SUN, MAR 18**

**BOWLING AT WILSONVILLE LANES!** (2:30-4:30 PM)
Meet at the Lanes:
Bring: A Snack to share

**SUMMER SNEAK PREVIEW!** … Summer Retreat is Devil’s Lake State Park, Tues-Fri, July 10-13. And, as always, 5th Graders are invited to join this event!

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**New this Easter …**

**CONTINENTAL EASTER BREAKFAST (Pastry Potluck!)**
Sunday, April 1 - Easter
9:45 - 10:45 am
Fellowship Hall

The Sr. Youth are providing coffee, tea, juice, pastries, and fruit. Everyone is invited to contribute some kind of pastry to the mix (sweet rolls, donuts, coffee cake, etc.). You may drop off your potluck item to the church kitchen on Saturday, March 31, or bring with you Sunday morning.

Questions? See Ginger L., Youth Board Chair, or Heidi Frank

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**CONTINENTAL EASTER BREAKFAST**

—I propose that we set ourselves with positive daily devotions. I try to see how many flights of stairs I’ve climbed, how much sleep I get, what my heart rate is, how many day out of 5 that I’ve exercised, and more. Mostly I just use it to see that I’ve got the 10,000 steps each day that the American Heart Association recommends. My fitbit can also be set to give me reminders if I’ve been sitting too long: “Time for a stroll?” “How about 50 more?” Those notification can be turned off if I don’t want to be nagged during the day.”

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**March Devotion**

—Judy C.

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another…

Hebrews 10:24-25

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I’ve had a fitbit for a little over a year now. It keeps track of a variety of things — most of which I ignore. But I can check in to see how many flights of stairs I’ve climbed, how much sleep I get, what my heart rate is, how many day out of 5 that I’ve exercised, and more. Mostly I just use it to see that I’ve got the 10,000 steps each day that the American Heart Association recommends. My fitbit can also be set to give me reminders if I’ve been sitting too long: “Time for a stroll?” “How about 50 more?” Those notification can be turned off if I don’t want to be nagged during the day.”

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It is good to have a goal; however sometimes the goal becomes the end in itself. I’m not focused on the benefit of exercising, but on reaching the number for the sake of feeling successful that I hit the mark. In fact, sometimes the fitbit turns from a tool to set a goal to an instrument that produces guilt. And sometimes it feels like the experience of the movie “Ground Hog Day” where everyday starts all over again. At midnight the clock resets to zero and the pressure is on to make it to 10,000 steps in the next 24 hours (or fewer, assuming that sleep will occur before 12:00). There is a lot of self-imposed incentive to maintain that daily record.

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I’ve wondered if sometimes experience the same kind of pressure with our daily devotions. Do we experience real fellowship with our Lord when we read His word, pray, or otherwise worship? Or is this something that we can check off of our list of things to get done that day? Do we go to church on Sunday morning because it is the right thing to do? Or is it to give God our worship and praise and to encourage one another? Do we go to church to get or to give?

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In “Ground Hog Day”, it was a matter of staring over again daily until the main character ‘got it right.’ If our goal is to get something right, we need to make sure what it is that we are aiming for.

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The season of Lent is an especially good time to focus on our Christian walk. It is a more somber time when we reflect on the penitential aspects of our faith. Some people give up a food item or other things that will make them feel the sacrifice that points to Jesus’ sacrifice in becoming a man, suffering and dying for the sake of our sin. If you’ve given up something especially meaningful to you, there is great joy when Easter arrives and your Lenten fast will end.

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So when does an ongoing activity become a habit? It is true that there are good habits and bad habits, but let’s think about the good ones. Is daily exercise a habit or an activity that feels like punishment, but must be done? That kind of depends on the attitude, doesn’t it? Are daily devotions a habit that we anticipate with joy or drudgery? Once again, attitude is the key.

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In looking in the Concordance of my Bible for the word “habit”, there was only one scripture listed—the one from Hebrews that is above. But I really like it because it gives us a goal and the reason for that goal. We have the habit of meeting together to encourage one another, to stir up one another to love and good works.

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I propose that we set ourselves with positive daily goals such as doing a random act of kindness or saying thank you to someone you appreciate, or contacting a person who has been on the back of your mind to reach out to. These may call for the sacrifice of a bit of your time, but there is great blessing in reaching out to others and to experience joy in those circumstances. With an attitude of gratitude for all that God has done for us and continues to do through His Holy Spirit, we can offer our thanksgiving and praise — a really good habit to have.
Shut In Ministry

“You are those who have stood by me in my trials.” - Luke 22:28

Living Savior has an active team of people who have a heart for those who are unable to attend church because of illness or disabilities. As a visitor to shut ins, they have an opportunity to make a positive difference in someone’s life by visiting and bringing to them fellowship and love from the congregation.

- WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT SHUT INS?
  Volunteers are trained for this ministry. If you would like to be a part of this ministry or have questions, contact Peggy H. or Lola E. or contact the Church Office.

- DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WE CAN VISIT?
  Contact Peggy H. or Lola E. or contact the Church office.

SUPPORT GROUP AT LIVING SAVIOR

We invite you to connect with others at Living Savior who are giving care or have given care to a loved one. Those who are in the midst of care giving could greatly benefit from those who have gone before them. We usually meet the third Saturday of the month, 9:00am to share resources, encourage one another and fill our spiritual cup; however we are meeting the 4th Saturday this month, March 24. Please join us in! Friends of Living Savior Lutheran are welcome to join us as well. You may know someone in the work place or community who would benefit from our group. Questions? Call Karen H. or contact the Church office.

Saturday, March 24, 9:00 am
Library
Living Savior Lutheran

PUZZLES!
The church library is offering puzzles for lending. We use the honor system so please return a borrowed puzzle in a timely fashion so others may use them. If you have quality puzzles, no pieces missing, that you would like to share with others, place them in the plastic tub under the clock in the library.

MARCH At Preschool

The sun has been out during this mild winter, teasing us with the coming spring! As we start the month of March we are counting down the days until the flowers bloom, the birds chirp, and the days grow longer. We marvel at just how awesome our mighty God is.

This month our Bible stories help prepare us for Easter as we learn about Jesus’ love for us and forgiveness of our sins. We start with the Last Supper, the last meal Jesus spent with His disciples. The next week we’ll hear about Jesus’ death on the cross. The ultimate sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. The week before spring break we’ll learn about the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Secular topics this month include water, air, and wind. Topics will be covered through observations, books, discussions, touch table, science, and dramatic play.

Dramatic play this month includes a toy store complete with toys to purchase, shopping carts, money to buy the toys, and cash registers for workers to check out the customers. The next week the dramatic play area will be set up as a church as we prepare for Easter Sunday. The church will include song books, Bibles, and dress up.

Do you know any families in need of a preschool? We have just finished up February enrollment for the 2018-2019 year. We are full in the morning classes and Pre-k but have room available in the afternoon 3 & 4’s classes. Children need to be 3- or 4-years-old on or by September 1 to attend school. Please pass the word along and have them call for more information and a tour. Denice 503 692-3303

First Responders — First contacts . . .

Are you interested in becoming a LSLC First Responder? The time commitment is minimal, the blessings are immeasurable! As a First Responder you will make contact and welcome individuals and families that visit Living Savior. Often times a First Responder contact leads to participation in Pastor’s Adult Class as well as church membership. Contact Tom R. or the Church office for further information.

Contact Peggy H. or Lola E. or contact the Church Office.
Adult Education Class David and His Psalms

As we lead up to Easter (April 1) we want to look at the life of King David and his own reflections on that life in the psalms. Each week we will consider another episode in the life of David and a psalm which is connected to those events. While we will recapitulate the story of David and the Psalm in the study, we will not have time to read aloud all this material. The participant may find his/her study enriched by reading the stories and psalms prior to attending or after the study. The dates indicate the day on which we will cover this material in class.

Mar 4 When David must flee for his life before the rebellion of his son Absalom — Psalm 3 and II Samuel 15
Mar 11 When Shimei curses David as he flees — II Samuel 16 and Psalm 7
Mar 18 When David trusts God’s promise that his son will build a temple, so he writes a poem for the occasion— Psalm 30,

Mission Speaker — Carol Halter

Hong Kong missionary Carol Halter will be spending the first week of March here with us at Living Savior. Make plans now to meet this dedicated women and to participate in some of the following events:

Thursday & Friday (Mar 1 & 2) -
Carol talks to Preschool students
Saturday March 3 -
7:00am - Men’s breakfast
10:00am - Meet at LSLC for a “Field Trip to the Chinese Garden with dim sum lunch following (Carpool)
Sunday March 4 -
8:30 & 10:45 Worship featuring Carol
9:45 Carol speaks to Jr. and Sr. Youth -
10:00am - Family POT LUCK and presentation about work in China

Deaconess Carol Halter serves the Lord and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Hong Kong. We look forward to her visit with us. Thanks to Dave Kohl for working to arrange Carol’s time at LSLC.

WHAT ABOUT SCRIP?

You have heard of Scrip, but do you know what it is??
Simple definition: Gift Cards!!! You purchase them at face value and the church makes a profit. The choices are endless and the profit ranges from 3.5% - 41%.

All money raised goes to help pay down the mortgage.

Please take a moment to look at the order forms that can be found on the Scrip table or at the Scrip mailbox (the white one on the stand in the entryway).

Choose what you want, and include a check or cash as payment. Your order can be put in the box at any time and will be available the following Sunday. It is that easy.

Thanks for your support.
Marriage Encounter

Have a great marriage? Take it to the next level. A strong, loving, and lifelong relationship doesn’t happen by chance. It takes effort and dedication to keep the fun and romance alive.

Research by the Marriage and Family Foundation shows that in healthy marriages, couples:

- Have a more fulfilling love life.
- Have better health and live longer.
- Have less stress in life.
- Children do better in life.
- Have better income.

