



April 2025 | Volume 30, Issue 4

MONTHLY Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

*The Mission of Our Savior:
That all may know Christ,
grow in Christ
and joyfully go with Christ.*

Adopted 11/1998

FROM OUR PASTOR...

Lent and The Cross

As we continue our journey through Lent, we are steadily moving toward Easter morning, the day we proclaim with joy and hope that Jesus Christ is risen. But before we get to Easter, we must go through Good Friday. Resurrection cannot come without death, and life cannot triumph without first encountering suffering.

Martin Luther's Theology of the Cross speaks directly to this reality. In contrast to a "theology of glory," which tries to bypass suffering or explain it away, Luther's Theology of the Cross proclaims that God meets us precisely in our suffering. The cross is not a place of power and triumph as the world defines those things but a place of weakness, pain, and vulnerability. Yet unexpectedly, that is where God's love is revealed most profoundly.

Consider what Jesus endured on Good Friday. He was betrayed by a friend, abandoned by his followers, mocked, beaten, and crucified. He took on our pain and suffering, bearing the weight of sin and death. In that moment of agony, Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). It's a cry that resonates deeply with anyone who has felt abandoned in their

own suffering. In Jesus' suffering, God knows what it feels like to hurt, to grieve, to feel lost.

Perhaps you have experienced suffering in your own life. Maybe it came in the form of illness, the death of a loved one, a broken relationship, or a season of deep anxiety or depression. When we are in those places, it can be difficult to feel God's presence. We may ask, "Where is God in all this?"

The Theology of the Cross reminds us that God does not stand apart from our suffering. Instead, God steps directly into it. God shows up in the places we least expect—in our weakness, our brokenness, and our pain. Jesus did not bypass Good Friday; he entered fully into it. And because of this, we can trust that God is with us in our darkest moments.

I recently heard a story about a woman who had experienced profound grief after losing her husband. In the days following his death, her prayers felt empty, and worship seemed hollow. But one Sunday, as the congregation gathered around the table for Holy Communion, something shifted. As she knelt to receive the bread and wine, she remembered that her husband had stood beside her at that same rail for years. In that moment, she felt a powerful sense of connection—to her husband, to the communion of saints,

(Continued on page 2)



HOLY WEEK &

Wednesday Midweek Services

April 2 & 9
Supper: 5:45–6:45
Worship: 7pm

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 12 & 13
Worship: 5:30pm &
10am (with Nebraska Brass Band)

Maundy Thursday

April 17
Worship: 7pm

Good Friday

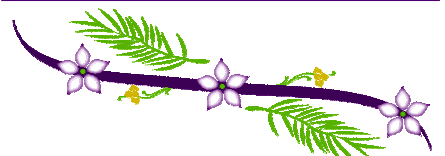
April 18
Worship: 7pm

Festival of Easter

April 20
Sunrise Service: 7am &
Worship: 10am

Easter Breakfast: following
Sunrise worship until 9:30am

(turn to pages 2 & 3 for further details)



VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.OSLCWAYNE.ORG

(Continued from page 1)

and most profoundly to Jesus himself. She described feeling that Christ was present with her in her sorrow, not to erase her grief but to bear it with her. She left worship that morning with tears in her eyes, but also with renewed hope.

This is what it means to be an Easter people. We don't deny the pain of Good Friday, but we know that suffering is not the final word. God's love brings life out of death and hope out of despair. Each Sunday is a small Easter, a reminder that Jesus continues to show up, bringing us the Good News that death has been defeated and new life is possible.

In this Lenten season, I invite you to reflect on your own experiences of suffering. Where have you felt pain or loss in your life? How has God shown up in those places? Sometimes God's presence is clear and unmistakable, like a bright light cutting through the darkness. Other times, it may feel more like a quiet whisper — a friend who listens without judgment, a hymn that gives you strength to keep going, or the steady comfort of the Holy Supper where Christ comes to us again and again.

The cross reminds us that no suffering is beyond God's reach. In Jesus' death and resurrection, we are promised that God is always working to bring new life — even when we can't yet see it. This is the hope that sustains us as we make our way toward Easter morning.

