

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 688

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An old Rabbi used a favorite story, the parable of heaven or hell, to teach his students that our spiritual condition is determined by our willingness to cooperate with one another. As a council and congregation over the next few months, we will be looking together at scriptures centered on what it means to live in community with one another. The goal is unity – not as the absence of conflict, disagreement, or strong opinion. Unity as a willingness to love one another as Christ has loved us – within any conflict, disagreement, or strong opinion. The love that Christ models at the cross is one of self-sacrificial love. It is this love, filled with compassion and humility, which binds us together as a body in Christ. As we let Christ strip away our resentments, our bitterness, and our fear, Christ heals us with his own grace and mercy.

The first task of creating unity is to seek God in scripture. The second is to pray for one another. The third is to minister to one another. The fourth task is to minister *together*. What glue binds us together? It is not our strong 'will' to be good people, or Christians. Rather, it is as Luther so often reminds us, Jesus' own precious blood. You and I were bought with a price. You and I will always be sinners in need of God's grace and redemption. When we remember that, it is easier to love one another. We will begin this process of seeking unity together, as sinners in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. That is what we seek when we come to the altar, and what God seeks to give us when we have eyes to see and ears to hear. Our council invites you to begin this process with us. We want to hear your thoughts. We need your prayers. And most of all, we need your cooperation. Join us by reading through the books of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy over the next few months. At the start of our meetings, a council member will lead us in discussion about what God is saying to us through the words of Timothy. You can look forward to reading a summary of what God led us to see through the scriptures in subsequent newsletters, written by the council member who led the month's discussion. Why such importance on community? Because it is the way that God has designed us to live lives of faith. When we seek the needs of one another in love and service, we find presence and abundance of God everywhere we look.

*An old man knew he was approaching death and wanted to visit both heaven and hell before the day arrived. A wise man agreed to take him on a tour. First he took him to visit hell, and the old man was surprised to see long, beautiful tables laden with gourmet foods, each dish more gloriously prepared than the last. He turned to the wise man and said, "If this is hell, I can hardly wait to see heaven." But then he became aware of a most disturbing sight. The people seated around the tables were pale and malnourished. They were living skeletons moaning in hunger. As he approached them, he understood their plight. Everyone was supplied with twelve-foot chopsticks. As they attempted to feed themselves, they failed. With a broken heart, the old man left. He was haunted by the tortured expressions of people starving while surrounded with such abundance.*

*Next the wise man took him to visit heaven. He was surprised to see that heaven looked exactly like hell. Rows of beautiful tables were laden with the finest foods. Then he looked at the people and saw how happy they were. They were laughing and talking. Cheeks were plump and rosy, and a healthy glow emanated all around. The air was filled with a feeling of peace and contentment. The old man was amazed to see that the people in heaven had the same twelve-foot chopsticks as the people in hell. "How do they eat?" he asked the wise man, who then gestured for the old man to take a closer look.*

*As the old man watched, he saw a woman pick up her chopsticks and gently select a delicacy before her. She then fed the person across the table. The recipient of this kindness smiled and returned the favor. The old man suddenly saw that heaven and hell offer the same circumstances and conditions, but the critical differences lie in the actions of the people.*

*The old man turned to the wise man and said, "I must return to hell and relieve the suffering of those poor souls." The wise man, with a knowing smile, said nothing, but led him back to hell. The old man rushed up to one of the starving people and whispered, "I've been to heaven and you do not have to go hungry. I know the solution. Use your chopsticks to feed your neighbor, and he will surely feed you." The man looked up in indignation and self-righteousness and said, "You expect me to feed any of these despicable human beings? I'd rather starve than give such an undeserving lot a single morsel of this food." The old man walked away, shaking his head, finally understanding the vast division between heaven and hell.*

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes February 8, 2012**

**Note:** These minutes need to be approved at the next council meeting on **Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup>**.

The Council of Our Savior's Lutheran Church was called to order by Council President, John Joseph. Present were: Pastor Jensen, Peggy Hipsher, Linda Hultman, John Joseph, Rozie Maki, Sandy Rau, and Doug Thyberg. Excused: Ted Callahan and Bob Ruef.

