



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2021

I thank my God every time I remember you,

I remember as I was growing up the yearly conversation that took place in our school as the question was discussed. That question was; “What are you going to give up for Lent?” That was a strange question for me, not because I was one of a few Lutherans among many Roman Catholics. It was a strange question because I had heard that we were entering a season where we were getting ready to share in the gifts of God’s great sacrifice. God, we were told, was giving up his Son for us for our sin.

I thought then that anything I might try to give up for 40 days paled in the face of his sacrifice, his giving up of his Son. I must admit that even in this day, after serving as a pastor for over 30 years I still wrestle with that question of years past. It is a question that still haunts the deep crevices of my memory. And yet I have grown to see that ‘giving up something’ for Lent is not necessarily a bad thing or something to be avoided. In fact that practice works for many as a preparatory act for standing at the foot of a bloody cross and in front of an

empty tomb.

The problem arises when our sacrifice is not something that causes us real discomfort or pain. The usual approach is to give up something that is not all that important in our lives and becomes only a mild irritant. I do not believe that giving up food, water, or affection will be successful in the short or long runs. The problem of not giving up something that is ultimate is compounded by the fact that many who “give up something” for Lent all too often want others to know what they are doing. There are no ends to the conversations with many about how they are feeling at day 14 about what is missing from their lives.

I am going to be bold and make a few suggestions about how to approach this whole endeavor of ‘giving up something for Lent’. First choose something that will cause you to pause your living and think. Think not about your loss or what is missing from your life but think about what God was and still is up to. Think about Jesus ‘giving up’ his divinity, his position as God in the highest heaven, and coming to earth. Think about the pain God the Father and God the Son en-

duced on that day on the cross. Think about God the Father’s pain as he wrestled with the pain of loss to death he experienced as his Son lay in the tomb.

Second, after you have chosen what to ‘give up’ do so without telling anyone else. It is yours and yours alone so do not drag others into that moment. What you have given up will only serve its purpose when you face it and reflect upon what it is that it is driving to reflect upon. Sharing that choice with others will serve to change the focus unto you.

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Third, do not forget that what you 'give up' during Lent must be something that you will want to reincorporate back into your life after the season. The reason for that is that the purpose of 'giving' something up is to get you to see more clearly and with deeper appreciation the empty tomb. So choose something that you will want to be resurrected, as that is what God's sacrifice leads to.

Allow me to wrap this all up this way. If you are to 'give up something for Lent' it must be a true sacrifice. The loss of this must cause you some amount of internal, spiritual conflict unto pain. This sacrifice must be such that its absence focuses your meditations not upon it or you, but rather that it shines the light of truth upon what God sacrificed. Your focus is changed at its loss in such a way that your reflection is upon God's ultimate sacrifice; done in joy for you. The final gift that this should bring to you is a new vision of the resurrection which awaits us all at the end of the Lenten season and the Three Days as well as our mortal lives.

If the mantra of the real estate industry is; "location, location, location" the mantra of Lent would be; "focus, focus, focus". Lent is a gift the Church gives to itself in order that it might see more clearly what God was and remains up

to with a piece of wood and hole in a garden wall. It is true that with the disciplines of Lent one can see that the piece of wood becomes a cross, the cross upon which the savior of the cosmos dies. That whole in a garden wall, which once was a tomb, becomes the gate to eternal life. All this came to be because God chose you and chose to give up his Son for you. The greatest of all sacrifices was entered into to buy you back.

The disciplines of Lent; prayer, fasting and sacrifice are all things which are gifts to empower you to see a bloody cross which could not hang onto the body of God's Son and an empty tomb that could not stand against God's command to release his Son. All believers have been given 40 days to live with God knowing what he sacrificed, why he did it and what it means so that on the days to follow joy can be resurrected. Engage in those disciplines as you are lead to and do so with focus and purpose.

Focus on what God has done, is doing and forever will do. Live the purpose of Lent, which is to get you to the cross and tomb to see what God's sacrifice has led to. Remember these are self-disciplines which you live out alone or at best with one or more with you on the journey, supporting and loving you.

I would really like to tell you what we talked one of our 6th grade classmates into 'giving up for Lent' but then again maybe not. Suffice it to say that the priest really helped him see that giving up the Sixth Commandment might not be his best Lenten sacrifice. And for that we have repented.

