

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

February 2018

www.oursaviorschurch.info

HEAR IT, FEEL IT, LIVE IT, SHARE IT – GOD'S LOVE

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many of us have seen the reports that have broken over the past few months in the news of sexual harassment and assault against women. The brave women who testified against Larry Nassar are only the most recent to find people listening to their stories, with steps toward justice found in the exposure of media figures and politicians who have used their power to silence women's voices. In the midst of all this, we can be caught up in gut reactions of pleased vengeance, fear of changing norms, or even denial. But in the midst of it, I think we have an opportunity to wonder how God is calling us to listen.

We may want to ignore it sometimes, but the Bible shows us how powerful men take advantage of women, and how society doesn't handle it well. From Dinah to Tamar, the men in their families react in vengeance, violently punishing men who violate their sisters. But the vengeance still leaves the sisters unable to marry and marked as "damaged goods" by society. Women who survive assault and rape still carry the mark of something they didn't want to begin with. We read of David taking advantage of Bathsheba, essentially forcing her into a position of marrying him, and yet Bathsheba has been blamed for generations as a seductress.

And we also read of women whose testimony has changed the world. Esther told the king the truth of what Haman planned to do to her people, and that truth saved them. The woman at the well told the truth to the people of Sychar about the Messiah who told her everything she'd ever done, and it brought salvation to Samaria. Mary Magdalene told the truth of meeting the risen Christ in the garden, and it marked her as the first apostle and began the spread of the gospel.

As the cascading stories of ongoing abuse from so many quarters continue, God may be calling us to a new thing, where women are believed when they testify to what happened to them. God may also be challenging us to attend the outcomes differently than God's people have in the past—recognizing the wholeness of women who have been victims of assault and not branding them as "damaged goods" as they have been in the past. God may be challenging us to seek the fullness of justice, and not just the ease of vengeance. God may be calling us to a fuller understanding of what it means to be bearers of God's image in the world.

When we read the creation account, we read that God created both men and women in God's own image—not one subordinate to the other, not one greater than the other, but both contain the fullness of God's image. We honor that image when we believe women's testimony as their truth rather than immediately question their motives or culpability in their own assault. We honor that image when we give as much weight to the testimony of women as we give to the testimony of men.

How might justice look if we called out abuse right away, rather than letting it build to 150 survivors who were only believed together but not separately? How might God be changing our way of relating to one another if we approached definitions of harassment and assault with openness instead of accusations of being overly sensitive? How is God at work in you, specifically, to think as a Christian first as this national conversation goes on? Perhaps this Lent, that is what God is calling us to take on as our discipline.

In Christ,
Pastor Lucas

God calls us to the waters of baptism, and as we enter the months ahead, keep in mind the following dates that are open for baptisms.

March 31st, April 22nd, May 13th, June 17th

Call the Office if any of these dates would work out for your family. 715-273-4570

Our Saviors Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Date 1/2/18 7 pm

Present were: Deb, Brian, Tom, Pastor, Audrey, Jim, Mike, Bruce, Stacy, Ed, and Dawn. The meeting was called to order by President Tom Holdorf. Pastor led us in prayer.

Secretary's report: reviewed no changes. Motion made to accept by Ed, second by Jim.

Treasurer's report: \$28,895.07 in the designated account. \$21.10 in the general account. We were able to pay back \$4,500 .00 to the loan to ourselves. All bills are current. Report approved by Jim, second by Mike.

Pastor's report: see attached.

Youth report: see attached

Committee reports: LBPC hired a program assistant.

Endowment: disbursed \$2,000.00, their report is not ready. Will be ready for the annual meeting.

Education: they have combined grades to make 2-3 classes.

Conflict Detection: Fake candles used Xmas eve. Some liked, others didn't. The decision was made to use these due to safety and make clean up easier. It is not easy to get wax out of carpet.

Old b\Business: Budget for 2018 was approved. Motion made by Jim, second by Mike.

Missionary support: long term commitment versus global young adult option which is year to year and we decide our commitment. Council opted to go with the year to year option. Feb 1 to Jan 31 is their fiscal year. It costs \$15,000.00 per person to cover their costs. Amount to be determined in disbursements.

New Business: Fair stand and Lutefisk Supper disbursements made. Motion made to approve and bring to annual meeting by Jim, second by Mike.

Audit committee: questioned if they need to complete an audit for all committee accounts. Felt if the Audit committee did one or two a year so each one is done once every 4-5 years would be sufficient.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike, second by Jim.

