

# Our Savior's Good News

March/April 2021

## RED LETTER CHALLENGE

More than 80 of our members have embarked on the forty day Red Letter Challenge, a daily Bible study based on Jesus' own words (printed in red in some Bibles). For those who may be following along in the RLC Book, Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, is Day 20 or the halfway point in this study. The Red Letter Challenge highlights five major themes drawn from Jesus' teachings: *Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving and Going*. Sermons, Lenten meditations and Sunday morning Bible classes will all reinforce these main themes. RLC Small Groups have also been meeting on a weekly basis, discussing the practical application of these themes. The Red Letter Challenge is a call to deeper discipleship, putting the words of Jesus into practice by letting His love fill us and flow through us to others. May God continue to transform us through His Word.



## DISCIPLESHIP FOR MEN:

**-The Men's Bible Fellowship (MBF)** continues to meet on Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. The MBF will be completing a study 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians within the next several weeks and then will begin a new study entitled *Fight* – a five part RightNow media study led by Craig Groeschel. Based on the life of Samson, this study centers on our call to become warriors for Christ.

**Men's Gathering – March 20.** Our Savior's men and their friends are invited to a Men's Gathering on Saturday, March 20, from 9-10 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Come for a time of good fellowship, inspiring worship and a challenging teaching presented by Kyle Idelman via RightNow media. Kyle's teaching is entitled *Not Troubled by Trouble* – very appropriate during this COVID impacted times. Come and invite other men to join you. (Due to COVID restrictions, no food will be served; but we can feast on the Bread of Life).



One of God's precious gifts to the Church is the Sacrament of the Altar or Holy Communion. We believe this sacrament is a Means of Grace through which God conveys forgiveness of sins, healing and reconciliation. During this Lenten season, Our Savior's will again offer communion instruction for children in fourth grade and older. Communion instruction will consist of three sessions, meeting on Sunday mornings, 9:40-10:40 on March 14, 21 and 28. Parents are also expected to attend these sessions along with their children. After completing these classes, the children will be invited to partake of their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at the 7 p.m. worship service in church. Contact the church office for more information about the first communion classes.

## Come and See



Did you know that the Samaritan woman at the well was the first evangelist? We don't know her name, but she was important to Jesus. John recounts her encounter with Him. (John 4:1-42) This guilt ridden; shame filled woman's life is transformed by His words. He knows her and the life that she is living. He speaks with her, a woman and a Samaritan. She is the first to hear from His lips that He is the Messiah (the Christ). John 4:26 says "I am He." She leaves Jesus and runs excitedly, boldly proclaiming "Come and see the man who told me everything I ever did."

Many Samaritans from the town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony.

Are we excited to tell others what Jesus has done for us?

**Come and see. Let me tell you about my Jesus.**

**[Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study – 10AM Thursday mornings in the Fellowship Room.]**

## Our Savior's School



One of the joys of teaching for years in one place is seeing children grow and mature into adulthood. Today four out of six school board members are former graduates of our school. Travis Coon is chairman. Our worship leader, Peter Belschwinder and his brother Jonathan are both graduates. We have three graduates teaching in our school. In the surrounding community, we have other graduates serving in leadership roles in churches: worship leaders, pastors, and missionaries. One graduate that I know is leading a Bible Study in college. The school is raising up young men and women to serve the Lord.

The school has brought children and sometimes whole families into the kingdom. Ask Ralph Coon his story.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

## HELLO FROM THE THIRD GRADE

With the school and church's help, the third grade collected 22 bottles of hand soap, 104 bottles of hand sanitizer, 272 disposable face mask, and 135 bars of soap for the Emergency Shelter. Thank you all!



Jessica Lamson, 3rd Grade Teacher  
Our Savior's Christian School  
<http://www.oursaviorslutherschool.com>

*"The mission of Our Savior's Christian School is to build a solid foundation in each child by reaching hearts with Biblical truth, teaching minds through strong academics and cultivating both in partnership with families to build their future through a Christian world-view."*

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## Challenged



Each class at Our Savior's School was challenged by principal, John Richardson, to perform a mission project. Some chose as their project to serve another classroom. Others chose to reach out into the community. Middle school chose to make 106 sandwiches for the Albany Rescue Mission. Each lunch bag was decorated by students with Bible verses and words of encouragement. They then delivered them to the mission. The preschool collected hats and scarves for Pastor Muller's JC Club for the foster children. Other classes collected hand sanitizer, soap, masks, and socks for the men's overflow shelter at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church. They answered the call. **SERVE ONE ANOTHER.**

**GOD'S WONDER LAB** is the theme for Our Savior's Vacation Bible School scheduled for this summer, July 26-30. Lessons will focus on God's amazing wonder-working power to heal, restore, and transform lives. Offered to children ages 3-grade six, Vacation Bible School is a fun-filled, Christ-centered experience centered on



God's Word and designed to bring children into a life-changing relationship with Jesus. The week of Vacation Bible School includes Bible stories, singing, crafts, snacks and recreation. At this time, we are planning to offer in-person VBS, but that plan is contingent on possible COVID restrictions in this summer. In the past we have served nearly 200 children in Our Savior's VBS, so many volunteers are needed in a variety of roles. Please pray about ways that you can assist in this community outreach effort. Registration for children and volunteers is on line through the church website. For more information about ways you can help in this summer's VBS, contact Tom Roemke.

### Next Voters' Assembly -

The next planned Voters' assembly will be on Sunday, March 21st at 10AM in the Sanctuary. At this time members will consider the recommendation of the Pastoral Call Committee in regards to a pastor. All are encouraged to attend!



As reported as a part of the Voters' Assembly in January, Our Savior's church and school are working together to navigate financial challenges. We are so very grateful for the many ways God has continued to provide in this area at Our Savior's, whether through the faithful offerings of our church members, the recent donation provided on behalf of the estate of Ruth Van Amerongen, the tuition received from school families as part of the Christian education provided their children, as well as through the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) funds received last year. Specific details regarding church and school finances were explained at the January Voters' Assembly and the meeting minutes subsequently sent out to the congregation. Please contact the church office if you did not receive copies of the January Voters' Assembly minutes. Let us continue to seek and lean into God's wisdom and direction as we work together to be wise and faithful stewards of His money while serving His kingdom here at Our Savior's.

### CHURCH COUNCIL

As we await on God's plan and His timing for the next Pastor of Our Savior's, we continue to pray, work, and serve in the ways and areas God has placed us. As we have reported in recent weeks, church leadership has been meeting together to communicate and identify opportunities to grow and continue to serve and provide for the congregation as well as beyond our church walls. Specifically, we are discussing ideas surrounding the strengthening of the church and school connections, our finances, continued outreach to our church members, as well as the community.

We are blessed to have 3 new members serving on the Church Council as of the most recent January elections: Fred Dignon as the newly elected Financial Officer and trustee, as well as Heather Baird and Brian Dollard as newly elected Members at Large.

We are also incredibly grateful for the dedicated six years of service Leslie Fuld provided as the previous Financial Officer and that Jim Ryan provided as a Member at Large. Both Leslie and Jim have been faithful servants giving so much of their time and talents over the past several years. We look forward to seeing God's plan for their continued service unfold!

As a reminder, the Church Council is made up of the following members: Congregation President: Mark Chaffee Secretary: Andy Cross Financial Officer: Fred Dignon Members at Large: Heather Baird, Brian Dollard, Ruth Giordano, and Heidi Lenge.

Please continue to keep these council members in prayer.



**Congratulations** are in order for Greg Dignon and Shelby Khandasammy who will be married on March 6, 2021 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in the Orlando, Florida area, which is Shelby's home church. A number of Our Savior's family and friends will be attending the ceremony in sunny Florida! Those who are interested in watching a live-stream of the wedding ceremony can email [dignonwedding2021@gmail.com](mailto:dignonwedding2021@gmail.com) if they would like to receive the live-stream link. Greg and Shelby will reside in Latham upon their return from Florida.

Congratulations also to Mary Kaitlyn Dollard who will wed James Hilson on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm in the Our Savior's Sanctuary. They will reside in Guilderland following the marriage. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the ceremony is not open to the Congregation. Please keep both of these couples in your prayers as they prepare for this new chapter in their lives.



# Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Services



## **PALM SUNDAY**

March 28<sup>th</sup>

8:30AM & 11:00AM, in the Sanctuary



## **Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion**

7:00PM in the Sanctuary



## **Good Friday**

7:00 PM in the Sanctuary



## **RESURRECTION SUNDAY**

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Join us for Worship  
on this Resurrection Sunday!

**One Service at 9:30AM in the Community Life Center**

## ***An Easter prayer***

From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children.

We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.