

The Messenger ✦ April 2024

Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School ▪ San Clemente, California

"Inspired to Love, Encouraged to Think, and Sent to Serve"

Easter Joy

On Tuesday, March 12th, our Bishop met with our church council as well as the council of Christ Lutheran Church to help facilitate a conversation about our ministries and mission in San Clemente. It was a wonderful time to reflect on the great work each church is already doing, ways in which each of our churches can continue to grow and possible ways to support one another in that growth. This month, in the midst of the Easter season, I wanted to take the opportunity to share some of the major takeaways from that meeting.

The Easter season (Eastertide) is a time each year where we focus on joy. The joy of Jesus' defeat of death, the joy of the resurrected Jesus and the joy of our own participation in Jesus' resurrected life. This is difficult, joy is difficult, when things are not perfect or as we would like them to be. I believe that is true today. Things are not perfect. Like all churches, we would love more money, more people and we may even be tempted to think there might not be a tomorrow, that God might be done using Our Savior's. God is not done with us. The aforementioned meeting reminded me of that because in dreaming and conversation, I started to better understand some of the many possible futures God might have in store for us.

Each congregation of the ELCA is wholly independent in their self-governance and decision making but that does not mean we are alone. Our synod and our bishop does not have any power to make decisions on our behalf or tell us what to do but they can help when we let them. The bishop did exactly this when he met with us. After conversations with Pastor Juli, Bishop Dave and myself, we decided that getting our councils together would be helpful. The challenges facing Our Savior's are the same challenges facing Christ Lutheran (and the Synod as a whole) and that means we are not alone and do not have to solve them in isolation. In conversation together, we started to think more collaboratively and reflect on what we have been doing, what has worked and what we might need to change.

At one point, the bishop asked the gathered group what we thought some of the spiritual needs were in San Clemente. One of the things that got named was the need for community, the spiritual need for belonging and company with others. We spoke about the nationwide problem of isolation and loneliness, especially coming out of the pandemic. This was one place where we started to consider how we could better support one another's churches. What if we spent time in fun and fellowship with one another?

In hindsight, this seems so simple but looking ahead I believe this is a great thing to try and will in time be a great source of joy. Actually, this is something we have already being doing and trying with our youth. Our youth group has gotten together with other South Orange County ELCA churches for occasional fun and fellowship with great success. This works so well because, in part, more bodies means more things are possible- games, conversations, community service.

While the meeting was little more than a preliminary exercise in dreaming and discernment, it was a source of hope and joy for myself and those gathered around that table. In this Easter season, I hope this brief snippet of the conversation can be a source of joy for you as well!

In Peace,

Pastor Cole



APRIL... Birthdays, Anniversaries & More

~ Birthdays ~

Savannah Salvin	4/3
Clayton Wells	4/3
Karen Fox	4/4
Sara May	4/4
Danika Bursvold	4/5
Michael Turner	4/8
Jay Rayl	4/9
Lola Davies	4/10
George Ellis	4/11
Sharon Guilliams	4/12
Judi Klaske	4/12
Marlene Fitzhugh	4/13
Jackie Key	4/13
April Wells	4/17
Christian Simons	4/19
Janice Tsuma	4/24
Steve Hathaway	4/26
Val Streed	4/27
Jeff Bacon	4/30

~ Anniversaries ~

Bob & Jennifer Berschauer 4/23

Pastor Cole's (Palm Sunday) Banana Pancake Recipe

- 3 ripe bananas, peeled and mashed
- 3 tbs. sugar
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour

Whisk banana, sugar and egg together. Sift flour over mixture and fold together. Heat skillet over medium and cook.



What is Wrong with These Kids?

If you watch the news these days, it seems like the teens in our society are completely out of control. We see dangerous street takeovers, teens violently mobbing shopping malls, looting and stealing from them, fighting in the bathrooms at school, heck, even fighting with Marines on the beach! It seems insane.

