March

4, 11, 18, 25 Lenten Worship services
7 West Hills LWML Rally at Pilgrim Lutheran
8 Daylight Savings time starts
17 St. Patrick’s Day
23-27 Spring Break

April

5 Palm Sunday
9 Maundy Thursday
10 Good Friday
12 Easter Sunday
17-19 Stephen Ministry Retreat
26-May 3 Family Promise at Living Savior

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!

Lent and lint are oddly similar in my odd mind. Having lint on a sweater is hard to get off. Sometimes the sweater just needs to go into the washing machine with the lint being lifted up and out by the water. More important, Lent is our time for repenting of sin that is impossible to get off on our own. Lent is wisely spent examining our personal condition and how we are covered with sin all the while longing to get rid of it once and for all. Perhaps a poor analogy, Baptism is the washing instituted by God for ridding us of sin and giving us the confident hope of everlasting joy and communion with Him.

The 3rd Chapter of Matthew recounts that “John (as he was baptizing others) would have prevented [Jesus from being baptized], saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then John consented.” His Heavenly Father’s righteousness was completed by His Son coming in human flesh to live and serve in complete communion with us and sacrificing Himself for us. It started with Baptism; so does our life as Children of God.

We use sponges to take dirt off of filthy things; God The Father used His beloved Son. “When Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’ It was “fitting” for Jesus to enter into our filthy water to absorb our sin. It was “fitting” that the Lamb of God would suffer and die on the cross, washing away our sin with water and blood that came from His wounds. Our sin didn’t flood down a drain but “Was removed from us as far as the East is from the West. (Ps. 103:12) It was “fitting” according to the love of God.

In the Large Catechism (part IV, Baptism) we read: “God Himself stakes His honor, His power and His might on it (Baptism).” (17) “For God Himself has honored Baptism by words and deeds. Furthermore, He confirmed it with miracles from Heaven. (Rom. 6:3–5) Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We begin Lent with Ashes and Repentance and celebrate with the climactic greeting: “HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED!” I encourage us all to spend this Lenten Season meditating not only on our own and obvious sinful nature—but also God’s Gracious gift of Holy Baptism being reminded of our union with Him according to His Word, His Faithfulness, His Will.

Pastor Phil Alexander
Pastoral Call Committee

Since Rev. Browning declined our Divine Call in late January, the Pastoral Call Committee has met twice and is intent on identifying the minister that our Lord has chosen to be the future Pastor of Living Savior. The congregation has given us the names of 12 ministers both locally and across the country; these have been submitted to the NW District Office for review by President Linnemann. After his evaluation of these and hopefully the generation of a few more candidates, we will assess the individuals deemed most suitable and contact them.

We entrust you to continue your prayers for Committee guidance and enlivened congregational spirit. Be sure to fill out more paper sheets for the origami doves as we continue to let the Holy Spirit know that we anxiously await His disclosure to us.

Jon H.
PCC Chair

March Devotion

But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4

A good friend recently said to me that every time you read the word or use the word “but” in a sentence, it totally negates what has come before. For the most part this may be true. It seems that maybe not so much as negating what was said, there is a change of direction in attitude or intent.

It got me thinking about the “but God” statements in the Bible. I went to Biblegateway.com and entered the phrase “but God” into the keyword search and it came up with 656 results. Unfortunately, the search includes every time the words “but” and “God” appeared in the same passage, but not necessarily together. However, there are many passages which do say, “but God.”

Consider Genesis 8:1

But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark.

The things that were in the past are changed because God remembers. He is active in His creation.

Genesis 21:12

But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the boy and because of you save woman.”

God was negating Abraham’s attitude toward Hagar and giving him a new instruction.

Genesis 50:20 - Joseph to his brothers

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Joseph points out that God had a plan that negated the evil intent of the brothers.

Luke 16:15

And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Acts 7:9

“And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him.”

Acts 10:28

And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawfully it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit any one of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.

Philippians 2:27

Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also...

