



# HELLO *march*

# The Messenger

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

March, 2025

## Mark Your Calendars!

- March 2- Sunday Worship w/o Communion
- March 5- Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 p.m.
- March 9- Sunday Worship with Communion
- March 10- Monday Night Communion Service at 5:00 p.m.
- March 12- Midweek Lent Service at 6:00 p.m.
- March 16- Sunday Worship w/o Communion
- March 19- Midweek Lent Service at 6:00 p.m.
- March 23- Sunday Worship Service with Communion
- March 26- Midweek Lent Service at 6:00 p.m.
- March 30- Sunday Worship w/o Communion

## Bible Studies at Church

- TAWG: (time away with God):** evening Bible study Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- Ladies' Bible Study:** Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday Bible Study:** Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Bible Adult Bible Discussion:** Sunday Mornings at 10:15 a.m.

## Miss something from the Sermon?

All of our worship services are livestreamed and archived on our Facebook page! You can also find them on our website at [www.orknoxin.com](http://www.orknoxin.com)



## Welcome!

To our March Church Newsletter! As we embrace the warmth and fellowship of our church community. We invite you to join us in worship and celebration as we continue our journey of faith together.

In the coming weeks, you can look forward to inspiring sermons, engaging Bible studies, and opportunities for fellowship. Our doors are open to all, regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey. Whether you seek solace, guidance, or simply a place to belong, we invite you to explore the warmth and acceptance of our congregation.

Let's come together in faith, love, and service. Your presence and participation make our church family complete. Welcome home!

*Pastor Eric*



The month of March brings with it the Church Season of Lent, so let's talk a little bit about Lent:

**1. What IS Lent?** Here's a quick summary from our denomination's website:

Early in the Church's history, the major events in Christ's life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, baptism, death, resurrection, and ascension.

As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well.

By not using the alleluia — a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" — until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year.

Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday.

This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Rom. 6:1-11).

This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.

**2. Mid-week Services:** To assist you in observing Lent, Our Redeemer will be holding mid-week Lenten Services. Our mid-week theme this year is "Shadows of the Cross: The Cross of Jesus Foreshadowed in the Old Testament." Service will be held on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. beginning with Ash Wednesday (March 5<sup>th</sup>). We will use the Order of Vespers.

**3. Sunday Theme:** Our Sunday Services will be following the theme, "*Walking the Hard Road: When Faith is Challenged.*" Each Sunday we'll be looking at various challenges we all face in our faith and how to overcome them.

**4. QUESTION: Do Lutherans *have* to give up something for Lent? Again, from [lcms.org](http://lcms.org):**

From the perspective of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, "giving something up for Lent" is entirely a matter of Christian freedom. It would be wrong, from our perspective, for the church to make some sort of "law" requiring its members to "give something up for Lent," since the Scriptures themselves do not require this.

If, on the other hand, a Christian wants to give something up for Lent as a way of remembering and personalizing the great sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for our sins, then that Christian is certainly free to do so— as long as he or she does not "judge" or "look down on" other Christians who do not choose to do this.

Lent is as time for reflection, a time of carefully considering all that our Lord went through to secure our forgiveness and salvation, and for those who wish, a time for practicing certain spiritual disciplines (the tradition are prayer, fasting and works of service). It's a time to prepare for the joy of Easter, when our Lord overcame death itself in His glorious resurrection.

May the good Lord bless you in your Lenten observances!

With You In Christ,

Pastor Eric Gawura



## March 17<sup>th</sup> is St. Patrick's Day. Here's a brief bio of His Life and Ministry

### Saint Patrick's Story

Legends about Patrick abound; but truth is best served by our seeing two solid qualities in him: He was humble and he was courageous. The determination to accept suffering and success with equal indifference guided the life of God's instrument for winning most of Ireland for Christ.

Details of his life are uncertain. Current research places his dates of birth and death a little later than earlier accounts. Patrick may have been born in Dunbarton, Scotland, Cumberland, England, or in northern Wales. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. At 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold.

After six years Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of 22. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at Lerins, off the French coast; he spent years at Auxerre, France, and was consecrated bishop at the age of 43. His great desire was to proclaim the good news to the Irish.

In a dream vision it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north—where the faith had never been preached—obtained the protection of local kings, and made numerous converts.

