



# *The Evangel*

Vol. 36, Edition 3

March 2019

## *Our Saviour Lutheran Church*

*is a congregation of the  
Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America.*

*We welcome all  
to share in life with Christ  
as a community  
of faith in mission.*

### *OSLC's Vision & Mission*

*God calls us to be a community of  
discipleship for all, making Christ's  
love real in our daily lives.*

*Grow in faith and Christian calling  
Love and serve God and neighbor  
Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

### *Worship*

*Sundays  
9:00 A.M. & 11:15 A.M.*

*Ash Wednesday  
7:00 P.M.*

*Wednesdays during Lent  
5:45 P.M.*

*Attended nursery available  
on Sunday mornings*

### *Fellowship*

*10:00 A.M.*

### *Sunday School*

*10:15 A.M.*

*Judy Follis, Interim Pastor  
Michael Vinson, Campus Pastor*

## **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**



**March 5, 5:30-7:30 P.M.**

**OSLC Fellowship Hall**

**All you can eat pancakes and sausage!**



**March 6, 7:00 P.M.**

The next five Wednesdays in Lent we'll gather at **5:45 P.M.** for a simple meal and service in the Fellowship Hall. Our gathering will end by 7:00 P.M.

We are looking for volunteers to provide soup or bread. Look for the signup sheet in the narthex.

(If you can't decide whether or not to attend, check out the article on pages 6-7, "Soup's On!" to read some compelling reasons to be there.)



Plans are being finalized for OSLC's interim pastor. Pr. Judy Follis will serve here during the pastoral transition. She will begin March 4. Watch the bulletin for more information regarding her schedule. Contact information for her and (as a reminder) for Pr. Mike Vinson are in the box to the right. Rest assured! We are in good hands.

Pr. Judy Follis  
260-609-5543 (cell)  
[jafollis@aol.com](mailto:jafollis@aol.com)

Pr. Mike Vinson  
651-324-6962 (cell)  
[footballpastor@gmail.com](mailto:footballpastor@gmail.com)

## Baptismal Birthdays



### March

Anders Ohland	1
Reuben Peterson	
Krista Gearhart	
Steve Belter	4
Bob Nielsen	6
Mark Hermodson	15
Vicki Mills	18
Dave Aufderheide	22
Nathan Peterson	
Renee Rasmy	26

*"You do not need to wallow in guilt.  
Wallow in the mercy of God."*  
—St. John Vianney

### Council Highlights from February 13

- Christian Ed has tentatively set the week of June 24 for VBS with Badger Grove. The Youth raised over \$700 for Souper Bowl of Caring.
- Mutual Ministry conducted an exit interview with Pastor Will.
- Property is looking into redoing the kitchen cabinet doors and drawers. Also they would like to purchase new water fountains.
- New security measures will be taken during the transition time. We will change the code to the back door and we will purchase a Bluetooth doorbell system for the front doors.



**Daylight Saving Time  
begins Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:00 A.M.  
Remember!  
Change your clocks  
before you go to bed  
on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup>.**

### Times and Locations of Ministry Meetings

**Property** normally meets on the first Sunday of the month in the library, shortly after the 9:00 service ends. The meeting is moved to other Sundays as needed to accommodate the schedules of its members. If you are interested in attending the meetings or joining the property ministry team, please contact Matt Ohland at [ohland@purdue.edu](mailto:ohland@purdue.edu) to be notified of changes in the regular meeting time. **Fellowship Events** meets in the Fellowship Hall on Servant Sundays. All are welcome! **Christian Education** meets in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:15 service on Servant Sundays. New members are welcome! **Operations** meets only when there is a need or crisis. If you would like to attend one of the meetings, please email Chris Johannsen and he will notify you of the time and place. **Finance** normally meets on Servant Sunday between the services in Pastor Will's office. **Social Justice Ministry** meets in the Fellowship Hall on Servant Sunday, on an as-needed basis. All are welcome!

