What’s Inside:
A Pastor’s Pen
A schedule for worship assistants for the month
Info on Minnesota FoodShare Month and upcoming temple talks to learn more about the organizations we support through social action
2 great View from the Pew articles
Our Lenten rotation schedule (and a poster!)
As I write this article we are now almost one month into a new pastoral sharing model with Grace Lutheran of Bloomington and so far, it seems to be going pretty well with the exception that it has inevitably snowed every Sunday morning.

But soon enough the days will get longer, the sun will be out shining brighter, and before we know it the snow and cold will be gone to be replaced warmth and new growth.

And that’s just the way it goes with our cycle of seasons. Spring is a time of new beginnings, summer’s a time to enjoy life, in the fall there’s time to wind down, and in the winter there’s a time for solitude.

Similarly, our church calendar also is filled with various seasons and beginning on Ash Wednesday we will be entering the season of Lent.

A season that traditionally followers of Christ have used to prepare themselves both physically and spiritually for the new life that is made manifest through the resurrection of Christ on Easter morning.

And so, for many believers the next month or so will be a time of intentionally reflecting on just what this great gift of grace means to them, it will be a time for people to take stock of how they are living out their Christian call to love God by loving their neighbor, it will be a time for repentance, and above all it will be a time for community.

And I really think that this season of Lent is all about community, because if ever there was time to be in community it is during the time leading up and prior to Christ’s death.

Because we need each other for both support and consolation during this time as unlike the early followers of Jesus we know what’s going to happen when he finally makes it to Jerusalem and it’s not pretty.

And so, this year I invite you to once again make worship a central aspect of your life over Lent.

And to that end, not only will we walk with Christ as he makes his way to the cross each Sunday morning, but in addition, we will be joining with our sister congregations of Wooddale and Prince of Peace for Ash Wednesday, mid-week Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services.

Because no one person and no one congregation need be or should be alone at this time of year.

Blessing, Pastor Durk
# Worship Assistants This Month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, March 3rd</th>
<th>Sunday, March 10th</th>
<th>Sunday, March 17th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lector: Lowell Brandt</td>
<td>Lector: Lowell Brandt</td>
<td>Lector: Kristi White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ushers: Team 2 (Dave and Pat Latvala, Walter and Nancy Malone)</td>
<td>Ushers: Team 3 (Glen &amp; Eileen Soderberg, Erik Mornes, Bruce Lindquist)</td>
<td>Ushers: Team 4 (Clark &amp; Karen Johnson, Jan Arnold, Kristi White, Nikki Christensen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Counters: Jen Mornes, Dick Brammer</td>
<td>Money Counters: Bruce Strachota, Dick Brammer</td>
<td>Money Counters: Dina Strachota, Carolee Cohen</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday, March 24th</th>
<th>Sunday, March 31st</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lector: Kristi White</td>
<td>Lector: Nikki Christensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerpoint Operator: Mark Cohen</td>
<td>Powerpoint Operator: Nikki Christensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ushers: Team 5 (Bret, Cheryl, and Courtney Hanson, Jen Mornes)</td>
<td>Ushers: Team 6 (Linda and Lowell Brandt, Greg and Karen Flatten)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Counters: TBD</td>
<td>Money Counters: TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Calendar – February 2019

Sunday, March 3
10:00am  Sunday School and Choir
11:00am  Worship
12:00pm  Fellowship
4:00pm  Zarthan Townhomes Community Meeting

Tuesday, March 5
6:00pm  CYF meeting

Wednesday, March 6
7:00pm  Ash Wednesday service at Prince of Peace

Thursday, March 7
6:30pm  Men's Group–Station Pizzeria
7:00pm  Prayer Shawl Group

Friday, March 8
6:15pm  Shelter Supper

Sunday, March 10
Daylight Savings Time begins
10:00am  Sunday School and Choir
11:00am  Worship
12:00pm  Fellowship

