

A publication of

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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March 2025



Pastur's corner

God Knows

his year during our Lenten midweek services, we will

journey through the book of Exodus. First, we will be introduced to the baby Moses, who was a child marked for death by the wicked Pharaoh who feared God's people. We will see how he was pulled from the water, and given a new life in the royal household of Egypt. Likewise, on Ash Wednesday, our faces are smeared with ashes and soot. The pastor says, "Remember that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return." We are marked for death because we are those who are dying. The wages of sin is death, and we are poor, miserable sinners. However, just as Moses was pulled from the water and given new life, so also are we pulled out of the baptismal waters, full of the holy spirit and adopted into the royal household of God. We too are given a new life in Christ Jesus.

Moses grows into a man in the royal house, but he knows that he is different. He is not like the other children. He can plainly see that he is a Hebrew. So, when he sees an Egyptian man beating one of his own people, Moses kills the Egyptian in anger. Once again, Moses is marked for death. He flees to the land of Midian, just outside of Pharaoh's reach. He gets married and his family begins to grow. Meanwhile, the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery. They cried out for help and rescue. And then, we are given perhaps the most beautiful words in the Old Testament, "God saw the people of Israel – and God knew." Now is the time of their salvation! Now is the time that God will act. He called Moses through the burning bush, and sent him to Egypt to confront the new Pharaoh.

God will free His people from the hand of slavery in Egypt. Likewise, dear Christian, God hears your prayers. God sees you. God knows. He has sent Jesus Christ to confront the devil who tempts and afflicts you. He frees you from the hand of slavery. He frees you from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

At this point in our Lenten journey, we begin to see the wondrous works of God. We will follow the people of Israel through the 10 plagues which culminate in the final, terrible plague: the death of the firstborn of Egypt. We will learn about the Passover meal, the Lamb, the blood on the door, and the Angel. We will follow Israel out into the wilderness and to the edge of the Red Sea where we will see God act once again to save His people through the water.

Now, God's people are reborn. They are given a new life. They are a new nation, a holy nation, a people belonging to God.

This baptism is not only for Moses. This is for all the people of God. They pass through the water on dry ground. The chariots and armies of Egypt are thrown into the sea. They enemies of God's people now lay rusting and rotting at the bottom of the font. They are gone. They are destroyed. Now, God's people are reborn. They are given a new life. They are a new nation, a holy nation, a people belonging to God. Not only are they free from slavery, free from Pharaoh, free from sin, death, and the devil. They are now free to thank, praise, serve, and obey the God who brought them up out of slavery and death. They

are free to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. They are free to love their neighbor as themselves. They are free not to do whatever they want, but they are free to do whatever is good, right, and salutary in the eyes of the Lord. They are free to inherit the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey. You are free to inherit the Kingdom of God, the paradisical Promised Land of heaven, the place prepared for you from before the foundation of the world.

You are also free to hear more. Every Wednesday in Lent at 6 pm – I'll see you there.

Lent 2025



YOU ARE INVITED!

During our Lenten midweeks, we will journey through the greatest salvation event in the Old Testament: the Exodus of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we will hear of God's providential salvation for Moses, the baby marked for death. Week by week, we will follow the events of this amazing story: the burning bush, the plagues, the Passover, the crossing of the Red Sea, and more. Come, join us on this Lenten journey.

+ Every Wednesday in Lent +

Ash Wednesday, 3/5

Divine Service with the Imposition of Ashes, 6pm

Wednesdays, 3/12—4/9
Pot Luck Supper, 5pm
Divine Service, 6pm

To help support our Youth's attendance at this year's Higher Things Conference, a donation basket will be available during the Pot Luck meals.

All contributions will go toward this mission.

Prayer Concerns

Church Members

John Hollenbeck, Jeff Eager, Brenda Fifield, Bob Gaiser, Lela Gilroy, Ashton Jones, Carmen Kinney, Pam Mutschler, Jerry Priebe, Ellen Romosier, Neil Schaudt, Gus Schumacher, Kathy Tallieu, Mike Wettstein, Virginia Woudstra, Mary Lou Champion, and Fran Clemens



Extended Family and Friends

Deborah Durham—Chris' step-mother Scott & Carol McCready—friends of the McGarvie family Angie Robison—Mother of Pastor Kern's sister-in-law Mary Kay Bell —relative of Judy Fischer Dennis Ondrajka—Adam's father Donna Ferguson—Adam Ondrajka's grandmother Mary Mitchell—sister of Lela Gilroy Linda Fraley—Lela Gilroy's daughter Meredith Stewart—cousin of Chris McGarvie Glen Phillips—former employer of Adam Ondraika Ruth Balzer—friend of the LWML Danica Willis —a friend of Mary Brief Joan Kuhne—Mary Brief's mother Cathy Mutschler and Cathy Khoury—Pam Mutschler's sisters in law Doris Ann Brief-Mary's mother-in-law Randy Kasdorf—Shauna Lester's Baptismal Sponsor Ken and Pam Wood—parents of Kelly Ondrajka Harvey Kaltz—Debie's husband Family & Friends of Virginia Woudstra: Heather Sunday & Ivy. Kimberly Randall, Dennis Davis, Jeanette Lasko, Raymond Randall, Quinn Adamczyk, Robbie Kuechenmeister, Valerie Martin,

Please help us keep this list up to date. If you have a family member or friend listed here who is no longer in need of prayer, please call the church office and let us know.

Give thanks too, to the Lord who answers prayer!

Eugene Rushlow, David Glover, Russel & Terri Strauchman; Stephanie, Zachary, & Dahlia Adamczyk, and Faith Martin

Serving the Lord in Gladness



March Elders

3/2 Don Schank 3/9 Jerry Priebe 3/16 Craig Storm 3/23 Chris Durham 3/30 Marty Brandt

Altar Guild

Kathy Rachow/Renea Lambert

Service Music

March 2, 9, 23, and 30—Caleb Storm/Sam Schank March 16—Renea Lambert Mid-Week Lenten Services—Erica Gaiser

Sunday Morning Greeters

3/2	Don & Hannah Schank
3/9	Jerry & Verna Priebe
3/16	John & Pat Hurttgam
3/23	Craig & Bridget Storm
3/30	Adam & Kelly Ondrajka





<u>Acolytes</u>

Carter and Jayson Schank

Church Council Report

from the meeting of February 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Adam Ondrajka at 7:38 p.m. Present were: Pastor Kern, Caleb Storm, Chris Durham, Randy Haas, Tim Forys, Karen Forys, Karrie Forys, Katie Laur, Kathy Tallieu, Marty Brandt, Adam Ondrajka, and Renea Lambert.

Pastor opened the meeting with a devotion based on Matthew, chapter 14.

The Treasurer's Report was distributed and reviewed. It showed a total income of \$12,829.08 for the month of January with total expenses of \$15,792.19. A motion to approve the report was made by Katie Laur and seconded by Tim Forys. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Since the last meeting -

- There have been no Baptisms, no Weddings, 2 Funerals, and 8 Worship Services.
- Pastor made 6 home visits and 2 hospital visits.
- There have not been any Transfers in or out of the congregation.
- Adult Bible Study continues with, "Stuff You Missed in Sunday School".
- The Theme for Lent 2025 will be "Pillar of Fire", based on the book of Exodus, focusing on God's guidance for the Israelites and for us.
- Upcoming Conferences:
- Saturday, February 22nd "In His Image" at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Linkville. "In His Image" is a workshop on Christian Sexuality and how to talk to others about it.
- Saturday, April 12th "Philippians Conference" at Zion Lutheran Church in Harbor Beach. This is a Stewardship workshop and all Council members are encouraged to attend.

There was no **School Board Report.**

Elders' Report - given by Marty Brandt

- Marty Brandt is our new Head Elder.
- The Elders are continuing to contact Inactive members.

Council, continued

Board of Christian Education Report - given by Randy Haas

• The Board did not meet in February. The next meeting (3-16-25) will focus on VBS.

Facilities Trustees Report - given by Kathy Tallieu

- Working on the Church Library shelving unit.
- Ladies Room toilet has been repaired.
- Chris Durham has agreed to continue as a Facilities Trustee, assisting with repairs, etc. as needed.
- The Nativity needs to be removed from the front of the church. This will happen when the ground thaws.

A motion to accept all reports was made by Randy Haas and seconded by Karen Forys. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Constitution Update: The Committee needs to meet. Council members are urged to attend the next meeting.
- The new Hall Usage Contract is ready for the next event/user.
- The new credit card has arrived and is activated for use. Need to close the old Chase card account.
- Thrivent paperwork has been completed to dissolve the Fischer Scholarship Fund. Once funds are received into the church account, that money will be applied to the mortgage.

There was no **New Business**.

The Secretary's Report from this meeting was read back to Council. A motion was made by Karrie Forys to accept the report as read; seconded by Katie Laur. Motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Renea Lambert, Council Secretary

Hymns of the Month

As we enter the season of Lent, two Lenten hymns will serve as March's hymns of the month.

- † On Sundays, we will sing, "<u>Jesus, Refuge of the Weary</u>", #423 in our Lutheran Service Book. The lyrics are very old, written in the late 13th century by Girolamo Savonarola.
 - (1) Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer whom we love, Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above: Often have Your eyes offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall; Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.
- † Wednesday Lenten Services follow the theme, "Pillar of Fire", and the hymn of the season will be, "O Christ, You Walked the Road", LSB #424. The lyrics are relatively modern, written by Herman Stuempfle, Jr. who was born in 1923. The tune, "Southwell" is old, composed sometime in the late 14th century by William Daman.
 - O Christ, You walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go.
 You faced with us temptation's pow'r And fought our ancient foe.
 - (5) O Christ, You walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go. Stay with us through temptation's hour To fight our ancient foe.

Fuchre Night



FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH 7:00 P.M.

Everyone is welcome! It's just for fun—no pressure to win—so whether you're a seasoned player or a first-timer, come and join us.

Bringing a snack to share is appreciated, but certainly not required!

Oh, So Sweet!





Recently, the Homeschool Co-Op students had a great time making candy with Mr. Haas, a.k.a., "The Sugarsmith".

Thank you, Mr. Haas! This was a fun (and yummy) learning adventure!



Serving the Lord and our Congregation

Staff Directory and Board Members

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Adam Ondrajka, President Tim Forys, Vice-President Karen Forys, Treasurer Renea Lambert, Secretary Bridget Storm, Financial Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Karrie Forys Kathy Tallieu Katie Laur Christopher Durham* Tim Forys Caleb Storm Randy Haas

BOARD OF ELDERS

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

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Randy Haas Chris Durham Caleb Storm Kathy Tallieu Renea Lambert

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

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



Note: The School Board is no longer meeting regularly

* Chris is serving as a non-voting Facilities Trustee