See what a Marriage Encounter weekend can do for you.

For more information or to schedule yourselves for a weekend together, visit the Lutheran Marriage Encounter website www.GodLovesMarriage.org or contact Carl and Dallas Anne Presley, 206-522-6840, carl.presley@comcast.net or call Brent and Sandy Blake 503-682-2997.

Weekend dates are April 13-15 at the Red Lion in Renton, Washington.

Dinners of Eight

Our last of three dinners will be March 11, 5:00-7:00pm. You may sign up on the “chef” poster in the church narthex until March 4th. You will be contacted the week of the dinner by the host with the host’s address and a request for a side dish.

WHAT: What are Dinners of Eight? They are dinners for about eight participants, to be held at a host’s home. Multiple suppers will be going on at various locations on the same day. The host will generally provide the main entrée with other diners bringing a side dish, salad or dessert.

WHY: This is an opportunity to spend more time getting to know each other, renewing friendships, and just having time to talk and enjoy each other’s company.

HOSTS NEEDED: Please check the host column on the sign-up sheets in the narthex or contact Karen Hoppert, 503-694-8773 or kchoppert@comcast.net

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN: There has also been interest in full family participation in the Dinners of Eight. Families who would like their children to participate in these events at the church in the Fellowship Hall or in a home, please sign the sheet labeled “Families with Children” and indicate if you would be willing to host. A host will call/email others to participate in the potluck. Also indicate the number of children.

DINNER DATE: Sunday, March 11, 5:00-7:00 pm.

This is a month by month commitment only. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity!
The Amazing Grays meet March 1, 2018 at 1:00pm at the church. Our special guest will be Carol Halter, a missionary from China. Carol was our guest several years ago. She shared many insights of missionary work in the Chinese culture. Come join the Amazing Grays on Thursday, March 1, for new insights, questions and answers and the ever popular social time. See you there.

-Dave C.

March Outing.
The Amazing Grays are going to the theater on Sunday, March 18 to the Hart Theater in Hillsboro where they will see “Nanas Naughty Knickers.” Group tickets have already been purchased. If you want to attend this 2:00pm performance, you can purchase tickets directly at 504.593.7815 or hart-theater.org or hart-theater@frontier.com. See you there.

-Dave C.

Planning Ahead
Do the Amazing Grays need more culture and refinement? Yes they do! Keep open the date of April 17 as we travel to the Portland Art Museum. This is a Tuesday, a different day from most of our outings. We’ll travel by MAX to the Art Museum and the best part—this is free! More information will be coming.

-Dave C.

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Lenten Music Service Invitations
The Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, will be presenting its annual Lenten Tour. We invite your congregation to join us for this worship service. Our local service will be held Tuesday, March 6, 7:00pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 795 E. Powell Blvd. Gresham, OR 97030. Phone 503.665.5414 or on the web at www.whereheiltsurgie.lives.org. The service will include choral music for the season and congregational hymns and canticles. Kantor Kevin Hildebrand directs the choir with associate Kantor Matthew Machemer accompanying on organ. Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Pulse, professor of Exegetical Theology at CTSFW, will serve as liturgist and preacher for the service.

Concordia Theological Seminary exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. It is a seminary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The Kammerchor of Concordia University—Wisconsin will host a concert at Trinity Lutheran Church, 5520 NE Killingsworth St., Portland, on Saturday, March 17 at 7:00pm. All are invited.

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In Appreciation
From Pete & Sandra: We would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards and calls of love and healing of body and spirit following Sandra’s surgery and the loss of her brother-in-law. We are grateful to be in this Christian community of Living Savior.
Lovingly, Sandra & Pete P.

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Church Safety and Security
A subcommittee of the Spiritual Life Board has recently been formed to address safety and security at the church. This is a topic of discussion within the congregation. The primary scope of the committee is to develop a safety protocol and train ushers and others as needed on their role in the implementation of the safety measures necessary during worship services. If you have questions or suggestions, you may contact Arnie C.

As always, be aware of others in the building as you are leaving. If you are the last to leave please turn out all lights, lock the doors and set the alarm as there have been times when the building was left unsecured.

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Come Check Us Out!
DID YOU KNOW?...........

• That we have a book shelf dedicated for books that the Book Club at Living Savior has read.
• That we have a book shelf of puzzles for you to check out.
• That we have reference material, Bible studies, children’s craft & learning idea books.

The library is located on the second floor, next to the Upper Room (arched entries). There is self-checkout.

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News from Bethesda Auxiliary
Pastor Philemon Ngare was here last October, he was trying to do the work three people had done. As a ministry consultant he was trying to visit and share the love of Jesus with over 250 people in Washington and the west side of Portland. He also met with the care-givers in the group homes and apartments as well as the management teams to give them support and encouragement.

God has answered the prayers of Pastor Nagre and many others as Rebecca Lindsley has come to join in the ministry with the people who are often overlooked. She is excited to be here and share in the work with the people supported by Bethesda Auxiliary.

-Sylvia S.