
SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

February 2026

Lent 2026

February 18th is Ash Wednesday and we begin down the road of Lent. Lent is that journey we take with one another and Jesus as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. Lent began in the early church as a time of preparation for baptism. It was a time of instruction and faith formation. Over the passing of time, Lent became a time for the whole Christian community to prepare not only for baptism, but a time of preparing for Easter. This time grew to include more listening to the Word of God, more time for prayer, and fasting.



We know the Lent and Easter story. We know Jesus died on the cross and we know the joy of Easter resurrection. Yet, so often we don't live into the power of the resurrection. This year, as we take this Lenten journey and prepare for Easter, we will ask this question: What is holding us captive and preventing us from living the whole, abundant life that God has promised us? There are things that bind us and prevent us from experiencing the power of the resurrection. This Lent, through the stories of regular people encountering Jesus and being drawn to the wholeness that Jesus provides, we can learn about our own longings, and be drawn into wholeness and what it looks like to live the abundant life.

Sunday Themes:

- February 22 – Longing for Wholeness (Matthew 4:11)
- March 1 – Longing for Mystery (John 3:1-17)
- March 8 – Longing for Relationship (John 4:5-42)
- March 15 – Longing for Community (John 9:1-41)
- March 22 – Longing for Authenticity (John 11:1-25)

Wednesday Themes: (Following the story of Joseph from Genesis)

- February 25 – Bound by Jealousy (Genesis 37:3-11)
- March 4 – Bound by Violence (Genesis 37:12-36)
- March 11 – Bound by Dishonesty (Genesis 39:1-20)
- March 18 – Bound by Family (Genesis 41 and 42)
- March 25 – Bound by Guilt (Genesis 50:15-21)

Some of you may be looking for a resource to help you deepen your faith at home. A guide for contemplative prayer will be available at church beginning February 8th. From Church Anew: "Contemplative prayer is an ancient and simple discipline. At its heart, it is an opportunity to slow down, to create space, and to notice the presence of God. Contemplative prayer practices help us be in the world with solid footing, clarifying our understanding of how God is calling us to serve our neighbor." This resource will use Thomas Merton's famous prayer from Thoughts on Solitude as a guide.

Pastor Kathy



Ash Wednesday Devotion & Worship Opportunities with Imposition of Ashes – February 18th, 2026

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM – The sanctuary (worship area) will be open for reflection and a self-guided devotion that will be available as you enter the sanctuary. Pastor Kathy and Pastor Amy will be there for those who would like the imposition of ashes. You can come for as little as five minutes or as long as an hour. Whatever fits your schedule.

12:00 Noon and 6:30 PM – Traditional Ash Wednesday worship with the imposition of ashes.

There will be no regular afternoon and evening programming, or supper on Ash Wednesday.



Fat Tuesday Youth Pancake Fundraiser
February 17th, 2026
5:00PM - 6:30PM

Pancakes, sausage links, and applesauce. Gluten free option and Take Out available!

Cost is \$8.00 per person
\$4.00 for ages 10 and under

All Proceeds will go to the 2026 Youth Summer Mission Trip

Bible Study on the book of Revelation will resume on February 8th and go through March 8th! We meet between services in the Upper Room. All are welcome!

Mid-Week Lent Adult Education: Wednesdays, 5:15PM - 6:15PM **“Unbound: Longing for Wholeness” Group Study & Prayer Practice**

Join us during Wednesday suppers in Lent for further discussion and diving into our Lenten theme of Unbound: Longing for Wholeness. We'll meet in the Upper Room from 5:15PM - 6:15PM each Wednesday, Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18, and 25. Grab your meal and come join us! We'll eat and check in, then open the scripture for the week to reflect on and discuss with guided questions on the theme. Then each week, we'll try a different prayer practice together that you can use in your own prayer life as well. Each session is an individual study, so come when you can or come to all of them!

Retired Persons Coffee

Retired Persons Coffee continues to meet once a month. On **Wednesday, February 4th**, we will have a coffee and conversation time from 9:00AM - 10:00AM. Call the church office if you will make coffee or bring treats.

Faith & Books

Faith & Books will meet on **Wednesday, February 11th**, at **5:30 PM** in the church library. The book for February is *Saving Emma*, by Allen Eskens. Looking ahead, the March book is *Between Sisters*, by Kristin Hannah. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kathy.

Puzzle Contest!

The Adult Ministry Team is sponsoring a **Puzzle Contest on Sunday, March 1st**, from **Noon - 2:00PM!** We will begin with pizza and compete as teams to put together a jigsaw puzzle. Sign up will begin on February 8th (we need to know how many puzzles to buy). You can sign up as a team of four or sign up, or as individuals. We will work in groups of four. The contest is all for fun and fellowship. Child care will be provided!