So, as we continue our Lenten journey, may we walk the path of Jesus — not bypassing suffering, but trusting that God meets us in it. And may we hold fast to the promise that resurrection awaits on the other side.

We are people of the cross, yes — but even more so, we are people of the empty tomb. Thanks be to God, who continues to meet us, sustain us, and bring life out of death.

Easter Blessings,
Pastor Chad



MUSIC FOR APRIL

- April 5 & 6** Mary Mohl, pianist (Sat)
Shelly Armstrong, pianist (Sun)
- April 12 & 13** Connie Webber, organist
Nebraska Brass Band (Sun)
- April 20** Connie Webber, organist
- April 26 & 27** Connie Webber, organist
Joyful Noise handbells (Sun)

DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

The April, May, June issue of the *Christ In Our Home* devotional books are at the information desk. Both regular and large-print are available.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES CONTINUE...

Midweek Lenten services will continue at 7pm on Wednesday evenings, April 2 & 9. The services include a scripture reflection, a faith story and Holden Evening Prayer. Our Lenten worship theme is *Our Journey of Baptism into Christ*.

Supper is served before worship from 5:45–6:45pm. There is no charge for the meal, but a freewill offering is taken with proceeds going to the group or organization providing the meal. Come, invite a friend or neighbor, and enjoy the evening as community in Christ.



PALM SUNDAY—APRIL 13

A special service with a procession of palms, music and readings will be held on **Palm Sunday, April 13** at 10am. The service will include *The Nebraska Brass Band* and congregational hymn singing.

MAUNDY THURSDAY—APRIL 17

A **Maundy Thursday** worship service will be held at Our Savior on **Thursday, April 17 at 7pm**. It is on this day that the Christian community gathers to share in the holy supper Christ gave the church to reveal his unfailing love for the human family.

GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 18

A Good Friday worship service will be held at Our Savior on **Friday, April 18 at 7pm**. It is on this day that the Christian community gathers to focus solely on the reality of Jesus' death.

Join us after the Good Friday worship service as we watch *The Passion of the Christ*. This is a powerful and deeply moving portrayal of Jesus' final hours, where the film offers a striking depiction of Christ's suffering, crucifixion, and ultimate sacrifice for the world.

Viewers should be aware that the film is intense and graphic, portraying the brutality of Jesus' journey to the cross. While the film can be challenging to watch, it does offer a profound opportunity for prayer and reflection as we remember Christ's passion for our salvation. We encourage you to come with open hearts, trusting that even in the weight of Good Friday, God's love and mercy are ever present.

Celebrate Easter!

EASTER WORSHIP—APRIL 20

We will celebrate the resurrection of Christ our Lord with a **Sunrise service at 7am** and our **regular service at 10am** on **Sunday, April 20**.

Please Note: *There will not be a Saturday evening service on March 30.*

EASTER BREAKFAST—APRIL 20

Easter Breakfast will be served in the church social room following the sunrise service until **9:30am**. There is no cost for the meal; a freewill donation will be accepted. **Pancakes, sausage and fruit will be served.**



A sign-up sheet for fruit, milk, juice and butter is at the information desk if you would like to help provide items for the breakfast.



EASTER EGG HUNT—APRIL 20

An Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Easter Sunday, April 20**, at **9:30am**. Weather permitting, the egg hunt will be held on the south lawn!



EASTER LILIES

As always, we'd like to decorate the sanctuary with Easter lilies or other spring flowering plants. If you'd like to donate one in memory or in honor of someone, please contact the church office **by Thursday, April 17**.

EASTER VISIT

Our Savior will make its annual Easter visit to the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services Center in Madison NE on **Monday, April 7**. Please consider joining us this year. Director Jesse Jensen emphasizes how much our visits are appreciated. We can trust that we can make a difference in the lives of these young people.



LENTEN CHALLENGE— 40 DAYS/40 ITEMS

Our Savior's Outreach Ministry Team invites the congregation to participate in the **40 DAYS/40 ITEMS** Lenten challenge! You are encouraged to make either a **MONETARY DONATION** or to **BRING 40 FOOD PANTRY ITEMS** for the **40 DAYS OF LENT**.

