



# The Evangel

Vol. 38, Edition 3

March 2021

## *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 Online*

10:00 A.M. on Sundays

Join the Zoom Meeting or watch  
live on OSLC's facebook page.

Email Sandra ([sandra@osluth.org](mailto:sandra@osluth.org))  
and she'll send you a bulletin  
and a Zoom invite.



*Randy Schroeder, Pastor*

## **Holy Week at OSLC**

**March 28  
Palm Sunday: 10 A.M.**

**April 1  
Maundy Thursday: 7 P.M.**

**April 2  
Good Friday: 7 P.M.**

**April 4  
Easter: 10 A.M.**

**Looks like we'll still be zooming!**

**Daylight-Saving Time Begins March 14 at 2 A.M.**

**Be sure to set your  
clocks ahead one hour  
on Saturday!**



As we travel the journey of Lent with God and one another, here is another invitation. Because of God's steadfast love and forgiveness, God urges us to be in conversation; with God and one another. I invite you to read the poem below. You can do this on your own and/or ask a friend, family member or spouse, to read it on their own as well. Then get together (safely) and talk about what words, thoughts or images were stirred up for each of you.

First, find a soft quiet place. Next, quiet your mind... if outside thoughts enter your mind, allow them to slowly fade out until you are quiet. Ask God into this place... Now read the poem... slowly... patiently... listening... listen to where God is inviting or to what God is showing you. God is not there to judge you, but to shower you with mercy, in order for you to give grace to yourself ... and to others.



May the Peace of Christ be with you. Pastor Randy

### "Listening to Winter"

The trees have shed their colorful autumn robes. Winter is raging through the dark, empty branches and I am listening. I am listening to the roar and to the quiet of winter. I am listening to a beauty that sometimes remains unseen. **I am listening**

I am listening to the seed hidden in the earth. I am listening to the dark swallowing up the light.

I am listening to faith rising out of doubt. **I am listening**

I am listening to the season of contemplation, to the urgency of our world's need for reflection.

I am listening to all that waits within the earth, to bulbs and seeds, to deep roots dreaming. I am listening to the sacred, winter rest. **I am listening**

I am listening to long nights, comforting darkness, fruitful darkness, beautiful darkness. I am listening to the darkness of the winter season. I am listening to the sparks of hope within the darkness. **I am listening**

I am listening to storms raging out of my window, to storms raging in my heart. I am listening to all that

listening to trust buried deep in the ground of my being. **I am listening**

I am listening to the kind permission of the season to rest more often, to reflect more deeply, to pray without words. I am listening to the sacraments of non-doing. **I am listening**

I am listening to my dreams and inner visions, to the unknown wrapped in the mystery of my life, to tears trapped in underground streams of my being, to seed watered daily by those tears.

**I am listening**

I am listening to the quiet life in winter's womb; I am listening to winter, nurturing spring. I am listening to brilliant winter sunsets and lovely frosty mornings. I am listening to snowflakes flying through the air, to cold winds that often blow out there, to bare trees, so lovely in their emptiness, to one leaf that never did let go. **I am listening**

I am listening to winter handing over spring. I am listening to the poetry of winter.

Marcrina Wiederkehr

From THE CIRCLE OF LIFE by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr

### -Some Discussion Starters-

What words caught your attention? Was there a phrase that shimmered or shined and made you pause? Was there an invitation from God to go deeper in thought? How was God revealing something to you? Was there a word or phrase that made you think of a situation in your life, either in this present time or of the past?

# News & Notes

## Council Highlights February 10, 2021

- \* Faith Formation: Dale is starting a Cross Generational Care Program (Youth & Older Folks).
- \* Landscape Team Update: Aaron Thompson and Monica Cardella have agreed to serve on the team.
- \* Tech Production Team Update: Some discussion at the Finance Team Meeting, but the upshot of it is that we don't know what the need is yet. Dale may have some contacts.
- \* Reopen Team Update: The target date for acting on their guidelines is the April Council Meeting (for a May 2 opening).
- \* Synod Lafayette Area Exploration: Council members need time and more info in order to consider their ideas.

