

January 2020



THE REPORTER

Friends in Christ-

The season of Lent is here. This year during Lent we will focus on the healing power of Christ and all the ways he suffered that we might be healed. Below is the best summary verse for our Lenten series.

But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

As we start our Lenten season of repentance and reflection, look toward the cross. The cross is what makes His sacrifice for us different. It is the cross that makes His perfection matter. It is the cross that we are healed. This is a healing unlike any other healing offered by doctors, psychologists or touchy feely books. It is a healing that comes to us when we are at our weakest and most vulnerable. It is not a healing from within, but from the outside. Christ comes to us, not the other way around. He calls us to him even though we have pierced, crushed and chastised him. With His wounds, we are healed.

Please join us this Lent as we look deeper into how we are healed and what wounds are healed by Christ. Lenten services are Wednesday nights at 7pm and are preceded by a time of food and fellowship. I look forward to seeing you there.

In Christ-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Pastor Marc



Spring Forward

Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour as Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8. And don't worry, there will be plenty of coffee available at church that morning for those who struggle with losing the hour of sleep.



Lutheran Witness

"The Lutheran Witness" is the official periodical of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and is available for you in the Narthex on the Informational Rack in the Narthex. It is designed to equip lay-people with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in the faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective.

These are made available to you free of charge as an aid to the strengthening of your faith life. Take one home with you and feel free to take additional copies to pass along to friends and family!

"By His Wounds, We Are Healed" Lenten Series

The innocent Son of God had no sins of his own for which he deserved to die, yet his enemies falsely accused him of violating every commandment of God. Each service in this Lenten series we will see that it was our sin, our disobedience, that Jesus bore in his body on the cross. The Lord laid on him "the iniquity of us all." Jesus suffered the penalty of death in our place, and "by his wounds we are healed."

Join us each Wednesday evening of Lent at 7:00 pm, as we see how God has taken our wounds on himself and brings healing to His people.



Lenten Mid Week Fellowship Dinner

The Lenten and Easter season are here and with that, the opportunity to gather our families into on big "family" for a meal together, as well as the opportunity to worship together.

During our Wednesday Midweek Gatherings (**March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1**), a full dinner will be provided by the church at **5:45 pm**. A free-will offering will help offset the cost of the meals each week. By providing a meal, the hope is that some of the

stress of this busy time of year is removed, and that it will make our Wednesday Midweek Service of Evening Prayer more restful and enjoyable. I am looking forward to the desserts!

Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal

Following the Sunday School/Adult Bible Class Hour on **Sunday, March 22, 2020** (11:30 am), you are invited to fellowship around a meal in an effort for the body of Christ to get to know one another even better than we already do. This potluck meal is designed to be as simple and low-key as possible. Please join us, even if you do not have a dish to share.

Men's Bible Breakfast

Men, make plans now to join together with other godly men for a time of fellowship and study of God's Word in our monthly Men's Bible Breakfast. This month we will gather in the Fellowship Hall on

March 14, 2020 at 8:00 am. Men of ALL ages are welcome! Dads, grandpas, etc: This is an EXCELLENT way to model for your sons what a strong Godly-man looks like - one who gathers with other Godly men to study God's Word.



Choir Members for the Lenten and Easter Season at Our Savior

Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. We will sing during several Sunday worship services beginning March through April. If you have any questions or would like to join us, please contact Theta Lee. Please join the fun and use your gifts to praise the Lord!

Lenten MidWeek Services - Live Audio Stream

Our Savior will be streaming the Midweek Service of Evening Prayer (Feb 26, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1) beginning at 7:00 pm. Visit oursaviormilford.com / Media / Live Audio Stream. If you have questions, please contact the church office at 815-889-4121.



Remember Those Unable to be with Us on Sunday Morning

Phyllis Carter
423 N Dixie Hwy
Hoopston IL 60942

Delmer and Reatha Henrichs
1257 E 1200 North Rd
Onarga IL 60955

Arlene Hines
503 S Chicago St
Milford IL 60953

Rosalie Lundberg
216 Walnut St
Milford IL 60953

Joanne Sloan
2364 E 900 North Rd
Milford IL 60953

Brenda St. Peter
817 S Hanson Dr
Watseka IL 60970

Gert Wade
IMH Resident Home
200 E Fairman
Watseka IL 60970

Easter Flowers

If you would like to purchase flowers to help beautify God's House in celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday, please return the form (included in this newsletter) and payment to the church office by **Sunday, March 15, 2020..**



Dorcas Society / LWML Meeting

The Dorcas Society / LWML will hold their monthly business meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 6:30p in the Fellowship Hall. Your hostesses will be Deb Wright and Cheryl Knake. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us. If you have any questions, please contact Theta Lee, Dianne Estes, Linda Kellerhals or Deb Wright. Hope to see you there!!!

