

THE CROSSROADS

March 2011
Volume 6, Issue 3



Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 550 Lincoln Drive, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590
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Lent is fast approaching and dare I say I love this season of the church year...perhaps because I'm a goal-oriented person; perhaps because I crave the accountability that Lent infuses; perhaps because I'm a Lutheran to the bone. Call me crazy, but I like the discipline.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9th and continues for 40 days until Easter Sunday. It is a time which Christians traditionally have used to focus on God, or better yet to re-focus on God. In the hustle and bustle of everyday life it's easy to lose focus. Lent is an opportunity to get that focus back again.

One way that helps us re-focus is to adopt a Lenten discipline. I don't view this as some kind of punishment. Rather the point is to do something that will catch your attention every day, and every time your attention is caught, you focus your mind on God, remembering what God has done for you.

There are two basic kinds of disciplines. One is adding something to your life, and the other is giving something up.

Adding something. Your life, like mine, is already busy and full, so adding one more thing might seem impossible. But you can choose something that you feel you need in your life. For example, you might be unhappy with your prayer life. Perhaps you pray irregularly, or not all. A good Lenten discipline might be to say the Lord's Prayer every morning when you get up and every night before you go to bed. It is a small thing, but it catches your attention—you'll start noticing that every day before you belongs to God, and every day behind you was guided by God. Or, maybe you could give some of your time to the community. You could add an hour a week volunteering wherever your gifts could be used best.

Giving something up. When you take something out of your life, it's to remind you that you depend on God and nothing else. You can survive without all kinds of things you're used to having (the latte, maybe FB?), but you can't survive without God. Often some kind of food is a common thing to give up. You could stop eating meat, or dairy, or bread. But don't give up a food if your motivation is to lose weight or improve your health. Then it's "all about you" and not about God. If you give up a food, it's so that every time you crave it, and then decide not to have it, your attention is caught and directed back to God. You could also give up a bad habit, something that is interfering with your Christian life perhaps. I gave up speeding last year and every time I looked at the speedometer, I had a chance to re-focus. You'll want to decide for yourself what is getting between you and God.

And then give yourself a bit of grace because you may very well mess up. It's not the end of the world. A Lenten discipline isn't a pact between you and God so that you're in big trouble if you make a mistake. Enter into this freely and lovingly, with the intention of honoring God. Every day is a fresh start. It will also be a witness to your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. I encourage you to do a bit of soul searching in the following days before Lent begins and see if this is a good way for you to get a fresh perspective and grow in discipleship.

- Pastor Krahn

Worship Themes

March 6—Transfiguration of Our Lord—Collegiate Chorale from Transfigured in God's Glory. We will celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord with a different form of worship including a hymn festival.

March 13—1st Sunday of Lent—Just so we don't forget *The Main Thing* the lessons from Romans today make the argument for grace.

March 20—2nd Sunday of Lent—This weekend marks the annual opportunity for confirmation students to preach. Approximately 6 students will preach at each service.

March 27—3rd Sunday of Lent—God's people struggle in their humanity. They don't trust God as they should. They fight with their leaders. Maybe we should call it *Truth and Quarrel Lutheran Church*.

Congregation Meeting Notes

On Sunday, February 13, Our Savior's held two congregation meetings. The first was the annual meeting. Highlights:

- * Watched a moving video by outgoing president Vicki Hanrahan which followed her six years of leadership.
- * Accepted oral and written reports from Pastor Berggren, Pastor Krahn, Brett Christensen and Muriel Arms.
- * Approved a budget of \$576,582.00 with a report that there are no increases to staff salaries or benevolence sharing.
- * Elected the following council members:
 - Mike Ferris—President
 - Kela Feldman—Vice President
 - Lori Lelivelt—Education
 - Linda Hagen—Lay Ministry
 - Mike Janczak—Treasurer

A special meeting followed immediately on the heels of the first. At the meeting the congregation unanimously approved a call to Pastor Krahn. Her call in 2009 was a two-year term call. The congregation now extended a regular call.