## OSLC Foundation Update

Final numbers are in for the year 2020, regarding our investments in the ELCA Pooled Trust. We had an increase in market value of \$8,000. We received a distribution of \$3,800 which we donated to the causes we support, leaving nearly \$113,000 in the fund. We have \$9,000 in the Mission Investment fund. Our grand total is \$122,000 which is about \$10,000 ahead of where we were a year ago.

Celebrate the Ides of March with a donut. In fact...

Eat two, Brute!



## Assisting in March

March 7	Kathy Heise
March 14	Dale Buettner
March 21	Robert & Denise Hershberger
March 28	Missy Schroeder

## Stewardship Column March 2021

*Give a Little Love*  
by Noah and the Whale

If you are able, take a few minutes and click on the link <https://youtu.be/VCMBIv4nRpA> It is a video of a song called, *Give a Little Love* by Noah and the Whale. I found it a few years ago and one of the lyrics inspires me when I think of Stewardship. At the end of the song we hear,

“Well, if you are (what you love)  
And you do (what you love)  
I will always be the sun and moon to you  
And if you share (with your heart)  
Yeah, you give (with your heart)

**What you share with the world is what it keeps of you.”**

What you share with this world is what it keeps of you... let that sink in for a minute.

What you share with this world is what it keeps of you... Stewardship is not limited to the financial support we give to OSLC or LUM or other ministries/charities. Stewardship is inclusive of how we nurture all of creation and those in it. Those who are here in the present and the future will keep what we share with them. Choose kindness.

In the video individuals see a random act of kindness and then are shown performing another random act of kindness until we see a group of people helping paint a graffiti filled building in order to beautify the community for everyone.

During our Lenten journeys, I encourage you to do random acts of kindness... open the door for someone, return your shopping cart, pick up some garbage, let someone merge into the lane in front of you. Try not to plan this kind action, rather be open and aware of opportunities life places before you each day. Simple kindness will grow if we choose it. Share kindness with the world this Lent.

Thank you for all you do, your continued support of loving and serving God and neighbor. You are appreciated and loved. You are a child of God, deserving of love and respect and God will use you to change the world!

Peace,

Pastor Randy

# MARCH UPDATES

- **Pints with a Pastor Meets March 1 & 22.** High Schoolers welcome and encouraged to attend.
- **Wednesday Zoom with Kiddos:** Every Wednesday at 4:30, elementary age kids Zoom with Dale. Family Promise kids will be joining on the first Wednesday of each month.

## Adult Forum March 2021:

7<sup>th</sup>- No Forum (Ministry Team Meetings)

14<sup>th</sup> - "ELCA Campus Ministry in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod- Rev. Rob Abner (Ball State) and Rev. Amanda Ghaffarian (IU Bloomington)

21<sup>st</sup> - "Ministry at Holden Village"- Marta Vegdahl-Crowell

28<sup>th</sup> - "Basic Listening Skills"- Jean Peterson

## Other Resources

- **Facebook**- "Like" OSLC's page for Sunday Worship streamed live, updates and upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/osluth/>
- **RightNow Media** (bible studies, devotions, video resources for individuals & families)-**FREE** OSLC membership:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/account/invite/OurSaviour>

rightnow MEDIA

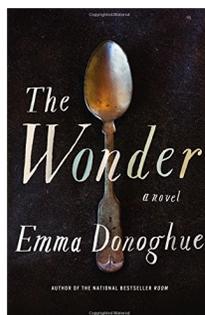


## March Book Discussion: March 21, 5 P.M.

### *The Wonder* by Emma Donoghue

In this masterpiece by Emma Donoghue, bestselling author of *Room*, an English nurse is brought to a small Irish village to observe what appears to be a miracle -- a girl said to have survived without food for months -- and soon finds herself fighting to save the child's life. Written with all the propulsive tension that made *Room* a huge bestseller, *The Wonder* works beautifully on many levels -- a tale of two strangers who transform each other's lives, a powerful psychological thriller, and a story of love pitted against evil.

All are welcome! Email Sandra ([sandra@osluth.org](mailto:sandra@osluth.org)) for an invite.



illustratedministry.com



[dale@osluth.org](mailto:dale@osluth.org)

## Mark your calendars:

- \***Sunday, March 7, 11:30 A.M. Faith Formation Team Meeting** via Zoom
- \***Pints with a Pastor Meets March 1 and 22.**
- \***Every Wednesday in Lent at 12 Noon:** Lunchtime Lectio with Missy and Dale! Join us for a time of creatively and reflectively praying the Scriptures.
- \***Wednesday Zoom with Kiddos** meets every Wednesday at 4:30 P.M.
- \***Adult Forum Meets after Zoom worship on March 14, 21, 28.** (See topics listed to the left.)
- \***Tuesday, March 16, 7 P.M. Virtual Game Night** with the Webbs
- \***Sunday, March 21: Book Discussion at 5:00 P.M. via Zoom**
- \***Thursday, March 26, 8:00 P.M.: Social Justice Discussion via Zoom** (Covering Chapters 7-9 of *White Fragility*)

## Feline-informed faith

I am the epitome of a "cat lady": Each of my five felines has taught me a bit about faith. As I settle into bed, Piccolo presses his body tightly against mine. As I type, Tina sits on my lap, often reaching to rest a paw on my hand (the one on the mouse, of course!). Pumpkin cries persistently, even raising his front legs like toddler arms when he wants to be picked up. Yet, as any cat lover knows, these animals can be stubbornly aloof — at least until mealtime.

My cats' actions make me think about how intentional daily Bible reading is like pressing myself against God. When I see God's presence in nature or someone's kindness, pausing to give thanks is like reaching out to touch God's hand. When I feel needy, I can stretch my spirit toward God's embrace with an honest prayer. And when I make myself aloof — as, alas, I sometimes do — I can rejoice that God's love always calls me back, to nourish me again.

—Heidi Mann

# There Can Never Be Too Many Acts of Kindness!

“Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the empty places in someone’s heart.”  
Mandy Hale

## Paying it back — and forward

During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. Last spring, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred. Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway.

In 1847, Choctaw Tribe members sent \$170 overseas to Ireland to help with Potato Famine relief. That generosity was never forgotten, and by May 2020, people in Ireland had contributed more than \$4 million toward pandemic assistance for relatives of people who’d helped their ancestors. Many donors included an Irish proverb meaning “In each other’s shadows the people live.” The concept of paying it forward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus’ Golden Rule: “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31). How might you live out this practice today?

## Cultivate Kindness

Kind hearts are the gardens.  
Kind thoughts are the roots.  
Kind words are the flowers.  
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden  
and keep out the weeds.  
Fill it with sunshine,  
kind words and kind deeds.

## The comfort connection

Amid suffering, we might feel alone and wonder what good can come of it. But later we may discover ourselves equipped to serve precisely because of what we experienced.

Writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin stated: “You think your pain and heartbreak are unprecedented ... but then you read. [Books] taught me that the things that tormented me the most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive or who had ever been alive.” Whether through books or direct human interaction, we often learn that our suffering connects us to other people and that our pain gains meaning by moving us to support someone else who’s hurting.

Paul writes of such connection: “Praise be to ... the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV). May you share the comfort you have received from God with others in pain. As a bonus, along the way you’ll realize you’re not — and never have been — alone.



And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.  
Ephesians 4:32

“I drop kindness pebbles in still water every day, and I watch the effect they have on other people’s lives. My favorite kindness pebbles are compliments. Drop a compliment and watch the ripple effect that it has in your life.”

Remarkably, these cheery words come from a father who has faced many dark, difficult days. In *6 Minutes Wrestling With Life*, John Passaro tells of his daughter’s heart-wrenching battle with meningitis. The struggles didn’t make him bitter; rather, he frequently offers uplifting words on social media.



What if we followed Passaro’s example and complimented people regularly? Philippians 4:8 (NIV) instructs us to think about things that are noble, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. By extension, turning those positive thoughts into words causes “kindness pebbles” to spread God’s light in ripples throughout someone’s day — and, doubtless, through ours.

## Lafayette Urban Ministry

Wes Tillett, LUM executive director, shares that after ten months at LUM, he realizes it has an even greater impact than he imagined. Please take 58 seconds to watch this Youtube video and share it with others.

Paste this address in your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmRI2VqMIhU&feature=youtu.be>



Julie Huetteman was kept busy emailing thank you notes this past month. So many of you were giving of your time, talents and treasure to Family Promise!

You provided meals and baskets of goods. You spent time with the children and the parents.

Thanks to all who contributed. They know we are Christians by our love!



## Bread for the World - Indiana Annual Joint Offering of Letters Training

### THE RIGHT TO FOOD

March 6, 2021

10 A.M. to Noon (Eastern Time)

Featuring...

**Bread for the World President Eugene Cho**

In this two-hour virtual gathering, participants will explore the emphasis for the 2021 Offering of Letters, "The Right to Food," and learn how to engage in the state-wide organizing strategy of the Bread – Indiana team in 2021.

Email Scott Vana for further information and registration details.



### Meijer *Simply Give* Campaign Supports the Fresh Market

Feeding local families has never been this simple. Support Food Finders' Fresh Market by buying a \$10 #MeijerSimplyGive donation card at the West Lafayette Meijer now through April 10.



**Pampered Chef Serve Up a Little Kindness** For each Silicone and Wood Utensil set sold, 10 meals will be donated to Feeding America.



**Kroger Community Rewards** Help secure donations for Food Finders each time you use your Kroger/Pay Less card!



# March

**March 28: Palm Sunday: 10 A.M.**  
**April 1: Maundy Thursday: 7 P.M.**  
**April 2: Good Friday: 7 P.M.**  
**April 4: Easter: 10 A.M.**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pints with a Pastor	2	3 12 noon Lectio Divina via Zoom and Facebook Live	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10am Worship via Zoom Servant Sunday			12 noon Lectio Divina via Zoom and Facebook Live 4:30pm Wed Zoom w/ Kiddos 6:30pm Council Mtg via Zoom			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10am Worship via Zoom & Adult Forum		Game Night via Zoom 7pm	12 noon Lectio Divina via Zoom and Facebook Live 4:30pm Wed Zoom w/ Kiddos			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10am Worship via Zoom & Adult Forum 5pm Book Discussion via Zoom	Pints with a Pastor		12 noon Lectio Divina via Zoom and Facebook Live 4:30pm Wed Zoom w/ Kiddos	Social Justice Discussion Chapters 7-9 of <i>White Fragility</i> 8:00pm via Zoom		
28	29	30	31	April 1	April 2	April 3
10am Worship via Zoom & Adult Forum 						

News items for the April *Evangel* are due to Sandra Vana (sandra@osluth.org) by 3/25/2021. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

### **OSLC Staff**

(765) 743-2931

[www.osluth.org](http://www.osluth.org)

Randy Schroeder, Pastor

Sandra Vana, Secretary

Dale Buettner, Director of Faith Formation

Emily Ohland, Choir Director

Beth Dana, Julie Huetteman &

Sandra Vana, Musicians

### **PLM**

#### **Purdue Lutheran Ministry**

(765) 743-2398

[www.plm.org](http://www.plm.org)

**Amy Brown, Office Manager**

330 West Fowler Ave

West Lafayette, IN 47906

### **Congregational Officers**

President: Diane Gray

Vice President: Matt Ohland

Treasurer: Sue Hermodson

Financial Secretary: John Mills

### **Congregational Council**

Cindy Modlin Adams

Mike Dana

Carol Grady

Diane Gray

Sherri Guido

Allen Hammer

Kathy Heise

Matt Ohland

Scott Vana

### **Ministry Team Contacts**

Altar: Vicki Mills

Arts: Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer

Evangelism: Scott Vana

Faith Formation: Holly Black

& Carol Grady

Family Promise: Julie Huetteman

Fellowship Events: Sara Behnke

Finance: Steve Belter & Carl Behnke

Foundation: Vince Guido

LUM Liaison: Allen "Buz" Grady

Mutual Ministry: Brian Wagner

Operations: Dick Rahdert

PLM Liaison: Sherri Guido

Property: Matt Ohland

Social Justice: Cindy Modlin Adams

Worship & Music: Mark Hermodson



*The Evangel*

Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
300 West Fowler Avenue  
West Lafayette, IN 47906