Scrip Orders...

Do you go shopping, eat out, or go to the movies? Do you ever gift someone else with the opportunity to do those things? Most likely, all of us would answer "yes" to at least some of those questions. This is why everyone LOVES the Scrip Card program, available each month at OSLC!

Order forms (located on the informational rack in the Narthex) and payment are due to the Church Office by **Sunday, March 29, 2020..** Gift Cards will arrive and be distributed that same week. Please consider supporting the youth (and future leaders of the congregation) in this simple way!

There's an App for that!

Our congregation now has an App available for free download on most Apple and Android mobile devices.

To download from the "Google Play" Store, simply search for the "Our Savior Lutheran - Milford" app and download.

To download from the Apple App Store, you need to download "The ShareFaith App". Once you download and open this App, you will have the opportunity to search for our congregation. Once selected, the App will then be specific to our congregation.

While this App does not contain all of the information available on our full website, it does provide a VERY easy way to access the Live Stream of ALL (including Midweek) Services here at Our Savior. In addition, it has all of the past sermons available for listening and/or download.

Finally, when downloading this App, be sure to "allow notifications." We will be using the App to pass along important information and announcements periodically.

St. Paul's Woodworth Fish Fry

St. Paul's Lutheran School of Woodworth is hosting a Woodworth Fish Fry on Friday, March 20th. Carry-outs begin at 4:00 pm in the lunchroom with dining in the gym beginning at 5:00 pm. Proceeds will benefit the on-going projects of the PTL.

Youth Group Happenings!!

OSLC Youth Group / Grace Lutheran Church Event

OSLC Youth Group (6th-12th grade) will participate in a unique event at Grace Lutheran Church in Lafayette IN on Sunday, March 1, 2020. Kristin Decker, who spoke at the National Youth Gathering last year and shared her experiences about being bullied. Bullying is such an important issue that kids face in school today. She had the entire USBank Stadium of 25,000 people silent.

I am so excited and thankful that all of our youth ages 6th-12th grades will have the opportunity to listen to Kristin's testimony. Congregation, please join me in prayer, praying that God will use this opportunity to touch our youth at OSLC through Kristin's testimony. -Melissa Storm

OSLC Youth Lock-In

Calling All Youth! Friday, March 27th – 28th OSLC will be hosting a Youth Lock-In. This event is for all youth grades 6th-12th and is FREE. As usual, we encourage you to invite friends! The event will begin at 8:00 pm on March 27th and end on Saturday, March 28th at 7:00 am. Fun for everyone - we will have games, music, movies, Mario Kart tourney, food, and so much more. Permission forms will be available soon.

Could you help? We are asking the congregation to help provide the youth with a number of snacks and drinks to make it through the night and the wee hours of the morning. If you would be willing to help out and shower the youth with snacks and drinks it would be greatly appreciated. We are also looking for adult volunteers. to help out for a couple of hours or be really brave and stay and experience the lock in fun. Please sign up. This is a great way to get to know our youth on a more personal level. For more information and to find out how you can help, contact Melissa Storm bmbastorm@gmail.com.

Stewards of the Kingdom

In the hope of capturing a renewed emphasis on our role as stewards of God's creation, our monthly newsletters will include a brief article, published by the Synod's Office of Stewardship Ministry, to assist us in living out our baptismal identity as a child of God.

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and [a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.



The Reporter

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Milford Illinois 60953

Phone: 815-889-4121
E-mail: oursaviormilford@oursaviormilford.com
Facebook: OurSaviorLutheran

Worship Service 9:00 am
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 10:30 am

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Join Us Every Sunday Morning for Service
starting at 9:00 am
Our Savior Lutheran Church
209 West Jones Street, Milford
or listen to the service live on the radio
on WIBK 96.9 FM / 1360 AM or
listen to a live audio stream on our website**

**Email - OurSavior@OurSaviorMilford.com
Website - www.oursaviormilford.com
Facebook - OurSaviorLutheran**