Lent is a Journey of Wellness

Baptism changes everything. Because the water and the promise make us "well" in our relationship with the Father, our spiritual wellness undergirds all the other areas of wellness in our lives. We will use one of the most well known walks in the Bible to show us the way. The Gospel of Luke retells the story of disciples walking to Emmaus. In that story we find out the things that make up our lives. There are six areas on the wheel of wellness. Here's what we'll look at:



March 13-19: Physical wellness

March 20-26: Emotional wellness

March 27-April 2: Social & Interpersonal wellness

April 3-9: Intellectual wellness

April 10-16: Vocational & Financial wellness

Part of this Lenten journey is a commitment to walk for 30 minutes three times each week. The walk should be with a partner (spouse, friend, co-worker, child, parent, almost anybody). Each walk includes questions to ponder along the way. Booklets and other guides for the season will be available online and in church. Come and be part of our Journey of Wellness.

Healing Services on March 20

Healing can mean many things. It can be a cure from a disease. It can be a renewed sense of wholeness in a broken soul. It can be the shedding of a burden of responsibility or guilt.



Our services over the March 20 Sabbath will include a time for healing. Individual blessings and requests for healing will be bestowed with the confidence that Christ will bring his power to this place through prayer and the laying on of hands.

Newsletter Going Digital and Paper Friendly

With an aim toward summer, we hope to deliver *The Crossroads* electronically. At present we mail over 800 copies of our newsletter. Our goal is to reduce that number to less than 300. We will realize savings because of reduced postage and paper costs. Sometime in the next couple of months you will be asked for your preference. You can continue to get *The Crossroads* by regular mail, or you can receive it as a pdf file through email. You can give us multiple email addresses so everyone in the family can get one.

Palestine Presentation Planned for March 5

Pastor Krahn will be sharing her travel experience to Palestine and Israel in the presentation "Life in a Holy and Wholly Troubled Land" on Saturday, March 5 from 10:00am to Noon in Mission Matinee.



You'll meet people through her photos and hear their stories of life in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Please sign up on the Ministry Opportunity Table to indicate your attendance.

Collegiate Chorale from Transfigured in God's Glory, A Hymn Festival at Our Savior's

Experience another form of worship at Our Savior's. On the weekend of March 5th and 6th we will



celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord with a hymn festival at all services. We will sing specifically chosen hymns juxtaposed with readings relating to the hymn texts, allowing us to see their words and hear their truths in a new way. Favorites, such as

Beautiful Savior and *Blessed Assurance* will be included as well as other hymns both older and newer. Communion will be offered and prayers will be voiced. Please join us in worship at this unique celebration.

Mark Your Calendars

Our Savior's music department will be presenting the musical *The Song of Mark* by Marty Haugen. It will include a large instrumental ensemble, the Senior Choir, the Youth Choir, the Alleluia Singers, and many soloists from our own congregation. This moving musical work will be part of our 5:30pm Saturday night worship service on April 16. A second performance will be held on Sunday, April 17 at 6:00 pm. This musical conveys the story of our Christian faith in narration and song. What a meaningful way for you to begin Holy Week!



Our Savior's to Host the Collegiate Choir from Illinois Wesleyan University

The forty nine-voice Collegiate Choir from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois will present a concert at Our Savior's on Sunday, March 13, at 7:00pm. This concert is one of eight appearances the choir will make during its 2011 spring tour. The choir, under the direction of Dr. J. Scott Ferguson, will perform sacred and secular music by composers from the 16th century to the present, including a world premiere. No tickets are required but a free will offering will be taken. Our Savior's member Clarisse Tobia is a soprano in the choir. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this outstanding musical event.



