



A publication of

Our Savior Lutheran Church

6770 Marlette Street • Marlette, Michigan

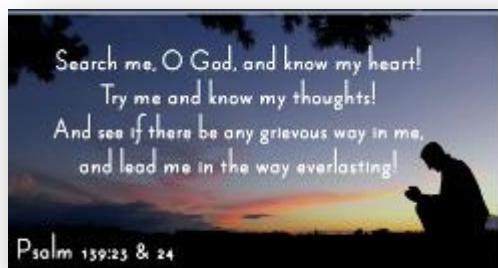
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In this issue —

A message from Pastor	Pages 2 & 3
Our Prayer Concerns	Page 4
Serving at Our Savior in February	Page 5
Church Council Report	Pages 6-8
Lenten Theme and Schedule	Page 9
New and Notable	Pages 10-11
Staff and Boards	Page 12



February 2026



A Message from Pastor

On February 18th, we will again enter into the penitential season of Lent. At this time, the Holy Spirit calls us to an honest self-examination and humble repentance before God. We do this in preparation to hear the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Week and the joyous celebration of His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. This year, to aid us on our journey, the Lenten theme at Our Savior Lutheran is ***Search Me, O God: A Spiritual Diagnosis***. This theme is drawn from the prayer of Psalm 139. *"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"* God knows our hearts even better than we do. He knows our thoughts, and He knows our desires and inclinations.



Each week, we will use one of the seven deadly sins as a diagnostic tool to help us examine our hearts and recognize the ways sin still clings to us. We will take an honest look at how often we say "my will be done" rather than "Thy will be done." For example, Pride makes us think that we deserve more respect, honor, control, recognition, and comfort. It wants to be seen and praised. In envy, we constantly compare ourselves to others. We are happy when others are humbled and sad when they are exalted. Anger makes us explode and overreact. We turn to wrath and vengeance. Sloth is more than laziness. It is distraction from the things that truly matter and the blessings that God desires to give. Greed is the love of money, which is the root of all evil. It is an idol for wealthy and poor alike. Gluttony and lust are task masters that enslave us to the passions of the flesh. We are ruled by our bellies and urges. As God warned Cain who was overcome by anger,

"Sin is crouching at your door. You must rule over it!" The Lord has searched us. He knows us. He has formed our inward parts and knit us together in our mother's womb. He knows where we stumble and fall. God already knows our sin. Lent is a good and necessary time for us to consider our own lives, to reflect on where we give in to temptation, and to confess the ways we fall short of keeping God's holy commandments. Lent is a time when we can search and examine ourselves.

Yet this examination is never meant to lead us into despair. At our Lenten midweek services, we are not going to wallow in the guilt and shame of our sin. Far from it! Jesus Christ has laid down His life for us all. In His death and resurrection, He has freed us from our bondage to sin. We are no longer slaves in Egypt, but we are a holy nation and a people belonging to God's own possession. We have passed through the baptismal waters of the Red Sea. God be

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praised! But still, the deadly sins reveal how easily we continue to live as though we were enslaved. We yearn for the cucumbers and leeks in Egypt. We submit to the rule of our gluttonous and lustful appetites, by

pride, greed, anger, and sloth. Lent invites us to repent, to turn away from these sinful patterns, and to strive and walk again in the freedom Christ has won for us. As we do, we are called not merely to reject vice, but to pursue virtue and righteousness, trusting the promise of our Lord: *"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* The goal of confronting our pride is not only to destroy our pride. It is to walk in humility, in faith toward God and fervent love toward one another. The goal of confronting gluttony is not simply to eat less and lose weight. It is actually to learn to rejoice in the good gifts of God without being enslaved by a desire for them. So come and join us this Lent. Bask in the freedom God gives you, and learn to receive His great blessings! Beginning February 18th (Ash Wednesday), we will meet every Wednesday at 5pm. I hope to see you there. I'm praying for you.