Now, I am not naïve to the fact that these things happen, and I am in no way condoning any of this violent and dangerous behavior, but there is more to the situation. You see I spend a great amount of time with young people, and I can tell you firsthand that besides the normal middle/high school hijinks that come with adolescence, most of the teens around us are honest, caring young people. Case in point, James Simons, if you don't know James, you should, James attended Our Savior's Lutheran School during his pre and elementary school years and now is a student at San Clemente High School. James also serves on our church council as the Youth and Family Ministry representative and is doing a fantastic job. For example, just this past weekend we had a campus cleanup event to get the church prepared for Holy Week. James spoke with the AVID group from his school and arranged to have 10 (or so) students come and help with the dirty jobs of campus cleanup. I can tell you that these teens did a fantastic job, in the rain, and never complained or tried to get out of any job they were asked to do. In much the same way, on Palm Sunday (the next day) the youth ministry held it's annual Pancake Breakfast and as expected, there was James and several of our high, middle, and elementary students in the kitchen and on the patio making breakfast and sharing a laugh as they worked together to serve the church.

It is my pleasure to work alongside these young folks and our wonderful adult volunteers as they develop their sense of place, identity, and faith.

So don't let the news steal your joy, there are many good, honest, and decent teens all around us, often they can be found with me up in the choir loft/tech space during Sunday worship, either worshipping or helping with worship tech.

Meet you at the malt shop!

Bob Cooper,
Director of Youth and Family Ministry

YOUTH *Activities*

April 2024

April 3 - Wednesday

No MSYG

April 7 - Sunday

Confirmation 11:00am, FR

HSYG 6:30pm, YR

April 9 - Tuesday

Gilchrist House 6:00pm

April 10 - Wednesday

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

April 13 - Saturday

HS/MS K-1 Speed 6:00pm

April 14 - Sunday

HSYG 6:30pm, YR

April 17 - Wednesday

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

April 21 - Sunday

Confirmation w/parents 11:00am, FR

HSYG 6:30pm, YR

April 24 - Wednesday

MSYG 6:30pm, YR

April 28 - Sunday

HSYG 6:30pm, YR





From the
**MUSIC
DIRECTOR**
APRIL 2024

According to the Bible, is a beautiful expression of reverence and adoration. It's like a heartfelt melody that we offer to God, recognizing Him as our Creator, Savior, and King.

When we worship, we actively tell God that we love Him. It's not just a ritual; it's a relationship.

Imagine standing before a breathtaking sunset, your heart swelling with awe and gratitude—that's worship. It's our reasonable service of thanksgiving for all God has done for us.

Jesus, during His earthly ministry, emphasized worship from the heart. He said, "Worship the Father in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23). It's no longer about a specific location or religious formality; it's about genuine connection. When we worship, we declare God's worthiness. We sing, speak, and live out His goodness and power. It's an intimate conversation with our heavenly Father.

So, whether it's through music, prayer, acts of kindness, or simply living in alignment with God's love, worship is our way of saying, "Lord, You're everything to me." It's the rhythm of our hearts, echoing the eternal song of heaven.

George Freitas
Music Director

April Beach Wine Club Event
Thursday April 4th @ 5:30pm
Christ Lutheran Church
35522 Camino Capistrano, San Clemente, CA 92672

Please join Judy and Norman Franz as the hosts for the April Beach Wine Club. There will be a wine tasting on Thursday night, April 4th in the church sanctuary ("Le Bistro") to enjoy Rosé from Provence and elsewhere in France and California. Judy discovered Rosé in Aix in Provence in 2017 and it's been a favorite of hers ever since. The lighter the pink/peach color, the better for her, as it's dryer and not too sweet or fruit forward in her estimation. We'll be bringing two wines she likes that are well under \$10 a bottle--La Vieille Ferme (available at Ralph's) and La Ferme Julien (at Trader Joe's). Rosé is a sipping wine and wonderfully pairable with fish, fruit and salads. Also great to sip on your terrace or patio at sunset or on a lazy summer afternoon.



