

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church—La Crosse, WI**



**First Sunday in Lent**

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**Sunday, February 22, 2026, 9:30am**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, ELCA  
612 Division St. | La Crosse, WI | 608.782.3468

WWW.OURSAVIORSLUTHERANCHURCH.NET

**"Our mission is to make the love of Christ known  
to all as we worship, serve and grow together."**

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All are welcome in this church! The Good News of God's grace is for all, regardless of age, abilities, physical & mental health, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, education, income or strength of faith. There is nothing we do, have done or will do that can separate us from the love of God. God makes no exceptions, nor do we. Come join us in praise, prayer and the work of our Lord, including ongoing work for racial equity in our Church and in the world.

Joanne Richmond, Senior Pastor—[pastor@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net](mailto:pastor@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net)  
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Jessica Zinniel, Associate Lay Minister—[youthfamily@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net](mailto:youthfamily@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net)  
Thomas Haag, Organist | Dr. Eddie Kim, Pianist | Colin Stiemke, Guitarist  
Liz Bahr, Cantor | Judi Winkler, Custodian | Roger Loing, Custodian

**Welcome, visitors! We're glad you are here!** We hope your time with us is a blessing, and that you will come back soon.

**We would like to be in touch with you! Visitors**—please use the Live Stream 'Attendance Info Form ([www.allarewelcome.org](http://www.allarewelcome.org) under the Live Stream tab) today. **Members**—you only need to fill them out once a year when you receive Holy Communion. **In addition**, use the form for prayer requests, hymn requests, to get the monthly newsletter, to give us address changes, or for any communication with the office or pastor.

If you need **hearing assistance**, ask in the church office for our special devices. If you need **assistance with the live stream**, please call 608.782.3468 or join us on the phone live stream at 1.877.552.3468 (toll-free).

**+FOR OUR WORSHIP TODAY+**

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Joanne Richmond

**AV Team:** Asa & Fox Zinniel

**Coffee Fellowship:** Debbie & Erv Dukatz's 50th Wedding Anniversary

**Communion Assistant:** Chris Krueger

**Cover Art:** *Messianic Secret* by T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by John 2:1-11, 14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

**Guitarist:** Colin Stiemke

**Prayer Reader:** Chris Krueger

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Welcome! We are delighted you have chosen to worship with us today.*

*We will share holy Communion; you are welcome to participate.*

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The good news of the gospel is:

**manna in the desert,  
water turned into wine,  
love after loss,  
forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:

**release for the captive,  
hope for the hopeless,  
mourning turned to dancing,  
and strangers turned to friends.**

So, come on in.

There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

**Let us worship this good-news God.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

You may have heard, "All is fair in love and war,"  
or "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."  
But God says, "Forgive seventy times seven."  
God says, "I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."  
God says, "Turn the other cheek."

God's mercy catches us by surprise.  
With wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer.  
Let us be surprised by God's grace all over again.

Friends, let us pray:

**Loving God,**

**somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious.**

**We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.**

**We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.**

**We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.**

**But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.**

**And all of a sudden, we wonder:**

**Can we be like that mustard seed?**

**Can we be faithful and unruly?**

**Can we be playful and curious?**

**Can we be messy and still be yours?**

**We know the answer already.**

**The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course.**

**Forgive our doubt.**

**Pull us closer into your embrace.**

**With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.**

**Amen.**

God's grace is wild and unruly.

God's mercy is abundant and surprising.

God's love is expansive and unending.

So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?"

the answer is and always will be:

**of course, of course, of course.**

This is the good news of the gospel.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

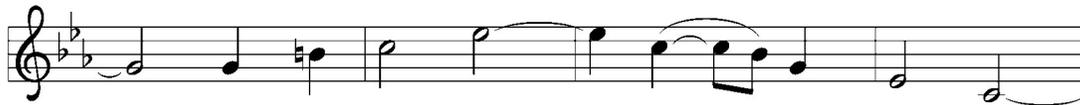
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy One, it is easy to see the mustard plant  
and forget to marvel at the seed.

It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it.

It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst.

As we turn to your text today, we pray, surprise us.

Speak to us. Move through us.

Draw us closer to your good news.

We wait with bated breath.