A printed list is included on the back of the calendar and also at the back of the sanctuary to use as your guide. Monetary donations should be ear-marked 40/40; OSLC confirmation youth will use that money in a shopping contest at PacNSave to purchase additional items from the list.

The Wayne Food Pantry will receive all donated items. In both 2023 and 2024, more than two full pickup loads were collected!



THANK YOU'S...

Deb Hammer—Thank you so much for the Our Savior Foundation Grant to help me travel to Tanzania! The trip was amazing. I am blessed to be a part of our wonderful ministry between Our Savior and Kotela parish.

Thank you to Caring Cooks and members for bringing food and visiting while I was recovering from surgery! I appreciate all the prayers and all of you for the love and care you share with me!

Lyla Swanson—To members of Our Savior Lutheran Church & Pastor Chad, Thank you so much for your prayers, visits and flowers that you have given me this past year. I do appreciate all you do. Christ's love to you all.

Janet Reeg—Dear Visitors, Thank you for the pretty flowers you brought for my birthday. I enjoyed them for a long time. Thank you for the cards.

Thank you received for donation made—

- **Haven House:** \$190.83 (Feb. Dollar Door Offering)

2025 Fish Fry Committee—A huge thank you to everyone who brought food donations or helped in any way to make the fish fry such a success! We appreciate every one of you!

Eric & Kelly, Stuart & Brenda, Chris & Carol, Ron & Pat, Kim Dunklau, Kevin & Teri, and Jaci & Tyler

CIRCLE & MINISTRY GROUP MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

- Tuesday, April 1, 10am

JOY CIRCLE

- Wednesday, April 9, 2pm
Program: Making Greeting Cards
Leader: Dorothy Wert
Hostess: Dorothy Wert

CHARITY CIRCLE

- Wednesday, April 16
Program: Educational/Devotional Meeting
Leaders: Carol Ellenbecker, Karma Magnuson

VISITATION MINISTRY GROUP

- No Meeting in April

QUILT MINISTRY GROUP

- TBD



ALTAR GUILD



Altar Guild workers for April: Paula Gemelke, Madge Bruflat, Myrna Wacker-Tuttle, Denise Broders, Julie Grone, Mary Hansen, Karen Zach, Joan Baier, Teri Koenig, Cynthia Miller, Martina Swanson, Virginia Backstrom, Peggy Hank, Julie/Jim Hansen, Debbie Bargholz, Rhonda Blecke, Dorothy Wert, Lynette Lentz, Melia Hefti, Trisha Peters.

Bread Bakers for April: Karma Magnuson, Cynthia Puntney, Nancy Reinhardt, Kim Dunklau.

Please check the worship assistant schedule for the date.



GREETINGS!

Isn't it good to see the sun shine? It makes me think that spring really is just around the corner! And, speaking of spring, I just want to remind you that **registration forms for Spring Gathering are due by April 18**. You can find Registration forms on the WELCA section of the kiosk in the Narthex. There is also a carpool sign-up sheet on the information desk. We will leave the church at 7am, April 26. The theme is "Loved Beyond Measure" and the verse is "*I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured*" – Ephesians 3:19 (The Promise Study Bible).

The Offering for Spring Gathering will be divided 60% CWO, 20% NSWO, and 20% Lutheran Disaster Fund. The Tangible Offering will go to Bright Horizons; items needed are: dryer sheets, toilet tissue, deodorant, shampoo, Kleenex, garbage bags (all sizes), cleaning supplies, size 6–7 diapers, laundry soap with HE, and gas cards to Casey's (leave gas cards in the church office). If you can donate any of these items, the WELCA Box is in the Narthex to place them in, and we will take them with us on the 26th.

I was happy to receive word that the Dana Village apartments are now full!! There are currently 14 youth living on campus and a van is up and running to help them get to and from their jobs. An "Amazon Wish List" is being used for purchasing items needed by youth moving into Dana Village's Transitional Living Program. Cards and care packages are still welcome and may be sent to Dana Village TLP, 750 Angel Share Dr., Blair, NE 68008. Stephanie Gardeman will distribute them to the young people living at Dana Village.