Along with you on the journey of Lent,
Pastor Mike

Winter of '21 Meanderings

So ok, let's just get this out of the way. As most of you probably know, January and February have long been my 2 least favorite months for a variety of reasons and in no particular order. February 2021 has now officially moved into first place as my most least favorite month.

One of my all-time favorite family sit-coms was "The Middle," set in Orson, a semi-fictional small town in the middle of Indiana. In the Heck family, middle-age, middle-class, middle-America mom Frankie Heck, played by two-time Emmy winner Patricia Heaton (for the sit-com, "Everybody Loves Raymond", and the gently Christian and genuinely funny movie, "Moms' Night Out"). Heaton is a Christian, raised Catholic, and is from the west side of Cleveland. She uses a sense of humor to try to steer her family through life's unpredictable ups and downs as she tackles her own ever changing career goals. Her unflappable husband, Mike (Neil Flynn), is the manager of the local stone quarry. Oldest son Axl is an obstinate and often obnoxious young man; awkward daughter Sue cannot seem to find her place in life, despite seemingly unlimited enthusiasm in her attempts, and youngest son Brick is an unusual child who *loves* to

read and whose best friend is his backpack. In one episode, Frankie is getting all excited about going to church for the coming Christmas Eve service when Axl calmly informs her that he is not going this year. He explains that he is now an adult and is starting to think for himself, and that he is not sure which religion, if any, he believes in. Frankie pretty much loses it and tells him that, oh yes, he is going, period. Axl asks her why she goes to church, and all she can think of is that she gets some peace and quiet for one hour a week and gets to eat doughnuts and drink coffee after the service. Axl is not impressed. After numerous threats, pleas and arguments, Frankie finally gives in and tells Axl to relax, she's not going to try to force him to go. Axl asks her again why she goes to church, and her reply is a bit different this time. She explains that the peace and quiet is nice, and she does enjoy the coffee and doughnuts, but really, she goes because she feels renewed and strengthened, and that she feels that she is part of something bigger than "all of this," gesturing vaguely at the chaos in their house. Axl smiles, gets up, puts on his coat, and says, "Ok, let's go."

When I was in High School back in Chagrin Falls, I got to know the custodian, John Cook, at Valley Lutheran Church.

John seemed to always be doing something around the church, often on Saturdays when I would sometimes be hanging out there. We occasionally took time to visit and he commented once that he wished that Pastor Kretzmann would slow down a bit, since he seemed to be working all the time. I explained that there was always something to do as a pastor. John agreed, but noted that the Pastor didn't have to do everything and that there were others who could be doing things at the church as well. Anyway, I eventually learned that John was a steelworker at the US Steel Mill in "the Flats", the industrial heart of Cleveland centered on the Cuyahoga River, and was also the custodian at a local office building. So, he was really not one to comment on someone else working too much, but that was John. He never seemed to be moving very fast, but also never seemed to stop moving. He and his lovely wife Florence lived in Chagrin Falls Park, the black ghetto community just across the county line south of Chagrin Falls. At the time, Chagrin Falls Park consisted largely of ramshackle tar paper shacks, many with dirt floors and without windows, and a few small struggling shops and businesses.

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John and Florence elected to stay and live in their community even though I'm certain that they could have moved to a nicer one. They built a cute little house with a picket fence and a green lawn right in the middle of their community, I think perhaps partly as an example and encouragement for their friends and neighbors to better themselves as well. I really don't know, maybe they just wanted a nice home in which to live and raise their family. Mom and Dad hosted a wedding reception for us in Independence at the end of our honeymoon, and I made sure to invite John and Florence to attend. Florence's health was failing at the time, but John was able to attend. Mary and I visited them several times when we went back to Ohio to visit my family, and Florence was always the quintessential excellent cook and gracious hostess while John loved showing off his extensive collection of license plates. We met some of their children on one visit, all of whom were courteous and friendly and at that time attending college. We later learned that several of them went on to become successful professionals in various fields of endeavor. A few years later after Florence died, sadly we lost track of John. I don't know that John was exactly what one would call a role model for me, but at the same time I have thought about him many times over the years. John's ability to just take in stride anything that came his way and

then calmly move on was an example that I have tried to emulate, often unsuccessfully, and his memory has often served as encouragement for me.

In closing, this prayer from "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy":

Protect me from knowing what I don't need to know. Protect me from even knowing that there are things to know that I don't know. Protect me from knowing that I decided not to know about the things that I decided not to know about. Amen.

