



The

Sanctuary

You are God's Temple

...God's Spirit Lives in You. 1 Cor. 3:15

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH + 1205 NORTH LINCOLN AVE. + O'FALLON, IL 62269 + 618=632-0126 + WWW.MYBSLC.ORG

Upcoming Events March 2023

Wed. Mar 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

RLC Bible Study 10am

Lenten Dinner 6

Lenten Worship 7

Adult Choir 7:45

Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

RLC Bible Study 6:30 pm

Sun. Mar 5, 12, 19, 26

Worship 9:30

Sun School/RLC Bible Study

10:45 am

Mon. Mar 6, 13, 20, 27

Support Group 7 pm

RLC Bible Study 6:30

Geis Home

Tues. Mar 7

Quilters 9:30 am

Elders Mtg 7 pm

Sun. Mar 12

Daylight Savings begins

Tues. Mar 14

Church Council 7 pm

Thurs. Mar 16

Fellowship Committee 4:30

Ladies Night out -

Bunco—6 pm

Sat. Mar 18

Trivia Night

6 pm

Tues. Mar 21

Christian Ed 7 pm

Youth Board 7 pm

Thur. Mar 23

Manors at FW Hills

Mtg—7 pm

Tues. Mar. 28

Stewardship Mtg 6 pm



Lenten & Easter Worship Schedule

Midweek Lenten Worship

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Dinner 6 pm

Worship 7 pm

Palm Sunday, April 2

Worship 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6

Worship—7 pm

Good Friday, April 7

Worship - 7 pm

Easter Egg Hunt—Saturday, April 8

9:30 am

Easter Sunday, April 9

Easter Communion Celebration 9:30 am



Worship
Schedule
For Lent



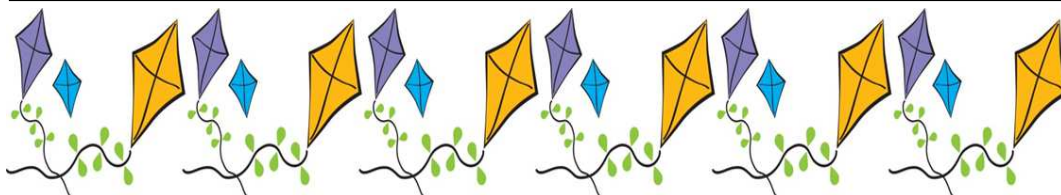
21st Trivia Night Challenge

WHERE: American Legion, 109 N. Penn O'Fallon,

WHEN: Saturday, March 18 2023. Doors open at 5:30PM. Play begins promptly at 6:00PM

WHAT: A night of fun for your team of eight

Don't forget to change
your clocks on
Sunday, March 12th





"Jesus of Nazareth ... went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." Acts 10:38

What's all this talk of the devil? Actually, the theme of our fight against evil powers is covered in the texts for the Sundays of Lent. St. Luke summarized Jesus' work as "doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil..." Apparently, there were many in His day that were oppressed by the devil!

Sometimes Jesus worked from dusk to dawn without a break. He entered our world precisely to do battle against the powers of evil. When addressed by someone as "Good Teacher," he said, "Only God is good." What they didn't or couldn't see was that He was and is the perfect image of God in human form revealing to us the truth of God's goodness. This idea is worthy of our investigation.

I have noticed that a problem that has been spreading in our culture today. So many in our generation, even those who were raised in the Church have abandoned their faith because they believe that God alone is in control of the world, which then leads them to the conclusion that He alone is to blame for everything bad that happens. Think about it. Haven't we all said or at least thought to ourselves, "if God is good, why did He allow _____ to happen?" You fill in the blank. Why did God allow the Covid virus, war, tragic car accidents, murders, cancer etc? We're so quick to lay blame upon God for the bad things and as a result refuse to give Him glory for the good things. Is that fair? That's the question.