Because of the island's pagan background, Patrick was emphatic in encouraging widows to remain chaste and young women to consecrate their virginity to Christ. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ.

He suffered much opposition from pagan druids and was criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission. In a relatively short time, the island had experienced deeply the Christian spirit, and was prepared to send out missionaries whose efforts were greatly responsible for Christianizing Europe.

Patrick was a man of action, with little inclination toward learning. He had a rock-like belief in his vocation, in the cause he had espoused. One of the few certainly authentic writings is his *Confessio*, above all an act of homage to God for having called Patrick, unworthy sinner, to the apostolate.

There is hope rather than irony in the fact that his burial place is said to be in County Down in Northern Ireland, long the scene of strife and violence.



## Ash Wednesday Service

We invite you to join us for our Ash Wednesday service on **Wednesday, March 5th at 6:00 PM**. Let us come together as we begin our Lenten journey, reflecting and preparing our hearts for the season ahead. We hope to see you there!

## Midweek Lenten Services

Join us for our Midweek Lenten Services as we continue our journey through this holy season. Services will be held at **6:00 PM** on the following dates:

- **March 12**
- **March 19**
- **March 26**
- **April 2**
- **April 9**



We look forward to gathering with you for a time of reflection and spiritual growth.



## Spring Rummage Sale

Please join us for our annual Spring Rummage sale! The Rummage Sale will take place on Friday March 28th between 8:00-3:00 p.m. and then again on Saturday March 29th between 8:00-1:00 p.m. We've got a little something for everyone so be sure to stop by and check us out!

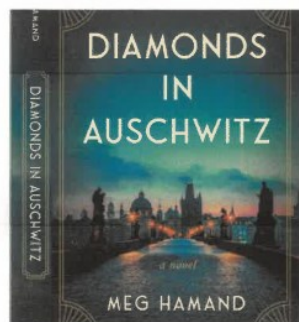
## What's on the Bulletin Board?!?

In case you haven't stopped by the Bulletin Board by the church office lately, here's something you'll definitely want to check out! Did you know our very own **Megan Hamand** has written a book? It's true – **Diamonds in Auschwitz** is set to release on **March 11, 2025**, and we have the incredible opportunity to support Megan in this amazing accomplishment!

To celebrate her book launch, Megan will be at **Rabbit Coffee Roasting Company** on **Saturday, March 29**, from **1-3 p.m.**, and she will also be doing an **Author Reading at 1:30 p.m.**. This is a wonderful chance to show Megan some love and support as she embarks on this exciting new chapter in her life.

Let's come together as a church family and make sure Megan knows we are cheering her on every step of the way! We are so proud of her and can't wait to celebrate this milestone.

See you there!



# BOOK LAUNCH

Written by Meg Hamand



**SATURDAY**  
**29 MARCH 2025**



**1-3 PM CST**  
**AUTHOR READING AT**  
**1:30 PM**



**RABBIT COFFEE**  
**ROASTING COMPANY**  
**10 S. MAIN STREET**  
**KNOX, IN**



AUTHOR OF  
**DIAMONDS IN**  
**AUSCHWITZ**

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.meghamandauthor.com/>



## Special Days in March

Transfiguration Sunday– **March 2**

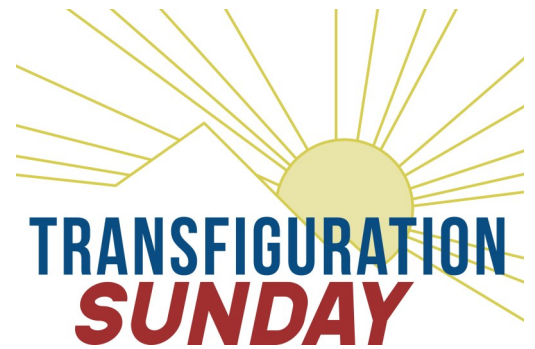
Ash Wednesday– **March 5**

World Day of Prayer– **March 7**

Daylight-Saving Time Begins– **March 9**

St. Patrick's Day– **March 17**

Frist Day of Spring– **March 20**



Welcome  
Spring



### Spring Ahead!

Be sure to set your clocks up an hour ahead on Saturday March 8th. Otherwise it will be the first time ever that you will be early to Church haha just kidding, but please don't forget to change your clocks.

