



# *The Evangel*

Vol. 40, Edition 4

April 2023

***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 on Sundays***

9:00 A.M. (Online and in-person)

11:30 A.M. (in-person)

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

Email OSLC ([info@osluth.org](mailto:info@osluth.org)) and you will  
receive a bulletin and a Zoom invite.



***Randy Schroeder, Pastor  
Kristin Rice, Campus Pastor***

## *Holy Week Schedule*

**April 2, Sunday of the Passion**  
Worship at 9 am & 11:30 am

**April 6, Maundy Thursday**  
Worship at 7 pm

**April 7, Good Friday**  
Worship at 7 pm

**April 9, Easter Sunday**  
Worship at 8:30 am  
Breakfast offered between 9:30 & 11:15 am  
Easter Egg Hunt begins at 9:40 am  
Worship at 11:30 am

## **Join us Easter Sunday for Breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt!**



Breakfast begins at 9:30 am and our Easter Egg hunt begins at 9:40 am. If you plan to attend, please put your name and the number of people in your party attending on the sign-up sheet outside the office so we can plan accordingly. If you will not be here in person until Easter, you can email Missy at [missy@osluth.org](mailto:missy@osluth.org) and let her know how many in your party plan to attend. We look forward to celebrating Easter with you!



## Pastor's Letter

Grace, mercy, and peace to you  
from our Creator,  
our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and our Sustainer the Holy Spirit.



We have journeyed through Lent with help from Kate Bowlers "Bless the Lent We Actually Have. 40 Days to Reflect, Pray, and Bless our Imperfect Lives." I hope this Lent has been meaningful and has given you the opportunity to feel God's presence in our daily joys and, more so, in our daily struggles.

This Sunday (4/2) is Palm/Passion Sunday which begins Holy Week, and we will continue blessing our lives in the Lent we actually have through Maundy (4/6), Good Friday (4/7), and finally Easter (4/9).

Although I've been a Lutheran my whole life, I have not observed or given much thought to Holy Saturday (4/8). I have participated in Easter Vigils, but Kate Bowler brings forth the following for Holy Saturday, the last day of Lent:

*The Harrowing of Hell is celebrated on Holy Saturday. The day when tradition affirms that Jesus descended into hell, showing us that there is no place you can go where God will not find you and lead you home. All the scars that cover us, all the wounds that we have inflicted on others, all the pain that you carry—don't matter in the end.*

*All our dirt will be cleansed, our incisions healed, our grief wiped away. ... Reflect on that truth.*

*What does the depth of Holy Saturday mean to you? For further reflection: The Harrowing of Hell is often depicted in art. "Descent to Hell," created by Duccio Di Buoninsegna in 1308-11. Notice how Jesus is pulling Adam by the hand. Reflect on this painting. What else do you see? What does this painting stir up in you? (Here's a link you can use if you want a better view: <https://www.wikiart.org/en/duccio/descent-into-hell-1311>)*



May God bless you in your time of reflection and as we transition from Lent into Easter resurrection.

As a reminder, during Holy Week you are invited to join us in worship in person or via zoom.

Palm Sunday (4/2) Worship 9:00 am and 11:30am;

Maundy Thursday Service (4/6) 7:00pm @ OSLC and/or Noon service @ HTLC

Good Friday (4/7) in partnership with HTLC 7:00pm @ OSLC and/or Noon service @ HTLC

Easter Morning Worship (4/9) 8:30am - 9:30-11:15 a.m. Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt - Second service 11:30am.

Peace,  
Pastor Randy



## News You Can Use

### Council Highlights

- ⇒ University Religious Leaders will use the Fellowship Hall on March 29
- ⇒ Teo has given notice. Sandra will fill in until we find a new office secretary.
- ⇒ Spring Work Day will be April 22. We'll be taking the mound of rock and dirt apart, getting rid of the dirt and keeping the stones. Matt will change the back door code on that day as well.
- ⇒ Sue H submitted her intention to retire from the treasurer's position
- ⇒ Operations: Working on job descriptions
- ⇒ We received feedback from the Synod about the revisions to the Constitution and the Bylaws. And, we'll need to do some updating regarding the election of officers and officers' duties

### PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Randy will be away for the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program or on vacation for the following dates:

**April 10-16 (Vacation)**

**May 15-17**

**July 25-August 2 (Vacation)**

**August 7-9**

**October 3-10**

**December 4-6**

### Stewardship Article

#### *Having Nothing, Possessing Everything*

As we enter our Easter Season, we are called to notice the new life God gives us through the empty tomb. The women who were following their tradition, wishing to anoint Jesus' body are surprised and forever changed to see Jesus was raised. Something incredible has happened and they will not be the same, for they have a new responsibility. Sharing God's love - the good news of new life - to all people.

This Easter Season, I am reminded of the last book (of which I borrowed for the title for this article) I was assigned to read for the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program (WPLP). *Having Nothing, Possessing Everything* was written by Michael Mather, a Methodist Pastor from Indianapolis. The last WPLP session in March revolved around the community in which we live and how to create community everywhere. We are called to live into the promise of new life through Christ's resurrection. Often we need new perspectives to create life-giving change as we live into God's promise. The following excerpt from Mather's book has begun nurturing my view of God's love in community.

"... I began to notice the subtle and not so subtle ways that Christian congregational life tended to focus on people's needs rather than their capabilities. The prayers and hymns and choral anthems often depict the poor, homeless, and sick only by what they lack. And the hymn "Together We Serve," we are "extending [God's] love to the last and the least" as if the "last and the least" don't have something to teach the rest of us about extending God's love. Where is the hymn that celebrates the abundance of talent and gift that overflows every neighborhood? Where are the sermons that invite us to see the less fortunate as agents of God's healing rather than encourage us to act on behalf of the less fortunate? Where are the prayers that not only asked God to give the hungry good things, but also give thanks for the good things God has already so lavishly given them?"

As we think about stewarding our gifts and talents, what can we learn about the gifts and talents of those others? Those who have less money are talented gifted people who just happen to have less money. How can we celebrate others and tend to their capabilities and learn from them through community? I pray that these questions will turn the wheels of change in your mind to view those in our community in a new way. Everyone is a child of God, deserving of love and respect, and God will use all of us to change the world. We all have time, gifts, and talents to share. It's time to begin asking new questions as we live into the new life of resurrection.

Thank you for all you do, your continued support of loving God and neighbor. You are appreciated and loved.

Peace,  
Pastor Randy

PS – "Having Nothing, Possessing Everything- Finding abundant communities in unexpected places," is a short read. I highly recommend it to anyone wanting to learn more about individual's gifts in a community and how the church can be helpful building community around those gifts.

**Our  
Saviour's  
Love we  
Celebrate**



## APRIL UPDATES

### For This Beautiful, Limited Day

As Spring slowly begins to emerge and Easter reminds us and invites us into the immense hope that comes as we celebrate the resurrection of the Risen One, Jesus, we begin to feel the rhythm of the season change and new life springing forth. And yet in the midst of this life can overwhelm us and push us right past the beauty of what is happening within our beautiful, limited days.

This blessing from the book, *The Lives We Actually Have* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie has been praying in me during Lent. Inviting me to pause, see the blessings within my days and asking me to contemplate what really counts. I would like to share it with you. May it bless you as you live your—Beautiful, Limited Day...

*Blessed are we who see the impossibility  
of solving today.  
It can't be done.  
God, there are lists on lists  
and errands on errands  
and a taste, like tin in my mouth,  
of the unfinishedness of my life.  
Am I counting items  
Instead of knowing what counts?  
God, help me live here,  
seeing the whole truth of what is.  
Blessed are we who walk toward the discomfort,  
bringing what gifts we have,  
and our sufferings too,  
whether of illness or loss,  
grief or betrayal,  
confusion or powerlessness.  
Blessed are we who scoot up close  
so we can whisper our loves, our fears,  
all that feels too heavy to carry alone,  
and all that we wish we could hold onto for longer.  
Show me what I love.  
Show me what I never want to lose.  
Show me what I no longer need  
here in this beautiful, limited day.*



**Facebook**—“Like” OSLC’s page for Sunday Worship streamed live, updates and upcoming events: <https://www.facebook.com/osluth/>

### Sunday School Schedule

April 2 - Luke's Holy Week

(Luke 22:14-23;23:26-56)

April 9- Happy Easter No Sunday School

April 16- Jesus is Risen (John 20:1-18)

April 23- Thomas Believes (John 20:19-31)

April 30- The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

**Adult Forum – We will begin the Adult Forum at 10:20 am and conclude at 11:05 am.**

April 2- Servant Sunday no Adult Forum

April 9- Happy Easter! no Adult Forum

April 16- TBD

April 23- Mayor John Dennis

April 30- Hannah Freedburg from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service [www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org)



## More Faith Formation News

### Resources

Faith Talk Resources for Parents and Grandparents to use with Children:

Here at OSLC we use the Taking Faith Home guide for faith-filled conversations. This is often used as a worship bulletin insert. The newest addition to Taking Faith Home is a YouTube channel where you will be able to watch a short video with Rosita and Debbie talking about different parts of Taking Faith Home each week. Designed with youth in mind, this is a resource to encourage faith talk in the home:

<https://www.youtube.com/@TFH-Rosita-Debbie>

Traci Smith is an ordained minister, mother of three, and author. Traci's passion is helping families find times for connection and spiritual nourishment. Click the link below to sign up for her weekly email Treasure Box Tuesdays. It has several ideas of faith formation ideas for families and children.

