



# The Evangel

Vol. 37, Edition 3

March 2020

**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

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

Attended nursery available  
on Sunday mornings

Special Lenten Services  
and Suppers

Wednesdays in Lent  
March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1  
5:45 P.M.

## Fellowship

10:00 A.M.

## Sunday School

10:15–11:00 A.M.

Randy Schroeder, Pastor  
Michael Vinson, Campus Pastor

## Pints with a Pastor New Small Groups



Beginning in March, Pastor Randy invites you to meet as a small group for Pints with a Pastor! Our first meeting will be at Nine Irish Brothers, 119 Howard Avenue on March 23 at 6:56 P.M. The schedule for Pints with a Pastor will be the second and fourth Mondays of the month. We will have the opportunity to eat, grab a beverage, learn and discuss some relevant questions about the society we find ourselves in. Here are a few examples of what we might discuss...

*Name something awesome. And then name something you have absolutely no interest in.*

*The great comparative mythologist Joseph Campbell once wrote, "People don't want the meaning of life, they want the experience of life." What do you think?*

*Someone posted this somewhere: "What is the biggest problem in the church: people can't stand us or we can't stand the gospel?"*

*What was your reaction to Brandt Jean hugging Amber Guyger? (She was the police officer who shot and killed his brother Botham when she accidentally entered his apartment thinking it was hers.) Does his willingness to forgive her reflect the heart of the gospel to you? In what ways does it potentially perpetuate racial injustice?*

*Is religion a creation of our emotional needs or a genuine leap toward something else?*

For those on the younger side, Pastor Randy invites you to Pints with a Pastor "MH" (pronounced Meh... you must be in your teens to understand the reference.) Pints with a Pastor MH will have cooler questions and meet at the Silver Dipper at 307 Sagamore Pkwy, March 29 at 6:26 P.M. and continue to meet on the last Sunday of the month until we get bored with it and move it to something else.

Please see the sign-up sheet by the office window if you are interested, or text Pastor Randy you wish to attend. (This will help in reserving enough tables.) Or, you are welcome to surprise us if you forget to sign up 😊 ...



## Thirsty? Tell Me What You Notice...

*But those who drink of the water I will give them will never be thirsty.* John 4:14

This line is familiar... John 4:5-42 paints a picture of Jesus, new in his ministry. Jesus has been traveling and as his companions go to find food, Jesus sees a woman by the well and begins a conversation. This conversation leads to her never being thirsty again... Here are a few things I noticed about this reading, with help from Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence.



Jesus asks for a drink. This simple task, asking for a drink, might not seem to be out of the ordinary yet, notice it is Jesus who has initiated this interaction. This would not be out of the ordinary if it weren't for the social circumstances in which they meet. Jesus approaches a person who is not considered one of importance (after all we don't even get to know her name). First, this person is a woman and second, she is a Samaritan ... and one with a shady past... This is not the normal practice of rabbis during that time. Jesus breaks the rules in talking with her. He steps over cultural boundaries and his friends are shocked. The Gospel (the Good News) of this reading is found in the question: What rules is Jesus breaking by speaking to us? At times we find ourselves as the outcast, the outsider... and Jesus is there asking for a drink of water. Jesus is the one initiating the conversation to begin the grace-filled journey of knowing God. Jesus is here with us now and wants to initiate a relationship. Jesus does not care about the mistakes we have made in the past, the things we beat ourselves up about not completing, the wish list of chores we make for ourselves that never gets done, the times we disregard our responsibilities because life comes crashing in on us... Jesus is here to be our strength; Jesus will lift us up with forgiveness and grace.

I notice in this passage that Jesus is the one who is thirsty. So many times, I find myself looking for God. I want Jesus in my life more... I thirst for the forgiveness of God... Have you ever thought Jesus is thirsty for you? Jesus is seeking a relationship with you and until his thirst is quenched by your, by *our* attention; Jesus will not give up. We need to slow down and actually realize God seeks a relationship with us. Do we see the face of Christ in those around us? After all, isn't it written that when we feed the hungry, we have fed Christ? Isn't it said that when we clothe the naked, we have also clothed Christ? And when we visit those in prison, have we not visited the Son of God? We can strengthen our relationship with Jesus by feeding and clothing and visiting those around us. We can find the face of God in the faces of those God places in our path and around us. God is seeking us because God is all around us.

I notice what was said and what was not said. After having the conversation with Jesus, the woman at the well is moved to share the story with all. She begins to yell out to the town, "*Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!*" Notice the unfinished nature of this sentence. She is referring to the past she has had. We do not know of the circumstances of her several husbands, only the fact Jesus referred to the men in her past and that the man she is with now is not her husband. Yet, as she realizes Jesus is the Messiah and full of grace, her proclamation could be heard like this. "*Come see a man who told me everything I ever did... and loves me anyway!!!*" This is the Good News that propels her into action, evangelizing the rest of the town. It is the joy that drives her to share what she has heard. It is the Good News that saves her life. Her long list of sins... everything she has done... has been acknowledged and forgiven... and Jesus loves her.

You are loved by God, the One, who knows everything you have ever done or left undone. God still initiates conversations with you, still thirsts for you, still loves you and always will... Notice Jesus today...

Peace be with you now and forever.

Pastor Randy

### Pastor Randy would like to get to know you!

There's a signup sheet in the narthex. You can choose the date and time of day that works best for you/your family to spend some time with him.



### Daylight Saving Time

begins Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 A.M.

Remember to change your clocks

before you go to bed on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>.

# News and Notes

## Baptismal Birthdays in March



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

## Council Highlights February 19, 2020



- Pastor Randy reported that he's starting two Pints with a Pastor groups (at Nine Irish Brother and at Silver Dipper) and that he hopes to begin a new members class in mid-April.
- The Evangelism Ministry Team has been reactivated, led by Scott Vana and Angie Henderson.
- The parking lot light has been repaired and the new AED mounted on the wall in the narthex.
- The Council has committed OSLC to at least one year of Inspire, Ignite, Invite, a new program from the I-K Synod.

## Stewardship Column March 2020 Stewardship

*The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do this as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8 (RSV)*

From time to time, I am asked to write this column, which I am more than happy to do. When I procrastinate and have to write it on short notice, I often return to the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of 2 Corinthians because it expresses my belief so succinctly. In this chapter, Paul writes that he has sent Titus to deliver the letter, in part to collect an offering for needy Christians, presumably in Macedonia where Paul was. In the above verses, Paul doesn't command the church at Corinth to give. He doesn't tell them that Titus is there to collect an obligatory tax or dues. Rather, he tells them to think over the request and make up their own minds about giving. Then, he says that God will plant freely- and cheerfully-given offerings in the world as seeds that will sprout a bountiful harvest of good works, while they will always have enough of everything. This I believe. This is what motivates me to give for congregational needs and for the needs of those outside our walls through the church at large and various agencies.

Jim BeMiller

**Our  
Spirit  
Living in  
Christ**

## Enjoy the Concert and Host a student!

On **March 14, 7:00 P.M.** Grand View University's Choir will perform a concert at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. OSLC is invited to the concert and we've offered to provide housing for some of the choir members. If you can help with this, let Sandra know in the OSLC office (743-2931 or [sandra@osluth.org](mailto:sandra@osluth.org)).



**Crop for Candy will be held Saturday, March 14 from 9-6 at Grace United Methodist Church in Lafayette.** The \$30 registration fee is donated entirely to the American Cancer Society on behalf of the Relay for Life team Angels With Grace. Breakfast, lunch, snacks and drinks will be provided, along with an entire table of your own to work. There will be door prizes! Come out and help us support Candace English and her battle with cancer! Contact Holly M. Black for registration details.

Ladies of OSLC this day can be for any kind of crafting--knitting, sewing, etc. Treat yourself to a day of doing what you love while giving to a good cause! Would love to have you there!

# MARCH UPDATES

## Faith Formation Minute for Lent

A variety of Lenten devotionals are available in the narthex. Please take what interests you.

Wednesday Night Soup and Service begins March 4. at 5:45 P.M. in the OSLC Fellowship Hall.



## Easter Egg Fillers Needed

It's that time of year! The Christian Education Ministry Team is collecting egg fillers for our annual Easter Egg hunt. Look for the donation box in the narthex March 8 - March 29.

## Women's Retreat: Where is your hope?

Sign up in the narthex for the women's retreat "From Suffering to Salvation" held on **Saturday, March 28 from 9 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.** The cost is \$20, but the event is free for students. Check-in and a light breakfast will begin at 8:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch is included. Guests are welcome.

## Mark Your Calendars for VBS!

ALL ABOARD!! Join us for a ride on the "Rocky Railway" June 8-12 from 9-11:30 A.M. at Badger Grove Community Church. Look for more information to come!

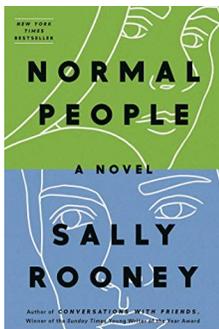
## Thank you for supporting Souper Bowl of Caring!



The Youth raised \$636 for Food Finders in Lafayette.

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

*New York Times* Bestseller, *Normal People*, by Sally Rooney, is the story of mutual fascination, friendship and love. It takes us from that first conversation to the years beyond, in the company of two people who try to stay apart but find that they can't.

The Book Discussion Group meets in the Family Room at the back of the nave during the Sunday School Hour. All are welcome.



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## Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **Sunday, March 1**  
OSLC Youth Coffee Hour  
Servant Sunday  
(Ministry Teams Meet)
- ⇒ **Sunday, March 8**  
Adult Forum: Pastor Randy,  
*Ignite the Church*
- ⇒ **Sunday, March 15**  
Adult Forum: Angie  
Henderson, Life Groups
- ⇒ **Sunday, March 15**  
Youth Sunday at the First  
Service
- ⇒ **Sunday, March 22**  
Adult Forum: Scott Vana,  
Bread for the World
- ⇒ **Sunday, March 29**  
Adult Forum: Eric Munson,  
Dept. Head of Industrial and  
Physical Pharmacy at  
Purdue

**Reminder:** Don't forget to sign-up for RightNow.org subscription. It is a free subscription for friends of OSLC (includes members and guests/friends/family) Email Angie Henderson any questions you may have to: [angie@osluth.org](mailto:angie@osluth.org). Here's the link to activate your subscription:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/OurSaviour>

rightnow MEDIA

# Mission Guatemala



Dave Burns, Executive Director of Mission Guatemala, with Dwayne Daehler photographs donated by Marcia Daehler



Sherri and Beth were two members of OSLC's most recent team sent to Mission Guatemala. (Also in the group: Jesse, Sue, and Vera)

## Support the Mission Guatemala Scholarship Program

When we began our "Becas con Misión" scholarship program with just a few students seven years ago, we had a hope that the program would grow over time. **However, we could never have imagined that by 2020 we would begin the new school year with nearly 100 students enrolled in this amazing program!**

The "Becas con Misión" (Scholarships with a Mission) program helps provide an opportunity for students who have the determination and grades—but not the financial resources—to continue their education past the 6th grade, which is still the only educational level that the Guatemalan government requires and readily provides.

**Not only is this our largest group of middle school scholarships with over 80 students enrolled, but it also features our biggest group of high school scholarships!** After celebrating our first-ever high school scholarship graduates in 2018, we now have 17 students pursuing their high school diplomas through our scholarship program!

The students selected for the "Becas" program are chosen based on a variety of factors, including economic need, grades from elementary school, and recommendations from their 6th grade teachers. Once accepted into the program, Mission Guatemala helps cover the student's inscription and tuition costs in local schools in their communities, as well as school uniforms and other necessary supplies. The students are also provided with free access to Mission Guatemala's medical clinic!

**Today, you have the opportunity to help these student scholars reach their educational goals!**

With an average monthly cost of just \$25 a month for middle school students and \$50 a month for high school students, you can help empower students, their families, and their communities through the gift of education! To make an online donation, go to

<https://missionguatemala.com/how-to-help/scholarships.html>

Or, if you would like to donate with a check, please send your donation to:

**Mission Guatemala, PO Box 441776, Indianapolis, IN 46244**



Dedication plaque for the newly constructed Casa del Maestro, a site where several OSLC teams had worked, dedicated March 15, 2019.

## Social Justice Updates

### Bread for the World's 2020 Offering of Letters

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, Bread provides help and opportunity far beyond the communities where we live.

For 2020, Bread's Offering of Letters campaign focuses on global nutrition, believing that better nutrition for children will lead to a better tomorrow. When children do better, the world does better.

Nearly half of all child deaths worldwide—that is, nearly 2.5 million preventable deaths of children under the age of five every year—are related to malnutrition. Much larger numbers of young children—149 million, or nearly one in every four—are affected by chronic malnutrition.

Malnutrition should not claim young lives and damage children's health and futures in our time—particularly on such an enormous scale. The persistence of malnutrition is, at its core, an issue of global inequities as the majority of impacted families live in countries in South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Central America.

But there is good news! We have the knowledge and tools to improve nutrition, and global nutrition programs have worked. Peru, Ghana, and Kenya have rapidly reduced their rates of stunting (a sign that children have survived chronic malnutrition very early in life) since 2000. Perhaps best of all: more than 16 million fewer children under the age of five are stunted today than in 2012.

Improved nutrition for women and children will allow countries to improve health overall, put more kids in school, and expand their own economic growth. Bread and its partners are asking Congress to provide \$200 million for global nutrition in the fiscal year 2021 budget to jumpstart efforts to make faster progress on global nutrition and help the United States spur action from other partners.

For just under \$15 per woman or child—the cost of a casual dinner out—we can make a difference in millions of lives. It's a small price to pay to ensure that every child—regardless of where she or he was born—has the opportunity to live a healthy life and reach her or his full potential.



All are invited to attend the Adult Forum on Sunday, March 22, when we will host an Offering of Letters. Visit [www.Bread.org](http://www.Bread.org) or contact Scott Vana ([scottv1162@gmail.com](mailto:scottv1162@gmail.com)) for more information.

We are so grateful for your support of the 2020 Greater Lafayette meal packing event last month. By donating your resources and time, your community was able to pack **50,328** meals for families in need!

Half of the meals were distributed to Food Finders, a food bank in Lafayette. From there, the meals will be distributed to food pantries serving local families.

The remaining half of the meals will be distributed to families in Guatemala, where 47% of children under five are chronically malnourished. For many of those children, the meals you provided may be the only meal they receive each day.

Your community is an incredible example of the power of caring for others, and we are grateful to be your partner.

Your friends at Pack Away Hunger



### Don't Forget

#### Thrivent Projects in 2020

**Thrivent Benefit members are eligible to lead two projects in 2020 and Associate Members are able to lead one project in 2020.** You don't want to miss out on funds that are available to help individuals in need, repairs, service opportunities, fund raisers, education events, etc. **If you need help setting up a project, you can contact Mary Prill on Mondays or Wednesdays at Thrivent Financial, 765-449-8888, or by email [mary.prill@thrivent.com](mailto:mary.prill@thrivent.com)**



**THRIVENT**  
Be Wise With Money™



Join us for the ninth annual LUM "Retirement" Follies and help us celebrate Joe Micon, LUM Executive Director, who will be retiring soon.

The event includes a program to honor Joe Micon for his 41 years of service to our community through his work at Lafayette Urban Ministry. After the program, there will be a reception with refreshments, sponsored by Lafayette Brewing Co.

**Friday, March 6, 7 P.M.**

**Free & Open to All**

**St. Thomas Aquinas Center**

**535 W State Street**

**West Lafayette, IN**

**7 P.M.: Program in the Sanctuary**

**8 P.M.: Reception in Newman Hall**

In lieu of gifts the Micon Family requests that you make a donation to Lafayette Urban Ministry in honor of Joe Micon.



*Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? --God [Isaiah 58:5-7]*

The question of the season: What will you give up for Lent this year? Why? The prophet Isaiah appears to have something to say about how we answer those questions!

I have realized that I tend to think of fasting – the practice of giving up things, not eating things, abstaining from things or habits for a period of time – as an expression of my personal piety, something that is about or is meant to deepen my relationship with God. During Lent, the practicing of giving up or fasting from something can also be a path by which I return to my baptismal identity as a Word-washed, cross-marked, Spirit-sealed and sent child of God.

As it turns out, Isaiah – rather, God speaking through Isaiah – is right: my tendency is to individualize my fasting into something that is primarily about me and Jesus, my posture and position before God. Most often, my giving up stuff during Lent is, in fact, about humbling myself, bowing down my head, settling into a bed of sackcloth and ashes for forty days.

Apparently, that’s not the fast that God is looking for from us. At least, it’s not the only form of fasting that God expects of us. The ancient prophet reminds us that there are also social, communal dimensions to our fasting. It is not only or even primarily about our own personal piety or focus on self-improvement or “me and Jesus.” Lenten fasts are also, perhaps even primarily, about growth in self-giving love for our neighbor. Me and Jesus always includes others. Centuries after Isaiah, John the letter writer put it this way [1 John 3:14-17]:

*We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death... We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?*

Do you hear the echo? Loose the bonds of injustice. Let the oppressed go free. Break every yoke. Share bread with the hungry. Bring the homeless into our own homes. Clothe the naked. Draw closer to, not further from, others in the family of God. Love your neighbor. Is not this the fast that I choose for those who have passed from death to life in Christ crucified and risen?

At first blush this sort of fast doesn’t seem to involve abstaining from or giving up anything. It’s a call to do things, to add rather than subtract. But the gospel truth is that engaging in such Christ-like behavior requires fasting from or being willing to give up or let go of a great deal. This fast calls for us to let go of our need to control or be in charge, to risk losing our sterling reputation and open space in our hearts reserved only for people who are like us, to surrender comfort, loosen our grip on resources, and relinquish time, fear, and stereotypes of others. Yet, in the power of the Holy Spirit who has sealed us in Christ, fasting from, repenting of, giving up these sorts of sin-shaped beliefs and behaviors frees us from the oppressive yoke of self-serving self-preservation, which binds us to the way of death, and sets us free to walk in and share the new, abundant, and lasting life that springs as a gift from the entrance of an empty tomb.

So, dear follower of Jesus, how will you fast this Lent?

*Bishop Bill Gafkjen*

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Have you ever thought of Lent as a yearly second chance? Each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a long, loving look at our lives to see if our values and priorities are in line with God’s desires for us. Since most of us find that we’ve wandered from God’s path, Lent becomes that second chance, or do-over, to “return to God with our whole heart.”

Some reflection questions for Lent:

How do you live out in your own life the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving?

What have you learned about yourself, your faith, and God through your own Lenten practices?

Can you recall a life-giving Lenten experience? What made it special?

What would you like to do this Lent to make it more meaningful for you and your family?

What message do you want to offer others through what you say and do this Lent?

What have my children taught me about entering into the season of Lent?



News items for the April *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 3/25/2020. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

### **OSLC Staff**

(765) 743-2931  
[www.osluth.org](http://www.osluth.org)  
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Angie Henderson, Director of  
Education and Outreach

### **PLM**

#### **Purdue Lutheran Ministry**

(765) 743-2398  
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### **Congregational Officers**

President: Mike Dana  
Vice President: Diane Gray  
Treasurer: Sue Hermodson  
Financial Secretary: John Mills

### **Congregational Council**

Mike Dana  
Charlotte Erdmann  
Carol Grady  
Diane Gray  
Sherri Guido  
Kathy Heise  
Carl Huetteman  
Mike Myers  
Scott Vana

### **Ministry Team Contacts**

Altar: Vicki Mills  
Christian Education: Sandra Vana  
Evangelism: Scott Vana  
Family Promise: Julie Huetteman  
Fellowship Events: Sara Behnke  
Finance: Steve Belter & Carl Behnke  
Foundation: Vince Guido  
LUM Liaison: Allen Grady  
Mutual Ministry: Brian Wagner  
Operations: Dick Rahdert  
PLM Liaison: Mike Myers  
Property: Matt Ohland  
Social Justice: Seeking new contact  
Worship & Music: Mark Hermodson



*The Evangel*

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