**Amen.**

## Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first line ends with a fermata over the final note. The second line ends with a fermata over the final note. The third line ends with a fermata over the final note. The fourth line ends with a fermata over the final note. The fifth line ends with a double bar line.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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## **GOSPEL: John 2: 1—11**

The holy gospel according to Saint John

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So, they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Joanne Richmond

## Now We Join in Celebration



- 1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
- 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;  
 For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing  
 rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,  
 of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,  
 Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.  
 pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.  
 seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in a table-setting God  
**who always has a seat saved for you.**

We believe in an inviting God  
**who leaves the porch light on and a hand extended.**

We believe in a radically welcoming God  
**who eats with the overlooked and the outcast,  
the hungry and the downtrodden.**

We believe in the good news of the gospel,  
**which reminds us that all are welcomed,  
all are celebrated, all are loved, and all are claimed.**

Pull up a seat at God's table.

**There is good news to be shared here. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Joy-spreading God, we love to imagine you at a wedding,  
your throat hoarse from laughter, feet tired from dancing,  
brow damp from the warmth of the day.

We love to imagine you turning water into wine,  
people passing glasses, quenching their thirst,  
delighting in every joy-filled, holy moment.

We love to imagine that this is how your ministry began—  
with celebration and joy, with banquet tables and laughter—  
because we crave more of those moments ourselves.

We live in a world that seems to run out of joy.  
The news is a rotating blur of heartache.  
Our hearts carry fear and grief, anxiety and loss.

We pray for those who are ill, those who are recovering  
from surgery or confronting chronic disease.  
We pray for those who are unsheltered or living alone and lonely.  
We pray for those who are caught in war-torn areas.  
For those who are spending their Sundays in a hospital room.  
For those who push through waves of depression every day,  
or struggle to manage illness or addiction.

Holy God, we live in a world that is overflowing  
with hard news, and we crave a piece of your joy.  
On our lowest days, and in our bleakest moments,  
remind us that your ministry started with a small miracle.

On the longest nights, remind us that we are never alone.  
When joy wears thin, remind us that you call us by name.  
When hope flickers, remind us that you hear our prayers.  
And when the weight of the world feels too heavy,  
remind us that the heart of the gospel really is good news.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **NOISY OFFERING**

## **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

## **COMMUNION**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Peace of the Lord  
*La paz del Señor*



1 *La paz del Se - ñor, la paz del Se - ñor, la*  
 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the  
 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the  
 3 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the



*paz del Re - su - ci - ta - do: la paz del Se -*  
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the  
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the  
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the



*ñor a ti ya mí, a to - dos al - can - za -*  
 Lord is a - mong us right now, so o - pen your - selves to re -  
 Lord is a - mong us right now, so o - pen your - selves to re -  
 Lord kept with - in can - not live, so o - pen your - selves now to



*rá: la paz del Se - ñor a ti ya*  
 chil - dren. The peace of the Lord is for you and for  
 ceive it. The peace of the Lord is a - mong us right  
 share it. The peace of the Lord kept with - in can - not



*mí, a to - dos al - can - za - rá.*  
 me, and al - so for all of God's chil - dren.  
 now, so o - pen your - selves to re - ceive it.  
 live, so o - pen your - selves now to share it.

2 *La paz del Señor, la paz del Señor,  
 la paz del Resucitado:  
 se hace presente ahora y aquí  
 apréstate a recibirla;  
 se hace presente ahora y aquí  
 apréstate a recibirla.*

3 *La paz del Señor, la paz del Señor,  
 la paz del Resucitado:  
 no puede vivir encerrada en sí,  
 apréstate a compartirla;  
 no puede vivir encerrada en sí,  
 apréstate a compartirla.*

Text: Anders Ruuth; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923  
 Music: LA PAZ DEL SEÑOR, Anders Ruuth  
 Spanish text and tune © Anders Ruuth, admin. Augsburg Fortress. English text © Lutheran World Federation.

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## **BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
+ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

As you leave this place,  
when you meet anger, speak with love.  
When you meet fear, speak with hope.  
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.  
But no matter what, speak this good news.  
For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all.  
It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms.  
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking.  
For if you won't, then who will?