Wednesday, March 13
6:00pm  Lenten Dinner
7:00pm  Lenten Worship at Wooddale

Thursday, March 14
7:00pm  Church Council

Saturday, March 16
8:00am  MN ESA State Chapter Meeting

Sunday, March 17
Share the Spirit Sunday
10:00am  Sunday School and Choir
11:00am  Worship
12:00pm  Fellowship

Wednesday, March 20
6:00pm  Lenten Dinner
7:00pm  Lent Worship at Spirit of Christ

Thursday, March 21
1:00pm  Active Adults

Sunday, March 24
10:00am  Sunday School and Choir
11:00am  Worship
12:00pm  Fellowship
Social Action Calendar –
March to May 2019

March 2019
8  Shelter Supper 6:00 to 8:30pm
10  Temple Talk - STEP

April 2019
13  Shelter Breakfast 6:30 to 8:30am

May 2019
10  Shelter Supper 6:00 to 8:30pm

Our Saviours Shelter Supper – March 8th
On Friday, March 8th, Spirit of Christ will serve dinner at the shelter. We will be serving a menu of baked chicken, stuffing, gravy, green bean casserole, rolls, lemonade and dessert. We can use homemade desserts and coffee or tea donations and SERVERS. If you would like to make a dessert or other menu donation, talk to Carolee or Mark at church, email c-cohe@umn.edu or call 952-935-5608.

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month
Food insecurity is a reality in our community. Our continued support of STEP is a way we can make a positive impact. STEP has a goal of raising 100,000 pounds and dollars during the month of March.
How can you help? We are asking you to let your light shine for STEP and to bring cans of fruit and juice to church during March. Stocking the shelves at STEP with your favorite fruits and juice selections will make a difference in the lives of your neighbors who visit the foodshelf. STEP will be joining us on March 10 for a temple talk so you can hear more about all of their efforts to serve our community’s needs. Hope you can join us at the service that day!

Get involved with Social Action!
The Social Action team (aka SOC SAC) welcomes everyone in the congregation to join us to plan and organize mission and social action events. This could be an ongoing activity or a one-time commitment. Talk to anyone on the Social Action Team: (Mark or Carolee Cohen, Wendi Harmsen, Pat Latvala, Deb Schmitz, Joanne Stone or Jeanne Worm) if you want to help!
**Announcements**

**Easter Flowers**

During the month of March, we will have order forms available for Easter flowers in the back of the sanctuary. Below are the options and prices.

- Easter Lilies (6” pot) – $9.00
- Tulips (6.5” pot) – $9.00
- Mums (6.5” pot) – $9.00
- Hydrangeas (8” pot) – pink $15.00
- Pansy Bowl (10” bowl) - assorted colors $10.00
- Pansy Bowl (12” bowl) – assorted colors $15.00

**10 Year Anniversary = $10,000 goal**

In honor of our 10 year anniversary, we have a goal of raising $10,000 to support local mission work. The money will be split between Our Saviour’s Community Services, S.T.E.P., the St. Louis Park BirdFeeder Program, and the Minneapolis Area Synod.

To help us reach our goal, we've got two things going: envelopes and noisy offering.

There are envelopes on the two columns in the back of the sanctuary with numbers on them. Grab the envelope with the amount you'd like to donate, put your donation in, and then put the envelope in the wheelbarrow in the back of the sanctuary or in an offering plate.

Speaking of, have you noticed the wheelbarrow in the back of the sanctuary? Drop your spare change in the wheel barrel (make some noise!) and that money will also get added to our fundraising efforts.

If you want to check the progress, there's a sign in the back of the sanctuary with a garden on it that will get petals and flowers added to it as we continue to raise money.

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**All Call for Photos from the last 10 years**

As we prepare to celebrate 10 years as a church, we are collecting photos- and we need your help!

