



# *Our Saviour's Lutheran Church*

*of Stanwood, Washington*

27201 – 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.W / P. O. Box 370  
Stanwood, WA 98292  
360-629-3767 / [www.oursaviourschurch.org](http://www.oursaviourschurch.org)

March 10, 2021 – Congregational Letter #22 regarding COVID-19

Dear Friends and Members of Our Saviour's:

"From the rising of the **sun** to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised."

Psalm 113:3!

The sun is shining, the birds are singing, the trees are budding, Spring will soon be here. Praise the Lord! March 14<sup>th</sup> is Daylight Saving, so make sure you "spring" ahead.

As Spring brings budding new activity, so too new budding activity is taking place at Our Saviour's.

Thank you to all of you who have filled out and returned our congregational survey. As we enter a time offering greater opportunity to share the love of Christ with others – we need to receive your feedback. If you have not participated yet and are willing to – please go to our church website – "[oursaviourschurch.org](http://oursaviourschurch.org)" and you can fill out the survey online. It will only take you 10-15 minutes. We have received a very positive response. Thank you so much!

As a heads up, in the next few weeks, people on the Council and other leaders from Our Saviour's will be making personal phone call to everyone in the congregation. We hope to directly hear from you about how you have been managing through the pandemic and some thoughts about our congregation. So, if you do not recognize a local number – it might be one of our callers. Thank you for answering. ☺

Now that people are getting vaccinated and restrictions are beginning to ease, we are planning to begin options to worship inside. Our first worship services in our sanctuary will be held on **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday**. The overwhelming feeling has been that these two services need to be held in our beautiful worship space. Both services will be held at 7 p.m. Masks, social distancing, and 25% occupancy will be observed.

We will continue our normal Sunday 9:45 a.m. Drive-In Worship with seating inside our Fellowship Hall for the time being.

**Easter Sunday**, we will offer two worship opportunities. An **inside worship service** in the sanctuary will be held at **8:00 a.m.** Then our normal **Drive-In Worship will follow at 9:45 a.m.**

**An Easter Egg Hunt** – will follow the 9:45 a.m. service in our playground behind the church. **All children, friends and neighborhood children are welcome and encouraged to join in the fun.** **We will not have an Easter Breakfast** – but plans are being made to offer a special treat that day.

Now that we have shifted our internet service to Wave Broadband, we are in position to “live stream”. We are planning to “live stream” Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and go from there. Keep in mind, the more technology we use, the more we need people to help run the services. If you are willing to help – you can make note of that on your survey response – or let the office know. To continue to communicate the Gospel effectively in this time, we must develop a robust structure of support in this area. Please pray about your participation. Training is free and abundant!!

**The ALPHA COURSE** will begin **Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – 6-8 p.m.** The food, the talks, the discussion is going to be amazing!! If you have questions about your faith; if you want to grow deeper in your Christian faith; if you want better tools to concisely understand Christianity – **ALPHA IS FOR YOU!!** This is THEE best introduction to Christianity that I have ever seen – but it is much more than that! Bring a friend and you will also make more friends. **We are taking reservations now.** Because of Covid restrictions, we are limited to the number of people who can attend. **There is space for 30 people.** It will be on a first come, first serve basis. Please call the office to reserve your spot – it might be the best thing you’ve ever done!!

**Men’s Fraternity.** Many men have asked about resuming our men’s breakfast gatherings on Tuesday mornings. We will begin meeting on **Tuesday, MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>, at 7:30 a.m.** We will provide bagels and coffee – we will not be cooking for now. I have a great study related to the film series, The Chosen. We will mask, social distance, around tables in the fellowship hall. Hope to see you men there.

As more activities resume at Our Saviour’s – please contact Linda Hammer in the church office – so that any meetings or gatherings can be added to our church calendar and we can avoid scheduling conflicts. One last thing, the newsletter deadline for April is Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, commitment and participation throughout this past year. This pandemic has challenged us in so many different ways, but we have persevered. These challenges have exposed our character as a congregation and our hope that rests in Jesus Christ. We are standing strong!! I am so thankful to be serving alongside you all.

God Bless You All – and Let’s Go!!

Love in Christ, Pastor Mark

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***Please pray for the following members and friends of Our Saviour's:***

*The family and friends of Cindy Taggart-Deffinbaugh; the family and friends of Maxine Shroyer; Tina Wallin in the loss of her grandfather, Herbert Wallin; Marilyn Nienhuis; Jenna Babst (daughter of Mike and Juli Olson and granddaughter of Marilyn and Dave Nienhuis); Suzanne Banning (daughter of Dave and Marilyn Nienhuis); Beverley Klatt; Lynn Leese; Cameron Ruscha (HS student of Erik Ronning; Dan Weber (friend of Amy Thompson); Dale Tetlow; Dana and Glenn Burns (friends of Bruce and Lina Richert); Gary Ruef (family member of Lorri and Joe DeFelice); Lois Peterson (cousin of Connie Ronning); Ken Scott and family (brother-in-law of Sheri Durham); Amanda Hobbs; Ingeburg Paul; Mike Erps (nephew of Leilani Erps); Maureen Foster (sister-in-law of Lina and Bruce Richert); Marylee and Leon Sams; Mick Hanson; Robert MacNeal; Leif and Pam Larson (friends of Gards and Marvel Graham); Ramona Brodland (sister of Del Fox); Judy Anderson; Marlene Schuster; Howard Wangness; Michele Kunzman; Dave Matthewson; Gary Aldinger; Ryker (grandnephew of Judy and Paul Anderson, and family of Robert Nielsen.)*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving for:***

*Robin Erickson – Doctor confirmed, “Your cancer is gone”*

*Premature twins, Jace and Lena – newborns of friends of Barbara Whitaker*

*Les Stahley – tests show pancreatic cancer is stable (2/5/2021)*

***Prayers also for:***

*Our school district: schools, preschools, and daycares; administrators, teachers, support staff, students and parents.*

*All those suffering from the effects of COVID-19, Fires, Hurricanes, and Flooding.*

*All those suffering physical, emotional, and spiritual anguish due to ongoing isolation and overall pandemic stress.*

*For our national and community leaders: President, Congress, WA governor, Stanwood mayor and others in leadership.*

*Pastor Mark, OSLC Staff and Preschool, Our Saviour's Lutheran Congregation, Homeless, Armed Forces, Josephine and Warm Beach residents, Government and Community Leaders, Safe Harbor*

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Reminder from our treasurer, Linda Mohler:

**2021** Offering Envelopes are available. It is a great help to the treasurer when you use these envelopes for your contributions to OSLC. Call the church office to make arrangements to have them available for you. Thank you!

With many offerings being received by US mail, please note the correct mailing address for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is P.O. Box 370, Stanwood, WA 98292. Mail addressed to our street address is most times returned to sender as undeliverable. Thank you!

\*We have included an updated offering report – please see next 2 pages

2021 Budget - \$501,377.00

Sunday, January 31, 2021 Offering Report

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Offering	\$ 5,082.30	\$ 9,642.00
Month to date	\$ 36,142.99	\$ 48,210.00
Year to date	\$ 36,487.17	\$ 48,210.00
Building Fund Balance 1/25/2021	\$ 36,520.85	
Offerings/Pledges	<u>\$ 583.43</u>	
Building Fund Balance 1/31/2021	\$ 37,104.28	

2021 Budget - \$501,377.00

Sunday, February 7, 2021

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Offering	\$ 9,625.00	\$ 9,642.00
Month to date	\$ 9,625.00	\$ 9,642.00
Year to Date	\$ 46,112.17	\$ 57,852.00
Building Fund Balance 1/31/2021	\$ 37,104.28	
January Interest	\$ 14.77	
Offerings/Pledges	<u>\$ 695.00</u>	
Building Fund Balance 2/7/2021	\$ 37,814.05	

2021 Budget - \$501,377.00

Sunday, February 14, 2021

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Offering	\$ 5,914.60	\$ 9,642.00
Month to date	\$15,539.60	\$19,284.00
Year to date	\$55,651.77	\$67,494.00
Building Fund Balance 2/7/2021	\$37,814.05	
Offerings/Pledges	<u>\$ 305.00</u>	
Building Fund Balance 2/14/2021	\$38,119.05	

2021 Budget -\$501,377.00

Sunday, February 21, 2021

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Offering	\$ 8,880.90	\$ 9,642.00
Month to date	\$24,420.50	\$28,926.00
Year to date	\$64,532.67	\$77,136.00
Building Fund Balance 2/14/2021	\$38,119.05	
Offerings/Pledges	<u>\$ 1,125.00</u>	
Building Fund Balance 2/21/2021	\$39,244.05	

2021 Budget - \$501,377.00

Sunday, February 28, 2021

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Offering	\$ 8,069.52	\$ 9,642.00
Month to Date	\$32,490.02	\$38,568.00
Year to Date	\$72,602.19	\$86,778.00
Building Fund Balance 2/21/2021	\$39,244.05	
Offerings/Pledges	<u>\$ 733.43</u>	
Building Fund Balance 2/28/2021	\$39,977.48	

2021 Budget - \$501,377.00

Sunday, March 7, 2021

	Actual Received	Budget Need
Offering	\$ 19,535.00	\$ 9,642.00
Month to Date	\$ 19,535.00	\$ 9,642.00
Year to Date	\$ 92,137.19	\$ 96,420.00
Building Fund Balance 2/28/2021	\$ 39,977.48	
Offerings/Pledges	\$ 1,125.00	
February Interest	<u>\$ 13.43</u>	
Building Fund Balance 3/7/2021	\$ 41,115.91	