

"From the Top"

A monthly publication of
Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church, ELCA

Volume V, Issue 2

February 2026

You are invited. . . to walk with Jesus and disciples around the world this season of lent. Starting on

Wednesday, February 18.



Drive-thru imposition of ashes

11:30 AM -1:30 PM in the church parking lot

Ash Wednesday Worship with imposition of ashes

6:00 PM in the Sanctuary

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LENTEN



STUDY GROUP

Wednesdays, February 25-March 25

Mid-Week Lenten Soup Suppers and Study

at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall

Join us for a warm meal and good company as we revisit our Catechism lessons and walk with Jesus once again toward the cross. Remembering why we are here and answering the call to love and serve God and our neighbors.

Join Us for Sunday Worship! In person or YouTube live. Traditional Service at 8:30 AM, Contemporary Service at 10:30 AM. Watch anytime on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@SOSLutheran **Wednesday Bible Study** in person or online via Zoom at 10 AM Zoom Meeting ID: 854 2429 7034 Passcode: 487951

**Following Jesus
and led by the Holy Spirit,
we love and serve
God and our neighbors.**

Pastor: Rev. Steve Anderson (951) 217-1885

COUNCIL:

President: Rich Kamiyama 335-3636
Vice President: Eric Ogaz
Council Secretary: Don Drost 864-4660
Treasurer: Kurt Anderson 553-3070
Financial Secretary: Viola Angebrandt 887-0799
Congregation Support: Laura Davis 338-2994
Education: Melissa Anderson 213-1059
Property: Dave Clifford (951) 315-3949
Worship & Music: Barb Frey 881-6069

STAFF:

Accompanist: Zabdiel Miranda
Church Secretary: Becky Tarts 496-9550
Custodian: Joe Balli 380-4018
Worship Leader: Heather Ogaz 725-8473

Special Thanks to Margie Arnett for keeping the Facebook page updated and relevant.

This newsletter is printed at no charge by LPi and supported by the generosity of the vendors listed. When you are in need of services, please remember to say 'thanks' to the businesses who help publish this newsletter.

Things you may need to know:

Newsletter Deadline: 15th of the month

Bulletin Deadline: 12:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Submissions must be in writing—email preferred.

Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church
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Office Hours: M, W, Th 8 AM—4:30 PM Friday 8 AM—Noon

Attendance for December

	Trad	YT	Cont	YT*
12/7	17	3	57	5
12/14	23	2	30	6
12/21	36	3	44	4
12/24	113	29	Christmas Eve	
12/25	22	0	Christmas Day	
12/28	11	4	33	3

*YT YouTube number of devices online, not number of people.

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Editor: **Becky Tarts**

Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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President's Note

A new year always feels like a fresh start. It is a time to look back with gratitude and to look ahead with hope. As we begin this year together, it is a good moment to refocus our hearts on God and to remember that He walks with us into whatever the year may bring.

Our faith is not about making perfect resolutions or having everything figured out. It is about trusting God's grace and leaning on Him day by day. No matter how the past year went, God invites us again to hear His Word, to receive His forgiveness, and to grow together in faith.

I hope this year each of us will find simple ways to stay connected to God and to one another. That might mean being in worship more regularly, taking a little extra time for prayer, or finding a new way to serve and care for others. When we walk together in faith, even small steps can make a big difference.

I am thankful for each of you and for the way you support this congregation with your time, talents, and kindness. It is a blessing to serve alongside you. May this new year be filled with faith, encouragement, and the joy that comes from knowing we are never walking alone.

God's blessings to you and your family in the year ahead.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rich Kamiyama

Announcements from The Altar Guild BY GAYLENE SWANSON

It's time for the Altar Guild and any interested parties to meet and discuss the activities associated with the upcoming Lent and Easter services. We will meet in the Library on Sunday, February 8, following the 10:30 service. Let's all help that Sunday's team to clean up after the service so we can begin the meeting together. If you are unable to attend, please let Gaylene know.



Thinking
of you

Do you like keeping in touch with people?

Do you like bringing a smile to someone else's face?

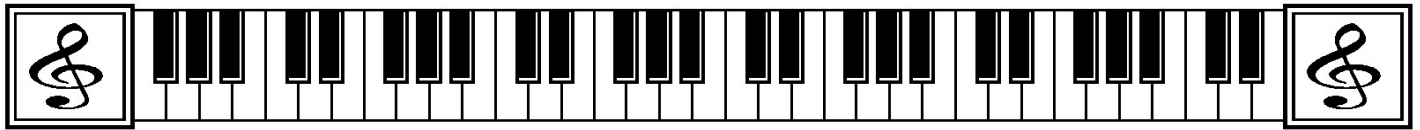
Do you want to help others know they are not forgotten?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, we want you!

We are looking for a few participants to help with a new outreach ministry here at Spirit of Our Savior.

For starters, we want to form a card writing group to send personalized notes and cards to homebound / facility bound congregation members. We will meet once a month starting in February.

Please contact Chris Arter at (909) 379-4523 if you are interested.



A Joyful Noise

This February, our Praise Band is excited to introduce several songs that carry powerful messages of faith, courage, and God's unwavering presence. Each one brings a unique voice to worship, and we hope the lyrics speak to your heart as we lift them together.

- Send Me (Bethel Music) – A bold anthem of surrender and purpose, this song is a heartfelt “yes” to God’s call. It reminds us that willingness is often the greatest step of obedience.
- Another in The Fire (Hillsong) – A reminder that we are never alone in trials, this song reflects the story of God standing with us in the flames. His presence is our protection, peace, and strength.
- What an Awesome God (Phil Wickham) – A declaration of God’s greatness and majesty, this song invites us to reflect on His power, holiness, and wonder. It’s simple, strong, and full of awe.
- My Lighthouse (Rend Collective) – Bright and joyful, this song celebrates God as our guiding light through every storm. He leads us, anchors us, and shines hope into the unknown.
- Who You Say I Am (Hillsong) – Though not brand new, it may be new to some of us! This worship favorite proclaims our identity as chosen, loved, and set free in Christ.
- Voice of Truth (Casting Crowns) – A lyrical encouragement to listen to God over fear, doubt, or insecurity. It calls us to trust the voice that speaks victory, not the voices that discourage.

We hope these songs refresh your worship and encourage your faith as we sing them throughout the month! Hopefully, you can listen to them ahead of time so you can sing along!

Just as we step into new songs this month, we encourage you to step into new ways of worship, discovering what helps your heart connect most deeply in praise. Worship looks and feels different for everyone, and that’s part of its beauty. Some raise their hands, some close their eyes, others place a hand over their heart, kneel, or simply

sing with intention. There is no single “right” posture of praise—just an authentic one. And if we’re honest, sometimes the most meaningful worship moments happen when we allow ourselves to step a little outside of what feels normal.

It’s okay to try something new. It’s okay to worship in a way you haven’t before. If raising your hands feels foreign, try it for one chorus. If you normally sing while reading lyrics, close your eyes for a moment and listen. If you’ve never placed a hand over your heart, let it be a physical reminder that worship is personal. Stepping out of our comfort zones isn’t about performance—it’s about discovering new ways to connect with our Awesome God. When we give ourselves permission to praise boldly, we may just find that worship changes us too.

Wherever you are on your worship journey, we encourage you to bring your voice, your heart, and maybe even a little brave curiosity this February. God is worthy of a joyful noise—in every style, and in every comfort zone.



Congregational Household Prayer list for February

Week 1: Richard & Lisa Gutierrez; BreeAnna Hale; Rebecca Hofflund; Bill & Tracy Hubbard, John & Susan Jay

Week 2: Rod & Jenny Jones; Rich & Amy Kamiyama; Lorna Kenney; Chris & Joan Knowles

Week 3: Kathy Langer, Marian Marshall, Gigi Meltzer, Ethel Mohler; Kay Mullen

Week 4: Emelie Neher, Ed & Chris Neighbors; Shirley Nelson;
Bob & Margaret Nilson; Eric & Heather Ogaz; Benton &
Orine Paine



St Patrick's Day Dinner and Auction Item Collection

Auction Item Collection begins on February 21st.

Please bring completed baskets (#1 below) or items to build baskets (#2) to the Parish Hall/Fireside Room no later than March 11.



Auction Item Requests/Ideas:

1. Completed Baskets with items included (suggestions):

- * Children's Baskets
- * Food/Wine Baskets
- * Spa Basket
- * Men's Basket
- * Women's Basket
- * Sports Basket
- * Garden Basket
- * Travel Basket

2. We will do all the work from purchasing items to assembling baskets. We just need your donations. Donations of gift cards or money towards purchase of items or supplying items for baskets:

- Food items (candy, spaghetti, sauces, oil and vinegar, spices)
- Children's items (toys, books, crayons, games)
- Women's items (lotions, bath products, spa items)
- Men's items (sports, tools)

If you need assistance with items or have questions, please contact Tracy Clifford.

Women of the Church News (WELCA) BY MELISSA ANDERSON

The following is an important thought shared by a friend.

"Be the reason why someone feels included, welcomed, supported, safe, and valued."

MARY BIBLE STUDY GROUP – We meet on the second Thursday of the month from 10:00 - 11:30 A.M. in the library (February 12th). The Winter 2026 Bible Study is entitled "Now Let Us Pray" by the Rev. Liv Larson Andrews. This is the final session of our two-part Bible Study on prayer and embodiment, a gift of our Christian tradition. This final session focuses on praying with the body of the Earth. Different settings often reveal God's presence and bring new insights whether indoors, outdoors, or any new setting. The study is from Gather Magazine and copies are duplicated for you, so you do not have to have the magazine to participate. **If anyone comes across another study they would like to try, let me know as our study does not have to be from this one source.** Come join us for Bible Study, fellowship, a cup of coffee and a snack.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD BIBLE STUDY GROUP – This group meets the 4th Thursday from 10:00 – 11:30 in the library (February 26th). We have not been able to meet for a few months, so we will continue to study The Pharisee and the Tax Collector from Luke 18:9-14. This lesson illustrates that God favors the humble over the proud. The lesson is from the book Parables: The Greatest Story Ever Told by John White. Copies of the lesson are duplicated so you do not have to have the book to come and join us for Bible Study, fellowship, and a cup of coffee.

REBECCA QUILTING GROUP – This group meets the 1st & 3rd Thursday from 10 – 3 in the Parish Hall (February 5th & 19th). If you would like, bring something to share for lunch, though it is not required. This is an important fellowship where we make quilts for those in need. This could be helping raise money for Lutheran Social Services of Southern California or donations of quilts to the Loma Linda Veterans Hospital. Even if you have never quilted before, I invite you to join us and learn something new as there are many different tasks that need to be done to complete each quilt. Come and stay for as long as your schedule allows.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP – We meet weekly from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. in the library and via Zoom. We are continuing our study during the Epiphany Season on the Revised Common Lectionary A, which involves reading the scripture and discussing important questions. Pastor Steve sends out information in an e-mail at the beginning of each study week. If you are not already on the list, let him know so you can be included. Also, copies of the lesson are available on the day of the study. I invite you to join us for the study led by Pastor Steve. If you want to join via Zoom the Meeting ID is 854-2429-7034 and the Passcode is 487951 for the study.

EVENTS / SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES / INFORMATION

***San Bernardino Community Wellness Campus (formerly known as Central City Lutheran Mission or CCLM)** – Currently they are not accepting any donations, but I understand they may be ready for us to get involved again in the next few months.

***The Spring Event** is Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Shepherd of the Valley, 10842 Fury Lane, La Mesa, which is close to central San Diego. The theme is "Spreading God's Love." Love Gifts will be collected for the Third Avenue Charitable Organization (T.A.C.O.), a 501©(3) organization. This group serves the local community and helps with housing, homelessness issues, and hunger. Items we are collecting are men's: 1) t-shirts, 2) white socks, and 3) underwear.

Registration forms will be out soon. The cost of the event is \$30.00. Scholarships are available. Watch for more details in the weekly church bulletin.

***Triennial Convention** is July 16 – 19, 2026, in Des Moines, Iowa. The theme is "I Am Worthy" from Psalm 139:14 which says, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." This is a reminder of God's promise to always be with us. By repeating the phrase "I am worthy," we can recognize the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in our lives. Scholarship help is available. Any questions, ask Viola Angebrandt or me.

***Check Out These On-line Sites:** Pacifica Synod Notes and Newsletter and Pacifica Synod Women of the ELCA Pacifica Partners are both available on Facebook. You may also email questions to the Pacifica WELCA President's e-mail at welca@verizon.net

Questions or Need More Information – Contact Melissa Anderson at 909-213-1059 or e-mail at custernut@aol.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/1 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S/PH
2/2 M	11:30 a.m.	Child Protection Committee, L
	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Dance, PH
2/3 Tu	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH
2/4 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
2/5 Th	10:00 a.m.	Rebecca Quilt Group, PH
2/8 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	12:00 p.m.	Altar Guild Meeting, L
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S/PH
2/9 M	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Dance, PH
2/10 Tu		Mary's Table
	8:00 a.m.	Lifeline Screening, PH
	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH
2/11 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
2/12 Th	10:00 a.m.	Mary Bible Study Group, L
2/15 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/Z
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S/PH
2/16 M	Presidents' Day - Campus Closed	
2/17 Tu		Mary's Table
	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH

2/18 W	Ash Wednesday	
	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
	11:30 a.m.	Drive-Thru Ash Imposition, PL
	6:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship, S/YT
2/19 Th	10:00 a.m.	Rebecca Quilt Group, PH
2/22 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S/PH
2/23 M	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Dance, PH
2/24 Tu	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH
2/25 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Supper and Study, PH
2/26 Th	10:00 a.m.	Light of the World, L
	6:00 p.m.	WPNA Meeting, PH

L: Library

PH: Parish Hall

PL: Parking Lot

S: Sanctuary

WPNA: Wildwood Park Neighborhood Association

YT: YouTube

Z: Zoom

Happy Birthday to . . .

1 – Bishop Wood

11 – Louis Asta

20 – Chris Gallegos

2 – Lillian Ball

11-Brook Green

29 – Kailey Brown

2 – Bev Wotnow

13 – David Mueller

9 – Joan Knowles

20 – Gene Diepholz

11– Breanna Assumma



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