The meeting began with scripture from 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 read by Doug Thyberg. Next month Peggy Hipsher will lead devotions beginning with 1 Timothy Chapter 1.

**Secretary's Report:** The January 18, 2012 minutes were presented. Motion for approval: Peggy Hipsher/Sandy Rau. Approved.

**Financial Reports:** Treasurer Doug Thyberg presented his report. Member Giving, Non-member Giving, Initial Offering and Misc. for January was \$8,828.70. Memorial Giving, General Fund, Coffee, New Orleans Youth, Hazel Anderson Honduras School Fund, Youth Ministry was \$1,486.71. Total income for January: \$10,315.41. Expenses for January were: \$8,476.66. Motion for approval pending audit: Linda Hultman/Rozie Maki.

The 2011 Financial Books were audited by Dick Berge, Karen Wicklund and JoAnn Forsythe and found to be in order.

**President's Report:** John Joseph reminded the Pastor and Doug that the 2012 "Plan for Mission Support" at 2% of the current budget needs to be sent out.

**Pastor's Report:** For the month of January, The pastor preached and conducted 5 worship services, attended 5 church meetings, 2 text studies, 3 Bible study sessions (not including Sunday evenings at the parsonage) one Food Shelf breakfast, ministered to 4 pastoral care sessions and 7 hospital/nursing home/home communion visits. A new Bible study, just for the ladies has begun on Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30 p.m. The Pastor and Sandy met and decided on three ministry goals to be worked on by the Pastor, Council and the Congregation. They are **Unity:** Reading Scripture together, praying together, ministering together **Expanding the way we tell our story:** Website, Facebook, Bulletin Boards, Chamber of Commerce, Publicity for Church Events **Ministering to one another:** Praying for one another (as above).

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance:** None

**Memorial/Honorarium:** It was noted Sandy Rau is also on this committee.

**Outreach and Evangelism:** Doug Thyberg reported the "Holy Hilarity" spaghetti supper held on a very snowy night on January 27<sup>th</sup> collected \$210.00. The money was split between giving to our general fund and giving to Living Water, a new mission church located in Cameron, WI. Breakfast continues to be served during Food Shelf pick up hours. The next community event will be February 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-7 p.m. "A Mardi Gras Dinner" serving Cajun chicken gumbo and Mardi Gras cupcakes will be served. A portion of the proceeds will go to help the Youth Group's trip to New Orleans.

**Vibrant Faith:** None. The committee will meet one more time to discuss and report to the congregation, the "Vision in Mission-Telling our Story". (Last fall, many committees and the choir were asked various church related questions.)

**Education:** Met on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Items discussed were Wednesday Bible School, VBS (scheduled for July 22-27), Confirmation, and "Heart to Heart Saturday" to be held February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Property:** The committee met on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Book shelves for the pastor's office will be built by Jim Rau. The roof replacement is being planned for this spring. A Capital Campaign/Pledge Drive will begin in the next few weeks. Motion to go forward with the roof project: Sandy Rau/Rozie Maki. Approved.

**Worship:** Met on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Hymns were selected through March 11<sup>th</sup>. Worship Setting 8 will be used during Lent and Worship Setting 10 will be used during the Easter Season. An Ash Wednesday service will be conducted on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our church will also host the first Lenten soup supper on February 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 with services to follow at 7:00 p.m.

**Food Shelf:** Our church helped with the food distribution January 21<sup>st</sup> and produce distribution on January 24<sup>th</sup>. There were 62 family units participating. Thanks to all church members who volunteered to help. Our church will next be distributing in July. Distributions are the third Saturday and third Tuesday of each month.