## Want to make a real difference?

Some of our members are unable to drive, and you can make a real difference in their lives by volunteering as an ORLC Bus Driver. Alternatively, if you'd prefer to drive your own car and offer a ride to someone, that is also a wonderful option. If you'd like to help, please reach out to Pastor Eric or Diane



**Bus  
Drivers**

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

### Calling All Crafters & Bakers:

The Food Pantry of ORLC will be sponsoring its Second Annual Craft & Bake Sale on



**Saturday, April 5th** with most of the proceeds donated to the church. If you are interested in using your talents to support this cause, please sign-up. The sign-up sheets for this event are posted in the Fellowship Hall. A list of suggested baked items will also be posted. Your donations of baked and crafted items helped make last years sale a huge success! Please consider



helping again this year! With all of us working together we will have an awesome Craft and Bake Sale.



ORLC Food Pantry is participating in the Our Family® Direct Your Labels™ program, and we hope you will help us as we collect UPC barcodes from all your favorite Our Family brand products.

Each time we collect 500 UPC barcodes, we can turn those labels into \$25 for our Food Pantry. And with more than 1,800 retail grocery stores across the country participating in the program, it's easy to turn Our Family labels into cash for our Food Pantry!

To participate in the Direct Your Labels™ program, simply clip and save the UPC barcode on every Our Family® brand product you purchase at . For every 500 UPC barcodes we collect, we will earn \$25 from SpartanNash, the company that makes and distributes the more than 2,000 Our Family® brand products with national brand quality at a lower price. With your support and your labels – we'll be raising money to purchase food.

There will be a drop off box in the Fellowship Hall for your labels. If you aren't able to drop your UPC barcodes off in person, you can also mail them to ORLC Food Pantry, Attn: Erika Large, 1600 S. Heaton St., Knox, IN 46534. We do need original Our Family® labels to earn the \$25, so please no photocopies.

Thanks to the Direct Your Labels™ program, we can raise money for the Food Pantry as we shop for our groceries each week. Start saving those UPC barcodes! We'll continue collecting them throughout the year.



## Kroger Community Rewards

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Food Pantry has become a member of the “Kroger Community Rewards Program”. Now, when you shop at Kroger’s and use your Kroger Plus Card, Kroger will donate cash to our account, it will cost you nothing.

Instructions to Attach ORLC to your Kroger Plus Card:

1. Download the app or sign into your account on Kroger.com
2. 2. Create an account if you don’t already have one
3. 3. Go to the Account Tab
4. 4. Scroll down to Community Rewards
5. 5. Open Community Rewards Every
6. 6. Choose and add Our Redeemer Lutheran Church:

**Organization number: RQ856 .**

Every three months Kroger will notify us of our balance and pay us when the balance reaches \$25.00. Funds will roll over to the next quarter if funds have not reached the \$25.00 amount.

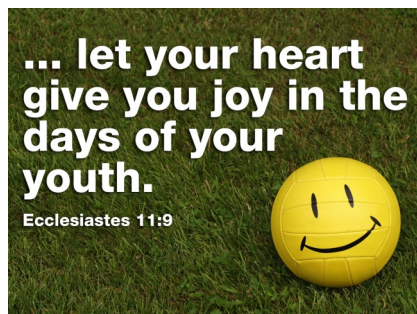


# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

As you can see from the pictures our youth had a great time at the Quake this year. It was held at the Chicago Marriott in Oak Brook, IL and consisted of Speakers sharing their faith, Christian Musicians leading the kids in Worship and breakout sections throughout the day.



To correct our February newsletter article the names of the youth who attended the Quake were, Harper Hazelton, Gracie Krueger, Hudson Hazelton, Gavin Michel, Christian Norem, and Casey Vargo. Chaperones were Diane Cruz and Autumn Ferch.



