



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

February 2026
Sun. Feb 1, 8, 15, 22
 Worship 930am
 Sun School/Adult Bible Study 1045 am

Mon. Feb 2, 9, 16, 23
 DBSA Support Group 7pm

Tues. Feb 3, 10, 17, 24
 Jr. Confirmation 315

Tues. Feb 3
 Elders Meeting 7 pm

Tues. Feb 10
 Quilting 930 am
 No Council meeting until 2/21

Thur. Feb 12, 19, 26
 Adult Inquirer Class with Pastor Mark 10 am

Feb. 14
 Valentine's Day

Mon. Feb 16
 President's Day

Tues. Feb 17
 Christian Ed Mtg 7 pm

Wed. Feb 18
 Ash Wednesday
 Worship Service 7 pm

Sat. Feb 21
 Roll & Goals Church Council Meeting
 Breakfast 7 am
 Meeting 8 am

Tues. Feb 24
 Stewardship Mtg 6 pm

Wed. Feb 25
 Midweek Lenten Dinner 6
 Midweek Lenten Service 7

Souper Bowl of Caring

Don't miss your chance to help conquer hunger in the O'Fallon area.

Bring your donations of Non-perishable canned and boxed goods to church on **Sunday, February 8th and Sunday, February 15th**.

All proceeds go to the O'Fallon Food Pantry to help hungry families in O'Fallon.



Church Council Annual Rolls and Goals Planning Meeting

Saturday, February 21
 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
 8:00 a.m. Meeting
 All committee members are invited and encouraged to attend

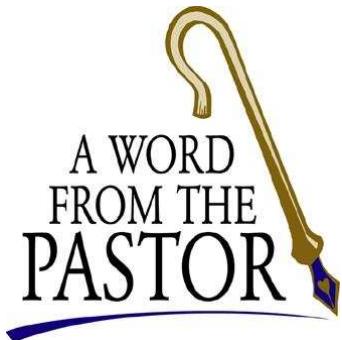
Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 18
 7:00 p.m.



Midweek Lenten Services

Dinners at 6pm
 Services at 7 pm
 Wed. February. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25



From my Window: *New Beginnings!*

One of my favorite times of the year growing up was when my mom took me shopping for school supplies. We would fill our cart with all sorts of school goodness: Markers, pencils, pens, glue, folders, paper, scissors, and so much more. Of course, I can't forget to mention my all-time, must-buy, favorite item of every year ... the *trapper keeper*. Do they even make those anymore? I remember when my mom bought me my first trapper keeper. I felt so proud walking up and down the hallways of junior high thinking I was so cool holding my blue trapper keeper in hand with all its glorious pockets and Velcro goodness. Looking back, cool isn't the word I'd use to describe the guy walking down that hall. How times change?!

New school supplies. New clothes. New shoes. New books. Fall is a time of year filled with lots of new. It is exciting to be part of something new. It can also be a little scary as one thinks about what "new" might bring. Our God is a God of new things. After all, look in the mirror! Our life is defined by God Himself – Father, Son, and Spirit – all working together *to make us new* through a sacrifice on the cross. The old has gone, the new has come. We are made new through Jesus! We are made new through Word and Sacrament. If you really think about it, our entire life is defined by God daily making us new.

It is good to know that as we begin a new journey together—as pastor and church—we have a God who is the Author of all new things, leading us and guiding us toward a bold beginning! Isn't it amazing to think that God, in His infinite wisdom, has chosen to bring us together at this time in history for a divine reason?! I am thrilled to join hands with you as your pastor in this next leg of the journey.

Lent is right around the corner with Ash Wednesday on Feb 18! I look forward to walking with you as we follow Jesus' path to the cross, seeing the lengths He goes to, to bring us home to be with Him.

Nails. Wood. Death. All for you!

On Sundays, the prophet Zechariah will be our guide for a sermon series exploring how to rebuild hope in a troubled world. The book of Zechariah is filled with stunning portraits of our Savior. Jesus serves as the prophet's Interpreting Messenger throughout the first six chapters. Throughout Zechariah, the prophet joyfully and profoundly announces that God's kingdom is coming through Jesus, bringing with Him a message of hope for troubled times.

On Wednesdays, we will explore God's love in a series called "O, How He Loves!" God is love. We often hear people say this, but how does this love actually look? The hugeness of God's love drove Paul to his knees, fervently praying that others, too, might "have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge." (Eph 3:18-19) Into a world that has a casual, superficial, often confused view of love, the Lord speaks, shares, and embodies a deep, long and wide love for His creation.

Lent is a time for us to stand before the cross and ask: "All for me?" God proclaims a resounding clear word: "Yes, all for you!" His death provides new life. Forgiven life. Restored life. We witness the love of God for all time.

