

# Our Savior Lutheran Church

In His Arms Childcare

417 S Kane Street Burlington, Wisconsin 53105 Pastor Rob Bolling, pastor.rob@oursaviorburlington.com, Office 262-763-3281, Cell 262-492-0965
Pastor Dustin Krystowiak, dustinkrystowiak@gmail.com, Cell 608-395-8498
Edmundo Rosales, Misionero Hispano Para el Sur de Wisconsin, Cell. 262-417-3108, edmundor36@yahoo.com
The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod (LCMS) www.oursaviorburlington.com www.lcms.org

Palm Sunday – April 5th, 2020

Sermon: "A Different Kind of King" John 12:12–19 -- Pastor Dustin Krystowiak

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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP ONLINE** Palm Sunday begins with unbridled joy as we recall how Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey, while being acclaimed by the crowds with loud shouts of "Hosanna" and boisterous waving of palm branches. So today we begin with



songs of praise as we hail Jesus as the One worthy of all glory, laud, and honor. But then the solemnness of Holy Week also begins and the service shifts our focus to Jesus' path to the cross. As foretold by prophets long ago, Jesus was stricken and afflicted, beaten and spit upon, crucified, and He died. He did this out of divine love for all of humanity, taking on Himself the sins of all people for our forgiveness. Today's worship reflects the pattern of our lives. At times we experience unbridled joy and celebration. And then, sometimes in the next moment, we experience heartbreaking suffering. Jesus is there with us—in the joyful celebrations, in the heartbreak and suffering. He alone can transform it all into deeper love for God and neighbor. The hour of Jesus' death on the cross is the hour of our life and salvation.

**HOLY COMMUNION** we pray for the day when we can gather together once again in person to receive the Lord's Body and Blood in Holy Communion. When the "safer at home" and social distancing order by our authorities is lifted, we will thankfully resume the celebration of this precious Sacrament. Please check our webpage <a href="https://www.oursaviorburlington.com">www.oursaviorburlington.com</a> for updates.

IN OUR PRAYERS – Our healthcare and emergency workers serving during the virus outbreak, as well as the high-risk individuals, and those exposed and/or infected: Julie Smith, Kaitlyn Krystowiak, Kimberly Vandenberg, Piper Bratz, Kristen Kmetz, Dr. Gabriel Johnson, Jeanne Marcone, Miriam Vargas, Nancy Doerfler, Jenny Caretta, Kelsey Domke, Dr. Richard Ellingstad, Sean Urness, Danielle Storm, Steve Storm, Michael Powell, Rosa Villa, Jim Filer Jr., Melissa Lein, Jay Lein, Janet Sandberg, Robin Deakins, Allison Schmidt, Melissa Koerber, Nancy Hischke and Pat Bolling; The daughter of Linda and Donn Edwards, Stephanie. Stephanie has a high-risk pregnancy and is due to deliver her baby boy, Hunter, soon; Marie Filer; Jenna Worth, friend of Richveis family; Janell Arneson, Robert Gleason, Jason Bulgrin; Amanda Kirby, Pat Schroyer; Rita, sister of Brenda Wienke; Mike Wiebeck; Brenda Wienke; Pablo Maiti; Chuck Collison; Jill & Christel Schumann, friends of the Richveis family; Theresa King; Andy Wright; Pat Dietschweiler; Alex Gomez; Sue Huebner; Joyce Pearl; for our military personnel: Steven Solmonson III; for those overseas: Baker family serving in Mongolia; Marc Ellingstad, US Diplomat serving in Pakistan; Daniel & Marie, Anastasia, Alethia and Emmanuelle Walter, ministry outreach in Israel.

**THOSE WHO SERVE** – Preacher: Assistant Pastor Dustin Krystowiak; Organist: Cathy Kaufmann; Live Streaming IT & Worship Group: Chris and Courtney Burris, John Schmidt, Mark Preuss, Jackie Bladow, Brad Soeth, Mike and Kim Soeth, and Pastor Rob.

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS** go to Bev Novak, Travis Duhamel and Austin Alderman 4/5; Harlan Billman and Faith Vioski 4/6; Quinn Adamek 4/7; Marie Miller 4/8; Ethan Chula 4/10.

**ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS** go to Steve and Jill Schielke.

**FELLOWSHIP WITH COFFEE AND DONUTS** Join us for a time of online fellowship from 9:00am- 9:30am at Our Savior. Go to <a href="www.oursaviorburlington.com">www.oursaviorburlington.com</a> and click on the online links.

**BIBLE CLASSES** – Attend Pastor Rob's Bible Class this Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am live, using online conferencing. Check our website <a href="www.oursaviorburlington.com">www.oursaviorburlington.com</a> for details. Watch our website as we develop a virtual Good News Class and other Bible Classes as well.

LAST WEEK AT OUR SAVIOR – Church Attendance ~ Wednesday 3/25 Lent Service: 18; Wednesday 4/1 Lent Service: 17; Total 3/29 Weekend 43 (Saturday 17, Sunday 26); Unified Budget Receipts - \$1,341.00.

#### HOW DO WE ARRIVE AT CHURCH ATTENDANCE

**NUMBERS** during this season of virtual services? I will admit it was much easier to have the elders count during each service, but using the link on our website is proving pretty accurate. I have done some calculations on our Google form and the Face Book viewings.

- 1. March 28th 12 people filled out the google form for this day
- 2. March 29th 14 people filled out the google form for this day
- 3. 43 people were entered as names during those two days (some filled out the form for their whole family)
- 4. 16 of the 43 were Zoom or YouTube watchers

According to Face Book the minutes viewed (as of today) for the video published on the 28th is 2,500 minutes. The service was just under 60 minutes long, so 60 minutes into 2,500 minutes = 41 hour long views. Given the fact that several people watched via Zoom or YouTube, that left us with what looked like several people extra who watched on Facebook. That's awesome! What a blessing to know we may be reaching beyond our members, spreading God's love!! Please help us keep as accurate a count as possible by continuing to fill out the Google Form for attendance on our website: <a href="www.oursaviorburlington.com">www.oursaviorburlington.com</a>. -- Sandy Sierszyn, Church Secretary

**DAILY MOMENT OF PRAYER** Thank you Marie Filer for this suggestion. Please join us at 8:30pm every day, by bowing your head and having a moment of silent prayer for our church family and our country. You can use our prayer request list above for your springboard and add to that. If you have a special prayer request, please send those to the church secretary at <a href="mailto:sandy.sierszyn@oursaviorburlington.com">sandy.sierszyn@oursaviorburlington.com</a> or leave them in your record of fellowship on the Google Form at <a href="mailto:www.oursaviorburlington.com">www.oursaviorburlington.com</a>.

**DAILY DEVOTIONS** LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison and other Synod pastors are leading devotions each weekday on the <u>LCMS Facebook page</u>. Join them live at 9 a.m., or <u>watch the archived devotions on YouTube</u>.

**Giving offerings to the Lord in difficult times...** For LCMS congregations to survive — and thrive — our worship offerings must continue as much as possible when the world is largely locked down and people are prohibited by law or, by a desire to keep pestilence from spreading, from attending church services. Please prayerfully consider your first fruit and proportional giving during this unusual time.

## This Week at Our Savior

## **Today** Palm Sunday

ALL DAY Worship online at

www.oursaviorburlingotn.com

9:00am Coffee/Fellowship online live at www.oursaviorburlingotn.com

9:30am Adult Bible Classes online live at

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## **Maundy Thursday**

7:00pm Worship online live at

www.oursaviorburlingotn.com

### **Good Friday**

7:00pm Worship online live at

www.oursaviorburlingotn.com

#### **Saturday**

5:30pm Easter Worship online live at www.oursaviorburlingotn.com

## **Easter Sunday**

ALL DAY Easter Worship online at

www.oursaviorburlingotn.com

9:00am Coffee/Fellowship online live at

www.oursaviorburlingotn.com

9:30am Adult Bible Classes online live at

www.oursaviorburlingotn.com

Here are a few giving options to prayerfully consider:

- Mail your regular offering to the church office or drop it off at the church office or during the week.
- Your bank or credit union may offer "online bill payment" services as financial tools. While our gifts to God are not paying a "bill" (because Jesus already did that for us), such tools can electronically deliver your offering without your having to write a check or use cash. Set up your congregation as you would a utility company or doctor's office. Some of these tools also allow you to create a recurring gift (payment) made automatically.
- If you are eligible, use the available IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution option and have your IRA trustee send a portion of your required minimum distribution (if not needed) to the church for you. If you have established a donor advised fund, continue to send or consider sending an advised grant to your congregation.
- More congregations are offering an online donation option on their websites, and more are providing members with things like smartphone apps that support giving by credit or debit card. Our Savior is currently developing online giving options and will soon have them in place.

#### VIRTUAL ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS ARE BEING DEVELOPED Grow in the Word!

Fellowship Hour	9:00 -9:30am Sundays	Link at www.oursaviorburlington.com	Pastor Rob
Sunday Scripture Readings	9:30-10:30am Sundays	Link at www.oursaviorburlington.com	Pastor Rob
The Book of Philippians	Paused		Chris Burris
The Book of Revelation	Paused		Pastor Rob
Good News Class	Paused		Pastor Rob
Bible Art Journaling	Temporarily sharing on-line only	Facebook: Faithful You	Sandy Sierszyn - please contact me if you would like to be added to the group @ 414-380-3950 (cell)

**CHURCH JANITOR POSITION** Email Pastor Rob <u>pastor.rob@oursaviorburlington</u> or Tom Burger <u>tom.burger@oursaviorburlington.com</u> if you would like to apply for the part time position of Church Janitor.

Office of the President
The Reverend Doctor Matthew C. Harrison
President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

March 27, 2020

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. As we all face this new and challenging reality, I'm reminded of this past summer. We met in convention under the theme "Joy:fully Lutheran." We read and studied 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18. And though our situation is very different, these words from St. Paul are still very true. "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

I'm sure many of you have prayed more lately than usual. But what about the rest? Rejoice always? Even now? Give thanks in all circumstances? Even this one? Well, yes. As St. Paul reminds us, this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus.

We rejoice that Jesus has conquered death for His saints. Former first vice-president and my dear colleague and friend Herb Mueller



died this past week from brain cancer. We buried him yesterday in a small service. We do not mourn as those who have no hope, but with Herb's wife, Faith, and his family, we rejoice in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, even if we do so through tears. As Herb reminded us during the convention, "The God of the universe puts His name on you, claims you for His own, unites you with His Son in His death and resurrection." To that, we say "Amen, Herb." Rejoice and give thanks. God's promises are sure and certain, also for you.

And there is much more cause to rejoice and give thanks!

- I thank God, for all of our congregations and their lay leaders who are forging ahead, making faithful decisions appropriate for their circumstances, and daring to find ways to continue and to serve others even now.
- I'm very thankful for our 35 district presidents, and the Synod vice-presidents who continue to counsel each other, communicate and offer support to each other.
- I'm thankful for the circuit visitors, and circuits who are consulting each other.
- I'm thankful for and rejoice over the patience you are showing to others in the church.
- I'm thankful for and rejoice over thousands of LCMS teachers who have shifted to online classrooms.
- I'm thankful for our many LCMS agencies caring for families, children, the disabled, and elderly, many in difficult situations.
- I rejoice over our seminaries and universities, and the thousands of professors, and tens of thousands of students, who have moved to online learning.
- I rejoice over our stellar overseas missionaries and their families, who are taking their unique challenges in stride, with faithfulness.
- I am thankful for the wise scriptural counsel of the Commission on Theology regarding the Lord's Supper.
- I'm thankful for CPH taking special action to provide worship resources, cost free; for the LCMS Foundation, for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, for Concordia Plan Services, and the Lutheran Federal Credit Union, which are all taking very helpful action to serve in these unique times.

Concordia Plans is carefully tracking for us the ramifications of the legislation currently pending in the U.S. House regarding also non-profits. The LCRL is keeping us up to speed and communicating with key legislators. With the LCEF, we will soon unveil an effort for support of our most vulnerable workers.

I thank God for our staff here in St. Louis too. They have magnificently handled this great challenge.

I rejoice and give thanks for all the great folks of the LCMS going about their vocations, especially all the medical personnel (my own daughter-in-law is now working in the COVID virus unit at her hospital), first responders, police and public officials, politicians, including our LCMS congressmen and senators. Lord have mercy on them all.

Join me especially in praying, rejoicing and giving thanks for our dear pastors and people in New York City, California and Washington State, and other places particularly hard hit.

Keep loving your pastors (as I know you are) and teachers and staff. Be generous! This is temporary!

And I rejoice over our blessed Good Friday and Easter Savior. May we be together soon, in person, and in person with Him, to celebrate the Easter of all Easters.

O Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, this world is Yours; deliver us, our nation and all others from this scourge. Cause us to repent and seek Your mercy. Let Your Gospel be heard and believed everywhere. Be with the sick and the dying; and grant us courage and love to serve You in our neighbors. We plead for Your sake, O Holy Trinity, end this scourge. Amen.

And as Paul says, "πάντοτε χαίφετε; Always rejoice. ἀδιαλείπτως προσεύχεσθε; Pray without ceasing. ἐν παντὶ εὐχαριστεῖτε; Give thanks in everything." This is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Amen.

#### Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

P.S. To find resources to navigate the COVID-19 outbreak, including daily video devotions and materials for congregations, schools, families and individuals, visit *lcms.org/coronavirus*.

1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295 | 888-THE LCMS (843-5267) | infocenter@lcms.org | lcms.org/president

South Wisconsin District LCMS Urgent Food Bank Needs -- Posted on March 30, 2020

Food banks are experiencing significant shortages as individuals and families are impacted by the recent changes in work and school schedules.

There are 10 food banks operated by LCMS congregations in our District and many of them operate with limited cash resources, depend on donated food, and rely on a small volunteer base. To help meet the rise in demand, please consider hosting a nonperishable food drive for your regional LCMS congregation run food bank and/or local food bank(s).



- **If you would like to be a collection site for your congregation**, consider your regional LCMS food bank as a recipient or contact Rev. Burakowski at (414) 464-8101 or by **email** and a volunteer will pick up the items and distribute them to the food banks in your region.
- **If you would like to make a monetary donation**, you may do so directly to the food bank OR send it to the District Office (memo: *Food Bank Support*) and it will be used to support all of our food banks immediately.

Donations can be mailed to the District Office at 8100 W. Capitol Dr. in Milwaukee, WI 53222.

## Palm Sunday

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 50:4–9a

- The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.
  - Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.
- The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.
- I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;

I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

- <sup>7</sup> But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
- He who vindicates me is near.

  Who will contend with me?

  Let us stand up together.

  Who is my adversary?

  Let him come near to me.
- Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty?
   Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

#### **EPISTLE READING** *Philippians* 2:5–11

<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
<sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **HOLY GOSPEL** *John* 12:12–19

<sup>12</sup>The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem.
<sup>13</sup>So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" <sup>14</sup>And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

"Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup> The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup> The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."