Joy Circle attendees participated in Phyllis's Bible study on "Gratitude". It was a very nice program. Fellowship was enjoyed with Lynette's delicious "green" dessert. Thank you, ladies!

You will also find a brochure on the Understanding and Responding to Human Trafficking on the WELCA area of the kiosk. This is a nationwide problem and not just in big cities, but in small towns too. We need to start with Prayer and Be Alert & Aware.

Sixty-four parishioners enjoyed Charity Circles' Scalloped Potatoes' and Ham, along with Salads and Dessert Bars, before a Wednesday night service. Good job, ladies!

Keep smiling and remember—all women are welcome to attend our circles and events!

Blessings,
Dorothy Wert,
WELCA President

WORSHIP SERVICES— at Wayne Countryview & Kinship



Worship with Communion is offered on the first Tuesday of the month—April 1.

- Wayne Countryview at 2pm
- Kinship at 3:30pm.

Worship is also offered the third Tuesday of the month at Kinship at 3:30pm.

- Tuesday, April 15

WACAM Worship Services

- April 9—Devotions at Kinship
- April 13—Worship at Countryview



IN OUR PRAYERS

We remember in prayer those who were hospitalized in the last month: Carol Griesch



“YOU VISITED ME...”

The Visitation Ministry Group meets to sign and send cards to church members and to share a visit with friends. Please come and be a part of our Visitation Ministry Group. The group will not meet in April, as Easter cards made by Charity Circle will be sent; join the group again on **Wednesday, May 21, at 1pm.**

If you know of someone that would appreciate a visit or call, or for more information about this wonderful ministry, please contact Sandy Lutt at 402.369.0937 or Rhonda Blecke at 402.833.1313.



If you have a family member who is hospitalized and would like to have a visit or be added to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 402-375-2899. Hospitals do not always inform us of a parishioner being admitted to the hospital, so please let us know if you or your loved one is hospitalized.

OWL'S BIBLE STUDY



The OWL's Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. This study led by Mary Mohl is using the *Books of Faith Series* from Augsburg Fortress to study the New Testament book of Romans. Join them on **April 2 & 16, at 10am** in the multipurpose room.

If you haven't been a part of our Bible Studies in the past, please consider joining us. You do not have to be 70 years old to participate; we welcome all ages of people and look forward to growing our group.

KINSHIP BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study at Kinship meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at 3:30pm. This study led by Sharon Garvin uses Lectionary Bible readings and a resource from the ELCA entitled, *Daily Discipleship*. Join them on **Thursdays, April 10 & 24.** Everyone is welcome.



SLEEPING MAT MINISTRY

Sleeping mats are made from plastic shopping bags. This is a great way to recycle all those plastic grocery bags! (A basket is available in the narthex to collect CLEAN bags.) There are several steps to preparing the bags before the mats can be crocheted...so **there are opportunities for all to participate!** Join us on **Thursday, April 3, and Monday, April 14, from 9–11am.**

Consider being a part of this wonderful ministry; both the VA in Omaha and Orphan Grain Train look forward to receiving the mats!

HELP US UPDATE the church directory app... **It's the perfect resource to stay connected!** We can add/change pictures in our online directory at any time and we'd love to update everyone's profile! If you have a new picture you'd like to use, simply email it to the church office (kris@oslcwayne.org) or there is also the option of uploading it yourself.

Get our church directory on your mobile device! Call and text members easily. Available for Android & Apple devices. Search for **“Instant Church Directory”** from your App Store. Once installed, you can create a login using your email listed in the directory.