Adjourned at 8:10 pm

The next meeting will be Feb 6th, 2018

Respectfully submitted by Stacy Hansen



In Need of Prayer

Larry Young, Ron Wilkins, Trudy Owen, Dave Edin, Laurine Baker, Sam Kittleson, Kenny Hansen, Bobbi Nelson, Bill Hines, Scott Bjork, Judie Goodwin, Wayne Peterson, and Kristen Anderson.

If you know of anyone that should be on our prayer list please contact the office.

Dear Partners in Christ,

Receive new year greetings from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM). On January 6, 2018 Christ was revealed to us. As part of the Christian family, ELCM joined the whole world celebrating the birth of Christ on December 25, 2017 and on January 1, 2018 the Lutherans in Malawi also celebrated the New Year. At the Cathedral in Lilongwe we held prayers on both Christmas and New Year's day.

Yesterday, January 7th, the pastor who gave sermon at Cathedral in Lilongwe reminded the gathered members that Epiphany being the period Christ reveals himself to us, we are also compelled by the same Jesus to reveal ourselves to others.

2018 is another year the Lord has given to us, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi this year is expecting to implement many activities not all mentioned in this message.

First, the ELCM will this year hold the 14th Church Assembly. The Assembly dates are from August 22 to August 26, 2018. The 36th Anniversary Celebration of the ELCM will take place in the afternoon of August 25. Closing worship service of the Assembly will be on Sunday, August 26, 2018.

Secondly, as Malawi is challenged with various degrees of catastrophic climate changes that result into food insecurity, so far the country is experiencing dry weather since Christmas. Most of the gardens/fields are visibly having dry spell. And there are cholera outbreaks in various places within the city of Lilongwe and other congested cities.

Therefore ELCM is requesting for your prayers for the church to achieve its plans and implementation of the Assembly as well as praying for better weather so that this year should not be a disaster of food shortage.

May the good Lord be with you.

Yours in Christ,

Mphatso Thole
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM)

Haven't heard of the Lenten Disciplines? They're the traditional way we grow in our faith as we prepare for Easter, and they fall into three categories:

First, fasting. This is when we keep ourselves from indulging in something to train ourselves against sin. It can be that food that you just can't say no to; it can be the smart phone that you can't help checking every five minutes; it can be those swear words that pepper your conversation. Traditionally it was always food; now it can be whatever might help you grow in your faith and devotion to God.

Second, charity. This is when we give of ourselves for the sake of others. It can mean dropping an extra dollar in the offering plate; it can mean intentionally volunteering every week; it can mean picking a charity each week to give what you'd spend on what you're fasting from for Lent.

And third, prayer. This is when we devote time each day to scripture reading, praying, and spending time with God. It can mean devoting yourself to reading so much of the Bible every day; it can mean picking up a devotional or subscribing to a devotional podcast for Lent; it can mean starting a prayer practice you haven't had before. This rounds out your Lenten disciplines and helps give you strength to do the other disciplines you've taken on.

Sometimes it can be intimidating to try to do all three when you've never done them before, so start small if you have to! It can be good practice to get really good at one discipline before adding on another. But whatever your discipline may be, let it help you grow in faith and love to who God is calling you to be and to do in the world for the sake of the gospel.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE



BACKPACKS FOR THE WEEKEND:

Please help us fill our grocery cart with cereal during the month of February. We welcome hot or cold cereal. Your donations are greatly appreciated.



Our Savior's raised \$506 for ELCA Good Gifts. A matching dollar for dollar challenge became available during the last week of December. Money had to be sent and postmarked to ELCA by December 30, 2017. This enabled our donation to be matched for a total of \$1012 dollars. Another donation came in for \$12 and was sent by 12/31/17.

A Big thank you to all who participated in raising money for the "World Missions".

Upcoming Events

Mark on your Calendar's: Our Saviors' Annual Meeting will be Sunday February 11th, 2018. Immediately following worship service. Cemetery Meeting will be immediately after the Annual Meeting.

Join us for Shrove Tuesday on February 13th from 5 to 7 pm! Come, bring the kids and join in on the party with us before Lent starts! We will be eating pancakes and rich foods, playing lively music, and engaging in some fun crafts to mark the occasion. Every February, in churches across the country, there is a lively church party to mark a "last hurrah" before Lent begins. This Tuesday before Ash Wednesday is variously called Carnaval, Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, and Shrove Tuesday. No, it's not the rowdy extravaganza you might see on Bourbon Street (it's at church, after all!) but it's a fun occasion to eat pancakes, listen to big band jazz, and spend time with others before Lent.