Motion to accept these reports: Sandy Rau/Doug Thyberg. Approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. The Mutual Ministry Committee will be re-established to comply with church Constitution Charter 13 Congregational Committees: C13.04.
2. Ministry Goals: See Pastor's Report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Council replacement: Cindy Knapp has agreed to fill this vacancy until elections in May.
2. Librarian: Many books in the fellowship hall need to be looked at regarding usage, etc. This need will be posted in the newsletter and the Take Me Home section of the Sunday bulletin.
3. New Computer: Has been purchased. It has been paid for from money recently given to the church from Fidelity Charitable Trust of \$1,000.00.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at **6:30 P.M.**

The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hultman, Secretary

**WELCA Minutes**  
**February 16, 2012**

The February meeting of WELCA was called to order by President Linda Watters at 5:30 p.m. There were seven ladies present. Thank you, Krista Gunderman and Linda Watters for preparing a delicious supper. Next month, Shirley Saker and Linda Hultman will prepare the meal.

The meeting began with dinner grace and the WELCA purpose was read. The minutes of January 19, 2012 were read and approved.

Linda Watters read the treasurer's report as of February 16, 2012. Checkbook balance: \$2,004.59, Credits: \$181.10, Debits: \$568.25 (\$250.00 VBS, \$200.00 Youth group from Christmas Craft Sale plus \$20.00 from WELCA, \$100.00 cleaning supplies, \$18.25 Wed. Bible school treats) Fund balances: \$648.92, Balance on hand: \$1,436.34.

If we order birthday, get-well, etc. cards before February 29<sup>th</sup>, the shipping is free. Individual cards for sale need to be put into categories.

Thank Offerings were not collected last year. They will be collected in November, 2012.

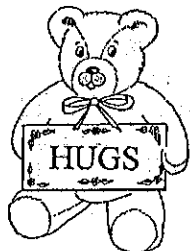
Linda Watters read a triduum of scripted stories of coming to faith as a Christian. They are found in Acts 2 verses 37-41, Acts 8 verses 26-39 and Acts 9 verses 10-18.

There will be further discussion at the March meeting regarding how WELCA can help with the upcoming roof project.

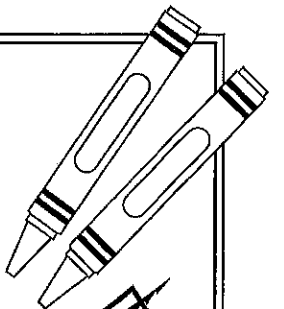
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Hultman, Secretary, Pro. Tem.



There's something in a simple hug that always warms the heart;  
It welcomes us back home and makes it easier to part.  
A hug's a way to share the joy and sad times we go through,  
Or just a way for friends to say they like you 'cause you're you.  
Hugs are meant for anyone for whom we really care,  
From your grandma to your neighbor, or a cuddly teddy bear.  
A hug is an amazing thing – it's just the perfect way  
To show the love we're feeling but can't find the words to say.  
It's funny how a little hug makes everyone feel good'  
In every place and language, it's always understood.  
And hugs don't need equipment, special batteries or parts –  
Just open up your arms and open up your hearts.



# PUZZLE

## SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

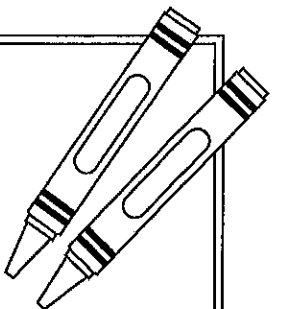
- bloom  $6+1 =$  \_\_\_\_\_ blossom  $2x2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_ rejoice  $4x2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  
 burst  $3+3 =$  \_\_\_\_\_ wilderness  $2+1 =$  \_\_\_\_\_ joy  $5+5 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  
 crocus  $3+2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_ desert  $1x0 =$  \_\_\_\_\_ parched  $0+1 =$  \_\_\_\_\_  
 glad  $2x1 =$  \_\_\_\_\_ shout  $10-1 =$  \_\_\_\_\_



"The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ land will  
 be \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ will rejoice  
 and \_\_\_\_\_ . Like the \_\_\_\_\_  
 it will \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_; it  
 will \_\_\_\_\_ greatly and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_."

Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV

Answers: "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."



# Just for KIDS

## "Friends"

Look up the verses below to find the missing person in each pair of friends. Write the circled letters on the blanks at the bottom.