- 2 Koby Nelson, Melissa Rabbass
- 3 Zach Jorgensen, Kris Robinson
- 4 Eve Heikes, Chris McGuire
- 6 Anna Cole, Reid Eskens, Gerald Stalling
- 7 Shelley Preston
- 8 Ann Kruse
- 9 Julie Hansen
- 10 Kim Lueders
- 11 Arlan Behrends, Damon Henschke
- 13 Mavis Lutt, Harold Thompson
- 14 Kearstin Schaffer
- 15 Rodney Bauermeister, Wyatt Dunklau, Sarah Larson
- 16 Connie Spahr
- 17 Constance Roberts
- 18 Sara Rademacher, Fern Test
- 19 Angel Stubbs, Reagan Wacker
- 20 Mike Dickes
- 21 Verdel Backstrom, Deb Jensen
- 22 Terry Karel
- 23 Sherry Haase, Darrell Miller, Cecily Wendte
- 24 Gina McDonald
- 25 Bernadine Backstrom, Sue Denton, Ruth Grone-Maier
- 27 Virginia Kniesche, Jace Piper
- 28 Drew Miller, Kristy Otte
- 29 Bodhi Hays
- 30 Carol Griesch

YOU'RE INVITED... TO COFFEE with Council



Coffee with Council is an opportunity to meet with members of the church council for coffee, refreshments and discussion. Join them prior to worship, 9am, **Sunday morning, April 13**, in the church narthex.



DOLLAR DOOR OFFERING —CJHC SCHOLARSHIPS

Each month our Dollar Door Offering (offering plate in center of the Narthex) goes to support the efforts of a different ministry. The April Dollar Door Offering will go to the Carol Joy Holling Camp (CJHC) Camper Scholarship Fund.

Together our dollars can help kids attend camp!

JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

Do you or someone you know have an interest in joining the church? We will host a **new member orientation** this spring for anyone interested in joining the church. Please contact Pr. Chad or the church office to let us know of your interest.

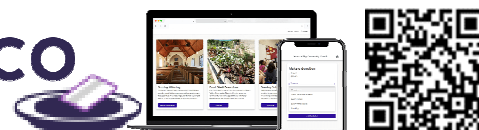


& ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Tom & Liz Hagmann (48)
- 2 Brian & Leslie Johnson (20)
- 6 Damon & Tracy Henschke (34)
- 9 Lucas & Danielle Olberding (9)
- 18 Ron & Corliss Krusemark (60)
- 25 Dave & Denise Broders (44)
Charles & Ruth Maier (15)
- 26 Doug & Connie Spahr (50)
- 28 Cheryl & Connie Roberts (41)

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please accept our apology and let the church office know.

VANCO
FAITH



You can give electronically to OSLC—just download the Vanco Mobile app OR go to our website at <https://oslcwayne.org/give/>

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

	As of March 15, 2025	Year-to-Date
Beginning balance	\$56,346.49	\$50,000.00
Add: Income	31,219.70	101,839.67
Less: Expenses	-37,630.79	-101,904.27
Ending balance, 3/15/2025	\$49,935.40	\$49,935.40

If you have any questions about this report or other church finance matters, please contact Tom Hansen (402-518-0640) or Kim Dunklau(402-369-1696).



COUNCIL CORNER

—Monday, March 10, 2025 Meeting

- The Nebraska Brass Band will be here for worship on Palm Sunday.
- There will be a Middle School Youth Gathering for Nebraska Synod youth from the northeast area here at Our Savior on Saturday, April 12. (*Edit: due to low registration, this event has been cancelled.*)
- The movie “The Passion of the Christ” will be shown in the sanctuary following the Good Friday worship service.
- There will be a pancake breakfast between services on Easter Sunday.
- There will be a retreat for the church council on Saturday, April 26.

The next meeting of the Church Council will be **Monday, April 14, 2025.**



CALENDAR ITEMS

Reminder...please contact the church office regarding any meetings or gatherings scheduled; especially those held after office hours, so that they can be added to the master calendar. If no evening activities are listed, the church building is locked at approx. 5pm.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

For the Weekend Bulletin: by 11am each Thursday.

For the Monthly Newsletter: 20th of the month.