Peace, and stay warm and healthy,

Hap

First Quarter Giving Jug 2021 (Jan., Feb., Mar.)

The Animal Rescue League will be the recipient of the First Quarter Giving Jug—2021 monies. We will sponsor a drive for items to be used at the Animal Rescue League. Items that are needed at the Rescue League include dry dog food, dry cat food, treats for all animals, bleach, dish soap, glass cleaner, cat litter, baking soda, white office paper, postage stamps, facial tissue, laundry detergent, towels, blankets, nylon collars, leashes, pet taxis or porters and money.

Thank you so much for helping us support the Animal Rescue League for the first quarter of 2021.

Service & Mission Committee

♥♥♥Attention Thrivent Member♥♥♥☐

Please take a few minutes to direct your 2020 Thrivent Choice Dollars this month! Our Savior Lutheran church will gladly accept them OR direct to the organization of your choice. Thrivent tries to make it easy with a simple phone call to 800-847-4836 or on line at Thrivent.com. Please have your log-in details (user name and password) ready for on-line or Thrivent ID # handy for phone call.

Tina Nelson,
Thrivent Congregational
Advocate

Property Board

Hello my name is Ken Rasmussen and I will assume the property manager position for 2021 - 2022.

I hope to maintain and provide the same great service that our church has had and deserves.

I have begun my training with the past two managers Barry and Dan this week and I thank them in advance for all their help.

My cell phone is 641-758-9259 if you need to reach me or see anything that needs my attention don't hesitate to call.

Properties,
Ken Rasmussen

Thank You

Tina and I would like to extend a big thanks to all of you who reached out via, cards, calls, emails, prayers, and text messages to offer your sympathies on the passing of my Mother. She was blessed with wonderful health through her 99 years, made the most of her time on this earth and now has been welcomed into her heavenly home. We appreciate you remembering us during this time.

With Thanks,
Danny and Tina Nelson



March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we are grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

Maybe you have never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you have had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves by overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065. -.....

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A Path to Hope and Healing

Mike remembers feeling angry and depressed, and his family was at risk of falling apart. When he decided to start Therapy Services with LSI, he questioned the decision. Therapy wasn't easy and when he missed an appointment, he didn't want to go back.

But through working with his LSI therapist, Sherry, for the past several months, he has found ways to grow and heal. During each session, Sherry is there to listen without judgment, and she provides a listening ear for anything Mike wants to talk about. At the end, Mike is always given a type of homework or a lesson to think about until they meet again.

While they originally began meeting in person, Sherry has continued to be available

through virtual therapy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual sessions ensure Sherry and Mike can continue meeting regularly, on a flexible schedule and from the safety of their own homes.

"Thank God for working through LSI in-person and through telehealth, and especially for Sherry, who helps people like myself who have been lost for years. If I hadn't chosen LSI, I wouldn't have met my therapist who has truly helped me keep my family and stay alive," Mike says. "I look back at the progress I have made and see some light peeking through to the end."



The Emergency Food Box would like to say *THANK YOU* for all of the support we received throughout 2020!

Our end-of-the-year statistics show that the Emergency Food Box served 2662 families with a total of 8792 people. Additionally, we prepared Christmas Boxes for distribution to another 73 families, serving 258 people. We could not provide food to so many people without your help! All food items are donated, or purchased with the money contributed.

We are currently in need of the following food items: *canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup, cereal, peanut butter, crackers, macaroni and cheese.* (Please check the expiration dates to make sure the food items are not outdated.)

Food items or monetary (check/cash) donations may be brought to the EFB (109 S. 3rd St.) Monday through Thursday afternoon, 1:00-4:30. Please make checks payable : *Emergency Food Box.* Our mailing address is: *EFB, P.O. Box 391, Marshalltown, IA 50158.* Donated funds are used to buy food items from the

Food Bank of Iowa and locally.

We are always looking for Food Box volunteers. We have many different types of opportunities that are available, and we are very flexible in arranging times to fit your schedule! Contact: Cindy Staron, 641-752-4868.