**Thanks be to God for this good, good news.**

**Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE**

## **FEBRUARY DONATION DRIVE—SNACKS THAT STACK**

This February, we're collecting **crackers** to help stock the **Hunger Task Forces** shelves and everyday meals for our neighbors in need. Crackers are a simple staple that pair well with soups, cheeses, and other pantry items. All kinds are welcome—saltines, whole wheat, butter crackers, cheese crackers, and more. Please bring your donations to the grocery cart in the narthex. Together, we can help share steady nourishment and care during the winter months. ***Thank you for helping our neighbors, one box at a time.***

## **LENTEN SOUP SUPPER**

We are looking for individuals, families, and/or church groups to sign up to provide pots of soup during Lent. Look for the sign up on the bulletin board next to the church office or talk with Pastor Joanne or Lois Losby, Worship & Music Board Chair. ***Thank you for helping nourish both body and spirit during Lent.***

## **JELLO JUBILEE—Sunday, March 1, 10:15am—Fellowship Hall**

***Let's wiggle our way out of cabin fever!*** On Sunday, March 1 (new date), we're inviting everyone to bring a favorite **Jello dish** to share during coffee fellowship—sweet, savory, classic, or delightfully surprising. Together we'll shake off the winter blues, enjoy some laughter, and celebrate the joy of being together as the days grow longer.

## **PIE-LUCK SUNDAY—Sunday March 8, 2026, 10:15am—Fellowship Hall**

Come chase cabin fever away! Bring your favorite pie to share during the coffee hour! All pies are welcome, be they savory or sweet or store-bought or homemade.

## **SAVE THE DATE, ORGAN RECITAL**

**Sunday, March 8, 2026, 2pm—Sanctuary**

We are delighted to share that one of our very own organists, **Thomas Haag**, will present an organ recital at Our Savior's on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 2pm. This special afternoon of music is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be received to support education programs sponsored by the American Guild of Organists – Riverside Chapter. All are welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this inspiring musical event. For more information, please call [608.433.2621](tel:608.433.2621).

## **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS**

**Collecting now through Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026**

During this season of Lent, we're invited to put our faith into action by caring for neighbors around the world through **Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits**.

These simple kits—made from everyday household items—offer comfort, dignity, and hope to families facing crisis. A towel, soap, and basic hygiene items may seem small, but they remind someone in a difficult moment that they are seen, valued, and loved.

### **Each Personal Care Kit includes:**

- 1 light-weight, dark-colored bath towel (20" x 40" to 52" x 27")
- 2 bath-size bars of soap (in original wrapping)
- 1 adult-size toothbrush (in original packaging)

- 1 metal nail clipper
- 1 sturdy comb

Our goal is to assemble **75 Personal Care Kits**.

Thank you for helping share God's love in a tangible way and for providing essential tools that support health and dignity for people around the world.



**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**



## PERSONAL CARE KITS

### SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use.
- Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

### INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE** adult-size toothbrush in it's original packaging\*
- ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

\* *Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap*

### HOW TO PACK YOUR PERSONAL CARE KITS

- Fold the towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so nothing falls out, and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.
- Pack completed Kits, like items together, in boxes. Label contents in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS on the outside of the boxes.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box and label the contents

LWR.ORG

## **LENT 2026: TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD**

### **LENT 1**

The good new is... so good, it catches us by surprise

**Sunday, February 22, 2026, 9:30am**

John 2: 1—11 (Wedding at Cana)

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 6pm**

Matthew 13: 31—32 (Parable of the mustard seed)

### **LENT 2**

The good new is... great love for God & neighbor

**Sunday, March 1, 2026, 9:30am**

Luke 7: 36—50 (Woman with the alabaster jar washes Jesus' feet)

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 6pm**

Matthew 25: 35—40 ("Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me")

### **LENT 3**

The good new is... together, the impossible is possible

**Sunday, March 1, 2026, 9:30am**

Mark 6: 32—44 (Feeding of the 5,000)

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 6pm**

Ephesians 3: 20—21 ("By the power at work within us [God] is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine")

## **LENT 4**

The good new is... protection & care for the vulnerable

**Sunday, March 1, 2026, 9:30am**

Matthew 19: 13—15 (Jesus blesses the children)

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 6pm**

Deuteronomy 24: 17—22 (Care for the alien, the orphan, and the widow)

## **LENT 5**

The good new is... rooted in justice, mercy, & faithfulness

**Sunday, March 1, 2026, 9:30am**

John 8: 2—11 (Jesus refuses to condemn a woman caught in adultery)

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 6pm**

Matthew 23:23 ("You have neglected the more important matters of the law—  
justice, mercy, and faithfulness.")