RESOURCES

- Wayne County Family Coalition (402-375-2200)
- Wayne Food Pantry & Backpack Program (402-375-2669 – fpcwayne.org/food-pantry) In order to use the Wayne Food Pantry, please call or email in advance if you need assistance. All inquiries are confidential.
- Wayne Food Truck – Saturday, April 26, at Journey Christian Church



This newsletter is published monthly as an update on the life and activities of

Our Savior Lutheran Church

421 N Pearl Street
(located at the corner of 5th & Main Street)
Wayne, Nebraska 68787
402/375-2899

**A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

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Weekly Worship Opportunities:

Saturday Evening: 5:30pm

Sunday Morning: 10am

(streamed live and posted to our Facebook page:
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wayne NE (ELCA)
and broadcast live on AM 1590 and FM 98.9)

Sunday School: (N-5th)

Sundays—10am; Fall/Winter/Spring

Confirmation: (6th-8th)

Wednesdays—6pm; Fall/Winter/Spring

- Staff -

Rev. Chad Rademacher
Pastor

Connie Webber
Director of Music

Bridget Vaith
Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministry

Virginia Kniesche
Coordinator of Children's Ministry

Kris Robinson
Administrative Assistant

- Church Council -

Kelly Grone President

Larry Lueders Vice President

Kim Dunklau Treasurer

Mary Mohl Secretary

Marion Arneson **Ron Carnes**

Paula Gemelke **Tim Hansen**

Amber Labenz **Chris McGuire**

Our Savior Lutheran Church

5th & Main Street | Wayne, Nebraska 68787
402/375-2899



APRIL 2025






Our Savior Lutheran Church
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Wayne NE 68787

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Giving Thanks For:

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1 10:00am Cluster Text Study 10:00am WELCA Executive Board</p>  <p>2:00pm Communion @ Wayne Countryview 3:30pm Communion @ Kinship Pointe</p>	<p>2  10:00am OWL's Bible Study 5:45pm Lenten Supper 6:00pm Joyful Noise 7:00pm H5 Youth Group 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Worship</p>	<p>3 9:00am Sleeping Mat Ministry 6:00pm Women Who Love to Talk-and Eat</p>	4	<p>5 5:30pm Worship</p>
<p>6 9:00am Fellowship Hour 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Confirmation</p>	<p>7  JSC Easter Visit 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Property Team Meeting 5:45pm Executive Committee</p>	<p>8 10:00am Cluster Text Study</p>	<p>9  10:30am WACAM 2:00pm Joy Circle 3:30pm Devotions @ Kinship 5:45pm Lenten Supper 6:00pm Joyful Noise 7:00pm H5 Youth Group 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Worship</p>	<p>10 3:30pm Bible Study @ Kinship</p>	11	<p>12 5:30pm Worship</p>
<p>13  9:00am Coffee with Council 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship w/Nebraska Brass Band 4:00pm Confirmation</p>	<p>14 9:00am Sleeping Mat Ministry 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm VBS Planning Mtg 6:00pm Christian Ed Meeting 6:30pm Fellowship Team Mtg 7:00pm Church Council</p>	<p>15 10:00am Cluster Text Study 3:30pm Worship @ Kinship Pointe</p>	<p>16 10:00am OWL's Bible Study 6:00pm Joyful Noise 7:00pm Charity Circle</p>	<p>17  7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship</p>	<p>18  7:00pm Good Friday Worship Passion Story Movie following worship</p>	19
<p>20  7:00am Sunrise Service 7:45am Easter Breakfast 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am Worship</p>	<p>21 </p>	<p>22  10:00am Cluster Text Study</p>	<p>23 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Joyful Noise 7:00pm H5 Youth Group</p>	<p>24 3:30pm Bible Study @ Kinship</p>	25	<p>26  9:00am Council Retreat  9:30am Wayne Food Truck @ Journey Christian Church 5:30pm Worship</p>
<p>27 9:00am Fellowship Hour 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship</p>	<p>28 10:30am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>29 10:00am Cluster Text Study</p>	<p>30 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Joyful Noise 7:00pm H5 Youth Group</p>			



The "old" speakers!

MEET THE CHALLENGE!
You met
 SAVE - SHARE - SPEND

\$10,000 GOAL
 Thanks For Your Support!

NLOM
 Nebraska Lutheran Outreach Ministries

Abundant blessings have allowed us to reach our goal!
THANK YOU to all who gave towards this challenge!

SUSTAINING SACRED SPACES

THE CONGREGATION HAS BEEN CHALLENGED TO MATCH THE \$5,000 GIFT BEING GIVEN TO NLOM!

Lent


40 DAYS
40 ITEMS

1. Canned peaches
2. Pears
3. Fruit cocktail
4. Mixed fruit
5. Mandarin oranges
6. Applesauce
7. Canned meats—Spam
8. Chicken
9. Ham
10. Tuna
11. Stews
12. Canned ravioli or spaghetti
13. Peanut butter
14. Jelly
15. Jam
16. Granola bars
17. Instant rice
18. Helper meals
19. Ramen noodles
20. Applesauce cups
21. Pudding cups
22. Cereal (hot and cold)
23. Instant oatmeal packets
24. Coffee
25. Sugar
26. Bisquick
27. Pancake mix
28. Syrup
29. Pasta of all kinds
30. Spaghetti sauce
31. Instant potatoes
32. Jiffy corn bread mix
33. Muffin mixes
34. Cookie mixes
35. Brownie or cake mixes
36. Canned soups
37. Saltine crackers
38. Paper towels
39. Laundry detergent
40. Soap



You are invited to attend a Presentation on the 2025 Nebraska Synod Vision Trip to Tanzania

Presented by Pr. Deb Hammer



The Nebraska Synod has been partners with the Northern Diocese for 25 years and will be celebrated at the Synod Assembly this year. The partnership began back in 1999 with a pastor exchange between Pastor Martin Russell from Our Savior in Wayne, Nebraska, and Pastor Kiwelu at Kotela Parish in Marangu, Tanzania.

Please join Pr. Deb Hammer as she shares some history of the partnership with the Northern Diocese and the joys of her journey traveling to visit our companions. Pr. Deb will share updates on what is happening at Kotela Parish today.

Sunday, April 6, 2025 | 1pm
 First Lutheran Church, Allen

Sunday, May 4, 2025 | 1pm
 Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wayne

PRAYER *Time*

Holy Week Prayers

Holy Week is a time to encounter Christ more closely. We are called to 1) deepen our faith through prayer, reading the scriptures, and attending worship; 2) reflect on Christ's sacrifices; and 3) find ways to love one another as Jesus loved. Here are prayers and blessings to use during your quiet prayer time. Don't try to read it all at one setting. Read one each day during Holy Week. May your love for Christ and your love for one another deepen during this sacred time.

Be still and know that I am God

(from Henri Nouwen)

There is nothing in us that needs to be hidden from God's love. Our guilt...our shame...our fear...our sins...He wants to see it, touch it, heal it...and make himself known. There is no other God than the Lord of Love. Be still and know that I am God. God is not in the storm, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire, but in the still, small voice, the gentle breeze, and the sheer silence...Be still and know that I am God. Take these words with you in the week to come...let them be like a little seed planted in the good soil of your heart and let it grow.

A Blessing for Palm Sunday

(from Kate Bowler)

Jesus, from that mountain high among the olive trees, it would have been an easy journey down to the city, to Jerusalem, which lay below. So why choose to make your way on a donkey, on an everyday beast of burden, your feet almost dragging on the ground? And who are these people running, bending low, to spread their precious cloaks on the road before you, waving palm branches and shouting, "Save us! Hosanna to the Son of David!?" What is the raw and urgent hope that rises in their songs? "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" And, Jesus, why are you smiling? Because it is true what they are saying, though they can't yet know the whole of it. It is happening. It is unfolding in slow motion, the fulfillment of that promise from of old: their savior would come, humble, and riding on a donkey. Blessed are we on this side of history shouting, "Come Lord, save us too!" Blessed are all those walking forward into the great small work they do in hospitals, homes, grocery stores, and trucking companies. Blessed are we, shouting ourselves hoarse: "Hosanna! Save us! Save our world!" Blessed are those who have learned to walk in the light of your presence. (*Psalms 89:15*)

A Maundy Thursday Prayer

(from Henri Nouwen)

I am looking to you, Lord. You have said so many loving words. Your heart has spoken so clearly. Now you want to show me, even more clearly, how much you love me. Knowing that your Father has put everything in your hands, that you have come from God and are returning to God, you remove your outer garments and, taking a towel, you wrap it around your waist, pour water into a basin and begin to wash my feet, and then wipe them with the towel you are wearing.