Baby Book Club

Baby Book Club meets on **February 15th**, between services in the church nursery. The book we will read in February is "I'll Love You Till the Cows Come Home," by Kathryn Cristaldi. When you sign up in advance, you will receive a copy of the book we read that day. Whether you sign up in advance or not, you are invited to attend for this special time with parents and children (ages 0-3). Contact Pastor Kathy with questions.

Wednesday Night Suppers

We gather on Wednesday evenings for suppers from 5:00PM-6:15PM! All proceeds from the free will offering go to support Wednesday LinC† programming.



February 4 th :	Pizza
February 11 th :	Spaghetti
February 18 th :	No Meal – Ash Wednesday



LENTEN SUPPERS

Join our ministry teams each Wednesday of Lent from 5:00 PM – 6:15 PM for a great meal!

February 25 th :	Church Council	Pulled Pork
March 4 th :	Youth Ministry and Mission Ministry	Spaghetti
March 11 th :	Adult Ministry and Facilities & Grounds	TBD
March 18 th :	Deacons Ministry and WELCA	Walking Tacos
March 25 th :	Children's Ministry	Pizza

Annual Watonwan River Conference Assembly

The Watonwan River Conference Assembly will be held on **Sunday, February 22nd**, from **2:00PM - 4:00PM** at Augustana Lutheran Church, St. James. If you are interested in attending the Conference Assembly, please speak with Pastor Kathy. We will carpool from Our Savior's. We are able to have eight representatives of the church. This is a great opportunity to learn about and be part of the larger ministry of the Church.

New Members at Our Savior's

We will be welcoming new members at worship on **March 22nd**! We will have a New Member Orientation on Thursday, March 19th, at 6:30PM. Children are welcome! If you are interested in becoming a member at Our Savior's, and/or to sign up for orientation, please contact Jen at (507) 233-4430 or office@oursaviorsnewulm.org.



Join us for  **CAMP SUNDAY**

  **& get excited for summer!**

We will have a special worship service on February 22nd, and a Camp Fundraiser Breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 29th!

 **GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES**
is now **WATER'S EDGE MINISTRIES**



RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 16th

Sign up on the Children's Board or Youth Board. Parents must sign a Mount Kato tubing waiver for each child attending. Copies can be found by the Children's Board.

Mission Corner:

The February *Noisy Offering* is supporting the Connection Shelter in Mankato. In December, the Mission Team went to the Connection Shelter in Mankato to serve a meal and donated cookies and bars.

The Connection Shelter is a volunteer organization supporting individuals and families that are experiencing homelessness in Mankato. The shelter offers up to 48 beds for an emergency overnight stay on a seasonable basis from October to May. They also offer additional items such as frozen meals, hygiene supplies, and clothing.



The food library is a ministry of Our Savior's. We are looking for people who would help keep the food library filled. It is kept full of food that will not freeze, and anyone in the community can stop by and pick up needed food. The food we have for the food library is in the wooden box outside the church office. If you would like to help, a sign-up sheet is located in the Social Hall. Questions? Contact Pastor Amy or a member of the Mission Team.

Women's Retreat at Shores of St. Andrew March 6-8, 2026

Cost: \$200 or free for the first ten Our Savior's women with kids at home. Please speak to one of the pastors about registering.

Take a holy pause. Step away from daily stressors and escape to Shores of St. Andrew for a weekend of spiritual freedom, fellowship, and fun. Together, we'll dig deeper into the stories of women in the New Testament and explore how their witness continues to shape our faith lives today.

Through discussion, reflection, and creative practices—like watercolor, journaling, doodling, prayer pebbles, and hands-on prayer stations—you'll be invited to encounter scripture in new ways. Each participant will create their own scripture journal, a personal space to write, create, and reflect while sharing perspectives with others.

Retreat Leader: Amanda "Ace" Hoefs – Amanda serves as the Youth Ministry Director at Decorah Lutheran Church in Decorah, IA, and brings a creative, hands-on approach to faith formation. With a background in art and a Master's in Children, Youth, and Family Ministries from Luther Seminary, she has spent over 15 years serving in Bible camp and congregational ministry.

Register on-line at www.gllm.org by Tuesday, February 24th.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you for your ongoing support of Heart to Home Furnishings. Your continued commitment to our mission has made a lasting difference, and we are grateful for your belief in our work. We could not continue to help the families in need in Brown County without the support of the community and organizations like Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Sincerely,

- Bill Steinke, Treasurer

Mission Board and Members of OSLC,

Thank you for your generous donation to the Dakota Reconciliation Riders this past December. Your support meant so much to all of us.

- The Dakota Riders Committee

On Tuesday, January 20th, Our Savior's held a prayer vigil for our State, our Country, and our World. God hears our prayers, and God promises to answer our prayers. We invite you to use any or all of these prayers from Tuesday in your personal prayer practice.



