



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 2024

Sun. March 3, 10, 17, 24

Worship 930 am

Sun. School 10am

Mon. 4, 11, 18, 25

Support Group 7 pm

Tue. Mar 5

Quilting 930 am

Youth Board 6 pm

Confirmation 4 pm

Elders 7 pm

Wed. Mar. 6 13, 20

Ladies Bible Study 10

Midweek Dinner 6

Lenten Worship 7

Fri. Mar. 8

The Kapelle at

Zion Belleville 7pm

Sat. Mar. 9

Basket Guild

Tues. Mar 12

Church Council 7 pm

Sat. Mar 16

Trivia Night

Katy Cavins 6 pm

Tues. Mar. 19

Polling Place

Christian Ed Mtg 7 pm

Tues. Mar 26

Stewardship Mtg. 6 pm

Thurs. Mar 28

Maundy Thurs

Worship Service 7 pm

Fri. Mar. 29

Good Friday

Worship Service 7 pm

Sat. Mar. 30

Easter Egg Hunt

& Puppet Show 10 am

Sun. Mar. 31

Easter Breakfast 730-9 am

Easter Worship 930 am

No Sunday School

**Happy
Easter!**

Lenten & Easter Worship Schedule

Midweek Lenten Worship

March 6, 13, 20

Dinner 6 pm

Worship 7 pm

Palm Sunday, March 24

Worship 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Worship—7 pm

Good Friday, March 29

Worship - 7 pm

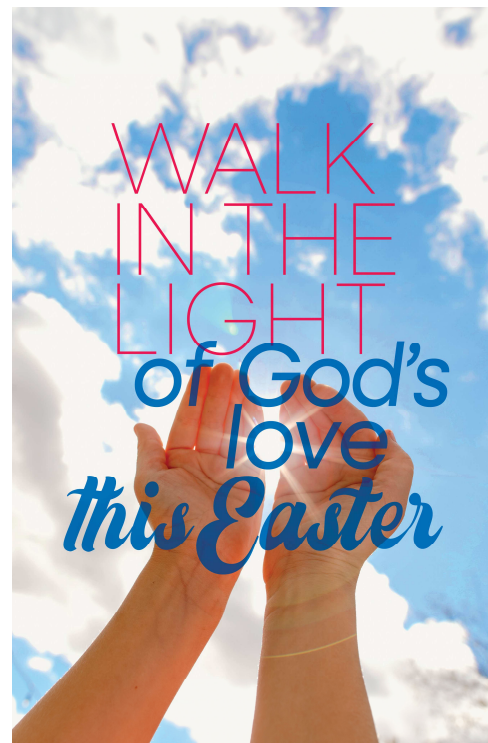
Easter Egg Hunt—Sat., March 30

10:00 am

Easter Sunday, March 31

Easter Breakfast 7:30-9 am

Easter Communion Celebration 9:30



Trivia Night Challenge

WHERE: Katy Cavins, 308 E. Fifth Street, O'Fallon,

WHEN: Saturday, March 16 2024. Doors open at 5:15PM. Play begins promptly at 6:00PM

**Don't forget to change
your clocks on
Sunday, March 10th**



Spring Forward



Easter Egg Hunt

Sat., March 30, 2024- 10:00 a.m.

Puppet show & Egg hunt

All kids toddler through 6th grade are invited.

Invite your friends and neighbors!

Don't forget your basket!



Dear Brothers and Sisters Blessed Savior,

Although I enjoy sports, I'm not a great fan of sports metaphors or analogies, especially football ones. I feel they've been overused. Additionally, since the Rams left St. Louis, I don't have a favorite football team. I enjoy watching the Super bowl, but I'm not really all that passionate about who wins or loses.

Recently, though, I ran across a football metaphor written by Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller that I think is great. Since it has to do with Easter (which is March 31), I'd like to share it with you. In his book *Has American Christianity Failed?* Rev. Wolfmueller writes :

"In a football game, the running back scores a touchdown as soon as he crosses the goal line. His work is finished. He can dance around, spike the ball, and celebrate with his team. But the points are not awarded until the official raises his hands and signals the touchdown.

Jesus, in His death, crosses the goal line. His work is accomplished. The Father, in the resurrection of Jesus, gives the points to the team. He applies the sacrifice of Jesus to the sin of humanity. In the resurrection, we get the signal from God the Father: "It is good." The sacrifice is acceptable. Justice is satisfied. Wrath is propitiated. Salvation is won. This truly is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). The world is reconciled to God, and God to the world (2 Corinthians 5::18-19). The warfare waged between sinners and God is ended (Isaiah 40:1-2) "Peace be with you."



Isn't that a marvelous analogy? On Good Friday, Jesus crossed the goal line when he suffered, died and gave up his spirit. Our sin debt was paid in full. He conquered sin, death and the devil. Everything was accomplished for our salvation. And then, on Easter Sunday, God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, raised Jesus from the dead. God the Father made public, he made known to the world, that Jesus' death was a sacrifice for the sins of the world. It wasn't a loss, but a win. A BIG WIN! Easter, figurately speaking, is God the Father raising his arms straight up in the air and shouting, "Score!" Our warfare has ended. The battle (and the war) has been won by Jesus. Through his cross and empty tomb, Jesus has made us God's very own children forever.

So, brothers and sisters, as we observe Holy Week and Easter, raise your hands in celebration. Shout for joy. Like the fans at a football game who are celebrating the biggest win imaginable, proclaim the excellences of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). Have a blessed and joyous Holy Week and Easter!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Tony

JESUS CONQUERS THE GRAVE





Are you Up for A Challenge?

Please join us for an evening of great fun at the...

2024 BSLC

TRIVIA NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION

WHERE: Katy Cavins Community Center
308 E. Fifth Street, O'Fallon, IL 62269

WHEN: Saturday, March 16th. Doors open at 5:15PM.
Play begins promptly at 6:00PM

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

WHY: To support BSLC and the 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 10th: Table sign-ups for your team will be in the Narthex. Invite coworkers, friends, and neighbors so they can make up their own teams and join the competition.

March 16th: Trivia Night & Silent Auction! It's a great time so don't miss out!
Questions? Contact Mary Geis (618-972-7096) for more information.

CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee met twice in February to prepare for interviews with the two Pastors we are interested in. The first meeting was directed at finalizing the questions we wanted to ask the Pastors. We were assisted in this task by Terry Colvin who has been our HR advisor. The next meeting was a mock interview of Pastor Chris Spelbring the District Visiting Pastor. We took inputs from Pastor Chris and Terry Colvin in how to ask our questions to get the most out of the time we have with the Pastors. Next up RJ Kinsella will contact the two Pastors to set up the interviews in March.

Call Committee

Midweek Lenten Services: 7:00 pm.

Feb. 28 – “A Most Royal Entrance” (Donkey), Luke 19:29-38 - Pastor Perry

March 6 – “Watch” (Rooster), Matthew 26:69-75 – Pastor Tony Troup

March 13 – “A Tale of Two Lambs” (Lamb), Luke 22:7 – Pastor Perry

March 20 – “The Crafty Serpent” (Snake), John 13:21-30” – Pastor Tony Troup

March 28 – Maundy Thurs, “The Greatest Meal of All,” Mark 14:12-26 – Pastor Perry

March 29 – Good Friday, “Worms!” Psalm 22:1-6 – Pastor Peter Kirby

EASTER BREAKFAST

The Elder's will be flipping pancakes again this year! Since there will not be a sunrise service, breakfast will be served prior to our regular worship beginning at **7:30 a.m. until 9 am.**

The Fellowship Committee will provide the pancake mix, syrup and ham. A sign-up sheet will be posted for additional items that you can help with. Please sign up to bring a breakfast casserole, milk, juice or fresh fruit.

The Committee could also use your help with set up and clean up!

Happy Easter The Fellowship Committee



Join the Lutheran World Relief **QUILTERS** on **Tuesdays, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, May 7 and June 11** 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.

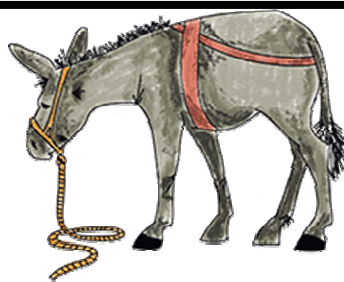


Be the Donkey

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."

Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?



Christian Symbols



BUTTERFLY The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.



Because Jesus Said So

One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can't wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. "You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend," Begg says. "You've never been in a Bible study. You've never been baptized. You didn't know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!"

In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief's entrance interview. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, "On what basis are you here?" The thief simply replies, "The man on the middle cross said I can come."