This tradition came out of the Fat Tuesday traditions of Catholic Europe before the Reformation, because the Lenten fast was taken very seriously at the time. During Lent, you couldn't eat any meat (except fish on Fridays), no dairy products, no eggs, no sugar, and no lard. So the tradition grew that people would get rid of all those things the night (or nights) before Ash Wednesday in a big community party, giving us the names "Mardi Gras" (literally, "fat Tuesday"), Carnaval (from "carne," meat), and Shrove Tuesday (to be "absolved from sin" before Lent). Even after Protestant countries stopped being so concerned with the Lenten fast, the tradition carried on (because who doesn't like a party?).

We'll be celebrating our first Shrove Tuesday this year on February 13th from 5 to 7 pm. In the tradition of the churches I've been to, we'll be having a pancake supper, complete with eggs, bacon, sausage, and biscuits, as well as some great dessert bars and a Royal Cake (traditionally called King Cake). You're invited to participate in crafts including a mask-making station and a photo booth (complete with props!). Bring a physical object to represent what you're doing for Lent and put it on the "What's Your Lenten Discipline?" table. And all the while, we'll have lively jazz music so you can dance like no one's watching!

Lent is a long and somber season, so it was right for our ancestors in the faith to think we should have a celebration before it started. Put it on your calendar for February 13th to come to the Shrove Tuesday celebration and "get it out of your system" before Lent!

2018 Atrium Post Acute Care & Preferred Living combined Schedule for Our Savior's

May 23rd 2:30pm Atrium Post Acute Care
June 6th 1:30pm Preferred Living, 2:30pm Atrium Post Acute Care
July 18th 2:30pm Atrium Post Acute Care
August 22nd 2:30pm Atrium Post Acute Care
October 3rd 1:30pm Preferred Living, 2:30pm Atrium Post Acute Care
December 12th 2:30pm Atrium Post Acute Care

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guild Sharon Peterson Mary Straub	Money Counters Dawn Madsen					
				1	2	3
4 9am Worship (Aftershock Sing) 10am Fellowship 10:15am SS Hour 10:30 Adult Forum	5	6 7pm Council Meeting	7 6pm Choir Practice 7-8pm Confirmation/ Aftershock	8	9	10 8am MIM Meeting
11 9am Worship (Choir Sing) 10am Annual Meeting Cemetery Meeting No SS Hour 11am-1pm Pool Party	12 5pm Women's Bible Study	13 Shrove Tuesday 5-7pm	14 Ash Wednesday 4-5:30pm SOS Kids Crew 5:30pm Supper 6pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Service	15	16	17
18 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10:15 SS Hour 10:30 Adult Forum 1-2:30pm Ice Skating	19	20	21 Lent 5:30pm Supper 6pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Service	22	23	24
25 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10:15am SS Hour	26	27	28 Lent 8:30am Quilting 5:30pm Supper 6pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Service			March Money Counters Tom Holdorf Bruce Place

February 2017

				Communion Server		
Greeters		Ushers	Acolyte	Reader	Bell Ringer	Server
Feb. 4 9:00 am	Leslie/Michael Young Family	Bridget/Adam Peterson Crystal/Mark Raleigh	Trinity Wilkens Dayah Halverson	Peggy Hoyer	Colton Halverson	Rhoda Foley
Feb. 11 9:00 am	Christi/David Edin Family	Mel/Chuck Freier Becky/Barry Johnson	Ian Peterson Luke Knight	Jim Chisholm	Warren Schade	Audrey Halverson Tom Holdorf
Feb. 18 9:00 am	Erin/Chris Kirchner Family	Anita Johnson Family Pauline/Roger Laughnan	Nadia Thurmes Taylor Peterson	Brad Taplin	Erin Kirchner	Debbi Pittman Belinda Foley
Feb. 25 9:00 am	Tricia/Jeremy Rouleau Family	Sandy Odalen, Sonie Yunker Brenda/Bob Winger	Charley Gilby McKenna Minder	Tricia Gilby	Jeremy Rouleau	Sheryl Mercord Rhoda Foley

Assisting Minister: 2/4 - Rhoda; 2/11 - Tom; 2/18 - Belinda; 2/25 - Rhoda.

Thank you for your participation in our worship service. Each ministry participant is greatly appreciated. If you cannot serve on the date assigned, please trade with someone. Instructions for each ministry position are posted in the narthex. If you have any questions, please call Rhoda Foley at 273-4865.