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# SIDELITES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

March 2026

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## An Invitation to Slow Down

For the full month of March this year, we are in the season of Lent – a 40-day period where we are invited to slow down, to create space, and to notice the presence of God. Lent culminates with Palm Sunday on March 29<sup>th</sup>, and then Holy Week and Easter at the beginning of April. But for now, for this month, I invite you to settle in. To take a deep breath. To re-focus on God and re-center yourself in Christ.

In a number of recent conversations I've had, there seems to be a lot of longing in our world. Be it longing for unity, longing for clarity, longing for answers, longing for justice, longing for a way forward, longing for more time, longing for health and healing, longing for repaired relationships--the list can go on and on. As Christians, a part of who we are is a people of longing. We might long for a better world here and now, as well as for the glory to come in eternity with God.

On Wednesdays in March, you are invited to join the Lenten study group, as we meet in the Upper Room each week between 5:30PM - 6:15PM. Grab some supper and bring your plate in any time after 5:00PM. We'll begin at 5:30PM using the Contemplative Practices for Lent guide that has been available in the Social Hall. Everyone is welcome to take one for themselves for self-guided devotions, AND we will experience them in community with others and engage in conversation as well on Wednesdays.

Whether you attend the study or not, I commend to you this prayer, written by Thomas Merton. Merton lived from 1915-1968, wrote over 70 books about spiritual life, and was a monk for the last 27 years of his life. This prayer offers an honest look at the ways we might wrestle with our faith and the uncertainties of life. May it be a blessing to you, and perhaps something to read again and again in this Lenten season.

Lenten Blessings to you,  
Pastor Amy

My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
Nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think that I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please you  
does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,  
though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore, I will trust you always,  
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear,  
 for you are ever with me,  
 and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

*Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude (Farrar, Straus, Giroux Publishing, 1956, 1958, 2009) p. 79.*

## Lent 2026

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 (Matt. 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: (Worship at 6:30PM)

- 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)

### “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 5:30PM - 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!



## LENTEN SUPPERS

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

February 25 <sup>th</sup> :	Church Council	Pulled Pork
March 4 <sup>th</sup> :	Youth Ministry and Mission Ministry	Spaghetti
March 11 <sup>th</sup> :	Adult Ministry and Facilities & Grounds	Chili, Mashed Potato Bar
March 18 <sup>th</sup> :	Deacons Ministry and WELCA	Walking Tacos
March 25 <sup>th</sup> :	Children's Ministry	Pizza



**Palm Sunday – March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Worship at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

Join us for a Camp Sunday Fundraiser Breakfast between services!

Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 9:30 AM.

*Candy donations are appreciated and can be left in the box outside the church office.*

**Maundy Thursday – April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Worship at 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM

First Communion will be celebrated at 7:00 PM!

**Good Friday – April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Worship at 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM

Joint Worship at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

**Easter Sunday – April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Worship at 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, and 10:00 AM

The 8:30 AM service will also be Live on Facebook.

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In March we will be fundraising for Bible Camp!

The cost for each camper is \$750 for a full week and \$375 for ½ week. OSLC pays ½ the cost for each of our campers and sometimes more if families need assistance. We couldn't do this without our congregation's support.

In the month of March we will be focused on fundraising for camp. We will kick off the month with worship on March 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be an envelope board in the social hall, please grab an envelope and support our campers.

We will wrap up our fundraising month on Palm Sunday (March 29<sup>th</sup>). On this day we will have a fundraising breakfast along with an Easter Egg hunt between services.

Join us for our

**CAMP  
CELEBRATION**



**We will have a special Camp  
Fundraiser Breakfast on Palm Sunday,  
March 29<sup>th</sup> between services!**



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



**Don't forget, Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>!**

### **Puzzle Contest!**

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

### **Retired Persons Coffee**

Retired Persons Coffee meets on **Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**, from 9:00AM - 10:00AM. Come for coffee, a treat, and great conversation! If you are willing to make coffee or bring a treat, let Pastor Kathy know.

### **Faith & Books**

Faith and Books will meet on **Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM** in the church library. The book for *Between Sisters*, by Kristin Hannah. All are welcome. Looking ahead: The book for April is *My Friends*, by Fredrik Backman.

### **Baby Book Club**

Baby Book Club meets on **March 15<sup>th</sup>**, at 9:45AM in the church library. The book we will read in March is *Near: Psalm 139* by Sally Lloyd-Jones. 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.

## **YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER**

**To Go Pints of Chicken Supreme  
& Pulled Ham, \$10 each!**

**To-go pints of meat to freeze or reheat!**

**Pre-Orders will be taken on Sunday, March  
15th, or contact Pastor Amy.**

**Pick-up will be Sunday, March 22nd.**

**4 packs of buns will also be available for  
\$2.00/pack.**



## Church Council and Ministry Team Retreat

**Church Council and Ministry Team Retreat on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:30PM - 2:30PM.** We will gather to get to know one another better, collaborate and plan for 2026. The Spirit is at work at Our Savior's and each council, ministry team, WELCA and committee member has been called to share their unique gifts with the ministries of our congregation. Please pray for our church council and teams as we seek God's guidance for the work of the church.

## New Members at Our Savior's

We will be welcoming new members at worship on **March 22<sup>nd</sup>!** We will have a New Member Orientation on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 by March 13<sup>th</sup> at (507) 233-4430 or [office@oursaviorsnewulm.org](mailto:office@oursaviorsnewulm.org).



## Youth News!

Painting at Sota Street Studio for youth in Grades 7-12! **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>,** from 4:00PM - 6:00PM we will meet at Sota Street Studio at 103 N. Minnesota Street to paint your own pottery. The cost is \$10 (bring more if you want to paint something that costs over \$20). Sign up on the youth bulletin board. Contact Pastor Kathy for more information.

## 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/oslcnewulm](https://facebook.com/oslcnewulm) to stay up to date!

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## Mission Corner:

The March *Noisy Offering* will support Laundry Love, which offers free use of washers, dryers and detergents to those in need, once a month at the Mega Wash Maytag Laundry here in New Ulm.

From March 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, we have the opportunity to support "Socks for Students" at Kikatiti Secondary School in a little village in Tanzania. Former Our Savior's member, Bill Koeckeritz, serves as the Executive Director for the non-profit *Education for a Bright Future-Tanzania*, which helps young people with extremely limited financial resources to build a better life through the gift of education, and was first organized in 1999 here at Our Savior's.

A number of trips have been made to the school since 2000, and Bill and two board members are travelling to the school in April of this year. They have a goal of bringing 300 pairs of white knee-high stockings/socks for the girls' school uniforms and 200 pair of "beige" calf-length socks for the boys, which will be purchased in bulk from a manufacturer, and then brought over with the travelers.

Socks are \$18.00 for a pack of 8. If you would like to help provide Socks for Students, please use the envelopes in the Social Hall, which will be available beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. Place your cash or check written out to OSLC, with "Socks for Students" in the Memo line, and put the envelope in the offering plate. We will be collecting funds March 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.

## March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>8:30am Worship</b> 9:30am Fellowship 9:40am Revelation Bible Study 9:40am Sunday LinCt <b>10:30am Worship</b> 12:00pm Puzzle Contest 4:00pm Cub Scout Den Mtg	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	<b>3</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:00am Retired Persons Coffee 10:00am WELCA Board Meeting 3:30pm First Communion Class 3:30pm Wednesday LinCt 5:00pm Lenten Suppers 5:30pm Adult Handbells 5:30pm Children's Ministry Team 5:30pm Lenten Bible Study <b>6:30pm Lenten Worship</b> 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Confirmation	<b>5</b> 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	<b>6</b> Women's Retreat 10:00am MRCI Activity	<b>7</b> Women's Retreat 8:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Cub Scout Parent Meeting
<b>8</b> Women's Retreat <i>Zinniel Baptism</i> <b>8:30am Worship</b> 9:30am Fellowship <b>10:30am Worship</b> 11:30am Private Event	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Adult Ministry Team 6:00pm Youth Ministry Team	<b>11</b> 9:00am Cards of Caring 1:00pm Beautiful Savior Circle 5:00pm Lenten Supper 5:30pm Faith & Books 5:30pm Lenten Bible Study <b>6:30pm Lent Worship</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00am Immanuel Circle 3:30pm Pro Kinship Activity	<b>13</b> 10:00am MRCI Activity	<b>14</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study
<b>15</b> <i>Ryan Baptism</i> <b>8:30am Worship</b> 9:30am Fellowship 9:40am Sunday LinCt 9:45am Baby Book Club <b>10:30am Worship</b> 4:00pm Cub Scout Den Mtg	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Mission Ministry Team 6:00pm Stewardship Team	<b>18</b> 3:30pm First Communion Class 3:30pm Wednesday LinCt 5:00pm Lenten Suppers 5:30pm Adult Handbells 5:30pm Lenten Bible Study <b>6:30pm Lent Worship</b> 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Confirmation 8:00pm Mission Trip Meeting	<b>19</b> 9:00am Blessed Bottoms Prep 9:30am Conference Rostered Leaders 5:00pm Deacons Ministry Team 6:30pm New Member Orientation	<b>20</b> 10:00am MRCI Activity 5:00pm Pinewood Derby Setup	<b>21</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
<b>22</b> New Member Sunday Noisy Offering Sunday <b>8:30am Worship</b> 9:30am Fellowship 9:30am Youth Trip Fundraiser 9:40am Sunday LinCt <b>10:30am Worship</b> 12:30pm Council and Team Retreat 4:00pm Sota Street for 7 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	<b>23</b> Sidelites Deadline 6:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	<b>24</b> 9:00am Quilting Group 9:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Facilities & Grounds Team 6:30pm Finance Committee 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>25</b> 11:45am Food Shelf Volunteering 3:30pm First Communion Class 3:30pm Wednesday LinCt 5:00pm Lenten Suppers 5:30pm Adult Handbells 5:30pm Lenten Bible Study <b>6:30pm Lent Worship</b> 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Confirmation	<b>26</b> 3:30pm Pro Kinship Activity 6:00pm Cub Scouts Den Meeting	<b>27</b> 8:30am Sidelites Group 10:00am MRCI Activity	<b>28</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study
<b>29</b> Palm Sunday <b>8:30am Worship</b> 9:30am Camp Fundraiser Breakfast 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt 9:40am Sunday LinCt <b>10:30am Worship</b> 4:00pm Cub Scout Den Meeting	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting	<b>1</b> 9:00am Retired Persons Coffee 10:00am WELCA Board Meeting 5:30pm Children's Ministry Team	<b>2</b> 10:00am Ridgeway on German Service 11:00am Ridgeway on 23rd Service <b>12:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship</b> 3:30pm Oak Hills Worship Service 5:30pm First Communion Dinner <b>7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00am MRCI Activity <b>12:00pm Good Friday Worship</b> 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	<b>4</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> for the Easter holiday.



# Preparing FOR Easter

To decorate for Easter Sunday, we will be using Easter lilies and spring flowers. If you would like to contribute to the cost of decorations, or if you would like to bring a plant, please complete the form below. Plants will be kept for pick up until April 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Easter Lily - \$25.00
- Assorted Bulbs - \$20.00
- Potted Plants - \$15.00
- Hydrangeas - \$30.00

**Please print clearly! Names will be listed in the bulletin as written.**

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

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Choose one:

- I will bring a  plant or  lily for Easter.
- Please bring to the church on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and place on the table by Tom's office.
  - If you bring a plant and would like to bring it home after Easter, please label your plant.
- I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward Easter flowers.
- I would like to bring a plant home after the holiday.
- **Make checks payable to OSLC, and write "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.**

Choose one (please print names):

Given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

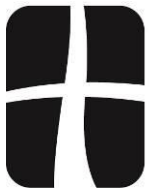
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Given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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Given as a gift.

Forms must be returned to the church office **no later than March 29<sup>th</sup>** for memorials to be included in the Easter bulletin.



# OUR SAVIOR'S

**Lutheran Church**

NEW ULM, MN

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[www.facebook.com/oslcnwulm](https://www.facebook.com/oslcnwulm)

***Address Service Requested***

## **Lent Worship Schedule**

Sunday Worship – 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Wednesday Worship – 6:30 PM

## **Television Broadcasts**

(Comcast Channel 14; Nuvera Channel 3)

Mon.–7:00 PM; Thurs. – 5:00 PM

4<sup>th</sup> 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