Our Feeble Prayers, Our Father's Response

In *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado recalls the story of Derek Redmond, a 1992 Olympic competitor in the 400-meter race. Halfway through Redmond's semifinal run, a torn hamstring sent him tumbling to the ground. His dad, Jim, immediately ran onto the track. He met up with Derek, who, though crying, had managed to stand and was hopping forward.

"You don't have to do this," Jim said. But Derek insisted. "Well, then, we're going to finish this together," said Jim, who supported his son as he hobbled to the finish line. The crowd cheered and wept as Derek, with Dad's assistance, finished the race.

Lucado writes: "What made the father do it? ... Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. ... God does the same. Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."



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.



Happy March!

The Fellowship Committee provides Fellowship opportunities among our congregation and through our community interactions.

We continue to have Woods Donuts and other goodies each Sunday Morning after the 9:30 service. If you would like to donate to the "Donut fund", please feel free to do so either through a check marked "Fellowship Donuts" or in the basket provided in the Fellowship Hall. We greatly appreciate all donations.

For March, the following activities are provided:



Mar 6- Lenten Dinner provided by the Council Executive Committee

Mar 13- Lenten Dinner provided by the Stewardship Committee

Mar 20- Lenten Dinner provided by Christian Ed/Youth Committees.

Mar 21 - Bunco at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

All Lenten Dinners begin at 6pm. Please join us in Fellowship before the Lenten worship services beginning at 7pm.

March 31 is Easter and we will be having Easter Breakfast again. Look for more info in the announcements. Can't wait to see everyone.

Stay tuned for some new activities this summer.

Thank you for supporting the Fellowship Committee..

God's Blessings,

Gwen Borsch and Ginger Kieffer



Bless You!

On March 17, when we remember the Christian missionary St. Patrick, Irish blessings abound. Here are two benedictions to share with friends in the faith:

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

May Love
& Laughter
Light
your Days
and Warm your
Heart & Home

Irish Blessing



Semi Annual Voters Meeting

Sunday, April 21
8:30 a.m.

Election of officers will be held.

Joy of Easter

Joy of Easter, a musical passion play depicting the life and ministry of Jesus will take place at St. Matthew Church in Belleville on March 28 & 29 at 7:30 p.m. This presentation includes a cast of 200 including; choir, orchestra, drama team, and tech support. In addition there are beautiful sets and costumes as well as live animals. Reservations are available for groups of 10 or more. And are available for seating at 6:30 p.m. For more information call the church at 618-397-5994. The church is located at 1200 Moreland Drive in Belleville.,



Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God's fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God's purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

By Faith

'Tis by the faith of joys
to come
We walk through
deserts dark as night,
Till we arrive at
heaven our home.
Faith is our guide,
and faith our light. ...

Cheerful we tread the
desert through,
While faith inspires a
heavenly ray,
Though lions roar and
tempests blow
And rocks and
dangers fill the way.
So Abraham, by divine
command,
Left his own house to
walk with God;
His faith beheld the
promised land,
And fired his zeal along
the road.



Trinity Lutheran Church in Millstadt will hold its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, March 10, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. The menu includes all-you-can-eat spaghetti, plus bread sticks, salad (featuring Papa Vito's salad dressings), dessert, and beverages. Carry-outs will be available. The cost is \$13 for adults, \$5 for children (ages 4-10) and FREE for children ages 3 and under. Trinity's address is 503 East Washington, Millstadt, Illinois. The building is walker, wheelchair and stroller friendly.



"Consider"

Consider the lilies of the field
whose bloom is brief:
We are as they; like them we
fade away, as doth a leaf.

Consider the sparrows of the
air of small account:
Our God doth view whether
they fall or mount, he guards
us too.

Consider the lilies that do nei-
ther spin nor toil,
Yet are most fair: What profits
all this care and all this coil?

Consider the birds that have
no barn nor harvest-weeks;
God gives them food: Much
more our Father seeks to do
us good.

Christina Rossetti

**A Daily Prayer**

Since God will be my end
Let him be my beginning,
So that I may now fully live
Instead of falling, straying,
sinning.

—Angelus Silesius



In *The Story of the Easter Robin* (Zonderkidz), Dandi Daley Mackall retells an old Pennsylvania Dutch tale of the robin's compassion as he witnessed Jesus' death.