In Christ,

Pastor Kern

Prayer Concerns

Church Members

Bob Stoick, Bob Gaiser, Lela Gilroy, Everlynne Hurley, Carter Schank, Brian Westover, Ashton Jones, Carmen Kinney, Jerry Priebe, Neil & Geraldine Schaudt, Ellen Romosier, Gus & Barb Schumacher, Kathy Tallieu, Earl & Gwen Hulett, Mike & Karen Wettstein, Virginia Woudstra, John Hollenbeck, and Fran Clemens



Extended Family and Friends

Steve Shaw—a friend of Lee & Glenda Deering
Brad Cummings—friend of Mike & Karen Wettstein
Unborn baby fighting an illness—friends of Mike Janiszewski
Friend looking to relocate—friend of Mike Janiszewski
Lori Spencer—Randy Haas' mother
David Johnson—Wendy (Priebe) Johnson's father-in-law
Nancy Higgins—Bob Stoick's sister
Jack Stoick—Bob's cousin
Deborah Durham—Chris' step-mother
Dennis Ondrajka—Adam's father
Donna Ferguson—Adam Ondrajka's grandmother
Mary Mitchell—sister of Lela Gilroy
Linda Fraley—Lela Gilroy's daughter
Danica Willis—a friend of Mary Brief
Joan Kuhne—Mary Brief's mother
Randy Kasdorf—Shauna Lester's Baptismal Sponsor
Ken and Pam Wood—parents of Kelly Ondrajka
Harvey Kaltz—Debie's husband
Alan Dorman—member of the community who is battling cancer
Family & Friends of Virginia Woudstra: Dennis Davis, Robbie Kuechenmeister, Richard, Russel & Terri Strauchman, and Dalton Randall

Please keep all of these brothers and sisters in your prayers.. If you have a family member or friend listed here who is no longer in need of special prayer, please call the church office at 989-635-7994 so the list can be updated.

Serving the Lord in Gladness



February Elders

2/1 Craig Storm
2/8 Chris Durham
2/15 Don Schank
2/22 Chris Durham

Altar Guild

Pat Hurtgam

Service Music

February 1, 8, & 22—Caleb Storm/Sam Schank

February 15th—Renea Lambert

Lenten Services—Renea Lambert (or other volunteers)



Sunday Morning Greeters

2/1 Volunteers appreciated
2/8 Volunteers appreciated
2/15 Randy & Brianna Haas
2/22 Adam & Kelly Ondrajka

Acolytes

2/1 Jacob Laur
2/8 Carter Schank
2/15 Jayson Schank
2/22 Max Haas



Church Council Report—January 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice President Tim Forys. Present were Pastor Kern, Caleb Storm, Chris Durham, Randy Haas, Karrie Forys, Tim Forys, Karen Forys, Katie Laur, Kathy Tallieu, Don Schank, Renea Lambert, and Adam Ondrajka (arrived at 8:00).

Pastor opened with a devotion from John, chapter 2, the wedding at Cana.

The Treasurer's Report was distributed and reviewed.

- The report showed income for the month of December of \$15,350.62 with expenses for that same period of \$16,920.85 for a loss of -\$1,615.23.
- A motion to accept was made by Katie Laur and seconded by Chris Durham. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report (covering two months)

Pastoral duties:

- One Baptism at OSL, three at Peace • One wedding at Peace
- No Confirmations or funerals • Twenty-five worship services held during the two-month period • Thirteen home/institutional visits
- Bible Studies (OSL and Peace), "Creationism vs. Evolution"
- One transfer to OSL: Ryan Tabar, and four transfers out (Chris, Leslie, Keira, and Grace McGarvie to New Life in Christ – North Branch)

Other duties:

- Homeschool Co-Op Chapel every Wednesday, Peace Pre-School Chapel every week on Tuesday or Wednesday.
- Three Adult Instruction Classes started • Confirmation classes ongoing at OSL and Peace.

