

OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
ANNOUNCEMENTS — 20 MARCH A.D. 2016

✠ **CALENDAR** ✠

20 March to 27 March A.D. 2016

TODAY

Palm Sunday Divine Services	8:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School & Bible Studies	10:00 A.M.
Confirmation	11:00 A.M.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

Office of Matins	8:10 A.M.
Holy Monday Divine Service (spoken)	7:00 P.M.

TUESDAY

Holy Tuesday Divine Service (spoken)	7:00 P.M.
Cantate Choir Rehearsal	7:45 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Holy Wednesday Divine Service (spoken)	7:00 P.M.
Celebration Ringers Rehearsal	7:45 P.M.

THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday Divine Service	7:00 P.M.
Brass Ensemble Rehearsal	8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY

Good Friday Tre Ore Communion Service	1:00 P.M.
Good Friday Office of Tenebrae	7:00 P.M.

SATURDAY

Easter Egg Hunt	10:00 A.M.
The Great Vigil of Easter Service	7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, 27 March

FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD	
DIVINE SERVICES	8:30 AND 11:00 A.M.
Easter Breakfast	9:45 TO 10:45 A.M.



INSIGHTS FOR THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

“Priest is a strong and lovely word... (Christ) offered Himself once for all, so that He is Himself both Priest and Sacrifice, and the altar is the cross. No more precious sacrifice could He offer to God than that He gave Himself to be slain and consumed in the fire of love. That is the true sacrifice.” **Martin Luther**

“The theologian of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theologian of the cross calls a thing what it is.” **Gerhard O. Forde**

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDIES:

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW with Pastor Thoma leading the discussion. This has proven to be a lively study full of great discussion. You are encouraged to join to see for yourself! The study group meets in the ECC entrance room, and God willing, starts right at 10:00 a.m.

HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH — Mr. Ted Nichols continues to lead this wonderful study of John T. Pless’ delightful book on Law and Gospel. The group meets in the church conference room #105 at 10:00 a.m. Check it out!

LIFELIGHT WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

LifeLight Women’s Bible Study on the book of Acts. We meet at the school on Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., spending our time together in small groups, prayer, and discussion of the previous week’s lesson completed at home. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact LifeLight’s director, Carol Caswell (248-296-1140).

Did you know that Pastor Heckert is leading a tour to Germany entitled “In the Steps of Martin Luther” in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation? We have brochures available here at the church if you are interested in reading more about it and possibly participating. You may find the brochures on the shelf in the entranceway. The dates for the trip are November 1-11, 2016.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us this week for Sunday School. A reminder for families with younger students, please be sure to drop them off and pick them up in their room. The following is your child’s teacher and room numbers:

Preschool—Room 212—Sue Kelly, Alexis Ripke
Grades K & 1—Room 215—Joyce Hicks & Rachel Bronsberg
Grades 2 & 3—Room 219—Mia Chapman
Grades 4 & 5—Room 203—Bill & Ruth Libby & Janel Gryc
Grades 6 & 7—Room 205—Emily Helmreich
Grade 8—Room 206—Donna Hay

NEW RADIO COMMERCIALS PROMOTING OUR CHURCH AND SCHOOL ON WHMI 93.5 FM! You may listen to the commercials here: <https://youtu.be/zs8wblpZeo4> (Church); and <https://youtu.be/LqmZFlgjmcU> (School). These commercials will run in regular rotations over the course of the next four months, reaching hundreds of thousands of people. Praise God for this! Feel free to share them with family and friends.

THE CHURCH WEBSITE. Have you ever visited our website (www.oursaviorhartland.org)? No? You really should! There’s a lot of great stuff there that you can share with friends, especially the information about the identity of your church and her school. Speaking of the website, Roy Raymond has offered to help Pastor Thoma maintain it. Is there anyone else out there who may be interested in joining the effort? The help is needed. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Thoma at pastorthoma@charter.net.

LILIES are needed to adorn the Lord’s altar this Easter. Please sign up on the chart posted on the Lobby Bulletin Board near the flower chart.. Cost is \$15.00 for each lily plant. Funds may be put in a flower envelope and marked Easter Lilies.

FROM THE KANTOR

Congratulations to our Choristers and Middle School Handbells for their accomplishments at the Lutheran Schools Music Festival at Concordia University Ann Arbor on Thursday, March 10! Both groups glorified God through their singing and ringing and performed courageously for the judges to the best of their abilities. As a result, both groups also received Superior (highest possible) ratings! To God alone be the glory!!



SPRING IS ALMOST HERE and we are looking for individuals, families, or groups to adopt a bed around the church or school to keep it clean and weed-free. Whether you are interested in doing one yourself or sharing with someone else, please sign up on the facilities map on the trustee’s bulletin board across from the coatrack in the church hallway. A new listing is posted for 2016 so if you had signed up in the past and would like to continue ... and who wouldn’t, please sign up again. Questions? Email Michelle Nichols at mnichols@oursaviorhartland.org. *A man’s children and his garden both reflect the amount of weeding done during the growing season. ~Author Unknown*

**THE CAPITAL FUND RECEIVED A HUGE BOOST!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

God is at work through His people! Our Capital Fund balance has increased to \$12,461! That is wonderful! And it means we’re very close to meeting the need.

Remember, the current estimates are running between \$15,000 and \$20,000. If you can help by giving an “over-and-above” gift, please consider doing so. We’re almost there, and with Spring just around the corner, the time is coming to get started on the repairs.

In the meantime, thank you to all who’ve stepped out in faith to help. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Week of 21 March to 27 March

BIRTHDAYS

Seth Blumberg	3/21	Addison Engel	3/25
Ava Taylor	3/21	David Mrozek	3/25
Brandon Engel	3/23	Timothy Pies	3/26
Joan Goovert	3/23	Frank Pies Jr.	3/26
Scott Whitehouse	3/24		

ANNIVERSARIES

John and Mary Gruber	03/23/2006
John and Elizabeth Grupp	03/23/2006
John and Barbara Bain	03/24/1956
Rob and Joan Thompson	03/25/1972
Scott and Cristie Dibert	03/25/2000

NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

Did you know that there is a name for the fear of money? It's called chrematophobia. "Chremata" is the Greek word for "money." You probably already know what "phobia" means. One of the symptoms of this particular phobia is the dread of mismanaging money. It wasn't all that long ago that I spent quite a bit of time and mental energy communicating through these email newsletters that the leadership efforts here at Our Savior, when it comes to managing the funds God has provided through you, are honed, prayerfully mindful, and above reproach. When you give to the work of the Gospel here at Our Savior, every penny is squeezed of its maximum potential.

As the Christmas season gets further and further from sight, with that we often see a steady dialing back in giving levels. I'm not sure why it happens this way, but it does. I think it may be happening again right now. I just hope that it isn't ever because there is a lack of trust in the people managing it. Here at Our Savior, there are four particular values you can count on when it comes to the management of tithes and offerings – Humility, Transparency, Consistency, and Faithfulness. Each of these permeates the work that our Budget and Financial men and women perform and accomplish.

With that, I must urge you to continue in faithful giving. Don't let up. We are making great strides and accomplishing great things for the sake of the Gospel. Pastor Thoma

✠ PRAYERS ✠

THE SICK, THE SHUT-INS, THOSE IN ADVERSITY: Adrian Atkinson, Ingeborg Bailey, Jack & Barbara Bain, Jack Bartenbaker, Wendell Bergren, Christopher Bolton, Susan Brandt, Mary Ann Brueggeman, Matt Budisill, Sylvia Cole, Bill Cokley, Carole Doll, Jim Faught, Carol Ford, Kevin Haas, Sharon Johnson, Bill Kirkpatrick, Bill Libby, Kayla Marcum, Lisa Martin, Leah Nelson, Tommy Plewka, Cindy Pushman, Cindy Quinkert, Helen Rehfeld, The Shirk family, Art Swett, Donna Talsma, Randi Talsma, Monica Tkac, Joan Thompson, Cheryl Tobel, Susan Vogt, Warren Williams, Ed Willer, Rev. John Wurst, Frances Wyckoff, and Randy Zeilinger.

MILITARY: Ramone Baca, Alexander Baloh, Drew Barber, Brandy Bates, Robert Bell, Corry Brennan, Tom Buller, Brian Chapman, Mark Ciero, Jonathan Cross, Kenneth Eyer, Darrel Fenbert Jr., Drew Helmreich, Chad Libby, Neil Lipon, Richard McManamon, Nick Morley, Jonathan Mrozek, Matthew Niendorf, Chris Robosky, Steve Roeske, Samantha Russell, Jake Simkins, Albie Therrien, and Alex Young.

MISSIONARIES: Rev. Charles Ferry and family.

ATTENDANCE in HOLY WORSHIP: Christ declares that Christians are made by baptizing and teaching, that is, Word and Sacrament (Matthew 28:19). The Apostle John declares that this same Lord makes His presence among His believers and strengthens them in the faith through the means of Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Word of the Gospel, pronounced, read, preached, and taught (1 John 5:6-12).

Jesus, the Light of the World (John 8:12) declares that by His Gospel given through Word and Sacrament, Christians become lights in the world around them (Matthew 5:16). History proves that attendance numbers do not change by programs or gimmicks. Such things do not truly introduce people to Jesus. By way of the Gospel, His Christians do! The Lord sends His Gospel invitation into all nations through you, His church. *IN THE NEW YEAR*, invite your friends and family to hear the Gospel so that they may believe in Christ as you do and be joined with the Savior for eternal life!

SCHOOL NEWS

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

We recently received our Kroger Community Rewards statement for purchases between 11/1/2015 and 1/31/2016. It was accompanied with a check for the school in the amount of \$190.27. Thank you if you are a Kroger shopper and have your loyalty card linked to Our Savior. Currently there are 32 households participating in this program. If you shop at Kroger either regularly or even occasionally and have not designated Our Savior Lutheran School on your Kroger card, please consider doing so. The directions are available as a link on Fast Direct and can be acquired at the school office. Your help does make a difference!

Also be reminded that all current participants must re-enroll in April to continue earning Kroger Community Rewards for Our Savior from May 2016 - April 2017.

BOX TOPS UPDATE

Box Tops were submitted at the end of February which totaled \$167.40. The total for the school year so far is \$531.10. The students earned a cookie day for reaching \$500.00 and are now half way to the goal of \$1,000.00. If you purchase items with Box Tops labels attached, please clip them and drop them off in the school office. Each one is worth 10¢.

OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Reverend Christopher I. Thoma, Pastor

Reverend Dr. Jakob K. Heckert, Assistant Pastor

Reverend Dr. Frank J. Pies, Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Jonathan Swett, Kantor

Mrs. Andrea Johnson, School Principal