

"From the Top"

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

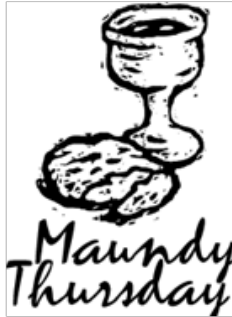
Volume V, Issue 4

April 2026

Easter is near!

Maundy Thursday, 4/2

6 p.m. Worship S/YT



Good Friday, 4/3

6 p.m. Worship S/YT

Inside this issue:

Church Leadership	2
Attendance Report	2
Pastor's Report	3
President's Note	4
Congregation Support	5
A Joyful Noise	5
Household Prayer List	7
Treasurer's update	7
WELCA	8
Calendar of Events	10
Birthdays & Anniversaries	10

Easter Sunday, 4/5

8:00-10:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the Parish Hall

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship S/YT

9:45 a.m. Egg Hunt

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship S/YT



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

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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 February

	Trad	YT	Cont	YT*
2/1	21	NA	41	12
2/8	15	0	44	4
2/15	24	4	33	5
2/18	Ash Wed		36	
2/22	23	4	43	2
2/25	Midweek 1		22	

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

**“From the Top”
Volume V - Issue 4**

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Spirit of Our Savior Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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Hello Church –

As this month's newsletter arrives in your hands we are blessed to proclaim, *"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"* These words are more than a joyful greeting exchanged on Easter morning. They are the proclamation at the very heart of the Christian faith. Without Easter, there is no Christianity. Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the cross would only be a tragic ending. But on the third day, God revealed that the cross was not defeat – it was victory.



On Good Friday, Jesus carried the full weight of our sin. He bore our guilt, our shame, and the judgment we deserved. As Lutherans, we confess that salvation is entirely God's work for us. We could never earn it, achieve it, or repair our broken relationship with God by our own effort. Instead, Christ stepped into our place. The Lamb of God took away the sin of the world.

But Easter morning tells us something even greater: the sacrifice was accepted. When the women came to the tomb, they expected to find death. Instead they found the stone rolled away and the angel announcing, *"He is not here; He has risen!"* In that moment, death itself was overturned. The grave could not hold the Son of God. The power of sin was broken, and the promise of eternal life was secured.

For us, Easter is not simply the remembrance of a miracle long ago. It is the foundation of our hope today. Because Christ lives, we know that forgiveness is real. Because Christ lives, we know that death is not the final word. Because Christ lives, we know that God keeps His promises.

This promise was given to us personally in Holy Baptism. Scripture tells us that in baptism we are united with Christ in His death and resurrection (Romans 6:4). That means Easter is not just Christ's victory – it is our victory as well. The same Lord who walked out of the tomb has claimed us as His own and promised that we, too, will rise.

Yet Easter also shapes how we live right now. The risen Christ meets us in His Word and in His Sacraments. He strengthens us with forgiveness, renews our faith, and sends us back into the world as witnesses to His mercy. In a world often marked by fear, grief, and uncertainty, Christians live with a different perspective: we know the ending of the story. The resurrection reminds us that God specializes in bringing life out of death. Where there is despair, He creates hope. Where there is brokenness, He brings restoration. Where there is sin, He gives forgiveness.

So as we celebrate this holy season, we do so with joy that reaches far beyond one Sunday morning. Easter is the assurance that Christ reigns, that His grace is sufficient, and that nothing—not even death—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

iGg,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve".

Pastor Steve

President's Note

As we enter the month of April, our hearts and minds naturally turn toward the most meaningful time in the Christian year. Holy Week invites us to walk once again through the powerful story of our faith. We remember Jesus' humble entry into Jerusalem, His sacrifice on the cross, and the incredible promise that comes with the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Easter reminds us that our faith is rooted in hope, renewal, and victory through Christ. The resurrection is not only a moment we celebrate once a year. It is the foundation of the joy we carry with us every day. Because Christ is risen, we are reminded that God's love is stronger than sin, stronger than fear, and stronger than death.

It continues to be a true privilege for me to serve as your congregation president here at Spirit of Our Savior. Over the past several weeks I have noticed something very encouraging within our church family. Attendance has been growing and there is a renewed sense of excitement and energy among our members. It is wonderful to see so many familiar faces in worship along with a few new friends joining us. The warmth, faith, and fellowship that define our congregation are clearly visible.

Moments like these remind us that God is actively at work within our church. Each person who walks through our doors brings gifts, encouragement, and opportunities to grow together in faith. Thank you for the many ways you support the life of our congregation through worship, service, prayer, and friendship.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, I encourage each of you to take time to reflect on the incredible gift we have been given through Jesus Christ. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you for worship. Reach out to someone who may need encouragement. Share the joy of the resurrection with those around you.

Spirit of Our Savior is a special place because of the people who make up this church family. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside all of you. May this Easter season fill your hearts with renewed faith, hope, and joy.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

Blessings to you all!