# News and Notes



Stewardship Column, March 2019

## Stewardship at OSLC

The Indiana Bread for the World team is hosting our annual **Offering of Letters Workshop** and adding a special community event. Please join us at **Trinity Episcopal Church beginning at 9 A.M. on March 9** for a day of networking, training and learning. The workshop and gathering are free to attend, but there will be a \$10 charge for those who order a box lunch and register by March 4 (cash or check, payable at the door). Please register for the event:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/indiana-offering-of-letters-workshop-and-spring-gathering-tickets-56080102095>

Last year, 53 Central Indiana organizations participated in a Joint Ecumenical Offering of Letters delivering over 4,000 letters to Congress and the major cuts we opposed did not happen! We hope that even more will join us this Spring. Previous attendees are encouraged to invite a new congregation to this event.

In 2019, we plan to offer quarterly community-building events for Bread advocates to connect with one another and discuss common issues. To kick this off we have invited Heather Valentine, Bread for the World's Director of Government Relations, to discuss how the two parties can work together to end hunger.

Trinity Episcopal Church is located at 3243 North Meridian in Indianapolis.

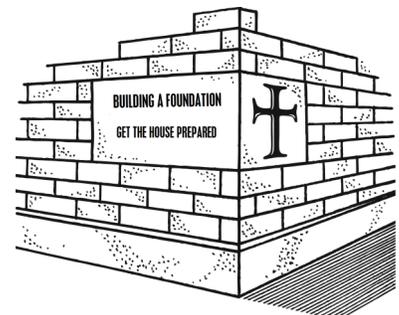
The weekly offerings that each of us make facilitate the day-to-day operation of our church. They pay the salaries of the pastor and our employees, maintenance and utilities for the building, and our support for PLM, LUM, and the wider church.

In 1997, several members of our congregation worked together to create the Our Saviour Lutheran Church Foundation. Their goal was to strengthen the long-term financial foundation of our church, to make sure the mission of OSLC continues long into the future. In general, contributions to the Foundation are invested, and the earnings from Foundation's investments are used to further the mission of our church.

About half of the Foundation's money has come from bequests. The remainder has come from gifts and earnings. The decisions about investments and about grants are made by the Foundation Board. The current board members are Vince Guido, Dick Rahdert, and Gary Krutz. The board reports on their activities annually in the congregation's Annual Report and at our annual meeting.

Thank you for your support of your church and its ministry, both through your weekly offerings and in your contributions to the OSLC Foundation.

-- Steve Belter, [seb@wintek.com](mailto:seb@wintek.com)



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church rescheduled Dr. Robertson, a speaker in the **Interfaith Discussion** Speaker Series. Here are the details:

**Dr. Stuart D. Robertson**  
*Lecturer, Biblical Hebrew, Purdue University*

**Saturday, March 16, 2 P.M.**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
1005 N 21st Street, Lafayette

**FREE** and open to the public

Thank you for all the support and visits over the past month.

Marcia and the family of Dwayne Daehler



There is a link to the funeral recording on the church website, on the Member's Information page, which is found on the ABOUT OSLC drop down menu. (If you can't recall the password, ask Sandra.) The site is <https://www.osluth.org/>

To send the link to others via email, you should simply copy this URL <https://youtu.be/fTtw93FrFOoI> into an email to whomever you choose.

# MARCH UPDATES

## Souper Bowl of Caring:

Thank you for your generous donations! This year's final giving total was \$707.06! The donations will be sent to Food Finder's Backpack program.

## Faith Formation Minute

Lenten Devotionals are available in the narthex. A variety of booklets will be available for individuals and families. Feel free to take what interests you. For the Wednesday Night Lenten Supper and Services starting March 13, "Lasting Hope, Devotions for Lent" will be used (also available in the narthex).

## Women's Fellowship Event: Painting with a Twist!

**Friday, April 5th from 6-8 P.M.**

\$40 (includes supplies and a sandwich)

Adult beverages available for purchase.

No experience or ability needed.

Join us for fellowship and fun!

**Please RSVP to Angie Henderson at [angie@osluth.org](mailto:angie@osluth.org)**

(A link for payment will be sent out before the event.)

Contact Information for Angie Henderson, Director of Christian Education and Outreach:

EMAIL: [angie@osluth.org](mailto:angie@osluth.org) Church: 765-743-2931 Cell/Home: 402-213-9157

## Book Discussion for March and April

### *The Orphan's Tale* by Pam Jenoff

*The Nightingale* meets *Water for Elephants* in this powerful novel of friendship and sacrifice, set in a traveling circus during World War II.



