

"From the Top"

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

Volume V, Issue 3

March 2026

Announcing the
St. Patrick's Dinner & Auction
Saturday, 3/14 from 5-9 PM

In the Parish Hall

Advance Dinner Reservations are encouraged so we know how much food to prepare.

Dinner Tickets are \$15 and include your dinner and door prize chance.

Dinner Tickets can be purchased on Sundays before/after worship and at the church office during regular office hours.

Inside this issue:

Church Leadership	2
Attendance Report	2
Pastor's Report	3
President's Note	4
Altar Guild Call for Help	5
Introducing Worship Guides	5
Stewardship Section	6
Household Prayer List	7
SBCUSD Outreach	7
A Joyful Noise	8
WELCA	9
Birthdays & Anniversaries	10
Calendar of Events	Insert

A limited amount of tickets will be available at the door.

Doors open at 5 with the meal being served at 6. The silent auction opens with the doors and the live "auction" will take place after the meal.

Auction tickets will be sold the night of the event

Auction tickets 1—\$1 7—\$5 15—\$10 40—\$20



Be sure to wear green and invite neighbors, friends or family members to enjoy the evening with you. All are welcome!

This is the biggest outreach fundraiser of the year.
Please come out and support.

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

P: (909) 882-5013 office@soslutheran.org

Office Hours: M, W, Th 8 AM—4:30 PM Friday 8 AM—Noon

Attendance for January

	Trad	YT	Cont	YT*
1/4	19	4	29	7
1/11	20	4	37	2
1/18	15	3	43	5
1/25			58	5

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

"From the Top"

Volume V - Issue 3

is a publication of

Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church

a 501(c)(3) corporation

5050 North Sierra Way

San Bernardino, California 92404-1136

Editor: **Becky Tarts**

Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

"From the Top" is published monthly courtesy of
www.4LPi.com

Hello Church –

As this month's newsletter arrives in your hands, Ash Wednesday has come and gone, and the Church is well into the Season of Lent. I don't know about the rest of you, but Lent *always* seems to sneak up on me. One minute we're still humming Christmas carols under our breath, and the next there's ash on our foreheads and the solemn words, *"Remember that you are dust."* It's a jolt. And it's meant to be.



In our denomination of Lutheranism, the ELCA, Lent is NOT a season of spiritual self-improvement or gloomy religious theatrics. It is a forty-day journey (not counting Sundays) that leads us honestly and tenderly toward the cross. We begin on Ash Wednesday and walk together toward Holy Week and ultimately Easter. Along the way, we hear again who we are – and whose we are.

Lent tells the truth about us. We are dust. We are mortal. We are sinners in need of mercy. That can sound heavy, but there is strange freedom in it. We don't have to pretend. We don't have to polish ourselves up for God. The ashes on our foreheads aren't a mark of shame; they're a sign of honesty. They say, *"God already knows."* And still – God loves. Traditionally, Lent invites us into practices of prayer, fasting, and generosity. Not to earn God's favor, but to clear space in our lives. Space to listen. Space to repent. Space to notice where we have wandered and to hear again the promise spoken over us in baptism. In a culture that moves fast and distracts easily, Lent slows us down on purpose.

For Lutherans, repentance is not groveling – it's turning. Turning back to the God who runs toward us in mercy. Every Sunday in Lent is still a "little Easter," a reminder that even as we face the cross, resurrection is already at work. We do not walk this road alone. Christ goes ahead of us and walks beside us. Lent, then, is not about proving our devotion. It is about being drawn more deeply into the heart of God. It is about learning again to trust grace. As we gather for worship, share simple meals, serve neighbors, and pray with honest hearts, the Spirit is shaping us – softening what has grown hard, rekindling what has grown dim.

As we gather together on Wednesday evenings during Lent for soup and conversation, this year we are taking a long and engaging look at "By Heart", a modern look at Martin Luther's Small Catechism. This work, in particular, is very central to and what we are as Lutherans – and all are welcome to participate.

Forty days. A journey through dust and mercy. And at the end, an empty tomb. That is where Lent is always leading us.

iGg,
Steve

Pastor Steve

President's Note

As we move into March, we also enter the season of Lent. Lent is a special time in the church year that invites us to slow down, reflect, and intentionally turn our hearts toward God.

Many of us think of Lent as a time to give something up. While that practice can be meaningful, I invite you to think about the purpose behind it. Giving something up can create time and space in our lives. That space can then be used to focus more fully on God and our relationship with Him.

Perhaps that time could be spent praying, reading your Bible, listening to a faith-based podcast or Christian music, or simply sitting quietly with God. These moments do not need to be long or complicated. What matters is the intention to pause and invite God into our daily routines.

Lent can also be a meaningful time to prayerfully consider the callings God may be placing on your heart. You might feel led to serve in one of the ministries here at church, whether it is helping with worship, fellowship, outreach, education, or behind the scenes support. Every act of service, large or small, helps strengthen our church community and reflects God's love in action.

Lent is not about doing everything perfectly. It is about being open, reflective, and willing to grow. As a congregation, we walk this season together, supporting one another and preparing our hearts for the joy and hope of Easter.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your presence, and the many ways you contribute to life at Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church. May this Lenten season be a time of renewal, deeper faith, and a closer walk with God.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rich Kamiyama

Announcements from The Altar Guild BY GAYLENE SWANSON

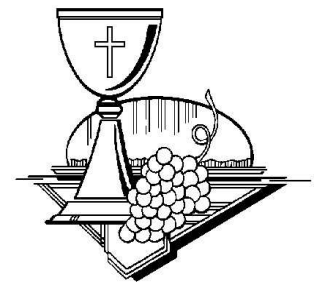
HELP WANTED... in adorning the Sanctuary for Easter morning.

In addition to the customary display of Easter lilies, the Altar Guild would appreciate any home-grown **calla lilies** to use for the Easter Sunday services. If you have calla lilies in good condition the week before Easter, please contact Gaylene Swanson (call or text) at (909) 522-6745.

Donations of **Easter lilies** are also needed. Cost will most likely be \$10/plant; if more, see price on specially marked envelopes in the Narthex, along with dedication forms if you choose to acknowledge someone with your donation.

Easter lilies can be ordered through March 29, and will be available to take home after the 10:30 service on April 5. Cost of plants is **not** tax deductible.

Thank you in advance for the help and support.



Introducing New “Worship Guides”

You may begin noticing QR codes appearing on the worship slides in the coming weeks at both services. These codes link to short, easy-to-read Worship Guides—brief reflections that explain aspects of our service and our Lutheran identity. Each guide answers a simple question: *Why do we (Lutherans) do what we do?* or *Who are we as a Church?* Topics include Communion, Baptism, liturgy, music, worship styles, and more.

These guides are designed especially with visitors in mind. Many people are curious about worship but may not feel comfortable asking questions out loud. By offering a familiar technological tool—a quick scan on a phone—we provide a welcoming and accessible way to learn more. We hope members will explore them as well, deepening their own understanding and even sharing them with others. Throughout the service, keep an eye on the slides and take a moment to scan. These Worship Guides are one more way we live out our calling to be a Church that is rooted in faith, open in spirit, and transparent about what we believe and why we practice it so that everyone who joins us in worship can understand and fully participate.

STEWARDSHIP = TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, AND PRAYER

We have all heard the Stewardship appeals regarding our time, talents and treasures, but when was the last time you really examined how you were using your three T's?

Time

While time is constant, it seems to go too fast or too slow or that we don't have enough of it or have too much of it on our hands. The question is how are you using your time and how much of it is in worship and service to God? I can't answer that question for you, but you can. Can you be an usher, reader, communion assistant Sunday morning? Can you help volunteer to assist at a special function like the St. Patrick's Day dinner? There are many opportunities to serve. Ask yourself, what can I do to serve?

Talent

We all have different God given talents. What's yours? Perhaps you haven't even discovered it yet. Again, ask yourself, what can I do to serve. Hint: age is not an excuse, no matter how old or young you are, there is a place for you to serve.

Treasures

This is where I put my Treasurer's hat on top of the Stewardship one that I also wear. Give from the first fruits, rather than what's left over. Basically, everything we have is from God and so we should give back to Him first. If you aren't giving this way, I urge you to try it for a month or two and see the difference it makes. If you are tithing (giving 10%) then live off the remaining 90% for the month. If giving a different percentage of your income, the concept is the same. You might have to make some choices to give this way, but God will provide for your needs but you may have to adjust your wants! In my opinion and experience, once Melissa and I started giving this way it became a joyful way of giving and not a burdensome one.

Treasurer's Update

2026 Giving Through January 30

	Budget Year-To-Date	Giving Year-To-Date	Plus/(Minus)
Offering Envelopes	\$20,333.33	\$14,504.00	(\$5,829.33)
Loose Offerings	\$1,250.00	\$435.00	(\$815.00)
Electronic Offerings	\$1,250.00	\$1,596.48	\$346.48
TOTAL	\$22,833.33	\$16,535.48	(\$6,297.85)

Peace,

Kurt Anderson

Congregational Household Prayer list for March

Week 1: James & Judi Penman; Margie Penman Edwards; Jim Petrucci; Andrea Portsche; Melba Saucier; Donald & Ardella Schmidt

Week 2: Megan Schmitz; Paul & June Schmitz; Joyce Seeger; Matthew Seeger; Rachel Shay

Week 3: Geoge & Jasmine Simmons; Warlock & Diane Sinclair; Solar Family; David Sparks; Bill & Gaylene Swanson; Becky Tarts

Week 4: Richard Tomasso; John & Bertie Vanettes; Mary West; Amy Williams; Bishop Wood; Bev Wotnow; Herman Zietlow

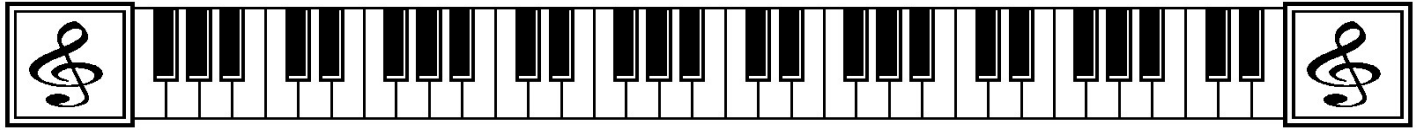


SBCUSD Outreach Opportunity

We are excited to partner once again with the San Bernardino City Unified School District, this time to support the 4th grade students at Marshall Elementary School as they prepare for state testing. Testing season can bring pressure and anxiety, and we want these students to know they are seen, supported, and capable.

In late March, we will be providing small "Testing Encouragement Baskets" for each 4th grader. These baskets will include snacks, new socks, fidget-style sensory items to help with focus, and most importantly, handwritten notes of encouragement from our congregation — simple messages that say, "You can do this!" and "We believe in you." Our goal is to surround these students with heartfelt affirmation during an important time in their school year.

There will be opportunities to contribute through item donations, monetary gifts, and by writing notes of encouragement. More details about specific needs and collection dates will be shared soon. Thank you for being a church that shows up for our community in tangible, hope-filled ways!



A Joyful Noise

As we enter the season of Lent, our worship takes on a quieter and more thoughtful tone. Lent is a sacred pause, a time to slow down, reflect, and prepare our hearts. It invites us to examine where we are, lay down distractions, and draw nearer to Christ. It is not simply a countdown to Easter, but a journey inward filled with humility, surrender, and renewed devotion.

The songs we are introducing this month help guide us along that path:

Testify by NEEDTOBREATHE Even in a reflective season, this song invites us to boldly declare God's faithfulness and share the story of what He has done in our lives.

Living Water by Anne Wilson A gentle reflection on Christ as the One who truly satisfies the thirst of our souls and renews us from within.

RATTLE by Elevation Worship A powerful declaration that the same power that raised up dry bones is still breathing life into hearts that feel weary or worn.

Rise Up Lazarus by CAIN Inspired by the story of Lazarus, this song proclaims that Jesus still calls us out of what binds us and into freedom and new beginnings.

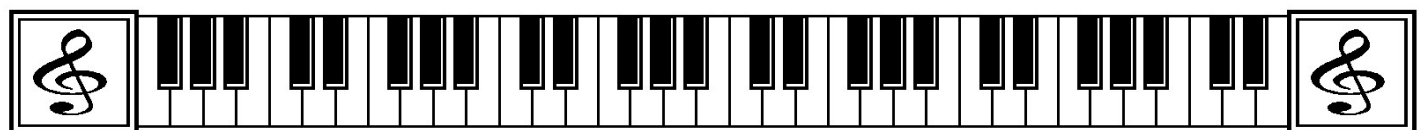
Because He Lives Amen by Matt Maher A steady affirmation of hope. Because He lives, we can face each day with courage and peace.

Glorious Day by Passion A joyful celebration of being called out of darkness and into the light of salvation.

During Lent, we are invited to consider a simple question. What does worship truly mean to you? Is it surrender? Gratitude? Stillness? Trust? Perhaps it is simply showing up with an open heart.

Worship is more than music. It is our response to love that was poured out for us. This season offers space to build on that response. Maybe it means listening more closely to the lyrics. Maybe it means spending a few quiet moments in prayer before the first chord is played. Maybe it means allowing yourself to be still and simply receive.

Lent gently leads us toward the cross, toward the place where love was fully displayed and grace was freely given. As we sing in the weeks ahead, may our worship prepare our hearts, deepen our gratitude, and draw our eyes to the sacrifice that changed everything.



Women of the Church News (WELCA) BY MELISSA ANDERSON

Consider, "Today we pray for peace in our minds, peace in our hearts, peace in our bodies, peace in our homes, peace in our neighborhoods, peace in our schools, peace in our churches, peace in our nation, peace in our government, peace in our courts, peace in our world. AMEN."

MARY BIBLE STUDY GROUP – We meet on the second Thursday of the month from 10:00 - 11:30 A.M. in the library (March 12th). The Spring 2026 Bible Study is entitled "I Am: God's holy name and promise, a three-part study by the Rev. Hannah Hawkinson. "In session one we look at bread, wine, and light: Abiding with us from (John 6, 8, and 15). We begin this session by routing and grounding ourselves in the story of Moses and the Burning Bush, learning about God's holy name. 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 (March 26th). We have not been able to meet for a while, 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 (March 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 different kinds of quilts for those in need. It also involves helping to raise money for Lutheran Social Services of Southern California by the sale of quilts on Thankoffering Sunday or by donating quilts not sold 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 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 Lenten 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)** – They are just beginning to allow churches cook and serve dinner. Watch for more details or contact Chris Arter.

***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." We have been collecting Love Gifts 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 being collected are men's: 1) white t-shirts, 2) men's white socks, and 3) men's white underwear.

Registration forms are in the narthex. The cost of the event is \$30.00. Scholarships are available. Registration forms can be e-mailed in, and payment is made at the door.

***Triennial Convention** is July 16 – 19, 2026, in Des Moines, Iowa. The theme is "I Am Worthy" from

Happy Birthday to . . .

5 – Gary Eisenbeisz 19 – Viola Angebrandt 30 – Brooke Baker

6 – John Jay 19 – Benton Paine

8 – Jeremy Gutierrez 21 – Rich Kamiyama

9 – Ethel Mohler 23 – George Simmons

11 – Ardella Schmidt 25 – Scarlett Cervantes

12 – Alice Chapman 28 – Margie Penman Edwards

15 – Karen Brossia 29 – Paulette Finneseth

16-Gaylene Swanson 30 – Terri Assumma

Happy Anniversary to . . .

19 – Ed & Chris Neighbors



More than 30 Years
Experience
Serving the
Inland Empire



Erick's Landscape

Professional, dependable service!

Phone (909) 783-2547

(909) 882-1064

- Commercial
- Lawn Service
- Sprinklers
- Experience
- Residential
- Clean Ups
- Drainage System
- Sod Installation

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Community!

Instantly create and
purchase an ad with

AD CREATOR STUDIO



lpicommunities.com/adcreator



ARE YOU REACHING THE MEMBERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

To advertise here
visit lpicommunities.com/adcreator



1299 E. Highland Avenue, San Bernardino

(909) 882-3761

FD# 1133 www.bobbittchapel.com

DONEGAN TREE SERVICE

- TREE TRIMMING • TOPPING • THINNING
- FRUIT TREE PRUNNING • TREE REMOVAL • STUMP GRINDING
- FIREWOOD • PALM TREE SPECIALIST • WEED ABATEMENT



RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

We'll beat any competitor's price by 10%

St. Con. Lic # 628505

Now accepting

VISA

Office: (909) 887-3822

Office: (909) 889-4304 Call 24 Hours a Day

Cell: (909) 754-6457

Fax: (909) 887-3460



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Advertise in our Newsletter!

CONTACT ME
Marcia Boswell

MBoswell@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x2246

ADVERTISE HERE

to reach your community



Call 800-950-9952



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

Lutheran Church Of Our Savior, San Bernardino, CA

A B/W 05-1841

Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church, ELCA
5050 N. Sierra Way
San Bernardino, CA 92404

Phone: 909-882-5013
E-mail: office@soslutheran.org

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
San Bernardino, CA
Permit #1315



Address Service Requested

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