The problem with that kind of thinking is that from the time of Adam and Eve, humankind –Invited, yes, invited the oppression we all experience in our lives. Yes, WE followed the lead of our ancient forefathers when Adam and Eve bought the lie of Satan in the Garden. What lie you ask? The lie that death would not result from listening to him and his suggestion that we're better off disregarding God's good and gracious will in order to make our own decisions and to become the captains of our own fate. But little did Adam and Eve know, and what we have forgotten is that we traded the freedom of God's goodness for bondage to the one who comes to "kill, steal and destroy." From the time of the fall in the garden, all of humankind followed the devil to a path that leads to death. And now that we see the consequences of that choice, the "bad" in our world, we blame God. How clever was the devil in his scheme to lead us out of our relationship with God and His goodness, so that he would have the freedom to exercise his power to oppress us, and then blame God for the results. NOT FAIR!!

Enter Jesus, the perfect image of our heavenly Father. You might think God would want to set the record straight before He accepted our self-imposed sentence of death. To say to us, "I told you so! But you wouldn't listen." That would be justified but Jesus came not just to set the record straight but to rescue us from our ill-conceived notions that we know better than He! That we can make goodness of our lives without Him. Out of pure goodness, the Lord came to do battle with, and overcome the forces of evil that oppress His creation. That battle led Him to a cross. There He fought and won the war against the devil, but at no small cost. On the cross He exchanged His sinless life for the lives of God's rebellious people, who abandoned Him and then blamed Him for the "bad" we endure today. Again, NOT FAIR, but Good! Good for us!

Lent is a time of sorrowful reflection upon our rebellion against God and the curse of death that fell upon us by our own grievous fault. That's bad! But God in His goodness executed a plan which even the devil couldn't see coming. Jesus would take our judgment upon Himself. He would die our death. He absorbed all the "bad" brought about at our invitation, and He died for it all. Why? Because only Jesus, true God and true man, could endure the wrath of God.

Good Friday wasn't a pretty day. It was bloody and cruel. But it was the day Jesus willingly accepted our penalty in order to give us a new status in life, that is righteous, and the hope of eternal GOODNESS! And when the debt was paid, they took Him down from the cross and put Him in a tomb. But that would not be His permanent resting place. Three days later He rose from the grave and appeared to more than 500 souls! And with His resurrection He assured His followers that His glorified body would also be their glorified body!! O, the Goodness of Jesus!

One of my favorite songs we have sung in church was written by the worship leaders of CityAlight, a ministry of St Paul's Castle Hill, part of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney, Australia. The song is entitled "The Goodness of Jesus." Sometime during this Lenten season, maybe after one of your devotion readings in the **Red Letter Challenge**, get on your computer and google the song. Or just go to this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ncn_1hSmXps

Lenten sorrow prepares us for the joy of our Lord's resurrection when we see the goodness of God restored to His beloved creation. Add to that the hope of glory we will have on the day of our resurrection, when all the bad we endure today will be put away forever.

Living with you in the Goodness of Jesus,

Pastor Vern



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Lenten Discipline: Denying the Self

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 which 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.

Fasting is a good example of this outward training. 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. But you have learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above to discipline the desires of your body.

Another example is almsgiving. An increase in giving to the church and its mission during Lent is also a form of outward training. 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 — it leads 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 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. – LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

"The Goodness Of Jesus"

Come you weary heart now to Jesus
Come you anxious soul now and see
There is perfect love and comfort in your tears
Rest here in His wondrous peace

Chorus

Oh the goodness the goodness of Jesus
Satisfied he is all that I need
May it be come what may that I rest all my days
In the goodness of Jesus

Verse 2

Come find what this world cannot offer
Come and find your joy here complete
Taste the living water never thirst again
Rest here in His wondrous peace

Verse 3

Come and find your hope now in Jesus
He is all he said he would be
Grace is overflowing from the Saviour's heart
Rest here in His wondrous peace

CCLI Song # 7121854

Fiona Aghajanian | Harrison Druery | Jaywan Maxwell | Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson

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Are you Up for A Challenge?

Please join us for an evening of great fun at
the 21st Annual Trivia Night Challenge and Silent Auction!



WHERE: American Legion, 109 N. Penn St. O'Fallon

WHEN: Saturday, March 18th. Doors open at 5:30PM.

Play begins promptly at 6:00PM

WHAT: A night of fun for your team of eight players for \$20/player

WHY: To support the BSLC and BSLC Youth for Future Faith Building Events.
Even if you don't play, you can come and watch, shop the Silent Auction or help.

Important dates to mark on your calendar:

March 1st through March 12th: Table sign-ups for your team will be in the Narthex. Pay the fee for all your players and reserve a specific table. Invite coworkers, friends, and neighbors so they can make up their own teams and join the competition.

You can reserve a table anytime by contacting

Mary Geis (618-972-7096).

March 18th : Trivia Night! It's a great time so don't miss out!
Questions? Contact Mary Geis (972-7096) for more information



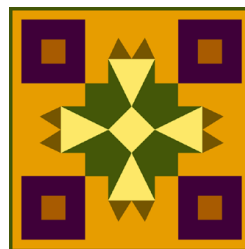
Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you haven't already done so, you can still direct 2022 Choice Dollars® to the causes that matter most to you. They will expire on March 31, 2023.

There are more than 45,000 organizations in the Thrivent Choice® catalog from which to choose. **Blessed Savior is one of the organizations!!!!**

Don't miss this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent gives back!

thrivent



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on **Tuesdays, March 7, April 4, and May 2** from 9:30–12:00 p.m. to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Come and join us for a time of good ole fellowship. Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 1st Tuesday of each month. If you have any fabric pieces, thin blankets, curtains, drapes, sheets, etc. you no longer need, the quilters would love to recycle them into quilts.



Thank you for the kind texts, words of support, cards and coming to my Dad's funeral. They all were greatly appreciated.

Janice Paulsmeyer

Christian Symbol—SHAMROCK



St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

Lighthearted Blessings

- May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you're dead!
- May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.

May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.





Welcome to our new member in Christ, Ms. Laurie Tatge. Laurie recently moved to O'Fallon from Michigan to be closer to family. She is currently living at Keystone Place at Richland Creek, 1050 Fountain Lakes Dr., O'Fallon, IL 62269. After visiting Blessed Savior several times, she expressed an interest in becoming a member of our congregation. We are extremely glad Laurie decided to transfer her membership from Journey Lutheran Church, Oxford, MI. Perry Schefelker and John Lundebly recently visited with Laurie to learn a bit more about her and her family.

Laurie met her future husband, Jed, while they both attended the University of Michigan. After graduating, Jed enlisted in the Army. Upon completion of his enlistment, they both returned to Michigan where Jed completed his graduate level degree and Laurie completed her work as a Physical Therapist. Jed was hired by Chrysler and served in numerous executive positions. During his time with Chrysler, they moved to Taiwan where Jed served as President of Chrysler Taiwan. Sadly, Jed was diagnosed with dementia and passed away in 2018.

Jed and Laurie have three children and several grandchildren. Their son AJ is an ophthalmologist in Michigan and lives with his wife Jennifer and their two high school age children. Their other son, Evan, is a Lt Col in the Air Force stationed at Scott AFB. His wife Melanie is a registered nurse working at the Memorial Hospital Emergency Room. Evan and Melanie have two children, Robert & Megan, who have visited Blessed Savior with their grandmother. Their third child is an adopted special needs daughter from Colombia currently living with a family in Michigan. Finally, Laurie has a very friendly Chihuahua dog named Princess Leia who loves attention.

Laurie is enjoying her time at Keystone and loves to have company. Be sure to call her first. Please welcome Laurie to our church family, if you haven't already. She has lots of exciting experiences and stories to share.

Enterprise Center Volunteer Corner

It is difficult to believe the arena where the St. Louis Blues play hockey has changed names 4 times (Kiel Center/Savvis Center/Scottrade Center/Enterprise Center) over 29 years!!! It might even be harder to believe that our church worked the concession stands for close to 23 - 24 of those years.

Working those events has brought in several thousands of dollars (sorry do not know the total). But I think a good estimate would be \$65K (estimate of \$3K/year). This money has helped our church cover some unforeseen expenses as well as helped balance the budget for several years.