On Good Friday, a plain brown robin flying over Jerusalem was curious about the "nest" atop Jesus' head. When the bird realized it was a crown of thorns, he tried to dislodge it. As the robin pulled out a long thorn from Jesus' forehead, a drop of blood landed on the bird's breast, staining it red. Now the robin's red breast is a symbol of Jesus' loving sacrifice, and the robin's early-spring song is a reminder

Egg-stra facts

- Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.

- The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honor of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Orthodox celebrations today.

- For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs.

- In medieval times, churches held "egg-throwing" festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it.

- In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs.

- Each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.

- The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever produced weighed 16,000 pounds — more than an elephant!

Easter Joy

Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. One gives most who gives with joy. The best way to show our gratitude to God and people is to accept everything with joy.

A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen.

—Mother Teresa

Easter Possibilities

The message of Easter is not only that Christ is risen, not only that suffering is not the last word, not only that God gives new life, but this: Nothing is impossible

Butterfly

The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' dead body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.



Church COUNCIL

BSLC Council Meeting 13 February 2024

Our church council met on 13 February. Pastor Troup is continuing with Confirmation classes and facilitating the Ladies bible study on Mormonism on Wednesday mornings.

Our Treasurer, Curtis Kuppler, reported we have around \$82,000 in our checking account, around \$193,000 in our Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), and our total giving from January 1-January 31 was around \$21,000. Our expenses for the month were around \$43,000.

Christian Education (children's Sunday School) welcomed 2 new co teachers, Terese Berens and Phyllis Miesner, for the Pre-K and K class. Easter candy is being collected in the narthex for the Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, March 30. Planning for the annual care packages for college students and Vacation Bible School (VBS) is underway. VBS will be June 3-7.

Brian Lloyd reported the Call Committee is ready to interview 2 pastoral candidates. R.J. Kinsella will be contacting the candidates to set interview dates. For New Business a motion was made, seconded, and passed to establish a Lutheran Education scholarship to help pay for elementary and high school education for members of Blessed Savior Lutheran Church. This will be presented at the 11 April voters meeting. Another motion in New Business was made, seconded and passed to have babysitters again available for church services and adult bible class after the service. This will also be brought to the voters meeting on 21 April. (830 a.m.)

Lenten dinners will be held the following Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.: 21 February, 28 February, 6 March, 13 March, and 20 March. Church follows at 7:00 p.m.

Properties would like to have the upstairs fellowship hall painted as well as the T.V. repaired to stream live by 24 February. The board of properties will be getting bids for a new church sign as well as contacting the city for clearance.

The Youth Group has a lot going on. Sign up began 11 February to participate in the Winter Jam on 23 March in St. Louis at the Enterprise Center. It is also time to sign up in the Narthex for a table for March 16 Trivia Night at Katy Cavins. The Youth Group would like to do two Fundraisers, Butter Braids before Mother's Day, and Puff Pastry before Thanksgiving. There are 3 youth so far signed up for the National Youth Gathering. Outside of fundraising parents will be responsible for \$150.

Phyllis Miesner, Secretary



VBS 2024 coming soon!
Save the dates!
June 3-7

More information and sign up sheets
 coming soon!



Resurrection Rumblings

In *Easter Earthquake*, James A. Harnish explores the “earthshaking promise” of Jesus’ resurrection. Easter Sunday “shatters the power of fear,” he writes. “Because Christ is risen, we no longer allow fear to dominate, control or manipulate us. We don’t remain imprisoned in the tombs of our past failures or buried under the weight of present anxiety. In the risen Christ, old things pass away and everything becomes new.”

Easter, Harnish adds, is proof that God hasn’t forsaken us and is present among us. “The Resurrection contradicts the assumption that Christ resides on an ethereal cloud in a distant heaven. Rather, we find him on the dusty road that leads to the real stuff of our ordinary world.”

Jesus’ followers can find him everywhere, Harnish concludes. “The risen Christ will meet us along the confused, chaotic, fearful paths of our lives and speak the same words the women hear at the tomb, ‘Do not be afraid.’”