Future planning:

- Hope Lutheran on Juhl Road is working to join the LCMS. MI District President Rev. David Davis and Circuit Visitor, Rev. Matthew Durance, will meet with members of Hope on Sunday, January 25th.
- Peace Lutheran will extend their first Call for a new pastor soon. After deliberating the Call, if that pastor accepts, it would be a few months before he would be in place.
- On January 25th, Pastor Knea (from the Saginaw area) will be filling in for Pastor Kern.
- This year's Lenten Theme will be, "Search Me, O God", based on Psalm 139.

Council, page 2

Schedule for Lent:

- Mid-Week Services begin with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. All Wednesday Services will be at 5:00 p.m. (Peace mid-week will be at 7:00)
- Maundy Thursday – April 2nd – Service at 5:00 p.m.
- Good Friday – April 3rd – Chief Service at 1:00 p.m. (There will not be a Tenebrae Service at OSL but all would be welcome to attend that Service at Peace at 7:00)
- Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 4th – Vigil begins at 7:00 p.m. at Our Savior. Peace members are invited to attend at OSL.
- Easter Sunday – April 5th – One Service only at 8:00 a.m. with Easter Breakfast following the Service. (Schedule for Peace: Breakfast before the Easter morning Service which will be at 10:00 a.m.)

Elder's Report

- Elders discussed plans as reported by Pastor.

Board of Christian Education Report – given by Randy Haas

The Board met on Sunday, January 11th. Discussed were:

- Request from the Homeschool Co-op parents to hold a “Mom to Mom” sale, using the Fellowship Hall. This would likely be held sometime in March. Funds raised would help support the Co-op’s plans for Field Trips, etc.
- A Mother-Daughter Tea is in the planning stages, pending approval from Council. This would be similar to the Mother-Daughter Banquets held in the past but on a smaller scale. Currently looking at this to be held in May. To cover costs, tickets would be sold for the event. Ticket price yet to be determined; this would not be a fundraiser.
- A motion to approve both requests was made by Karrie Forys and seconded by Chris Durham. Motion carried.

Facilities Trustees Report – given by Chris Durham and Kathy Tallieu

- A spotlight was installed at the back of the Sanctuary which will illuminate the stained glass cross at night. (Note: the light will need to be unplugged on Wednesday evenings during Service)
- The lightbulb in the office Exit sign was replaced.
- A reminder to everyone to make sure all lights are turned OFF as the last person leaves either the Church or School building.
- Also, the last person leaving the building(s) should check to be sure bathroom faucets are off and toilets are flushed.

Council, page 3

A motion to accept all Board reports was made by Karrie Forsy and seconded by Katie Laur. Motion carried.

There was no **Old Business**.

New Business

Voters' Meeting on January 25th.

- **Election of Officers:**

- Three Trustees up for election. Chris Durham, Ian Conley, and Olivia Conley will allow their names to be placed into nomination.
- BOCE – two positions open. Caleb Storm is eligible for another term. Ian Conley will have his name placed into nomination.
- Council President – Adam Ondrajka is not eligible for another term. At the time of this meeting, no Candidates have been secured. All are encouraged to pray about this important position.

Other business:

- Adam will compose a letter addressed to all employees about budget concerns and possible payroll shortfalls.

The Secretary's Report from this meeting was read to Council. A motion to approve was made by Kathy Tallieu and seconded by Tim Forsy. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tim Forsy and seconded by Katie Laur. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be on February 19th at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by
Renea Lambert, Secretary



February's Hymn of the Month

LSB #694, "Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower"
This lovely hymn is found in the Sanctification section of our hymnal

LENT 2026

“Search Me, O God—A Spiritual Diagnosis”

*Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!*

Psalm 139:23 & 24

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

† 5:00 p.m., Ash Wednesday Divine Service
(7:00 p.m., *Ash Wednesday Service at Peace Lutheran in Sandusky*)

WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH (2/25 THROUGH 3/25)

† 5:00 p.m. Mid-Week Lenten Divine Service
(7:00 p.m. *Mid-Week Services at Peace Lutheran in Sandusky*)

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

† 9:00 a.m., Divine Service

THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND

† 5:00 p.m., Maundy Thursday Divine Service
(7:00 p.m. *Maundy Thursday Service at Peace Lutheran*)

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

† 1:00 p.m., Chief Service with Holy Communion
(7:00 p.m. *Tenebrae Service at Peace Lutheran*)

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

† 7:00 p.m., Easter Vigil Service (*Members of Peace invited to attend*)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH

† 8:00 a.m., Easter Morning Service at Our Savior
Easter Breakfast follows the Service
(*Peace Lutheran will serve breakfast prior to their 10:00 a.m. Easter Morning Service*)



New and Notable

Following the Voters' Meeting held last month, we have new members serving terms on the Church Council. Our new President is Bob Gaiser, and new Trustees are Ian Conley, Chris Durham, and Don Schank. Ian Conley is new to the BOCE as well. Caleb Storm and Renea Lambert are returning to their positions to serve a second term.

Words of thanks go to those Board members who have served our congregation faithfully for the maximum two-term limit. Adam Ondrajka, Karrie Forys, Katie Laur, and Randy Haas—we are all grateful for your leadership and for the care you've shown over the years. God bless you!

You might notice a new spotlight installed above the double doors in the church Sanctuary. This new light shines very brightly to illuminate the stained glass cross so it's visible from outside the building. *"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)*



Our youngest group of Sunday School children (Nursery through Grade 1) will soon be getting some new curriculum. Yay! Some new materials will be appreciated by the children and their teacher, Mrs. Gaiser!



A new set of banners has been created to grace the side walls of the Sanctuary. These banners are based on Galatians 5:22 & 23, "The Fruits of the Spirit". Each banner notes one of the nine Fruits: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control".

The banners will give us one more option to decorate our church, joining the crosses and wreaths which will continue to be placed seasonally.



New and Notable

Please join in welcoming new member Ryan Tabar, coming to us from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Linkville. Ryan, we're overjoyed to have you as part of the OSL family!

News: Don't forget to check your church mailbox. The 2025 Contribution Statements have been printed and placed in the boxes.

News regarding Peace Lutheran Church in Sandusky: The congregation is extending their first Call for a new Pastor. When that man receives the Call, he will deliberate on it and respond. In the meantime, we join the members of Peace in praying that the Lord will bless this process.

News regarding Hope Lutheran Church, Marlette: Members of Hope are meeting with the LCMS Michigan District President, Rev. David Davis along with our Circuit Visitor, Rev. Matthew Durance to discuss the next steps to potentially form a dual parish. As more information becomes available, we'll share that with you.

These ideas are notable!

- ☺ Plans are in the works for a Mom-to-Mom Sale to be held at Our Savior sometime early this spring. Much more to come on this in the weeks ahead.
- ☺ Preliminary planning has begun to hold the first-ever "Mother-Daughter Tea" at OSL this year—probably in May. The Tea will be similar in format to the Mother-Daughter Banquets that were held a number of years ago, with tickets being sold (to cover costs only; this is not a fundraiser), and reservations will need to be made to limit capacity. The Tea would follow the pattern of a traditional English Afternoon Tea with tiny sandwiches, delicate cakes, and of course—tea! Please watch for more to come on this soon. If you're willing to help, please let Renea Lambert know. A Mother-Daughter Tea Planning Committee will be forming soon.



Serving the Lord and our Congregation

Staff Directory and Board Members

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bob Gaiser, President
Tim Forsy, Vice-President
Karen Forsy, Treasurer
Renea Lambert, Secretary
Bridget Storm, Financial Secretary

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Randy Haas
Chris Durham
Caleb Storm
Kathy Tallieu
Ian Conley

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Christopher Durham
Tim Forsy
Caleb Storm
Kathy Tallieu
Don Schank
Ian Conley

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

Hanna Kern, Superintendent
Nursery-Grade 1—Erica Gaiser
Grades 2-6—Debie Kaltz
Youth Leader—Hannah Schank

BOARD OF ELDERS

Marty Brandt, Head Elder
John Hollenbeck
Jerry Priebe
Bob Stoick
Craig Storm
Chris Durham
Don Schank
Gus Schumacher

