



The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Volume 77 No. 2
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Where is God Calling Us? Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Transition Conversations

Hearing the Voices of Our Past

Hearing the Voices from our Past is our first forum, and we discussed the history of OSLC, listening to the joys and challenges of our congregation in the past. Over the last seven decades, participants identified the following as we sought to reach consensus about how we can learn from our past as we look at our present and future.

Celebrations

- 1) Good Biblical Preaching
- 2) Excellent Music
- 3) Worship Diversity (remote)
- 4) Financial Support for Missions
- 5) Volunteer Involvement
- 6) Many Financial Resources
- 7) Location
- 8) Youth & Family Ministry

Challenges

- 1) Loss of Members (conflict)
- 2) Aging Congregation
- 3) Inviting Congregation
- 4) Community Engagement
- 5) Volunteer Involvement
- 6) Shared Pastoral Leadership
- 7) Engaging Diversity
- 8) Youth & Family Ministry

In February we will develop a Vision Statement, Mission Statement and identify the Core Values that are the foundation of our ministry.

In March we will identify the qualities, characteristics, and key competencies of the next pastoral leader which will assist us in completing the congregation's ministry profile. This document will be used by the synod to identify candidates for submission to the call committee.

We invite any who would like to participate in this process please contact one of our transition team members Sheila Bustamante, Bonnie Phelps, Michael Marty, Kent Pflibsen, Quentin Peterson, Pam Hardman.

Interim Pastor



Council Corner

January 19, 2021

As you may recall, a year ago our congregation approved a truly balanced budget for the first time in many years. Now that our final numbers are in for 2020, we're pleased to let you know that—despite all of the unprecedented challenges we faced last year—we remained on budget and ended the year with a positive balance. This positive year-end balance was supplemented by a generous undesignated bequest of \$500,000 we received at the end of the year. As we discussed in our recent Sunday forums in which we reviewed details of the proposed 2021 budget, we recommend using a portion of this bequest to pay off the remainder of our last property mortgage early in 2021, which will save the congregation's general fund approximately \$75,000 in interest. (Line 7600 in the proposed 2021 budget reflects this plan.)



Although we won't be able to hold our Annual Congregational Meeting in person this year, you will still have an opportunity to vote on 1) OSLC's 2021 budget, 2) the minutes from our 2020 Annual Meeting, and 3) the slate of new Council Members for 2021. Ballots will be mailed out by February 1; please do take a moment to fill out your ballot and mailed back to the church office (postmarked by February 10).

Thank you for your continued generosity as we move forward together; please consider completing a Stewardship Pledge for 2021 if you have not done so already. And please join us in praying for our congregation and community as we continue to worship together from afar.

In Christ—
OSLC Church Council

My Dear Friends in Christ,

LOVE

In English this one word represents a variety of definitions and emotions. Because of this it is easy to be misunderstood when you use the word one way but it is interpreted another. Now I never thought I would ever say this but, this is one time I prefer Ancient Greek to Modern English. You see Ancient Greek has eight (8) different words for love. This leaves very little confusion when writing or talking about love.

The eight forms of love for the Greeks are *Eros* (sexual love), *Philia* (friendship), *Storge* (kinship), *Ludo* (playful), *Mania* (obsessive), *Pragma* (enduring), *Philautia* (self) and *Agape* (unconditional). Each word conveys a special form of what we just call love.

Of the eight, the one most important to my life is Agape. When we say, "God is Love." we are saying God is Agape. The love of God is unconditional. God loves us for who we are. It does not matter what we have done or not done, if we are living according to Jesus' teachings or living a life of sin, God has always loved us and will always love us unconditionally. Agape is what we are called to have for each other.

Valentine's Day is approaching. For many it is the day of love. It is the day to let others know how we feel about them in our lives. Unfortunately for many it is only Eros that they are thinking about. This year I challenge you to focus on Agape. Strive to love as God loves us, unconditionally and completely.

Peace,

Pastor Martha



What is Lent?

- **Lent is one of the five liturgical seasons in the liturgical year.**
- **During this time the People of God are called to commemorate and reflect on the Lord's passion through spiritual preparation, conversion, and penance.**
- **This Holy Season is an invitation to renew our baptismal call. To live as Sons and daughters of God and disciples of Christ, our Lord and savior.**



On Ash Wednesday, February 14, we begin our Lenten journey with an on-line remote worship service.

Our Lenten journey calls us to 40 days of prayer, self-denial, and works of love which are the disciplines of Lent.

We will continue our practice of distributing Ashes (see the accompanying article) to remind us of our mortality and our complete dependence on God's love in Jesus Christ for life and forgiveness.

We will also continue our practice of a mid-week Lenten worship service that will help us focus on our need for renewal and reconciliation. We invite each of you to participate in these opportunities to prepare your hearts and lives as we journey toward Holy Week and Easter.

This will be an important time as we continue to move through the transition reflecting on "Where is God Calling Us?"



Our Saviour's was recently notified by the ELCA Foundation that Our Saviour's is the beneficiary of a generous bequest from an anonymous donor in the amount of \$500,000.

According to our congregation's gift acceptance policy, ten percent (10%) of such undesignated bequests are to be shared with the Grand Canyon Synod, with the balance (\$450,000) to be utilized at the discretion of the congregation council.

In preparing the 2021 budget another portion of this generous gift would be used to eliminate the balance of our mortgage payments and reduce the congregational debt to zero. The balance will be invested as plans are being developed and considered.

God continues to shower Our Saviour's with abundance and grace, and we are grateful and celebrate the abundant generosity of this anonymous donor who shared their blessings to advance the mission and ministry of our congregation.

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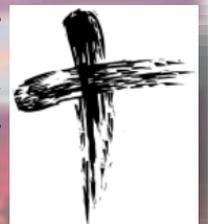
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Ash Wednesday

With the spread of COVID-19 we are not going to be able to receive ashes on our foreheads during worship on Ash Wednesday. For any who would like to receive them there will be two (2) opportunities available on Wednesday, February 17th. Pastor Martha will be hosting a drive through imposition of ashes from 7:30-8:30 am and again from 5:30-6:30 pm. Both events will take place in the North parking lot. We are asking you to come into the parking lot from the east entry, drive through to receive your ashes and then exit through the west exit. Please, for everyone's safety, wear a mask and remain in your car. Pastor Martha will be wearing a mask, face shield and gloves. She will also be using plenty of hand sanitizer after each carload.



February 2021