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## Upcoming Events

⇒ **Sunday, March 3:**  
Servant Sunday and  
Youth Coffee Hour

⇒ **Tuesday, March 5**  
**5:30-7:30 P.M.**  
Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper

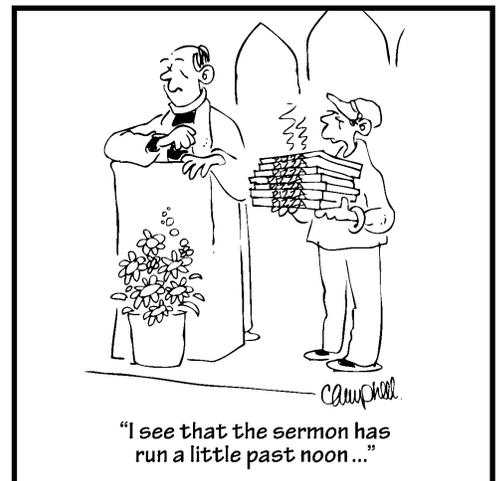
## Adult Forum Highlights

⇒ **Sunday, March 10**  
Cindy Modlin Adams  
Mindful Movement

⇒ **Sunday, March 17**  
Buz Grady  
Area IV Housing

⇒ **Sunday, March 24**  
Vaness Pacheco  
Purdue Food Pantry

⇒ **Sunday, March 31**  
Bob Nielsen &  
Jason Henderson  
Drone Use in Agriculture



Change is a constant in our lives. Some changes mark gradual transitions, as when daytime shifts toward twilight or winter turns to spring. Others happen in the blink of an eye, separating time into “before” and “after”. We choose to undergo some changes after carefully considering our options, while others are forced upon us.

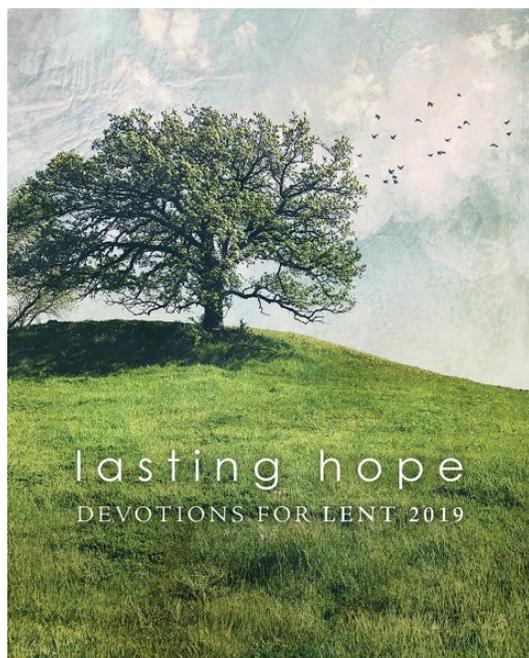
In the weeks, days, and hours before Jesus’ crucifixion, the disciples also experienced change: a change of venue as the gates of Jerusalem approached; a change of plans as their long-awaited Messiah was arrested and tried; a change of circumstance as the crowds shouted “Crucify!”

Change is hard. We long for the expected and familiar, but all too often find ourselves in the midst of uncertainty and the unknown. We cannot predict how things will turn out. The hymnwriter Joachim Neander proclaimed God’s steadfast love in the midst of life’s inevitable changes: “All my hope on God is founded who will all my trust renew, who through change and chance will guide me, only good and only true. God unknown, God alone, call my heart to be thine own” (ELW 757).

*Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.*

Psalm 51:1-2

O God, you are the source of our hope.  
Guide us through change and chance.  
When we grow weary and faint,  
call our hearts to be your own.  
When our plans fall to dust,  
be our temple and our tower  
When the world lacks joy and beauty,  
reveal your splendor, light, and life.  
O God, we praise you for the gift of your Son.  
Strengthen us to follow the way of the cross.



### **A Resource for Your Lenten Journey**

This beautiful, full-color Lenten devotional explores the Psalms texts for Lent in year C of the Revised Common Lectionary with 46 entries, one for each day in Lent. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer.

The book of Psalms gives us a realistic look at the journey of faith for individuals and a community. From crying for help to singing songs of praise and thanksgiving—and everything in between—the psalms show faith with all its ups and downs, twists and turns.