If you have any photos from the last ten years at church, email them to Nikki at infosoccommunity@gmail.com.
View From the Pew - By Bruce Lindquist

Week of February 3, 2019, Vol. 2, No. 9

Along with SOC members Renee, Jeanne, Anne and Dina, I attended the Sunday, Feb. 3rd installation of Pastor Durk as the new pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Bloomington, and was amazed at the many similarities between the two congregations! As I gazed around the sanctuary during the service, and again while meeting Grace’s long-time members over coffee and cake after the service, it seemed like I was looking at the friendly and familiar faces of our members, we seem so much alike! Many of the same personalities at SOC can be found at Grace. It has a strong, small-church, small-town, rural feel, yet Grace’s beautiful campus is only a few hundred yards south and west of one of America’s busiest and most cosmopolitan attractions: Mall of America! In the past, Pastor Durk has emphasized the importance of moving our influence out into the communities in which we serve, and that is exactly what he has done, upon completion of his installation services on Sunday, conducted by Pastor Craig Pederson, assistant to the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA. Our spiritual leader now has an important influence in two suburban municipalities with a combined population of nearly 130,000! While, obviously, the church numbers at SOC and Grace are far short of the general population figures, the fact that both churches are in significant locations within one of this country’s largest metropolitan areas is worth noting. It seems that, in almost the wink of an eye, each church has gained a sister congregation, perhaps without even realizing it. And Sunday’s service was made complete with Pastor Durk’s family in attendance (parents, wife, son).

Viewed in a larger context, I think that any perceived loss in professional services by those of us at SOC might actually be a win-win for both churches. With each now sharing one skilled and experienced full-time pastor, there is the potential for growth and sharing. Congratulations, Pastor!

He said what?! – One of the activities planned for the Feb. 9th Valentine’s Dinner at the SOC Fellowship Hall looks very intriguing to me: “The Newlywed Game.” If it’s anything like the original TV show from back in the ’70s, hosted by Bob Eubanks (from St. Paul), it can’t help but be ripe for hilarious responses, especially since it will involve people we know from church! What could possibly go wrong (good-naturedly, of course)‽ What a great idea!

One-wheel money wagon – Another great idea is the money wheelbarrow which has greeted us as we enter the sanctuary’s main doors each Sunday for the past few weeks. The beauty of the big mobile bucket is that congregants quite readily empty their pockets of spare change, thinking nothing of it, and probably missing none of it. And done on a regular basis, the coins can add up quickly. Besides, it’s fun to make a game of it, to see if a no-look throw from several feet away will result in pocket treasures finding all metal. And who doesn’t like and recognize the sound of coins bouncing off of nearly anything? But there is a much larger purpose than making noise. In honor of SOC’s 10th anniversary, the church has a goal of raising $10,000 to support local mission work, including Our Saviour’s Community Services, STEP, the SLP Bird Feeder Program, and the Minneapolis Area Synod. And don’t forget the envelopes attached to the two columns in the back of the sanc-
The silent sermon -- I vaguely recall reading the following story in a magazine recently, by a fellow who was talking about unusual events in his life. Then I read it again online, and I thought, wow, this inspirational short story is worth repeating.

“A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, suddenly stopped coming to church.

“After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit. He found the man at home alone, sitting in front of a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for the pastor’s visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace, and waited. The pastor made himself at home, but said nothing. In the awkward silence he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs.

“After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember, and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation.

“As the one lone ember’s flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and then its fire was no more. Soon, it was cold and lifeless.

“The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember, and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately, it began to glow, once more with the life and warmth of the burning coals around it.

“As the pastor reached to door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek, “Thank you so much for your visit, and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.”

It’s getting hot in here -- I still think my favorite message on a large outdoor church sign is one I read on Facebook, I believe, from in front of a small rural church in southern Minnesota. “To the person(s) who stole our 2 air conditioners: Keep one, you’re going to need it where you’re going.”

My guess is that the crook kept them both anyway. And I doubt that even dual cooling units will offer much protection from his searing-hot last stop.

No dim bulbs here -- How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?

Change?!

Note: This joke does not do justice to our SOC volunteers. If anything, we would change the bulb just before it burns out!

Have a great week.