If you would like to join us, please bring one bottle of Rosé per couple and wine glasses. We look forward to tasting all the wines you bring. Rosé wines are available almost everywhere now, with most being under \$20, including sparkling. There are lots of wonderful California Rosé wines from up and down the coast and inland. Have fun selecting!

Please RSVP so we know how many appetizers to bring.
jafranz47@gmail.com

Worship and Celebration ✦ April 2024

After 40+ years of holding the position of Director of Music at Our Savior's San Clemente, it has been a joy to sit in the pews with my fellow worshippers and enjoy praising God with our talented music staff and volunteers on Sundays. Many thanks to George and the band and vocalists who bless us each week.

I have just been appointed Chair of Worship and Celebration on our Church Council and I am excited to be stepping into this role. Since I am now a "lay person", rather than a church employee, I would like to encourage you to share your thoughts with me on worship, music, celebration, decorating...anything and everything that enhances the worship experience at our church. I have already had great response from some of our regular worshippers and would love to hear from more of my fellow "people in the pews".

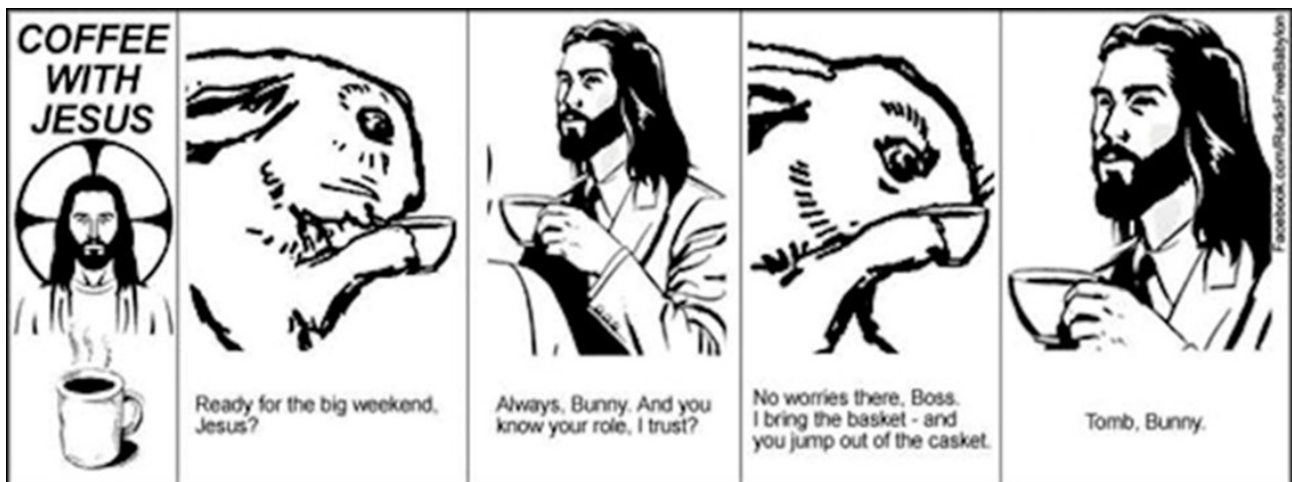
See you at church,

Karen Skipper
Worship and Celebration

John 4:23

But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him.

The bunny almost got it right...



Greg Gardner playing during the Spaghetti Dinner Youth Fundraiser at Our Savior's



*You are invited to the
Ordination and Installation
of
Deacon Daneen Pysz*

*Sunday - May 5, 2024 @ 5:00pm
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
33501 Stonehill Dr.
Dana Point, CA 92629*

Reception to follow @ 6:00pm

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

I received a postcard with the above verse in my Thrivent Action Team package and it actually has lived at the bottom of my computer monitor for the last two or 3 weeks. There is a lot that could be unpacked in this one verse.

- *Each of us have been given gifts!* Whether we are in the spring or winter of our lives we have gifts that have been given to us.
- *We should use those gifts to serve others.* It is mid tax season and those of us that prepare taxes are a bit glassy eyed from staring at the computer, so while I am using my analytical gifts, my lesser gift of making others smile is on the back burner. But there are two folks in the congregation that have that gift of making me smile every time I see them. One is in the early spring of her life and the other in the winter of her life, but they are using their gifts to show me God’s grace. Thank you to Jane and Joanne.

Take a minute and think about the gifts you have been given and how you are using them to serve others and show others God’s Grace.

Many thanks to all of those folks that helped with the Jana concert and the Spaghetti dinner that followed. There were roughly 75 people on campus, singing and praising God. The dinner was facilitated by using a Thrivent Action Team, so all of the \$148 donated will support our youth programs. This was a great event to have others come to the campus that might not otherwise know about the good work that Ous Savior’s does.



Also, many thanks to the folks that came out on a cloudy/raining Saturday to spruce up the campus. It was an opportunity to show the physical campus some love and have fellowship with congregational members and others. Many thanks to James Simon for arranging to have 10 high school folks come out and help us. There were also 10 people from the congregation that put some elbow grease into it. We were not deterred by the rain. Windows were washed, files were gone through, the white fences were shown some love, and the pews were treated to some Murphy's soap/polish. The only thing that was not "completed" on our lengthy list was painting the metal benches and that was due to the rain. P.S. Cassano's Pizza is the best. An Action Team facilitated this event, as well.

CAMPUS CLEANUP - THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED



Some of you may not know, while elected to be the Shepard of Stewardship on Council, I have been keeping the Fellowship, Worship and Celebration, and Social Concerns ministries going as best I can. I look forward to working with Nicole Rutherford as she has been appointed the Council member for Fellowship. (As I mentioned last month, sometimes there is no clear line between ministries. Jana and the spaghetti dinner crossed several ministry areas.) While I have not been able to give my 100% to Worship and Celebration, I have enjoyed thinking about and implementing ways to make the worship experience a bit more meaningful for those in attendance. Karen Skipper will be taking up that mantle.

A huge thank you to all the musicians and folks that used their gifts to serve us during holy week. Please take a moment and say a prayer for them and perhaps shoot them an email or say thanks when you see them next. Serving God with the gifts I have been given to the best of my ability.

Sharon Guilliams

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Thank you everyone that contributed to our social concerns efforts during the month of March. Whether it was a contribution of laundry bottles or egg crates; money for Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences, or money for World Hunger, you have helped people inside and outside our local community.

During the meeting with the Bishop and Christ Lutheran Council Members, we explored ways that we might collaborate, rather than duplicate or compete. We also talked about the needs of the San Clemente community and the conversation touched on those less fortunate. One thing that touched me was the continued effort that Christ Lutheran does with *Laundry Love*. On the third Wednesday of each month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., volunteers meet at Laundry Basket South in San Clemente, 2399 S El Camino Real, San Clemente, CA 92672 (just across from Jack in the Box) with rolls of quarters and detergent sheets to help folks do laundry.



"If I had clean clothes
people would treat
me like a human
being."

Our Savior's is going to work collaboratively with Christ Lutheran in supporting the Laundry Love program. First, if you would like to volunteer on the third Wednesday of the month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., you can contact Christ Lutheran's church office at 949-496-2621 or email secretary@clcsancllemente.org. I have it on good authority that if you show up to volunteer, you won't be turned away. A second way we are going to support this ministry is for the month of April we will have a Laundry Love jar where you can put your loose change or even perhaps a donation of a roll of quarters. We will periodically give the collected funds to Christ Lutheran for the effort. (P.S. If you would like to make a special donation via offering envelope or Venmo, those donations would be graciously accepted,)

I found the Christ Lutheran people fun and engaging. One of the things bantered about was having collaborative wine tastings and beer fests. Christ Lutheran has a couple of sommeliers, and we have our own home beer brewer, Pastor Cole. See page 4 for more details on Christ Lutheran's next Wine event on Thursday, April 4th.

FAM Update and Emphasis for April

Family Assistance Ministries (FAM) is in the process of completing their move up the hill on Amanecer. In order to move their warehouse operations, they have closed the warehouse at the "firehouse" temporarily. It is anticipated that the new warehouse operations will start back up in late April.

Our Savior's would like to help FAM restock their warehouse with diapers and baby wipes. So, during the month of April, we will be collecting packages of diapers and baby wipes. You may drop them off in the narthex. At the end of the month, we will then get them to FAM. **I challenge the members of Our Savior's Church and School to donate so many diapers and baby wipes that I have to make two or more trips to FAM!** I would gladly make those trips. As always if you would like to donate funds rather than goods using an offering envelope or Venmo those donations would be graciously accepted, just put FAM Diapers in the memo line.

FAM will open their new home in late April
Let's restock their shelves with
Diapers and Wipes



Drop off your donations in the narthex
You may also make a monetary donation using the normal methods, just annotate *FAM Diapers*

We would also like to provide hygiene kits to FAM for their reopening. We are looking for a Thrivent member to sponsor an Action Team that would provide "seed money" to buy the supplies for the kits. If you are willing to do this, please contact me, so we can get it going. It was fun to see folks packaging the kits during our Stewardship campaign. If this touches your heart and you would like to contribute funds, you can designate your donation as Hygiene Kits.

Christ Lutheran will be joining in this effort to restock FAM's shelves. Let's show San Clemente how loving and caring Lutheran's are.

Sharon Guilliams
sguilliams@cox.net

WHAT'S HAPPENING



OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

Weekly
Walking Group
Tuesdays @ 8:00am
Bonnie Little's house.

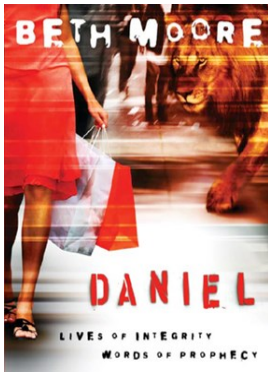
Please call the church office for
address and any questions.
(949) 492-6164 - oslcsec@sbcglobal.net



Men's Breakfast
Saturday
April 20, 2024
8:00am - 9:30am

Meet in the kitchen...

You are invited to join us for a Men's Breakfast,
Bible Study and Fellowship at OSLC. Pastor Cole
will be preparing this months breakfast.



Women's Bible Study
"Daniel" by Beth Moore

Tuesday, April 2
9:30am-11:45am
Founders Room

(This is the final Bible Study
for this period. Women's
Bible Study will resume
in September 2024.

Happy Summer!

MANNA

Manna Bible Study
Tuesdays at 1:00pm
(meet in Pastor Cole's office)

April 9, 16, 23 & 30
Newcomers are always welcome!

South County Community Handbell Choir Presents

Ringling Dusk to Dawn
The Bell Music of the Night



Benefit Concert for Family Assistance Ministries
Free Admission - A free will offering will be taken

Sunday, April 28, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church - 200 Ave. San Pablo, San Clemente



www.schandbell.org

VBS 2024

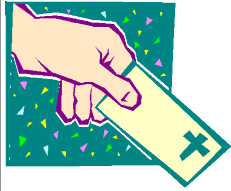


JUNE 10 - 14

9:00 AM - Noon

Our Savior's
Lutheran Church

Register at:
oursavioronline.net



**OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL REPORT
FEBRUARY 2024**

Offering	Feb 2024	FY July-Feb
Unrestricted Gifts	\$16,785.48	\$152,407.91
Budget	\$28,583.34	\$228.666

Our members and visitors continue to be faithful in their stewardship. We collected 59% of our February 2024 budgeted amount. Fiscal year to date we have funded 66% of the approved budget. We truly appreciate your dedication to Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We continue to be prudent in our spending.

Thank You For Your Stewardship!



The Social Concerns Ministry thanks you for benevolence gifts given in February 2024 over and above general giving:

- ◆ **ELCA World Hunger:** \$125
- ◆ **FAM:** \$217 Souper Bowl of Caring
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity of OC:** \$10

Your generosity is so very much appreciated!



**Church Council
Notes
March 2024**

- ⇒ Two new members were appointed to our council on March 21, 2024. Please welcome Karen Skipper as our Worship and Celebration chair and Nicole Rutherford as our Fellowship chair.
- ⇒ Charles Simon will be completing partial repairs to the holes in our asphalt near the wrought iron gate and near the church office.
- ⇒ Charles will also be replacing some shrubs on our slope and continues to monitor our sprinkler systems.
- ⇒ Preparations for our upcoming Easter worship are progressing.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lola Davies
Congregation Council Secretary

Next Meeting - Thursday, April 18 at 6:30pm



If you prefer to donate electronically
Venmo us
@ OurSaviorsSanClemente
We truly appreciate your generosity.
Thank you!

Church

www.facebook.com/oursaviorsonline



School

www.facebook.com/ols.sc





April 2024

He is Risen! The preschool and infant center are both looking forward to April! Our theme of the month is, "He is Risen", the shape is a cross, the color is purple, and the character trait is Citizenship. Citizenship for preschoolers means learning to cooperate with their peers, following school rules, and respecting classmates and teachers.

We incorporate these themes into our daily curriculum in many fun ways:

- ◆ Art- "Stained glass" crosses, crosses made out of egg cartons and mixing red and blue to make purple.
- ◆ Blocks- Stacking opened plastic eggs to build tall towers and making crosses with wood blocks and Legos.
- ◆ Science- Easter Egg Rockets
- ◆ Math- Counting, sorting, and making patterns with plastic Easter eggs and measuring the ingredients when making purple playdough.
- ◆ Music- "Going on an Easter Egg Hunt"-Kiboomers, "Bunny Hops"-Kiboomers and "Phonics Song"-Kiboomers
- ◆ Dramatic Play- Easter Egg hiding and hunts.

We will be out of school April 1st-5th for Easter Break.

Sunday, 4/28/24 is our Preschool Sunday.

Best Wishes,

Amy Rivas,
Preschool / Infant Center Director



Our Savior's Lutheran
Preschool / Infant Center

Spring Break

April 1 - 5

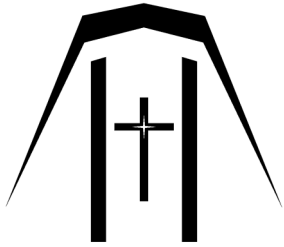
School will resume on Monday, April 8





April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<i>Preschool/Infant Spring Break will begin April 1 - April 5</i>					
		Manna will not meet	No MSYG	5:30 Wine Tasting Event @ Christ Lutheran		
7 <i>World Hunger Sunday</i> 9:30 Worship 11:00 Confirmation, FR 6:30 HSYG	8 <i>Preschool Resumes</i>	9 8:00 OWLs Walk 1:00 Manna, FR 6:00 Gilchrist House	10 6:30 MSYG	11	12	13 6:00 HS/MS K1 Speed
14 9:30 Worship 6:30 HSYG	15	16 8:00 OWLs Walk 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Manna, FR	17 2:00 Laundry Love 6:30 MSYG	18 6:30 Council Meeting	19	20 8:00 Men's Breakfast
21 9:30 Worship 11:00 Confirmation w/ Parents, FR 6:30 HSYG	22	23 8:00 OWLs Walk 1:00 Manna, FR	24 6:30 MSYG	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship, Preschool Sunday 4:00 Handbell Concert Ringing Dusk To Dawn 6:30 HSYG	29	30 8:00 OWLs Walk 1:00 Manna, FR		 <i>First Sunday of the month</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>  <i>Served every Sunday</i>	



Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School

200 Avenida San Pablo • San Clemente • California • 92672

**The Messenger
March 2024**

"Inspired to Love, Encouraged to Think, and Sent to Serve"

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30AM FOR WORSHIP



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