From these selected scriptures we see that God intercedes in the lives of His people. It is very comforting to know when we are experiencing disappointment, pain, fear, even disbelief, that God is in control of our circumstances. We may feel unable to cope with or understand what is going on in our lives. At these times we can remember the “but God” phrase. We don’t know, but God does. We don’t understand, but God does. We are sinners, but God offers his grace to all who repent and believe. We may be trapped in an addiction, but God is greater than our addictions.

During the Lenten season we have the opportunity to reflect on the great news of God sending His Son to be our Savior. We were lost, but God found us through His Holy Spirit.

A little Lenten history: Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon words lenentid (meaning “March”) and lenenten (meaning “spring”).

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and “the Lenten fast” to the pre-Easter period.

- Judy C.
Each Wednesday before Lenten Worship.

We again invite people to bring soup, rolls or bread, and cookies or desserts to share with others. Volunteers to help with setup and cleanup are needed. Sign up on the poster in the Narthex. We truly look forward to this time of fellowship with friends and members of Living Savior before each Worship Service.

EASTER EGG HUNT — The Witness Board of Living Savior will again be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for children of the congregation on Easter Morning, Sunday, April 12, at 10:15pm between Breakfast and second service. All children, Pre-K through 6th grade, are invited to attend. There will be bags of empty eggs in the Narthex that can be taken home, filled and then brought back to the Church by April. We are asking that the eggs are only filled with small toys or wrapped candy. If you are interested in giving money, please place it in the offering plate and mark it “Easter Egg Hunt”. Thank you for your help in supporting this event for the kids.

Lent/Easter Worship Schedule

Wed. March 4, 11, 18, 25 April 5 — Holden Vespers - 7:15pm
Palm Sunday April 5 - Regular Worship Schedule
Maundy Thurs. April 9 at 7:15pm
Good Friday April 10 at 7:15pm
Easter Sunday April 12 - Regular Worship Schedule

EASTER EGG HUNT PREPARATION

In preparation of the Annual LSLC Easter Egg Hunt we will be sorting eggs to be taken home to be filled at the March 4th and March 11th Soup Suppers. No special training is needed. We will be asking for the congregation’s assistance in filling the eggs. Thank you in advance for helping us make this event successful.

From Living Savior to Uganda!

A note from Sandra Pedersen and the Altar Guild.

On behalf of Rae Puhl and the Spiritual Life Board, I was asked to gather any altar guild items that hadn’t been used in the 5+ years since we dedicated the new sanctuary. The main reason for nonuse was that items are no longer the appropriate style or fit with the new altar/lectern and/or new items have been purchased or donated. After advertising throughout LCMS, several congregations requested one or two of the items but in a phone call, Pastor Tim Davis requested ALL items for 16 Lutheran Mission congregations in Uganda which he regularly visits in a clean-well building project. He knows these congregations personally and knows of their need. Since he was soon leading a group to Uganda, we made prompt arrangements for someone local to take all items to Colorado for shipping to Uganda. Here is a transcription of his phone call to me upon his return from Uganda.

We just returned from Uganda on Tuesday evening, Feb. 4, 2020. I wanted to say Thank You! We were able to take everything given to us by your congregation, the altar cloths, altar paraments, banners, communion ware, etc. The Ugandan churches were overjoyed. They were humbled, excited, and very grateful. There was enough there to distribute to about five churches. The pastor Dean of the district there, (like our District President), was elated because having these items means more churches can now celebrate the sacrament, more churches could have paraments, and pastors could now have stoles. I again want to say “Thank You” for making this happen! It is all to the glory of God and spread of His Gospel. God’s peace!

To God be the glory in being able to support these congregations in Uganda!
As March is quickly approaching, we are reminded that spring is coming soon. The weather is changing, the days are slowly growing longer, the birds are singing, the flowers and plants are starting to bloom, and color returns. With the return of spring we are reminded of new life. God has promised us new life through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

This month our Bible stories will show us how God was faithful to his followers and how He loves all people. We start March with the story of Daniel who was faithful to God even when faced with death. God protected Daniel by shutting the mouths of the lions and showing the king that the God Daniel worshipped was true God. We then talk about Zacchaeus who, as a tax collector, was not an honest man. God still loved him and showed him grace and forgiveness. When Jesus visited with his friends Mary and Martha, He saw how hard Martha was working and how Mary sat and spent time with Him. There is a great lesson for us all in this story. After spring break, we dive into the Easter story with hearing about Palm Sunday. This is the event that started the week before Easter when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Secular topics this month include water, air, and wind. The drama corner will include toy store and school. Children will be able to shop for toys at the store where other friends will be working as cashiers. A favorite drama transformation will happen at the end of the month. The children love to play school and will get the opportunity to be the teacher and the students, lead group time, sing songs, tell Bible stories, and do classroom jobs.

Do you know any families in need of a preschool? We have just finished up February enrollment for the 2020-2021 year. We are full in the morning classes but have room available in the afternoon 3 & 4’s classes and Pre-K. Children need to be 3- or 4-years-old on or by September 1 to attend preschool. And for Pre-K you must be five or turning five by Dec. 31, 2020. Please pass the word along and have them call for more information and a tour. Denice 503-692-3303.

Right after March’s chapel time (March 3 & 4) the Preschool will be holding our spring fundraiser: the HOOP-A-THON. Parents/Preschoolers are seeking sponsors who make pledges to each child. The day of the event we “hoop it up” and all become basketball stars! The spectators (parents) will fill the fellowship hall; our stars (preschoolers) are pumped up and have lots of fun shooting baskets.

Denice Hornberger and the Preschool Staff
**Dinners of Eight**

Our last of three dinners will be Sunday, March 8, 5:00-7:00pm. You may sign up on the “chef” in the poster in the narthex until Sunday, March 1. 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 dinners 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 at the church office.

**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 8, 5:00-7:00 pm.

*This is for you, even if this is your first Dinners of Eight! Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity!*

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**Book Club**

Please join us for book club discussions. We meet the second Saturday of each month, 10:00-11:30am, September-May. A lively discussion of the book, there is fellowship and we are refreshed with morning goodies, coffee and tea. Consider joining the group when you can and invite a friend! There is no obligation to attend every month and no pressure to have the right answers because there are NO right answers. The following is a listing of the books that will be read and discussed:

- **MARCH 14** Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand by Helen Simonson
- **APRIL 11** Carnegie’s Maid by Marie Benedict
- **MAY 9** The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

We will be choosing the selections for discussion beginning next September at our May 9 meeting. People can send suggestions to Karen H. by email from March 1 to April 1.

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**From the Witness Board**

**Game Night**

- **Save the Date!**
  - Friday, May 8
  - 5:00 - 9:00pm

  We will be hosting a game night in the fellowship hall with a potluck Taco Bar, Dessert Bar, and Bring Your Own Beverage. Sign ups and more details will be forthcoming.

**Italy and Oberammergau**

Questions have been raised concerning the Tour of Italy and Oberammergau led by Pastor Nathan and Charlotte Brandt in September of 2020 and the answer is, “Yes, this trip is happening.”

The dates are September 22 – October 2.

Brochures and applications are available in the narthex.

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**Four Complete Stephen Ministry Training**

The Stephen Ministry trainees have completed fifty hours of training. Congratulations to Marc T., Stephanie S., Brent B., and Brad A.

Our trainees have worked extremely hard and their dedication is paying off. Training includes pre-class reading assignments and in-class lecture, discussion, and skills practice.

A recurring emphasis of Stephen Minister training has been confidentiality. What a care receiver says to his or her Stephen Minister is held strictly confidential. Even the identity of the care receiver is kept confidential from other Stephen Ministers.

The trainees will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers on Sunday, March 8, at both services. They will be available to receive their first caregiving assignments. But even then, their training is far from over.

Continuing education is an important component of Stephen Ministry training. Stephen Ministers meet for continuing education twice a month, even after they begin meeting with their care receivers. The goal is for Stephen Ministers to continually enhance their skills and learn new ways to care. We want them to provide the best care possible for their care receivers.

These newly trained Stephen Ministers will be a true blessing to our program. Please congratulate them when you see them.

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**It’s Okay to Be Human**

An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of grief, anger, hurt, loneliness, disappointment, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of God’s plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it.

So, when you are experiencing difficult times, don’t struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry or to discuss having a Stephen Minister, please contact one of our Stephen Leaders listed below.