- |                |       |   |       |                 |
|----------------|-------|---|-------|-----------------|
| David &        | _____ | ○ | _____ | 2 Samuel 15:37  |
| King Agrippa & | _____ | ○ | _____ | Acts 25:13      |
| Naomi &        | _____ | ○ | _____ | Ruth 1:22       |
| Paul &         | _____ | ○ | _____ | Acts 16:25      |
| Joshua &       | _____ | ○ | _____ | Numbers 14:6    |
| Peter &        | _____ | ○ | _____ | Luke 5:8-10     |
| Job &          | _____ | ○ | _____ | Job 2:11        |
| Elijah &       | _____ | ○ | _____ | 2 Kings 2:1-14  |
| Zophar &       | _____ | ○ | _____ | Job 2:11        |
| Jonathon &     | _____ | ○ | _____ | 1 Samuel 18:1   |
| Peter &        | _____ | ○ | _____ | Luke 5:8-10     |
| Jesus &        | _____ | ○ | _____ | John 11:20      |
| Jesus &        | _____ | ○ | _____ | John 11:5       |
| Timothy &      | _____ | ○ | _____ | 2 Timothy 1:1   |
| Jesus &        | _____ | ○ | _____ | John 11:5       |
| Mary &         | _____ | ○ | _____ | Luke 1:39-40    |
| Job &          | _____ | ○ | _____ | Job 2:11        |
| Aaron &        | _____ | ○ | _____ | Exodus 4:27     |
| "              | _____ | ○ | _____ | "               |
| .....          | _____ | ○ | _____ | Proverbs 17:17a |

Answer: Hushai; Festus; Ruth; Silas; Caleb; John; Bilhah; Elisha; Job; David; James; Mary; Martha; Paul; Lazarus; Elizabeth; Eliphaz; Moses  
A friend loves at all times."



### Prayer for Families

We will continue this year to include three families or individuals in our Sunday morning prayers. I know there are many of you that pray for individuals and the needs that we know of, but there are many times we don't know when someone is in need of a prayer. This is one more way for us to care for each other placing them in God's hands.

#### March 4

Chris & Shelly Olson  
 Jim & Nan Olson  
 Charles & Beverly Patterson

#### March 18

Hazel Pedersen  
 Bill & Linda Pepping  
 Bruce & Judy Pohjonen

#### March 11

Beverly Patterson  
 Jerry & Julie Peck  
 Jim & Ginny Pederson

#### March 25

Gail Plaster  
 Lois Peterson  
 Ken & Bonnie Rantala

# Volunteer Schedule March 2012

Date	Coffee	Lector	Nursery
March 4	Donna Warbalow & Tom Trautt	Linda Pepping	Volunteer Needed
March 11	Tim & Debbie Landgreen	Cindy Knapp	Volunteer Needed
March 18	Mark & Himma Santikko	Jane Jensen	Nancy Thyberg
March 25	Jane Bragiel & Kent Getty	Jonathan Jensen	Rita Collins

### Monthly

**Ushers:** Jane Jensen & Laurel LaBelle

**Greeters:** Ken & Linda Watters

**Acolyte:** March 4<sup>th</sup> - Zach Hipsher  
 March 11<sup>th</sup> - Desarae Sipsas  
 March 18<sup>th</sup> - Julia Collins  
 March 25<sup>th</sup> - Samantha DeRosia

**Altar Guild:** Reen Modeen & Rita Collins



## BIRTHDAYS this month

Nancy Anderson 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Hazel Pederson 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Kathy Lahti 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Kyle Niska 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Merv Maki 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Katie Bradley 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Jim Pedersen 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Jeanette Vetter 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Dave Hultman 11<sup>th</sup>

Terry Welty 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Harold Danula 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Jim Klinge 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Jeanne Joseph 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Sam Bradley 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Austin Talso 26<sup>th</sup>  
 John Swanson 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Shawn Gregerson 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Sue Thibideau 28<sup>th</sup>



Tom & Karen Boggess 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Ted & Donna Callahan 20<sup>th</sup>

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

March 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Pastor's Hours of Availability:</b> Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 1:00 Call 715-372-8701 or 715-813-0830 to reach the pastor</p>	<p><b>Secretary's Hours:</b> Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 7:30 - 12:30</p>			1 WTC 6:30 Choir	2 Pastor's Day Off	3 Confirmation Retreat
<p><b>4</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Confirmation Students will lead service 6:30 Parsonage Bible Study Food Shelf Item — Mac&amp; Cheese</p>	<p><b>5</b> 10:00-3:00 Sewing/ Quilting Group 7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p><b>6</b> Pastor's text study Office Closed 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p><b>7 Lenten Service</b> Soup- 6:15 Service-7:00 Peach Lutheran, Poplar 9:30 Bible Study 2:30 Women's Bible Study 3:45 Bible School</p>	8 6:30 Choir	9 Pastor's Day Off	10
<p><b>11</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 3:00 Thrivent Meeting 5:00 New Orleans Youth 6:30 Parsonage Bible Study Food Shelf Item — Dried beans or peas</p>	<p><b>12</b> 10:00-3:00 Sewing/ Quilting Group 5:00 Worship Meeting 6:30 Education Meeting @ Pizza Parlor 7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p><b>13</b> Pastor's text study Office Closed 5:30 Yoga 6:30 Council</p>	<p><b>14 Lenten Service</b> Soup- 6:15 Service-7:00 First Lutheran, Port Wing 9:30 Bible Study 2:30 Women's Bible Study <i>No Bible School</i></p>	15 5:30 WEI.CA 7:00 Choir	16 Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Deadline	17 Food Shelf 9:00-11:00
<p><b>18</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 6:30 Parsonage Bible Study Food Shelf Item — Paper towels</p>	<p><b>19</b> 10:00-3:00 Sewing/ Quilting Group 7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p><b>20</b> Pastor's text study Office Closed 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p><b>21 Lenten Service</b> Soup- 6:15 Service-7:00 Hope Lutheran, Oulu 9:30 Bible Study 2:30 Women's Bible Study 3:45 Bible School</p>	22 6:30 Choir	23 Pastor's Day Off	24 SHARE 10:30-11:00
<p><b>25</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 5:00 New Orleans Youth 6:30 Parsonage Bible Study Food Shelf Item — Toilet paper</p>	<p><b>26</b> 10:00-3:00 Sewing/ Quilting Group 7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p><b>27</b> Pastor's text study 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p><b>28 Lenten Service</b> Soup- 6:15 Service-7:00 Trinity Lutheran, Lk Nebegamon 9:30 Bible Study 2:30 Women's Bible Study 3:45 Bible School</p>	29 6:30 Choir	30 Pastor's Day Off LW Extension Budgeting Class	31 6:00-7:00pm Cheeseburgers in Paradise Dinner

**Don't tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead. Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish. (Joel 2:13)**



**Thrivent Meeting-** All Thrivent members are invited to attend the Thrivent meeting on March 11, 2012 at 3:00 here at Our Savior's Lutheran.

**NW WISCONSIN SYNOD CONVENTION:** Women of the ELCA if you are interested in attending this convention April 27-28 in Eau Claire, WI see Linda Watters for forms and details. There are scholarships available.

**Nursery Volunteers-** If you are interested in volunteering to serve in the nursery once a month please let the church office know ASAP. Thank you.

**Newsletters By Email-** If you would like to receive your newsletters by email please send an email to the church secretary. [oslsec@cheqnet.net](mailto:oslsec@cheqnet.net) You will receive your newsletter in a readable/printable PDF format.