Rich Kamiyama

Congregation Support Updates

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

Come and join us for a delicious breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026. Bring the kids and enjoy watching them hunt for eggs after breakfast. Come early or stay late, for Easter worship.

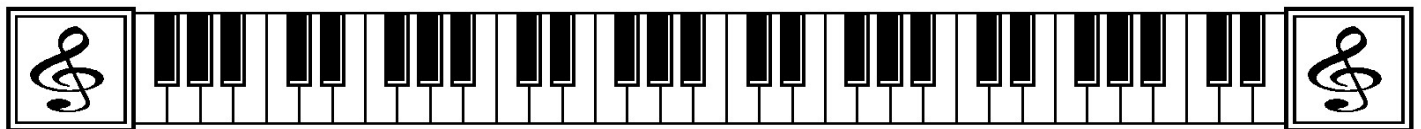
Movie Night

It is time again to start working on our annual movie night (s). Unfortunately, we do not have the interest from our congregation to make it happen. If you are interested in chairing this community oriented event, please see Laura Davis.



Loose \$1 Bills in the Offering Plate

Beginning April 1 the Church Council has decided that the loose \$1 bills will be designated toward sending our confirmands to Confirmation Camp. We would gladly accept additional funds for this cause directly. Simply write "Confirmation Camp" on your envelope and/or the memo line on your check.



A Joyful Noise

As we arrive at Easter, our worship becomes a celebration of the greatest victory in history. After walking through the season of Lent with reflection and preparation, Easter reminds us why we worship with such joy and gratitude. The tomb is empty. Christ is risen. Hope is alive.

Easter is not only a single Sunday on the calendar. The Easter season is a time for us to continue living in the joy and power of the resurrection. It invites us to carry that celebration forward into the weeks that follow. Our songs, our prayers, and our time together in worship become an ongoing response to what Christ has done.

During this season, you may notice the music reflecting themes of new life, freedom, and victory. These songs help us remember that the resurrection was not only an event long ago, but a living reality that continues to shape our faith today. Because

Jesus rose, we have hope. Because He lives, we have purpose. Because He conquered death, we can worship with confidence and joy.

The songs we are introducing this season help us celebrate that truth:

Sunday Is Coming - Phil Wickham A powerful declaration of the resurrection story, reminding us that even when things seem dark, God's victory is already on the way.

Glorious Day - Passion A joyful celebration of salvation that proclaims how Christ called us out of darkness and into His glorious light.

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love This classic hymn calls us to live out our faith through love, showing the world the transforming power of Christ in our lives.

Word of God Speak - MercyMe A quiet and reflective prayer asking God to silence distractions so that His voice can guide our hearts and lives.

Lay Me Down - Chris Tomlin A song of surrender that invites us to lay down our own desires and choose to follow Christ with joy.

Build My Life - Pat Barrett A prayer of devotion that centers our lives on the love of Jesus and asks Him to shape everything we are.

The Table of the Lord - Hope Darst A reminder that we are invited to gather at Christ's table where grace, forgiveness, and belonging are freely given.

As you gather for worship in the weeks ahead, consider what the resurrection means for you personally. How does the truth of Easter shape the way you worship? Perhaps it inspires gratitude. Perhaps it fills your heart with peace. Perhaps it moves you to sing with greater joy.

However you express it, Easter invites us to respond with worship. Not just with our voices, but with our hearts, our lives, and our gratitude for the Savior who gave everything so that we could have life.

Christ is risen. And that truth will always be worthy of our worship.



Congregational Household Prayer list for April

Week 1: Raymond Allen; Andrew Anderson; Kurt & Melissa Anderson; Pastor Steve & Arlea Anderson; Elizabeth Anderson-Kennedy

Week 2: Viola Angebrandt; Joe & Margie Arnett; Kiran Arter; Assumma Family; Brenda & Louis Asta; Chris Baer Arter

Week 3: Lillian Ball; Tim & Julie Ball; Joseph & Marlene Balli; Allen Bartleman; Bob & Connie Bell; Gilbert Beltran

Week 4: Karen Blake; Brett & Karen Brossia; Dick & Martha Brossia; Jill Catlin; Alice Chapman; Jorge & Jennifer Cervantes



Treasurer's Update

Each month I will share a snapshot of our giving through our Sunday offerings. After the end of each quarter, I will provide a summary of both revenue and expenditures compared to each other and to the year-to-date church budget. I will also provide a quarterly update on our designated funds.

2026 Giving Through February

	Giving Year-To-Date	Budget Year-To-Date	Plus/(Minus)
Offering Envelopes	\$35,274.00	\$40,666.66	(\$5,392.66)
Loose Offerings	\$445.00	\$2,500.00	(\$2,055.00)
Electronic Offerings	\$3,805.36	\$2,500.00	\$1,305.36
TOTAL	\$39,524.36	\$45,666.66	(\$6,142.30)

At any time, if you have any questions regarding the church's finances, please contact me at treasurer@soslutheran.org or by texting me at 909-553-3070.

Peace,

Kurt Anderson

Women of the Church News (WELCA) BY MELISSA ANDERSON

Zoe Zantamata is an experienced author with a demonstrated history of work in the self-help industry. She is inspirational with a genuine love for people. She has said, "It is easy to judge. It is more difficult to understand. Understanding requires compassion, patience, and a willingness to believe that good hearts sometimes choose poor methods. Through judging, we separate. Through understanding, we grow."

MARY BIBLE STUDY GROUP – We meet on the second Thursday of the month from 10:00 - 11:30 A.M. in the library (April 9th). The Spring 2026 Bible Study is entitled "I Am: God's holy name and promise, a three-part study by the Rev. Hannah Hawkinson. We will combine sessions one and two. In session one we look at bread, wine, and light: Abiding with us from (John 6, 8, and 15). In session two we will study Gate and Shepherd: Guiding and Protecting us (John 10). Here we build on the dimension of God's abiding love and protection. 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. **You will be notified if the time and location are changed.**

LIGHT OF THE WORLD BIBLE STUDY GROUP – This group meets the 4th Thursday from 10:00 – 11:30 in the library (April 23rd). 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 or we will continue with future lessons from our book of study. 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 (April 2nd & 16th). **You will be notified if there are any changes in dates due to Holy Week and Easter.** 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 Holy Week and Pentecost 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 beginning to allow churches cook and serve dinner. Watch for more details or contact Chris. Arter.

***The Spring Event** was Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Shepherd of the Valley, 10842 Fury Lane, La Mesa. The theme was "Spreading God's Love." The Bible Study was led by Pastor Marcus Lohrmann from the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke and the differences in describing the ministry of Jesus. The guest speaker was Pastor Adham. He spoke about his path to ministry and his life as a Christian in Palestine living in the Gaza Strip.

Thank you to everyone who donated Love Gifts for the Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO). A speaker from the group spoke on providing resources to 1,700 individuals last year at First Lutheran in San Diego. This location provides proof of residence for a variety of benefits and deliveries. Last year 35,757 meals were served, about 500 per week to men and women. Not all people receiving services are homeless but just need extra help.

The silent auction raised \$337 for scholarships for women going into ministry, synodical conventions, and Spring Events. An offering of \$500 was received that will go to help our churchwide organization, Pacifica WELCA, TACO, Bethlehem Lutheran @ St. John Lutheran and the gathering church for custodial and technical support.

***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. See the Information in Pacifica Partners in the Narthex on the Wittenburg Wall

***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

4/1 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
4/2 Th		Maundy Thursday
	10:00 a.m.	Rebecca Quilt Group, PH
	6:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship, S/YT
4/3 F		Good Friday
	6:00 p.m.	Good Friday Worship, S/YT
4/5 Su		Easter Sunday
	8:00 a.m.	Easter Breakfast, PH/K
	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	9:45 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S
4/6 M		Easter Monday - Campus Closed
4/7 Tu		Mary's Table
	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH
4/8 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
4/9 Th	10:00 a.m.	Mary Bible Study Group, L
4/11 Sa		Halloway Celebration, PH

IMCR: Irmal Miller Conference Room

K: Kitchen

L: Library

PH: Parish Hall

S: Sanctuary

YT: YouTube

Z: Zoom

Happy Birthday to . . .

4 - Viviana Jimenez-Corey

6 – Rod Jones

11 – Barb Frey

12 – Elizabeth Anderson-Kennedy

13 – Nicho Rodriguez

16 – Megan Schmitz

17 – Mason Corey

19 – Dave Clark

19 – Ryan Schmitz

22 – Katherine Eisenbeisz

23 – Jenny Jones

28 – Andrew Anderson

4/12 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S
4/13 M	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Dance, PH
4/14 Tu		Mary's Table
	5:00 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee, Z
	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH
4/15 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
4/16 Th	10:00 a.m.	Rebecca Quilt Group, PH
	6:00 p.m.	WPNA Meeting, PH
4/18 Sa		Via de Cristas Training, S/PH/L
4/19 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	12:30 p.m.	Church Council, IMCR
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S
4/20 M	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Dance, PH
4/21 Tu	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH
	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leaders, IMCR
4/22 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z
4/23 Th	10:00 a.m.	Light of the World, L
	6:00 p.m.	4th Ward Candidate Forum, PH
4/25 Sa		HKBP Wedding, S/PH
4/26 Su	8:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship, S/YT
	10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship, S/YT
	1:00 p.m.	HKBP, S
4/27 M	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Dance, PH
4/28 Tu	5:15 p.m.	Young Champions Cheer, PH
4/29 W	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study, L/Z

Happy Anniversary to . . .

13 – Rod & Jenny Jones

19 – Jim and Judi Penman

21 – Gordon and Crystal Gertner



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