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



**MARCH
BIRTHDAYS**

16—RJ Kinsella
16—Larry Gruhn,
18 – Jessica Schmidt
18—Karen Anders
19—Cynthia Brecks
20 Morgan Kjosa
21 Bailey Leech
23—Hannah Husemann
23—Brandon Rust
25—Jackson Brady
27 – Jon Rust, Sam Williams
29 – Keith Szolga
30 – Blake Bartimus, Zora Boggs

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



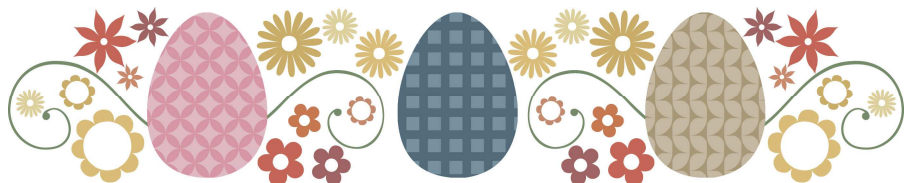
We are sorry if your birthday or anniversary has been overlooked. Please call the church office, 632-0126 or email Nancy at nancy@mybslc.org so we may add your name to our list. Thanks for your help.

God’s Provision While We Wait

A November 2023 landslide trapped 41 construction workers in a tunnel they’d been excavating for a Himalayan highway project. For 17 days, they were stranded nearly 3 miles from freedom. When rescuers’ drilling equipment broke, miners drilled through the last 2 meters of rock and gravel by hand. Finally, all the workers were pulled to safety through a 3-foot-wide steel pipe. Because they had received food, water, medicines, oxygen and even light through a narrow pipe while underground, all were in good health.

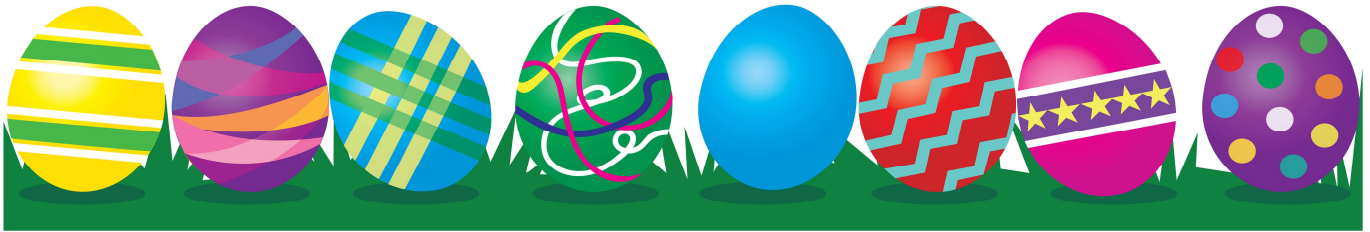
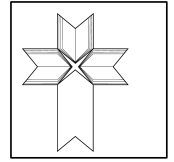
We are trapped in sin and brokenness: our sin and that of others, fragmented relationships and systems, nearby and across the globe. Christianity teaches that God’s way of goodness will win in the end. But before full rescue comes, what keeps us alive and hopeful — even healthy?

As water was faithfully provided to the laborers through that narrow pipe, God quenches our thirst through baptism. Scripture and the sacrament of communion are the food and medicine that nourish and strengthen us. Prayer — our own and others’ prayers for us — along with the Holy Spirit’s gifts such as comfort and joy flow into our lives like the light of hope and the oxygen of life. Though complete rescue seems slow to come, God provides for us while we wait.—Heidi Hyland Mann





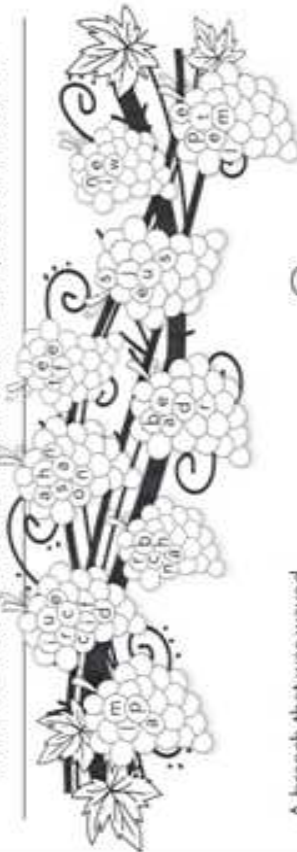
The Sanctuary
Blessed Savior Lutheran Church
1205 North Lincoln Ave.
O'Fallon, IL 62269



A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that waved
- How Jesus was put to death
- A stick attached to the vine
- People shouted this to Jesus
- Jesus washed these
- This was broken and eaten
- The Messiah
- A drink from grapes
- Jesus drove the money changers from here

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit