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**Lent 1 | Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 6pm**

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)  
Lois Losby, Financial Secretary—[finance@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net](mailto:finance@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:** Gary & Deb Wold

**Lenten Soup Supper:** Worship & Music Committee

**Cover Art:** We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell, Inspired by Matthew 13: 31—32, 11'x14' Acrylic, *mustard seed on paper*

**Pianist:** Dr. Eddie Kim

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**LENT 1**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026, 6pm**

*Welcome! We are delighted you have chosen to worship with us today.  
We will share holy Communion; you are welcome to participate.*

**OPENING HYMN**    *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*    ELW # 334 vs. 1, 2, 3

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,  
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,  
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,  
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,  
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead  
dwells in you,  
pours God's love into your hearts,  
and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth  
to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your  
Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever.

**Amen.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 121**

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 13: 31—32**

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Joanne Richmond

## HYMN OF THE DAY

# In a Neat and Tidy Garden

ALL THE WAY 8.7.8.7 D ("All the Way My Savior Leads Me")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: Robert Lowry (1875)



In a neat and ti - dy gar - den grows a se - cret ti - ny seed  
Green and ten - der leaves I har - vest from the mus - tard grow - ing wild  
O - ther gar - den - ers may strug - gle and pre - tend they have con - trol



There a - mong the plan - ted bar - ley will e - merge a shock - ing weed  
To en - rich and spice my dish - es that were un - til now too mild  
O - ver land that God cre - a - ted but I'll tell you what I know:



Grow - ing quick - ly through the so - il to break forth in va - cant spot  
Un - ex - pec - ted and sur - pris - ing, un - con - trolled by hu - man hand  
I am not the Mas - ter Gar - dener, just a stew - ard of this place



What a joy when I dis - cov - er God has plan - ted in my plot!  
See the reign of God is grow - ing, ta - king root through - out the land!  
God has seed - ed ev - ery a - cre with sur - pris - ing, wi - ld grace!



What a joy when I dis - cov - er God has plan - ted in my plot!  
See the reign of God is grow - ing, ta - king root through - out the land!  
God has seed - ed ev - ery a - cre with sur - pris - ing, wi - ld grace!

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you.

Hear us, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

*As the Sun with Longer Journey*

**ELW #329**

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

## **POSTLUDE**

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Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed  © a sanctified art sanctifiedart.org

## **MARCH DONATION DRIVE—SPREAD A LITTLE SWEETNESS**

As signs of spring begin to appear, we're collecting **jam and jellies** to help brighten pantry shelves and breakfast tables for our neighbors in need.

Strawberry, grape, raspberry, peach—classic favorites and unique flavors are all welcome! These sweet staples pair perfectly with bread, crackers, and peanut butter to make simple meals feel special.

Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the narthex. Together, we can add a little sweetness to someone's day this March.

*Sharing care, one jar at a time.*

## **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.



## We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Matthew 13:31-32

11"x14" Acrylic, mustard seed on paper

Loose mustard seeds are nearly impossible to contain. They drift and scatter with the slightest breeze, asserting their own unruly will much like the mustard plants themselves. The mustard plant, dismissed as invasive weeds by some, is cultivated for healing and nourishment by others. Even now, after completing this piece, I am still finding stray seeds in my laundry, my car, my hair.

"They tried to bury us; they didn't know we were seeds," a line attributed to Greek poet Dinos Christianopoulos,<sup>6</sup> has become a rallying cry for separated families along the Mexican-American border. More than a century earlier, Toussaint Louverture—the formerly enslaved commander of the self-emancipated army of Black cultivators in

Saint-Domingue (colonial Haiti)—voiced a similar belief upon his deportation and imprisonment in France: "You have done no more than cut down the trunk of the tree of Black liberty. . . It will spring back from the roots, for they are numerous and deep."

From the Corn Mother of Indigenous myth to African women braiding okra seeds into their hair as they were forced from their homelands, many of our ancestors understood the power of carrying life in its smallest form. Seed-carrying is an act of faith. These tiny, unassuming specks hold the audacious hope that wherever we go, we already have what we need to take root and flourish in strange and foreign soils. May our faith and our hopes be just as audacious, resilient, and uncontainable as the seeds which hold the fruits of our faith. —Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

### Look

Pay attention to the textures in the artwork. Notice everywhere you see mustard seeds.

<sup>6</sup> Dinos Christianopoulos (1931-2020) wrote the couplet in 1978 (published in his book, *The Body and the Wormwood*) as a defiant statement against the Greek literary establishment, which had ostracized him due to his homosexuality.

# OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

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

## CALENDAR

### Wednesday, February 25

#### First Wednesday of Lent

**9am—1pm** Office Open  
**12 noon** Worship/HC  
**5:30pm** 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.

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday, March 4

#### Second Wednesday of Lent

**9am—1pm** Office Open  
**12 noon** Worship/HC  
**5:30pm** Soup Supper  
**6pm** Worship/HC

#### 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

**Chris** Woodard February 25  
**Deb** Wold February 28  
**Judy** Sasse March 1  
**Jan** Schilling March 1  
**Ruth** Ellefson March 2