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!
Poison Prevention Week Mar. 15-21, 2020

This week reminds us that some of the deadliest and most dangerous items in our homes are hiding in plain sight. Just take a peek under your sink, in your laundry room and don’t forget your medicine cabinet. Household cleaning agents, prescription medications, pesticides and overlooked items such as art supplies, plants and food can pose serious hazards to health and well-being of our families and even our pets. Never assume a child can’t open a pill bottle.

The poison control number is 1-800-222-1222

Survey Coming

A Mission & Service Survey will be coming out in March so watch the Parish Notes for the availability. The goal is to get your input on what’s important to you to support missions inside and outside our Living Savior projects.

Bethesda Auxiliary

Bethesda Annual Supporter Renewal is now under way. The funds for 2019-2020 for a total of $133,000 raised from the supporters will be used in the Bethesda Auxiliary Projects. These are some of the projects: $30,000 for Scholarships; $10,000 for God’s Word Booklets; $10,000 for Digital Outreach Equipment; $10,000 for Leadership Project; $9,000 Operational Technology; and $10,000 for Podcast Series Development.

See Kathye G. or Shari R. to renew or begin as a new supporter for 2020.

Lutheran World Relief

A Season of Hope in the season of Lent

Pin Pals are spearheading a project to provide Personal Care Kits to be included in our Mission Quilt shipment in May. These are the contents of the care kits:
- (1) dark colored light-weight bath sized towel (between 20x40 or 52x27),
- (2) bath size bars of soap in original wrapping (8-9 oz),
- (1) adult toothbrush in original wrapping,
- (1) sturdy comb,
- (1) metal nail clipper (attached file optional).

This would be a great project to use your Thrivent Action Team support funds. If you have any questions please contact Shari R. at the church office.

Community Partners for Affordable Housing

HomeWord Bound 2020

CPAH’s 22nd Annual HomeWord Bound Literary Fund Raiser is to be held on Friday, April 3, 2020, 6-9pm at the Oregon Zoo. The featured author will be Oregon’s Poet Laureate Kim Stafford, along with a dozen other Oregon authors. Tickets are now available https://cpahinc.epinme.org/HWB2020

Tuesday’s Takings: The mission(S) bound to be a hit this year. As we wait for the announcement of who the featured author(s) will be, we thought we would offer you some tips on buying a copy of every HomeWord Bound Book you can find. We have a feeling that this year’s edition will again be a hit.

WITNESSING TO THE NONCHURCHED

People in Your Life

EVERYONE HIS WITNESS

Saturday March 14th 9:00am - 2:00pm

St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Cornelius.

This workshop is for those with children or grandchildren who were raised in the church but, for whatever reason, have left the church. You’ll learn how to use the LASSIE approach to address the special challenges of witnessing to family members.

The workshop includes refreshments and lunch. The workbook, Every One His Witness, is $15. For more information call 503-357-3863 or email cmnpix-ty@gmail.com

RSVP by Friday, March 6.

LWML Mission Grant Update:

Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families

2019-2021 – Mission Grant 7 — $100,000

Detroit has experienced economic disaster and leads the nation with 57.3% of their children living in poverty without food or opportunity. Camp Restore Detroit provides a safe nurturing Christ-centered place for these children, their families, and other adults. This camp provides a place for the children to come and learn about God’s love as they participate in art, theatre, and music classes and receive homework help while receiving assistance with basic educational and developmental skills. Additionally, adults are offered parenting, finance, and resume building classes. This grant will fund the renovation of two previously abandoned technologies into community outreach centers, along with the house furnishings and outreach materials.

Looking Ahead . . .

Oregon District 32nd Biennial Convention

June 26 - 28, 2020 + Macleay Convention & Retreat Center + Salem, Oregon

Guest Speakers, Servant Events, Department Displays, Exhibitors and *Missionaries.

A special treat for Living Savior members. Pastor Mark Rabe who is a missionary with his family in Ethiopia will be one of the guest speakers at convention. Pastor Rabe will also be at Living Savior on June 7.

* Registration forms will be available in the Spring edition of the Oregon Leaguer.

Declare God’s glory among the nations. His marvelous works among all the peoples! 1 Chronicles 16:24