

# 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 8, 2022 – Congregational Letter #32

Dear Friends and Members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church;

Jesus' fundamental call, as his followers, is to make disciples and reach out into the world with the love of Christ. This reaching out in love involves a local, national and worldwide effort. We, at Our Saviour's have tried to be responsive to the opportunities that have been put in front of us, and respond to the needs of others, locally and globally.

Currently, a lot of planning and effort has been given to restarting the **Caring Place Ministry**, that serves our local community. The Caring Place officially opened Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Donations have been arriving and people in need have begun to show up.

Mission work doesn't only exist 3,000 miles away or in another country. There are plenty of opportunities to share the love of Christ, locally, right here in our own backyard. If you would like to contribute new or like new conditioned clothing – donation drop days are **Monday and Wednesday from 1:00 – 5:00 pm**. For more information about donations, you can call Julie Freeman at 360-941-6621.

If you would like to volunteer and serve some of our local people who need a helping hand, our days of service are **Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.** Our contact person for volunteers is Barbara Christoferson. She would love to talk to you about serving. Her phone number is 360-629-4422.

Fulfilling Christ's mission also includes helping people who are far away from us.

As we all are watching the war in Ukraine and the crisis it has created causing countless refugees, people have been asking how to help.

Pastor Grant Gard gave us a report on Sunday morning, from a personal contact, a former missionary in Ukraine. The information was important, pertinent, and personal as she shared how she saw God working in the midst of this war with Russia. Pastor Gard concluded with the statement that it is very difficult at this time to safeguard funds going into that region. If you would like to make a financial contribution to help the Ukrainian people, the following are a few ways to do that.

Please continue to pray that our mighty God will bring peace quickly to this conflict. St. Paul states in Ephesians 3:20 – Now to Our God who can do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us... - Let us pray in the power of the Holy Spirit for God in Christ Jesus to bring a swift end to this war!

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To Help the people of Ukraine:

1. ALL congregational and individual gifts given to **Lutheran World Relief** will be **doubled up to \$258,000**. The deadline for the match is April 25. Mail checks to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write **“Ukraine Match” in the memo line**. Or online at [lwr.org/match](http://lwr.org/match). LWR has been a bedrock ministry of the Lutheran church for people around the world for decades.
2. More locally, you can send financial gifts to **Lutheran Community Services Northwest**. LCSNW have been serving needs of the Afghan refugees and will also be helping those arriving from Ukraine. Please write **“Ukraine Refugees”** in the memo line. Mail to LCSNW #1034, P.O. Box 35146, Seattle, WA 98124. Or online – **LCSNW.org** – go to “donate now” in comment space, “Ukraine Refugee Support”.
3. **LCSNW is also in great need of mattress beds** for the people they are already serving. Talking to the director in Tacoma, currently, they could use **45 twin mattresses and 15 doubles** to meet family needs.

Mattresses can be used but need to be clean and free of stains. I'm not sure if we can accommodate any of this needs – but maybe someone has contacts or unused mattresses. Contact me, Pastor Mark, if you have any leads. 425-293-1974.

4. Another way to help the Ukrainian people, as has been mentioned in the national news, is to **reserve an individual family's AIRBNB**. Your reservation money will go directly to families that desperately need it now. AIRBNB is forwarding 100% of the money to each family. The key is you are reserving a space hosted by an individual family and not a company.
5. **Continue to pray to God unceasingly** for peace and protection for the Ukrainian people and that the people of Russia would come to know the truth about the war.

Thank you for whatever ways God directs you to intercede on behalf of His people – whether local, national or global.

God Bless You All,  
Pastor Mark

*P.S. Wednesday Lenten Dinners start at 6:15, and worship in the sanctuary at 7 PM. Hope to see you there!*