**THE WEATHER IS CHANGING
NEW ITEMS NEEDED**

**Caring Center
132 W. Main St.
Mon. & Wed. 10-1**

We need:

- Men's tennis shoes and work boots.
- Socks of all sizes
- Men's jeans size 38, 40 and 42
- Misses jeans in size 4,5,6,7,8

Any household items including:

- toasters
- coffee pots
- silverware
- plates
- drinking glasses
- pots and pans
- curtains
- sleeping bags (for the homeless)

Donna Patton

MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

Lauren McKibben	03/05
Dean Stucky	03/06
Janice Browne	03/06
Justin Sease	03/08
Kayla Danielson	03/11
Joel Gummert	03/14
Nancy Park	03/14
Sarah De Jong	03/15
Daniel Auld	03/17
Brynn Van Buren	03/22
Dennis Hanke	03/25
Pastor Mike	03/25
Dwayne Scott	03/26
Kim Younge	03/27
LaRee Wise	03/29
Katie Zoske	03/29

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS!

Evelyn Auld	03/31
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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES!

David & Ann Reinberg	03/15
Ken & Linda Lindblom	03/27
Rick & Denise Bahlmann	03/20
Dale & Lois Wilson	03/28

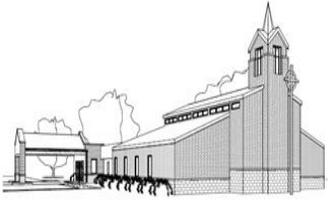
MARCH 2021



Our Savior Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
as of 01/31/2021

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
Assets		
1000	Checking	\$42,972.48
1005	Debit Card Account	\$644.68
1007	Thrivent Fixed Settlement Option	\$18,371.05
1010	Fern Thompson Scholarship	\$49,550.18
Total Assets		\$111,538.39
Liabilities		
2600	Federal Withholding Taxes Payable	\$124.00
2602	State Withholding Taxes Payable	\$39.55
2604	Social Security Withholding	\$133.09
2606	Medicare Withholding	\$31.10
Total Liabilities		\$327.74
Equity		
3000	General Fund - Fund Balance	\$1,563.50
3100	Building Fund - Fund Balance	\$15,649.57
3101	Ice Cream Social Fund Balance	\$1,496.56
3102	Fellowship Fund Balance	\$871.40
3103	Memorial Fund Balance	\$14,423.34
3104	Bible Fund Balance	\$100.00
3105	Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund Balance	\$8,403.54
3108	Riverside Scholarship Fund Balance	\$221.75
3109	Alter Flowers Fund Balance	\$699.39
3111	Fern Thompson Scholarship Fund Balance	\$48,130.21
3112	Bonnie Riemenschneider Fund Balance	\$18,193.39
3113	Quarter 1 Giving Jug Fund Balance	\$137.00
3117	Lenten Offering Fund Balance	\$1,171.00
3118	Lawnmower Replacement Fund Balance	\$150.00
Total Equity		\$111,210.65
Total Liabilities + Total Equity		\$111,538.39

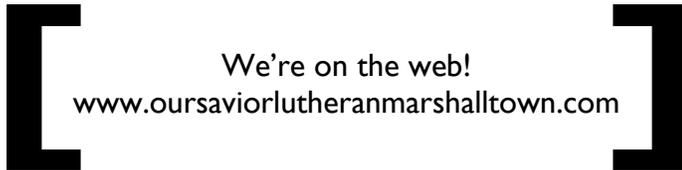
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:15 pm Service & Mission Board 6:00 pm Outreach Board	2	3 4:00 pm Worship Board Meeting 5:30 pm Midweek Service	4	5 Church Office Closed	6
7 Third Sunday in Lent 9:00 am in-person Worship	8	9	10 5:30 pm Midweek Service	11 12:00 pm Colleague Pastor Mike-Story City	12 Church Office Closed	13
14 Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:00 am in-person Worship	15	16	17 9:30 am Wed. Wonders 5:30 pm Midweek Service Newsletter Articles	18	19 Church Office Closed	20
21 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:00 am in-person Worship	22	23	24 5:30 pm Midweek Service	25	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 Psalm Sunday 9:00 am in-person Worship	29	30	31	<i>March 2021</i>		



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Michael Herschberger
3001 South Sixth Street
Marshalltown, IA. 50158
Phone: 641-753-4108
Email: oslpastor@outlook.com

Address Service Requested



We're on the web!
www.oursaviorlutheranmarshalltown.com

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM Worship

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Secretary: Carol Fuller
Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Office: 753-4108

Email:
oslmtown@outlook.com



2021