More importantly, the book of Psalms points us to God. During times of celebration as well as suffering, loss, and lament, the psalm writers turn to God and remember God’s promises—promises kept and promises still unfolding. God’s faithfulness to these promises creates a durable, lasting hope in the psalmists and in the community of God’s people.

*(Copies of Lasting Hope are available in the narthex.)*

The following excerpts of Cara Strickland's article "Soup's On!" are taken from the March 2019 issue (Volume 32, Number 2) of Gather magazine. Used by permission.



Over the years I've been to many congregational soup suppers. I don't remember specifics about the programming anymore, only that I found much of it meaningful at the time. What stands out to me about those suppers is the sense of belonging I felt when I walked into the room, the comfort of scooping a bowl of hot soup among other people of faith and the warm conversations with those sitting near me.

### BE STRETCHED

During Lent, we examine ourselves, choosing to pull back from excess and feasting. We are called to soup. This is a good time to think about people in our communities who make soup to stretch their dollars, who aren't thinking about bisques and fancy mushrooms, but about how they will feed their families, to sustain them for the days ahead.

While soup can be stretched, it's also true that people who are stretched often take comfort in soup. Over Lenten soup, we sit with and remember those who inhabit the "soup kitchens" of the world. Hopefully, our memory moments will build on each other, and move us to action. Many of us, as congregations and as families, have partnerships with organizations who feed the hungry. Taking time to serve others during Lent can bring new meaning to the idea of a "soup supper."

### BE FILLED

Just because soup is often simple doesn't mean it can't be filling or delicious. It's a low-budget way to feed lots of people; and it's a wonderful gift with myriad variations. Nearly everybody

has one or more soup recipes up their sleeve. Though there may be a few similarities, I don't know that I've ever had the same exact soup twice at a soup supper. Everyone brings a little piece of their history to the table—that recipe that's been passed down through family or friends, that soup they made at the beginning of their cooking life when money was tight, that recipe they found when they were tired of the basics. The potluck of soup reminds me of the richness and diversity of our community. In the pot as well as in the pew, disparate ingredients belong and work together for the good of the Body.

### BE WARMED

The Lenten season can be chilly. Though Lent has long been associated with penitence and austerity, sometimes it's hard to remember that in the face of hot soup.

As we gather to learn and fellowship, what are we doing if not being warmed? Our encouraging of each other lights a fire under our gathering, pointing to light and life in the world. This is not a time for cold sandwiches, but a time for soup.

*What stands out to me about those suppers is the sense of belonging I felt when I walked into the room, the comfort of scooping a bowl of hot soup among other people of faith and the warm conversations with those sitting near me.*

When we enter or welcome newcomers to our congregational spaces, we hope for a sense of warmth. We talk at length about how to make newcomers more comfortable—we want them to feel the warmth of our hospitality. We Lutherans are not alone in offering steaming cups of coffee and bowls of soup to those coming through the doors, but we are known for it. There is something to be said for following through on that hospitality with something tangible.

It's not just newcomers who need to experience that warmth. So many in our congregations experience sorrow, loss and moments when hope is fleeting, or they feel left out in the cold in some way. Warm soup and conversation can be a bit of a balm for those feelings, coupled with pastoral and congregational care.

### BE MINDFUL

I know I can get lost in all that I have to do. I'm not focused on what my senses are telling me; I'm just concentrating on my to-do list. But in the kitchen, I have different priorities. I must pay attention, often to just one thing at a time, or things will go haywire. And often, cooking takes longer than I would prefer.

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Have you ever made stock? It's one of those things that is about 5 million times better when it's homemade. It's also not a lot of work. Find a good recipe, drop everything in a big pot, and turn the heat down low for a *long* time.

I'm beginning to think that our lives—faith lives included—are a lot like stock. You add a few normal ingredients, nothing fancy, and let them marinate over a long period of time. You could rush it—try to turn up the heat or buy stock at the store—but the results would be different, and I'll argue, not as good. It is the long, simmering journey that extracts the flavor from the components you've added.

Lent is only one season, but our self-reflection and growth shouldn't happen for just 40 days once a year. Like good stock, we should always be simmering, allowing new insights to infuse us with perspective.

You don't have to make soup to be mindful about it, either. You can think about all of these things as you enjoy a spoonful of soup made for you. We often talk about food being made with love. Consider this amazing truth: When you consume soup at a Lenten supper, someone took the time to slice and dice, maybe make stock, perhaps whir everything together in a blender—for you.