<https://substack.com/profile/3156862-traci-smith>

Faith + Lead is hosted by Luther Seminary. It has a wealth of resources and learning for Everyday Disciples, Spiritual Seekers, Church Leaders and Ministry Entrepreneurs. Click on the link to check it out.

<https://faithlead.org/>

Pathways Retreat is a retreat center located in Goshen, IN. As a part of their ministry they offer many prayer and retreat resources. If you are looking to explore different ways of praying or wanting to learn more about spirituality, click on the link below to check it out.

<https://www.pathwaysretreat.org/prayers-and-practices.html>

<https://www.pathwaysretreat.org/>

### Centering Prayer Class

Are you interested in different ways of praying? Have you ever thought of trying praying in a meditative and more contemplative way but you are not sure how to start?

Missy Schroeder is going to host a class on Centering Prayer on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00 pm via zoom.

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship."

<http://www.centeringprayer.com/>

If you are interested in joining the Centering Prayer class, please email Missy at [missy@osluth.org](mailto:missy@osluth.org). There will be information in the announcements as well.

### Dinner Group-

Are you looking for an opportunity to get to know the people in our community? We have been apart for so long and we are hopeful that now is the time we can come back together. We have had some interest in starting a dinner group. This group would meet once a month around a meal to create friendships and community, sharing life together. If this is something that you would be interested in participating in, please email Missy at [missy@osluth.org](mailto:missy@osluth.org).

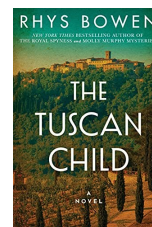
### Earth Day Kids Outing

We would like to plan a fun outing for the kids of OSLC around Earth Day! Earth Day is April 22 and we would like to go to the Celery Bog and explore our Earth close to that date. Missy will soon be emailing the parents to see what date works. Look for more details to come!

### Book Discussion Revival

Just in time for the Easter Season, we are resurrecting the book discussion group! For April we will discuss Rhys Bowen's *The Tuscan Child*. This will be a zoom meeting on Sunday, April 23 at 5:00 pm. All are welcome.

Email [info@osluth.org](mailto:info@osluth.org) for a zoom invitation.







*“Spring is nature's way of saying, ‘Let's party!’”*

—Robin Williams

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
						8:30 AM Men's Breakfast Group at Café Literato
<b>2 Palm Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
9 AM Worship in-person & Zoom 11:30 AM Worship in-person		6 PM Pax		7 PM Maundy Thursday Service in person & via zoom 8 PM AA	7 PM Good Friday Service in person & via zoom	
<b>9 Easter</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
8:30 AM Worship in-person & Zoom 11:30 AM Worship in-person		6 PM Pax		8 PM AA		
April 10-16: Pastor Randy is away on vacation.						
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
9 AM Worship in-person & Zoom 11:30 AM Worship in-person 1-4 PM Hearts & Crafts		6 PM Pax	11 AM—2 PM Hearts & Crafts  6:30 PM Council Meeting	8 PM AA		Spring Work Day at OSLC
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
9 AM Worship in-person & Zoom 11:30 AM Worship in-person 5 PM Book Discussion via zoom		6 PM Pax	7 PM Centering Prayer Class via zoom	8 PM AA		
<b>30</b>						
9 AM Worship in-person & Zoom 11:30 AM Worship in-person						



**A DAILY PRAYER**

Since God will be my end  
Let him be my beginning,  
So that I may fully live  
Instead of falling, straying, sinning.

—Angelus Silesius



### 9 AM Worship Assistant Schedule for April

Date	Cantor	Assisting Minister	Lector	Usher	Assistant to Mike Williams	Acolyte
April 2	Mark Hermodson	Dick Rahdert	Matt Ohland	Mike Dana	Jesse Grogan	
April 6 (Maundy Thursday)	Kathy Heise	Dick Rahdert		Mike Dana	Ted Heise	
April 7 (Good Friday)	Russell Hillberry		Robert Hershberger		TBD	
April 9	OSLC Choir	Mike Dana	Matt Ohland	Dick Rahdert	Jesse Grogan	
April 16	Mark Hermodson	Marcia Daehler	Peter Bunder	Mike Dana	Jesse Grogan	
April 23	Kathy Heise	Mike Dana	Matt Ohland	Mark Hermodson	Ted Heise	
April 30	Russell Hillberry	Dick Rahdert	Clara Gearhart	Calvin Gearhart	Matt Ohland	

### 11:30 AM Worship Assistant Schedule for April

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Usher
April 2	Christy O'Brien	Sandra Vana	Scott Vana
April 9	Christy O'Brien	Scott Vana	Missy Schroeder
April 16	Scott Vana	Sandra Vana	Christy O'Brien
April 23	Missy Schroeder	Sandra Vana	Scott Vana
April 30	Missy Schroeder	Sandra Vana	Christy O'Brien



## Social Justice Opportunities

## Bread for the World 2023 Offering of Letters

(It's not too late to participate!)

Help end hunger in the US and around the world by contacting our elected officials in Washington.

Step 1 - Watch 1-minute video.

<https://bit.ly/oslcbreadvideo>

## Step 2 - Learn more about Bread & Offering of Letters.

[www.bread.org/OL](http://www.bread.org/OL)

Step 3 - Send email to Senators and Representative.

<https://bit.ly/oslcbreademail>

Step 4 - Report to Bread on emails sent & letters mailed.

<https://bit.ly/oslcbreadreport>



## Gala of Hope

LUM Immigration Clinic (formerly known as Port of Hope) is hosting a Gala of Hope fundraising event. Please support the work of the LUM Immigration Clinic by attending Gala of Hope.

To purchase tickets you can text LUMPOH to 41444. If you are not able to attend the Gala of Hope but still would like to make an investment in the LUM Immigration Clinic, text LUMPOH to 91999

If you would like to volunteer, more information can be found at [https://www.lumserve.org/volunteer/volunteer-sign-up-sheets/?sheet\\_id=61](https://www.lumserve.org/volunteer/volunteer-sign-up-sheets/?sheet_id=61)

## Family Promise Annual Report.

## 2022 Year in Review:

# of Individuals Served across all programs:

$$115 \text{ children} + 60 \text{ adults} = 175$$

# of Families Served:

- 47 across all programs
- 20 in Family Promise Shelter
- 24 through Family HELPS (Prevention)
- 3 through Rapid Rehousing
- 16 of the 20 families leaving shelter moved into stable housing
- 24 families were able to avoid eviction through Family HELPS

Three families were able to receive 5-6 months of rental assistance and case management through our Rapid Re-housing Program.

While many churches were not comfortable returning to shelter, the overwhelming support in other ways made a significant impact on the programs.

- In-Kind Donation of goods saved our program \$7,463.
- Individual and church financial donations total \$18,079.45

## Our Participation in 2023

OSLC and UU are partnering to provide support in 2023.

We are scheduled to provide meals for these dates:

**June 5, 7, 9**

**August 21, 23, 25**

**September 18, 20, 22**

Contact Julie Huetteman, [juliehuetteman@gmail.com](mailto:juliehuetteman@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Family Promise - <http://www.fpglinc.org>





# Standing Invitations

## Callout for Men's Breakfast Group

Many years ago a younger group of OSLC men started to meet for breakfast once a month and had a topic for discussion or a book review. Everything changed so that now we are much older and we have no topic or book review. We just enjoy whatever comes up. Attendance ranges from five to nine and we meet at Literato at 8:30 am for an hour or so on the first Saturday of the month. We welcome newcomers and guests. There is plenty of space. Each orders their own food and drink and heads for our table.

Please consider joining us.  
Dick Rahdert



## HEARTS & CRAFTS

YOU ARE INVITED TO A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH  
AND CRAFTING THE THIRD SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY  
MONTH.

(SUNDAY 1-4 PM - WEDNESDAY 11-2 PM)

IF YOU ARE AN EXPERIENCED CRAFTER OR A BEGINNER~ WE WELCOME  
ALL! IN BRING YOUR CRAFTING SUPPLIES AND CURIOSITY AND  
LET'S MAKE SOME GOOD FOR THOSE IN NEED.



We welcome  
all kinds of  
musicians to  
participate at  
OSLC. Let one  
of the musi-  
cians know if you'd like to  
be involved.



## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Sign up by the kitchen door.  
There are many opportunities  
for you to share hospitality!

## Times and Locations of Ministry Meetings

**Property** normally meets on the first Sunday of the month, 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. **Congregational Life** meets in the Fellowship Hall on Servant Sundays. All are welcome! **Faith Formation** meets via zoom to accommodate the schedules of its members. New members are welcome! Contact Missy Schroeder ([missy@osluth.org](mailto:missy@osluth.org)) for more info. **Operations** meets only when there is a need or crisis. If you would like to attend one of the meetings, please email Dick Rahdert and he will notify you of the time and place. **Finance** normally meets on Servant Sunday afternoon via zoom. Meetings are usually suspended during the months of June, July, and August. **Social Justice** meets in the Fellowship Hall on Servant Sunday. All are welcome! **Evangelism** meets on Servant Sundays, usually via zoom. Scott Vana would be happy to send you a zoom invite.



# Service Opportunities



## eSwatini Mission Trip 2023

GHFP invites you to join our team on a journey to the Kingdom of eSwatini, Africa to learn and dedicate your time, skills, and labor to a community of orphaned children struggling with poverty, HIV/AIDS, and illiteracy. These trips will be tailored to meet the needs of the local Swazi children while remaining cognizant of your skills and expertise including but not limited to: education, engineering, healthcare, nutrition, counseling, and art & design. If you are a student, we will work with your college or university to facilitate you earning independent study college credit for your experience! We at GHFP thank you for your commitment to make a stand, participate on a trip, and actively take part in the global effort to eradicate poverty in Swaziland, curb HIV/AIDS, and empower orphaned children!

We have multiple opportunities summer 2023 and would love to have you join us.

Contact: Annie Todt [anniefightspoverty@gmail.com](mailto:anniefightspoverty@gmail.com) 765-532-2586  
[www.ifightpoverty.org](http://www.ifightpoverty.org)



## Treasurer Vacancy

Sue Hermodson recently informed the Finance Team and Council of her intent to retire from her role as OSLC's General Treasurer. She has served in this capacity for many years and, before that served as OSLC's Financial Secretary. First of all, we thank Sue for her faithful service to this congregation.

Now we need to identify someone who is willing to volunteer to serve this congregation as its treasurer.

The general skill sets desirable for this position are:

- Some experience with financial record-keeping
- Some experience with Quicken and Excel software
- A good head for math and attention to details
- The patience of Job
- The wisdom of Solomon

The approximate time commitment is 1 to 3 hours per week (recording income, paying bills) and an extra hour or two at the end of each month preparing monthly reports for the Finance Team and reconciling monthly bank statements. End-of-year reporting requires some extra time in reviewing the accuracy of all transactions for the year and preparing reports for the annual audit that usually occurs in mid-January.

If you feel called to serve this congregation as its next treasurer, contact Bob Nielsen ([cornuguy.rln@gmail.com](mailto:cornuguy.rln@gmail.com)) or anyone else on the Finance Team.

If you want to learn more about the week to week and month to month tasks of the treasurer, visit with Sue Hermodson ([hermodson@comcast.net](mailto:hermodson@comcast.net)).

OSLC is also seeking a new office secretary. If you or someone you know might be interested, email [info@osluth.org](mailto:info@osluth.org) for more information.



# Words of Wisdom

## Sharing the Load

In 1969 the Hollies released “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother.” Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan’s Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, “He ain’t heavy, Father. He’s my brother.” Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been “carried” at some point, and we’ve likely “carried” someone else. The Hollies’ song declares: “His welfare is my concern.” Jesus said it this way: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The load isn’t too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.

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## Facts, not futility

“If the resurrection of Jesus Christ did not happen,” writes Mary Fairchild, “then the apostles were all fakes and everyone throughout history who has ever testified of Christ’s power is a liar. If the resurrection did not happen, then Jesus Christ has no dominion over life and death, and we remain lost in our sin, destined to die. Our faith is useless.” Paul sounds a similar tone in 1 Corinthians 15:14-19, saying unless Christ was raised, any preaching about him is “in vain” and our faith is “futile” (ESV).

Praise God that he doesn’t leave us in suspense. Unlike Thomas, we don’t need to doubt Easter’s good news. With utter certainty, Paul continues: “But in *fact* Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (vs. 20, emphasis added). So let us rejoice with the apostle: “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (vs. 57)!

