



# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

# Lifelines

*We are a Community, Centered in Christ,  
Committed to Equipping God's People for  
Life and Service in God's World*

March 2018

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## Holy Week

March 25 through April 1 will be a week of worship, worship and more worship. Throughout these days of Holy Week, we move with our Lord and Savior from parade to table to cross to empty tomb. Each day of worship offers an important piece of the much larger story of God's love for us and all the world. Enter this life-changing story, as we worship together. (Please note that there will be no Wednesday evening worship on March 28.)

**Palm Sunday,**  
March 25  
9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

The crowds celebrate Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem with the waving of palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna!"

**Mauudy Thursday,**  
March 29  
2:00 & 6:30 p.m.

At the Last Supper, Jesus washes his disciples' feet and commands them (and us) to love one another.

*Pie and coffee will be served in Knutson Hall following the 2:00 service.*

**Good Friday,**  
March 30  
6:30 p.m.

This solemn service marks Jesus' death on the cross.

**Easter Vigil,**  
March 31  
6:30 p.m.

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life.

**Easter Sunday,**  
April 1  
7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!



## Don't Forget...

A reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins this month. Sunday, March 11 you'll need to set your clocks ahead one hour!

Time to Spring Ahead

## Serving This Month

### Ushers

Eldon Norland  
Duane Jendersee  
Charles Valdahl  
Wayne Rustad  
David Meyer  
Chet Rao  
Don Leathers  
Ron Felten  
David Hoversten  
Tom Baudler  
Steve Krob  
Mark Kossman

### Sacristy Team

Kathy Stencil  
Shar Westrick

### Communion Team

Rick Pedersen  
Haley Newman  
Greg Roberts  
Youth Team Rep.

### Acolytes

Emily Klapperich  
Kassie Molina

### Baptism Reader

Darwin Sellers

### Office Volunteers

3/4—Agie Heichel  
3/11—Roberta Finneseth  
3/18—Milly Burroughs  
3/25—Dee Strupp

Dearly beloved,

I invite you to read the notice sent out by Rick Pedersen, our congregational president, on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>:

Fellow members of Our Savior's,

It is with sadness and regret that I announce the resignation of Pastor Chad Johnson. Through the last year of service with us, it became clear to Pastor Chad that his ministry vision and style did not fully align with Our Savior's. Though we are saddened by this news, we are grateful for his dedication and service.

We wish Pastor Chad, Susan and their children the very best moving forward. Please keep them and our congregation in your prayers in the days ahead.

Yours in Christ,  
Rick Pedersen

This announcement likely leaves us with heavy grief, fear at the unknowns before us, and a lot of unanswered questions. In the midst of these things, we remember that transitions such as this are not unfamiliar to our community. However, that reminder doesn't make this moment any less difficult. For now, **we continue to live on as a community**, serving each other with the same love that Christ shows us, and speaking words of hope and peace in the midst of the pain and grief. And when we don't know what to do or what to say, we can always turn to prayer, calling on God to aid us in processing our grief. Pastor Karen has offered this prayer for community which is found in the ELW and has often been associated with services at Holden Village. As we enter into this new season, we hold on to the hope and courage instilled in us when **we remember God's promise to always be with us and guide us**.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From this Lenten season of wilderness wanderings to the Easter season of hope and resurrection and beyond into our Pentecost celebration of the Holy Spirit working among and through us, may this prayer be a guide for us as we enter this new period of transition and change. Finally, knowing that these new circumstances will likely bring about many questions, thoughts, and ideas, **the Our Savior's staff and council will be hosting listening sessions** in the coming weeks where we will offer our ears to hear from the wider community as we continue to move forward together. More information about dates and times for these listening sessions will be shared in the coming weeks as the details are finalized.

In peace,  
Intern Pastor Anders

**Wednesday night Lenten meals:**

**3/7**—Loaded baked potatoes (Benefit for Becky Bergstrom, prepared by Confirmation families)

**3/14**—Lasagna (prepared by Missions Team)

**3/21**—TBD

**New Members on March 18**

We look forward to welcoming new members at the 9:00 service on Sunday, March 18. Contact Pastor Karen for more information.

**Bulletins Available for Homebound Members**

If you or a loved one are one of our homebound members and watch our church services on the cable access channel on Wednesday evening, or simply like to keep up on the happenings at the church, we would be happy to mail a copy of the Sunday bulletin to you. Just call the church office and we'll mail one out each week to you!