When we gather as a body, during Lent or any season of the church year, we, too, gather like soup, to nourish each other. May we stretch, fill, warm and bring mindfulness to ourselves and to those around us.



## Arts Ministry Update: Part I

Several years ago our congregation conducted a self-evaluation process that included taking a look at many aspects of our worship style and space. One item of particular interest to many of us was continuing to visually enrich our otherwise fairly neutral worship space. As a result, the Arts Ministry has worked for the last couple of years in cooperation with others in the congregation to enhance our space with new art. Locating and choosing art that is colorful as well as liturgically inspired is not an easy or short term project.

Two years ago we hosted the traveling exhibition of He Qi prints. For a month we were surrounded with the light and color and imagery of these beautiful works. There was an overwhelmingly positive response to the addition of color to our space in general and to certain prints in particular. The Arts Ministry responded to this enthusiasm by purchasing the three coordinating prints you now see housed in the sanctuary.

More recently a generous gift given to us in memory of Jo Amstutz by her family came with this instruction: "Do something fun!" Ideas were solicited for several weeks from members of the congregation for how we might enjoy such a gift. The three ideas submitted were then considered by the Council and two were chosen: Idea 1) A large banner (now complete) handsomely advertising who we are, worship times etc., that will soon be hung on the outside of the building facing Fowler Ave. Hopefully this will serve to enhance our presence and activity in the neighborhood. (Thank you to Aaron Johnson, Angie Henderson and Sandra Vana ). Idea 2) A directive to the Arts and Worship and Music ministries to renew the banner art that adorns the wall behind our altar with something that would add more color to the front of the sanctuary. In addition, the roping and scroll pieces of our current woven banners have aged badly making them very difficult and time consuming to re-hang. Half of the Amstutz memorial gift was set aside to fund these two projects. Idea 3 was very interesting - a bird and butterfly sanctuary on our property - but was simply beyond us in complexity and maintenance. At least beyond this Council!

The 'banner task force' (Julie Huetteman, Emily Ohland, Sue Hermodson, Charlotte Erdmann, Vicki Mills, Sue Axtell, Sue Larson and Sandra Vana) has spent this past year looking into various artists as well as styles of artistic vision for the altar banner project. While there are many skilled artists, not all are liturgically sensitive or available at this time so we have struggled to find our 'fit'. We are currently negotiating with an excellent liturgical artist, Linda Witte Henke, who was recommended to us by Pastor Will. Her beautiful work hangs in a number of I-K Synod churches, and has adorned several altar areas at I-K Synod Assemblies. Please check the newsletter next month to learn more about this artist and the series of seasonal banners we hope to acquire for our altar area.

As we move forward, please be assured that we remain committed to the beautiful weavings created for our sanctuary by Bea Stromberg. The woven altar paraments will continue in use; we have no plans to replace them. The woven wall banners will be taken down from this area, but we will continue to consider how they might be displayed and appreciated in another area. They will be well cared for!

To be continued.....

Sue Larson

# I-K Lutheran Where God is doing new things

March 2019

***“How many times does a person have to be converted?” “As many days as one lives,”*** was the immediate reply.

Two pastors are in deep conversation in the novel, *The Hammer of God*, first published in 1941 by the Swedish Lutheran bishop, Bo Giertz. The younger, Torvik, is struggling with both his faith and his ministry. The elder pastor, Olle, probes Torvik’s spiritual life, especially his “conversion.”



*“Let me tell you, Olle,”* Torvik retorts, *“I have been converted twice, and that should be enough. The first time was at college, the second as pastor here in Ödesjö. How many times does a person have to be converted?”*

*“As many days as one lives,”* was the immediate reply.

The elder pastor is channeling Martin Luther’s reflection on baptism in the Small Catechism:

Baptism “signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.”

Daily dying and rising with Christ, that’s the conversion to which we are called and to which the season of Lent beckons.

Unfortunately, our well-intentioned, sneakily insurgent tendency during Lent is to focus on ourselves: what we give up, what disciplines we engage, our failings, our sin, our spiritual gymnastics. These are important aspects of the Lenten sojourn, of course, but focus on ourselves cannot work the transformation, the conversion, that renders resurrection, the new, abundant, and lasting life that bursts from the tomb of Jesus. The gospel truth is that, try as we might, we cannot crucify ourselves or raise ourselves from the dead.

