

The Messenger

**Our Saviour
Lutheran Church
Warrenton, Virginia**



**No Judgment,
Only Love
March 2020**

I SAID: I WILL CONFESS MY TRANSGRESSION TO THE LORD. Years ago, that verse from Psalm 32 was sung as part of the Brief Order of Confession in most Lutheran churches. It still echoes in many of our ears, reminding us of God's call to be honest with him and with ourselves, to lay open our hearts.

This openness, this unflinching acknowledgment of our own failures, is an important part of Lent, the season of penitence and self-denial.

But the verse that follows is just as important: "And you forgave the iniquity of my sin." Our confession does not go unanswered! God responds to our honesty with his own limitless grace and mercy.

As bishop and scholar N.T. Wright says, "Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store."

Worship

Join us for worship every weekend!

PRAY ALWAYS. PRAY ALL WAYS!

Evening Prayer on Wednesdays in Lent

At the beginning of February, Luke's Gospel told about a woman, a prophet called Anna, who, "never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day."

As we enter this precious season of Lent, 2020, we continue to pray. In fact, this theme continues as we **Thrive** to be what God has called us to be in our world today.

God just wants to hear from us. I Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing." These three simple words say **pray always**. Perhaps we don't live in the Temple like Anna, but we are still called to pray always.

Ephesians 6:18 says "Pray on all occasions." Pray if you are good, glad and happy. Pray if you are sad, alone or afraid. Pray just to say "Hi."

At OSLC we have as many ways to pray as we have people

walking in and out of our doors. We pray in worship together; we pray alone on our knees or in our cars; we pray in the still, quiet presence of God; we pray walking a labyrinth, doing art, or helping others. So, we pray always as we **pray all ways**.



Join us on Wednesday nights during Lent for a simple soup supper (6:00-6:45pm) and simple prayer (Holden Evening Prayer 7:00-7:30pm). During Worship we will be hearing how some of our members pray. How do YOU pray? Let us know!

--Dr. Tina Korte & the Thrive Vitality Group

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Lent through Easter Sunday

EVERY WEDNESDAY

(March 4 – April 1)

Gather with us at 6pm for a light supper of soup and bread, then stay for a beautiful and contemplative service of Evening Prayer at 7pm.

Confirmation Classes meet immediately after Evening Prayer.

EVERY WEEKEND

We celebrate Holy Communion three times each weekend:

- Saturday at 5:30pm, in a modern style led by Voices of Praise
- Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30am, in a traditional style led by the organ

HOLY WEEK

- ***Palm Sunday*** (April 4&5): regular weekend schedule
- ***Maundy Thursday*** (April 9): 7pm. Includes Holy Communion celebration with the Communion Education class.
- ***Good Friday*** (April 10): noon & 7pm. The evening service is Tenebrae, the Service of Darkness.
- ***Easter Vigil*** (April 11): 5:30pm. We recount the history of God's saving acts, and hear the first announcement of the resurrection.

EASTER SUNDAY (APRIL 12)

Sunrise Service: 6:30am, in the outdoor worship space.

Holy Communion: festive services at 8 & 10:30am.

Spirituality

Tina Korte is a certified Spiritual Director. She holds Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Luther Seminary, and is part of the THRIVE team

. ...A BREATH OF FRESH AIR...

“The breath of the Almighty gives me life.” Job 33:4

“Jesus loves me this I know.”

Don’t you love it? The tune, the words can take you back to your earliest relationship with Jesus. These words have become like a mantra for some of us, a quick prayer in the midst of a hard time.

“Jesus loves me” puts us in touch with that joy and simplicity of our relationship with this very close friend.

In our adult life this gladness is forgotten. It feels as if it has been exchanged for an obligatory nod in the direction of our faith. As we look back on that other life, it seemed bright, open and vibrant. Today it can seem dark and unyielding.

It is out of this darkness that light comes.

Scripture reminds us that life is not about us, it’s about finding

life. Jesus knew this and taught it every chance he could. You can read all about it any time you want. (Matt. 5:23-26)

He is the light that shines in whatever cloudiness we find along the way. (John 8:12)

Prayer is about changing you, not about changing God.

Prayer gives you opportunity to see life from another perspective.

Prayer takes you beyond thinking only Holy thoughts and meditating on piety, the small prayers.

Prayer takes you into the presence of God and reveals the life God means for you.

Let’s grow big in our prayer life. Let’s be transformed by the renewal of our minds and hearts.

And let’s not miss the chance to be changed by praying together.

Let’s pray big and Thrive!

Learning

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM : THE ART OF CONVERSATION WITH TEENS

Sundays, March 8-April 5, at 9:15am in Room 6

Do you ever feel like you don't know what's going on in the lives of your kids? Do you have good "chats" with teens but wish for help going deeper? Do you want to prepare for when you have a teenager in your own life to talk with? Do you love them and want to help them grow in their faith? Come to "The Art of Conversation with Teens" Sunday Adult Forum.

In this five-week series, Pastor Terri will meet with **caring adults** (parents, grandparents, and **anyone** who loves and values kids), especially **for use with teenagers** in the modern era. Through a combination of these pieces, we will develop stronger ties with each other and with the children and youth in our lives:

- Videos about culture translation and tips for deeper conversations.
- What do the Bible and the Church say to help us out? (And what might be missing!)
- Conversation as a class— Let's share what works! (And what doesn't.)
- "Speed Chats" practice sessions.
- Resources to use on your own.

Join us on Sundays at 9:15am in Room 6 at the back of Fellowship Hall, March 8-April 5. (Note: March 29 is a 5th Sunday Brunch, so we'll eat together in the classroom.) Bring your coffee, snacks, Bibles, questions, answers and open hearts. For more information or to sign up, contact Pastor Terri.

“IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, EAT AND DRINK”

Holy Communion Classes

On Sundays through Lent, Yvonne Rodgers will be teaching Holy Communion classes for all youth in 5th grade or older who have not yet gone through Communion classes.

Classes will be offered during the Sunday School/Fellowship hour (9:15-10:20am) in classroom 3 of the Fellowship Hall.

Parents are welcome to attend all classes.

The classes have begun, but it is not too late to join! Contact Yvonne or pastor Terri to sign up.



POWER IN THE SPIRIT

July 9-11, 2020 at Roanoke College

Power in the Spirit is an inspirational conference for everyone who wishes to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, keynote addresses, workshops, and fellowship.

Our 2020 Keynote presenter is **Beth Lewis**, a Harvard-trained businesswoman who has led the revival of Augsburg-Fortress, the

ELCA's publishing house. Beth is a popular speaker and teacher in both Lutheran and ecumenical gatherings on a wide variety of topics to assist church and not-for-profit organization leaders: from turnaround strategies for faith-based organizations to strategic thinking to effective use of technology to congregational hospitality.

Social Ministry

Activities

Jan. – Feb. 2020

Food Baskets: 5 (Jan)

Gas Cards: 3 (Jan)

Food Distribution:

- 65 households
- 98 individuals
- 8 under 18
- 31 between 19-59
- 59 over 60

People Helping People:

- \$7,700 for rent and utilities
- \$2,400 total income for month

Assisted:

- 29 households
- 51 Individuals
- 5 over 65
- 35 children
- OSLC volunteer hours — 69.5

February Activities:

Delivered 30 sweaters, jackets, and blankets to Food Distribution.

March Activities:

1) We will provide a meal at Fauquier Health nursing home on **March 10, 2020**. Please contact Elfie Schmid, (540) 937-5315, if you can help.

2) **Easter Baskets** for Head Start families—money collection. Contact Donna Bartkiewicz for more information, (540) 349-9753.



Lenten Discipline

Lent is about more than “giving something up.” It is a time to focus our attention upon living a spiritual life. Since ancient times, Christians have used three practices, or



“disciplines,” to do this: prayer, fasting and giving to charity.

Don’t just stop eating chocolate during this holy time! Make a plan to pray, fast and give, so that all your attention can be turned to the work of God.

Youth

YOUTH NEWS

Ministries by and for 6th-12th graders and the adults who love them.

Great job, everyone, but especially Carolyn Kiser, our fearless youth leader, and Tom Bartkiewicz, our adult master organizer, for a fabulous **30 Hour Famine**. We don’t know the amount raised yet as donations are still coming in, but we know a LOT more about hunger now and have prayed and given so God can work. Thank you!

Thank you to Rick Ducharme for promoting generosity with the PALMS (and senior helpers!) **trip to Washington, D.C.** this past January. His thank you event at the February congregational meeting was from the heart and inspiring!

Thank you, Renee Breeding, Sharon Fuerlinger, and Greg Behan for leading youth groups in February.

YOUTH IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL: MARCH EVENTS

Mar. 7-8, 6-8pm: For 5th & 6th Grade Youth---"Seventh Day" retreat at Eagle Eyrie hosted by the Virginia Synod. *It's past the deadline, but if you speak with Yvonne Rodgers she'll see if there is room.*

March 8, 6pm: For Senior Youth (High School)—Sports Night Youth Group—come and plan to move, have fun, and connect with God and each other!

March 10, 7pm; March 15, 6pm; OR March 18, 6:30pm: For parents of youth currently

in 7th-11th grades— Potential dates and times to meet to plan the 2021 Youth Gathering

March 22, 5pm: For all youth—Laid-back Youth Group—Bring homework, board games, puzzles, and friends to eat a meal and chill together. Help Pastor Terri bring tips to parents on their "Art of Conversation" classes!

March 28, 6:30pm: For Senior Youth—Fun at the Fuerlingers! Come to Matthew's house for a night of fun, food and fellowship!

Weekly:

Adult Forum, Sundays, 9:15am, March 8-April 5— Come help each other learn the "Art of Conversation" especially adults talking about deep and difficult topics with their kids and grandkids.

Youth Sunday School, every week at 9:15am—chill with Dr. Cathy Codgill and Mr. Rick

Ducharme over coffee/cocoa and fellowship foods.

Got ideas for outings or other fun things to do at our Sunday Night events? Let me know!

Blessings from Pastor Terri (pastor.terri@oslc-warrenton.org; 540-359-2820)

Community

WORLD CUISINES:

TRAVEL THE WORLD A LA EXOTIC DISHES!

Potluck Saturday, March 7

For this potluck, whip up one of your favorite ethnic dishes.

Maybe it is Pot Stickers (Asian), Stroganoff (Russian), Cabbage Rolls (Polish), Purple Potato Salad (Peruvian), Shepherd's Pie (Irish), Cashew Chicken (Chinese), or Macaroons (French).

Share your knowledge and appreciation of multi-

cultural cooking with others. Or bring any favorite dish to share.

Dishless? Don't usually come to the Saturday service? That's fine, too, because we always have plenty.

Please contact Tamar Yager at tamaryager@gmail.com if you can help.

CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION DAY

Saturday, March 28, 8:00-1:00pm

Gather with us to clean, straighten, mulch and otherwise make our church a beautiful place to worship and learn.

The rain date (if necessary) is Saturday, April 4.



International Church

LUTHERAN / ROMAN CATHOLIC DIALOGUE

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) have agreed to jointly mark the 500th anniversary of the excommunication of Luther, which happened in 1521.

As Catholics and Lutherans move from conflict to communion, this event will

highlight recent ecumenical successes.

The event will take place in Rome and will include a liturgical service. To express this ecumenical openness, it will take place on 25 June 2021, in anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession, which was presented on that date in 1530.

LUTHERANS IN HONG KONG

The Chinese New Year festival – and church services – have been interrupted, both by protests against the government and by the outbreak of COVID-19, the “coronavirus.”

“After seven months of social conflict, we are facing another round of challenges,” writes Leon Chau, General Secretary of the Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod.

A few churches have cancelled Sunday services. Most pastoring and fellowship can

only be done via internet or telephone.

The Lutherans of Hong Kong remain hopeful. Chau writes:

“There are rumors and fear around us, but we trust in our Lord, who will carry us through this time of trial. We also know that we can count on the prayers and practical support of Christians all over the world to support us in Hong Kong, as well as those affected elsewhere in Asia and around the globe. We shall overcome!”

Finance Corner

Bonnie McQuillan is OSLC's Congregation Treasurer. She tracks spending and income, and makes a detailed monthly report to the Congregation Council.

FINANCE CORNER

Last Quarter 2019 Income & Expenses (General Operating Budget)

	TOTAL OFFERING	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
JANUARY 2019	\$ 37,016	\$ 36,269
YTD	\$ 37,016	\$ 36,269

AVERAGE MONTHLY OFFERING NEEDED: \$ 36,750

Thank you for the generosity of all who have contributed both by participating in church activities and by your financial support. Giving to Our Lord by giving to others and His church is a wonderful act of faith.

In addition to the increase in salaries afforded for 2020 to the Pastors, Musicians and Staff, our biggest expense was the Workmen's Compensation payment.

Additionally, our long-term goal of turning the Memorial Fund into an Endowment Fund was aided by a very nice contribution and, at this point only, \$16,500 needs to be raised to meet that goal – all in due time.

THRIVE is a long-term process of self-study and renewal at OSLC. In February, we asked the congregation a question: "Why do we gather?" Here are your answers!

The Most Frequent Answers:

fellowship (30) worship (29) grow closer to God (17)
music/sing (12) love (11)

The Middle Range:

8x: prayer, strength, forgiveness

7x: Jesus, peace, grateful

5x: learn

The Many:

4x: share, truth/honesty, sermons, kindness

3x: inspiration, parents make me, teach, communion

2x: healing, hope, children, joy

to be with similar people, no judgment

grace, service

Other answers included:

- to see the light shining through the beautiful windows!"
- "to be changed"
- "to praise Jesus"
- "to feel part of the community of God"
- "gain a deeper understanding of the liturgy"
- "become who I am created to be"
- "find comfort and peace in a difficult time"
- "grow in a safe place"
- "help do our Lord's work in the world"
- "to start the week off right"
- "God is my rock"
- "talk to God with my family"
- "because the spirit calls us"
- "future"
- "to be a part of something bigger/important"
- balance
- "I come because it brings me great joy"
- refuge
- encouragement
- "a place of comfort"
- "modifying my life"
- "checking in/checking up"
- "touching base"
- "refreshed by God"
- "turn over my worries"
- "respect for people who are suffering and passed away"

COUNCIL NEWS

2020 March Council Update

I am writing to offer a brief update on council activities.

The Council has been focused on compiling the annual reports from the various teams at OLSC, to be presented to the congregation at the February Congregational meeting, as well as preparing for the meeting itself.

This year we are focused on connecting with all our teams and the ministries that fall under them. The council is working to actively meet with representatives from each of the ministries and teams they represent. We recognize that communication and personal connections are key to our health and success as a congregation. I invite you to seek out your council reps (listed on the following page) to provide feedback, ask questions, or to seek clarification.

As we look towards March, we are excited about working with the Thrive Leaders and taking the next steps for the vitality of our congregation. We join with them in our focus on prayer and other steps to respond to the Listening Post feedback. As a “quick win” we are working on cleaning up the church calendar and finalizing the core Thrive leaders.

I ask that you keep the Thrive team and the Council in your prayers!

Troy Stansell

Troy Stansell
Council Presiden

OSLC 2020:

CONGREGATION COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

OFFICERS:

President: Troy Stansell
Vice President: Cathy Cogdill
Secretary: Mike Burkholder
Treasurer: Bonnie McQuillan
Financial Secretary:
Sandy Benfit

TEAM LIAISONS:

Administration Team:

Ken McIlvoy
Rod Kastrup

Worship Team:

Jason Ashby
Tom Jordan

Faith Growth & Development Team;

Nancy Griffin-Bonnaire
Mark Knisely

Caring Team:

Jan Fowler
Rich Baker
Bob Springman

PASTORS:

Rev. Michael Church
Rev. Terri Church