## **HOLY WEEK 2026**

**Palm Sunday—Sunday, March 29, 2026**

The good news is.. Inspiring us to act

Mark 11: 1—11 (Triumphal entry into Jerusalem)

**Maundy Thursday—Thursday, April 17, 2025**

The good news is... even Judas gets his feet washed

John 13: 1—25 (Jesus washes the disciples' feet)

### **Good Friday—Friday, April 18, 2025**

The good news is... revealed through nonviolence

Luke 22: 47—53; Luke 23: 33—38, 44—46

(Judas' betrayal; Jesus heals the servant's ear after his disciples draw swords; Jesus forgives those crucifying him)

### **Easter Sunday—Sunday, April 18, 2025**

The good news is... alive in the world

Matthew 28: 1—10 (Do not be afraid; go tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.)

### **PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST**

#### **Sunday, March 29, 2026, 10:15am—Fellowship Hall**

The Youth & Family Ministry Team will be hosting their annual breakfast with egg bakes, sausage, fresh fruit, juice, milk, and coffee. The cost is a free will offering. Proceeds benefit youth and family events throughout the year. Come celebrate and enjoy a delicious breakfast while supporting our youth!

**DONATIONS ARE NEEDED** to help make this fundraiser a success. Look for the sign up sheets on the bulletin board next to the church office. There will be a labeled "Youth Breakfast" box in the refrigerator and on the counter in the kitchen for donated supplies. Please have all donations to the church by Wednesday, March 25. Thanks in advance for supporting our youth!



La Crosse Area Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Opportunities to Support Immigrant Families in the La Crosse Area

In **La Crosse Area Synod**, we know that every person is a child of God, deserving of love, respect and dignity. This includes immigrants trying to make this area their new home. Every act of kindness, every dollar, and every moment of your time helps us communicate God's love for those who are in most need. You can help a family in need today.

### Opportunities to Give

**Support Immigrant Families** – Your gift supports ongoing work of the La Crosse Area Synod's Migrant Justice Team throughout the synod as they work to provide welcome and care for neighbors going through the legal immigration process.



Give at [zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/support-immigrant-families](https://zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/support-immigrant-families)

**Help Offset Religious Worker Visa & Attorney for an Immigrant Pastor**- Your gift supports a local immigrant pastor who leads worship, counsels, and builds community in new and unfamiliar places. While caring for their communities, they are struggling through paperwork, financial strain, and increasingly difficult legal realities. Visa fees have increased significantly in recent years, causing additional financial strain on both pastor and the sponsoring congregation.



Give at [zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/support-immigrant-pastors](https://zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/support-immigrant-pastors)

**The La Crosse Area Mutual Aid Fund** is an interfaith fund that supports neighbors in urgent need—helping with essentials like food, housing stability, and emergency care when other options fall short. Here you will find opportunities to directly support a neighbor in need. Please know that 100% your gift will go to help someone here in the wider La Crosse Area. Your gift is shared through trusted local partners. **Together, we uphold dignity, offer practical help, and demonstrate the power of community coming together.**



Give at [zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/la-crosse-area-mutual-aid](https://zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/la-crosse-area-mutual-aid)

## **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT ARTIST STATEMENT**

**The Good News is... so good it catches us by surprise**

### **Messianic Secret**

by T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by John 2:1-11

*14"x18" Acrylic on canvas*



The Wedding at Cana is my favorite text because there is a lot of humor in it. There's humor in a mother approaching her son and telling him to do something without ever actually telling him to do it. There's his pouty resistance to his mother's non-demand while she completely ignores him and paints him in a corner. There is humor in a raucous wedding reception where the people are so "lit" that the wine has run out. And, for me, it's particularly humorous that there's this huge, beautiful secret of which only a few people are aware.

Those people include Jesus' mother and the select servants who help him pull off the miracle that inaugurates his ministry. Servants are normally meant to be inconspicuous, so I wanted to focus on the servant who goes to the chief steward\* with a cup full of what, as far as he's concerned, is water.

If Jesus—whose ministry has not started, so there haven't been any wonders associated with him yet—tells you to fill jars with water and draw from the jar to give to the chief steward, what is going through your mind at that moment? I invite the viewer to focus on this servant and all his curiosity and expectation, and think of a time when you were surprised by something God did. What actions preceded the miracle? Did it make sense? What did you know, and what was hidden from you? What "secrets" might God be keeping from you now as God works clandestinely on your behalf?  
—Rev. T. Denise Anderson

## **LOOK**

*Imagine you are the servant in the image.*

*How do you feel as the chief steward tastes from the cup and realizes it is wine?*

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**—The Rev. T. Denise Anderson

Denise (*she/her*) is a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Director for Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministries at the Presbyterian Mission Agency. A graduate of Howard University School of Divinity, she is the former Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). As a gifted visual artist and photographer, she creates art that explores themes of spirituality, history, religion, and race.

**[tdandersonart.com](http://tdandersonart.com) | [@tdandersonart](https://www.instagram.com/tdandersonart)**

\*Depending on the translation of this text, the "chief steward" could alternatively be referred to as the "master of the feast," "headwaiter," or "person in charge of the banquet."

# OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

POST ON A FRIG, NEAR A PHONE, ON AN ALTAR AND ANY OTHER SACRED PLACE

## CALENDAR

**Sunday, February 22, 2026**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**9:30am** Worship/HC  
**10:15am** M-M's Prayer Club  
**10:15am** Coffee Fellowship  
**6:30pm** Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

**Monday**

**9am—1pm** Office Open  
**10am—12 noon** Gas Vouchers

**Tuesday**

**9am—1pm** Office Open  
**9am** Quilters  
**1—5pm** WCC Open  
**4pm** CFS Doors Open  
**4:15—5:15pm** CFS Meal Served  
**5:15—5:30pm** CFS Carry Outs

**Wednesday, February 25**

**First Wednesday of Lent**

**9am—1pm** Office Open  
**12 noon** Worship/HC  
**5:30pm** Lenten Soup Supper  
**6pm** Worship/HC  
**6:30pm** Green Initiative Task Force

**Thursday**

**9am—1pm** Office Open

**Friday**

**Pastor/Staff Sabbath**

**Saturday**

**9am—1pm** WCC Open

**Sunday, March 1, 2026**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**9:30am** Worship/HC  
**10:15am** M-M's Prayer Club  
**10:15am** Jello Jubilee  
**6:30pm** Y.E.S. A.A. mtg.

**Calendar Notations:**

HC—Holy Communion  
M-MPC—Moo-Moo's Prayer Club  
CFS—Come For Supper  
WCC—Women's Clothes Closet

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### HEALING AND PEACE

**Ardelle** Ender, **Athena** Burg, **Bev** Hanson, **Casey** Kanter, **Cassie**, **Cathy** Ofte, **Cindy** Moe, **Dan** Odenbach, **Danielle** Sorenson, **Dave** Kjos, **Debe**, **Erik** Rudrud, **Esther** Harman, **Eugene** Herold, **Gabe** Centanni, **George**, **Jane & Michael** Speer, **Jean** Koll, **Jeannie** White, **Jeff** Kent, **Pastor Joanne**, **Jon** Zinniel, **Joshua**, **Jim** Garson, **Jim** Radatz, **Juliana** Andrews, **Karen** Geoglein, **Katie** White, **Lane C.**, **Lois** Horne, **Kelly** Olson, **Mary** Covey, **Monica & Jack D.**, **Morris** Buros, **Pamela** Mathis, **Peggy** Kneifl, **Roger** Loing, **Rose** Sabotta, **Roxanne** North, **Sandy** Kjos, **Sonja** Simonson-Schrag, **Pastor Steve** Minnema, and **Tom** Cade,

### GRIEVING FAMILY & FRIENDS OF

**Joyce** Hunter, **Birgitta** Rice, **Kaye** Kjome, **Ken** Feran, and **Vera** Wensole

### MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN ARMED FORCES

**Ricky** Macon, and **Tom** Rudrud

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Jeanne** Johnson February 22  
**Heather** Kadera February 22  
**Nancy** Caucutt February 23  
**Darrell** Dahl February 23  
**Chris** Woodard February 25  
**Deb** Wold February 28  
**Judy** Sasse March 1  
**Janet** Schilling March 1