## February Youth Group Recap

The youth put little care packages together and delivered them to our homebound members on the Sunday before Valentines Day. This is one of the many ways our youth have reached out to show their love to the individuals who aren't always able to make it to church



## Dates for March Youth Group

**March 9th** from 11:30 to 2:00 p.m.

**March 23rd** from 11:30 to 2: p.m.

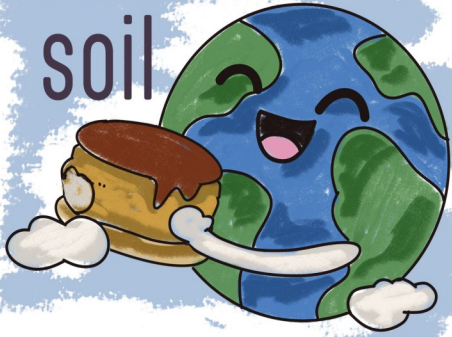
We look forward to seeing everyone there as we enjoy fellowship, have fun, and, most importantly, grow in our faith through God's word.



## March Acolyte Schedule

Neva Balaszek	<b>March 2</b>
Luci Hamand	<b>March 9</b>
Layla Brammer	<b>March 16</b>
Christian Norem	<b>March 23</b>
Luci Hamand	<b>March 30</b>

# sweet soil



This snack's layers mimic properties of our planet's crust.



## What you need:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup nut butter (divided)
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Silicone mini baking cups

## What you do:

1. Combine the oats and ⅓ cup of the nut butter. Mix until oats stick together.
2. Place 2 teaspoons of oat mixture in each baking cup. Press with a spoon. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. Spread remaining nut butter atop the cups. Freeze for 10 more minutes.
4. Microwave the chocolate chips 30 seconds. Stir and keep heating for 30-second intervals until melted.
5. Spread melted chocolate atop the cups. Freeze until chocolate is firm.
6. Remove from the molds and enjoy! Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.



Kids, on the next few pages, you'll find fun and interesting things to do by yourself or with your family during Lent! On the first page, there's a fun dessert you can make with your family. Just make sure to ask an adult for help if you need it, and most importantly, have fun!

Have you ever noticed why Mommy isn't having her usual morning coffee, or why she's not drinking a big Coke from McDonald's? Or maybe why she isn't eating chocolate? And what about Daddy? Is he skipping his favorite sports shows or his usual treats? Maybe they are doing something extra, like reading their Bibles or praying more.

During Lent, many people give up things they really enjoy to help remind us of what Jesus went through when he spent 40 days in the desert. It also reminds us of the biggest sacrifice of all: Jesus gave his life for us, so we wouldn't have to pay for our sins.

If you want to learn more about Jesus' time in the desert, ask your parents to read Matthew 4:1-11 or Luke 4:1-13 with you.

So, if you want to do something like Mommy and Daddy during Lent, you can follow the calendar on the next page for a different activity every day. Or, if you're older, you can follow the daily Bible reading plan on the page after the calendar and read a new verse each day!



# Lent

2025

first day of lent:

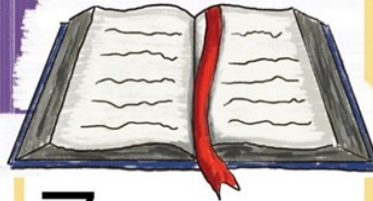
Do something  
**NICE**  
for a teacher  
or pastor.

Make a cross  
with things you  
find in  
nature. *two*

Read a Bible  
story or book.

3

Play your  
favorite game  
with someone.



*four*

5



Give  
someone  
a hug.

**NO**  
sweets  
today!

*six*

7

Learn an  
Easter song.



8

Make a  
cottonball  
lamb & think  
about how Jesus is  
the Lamb of God.



9

Give away something  
to someone.

Help  
someone  
today.

*ten*

Draw or  
decorate  
colorful  
Easter eggs.

11



Surprise someone  
with a **SPECIAL  
NOTE.**

12



13

Draw a  
picture  
with chalk  
outside.

14

Pray for  
someone.



**GIVE  
SOMEONE A  
COMPLIMENT.**

15

16

Help with  
yardwork or  
pick up a piece  
of litter.



*seventeen*

Share a meal  
with someone.

Perform  
a random  
act of

18

**KINDNESS.**

Download  
Easter  
coloring  
pages, print  
and color.

19



*twenty*

Tell God what  
you are  
thankful for.

# LIST

reasons why you love Easter.

*twenty one*



22

Draw or purchase an Easter Lily for a friend.

*twenty three*

Read John 13:1-17 and wash someone's feet.

Have a palm parade around your home.