You look at me with utter tenderness, saying, "I want you to be with me. I want you to have a full share in my life. I want you to belong to me as much as I belong to my Father. I want to wash you completely clean so that you and I can be one and so that you can do to others what I have done to you."

I am looking at you again, Lord. You stand up and invite me to the table. As we are eating, you take bread, say the blessing, break the bread, and give it to me. "Take and eat," you say, "this is my body given for you." Then you take a cup, and, after giving thanks, you hand it to me, saying, "This is my blood, the blood of the new covenant poured out for you." Knowing that your hour has come to pass from this world to your Father and having loved me, you now love me to the end. You give me everything that you have and are. You pour out for me your very self. All the love that you carry for me in your heart now becomes manifest. You wash my feet and then give me your own body and blood as food and drink.

Sweet Jesus, words cannot express my love for you. Thank you so much for pouring out yourself in love to wash me and feed me. Please refresh and feed others through me. I ask in your precious Name. Amen.

PRAYER *Time*

Holy Week Prayers (continued)

A Good Friday Blessing

(From Kate Bowler)

O dear God, we're in darker places than we've ever known. God light the way for this whole sad earth, for the helpless ones, and for me. Night has fallen on the light of the world and betrayal seems the order of the day. Love itself is handed over to brutal ignorance and cunning that loves the dark. O God, you chose to feel what we feel, how it is to die totally alone, ghastly to behold in your outstretched arms of the cross. Are you gathering to yourself every failure, travesty, and wrong? Blessed are we who shout: "Yes! Do it! Turn things right side up again!" Blessed are we who bow and wait for the morning of the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5)

God have mercy, Christ have mercy, Spirit have mercy.

Open your hands. Receive the love that comes gently as the dawn.

A Prayer for Good Friday

(from Henri Nouwen)

"O dear Lord, what can I say to you? Is there any word that could come from my mouth, any thought, any sentence?"

"You died for me, you gave all for my sins, you not only became man for me but also suffered the most cruel death for me. Is there any response?"

"I wish that I could find a fitting response, but in contemplating your Holy Passion and Death I can only confess humbly to you that the immensity of your divine love makes any response seem totally inadequate."

""Let me just stand and look at you.

Your body is broken, your head wounded, your hands and feet are split open by nails, your side is pierced. Your dead body now rests in the arms of your Mother.

"It is all over now. It is finished. It is fulfilled. It is accomplished.

"Sweet Lord, gracious Lord, generous Lord, forgiving Lord, I adore you, I praise you, I thank you. You have made all things new through your passion and death.

"Your cross has been planted in this world as the new sign of hope. Let me always live under your cross, O Lord, and proclaim the hope of your cross unceasingly. Amen.

A Holy Saturday Blessing

(from Kate Bowler)

Oh God, there are no more answers, only silence, and the echoes of yesterday's questions. Soften my heart to be able to mourn what is now lost. O God, unbind this sorrow. Let me lament and cry and tremble for one lies broken, poured out and spent, entombed. I want to listen in the quiet of this small space and wait until I get used to the dark so I can see the cracks in the foundations of the world left by the thunder of your passing. Let me see all the ragged truth of what is; to touch and feel and love and hold the edges of what was; to honor what is forever gone and love well what is eternally given. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)

God have mercy, Christ have mercy, Spirit have mercy.

A Blessing for Easter Sunday

(from Kate Bowler)

It is an astonishing thing to behold; that a seed falls, and entombed there in the damp earth, it swells and cracks open, unfolding to reveal a tender root searching downward, a bright shoot rising upward toward the light, becoming this wonder we call a plant. Just so, the physical body of Jesus was entombed, hidden away with all hope that the world could ever change; could ever be freed from its miserable cycles of destruction and decay. And yet, that Easter morning to his bewildered friends, Jesus burst forth from the grave, changed but still recognizable, eating and drinking, a physical presence that they might believe. His body reassembled by regenerative power beyond their comprehension, reminding them "I am the resurrection and the Life." It's a husbandry of love, that in the season's fullness, the rescue would be accomplished for our helpless earth, for all those on it and those under it. Life came to lift us into Himself. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