Lent and its disciplines are actually intended to turn our eyes not upon us, but upon Jesus, to borrow from an old hymn, to look full in his wonderful face. In the face of the crucified and risen Jesus, we see that God’s specialty, God’s chief work, is overcoming death with life, for us and for the world. This is why I love the counsel that the elder pastor, Olle, gives to Torvik, the younger, near the end of their conversation:

*“Look in your Bible and see if the passages you have especially marked are not just those that speak of what you shall do. But you have not given half the attention to that which tells what Christ has done through his atonement.”* Torvik gave inward assent to that. It was true, completely true. But he said nothing. *“We are in the midst of Lent, Brother,”* said the rector. *“Read God’s Word now as God’s Word, without skipping anything. Underline heavily everything about what our Savior has done for us. And if you like, write ‘For me’ in the margin. You need this yourself, and it is your duty to preach it to your congregation, as well.”*

*Daily dying and rising with Christ, that’s the conversion to which we are called and to which the season of Lent beckons.*

Now, there’s a Lenten discipline for all the baptized, pastors and people alike!

Bishop William Gafkjen

# Social Justice Updates and Opportunities

## Family Promise

Thanks to all who provided meals and hosted at Family Promise the week of Feb 4-10. Five families filled the house. During the week two families found new homes and moved out on Saturday. Thanks to the volunteers from OSLC, Beth Dana, Julie and Carl Huetteman, Will Peugeot, Diane Gray, Angie Henderson, Ruth Ewbank, Mary Waltmann, Vicki Mills. From UU Jean Tyner, Jenny and Steve Moss, Beth and Rob Hoffman.

Mark your calendar for the next time we host Family Promise - June 10-16. If you are new to Family Promise and are interested in completing the training, please contact Julie Huetteman as she is setting up a session with Laurie Earnst, the Family Promise Director.

Julie Huetteman, [juliehuetteman@gmail.com](mailto:juliehuetteman@gmail.com), 765-491-7819.

## Food Finders

Due to the ripple effects of the government shutdown and distribution of SNAP benefits, we have seen an increase in the number of people coming to the J.P. Lisack Food Pantry throughout February and will last into March. If you have a few spare hours, please consider volunteering in the pantry. It would be great to have every pantry shift filled with volunteers to meet this increase in need!

<https://www.food-finders.org/get-involved/> Or call 765-471-0062



## Lafayette Urban Ministry

LUM always needs more volunteers. Go to <http://www.lumserve.org/volunteer/> to see how you can help.

## Guardian Angel Hospice (Located at 1221 South Creasy Lane, Suite J, Lafayette)

Volunteering requires no advanced medical training or excessive time commitment. It can be as simple as spending time with a patient a few hours a week or assisting with errands to help a tired family member cope with the many challenges they face. The ways a volunteer can touch the lives of our patients are endless. You will have the opportunity to add comfort and support through services such as:

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Companionship                   | Preparing simple meals |
| Reading to the patient          | Helping write letters  |
| Listening and emotional support | Doing household tasks  |
| Running errands                 |                        |



## Lafayette Adult Resource Academy

LARA is in need of volunteer assistants for classrooms and childcare. Classroom assistants help with welcoming new students, participating in one on one or small group instruction, preparing/remediating for assessments, and provide support for teachers. Childcare assistants work with children ages 1 and up while their parents attend class.