Adapted from a prayer, ELW page 76 For Times of Conflict, Crisis, or Disaster

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. Give us ears to hear your voice amid all that confounds. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Those in Civil Authority from ELW page 77

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, bless our government officials that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Help them use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalms 51: 1-2, 10-12 - A Prayer for Forgiveness

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me, a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Serenity Prayer

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things that should be changed,
And the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. *Reinhold Niebuhr, 1892-1971*

A prayer attributed to Francis of Assisi

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Psalms 138 – Hymn of Thanksgiving

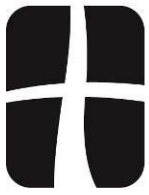
Lord, I will thank you with all my heart; I will sing to you before the gods. I will bow down facing your holy Temple, and I will thank you for your love and loyalty. You have made your name and your word greater than anything. On the day I called to you, you answered me. You made me strong and brave. Lord, let all the kings of the earth praise you when they hear the words you speak. They will sing about what the Lord has done, because the Lord's glory is great. Though the Lord is supreme, he takes care of those who are humble, but he stays away from the proud. Lord, even when I have trouble all around me, you will keep me alive. When my enemies are angry, you will reach down and save me by your power. Lord, you do everything for me. Lord, your love continues forever. Do not leave us, whom you made.

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship 9:40am Sunday LinCt 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	2 6:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting 6:00pm Fellowship Ministry Team	3 9:00am Staff Meeting	4 9:00am Retired Persons Coffee 10:00am WELCA Board Meeting 3:30pm Wednesday LinCt 5:00pm Wednesday Suppers 5:30pm Children's Ministry Team 5:45pm Adult Handbells 6:30pm 5th & 6th Grade Youth Group 6:30pm Adult Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Worship	5 10:00am Ridgeway on German Service 11:00am Ridgeway on 23rd Service 3:30pm Oak Hills Worship Service 4:00pm Pro Kinship Monthly Meeting 6:00pm Cub Scouts Den Meeting	6 10:00am MRCl Activity	7 8:30am Men's Bible Study
8 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship 9:40am Bible Study 9:40am Sunday LinCt 10:30am Worship	9	10 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Adult Ministry Team 6:00pm Youth Ministry Team	11 9:00am Cards of Caring 1:00pm Beautiful Savior Circle 3:30pm Wednesday LinCt 5:00pm Wednesday Suppers 5:30pm Faith & Books 5:45pm Adult Handbells 6:30pm 5th & 6th Grade Youth Group 6:30pm Adult Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Worship	12 9:00am Immanuel Circle 3:30pm Pro Kinship Activity	13 10:00am MRCl Activity	14 8:30am Men's Bible Study
15 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship 9:40am Bible Study 9:40am Sunday LinCt 9:45am Baby Book Club 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	16 Snow Tubing	17 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:00pm Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:00pm Mission Ministry Team 6:00pm Stewardship Team	18 7:00am Ash Wednesday Devotion 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship	19 9:00am Blessed Bottoms Prep 5:00pm Deacons Ministry Team 6:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	20 8:30am Sidelites Group 10:00am MRCl Activity	21 8:30am Men's Bible Study
22 Camp Sunday Noisy Offering Sunday 8:30am Worship 9:30am Fellowship 9:40am Bible Study 9:40am Sunday LinCt 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Watonwan River Conference Assembly	23 6:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	24 9:00am Quilting Group 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Facilities & Grounds Team 6:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	25 11:45am Food Shelf Volunteering 3:30pm Wednesday LinCt 5:00pm Lenten Suppers 5:30pm Adult Handbells 6:30pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Confirmation	26 3:30pm Pro Kinship Activity	27 10:00am MRCl Activity	28 8:30am Men's Bible Study

WEATHER RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If weather is in question, please check our website and Facebook page for any cancellations or postponements. For midweek classes and programs, we'll follow the lead of New Ulm Public Schools. If ISD #88 dismisses early, choirs, confirmation, and groups will not meet. We will also not hold evening suppers. Be sure to follow facebook.com/oslcnwulm to stay up to date!



OUR SAVIOR'S

Lutheran Church

NEW ULM, MN

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
New Ulm, MN
Permit #6

1400 South State Street

New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507-233-4430

Website: www.oursaviorsnewulm.org

www.facebook.com/oslcnwulm

Address Service Requested

Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship – 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Wednesday Worship – 7:30 PM

Television Broadcasts

(Comcast Channel 14; Nuvera Channel 3)

Mon.–7:00 PM; Thurs. – 5:00 PM

4th Thursday of the month – 6:00 PM

SIDELITES

OUR SAVIOR'S is a Welcoming

community, experiencing God,

reaching out and raising up followers of

Jesus Christ