**Membership News**

Funerals

2/6 Duane Lindgren



**Lenten worship**

Our Wednesday night Lenten services continue on March 7, 14, and 21 at 6:30 with Holden Evening Prayer and the psalms and our theme of "A New and Right Spirit." Sunday worship continues at 9 and 10:30 with the theme "Everlasting."

**Easter Flowers**

Would you like to order an Easter lily or yellow mum to decorate the chancel area for our Easter Services? This plant could be given in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a special event. Flowers need to be ordered by March 18. Forms are available in the front office, or you can mail this one back.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lily (\$10.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Mum (\$15.00)

Please print names below EXACTLY the way you wish them to be listed in the bulletin.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

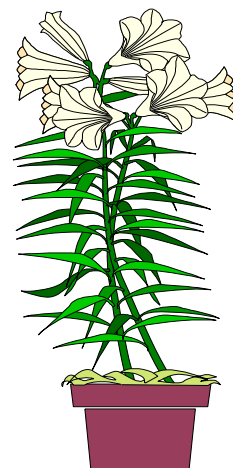
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

(or)

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my plant after the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday \_\_\_\_\_

Please give my plant to one of our shut-ins \_\_\_\_\_



## 2018 Annual Meeting Recap

The meeting was held February 11, 2018. Lunch was served prior to the meeting. With a quorum present, meeting was called to order by Rick Pedersen, Congregational President.

Intern Pastor Anders Nelson led us in devotions.

Meeting agenda was accepted as presented.

The minutes from 2017 Annual Meeting, along with all 2017 organizational reports were reviewed and approved.

Slate of elected positions was reviewed. No additional nominations were made from the floor. Slate of nominees was approved as presented. (Please see full list presented).

Nominating Committee for this coming year was elected. (See committee list presented).

Erleen Nelson gave the Treasurers Report. The audit for 2017 was certified after review.

Pastor Chad Johnson gave a brief overview of spend plan and giving appeal. The spend plan was passed. The approval of this plan also initiated a 3 year giving appeal for general fund, infrastructure projects, and debt reduction.

The giving appeal "Now is the Time" will run from July 2018-June 2021. Please watch for more information soon.

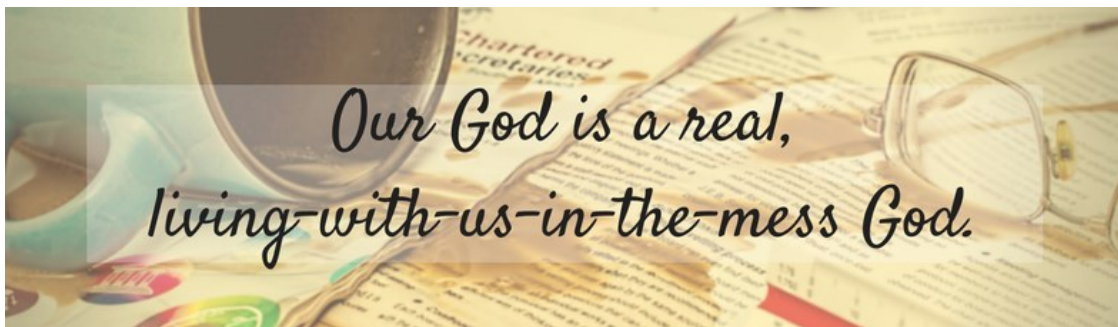
Pastor Karen Behling closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned.

## Slate of Officers:

President-elect:	Darwin Sellers
Treasurer:	Erleen Nelson
Secretary:	Hayley Newman
Financial Secretary:	Kevin Hyland
Ass't Financial Secretary:	Shavonn Eastlee
	Ann Warner
	Judy Renwick
	Dorien Grav
Board of Trustees:	Corey Haugen
	Greg Roberts
Board of Stewardship:	Geoff Smith (1-yr term)
	Thor Berg
Education & Spiritual Dev:	Dianne Rogne
	Emily Bartlett-Miller
Worship/Music Team:	Kathy Wohlfeil
Mission & Outreach Team:	John Gray
	Keith Downey
Youth & Family Team:	Paula Ziems
	Keith Hanson
Fellowship & Support Team:	Cindy Jamison
	Tony & Erika Halbur
Trust Fund:	Tanya Medgaarden
	Dave Ruzek
Synod Delegates:	Bob Brinkman, Greg Olson, Judy Pesonen, Judy Renwick, Gail Schmidt
Alternate Delegates:	Duane Mortensen Dale Odegaard

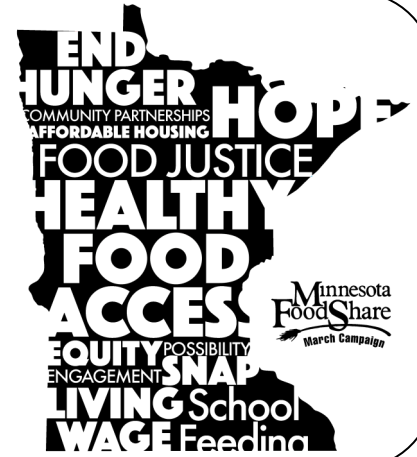
## Nominating Committee:

Shar Westrick  
Merrilyn Berg  
John Pacovsky  
Jen Haugen  
Michael Wicks



## Pack the Pews for MN FoodShare!

Help hungry families by filling a grocery bag for the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. Grocery bags will be handed out after worship on March 4th and will be available afterwards at the Welcome Desk. Please take one, fill with items from the list on the front, and bring it back to church by Sunday, March 25th. Place your filled bags in the center back pew of the Sanctuary. We will start filling the pews from the back and see how far forward we can go! Your food donations will go to the Salvation Army Food Pantry for hungry families in our community.



## Gardening Ministry Update

We're beginning our third community gardening season! With the new season came new members and it's our good fortune that they also have children who will be involved! Our giving to the Salvation Army food shelf will continue and this season we'll also contribute fresh produce to the monthly Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) boxes for seniors. Home gardeners will also have the opportunity to contribute to the CSFP boxes by bringing their garden produce to worship on the second Sunday of the month. Details will follow closer to harvest season.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 14 at 5:00 in the Fireside room. Everyone interested in serving our giving garden ministry is welcome!



## Global Health

We will be traveling to Global Health Ministries in Fridley on Tuesday, March 27. Come along for a day of sorting medical equipment, packing newborn or hospice kits, organizing donations of goods, or helping wherever it's needed. We leave at 7:30 and return by 4:30. If you'd like to come, please sign-up at the Welcome desk, so transportation can be arranged. And remember to pack a sack lunch!



**Global Health Ministries**

*Helping the hands that heal*

## Salvation Army Dinner

We will prepare and serve the evening meal at the Salvation Army on March 15. If you would like to help prepare the lasagna at 2:30 or serve and clean-up from 4:45 to 6:00 please note the sign-up sheet at the welcome desk.

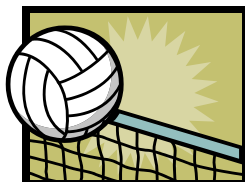
## Visual Arts

Do you have a passion for worship? For art? For serving together in faith? The Visual Arts Team of Our Savior's does that and a whole lot more! Come join the conversation and find ways to unleash your talents in the midst of this community. Our next team meeting is set for March 22nd at 5:30 pm.

# Fellowship and Small Group Opportunities

## Hospitality Community Gathering

April's hospitality community sign-up gathering (last names A - Berg) will take place on Sunday, March 11th. Come meet your stewards, Jennie Esplan and Kathy Wohlfeil, in the atrium after the 9:00 service and choose your hospitality service date(s). Be sure to bring your calendar on the 11th! Thank you Jennie and Kathy for serving our community.



Volleyball meets on March 3 and 17 from 10-11:30 in the Great Hall. All skill levels welcome, 8th grade and up!

## Connect is growing!

Our Connect group is growing and we would love for you to be a part of it! Moms, Dads and other Caregivers are invited to join us for Connect, two Thursdays per month. Connect is a small group geared towards parents of children. The group gathers on alternating Thursday mornings for a time of play, conversation and devotion near the ark play structure. Make plans to join us March 8th and 22nd at 9:30 a.m.

## Men of Faith

During the month of March there is not a hosted gathering. Instead, spend some time this month reaching and connecting with other men in the community and congregation. Be intentional, place the phone call, gather for a meal, take time to converse and talk real life with one another.

## Women and Justice

You can have a voice in shaping the ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice. A draft version of this statement is currently available for your feedback through Sept. 30, 2018.

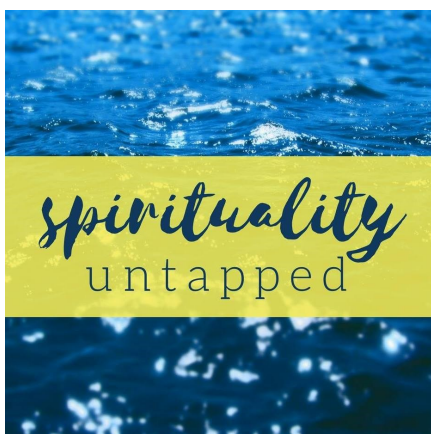
The document is available online at [ELCA.org/womenandjustice](http://ELCA.org/womenandjustice) or a limited number of hard copies are available at the Welcome Desk or from Pastor Karen.

Any member of the ELCA may offer individual feedback using the form provided in the booklet or available online.

Group conversation centered on this draft will be offered Sunday, March 4 & 18 at 10:30 a.m. in Knutson Hall. All interested youth and adults are invited into the discussion.

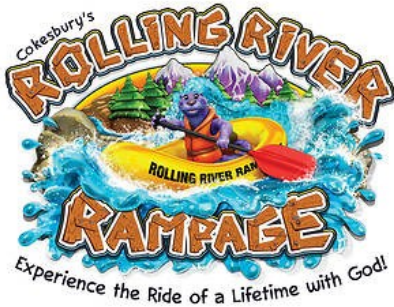
March 4 will focus on the Introduction and sections I, II & III.

March 18 will focus on sections IV and V plus the Conclusion.



## Spirituality UnTapped

Welcome to Spirituality UnTapped, a Pub Theology-style event in the Austin area! On the third Thursday of every month, we gather at a local pub or restaurant for a beer (or whatever beverage you prefer), food, good conversation, and God. It's that simple! The March conversation will be on March 15 at 6. Questions? Talk to Rod!



## Rolling River Rampage VBS

This June at OSLC's Rolling River Rampage VBS, kids will have the ride of a life as we find adventure, acceptance, joy, rest and peace on the river! We are glad to say that this year, like others, there will be no registration fees, so spread the word and bring a friend! Mark your calendars for June 11-15 for this ride like no other. More information and details will follow in future Lifelines, including ways for you to support VBS. If you would like to help out with VBS in any way, see Billie Jo or any Education Team member. Watch for info on how volunteers can register beginning in April!

## Spring Sunday School Offering

The Sunday School students of OSLC will be making a world of difference with their offering this spring as they collect money to help Puerto Rico after the recent devastating hurricanes. We will be sending our collections to Lutheran World Relief designated to help Puerto Rico's recovery efforts. Donations can be made through Sunday School offering or through the main office if you let Deb know what it's for.



**Lutheran World Relief**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

## Leadership Lab

Summer Ministry is just around the corner! Another summer opportunity for high school students, in addition to camp at Good Earth Village and the Youth Gathering is **Leadership Lab, held during the week of July 23 - 28 on the Augustana College Campus in Rock Island, Illinois.** This week-long leadership intensive is open to students who are interested in learning about themselves as an individual leader, and how to put their unique leadership gifts to work for the church community and the world. Lab is designed to build on the previous year's experiences and offers options for students entering 9th grade up through adults looking to develop leadership skills for use in a congregational setting.

Registration is just around the corner, but if you're seriously contemplating Lab this summer, attend an Informational Meeting on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in the Chapel. You can also visit [www.leadershiplab.net](http://www.leadershiplab.net) and explore. We will register as a group so please do not complete anything online. Questions? Connect with Marcia.

## Good Earth Village

Confirmation Camp is June 17 – 22  
Camp-wide OSLC week July 15 – 20

OSLC pastors and staff will be on-site with campers both weeks! We hope to see a ton of OSLC kids there both weeks!

Registration is open, and March offers a variety of early registration incentives including a free limited edition t-shirt for those registered by March 4<sup>th</sup>, and a 10% Early Bird Discount for those registered by March 18<sup>th</sup> (use the code EARLY18 when registering). Siblings qualify for a 15% discount using the code SIBLING18 when registering. With lots of creative new programs and a tiered registration system, camp is now more affordable than ever.

Because OSLC feels camp is important, OSLC offers campership money for all students. Check with Marcia before registering to ensure that the appropriate amount gets credited to you. Online registration is encouraged; payment can be made at the time of registration. Registrations must be sent directly to Good Earth Village for all sessions. Complete information is available at [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org)

## Confirmation Updates

As Lent begins, our weekly Confirmation classes are replaced by Lenten Services. Student projects during Lent include Adopt-a-Grandparent projects and Mentorship projects. Remember that you can access tracking information by going to <https://goo.gl/VBYm7d>. Keep in mind that classes will resume again for a few weeks in April.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmand Pictures** – All 9<sup>th</sup> graders need to choose one of the following dates for an individual picture for Confirmation Sunday: Sunday, March 18 at 10 a.m. or Wednesday, March 21 at 6 p.m. Meet our photographer at the main Welcome Desk near the east main entry.

**March 7—Confirmation Lenten Meal**—Our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation students and families will prep and serve meals on March 7 and April 11, both of which will benefit the family of Becky Bergstrom. The menu for March 7 will be Loaded Baked Potatoes. All workers that evening will get a free Thrivent shirt. Please visit the following link to register to serve or bring bars or cookies - <https://goo.gl/84bURj>.

If you have additional questions, please connect with Marcia Pedersen. We're eager to dig in and help the Bergstroms as they navigate the next couple of months; thank you for your help and support!

### Important upcoming dates—

- 4/11—Second meal to benefit the Bergstrom family, menu TBD
- 4/15, 22, and 29—Catechism projects on display
- 4/22—Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism Sunday service at 10:30



## ELCA Youth Gathering update

The theme for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering is "This Changes Everything." Our primary scripture will be Ephesians 2:8 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."*

Grace is a foundational and distinctive piece of the Lutheran faith. This gift, undeserved and freely given, changes lives and perspectives as people realize they are enough because of what Christ has done and are called into the world to serve their neighbor and share the good news. Our team of 34 students and 6 adult leaders are excited to be attending and experiencing the change this gift of grace is making in us and in those we serve.

We are excited that your support has gotten us to Houston and we are now on our way back. We have funds to get into the state of Missouri, but we hope to finish the fundraising to get us back to Austin. We have a little more than \$12,000 yet to fundraise, and there are several upcoming opportunities:

**Stock Certificates** can be purchased for \$20 in support of our team. Please look for our table in the atrium with students that will be attending the gathering. We will have a special celebration for stockholders when we get back from Houston to share photos and stories of our experiences.

**Pizza Ranch Fundraiser Thursday** March 15 4:30-8:30 p.m.

**Palm Sunday Brunch/Silent Auction** Sunday March 25. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, fruit and more starting at 10:00 a.m. We will also have many Silent Auction items available for bids starting between services and continuing throughout the brunch.

Thanks so much for supporting our team, and please continue to keep us in your prayers. These young people are stepping out in faith to attend the gathering as an active response to God's grace, and God's grace changes everything!

Blessings,  
Rod Wiese



## Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Connections during Lent

Lent is a busy season of reflection, introspection for some, an added faith practice for others, but it's also an important touchpoint for families with children and youth. For those of you new to OSLC or those of you who are simply curious about what happens with OSLC families during Lent, here are a few things you can expect

- Notice things that are missing? Like the beautifully, kid-created Alleluia Banner or the flowers that were in the sanctuary? During the season of Lent, visual things that are intentionally used in the previous church seasons are notably absent...on purpose. The banner will reappear as will the flowers, but when? (The answer is Easter!) A great talking point with kiddos can be why we do things a little differently during this season, or to ask what they've noticed or what's different.
- Worship on Wednesdays will include an intentional coloring station near the font and Playground. Older students or adults will be stationed there ready to welcome your young worshipper as they can contribute to the coloring of posters related to mid-week Psalm Texts, and perhaps an encouraging or connecting question along the way. We encourage you to join your young worshipper as you're comfortable. We look forward to meeting you at the font.
- Wednesday worship this year will offer additional spiritual practices that your child and even you may not be familiar with. As we work hard to give instruction about these practices, we remind you that studies show a family's shared experiences become lifelong practices, so worship is a prime place to develop lifelong worship habits. Parents who bravely try new things encourage their kiddos to bravely try new things. We invite you to be brave in the worship experience and journey with us into something new!
- Communion Celebrations for students in Grade 5 or older during the month of March offer an experiential space for intermediate-aged students and their families to explore the Sacrament of Holy Communion in a different way than they've experienced this before. Things like making chalices and patens, writing confessions, making Communion bread and learning about acolytes are all included here. Be sure to check this out as an extension and exploration of what it means to be at God's Table!
- Our Confirmands are busy worshipping as well, and you'll notice a heavy student presence during mid-week. A friendly "Hi" is welcomed and encouraged! Students are also busily working on Grandparent Projects/Interviews as well as mentoring experiences, and you'll see students sitting over a meal or coffee in the Library or other areas as they engage in holy and meaningful conversation with another person of faith.

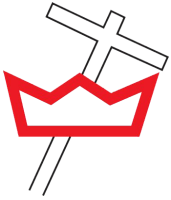
There are many other ways in which our children and students are active in our spaces at OSLC. We strongly encourage you to pray for our kiddos and the families they're connected to. So many faces, so many stories, crucial connections...we invite you to join us during Lent!

## Communion Milestone Classes

Fifth graders and their parents are invited to join us for instruction and celebration of Communion in the month of March. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Billie Jo as soon as possible. You won't want to miss this amazing Faith Milestone opportunity!

Our first session will be on Wednesday, March 7th following the Lenten service. We will also meet March 14th and 21st. Our annual Seder Meal is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 28th. It is a very neat experience for the whole family. Fifth graders will publicly celebrate and receive Communion at the Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 on March 29th.





# Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA)

1600 W. Oakland Ave.  
Austin, MN 55912

Phone: 507-437-4516  
Fax: 437-1874  
Email: [oslc@oursaviorsaustin.org](mailto:oslc@oursaviorsaustin.org)  
Web: [www.OurSaviorsAustin.org](http://www.OurSaviorsAustin.org)

**Office Hours:**  
Mon. - Fri: 8:00 - 5:00  
Sunday: 8:30 - 10:30

## Worship Services

Sunday: 9 & 10:30 a.m.  
1 p.m. Anyuak language  
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.

Our Savior's Sunday Worship services are re-played on the local cable access Channel 181 on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

## Our Savior's Staff

Pastor:	Karen Behling— <a href="mailto:kbehling@oursaviorsaustin.org">kbehling@oursaviorsaustin.org</a>
Intern Pastor:	Anders Nelson— <a href="mailto:intern@oursaviorsaustin.org">intern@oursaviorsaustin.org</a>
CYF Director:	Marcia Pedersen— <a href="mailto:mpedersen@oursaviorsaustin.org">mpedersen@oursaviorsaustin.org</a>
Dir. of Faith Formation:	Billie Jo Wicks— <a href="mailto:bjwicks@oursaviorsaustin.org">bjwicks@oursaviorsaustin.org</a>
Dir. of Youth & Music:	Rod Wiese— <a href="mailto:rwiese@oursaviorsaustin.org">rwiese@oursaviorsaustin.org</a>
Dir. of Missions & Hospitality:	Chris Lukes— <a href="mailto:clukes@oursaviorsaustin.org">clukes@oursaviorsaustin.org</a>
Office Manager:	Deb Johnson— <a href="mailto:djohnson@oursaviorsaustin.org">djohnson@oursaviorsaustin.org</a>
Dir. of Communications:	Emily Blain— <a href="mailto:eblain@oursaviorsaustin.org">eblain@oursaviorsaustin.org</a>
Membership Secretary:	Carole Mueller— <a href="mailto:cmueller@oursaviorsaustin.org">cmueller@oursaviorsaustin.org</a>
Building Supervisor:	Dana Miller— <a href="mailto:dmiller@oursaviorsaustin.org">dmiller@oursaviorsaustin.org</a>
Wedding Coordinator:	Christine Seppanen
Organists:	Janet Gilbertson Ryan Hulshizer Diane Heaney
Contemporary Worship Accompanists:	Nancy Arneson Brian Johnson Alex Knoll
Choir Directors:	
Sanctuary Choir:	Kaye Perry
Gospel Ensemble:	Kaye Perry
Our Savior's Singers:	Holly Dalager
King's Kids:	Morgan Dickman
Resound!:	Ann Flisrand
Savior's Soundwaves:	Kim Richardson

*Lifelines* is published monthly for members and friends of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Austin, MN. Notices for *Lifelines* must be submitted to the church office by the 20th of the month. Articles received after this date will not run or will run the next month. All articles are subject to editing for content or length.