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Lent 4 | Wednesday, March 18, 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."**

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 | 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 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 Ministry: Gary Wold

Lenten Soup Supper: Our Savior's Dorcas Society

Cover Art: *Fuera ICE** by Nicolette Faison, Inspired by Deuteronomy 24: 17—22, 16"x20"
Acrylic, marker, paper on canvas

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 *St. Clement (O Light Whose Splendor Thrills)* John Eggert

OPENING HYMN ***O Light Whose Splendor Thrills*** **ELW #563**

(please see next page)

O Light Whose Splendor Thrills



1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
 2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
 3 In all life's bril - liant, time - less mo - ments,



with ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
 and lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,
 let faith - ful voic - es sing your praise,



pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
 in eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es
 O Son of God, our life - be - stow - er,



O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One:
 to Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, one God.
 whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent.; para. Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
 Music: ST. CLEMENT, Clement C. Scholefield, 1839-1904
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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.

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.

PSALM 130

¹ Out of the depths

I cry to you, God;

² **God, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch over sins,

Holy One, who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵ I wait for you, God; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Holy One more than those**

who keep watch for the morning,

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, wait for God, for with God there is steadfast love;

with God there is plenteous redemption.

⁸ **For God shall redeem Israel**

from all their sins.

GOSPEL: Matthew 19: 13—15

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Then 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, ¹⁴but 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." ¹⁵And 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

HYMN OF THE DAY

See the Precious Children

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D ("As We Gather at Your Table")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: B. F. White (1844)



See the pre-cious chil-dren seat - ed on the lap of Christ our Lord
See the pre-cious wi-dowed wo - men glean-ing har-vests from the field
See the pre-cious for - eign stran - gers as they car - ry all they own
See the pre-cious dis - poss - essed ones ask - ing for some food to eat
See the pre-cious world im - pov - erished by our ma - lice and our greed



Called the great - est in the king-dom, held so gent - ly and a - dored They
Then re - turn - ing to their kit - chen to pre - pare their dai - ly meal They
To a land that's full of dan - gers for the pow - er - less and prone They
Sleep - ing un - der star - ry heav - ens, dai - ly liv - ing on the streets They
Hu - mans, a - ni - mals, and pla - net cry - ing out for some re - lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti - ny toe In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro - ken hearts In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home-land, too In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho - ly thing In our



weak - ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
sor - row they're held by love that re - deems each fra - gile part
jour - ney they're held by love as they start each day a - new
hun - ger they're held by love as they guard their hu - man pride
liv - ing we're held by love as we care for ev - ery being

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love.

Hear us, God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives.

Hear us, God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety.

Hear us, God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick.

Hear us, God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this assembly. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life.

Hear us, God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life 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.**

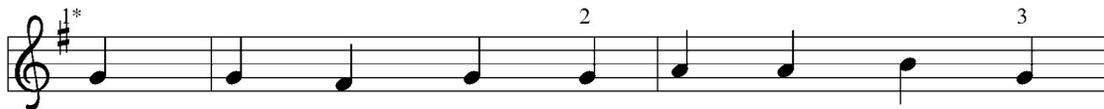
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

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

Amen.

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night



1 All praise to thee, my God, this night for
 2 For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the
 3 Teach me to live, that I may dread the
 4 Oh, may my soul in thee re - pose, and
 5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



all the bless - ings of the light. Keep me, oh, keep me,
 ill that I this day have done; that with the world, my -
 grave as lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die, that
 may sweet sleep mine eye - lids close, sleep that shall me more
 God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



King of kings, be - neath thine own al - might - y wings.
 self, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
 so I may rise glo - rious at the awe - some day.
 vig - 'rous make to serve my God when I a - wake!
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

** May be sung in canon.*

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585

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 *Tallis Canon (All Praise to Thee My God This Night)* John Bender

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

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!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, April 19, 2026

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!



Fuera ICE

by Nicolette Faison

Inspired by Deuteronomy 24:17-22

16"x20" Acrylic, marker, paper on canvas

They keep taking my neighbors. Chicago and other cities associated with the Democratic party are going through a humanitarian crisis under a fascist regime. Cars are being left vacant on random blocks and parking lots. People are being disappeared while their children are being zip-tied at 3 a.m. We clergy and religious leaders have been shot with pepper spray and rubber bullets while demanding the freedom of our neighbors. No one deserves to live like this. This piece does not truly capture the pain I hold every day, between keeping track of what is happening in Gaza, resisting fascism, and dealing with yet another economic collapse under capitalism.

But let me tell you something good. . . I still believe in humanity. When I watched people in Gaza prepare basic meals to break their fast during Ramadan during a genocide, I saw something good. When local neighbors saw our public vigil for disappeared people and chose to join us for a time of lament, I saw something good. When Colin Kaepernick paid for the independent autopsy of one of the Black men recently lynched,¹⁶ I saw something good. The good is people still choosing to be empathetic and compassionate in times of crisis. That is what Christ calls us to be.

The stranger who enters foreign land is often forced to flee their own home. It is rare for people to risk their entire livelihood and their family for anything other than necessity. For that reason, each portrait has a halo deeming them holy, sacred, and divine. I used sparkling gold paper to break up each distinct image. Look deeply at these portraits. The top left is inspired by the Maasai people, a nomadic group that dwells across borders. The top right image is an indigenous woman and her child, a nod to Mary and Jesus. She has a red palm across her mouth which is a tribute to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and "Two-Spirit" people. The bottom left is a slightly aging man from Mesoamerica. The bottom right is a woman in hijab, which is commonly targeted in Islamophobic spaces. Look at the people some consider to be a threat. Look at our neighbors. Migrants are sacred. Fuera ICE.¹⁷ —Rev. Nicolette Faison

Look

Look deeply at each portrait. What do you feel as you study each face?

¹⁶ [usatoday.com/story/sports/nfl/2025/09/19/colin-kaepernick-independent-autopsy-trey-reed/86244594007](https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nfl/2025/09/19/colin-kaepernick-independent-autopsy-trey-reed/86244594007)

¹⁷ "Fuera" can be translated to "out" or "away." ICE is an acronym for the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, which began enacting raids in US cities at the time these resources were created (2025).

OUR SAVIORS THIS WEEK

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

CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 18

Fourth Wednesday of Lent

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

Thursday

9am—1pm Office Open

Friday

Pastor/Staff Sabbath

Saturday

9am—1pm WCC Open
1pm Kaye Kjome's Funeral

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.

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 25

Fifth 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

Vera Wensole and **Kaye** Kjome

MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN ARMED FORCES

Ricky Macon, and **Tom** Rudrud

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bethany Matsick	March 18
Linda Rudrud	March 20
Mary Rathgaber	March 22
DeLoris Malmberg	March 23
Brittany Taylor	March 25