As your new pastor, I encourage you: Jump into Lent! Let's do this! May this be a time of abiding and reconnecting with the God who loves. Deeply. He leads. We follow.

As we begin a new journey, I thank you for your trust by calling me to be your pastor, to lead and guide toward an exciting future of bold beginnings, turning the page of "HIS" wonderful story! He's not done writing yet!

Are you ready to turn the page? Grab your trapper keepers ... it's time to go!



New Beginnings

In His grip,
Pastor Nathan



Sunday School classes are back in full swing. In PreK – 8th grades, we are focusing on Jesus' life and ministry on earth in our weekly lessons...so much to learn from our Lord. God reminds us of our need to be in His Word continually. "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2nd Timothy 3:16-17. It is never too late to join one of our classes. You are welcome to jump in and join at any time!

Sunday school kids will be making Valentine cards for members who are sick or shut-in, as well as our deployed military, during Sunday school on February 8th. So if your child can make it to class that day, it would be greatly appreciated. The kids made cards last year, and they greatly enjoyed it, as did the members who received their cards.

February is a little light in activities this year. However, things will pick up exponentially in March. So please mark the following dates on your calendar now because they will be here before you know it.

Sun., Mar. 22 – PreK – 6th Sunday school singing in church (practicing songs at Opening)

Sun., Mar. 15 - Sun. Mar. 29 – Collecting Candy for the Easter Egg Hunt

Sun., Mar. 29 - Sun. Apr. 22 – Collecting Care Package Items

Finally, Christian Ed would like to formally announce that the VBS dates have changed. The new dates are now June 1- 5 (the first week of June). We wanted to let everyone know now so everyone can plan. So please update your calendars. Also, if anyone is interested in co-directing this year's VBS, please contact Ryan Moureau. There will be more VBS announcements to come. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ryan.

Created in Christ! Ryan Moureau



June 1 - 5



A Purposeful New Year

The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

— C. Neil Strait

TREASURER GLEANINGS

Here is an annual status update on the church's finances.

As of December 31, 2025, the church has a balance in the checking account around \$139K (monies in designated funds and operating fund combined). The balance in the 4 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) accounts is over \$365K. So, the church has over \$500K in all 5 accounts between Bank of America and LCEF.

We were roughly \$61K in the black (even after spending around \$70 - 80K for the parking lot and video wall). With over \$307K in giving and almost 245K in expenses.

On Sunday, NOV 23, 2026, the congregation approved a 2026 budget of over \$262K, an increase of almost \$35K. The increase is due to increase in the Pastor's salary, insurance, etc. as well as an increase in secretarial pay.

With the increase in the budget, we will need to have an increase in giving, or the church will have to dip into the LCEF accounts to help pay the bills.

THANKS to all for your continuing support to the church. Remember we have tools such as Joyful Giving, Tithely and PayPal, which can be used to set up automatic giving to the church. For more information regarding these tools, please contact Dave Reynolds (Joyful Giving) or Curtis Kuppler (Tithely/PayPal).

Welcome Pastor Nathan Kuhlman. We are all excited for you to lead Blessed Savior.

In God's Name,

Curtis Kuppler
BSLC Co-Treasurer

ANNUAL BSLC ROLLS & GOALS MEETING



The annual BSLC Rolls and Goals Meeting Council meeting will be held on Saturday February 21st, 2026 (no regular Council meeting on Tuesday 10 Feb)

7 am Breakfast and fellowship
8 am - 11 am Meeting

We will develop our goals for the coming year and 2 to 5 years out. Terry

Colvin will facilitate the meeting using our Strategic Plan.

All Council members as well as committee members should plan to attend if possible.

Keith Szolga, Council Chairman



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on Tuesdays, Feb. 10, Mar. 10 & Apr. 14 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 2nd 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.





Fellowship Committee

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Welcome Pastor Nathan! New Pastor, New Fellowship programs in the works. Happy Valentines Day, Happy Mardi Gras, Happy Life!

Blah! Snow Days are hopefully over, but even if they aren't we intend to have some different things going on for Fellowship.

As usual, we will be having donuts on Sunday mornings. But since we will be entering the Lenten season, we may switch that up a bit. We will see how that plays out and please, if You have any suggestions on what you would like to see for Fellowship- bring them on! We are always open to suggestions.

First, on tap, we will be having a **Scripture Based Valentines Scavenger Hunt**. Don't worry, we won't make you go out in the cold weather, we will print

Them out and you can take them and work on them. Instructions will be provided when you get them. And don't forget your **Mardi Gras** starts this month as well.

Ash Wednesday is Feb 18th, so make your plans to attend the service that night. We will be starting **Lenten Dinners on February 25th at 6:00 pm**. Fellowship will be providing the first Dinner. We will let you know ahead of time the details on what will be provided. Each week, until March 25th, dinner will be provided.

The following Dates we will be having Dinner, weather permitting of course! Feb 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, and the last dinner being Mar 25th.

We will also be implementing every other month "Pot Lucks with a Twist". You won't really know the twist until you get there. Pot lucks are great for bringing people together.

Happy Valentines Day!

If you would like to be on the Fellowship Team, Contact Ginger- gkiefer24@charter.net or Gwen - gkob1995@gmail.com

When All Else Fails—God Reigns



When we deliberate, God reigns;
 When we decide wisely, God reigns;
 When we decide foolishly, God reigns;
 When we serve God in humble loyalty, God reigns;
 When we serve God self-assertively, God reigns;
 When we rebel and seek to withhold our service, God reigns —
 The Alpha and the Omega, which is, and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.



Shine Without Wax



How sincere are you, really? How honest, dependable, and genuine? These are traits that shape our character and help others see Christ in us. The word *sincere* comes from an old Latin phrase meaning "without wax." In ancient Rome, potters sometimes used wax to hide cracks in flawed pottery. Buyers would hold each piece up to the sunlight to see if it was truly solid and not hiding any imperfections. When we allow the light of Christ to shine through our lives, it reveals both our rough spots and our strengths. The good news is that Jesus never shames us for the cracks; he restores us. As his light works within us, we grow into people of integrity who are whole, authentic, and sincerely his.





STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for “various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities.” Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a “how-to” tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God’s direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward.

Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a “me and Jesus thing!” In fact, it ends with these words: “Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare.” This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.

LCMS Stewardship

Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther’s Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel



Love one another.

1 JOHN 4:7



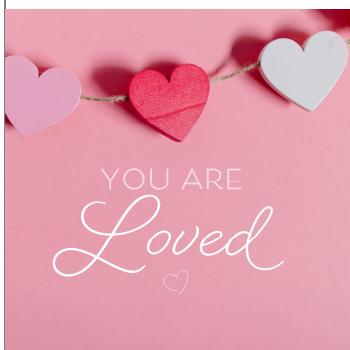
Chocolate is sweet.

but
God's
Love
is even
sweeter.



**For God
so loved
the world.**

JOHN 3:16



- 1 Karen Olson
- 4 Annette Szolga
- 5 Sara Lesire
- 6 Barbara Edgar
- 8 Elizabeth Lundeby
- 9 Brian Gass
- 10 Mansaray Baindu
- 11 Diane Colvin
- 11 John & Joan Gefferth
- 15 Karen Depping
- 17 Elise Trapp
- 21 Nancy Schmidt ,
- 21 Reeva Alvarado
- 22 Jill Kinsella, Samuel Calzada
- 24 Nate Berens, Aeneas Brecks
- 24 Hadrian Brecks
- 25 Margene Jerrold,
- 27 Jackson Husemann



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.



14 Randy & Kristi Emmons

2026

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

You transform and save lives by filling a baby bottle with coins, cash or check. Pick up a bottle today!

mosaic  **health**

Baby Bottles are due back by February 15



Kennedy & Omorien

The Foundation of Our Faith

Jesus' resurrection is the very foundation of Christianity. If Christ had never been raised from the dead, we'd have no Christian faith.

God's power was at work in Christ's death and resurrection. "It was on the resurrection fact that the church was built," said New Testament scholar James Stewart.

Paul understood that the resurrection was the bedrock of our faith: "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14, ESV). He continued, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17, ESV).

The resurrection proves that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Its authenticity means that by faith in Christ, we are reconciled with God.

The Upside-Down Blessing

The Beatitudes are more than poetic lines from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. They're a radical redefinition of what it means to be blessed. The Greek word *makarios* doesn't just mean "happy." It describes a deep, un-touchable joy that pain, loss or hardship cannot erase. As scholar William Barclay wrote, it is "the joy which shines through tears."

Jesus flips the world's idea of success upside down. The "blessed" aren't the powerful or prosperous, but the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek and the merciful. Imagine reading them as "Congratulations, you who feel broken, God's kingdom belongs to you!" His words assure us that, even in suffering, we stand in God's favor. Real blessing isn't about shiny possessions or smooth sailing. It's the steady, saving presence of God — a life preserver tossed to us when we're struggling to stay afloat. And it's not just an individual promise. Jesus spoke these blessings to a community, a we more than a me. Together, as the body of Christ, we find comfort, strength and the courage to live with joy that nothing in life or death can take away.

Spring Cleaning for the Soul

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.