Your help is needed in hosting the choir. The group will arrive at Our Savior's mid-afternoon on Sunday, March 13. We need to provide a potluck dinner for them at 5:15pm, a reception following the concert, and overnight housing for twenty pairs plus one trio of singers. If you can assist in any way please contact Director of Music & Organist John Krueger (phone: (608)249-0679; cell phone: (608) 358-4677; e-mail: j.krueger@att.net) immediately.

Visit Hometown Nazareth – Where Jesus Was a Kid...

Everyone knows what it is like to hear your mom tell stories from your childhood. Can you imagine the kind of stories Mary could tell? Join us in Hometown Nazareth. Hear the stories Mary tells about Jesus as a kid. Experience fun and hands on Bible times at Our Savior's from June 13-18, 2011. Each day you can become a part of history as you see, hear, touch and even taste what it was like to live in Nazareth. Explore authentic Marketplace shops, visit Mary, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as you discover more about the town where Jesus grew up.



You will be hearing more about this adventure in the coming months – We will be looking for: family guides, marketplace merchants, drama people, music people and set up volunteers. Be ready to volunteer for this great adventure.

O.S. Faith Odyssey Studies Easter – I Am a Believer

Kindergarteners through fifth graders are presently looking at the words “Faith, Hope and Love” which the resurrection of Jesus Christ has promised. The affirmation of faith in God – that God has indeed won over Satan. Hope that our faith in God assures us that we, too, will be resurrected. And the assurance of God’s love for each of us in various workshops such as Creation Station, Mission Matinee, Storytelling, One Way Café. (All of these areas are affirmed)



In at least one Rotation each year, the children are involved in a mission project and in Rotation 4 – Easter – the children are learning about the children in Haiti and how they can help to give them hope for the future and to reassure them that God loves them.

Parents, please note that the One Way Café will be making Tomb cookies which includes adding a Pecan to the cookies. If your child is allergic to nuts, please check the schedule on the Rotation Bulletin board to find out when your child’s group is scheduled. We suggest that on that particular Sunday, your child attend worship with you.

Fix It Day, March 26

A punch list is not a compendium of folks you’d like to sock. For us it’s an inventory of property items that need attention. We’d like to punch out our punch list, and you can help. Beginning at 8:00am, everyone is invited to come and take on a task. This will be mostly inside work.



Early Camp Registrations Due in March

This is a notice for students thinking about **confirmation camp** this summer through Crossways. A registration form and \$100 deposit is



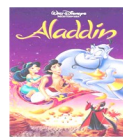
due to Brett by March 13 to receive the early registration price. Registrations received by camp after March 15 will have to pay the regular price. Checks should be made out to Our Savior’s. Camp is available for everyone. Financial hardship should never be a reason for missing camp. Assistance is available. See Brett if you have questions.

Youth and Family Annual Retreat Open to All Adults at OSLC



The Youth and Family Board is once again sponsoring an annual retreat. This year’s retreat will be at Imago Dei Village May 6-7. This adult retreat will feature the Milestone Ministry and will look for input as to how we should grow this ministry. We will also have time for food, fellowship and fun. Talk to Brett if you are interested in this popular event. The cost for food, lodging, and activities will be \$30. Sign up on the Youth Table if you are interested. Space is limited. Couples are encouraged to attend. Come, relax and unplug and listen to the still small voice of God.

Family Movie Night – Aladdin



The next family movie night will be Friday, March 18 from 6:00-8:00pm in Mission Matinee. The movie “Aladdin” will be the feature this month. This event is open to all ages. Check out the Youth and Family Bulletin Board by the library to sign up for this fun fellowship event with your church family. See Brett with questions.

Souperbowl of Caring a Success!



Thank you to all who gave money to the Souperbowl of Caring on Superbowl Sunday. This year’s total of \$1300 was given to Joining Forces for Families, a partner ministry under the Sunshine Place. Over 4700 groups, just like Our Savior’s, donated to local charities for a total of over 5 million dollars nationally. Congratulations and thank you for your participation in this annual event! For more details on the *Souperbowl of Caring* see Brett or visit www.souperbowl.org.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

The Underground chaos (middle school youth group) will be sponsoring the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner again this year. Your free will offering will help the middle school youth group youth raise funds to support their *End of Year Lock-In*, with a portion going to support youth camperships. The dinner will be held March 8th from 4:30-7:00pm. Thank you for your continued support of the youth. If you are in chaos or a parent of a chaos youth, and haven’t signed up to help, please see the sign-up on the Youth Table or contact Brett.

Prayer Labyrinth Offered at Our Savior's on Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent is often a time of personal reflection. The Youth and Family Board will be offering an interactive prayer labyrinth here at Our Savior's on Ash Wednesday, March 9. The labyrinth will be set up in the fellowship hall from 9:00am until 9:00pm that day. Facilitators will help you prepare for the labyrinth, which takes about an hour, and will be there to answer any questions. The labyrinth will be handicap accessible although the lighting will be dim. See Brett if you have any questions.

Katie Christensen Offers a Three-Week Session on Her India Trip

Our Savior's was very generous at the Mission Encounter's Auction and Chili Cook-off last November, which helped sponsor Katie's trip with our synod to India. There is now an opportunity for you to learn about Katie's experience as she will share stories and pictures with us. She will be holding a listening session for three weeks in March. This will not be one experience shared three times but three weeks of different aspects of her trip. Join her and her synod companions Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00pm on March 2 and from 7:15-8:00pm on March 16 & 23. Come celebrate this time with Katie and see how our Lutheran partners in Northern India live out their faith.



Volunteer at the Synod Office

The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin is looking for people (male and female) who would be willing to help from time to time with a variety of tasks. We will call those that are interested in advance of needing assistance to determine if they will be able to help on a given day. Here is a list of opportunities:

- * Making phone calls/answering the phone
- * Mailings or stuffing folders for events
- * Data Entry
- * Reading Congregational Newsletters
- * Graphic Design
- * Bake Communion Bread
- * Musician/Instrument
- * Photographer

If you are interested in any of the above volunteer opportunities, please contact the synod office at (608)270-0202 and give your name, congregation, email, and a list of those opportunities above with which you are able to assist.

Relay for Life 2011

July 15-16, 2011 at Cardinal Heights Upper Middle School track. OSLC must have a team of 8 or more Walkers. Please contact OSLC team leader, Christine Boettcher at (608)842-0354, christine12@yahoo.com, or sign up on the Ministry Opportunity Table to be a part of our team. Interested participants can get a traditional paper packet to assist with their fundraising or can set up online fundraising. For more information about the Relay for Life check out relayforlife.org/sunprairiewi.



Book Club

Because of the blizzard we did not meet in February. So on Tuesday, March 1, we will discuss 2 books! *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot and Garth Stein's *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. In April we'll discuss *Muhammad: A Story of the Last Prophet* by Deepak Chopra. Be sure to pick up the latest copy of "Book Club News" on the Ministry Opportunity Table for a complete list of the books we'll read for the next few months.



+ One a Week Club +

To find a current list of blood drives or to make an appointment to give blood you can call 1-800-give-life or visit givebloodgivelife.org. Donating blood takes about an hour of your time. Please consider making time for this vital need in our community. Call to schedule your appointment today!

Thanks to Bill Nawrot, Pat Matson, Bill Egstad, Bonnie Schunke, Sharon Mundt, Ellen Davidson, Fritz Schunke (Aph) x 2, Gloria Schroeder, Bryan Loney (Aph), Kathy Dickerson, Hal Sommer, Dan Williamson, Diane Williamson, Keith Heller and Linda Hagen who donated blood recently. Aph designates Apheresis donations, a special donation of platelets.

Our total for 2011 so far is 16! Way to go!

Table Talk with Pastor B

The men of the congregation are again welcome to join an informal discussion with Pastor B at Buck & Honey's on Monday, March 7 at 6:30pm. This month's topic will be "Core Competence."



Eat Boldly



The next dinner is planned for Friday, March 4 at The Great Dane East on Cottage Grove Road in Madison. We will eat at 7:00pm. Please sign up on the Ministry Opportunity Table.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

Official Acts

Funerals - *commending the faithful to the loving arms of God*

January 29—Rhonda Smith

February 3—Viola Elmer

Volunteers of the Month— Fritz & Bonnie Schunke

Many helpers make sure our worship is prepared and ready. But who makes sure the materials are there? Thanks to Bonnie Schunke, we remained stocked with wine and wafers, and she also helps with the Food Pantry. Meanwhile, Fritz assists with ushering, communion, donates blood to the Red Cross and also takes our quilts to the LWR boxcars every year. They both help make coffee between services, greet and assist with the Sunshine Suppers as well.

And thanks to all the wonderful servants of the Lord who dedicate time and ability to the mission of Jesus through the church.



Celebrating the first anniversary of their baptism this month.

Keegan Pautsch 03/06/2010
Oliver Fischer 03/13/2010
Maddox Walters 03/21/2010
Taylor Steindorf 03/21/2010

Community Events

HospiceCare—Volunteer Opportunity:

Looking for a way to give back to your community and have some fun at the same time? Try volunteering at the east or west HospiceCare Thrift Store. Volunteers help in every aspect of running the store, including assisting customers, creating displays, operating the cash register and receiving and pricing donations. Proceeds from the thrift stores help support patients and families served by HospiceCare Inc. For more information, please call Sara Goetz at (608) 220-9117.

HospiceCare to Offer Three Grief Support Opportunities in March:

In March, HospiceCare Inc. will begin a support group series, offer a recurring support group and provide an introductory session for those grieving the death of a loved one. All of the sessions are open to the public and are provided without charge. All groups require pre-registration and are held at the Don & Marilyn Anderson HospiceCare Center, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway, Madison, unless otherwise noted. To register for any HospiceCare grief support group or session, call (608) 276-4660 and ask to speak with a grief counselor.

- * **Journey Through Grief** is held Tuesdays, March 15–April 26, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm.
- * **Bridges Weekly Support Group** is held every Wednesday from 9:30am to 11:00am.
- * Pre-registration is not required.
- * **Introduction to Grief** is an informative session for adults that offers suggestions on how to navigate the grieving process and provides information about HospiceCare grief support groups. This session is available by appointment only. Call Mary Severson at (608)327-7182 to make an appointment.

Think Green! Think Spring! Think America's Best Flowers!

The calendar may say it is still winter, but hopefully not for much longer. Our Savior's senior high youth will once again be selling gift certificates for America's Best Flowers. The youth will be taking orders in the narthex on Sundays in March. You can also pick up an order form on the America's Best Flowers Table.

America's Best Garden Center is a full-service garden center with a state of the art greenhouse over 83,000 sq. ft - the largest in Dane county. They have satellite stores at Sears - West Towne and by Sun Prairie Rentals. The certificates are good at all locations, can be used April through October:

AND THEY NEVER EXPIRE!

Orders are due by March 27 and they can be picked up in the narthex in April.

If you have questions please see Brett.



America's Best Flower Certificate Sale Our Savior's Order Form – Due March 27

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Please indicate the number and total of each denomination and make all checks payable to: **OSLC**



Order: \$10 x _____ = \$ _____
 \$20 x _____ = \$ _____
 \$25 x _____ = \$ _____
 \$50 x _____ = \$ _____
 Other \$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____
Total Amount Due = \$ _____



If you are purchasing some for gifts and would like the gift cards to be in the receiver's name, please put their name on the line below.

Sold by: _____

***These order forms can be turned in to Brett or the ABF Table in the narthex.**

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Newsletter Going Digital	page 2
Hymn Sing March 5 & 6	page 3
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	page 4
India Presentation	page 5

The Crossroads

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