

Our Savior's Lutheran Church—La Crosse, WI



Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 15, 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."***

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
Lois Losby, Financial Secretary—finance@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net
Sandra Schultz, WCC Coordinator—wccloset@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net
Mary Ender Stutesman, Music Coordinator & Organist—stuteswoman@gmail.com
Jessica Zinniel, Associate Lay Minister—youthfamily@oursaviorslutheranchurch.net
Thomas Haag, Organist | Dr. Eddie Kim, Pianist | Colin Stiemke, Guitarist
Liz Bahr, Cantor | Judi Winkler, 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 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

Communion Assistant: Cheryl Vieth

Cover Art: *Let the Little Children Come* by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell;
Inspired by Matthew 19: 13—15; 11"x14" Acrylic, gold leaf, pen on paper

Pianist: Dr. Eddie Kim

Prayer Reader: Cheryl Vieth

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

God loves the field mouse.

God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

God loves the babies, snuggling in loved one's arms.

God loves the child who rocks and claps.

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

God loves those who crawl, slither, and hop.

**God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens,
standing strong over all of us.**

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

There is no part of creation that God does not love.

Let us worship this good-news God!

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Family of Faith,
every week we pray the Prayer of Confession,
because we always need reminding of God's abundant grace.

Every week we need reminding of God's love.
Every week we need reminding, we too can grow and change.
Join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation.

Friends, let us pray:

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.

Fortunately for all of us, God also said,

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine."

**By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

May this good news change our lives!

Amen.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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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, sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. You say, "Love your enemy." "Turn the other cheek." "Care for the widow and the orphan." And we want to know: How? When? Where? Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray.

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 placed below the notes on each staff.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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GOSPEL: Matthew 19: 13—15

The holy gospel according to Saint Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, ¹⁴ but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Joanne Richmond

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 for you and for me, and al - so for all of God's
 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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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 *The Spirit Intercedes for Us* **ELW #180**

Jesus of Nazareth, you loved without abandon.
**You loved your disciples, with their questions and their bumbling
mistakes.**

You loved the children, with their runny noses and their easy joy.

**You loved the widows and the immigrants,
with their heartbreak and their dreams for a better tomorrow.**

You loved the tax collectors and the outcasts, with their hands open to their neighbors.

You loved like it was easy; we wish that we were more like that.

**The Spirit intercedes for us
with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, oh.**

We lift up the vulnerable in our community—the ones you loved so quickly.

We pray for the immigrants in our land—for those running from fear, longing to give their children a better life.

We pray for single parents, who stretch themselves thin to be all things for the little ones they love.

We pray for those living below the poverty line, for those who are unsure where their next meal will come from.

**The Spirit intercedes for us
with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, oh.**

We pray for those who live in fear due to the color of their skin, the way they dress, or the person they love.

We pray for those who are bent over by the weight of depression, anxiety, or addiction.

God, we know you see each of us. Draw near to your children.
Wrap your arms around the vulnerable, the weary, the grief-filled.
Comfort, comfort your people. Wrap your arms around us.
As you do, we ask we might be transformed. As you do,
we ask we might bend toward love and move toward compassion.
As you do, we ask you might soften our hearts.

Until your promised day, when all are cared for and seen, this will be our
prayer.

**The Spirit intercedes for us
with sighs too deep for words to express. Oh, oh.**

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

NOISY OFFERING FOR THE EMERGENCY FUND

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

CLOSING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW #543

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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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!

Thanks be to God for this good, good news.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held **Sunday, April 19, 2026, immediately following worship** to consider two building projects: **replacement of the boiler pumps and motors** and **updates to the church's exterior entry doors**. The church council will bring recommendations for consideration. Please plan to attend.

SPARE GAS CANS NEEDED

Our church assists neighbors with gas vouchers when they are in need. Sometimes, however, they don't have a safe way to transport the gasoline. If you have any clean, spare gas cans you're no longer using, please consider donating them to the church so we can pass them along when needed. Donations may be left at the church office. Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors in practical ways.

MARCH DONATION DRIVE—A JAR OF JOY

During March, we're collecting **jam and jellies** to share with our neighbors in need. These small but tasty staples help bring a bit of sweetness to breakfast and everyday meals. All flavors are welcome! Please place your donations in the grocery cart in the narthex.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS

Collecting now through Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to our Personal Care Kit collection! Thanks to your generosity, we've reached **about one-third of our goal of 75 kits**.

There's still time to help us get the rest of the way there. You can **complete a full kit** or **bring individual items** to help finish the kits already started. Every towel, bar of soap, or toothbrush brings us one step closer to sharing comfort, dignity, and hope with families facing crisis around the world.

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

Thank you for helping turn simple items into powerful signs of care and compassion.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Eat, Enjoy, Support Youth & Family Ministries!

Join us after worship on **Palm Sunday, March 29**, for a delicious breakfast and fellowship! All proceeds benefit Youth & Family Ministries, supporting programs, events, and activities for our young members. Come enjoy good food, great company, and celebrate our youth together. Everyone is welcome!

HELP MAKE OUR PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST A SUCCESS

We need your help to make our Youth & Family Ministries Palm Sunday Breakfast a hit! Donations of food, drinks, or supplies are greatly appreciated. Sign up **on the bulletin board next to the church office** to share what you can contribute. Thank you for supporting our youth!

LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Do you have an interest in being part of the Synod level of the Women of the ELCA? *The Synod W-ELCA needs a new Treasurer, Vice President, North Conference Representative, East Conference Representative, West Conference Coordinator, North Conference Coordinator, and South Conference Representative.*

If you are interested and/or would like to know more about the positions, contact JoAnn Salava at jams@mwt.net or Mona Van Riper at monavanriper@gmail.com.

Our Spring Convention will be on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Coon Valley Lutheran Church in Coon Valley, WI.

LENT 2026: TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD

LENT 4—The good new is... protection & care for the vulnerable

Wednesday, March 18, 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 22, 2026, 9:30am

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 6pm

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

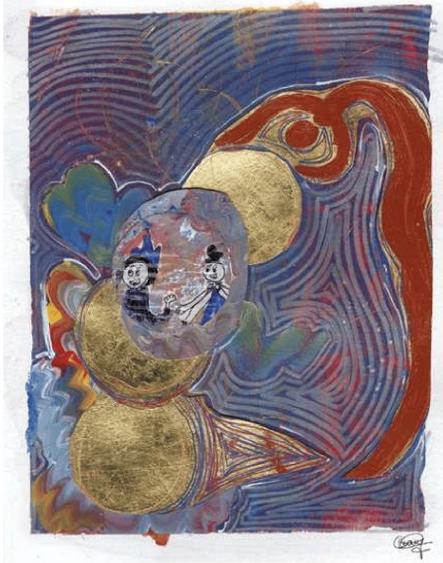
CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK WITH US

Experience the journey of Jesus from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday:

- **Palm Sunday, March 29** – Wave palms and celebrate His entry!
- **Maundy Thursday, April 2** – Remember the Last Supper.
- **Good Friday, April 3** – Reflect at the cross.
- **Easter Sunday, Apr 5** – Rejoice in the resurrection!

All are welcome—come share in the hope and joy of this sacred week!

Fourth Sunday in Lent
the good news is... protection and care for the vulnerable



Let the Little Children Come

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Matthew 19:13-15

11"x14" Acrylic, gold leaf, pen on paper

For my little niece, Angelina, whose art rests at the heart of this composition, and in whose joy we glimpse the Kingdom of God—alongside her sisters, Angelika and Ariana.

At the center of this work is a drawing made by my five-year-old niece, Angelina. I watched her joyfully scribble it in under three minutes, churning out drawing after drawing and handing each one to me with an eager smile. In this piece, she first drew a self-portrait (her wearing a crown), then graciously decided to include me (taking some creative liberties in giving me a third arm!).

I imagine the scene in Matthew 19: toddlers wailing, little ones slipping from their parents' arms, parents offering apologetic glances toward

the frowning disciples as the scene around Jesus grows increasingly disorderly and loud. Those of us who've participated in group infant baptisms and baby dedications (when one cries, the chain reaction begins!), have led children's sermon moments with restless kids squirming about, or had the joy of watching our little ones participate in a kids' choir performance that goes delightfully rogue, can easily relate.

The disciples, feeling the weight of being seen as serious leaders alongside their rabbi, Jesus, may have tried to preserve a sense of reverence by shooing away the parents bringing their children to him. Yet here, Jesus reorients his disciples (and us) away from the illusion of control and reminds us that it is the joyful, unruly, sincere presence of a child to whom the kingdom truly belongs. Just a chapter earlier, in Matthew 18, Jesus tells his followers that unless they become like little children, they will not even enter the kingdom. Surely the disciples thought Jesus couldn't mean that literally—right?

While I've been busy making art, Angelina has been busy *being* an artist. I surely could learn a thing or two from her about inheriting the kingdom. —Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Look

Contemplate the gold shapes in the image. What do they represent to you?

OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

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

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Noisy Offering—Emergency Fund

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

Wednesday, March 18

Fourth Wednesday of Lent

9am—1pm Office Open
12 noon Worship
1pm Art & Faith
5:30pm Soup Supper
6pm Worship
6:30pm Church Council

Thursday

9am—1pm Office Open

Friday

Pastor/Staff Sabbath

Saturday

9am—1pm WCC Open

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Fifth 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.

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, **Ruth** Rose, **Sandy** Kjos, **Sonja** Simonson-Schrag, **Pastor Steve** Minnema, and **Tom** Cade

GRIEVING FAMILY & FRIENDS OF

Vera Wensole

MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN ARMED FORCES

Ricky Macon, and **Tom** Rudrud

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Doni Moyer March 16
Emma Kadera March 17
Bethany Matsick March 18
Linda Rudrud March 20
Mary Rathgaber March 22

Calendar Notations:

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