A Vision Rooted in Faith and Freedom

Washington's wisdom has been an inspiration for large numbers of our leading men and women in every decade since his time. He had the uncanny foresight of seeking to build a nation upon the bedrock of strong patriotism, unquestioned integrity, opportunities for all, high ideals and love of God.

May our great land, conceived in prayer for peace, bring new concepts of living to all the peoples of the world.

— James Francis Cook, in *The Etude*

Stop, Look and Listen

Why should we observe Lent?

We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.



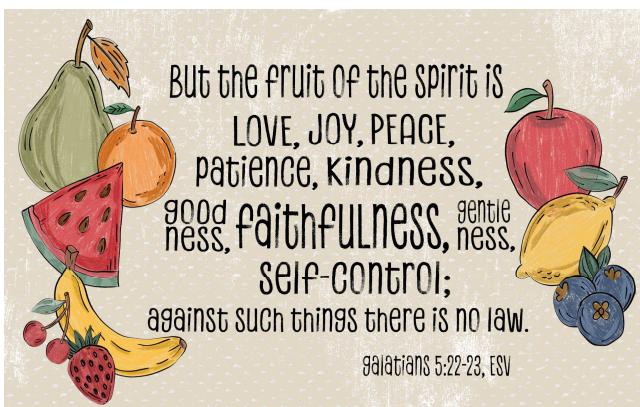
Faith in Action

A Christian is someone who makes it easier for others to believe in God — not through perfection, but through kindness, grace and love in everyday life. When people see Christ's compassion in us, they're drawn closer to Him.

A Taste of Loving-Kindness

A Sunday school teacher once asked her class, "What do you think the Bible means when it speaks of loving-kindness?"

A young boy thought for a moment and replied, "Well, if I were hungry and someone gave me a piece of bread with butter on it, that would be kindness. But if they added a spoonful of jam, that would be loving-kindness."



JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly Bible version, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



Draw a picture of what God's love means to you...

ALL ABOUT
GOOD
GOD

What's your favorite Bible
verse about God's love...

Jesus loves me

God's love is...



Celebrate the beauty of winter with these fun snowflake-inspired treats!

What you need:

- Graham cracker squares or sugar cookies
- White frosting or marshmallow fluff
- Pretzel sticks (snowflake arms)
- Shredded coconut or white sprinkles
- Mini marshmallows or candy pearls



What you do:

1. Frost each cracker or cookie.
2. Arrange pretzel sticks in a crisscross for the snowflake base.
3. Sprinkle with coconut or sprinkles for snow.
4. Add marshmallows or candy pearls to the ends for detail.

Lesson tie-in:

Remind kids that God made each of us unique—just like no two snowflakes are alike!
(Psalm 139:14, KJV)



LOVE IS Action!

Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

What you need:

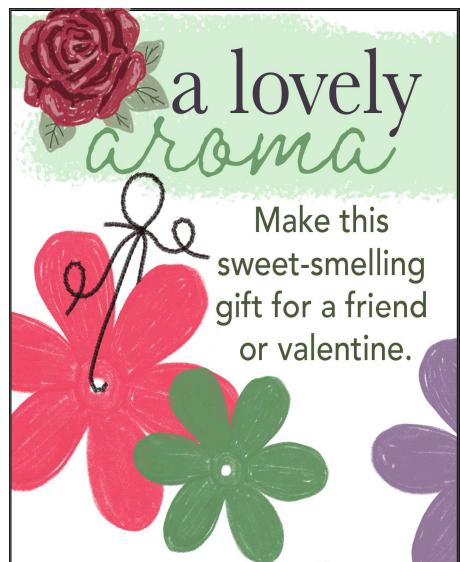
- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons



What you do:

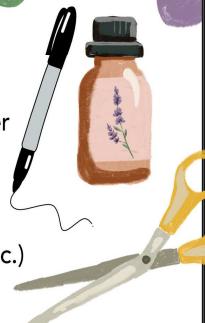
1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."
-1 John 3:18 (NIV)



What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)



What you do:

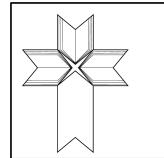
1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.





The Sanctuary

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



FeBRUARY

2026



PUZZLE

LOVE CODE BREAKER

Change some of the letters below to reveal this verse!

C's to L	Z's to H	P's to R
J's to A	Q's to T	X's to E
K's to O		

(The other letters stay the same.)

"L
C K V X Q Z X C K P D Y K U P
G K D W I Q Z J C C Y K U P
Z X J P Q J N D W I Q Z J C C
Y K U P S K U C J N D W I Q Z
J C C Y K U P M T N D J N D
W I Q Z J C C Y K U P
". Z
S Q P X N G Q Z J C C Y K U P

Mark 12:30

Answers: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."