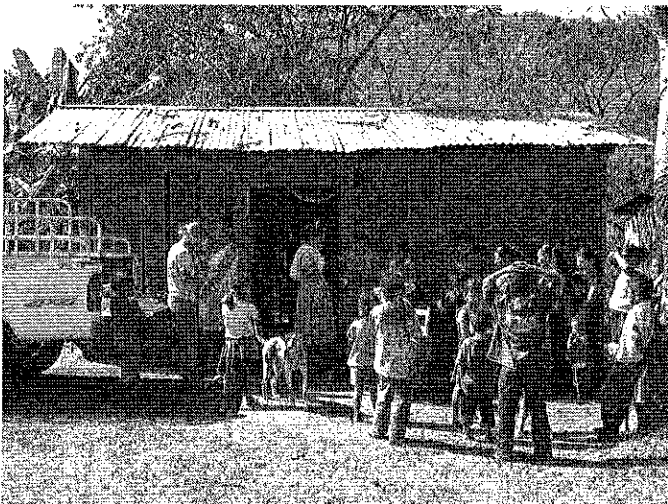
**Books, Books, Books!** We have quite an assortment of books in the fellowship library that need to be looked at. Interested in helping out as a "Librarian?" See the Pastor for details.

**A Community Event-Don't forget your sunglasses--**  
A tropical evening- Cheeseburgers in Paradise. Cheeseburgers and all the fixings, Limbo contest, Hula Dancing and Hula Hoops, Umbrella Drinks. Here are Our Saviors Lutheran on Saturday, March 31 from 6:00-7:00pm. See poster for more details.

**The La Libertad School Project**  
**Buy a Brick for \$10. Bricks will be sold at Cheeseburgers in Paradise on Saturday, March 31 from 6:00-7:00pm.**

Buy a brick and be a part of educational opportunities for children in a small village in Honduras. The very poor village of La Libertad, with the help of Our Savior's, hopes to build a school. Mary Berube, John Schrock and Janelle Armbruster have all been to this village and can attest to the need for a school.

Here is the old school.



Buy a brick and get a photo of what the new school should look like.

## Lenten Soup Suppers: 6:15 pm

## Lenten Services: 7:00 pm

Theme: Lent with Luther

March 7	Luther on Gospel	Peace Lutheran, Poplar
March 14	Luther on Grace	First Lutheran, Port Wing
March 21	Luther on Church	Hope Lutheran, Oulu
March 28	Luther on Home	Trinity Lutheran, Lk. Neb.

## Holy Week Schedule

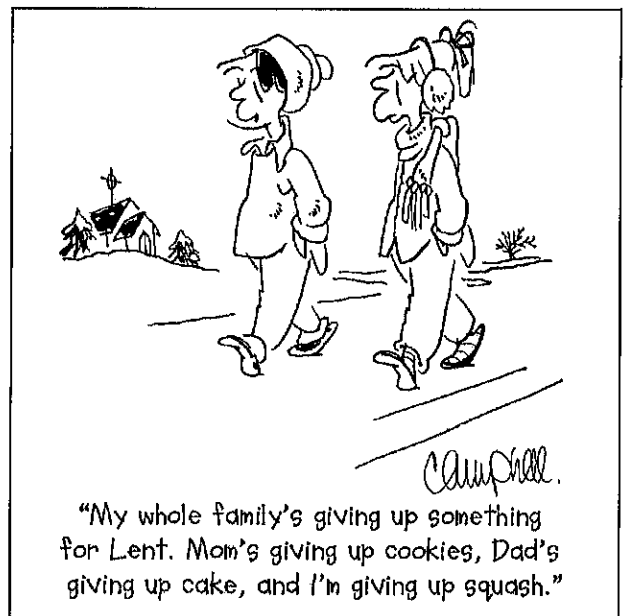
April 1	Palm Sunday	9:00am
April 5	Maundy Thursday	7:00pm
	<i>Luther on forgiveness</i>	
April 6	Good Friday	7:00pm
	<i>Luther on the cross</i>	

## April 8 Easter Sunday

7:30am	Sunrise Service—Iron River Cemetery
8:00am	Breakfast at Our Savior's
9:00am	Holy Communion Service at Our Savior's

## An Irish blessing

May God grant you always  
A sunbeam to warm you,  
A moonbeam to charm you,  
A sheltering angel  
So nothing can harm you,  
Laughter to cheer you,  
Faithful friends near you —  
And whenever you pray,  
Heaven to hear you.



"My whole family's giving up something for Lent. Mom's giving up cookies, Dad's giving up cake, and I'm giving up squash."