*twenty four*

# FORGIVE

someone for something they did to you.

*twenty six*

Talk to someone or think about why we celebrate Easter.

27

Read about Good Friday.

(John 19:16-37)

Go on a nature scavenger hunt & find things that remind you of Jesus.



25

Draw an Easter picture for your family.

*thirty*

Make something for someone.

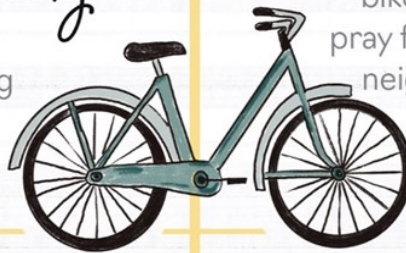
Go on a walk or bike ride & pray for your neighbors.



28

Collect items in a basket that remind you of Easter.

29



31



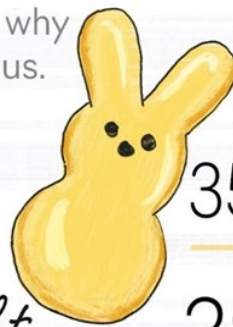
32

*thirty three*

Play a game in the dark with flashlights.

Tell someone why you love Jesus.

34



35

Play stack the Peeps.

(See who can stack the most Peeps in a minute.)

*thirty six*

# GIVE UP

Something for the day.

Make an Easter card.

37

*thirty eight*

Hold the door open for someone.

39

Read about Jesus' resurrection.

(Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20)



Attend an Easter service.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

1600 S. Heaton St.

Knox, IN 46534

[www.ordcknoxin.com](http://www.ordcknoxin.com)

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly Bible version, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



**DAY 1**  
Genesis 3:15

**DAY 2**  
Isaiah 7:14

**DAY 3**  
Matthew 1:20-21

**DAY 4**  
Luke 2:11

**DAY 5**  
Luke 2:52

**DAY 6**  
Mark 1:9-11

**DAY 7**  
Matthew 4:10

**DAY 8**  
Matthew 4:18-20

**DAY 9**  
Luke 6:27-31

**DAY 10**  
Matthew 11:28-30

**DAY 11**  
Luke 4:40-41

**DAY 12**  
Luke 8:24-25

**DAY 13**  
Matthew 12:8

**DAY 14**  
Mark 6:41-42

**DAY 15**  
Luke 9:20-22

**DAY 16**  
John 3:16-17

**DAY 17**  
John 6:35

**DAY 18**  
John 8:12

**DAY 19**  
John 10:14-15

**DAY 20**  
Mark 10:13-16

**DAY 21**  
Mark 9:2-3

**DAY 22**  
Matthew 20:17-19

**DAY 23**  
Luke 19:9-10

**DAY 24**  
Matthew 14:25-27

**DAY 25**  
Luke 10:36-37

**DAY 26**  
John 11:25-27, 43

**DAY 27**  
John 12:3

**DAY 28**  
Matthew 21:8-9

**DAY 29**  
Mark 11:15-16

**DAY 30**  
John 17:17-19

**DAY 31**  
Luke 22:3-6

**DAY 32**  
Mark 14:22-24

**DAY 33**  
John 13:3-5

**DAY 34**  
Matthew 26:39

**DAY 35**  
Luke 22:63-65

**DAY 36**  
Mark 15:22-26

**DAY 37**  
Matthew 27:50-54

**DAY 38**  
John 19:40-42

**DAY 39**  
Luke 24:1-8

**DAY 40**  
Matthew 28:19-20



# MARCH

*birthdays & anniversaries*

Aleksander Stacy	March 1	Lisa and Doug Boyle	March 15
Michael Fornelli	March 5		
Nellie Kayser	March 6		
Erica Pick	March 6		
Robert Pitts	March 7		
Diane Cruz	March 11		
Dorothy Geisler	March 12		
Sharon Krick	March 13		
Shannon Pitts	March 16		
Megan Hamand	March 17		
Robin Vargo	March 17		
Sarah Fletcher	March 21		
Karson Keehn	March 27		
Thomas Wakefield	March 28		
Christina Enger	March 30		
Roseann McGuire	March 30		
Gina Scherf	March 30		
Karen Zimmerman	March 31		



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