# Worship Assistant Schedule for March

Date & Time	Assisting Minister	Acolyte	Lector	Comm. Assistants	Ushers	Greeters	Deacon & A. Deacon	Altar Prep	Coffee Hr Hosts
March 3 9:00am	Mary L. Waltmann	Anders Ohland	Bob Nielsen	Matt & Emily Ohland	Marcia Daehler & Suzanne Nielsen	Dave & Sue Aufderheide		Sue Axtell	OSLC Youth
March 3 11:15am	Scott Vana	Abigail Black	Sandra Vana	Scott Vana	Holly Black		Carl Huetteman & Scott Vana		
March 6 Ash Wed. 7:00pm	Robert Hershberger	Ben Henderson	Sandra Vana	Mark & Sue Hermodson	Mike Dana & A friend	TBA		Vicki Mills & Marcia Daehler	
March 10 9:00am	Mike Dana	Emma Henderson	Kathy Grogan	Diane Gray & Sue Axtell	Jesse Grogan & Marcia Daehler	Allen & Ruth Anne Hammer		Renee Rasmy	Open
March 10 11:15am	Scott Vana	Scott Vana	Sandra Vana	Scott Vana	Aaron Johnson		Carl Huetteman & Sandra Vana		
March 17 9:00am	Robert Hershberger	Anna Henderson	Sonya Margerum	Mark & Sue Hermodson	Wayne & Ruth Ewbank	Carl Behnke		Ruth Ewbank	Mary L. Waltmann
March 17 11:15am	Cindy Modlin Adams	Cindy Modlin Adams	Sandra Vana	Cindy Modlin Adams	Sam & Renee Rasmy		Carl Huetteman & Sandra Vana		
March 24 9:00am	Beth Dana	Lexi James	Dee Hershberger	Vera Weiser & Mary L. Waltmann	Mike Dana & Kara James	Wes & Krista Gearhart		Vera Weiser	Open
March 24 11:15am	Scott Vana	Scott Vana	Sue Larson	Scott Vana	Sue Larson		Carl Huetteman & Renee Rasmy		
March 31 9:00am	Kathy Heise	Max Cassou	Carl Huetteman	Suzanne Nielsen & Emily Ohland	Ken Musselman & Vicki Mills	Nancy & Chuck Calahan		Vicki Mills	Feng Chih
March 31 11:15am	Reuben Peterson	Isabel Cardella	Monica Cardella	Monica Cardella	Chris & Jo Johannsen		Carl Huetteman & Monica Cardella		

## ELCA launches collaboration with Blessed Tomorrow

CHICAGO (Feb. 4, 2019) – In its commitment to pursuing wholeness for creation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is pleased to announce collaboration with ecoAmerica and its Blessed Tomorrow program, which helps faith-based organizations elevate their leadership on the moral, religious and justice issues surrounding climate change.

This ELCA's commitment to caring for creation is expressed through individual and community action, worship, learning, moral deliberation and advocacy. The collaboration with Blessed Tomorrow underscores this church's commitment to raising awareness of climate change and taking action to mitigate its impact.



*Blessed Tomorrow is a coalition of diverse religious partners working to advance climate solutions in faithful service to God*

In conjunction with this announcement, the ELCA has released “God’s work. Our hands. Caring for Creation Today,” a video that explains the Lutheran grounding for and prioritization of creation care and encourages ongoing dialogue and activity.

“It’s our duty to go out in the world and change it for the better,” said the Rev. Amy E. Reumann, director, ELCA Advocacy, in the video.

Additional resources developed through this collaboration include the online guides “15 Steps to Create Effective Climate Communications” and “Let’s Talk Faith & Climate.” These and other guides can be found at

<https://blessedtomorrow.org/resources/>

Emphasizing the commitment to caring for God’s creation, the ELCA has taken leadership roles in national and international forums. In September 2018, the ELCA was a primary host of the faith-based Talanoa Dialogue, an affiliate event to the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco. “Talanoa,” a traditional word used in Fiji and the Pacific, refers to a process grounded in storytelling, empathy and wise decisions for the common good. In December 2018, the ELCA raised members’ experience and faith-centered reflections to a new level of input and consultation by participating in COP 24, the annual conference of parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This event marked the first time that the ELCA has participated as a fully accredited entity.

In her 2018 Earth Day statement, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton wrote: “*The present moment is a critical and urgent one, filled with both challenge and opportunity to act as individuals, citizens, leaders and communities of faith in solidarity with God’s good creation and in hope for our shared future.*”

## A Call to Prayer

We who have lost our sense and our senses—our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are; we who frantically force and press all things, without rest for body or spirit, hurting our Earth and injuring ourselves:

We call a halt.

We want to rest. We need to rest and allow the Earth to rest. We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery that lives in us, that is the ground of every unique expression of life, the source of the fascination that calls all things to communion.

We declare a Sabbath, a space of quiet: for simple being and letting be; for recovering the great, forgotten truths; for learning how to live again.

Amen.

(Prayer taken from *Only One Earth*, United Nations Environmental Programme “Environmental Sabbath” materials, 1990.)

News items for the April *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 3/27/2019. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

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*The Evangel*

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