I bring this information up because we are getting out of the business of volunteering at the hockey games and other events. The number of volunteers needed to work has increased, plus the processes have changed quite a bit. I do not think it is worth trying to work. Another reason, unfortunately, is that we are all getting older and it takes longer to recover from a night of work. LOL

The Stewardship Committee wants to **THANK YOU ALL** (sorry I would like to list all of your names but would not want to miss anyone) for your time working the concession stands, even if it was only for 1 event. Even though it was difficult work sometimes, we tried to have a good time at each event.

THANKS also to Nancy Schmidt who got it all started for the church. Then she happily turned it over to me a couple of years later. Nancy, I don't know how you did it, except I must have been in a weakened condition!

THANKS again to all of you for your support!!!!

In God's Name,

Curtis Kuppler, Enterprise Center BSLC Volunteer Coordinator





Fellowship Committee

that have donated already.

On the 16th of Feb we held Bunco and had 7 attendees. So happy to have some new people with us this month. Bunco will be on the 16th of March at 6pm. Come join us for fun!



Lenten Meals

On the 1st of Mar, we will be starting our Lenten Dinners with Fellowship providing a Taco Bar for the first dinner. Come join us for food and fellowship. Lenten dinners will continue weekly through the 29th of March. Look in the Bulletin for the dinner of the week.

As always.. If you would like to have an activity or know of an activity for us to host, please contact either Gwen Borsch @ gborsch1995@gmail.com Or Ginger Kieffer @ gkieffer24@charter.net

God's Blessings,
Gwen and Ginger



Amazing Love

If there is one subject more than another upon which I wish ever to speak, it is the love of Christ; but if there is one which quite baffles me, and makes me go back from this platform utterly ashamed of my poor feeble words, and of the tongue which has uttered them, it is this subject. This love of Christ is the most amazing thing under heaven, if not in heaven itself.—

God's
love
endures
FOREVER.

Psalms 136:1

2 Sawyer Thomas
2—Barb Applegate, Mason Feldmann
7 Kristen Conrad
8 – Roger Miesner , Christy Carron
9—Kim Lloyd
10 – Alexa Drouin
12 – Dan Bowman, Bill Gass
13—Harry Russell
14 – Jayni Lintvedt
15 – Laura Schutte
15 - Emily Colvin-Garcia

15—Ben Siron
16—RJ Kinsella
16—Larry Gruhn,
18 – Jessica Schmidt
18—Karen Anders
19 0 Cynthia Brecks
20 Morgan Kjosja
23—Hannah Husemann
23—Brandon Rust
25—Jackson Brady
27 – Jon Rust, Sam Williams
29 – Keith Szolga,
30 – Blake Bartimus, Zora Boggs
31—Abbie Willgohs



MARCH
BIRTHDAYS

We are sorry if your birthday or anniversary has been overlooked. Please call the church office, 632-0126 or email Nancy at nancy@mybslc.org so we may add your name to our list. Thanks for your help.

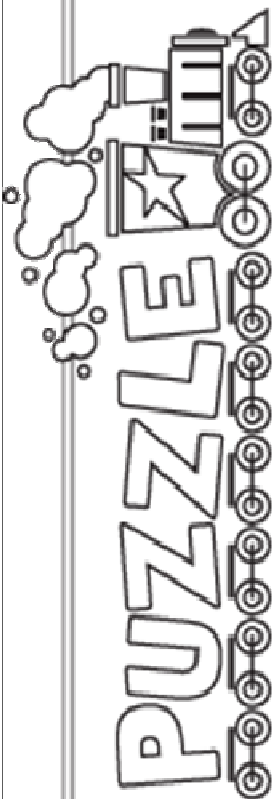
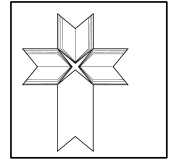


MARCH
ANNIVERSARIES

21 - Blake & Lynn
Bartimus
28—Thomas &
Cynthia Brecks



The Sanctuary
Blessed Savior Lutheran Church
1205 North Lincoln Ave.
O'Fallon, IL 62269



A seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.

Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.



plants grow here



to coil and jump
(also a season of the year)



to expand and get bigger



seeds are planted in this



when watered, these make plants



another word for seedling

For as the _____ makes the _____



come up and a _____



causes



_____ to _____, so the



Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise _____ up before all nations.



ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring