
CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

February 2024

ALL HANDS ON DECK... FOR LENT

Hands tell us a great deal about a person.
They reveal the rugged strength of hard labor or the delicate precision of detail work.

Have you ever wondered about the appearance of Jesus' hands? Were Jesus' hands
the hands of a carpenter... or a fisherman... or an artist... or a surgeon?
Paintings of Jesus challenge us to imagine Jesus' physical characteristics...
stature, posture, face, physique... but what of Jesus' hands?

In our imagination, we see those hands during the Sermon on the Mount, gesturing emphatically.
In the words of the Bible, we feel those hands, reaching out to a leper, offering healing and peace.
In prayer, we touch those hands as they reach out to us, granting the grace of God's only Son.
While we have no way of knowing how Jesus' hands looked, we do know what they did,
who they shaped, and why they reached out in kindness to our broken world.

We'll explore the hands of Christ during our Midweek Lenten services in February and March.
We will also examine the hands of others near Jesus: what they did, who they touched,
and how they responded to Jesus.

The most pressing concern, however, is why... why the hands of others responded to Jesus' love
with such hatred and cruelty. Indeed, it took many hands to shape the events that led to the
nailing of Jesus' hands to the cross—hands of betrayal, violence, accusation, injustice, and death.
With blood on their hands, Jesus' enemies raised harmful hands in murder.

Yet, Jesus' hands never became a fist. They never clenched in rage or retaliation.
They stayed open, kept giving, always loving... and those hands still shape us today.
This Lenten season, your hands become the hands of Christ—reaching gathering,
and shaping our community and our world. So grab the hand of your neighbor and bring
them along for Midweek Lenten Potluck Suppers (6pm) and Services (7pm).

February 21—Hands of Betrayal
6pm Mexican Fiesta—You'll be doing HANDstands!

February 28—Hands of Violence
6pm Sandwiches & Finger Foods—Grab a HANDful of goodness!

March 6—Hands of Accusation
6pm Texas Chili—Sincere as a Texas HANDshake!

March 13—Hands of Injustice
6pm Spaghetti & Pastas—HANDsome Mediterranean fare!

March 20—Hands of Murder
6pm Soups & Salads—HANDpicked freshness!



FEBRUARY 11TH FESTIVITIES

Transfiguration Sunday means celebration at Our Savior Lutheran Church: The shining glory of Jesus on the mountain top, the revelry of Mardi Gras, and, this year, a visit from the Bishop's office. Assistant to the Bishop Kris Totzke will be here to share one of the great festival Sundays of the year. Let's all turn out to make Transfiguration a celebration to remember.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024: 11:30AM



Congregation Meeting

Teamwork tells the tale for a New Year as we pool our talents for our Annual Congregation Meeting immediately after 10am worship. We'll elect new council members and approve the 2024 budget. (*No potluck. We'll save our energy for Mardi Gras.*)



Soup-er Sunday

February 11 is Super Bowl Sunday. For most folks, that means football; for Our Savior that means a special offering for World Hunger. We'll roll out an enormous soup bowl to remember those for whom life is more than a game... those for whom a bowl of soup might mean making it through another day. Plan prayerfully to turn February 11 into a "Soup-er Sunday." (It might be a good Sunday to bring canned goods for our food box and *don't forget to bring your change for our noisy offering.*)



We've Got Your Number

... and we're waiting for you to come pick it up! New numbered offering envelopes for 2024 will be ready just in time for your generous stewardship in the New Year, 2024.



2023 Contribution Statements

Statements are available for pick-up upon request.



"Marty" Gras Celebration

February 11th at 11:30pm

This year's "Marty" Gras will have a distinctive Lutheran flair with a special appearance from good ole' Marty Luther! Join us for a champagne brunch with the best pancakes, sausage, bacon, and sparkling grape juice served up for you and the whole family.

Who will be the next Mardi Gras King and Queen?

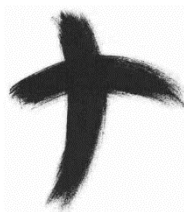
Who will win the limbo?

Who will wear the most beads in the parade?

Come find out!!

The Jubilation of Mardi Gras celebration on February 11 quickly gives way to the most somber day of the church year on February 14th —

ASH WEDNESDAY



It is the only time which black is the liturgical color.

It is a confrontation with our sin and mortality.

It is a confirmation of new life in Christ.

**SHARE WITH US THE IMPOSITION OF
ASHES AND HOLY COMMUNION
ON FEBRUARY 14TH, 7:00AM & 7:00PM.**

(There is no meal on Ash Wednesday)

Make Mardi Gras Magical

Sign up in the centrum to help decorate, cook, or clean up for this year's Mardi Gras bash, February 11th, 11:30am. If you're a shopper, there's even a slot to get Mardi Gras groceries. Anybody want to help search for crawdads this year? Call the office at 972-226-0510



It's Spring... and Our Fancies Turn to Garage Sales?



Tennyson's poem was about love, not garage sales, but if he were writing about Our Savior Lutheran Church, he might well have thought it's time for a spring cleanup. We don't have a garage but we have lots of stuff and there is some discussion about having a garage sale in early to mid-April. As a lot of energy and time so we need to know if enough in our congregation have both. Let us know if you have stuff you'd like to sell, time to help us set it up, and energy to clean-up after the garage sale is over. Your response will determine whether this spring will turn our thoughts to a garage sale... or love... or maybe even both! Sign up in the centrum. (Garage sale proceeds will support the ministry of Our Savior Lutheran Church.)

The Giving Tree becomes The Gratitude Tree

Thank you to all who graciously donated gifts of socks, mittens, underwear, pajamas, and toys to the kids of Bucker Children's Home. This holiday season, the people of Our Savior really came through and Debbie of Mother's Day Out was able to deliver Christmas cargo like never before. Thank you!



Interested in an experiment about tithing. Call the office if you'd be interested in taking part in an exploratory study about the meaning and gift of tithing. (972-226-0510)

February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Each Sunday 10:00am Service 4:30pm Service				1 9:30am Mother's Dy Out 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2	3
4 11:30am Annual Congregation Meeting	5 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6 9:30am Mother's Dy Out	7 10:30am Granny Group	8 9:30am Mother's Dy Out 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9	10
11 Transfiguration Sunday "Soup-er" Bowl Sunday Offering 11:30pm Mardi Gras Brunch Bash	12 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13 9:30am Mother's Dy Out	14 7:00am Ash Wednesday Service 10:30am Granny Group 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 9:30am Mother's Dy Out 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16	17
18 First Sunday in Lent	19 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 9:30am Mother's Dy Out	21 10:30am Granny Group 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Supper— Mexican Fiesta 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Service	22 9:30am Mother's Dy Out 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23 7:00pm Scouts Overnighter	24
25	26 7:00pm Boy Scouts	27 9:30am Mother's Dy Out	28 10:30am Granny Group 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Supper— Sandwiches & Finger Foods 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Service	29 9:30am Mother's Dy Out 7:00pm Boy Scouts		

Birthday

2	Valente Chavez
4	Eugene Oehler
7	Craig Gerold
	Susan Starr
8	Robert Holmes
	Mike Williams
10	Caroline Finamore
	Timothy Murphy
13	Stephen Moore
15	Nancy Wilson
17	David Brashear
	Coen Enright
	Alexander Nivens
20	Jacki Howk
	Gordon Johnston
22	Jerry Combs
24	Jordan Starr

February



Baptisms

8	Jaeden Freeman
	Cody Hardi
15	Jackie Howk
22	Rachel Shafer
23	Jarret Combs
24	Stacy White
25	Jaylen Freeman
27	Greg Barabas
28	Dorothy Hutchinson
29	Ashlee Morton

Wedding Anniversaries

4	John & Lois Schelter	40
10	Randy & Pam Peterson	11
12	Eric & Angelita Fretheim	37

Worship Leaders for February:

Worship Assistant: Lois Schelter Reader: Chip Cannon Ushers: Michael & Cynthia Lubben

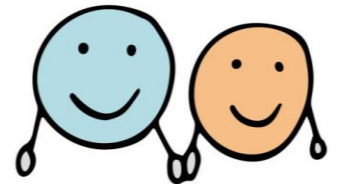
Nancy's Health Notes

In my lifetime, I have been blessed with many friends. My family moved frequently when my brother and I were school age. We had a lot of opportunities and practice making friends. In all that time there was only one town where our classmates did not accept the "new kids." This was a small town in the mountains of Pennsylvania. In the year we lived there we were the only kids to move in and out of the school system. There were two members of my girl scout troop who stayed in touch.

During middle school, we moved the most frequently. If you remember your life at this age, there were probably many challenges you faced. Examples may have been body changes, pimples, and how totally dumb your parents were. When these are added to meeting new kids every few months, life can be hard.

There was one girl in the smallest town where we lived for only eight months who remains a very close friend today—for 67 years. We pick up the phone and start talking where we left off.

Another longtime friend I met in summer school before my freshman year of college. She is a recognized poet from Oklahoma. We talk every few weeks for at least an hour. She has a wonderful expressive sense of humor that brightens any day.



Why am I talking about my friendships? Friends are a vital part of our lives for all ages. We have many acquaintances in our lifetime but not as many friends. Friendship takes time to develop and it takes work by both people. Friends respect and trust each other, willingly listen, and help as needed. When you meet someone, smile, make eye contact, and be open to conversation. We all have a need for open communication.

Think back over your lifetime. Who were/are your friends? What is the impetus that keeps your friendship vital to your life? Who are your longtime friends? How long has it been since you wrote a note to your friend expressing how important they are to you? Maybe now is the time to do that.

"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24

"Friendship is the only thing that can ever keep the world together." W. Wilson

God's peace

Nancy Wilson, RN, FCN