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## Complete trust, even amid suffering

In a Good Friday column written during the pandemic, Michael Gerson said anguish is warranted in the face of death. As Jesus suffers on the cross, he asks why his Father has forsaken him. To Gerson, this proves that “anguish and questioning are not sins or weaknesses. They are the proper responses to the horrors of death. In the ninth hour, God gave permission for confusion. He dignified doubt.”

But Christ’s final words — committing himself into his Father’s hands — “ring a different note,” adds Gerson. “This was more than resignation; it was trust. In the end, [Jesus] found, not an answer, but a person — someone capable of reversing the verdict of Good Friday. That is all we are promised, and it is more than enough.”

## Vibrant belief

The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.

—Madeleine L’Engle,  
*The Rock That Is Higher*

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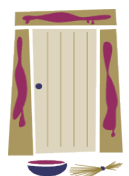
## Jesus answers our uncertainties

Thomas didn’t believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus’ death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus’ responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: “Touch my body” — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.

Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37, NIV). And what is one of the most powerful forms of witness to Christ? Forgiveness.

**DOORPOSTS** — The image of a blood-marked doorframe is from the Passover account in Exodus. God directed the Israelites to slaughter lambs for a final meal and paint their doorposts with the blood. God sent the Angel of Death to kill the firstborn sons of Egypt, but the blood signaled that the Destroyer should “pass over” those homes. Likewise, the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, saves us from eternal death.





# ELCA: Stories of Faith in Action



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



Dear friend in Christ,

Across the ELCA we are connected through the stories we tell, the stories we hear and the stories we experience in ministry with, among and for one another. Our church has stories that span the country and the globe. By engaging with these stories, we become connected to those people and places, not physically present yet still responding to God's call to serve.

We are so pleased to share with you one of the ways to engage with the stories of this church, through the new format of "Stories of Faith in Action." As we have continued to transition "Stories of Faith in Action" to a fully digital resource, we also wanted to offer a more dynamic experience. That is what we hope you find on the new [Stories of Faith in Action website](#).

On this site is a helpful graphic showing how Mission Support starts as a congregational gift from regular offerings shared with ELCA synods and the churchwide expression to fund ministries near and far. You will also find a snapshot of the Mission Support financials. Then, to really show your Mission Support dollars in action, you will find five inspiring stories from around the country and around the world, paired with beautiful images. Each story also has a .pdf version available to print and share.

We share these stories with you as a reminder of our gratitude for your generosity through the sharing of Mission Support. We invite you to not only read these stories but engage with them personally and with others. We have also included a devotional guide to deeply consider how Scripture, engaging questions and these stories bring us together through this "Stories of Faith and Action." We hope they lead you to be inspired, to ask questions, to share with generous hearts and to be thankful for the work God is doing through the ELCA.

Gratefully,

Victoria Flood, Senior Director for Mission Support  
Nick Kiger, Director for Mission Support  
Karen Kretschmann Coordinator for Storytelling Engagement



News items for the May *Evangel* are due to the office (info@osluth.org)  
by 4/23/2023. Please type "Evangel" in the subject line.

### **OSLC Staff**

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

Randy Schroeder, Pastor

Sandra Vana, Interim Office Secretary

Missy Schroeder, Director of Faith  
Formation

Beth Dana, Julie Huetteman &

Sandra Vana, Musicians

Mike Williams, AV Specialist

### **PLM**

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Pastor Kristin Rice

Amy Brown, Office Manager

330 West Fowler Ave

West Lafayette, IN 47906

### **Congregational Officers**

President: Kathy Heise

Vice President: Jesse Grogan

Treasurer: Sue Hermodson

Financial Secretary: John Mills

Secretary: Sandra Vana

### **Congregational Council**

Krista Gearhart

Allen "Buz" Grady

Jesse Grogan

Allen Hammer

Kathy Heise

Bob Nielsen

Matt Ohland

Dick Rahdert

Erin Thompson

### **Ministry Team Contacts**

Altar: Vicki Mills

Care: Sherri Guido, Diane Gray &  
Sue Aufderheide

Evangelism: Scott Vana

Faith Formation: Missy Schroeder

Fellowship Events: Sara Behnke

Finance: Steve Belter & Carl Behnke

Foundation: Vince Guido

Mutual Ministry: Brian Wagner

Operations: Dick Rahdert

Property: Matt Ohland

Social Justice: Sandra Vana

Worship & Music: Mark Hermodson

### **Outreach**

Family Promise: Julie Huetteman

LUM Liaison: Seeking new liaison

PLM Liaison: Matt Ohland

*The Evangel*



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