



April

newsletter

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body. Luke 24:1-3

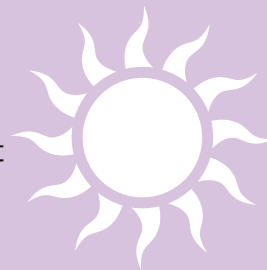
Easter will soon be here. I am feeling so excited about its arrival this year. I have always loved the profound ritual actions we do together as a community of faith. Holy Week starts with the waving of palm branches and the shouting of "Hosanna." And it concludes with the first word of the resurrection, to which we all respond by shouting "Alleluia." In between we share a meal, pray as if we ourselves were with Jesus and the disciples in Gethsemane, remember Jesus' passion and crucifixion, and keep vigil as we wait for the news that those first disciples never anticipated.

As I was thinking about how the approaching celebration feels different to me this year, I realized part of it is that Easter is different every year. Unlike Christmas, its date changes. Sometimes it comes in March, sometimes at the beginning of April, and sometimes near the end of this month. This year, Easter comes quite late. That means we will see and smell the springtime blossoms before we celebrate Our Lord's resurrection. Sap rises, buds appear, and the scents of flowers fragrance the air. The days grow longer. All of this gives a lift to our emotions and our energy levels. So, while the resurrection of a human being is not natural, the new life coming from the earth as a part of its natural rhythm helps us feel more alive. And that allows us to enter into the difficult days of Holy Week trusting that, as we participate in the story of Christ's saving passion, we too will receive the shockingly good news of new life.

--Pastor Darla Ann

Solar Update!

The solar install is complete and the system is running! **We are generating solar energy!** There are still documents to be completed, the monitoring of system set up, and rebates and refunds applied for but the end is in sight! Thank you for your support of the project and your patience while we waited for the work to be done.



OUR LORD'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ Coming Together ✠ Growing in Faith ✠
✠ Serving the Lord ✠

THE SPIRIT OF OUR LORD'S NEWS

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www.ourlords.org

April 2

Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer Service
Luke 8:42b-48
"Touch"

April 5 & 6

Fifth Sunday in Lent
"Lavish Gifts"
Isaiah 43:16-21
John 12:1-8

April 9

Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer Service
Luke 22:14-20
"Taste"

April 12 & 13

Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)
"The Stones Would Shout"
Processional Gospel: Luke 19:28-40
Isaiah 50:4-9 and Luke 23:1-49

April 17

Maundy Thursday
Mediterranean Dinner
Last Supper Tableaux
Stripping of the Altar

April 18

Good Friday
"The Passion"
Luke 22:14 through Luke 23:56
Children's Sermon
Special music:
"Go to Dark Gethsemane" – piano and violin
"Ah, Holy Jesus" – Bell Choir Anthem

April 19

Easter Eve (First Celebration of the Resurrection)
"Let Me Count the Ways"
Select Old Testament Readings &
Luke 24:1-12

April 20

Easter Day
"Let Me Count the Ways"
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Luke 24:1-12

April 26 & 27

Second Sunday of Easter
Guest Speaker from Faith in Action
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

May 3 & 4

Third Sunday of Easter
"I'm Going Fishing"
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19
Confirmation Day with Reception

Wednesday Services at 6:30 pm
Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Services at 6:30 pm
Saturdays at 5 pm
Sundays at 9 am
2nd Sunday at 10:45 am

Wednesday, Good Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9:00 am
services
will be livestreamed.



Listen to services using your phone or tablet!

Scan the QR code or download AudioFetch
on Google Play or iTunes.

**Changes that enliven
Sunday Worship Services during the
season of Easter:**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism
Hymn of Praise instead of a Kyrie
"Alleluia" to returns to services
Celebratory Post-Communion Cantic**



Celebrate Holy Week by participating in a Mediterranean Dinner on April 17th at 6:30 pm.
Followed by Tableau and stripping of the Altar in Preparation for Good Friday.
Tickets now available, \$3.00 per person.

EASTER BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025
9:00 - 10:30 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST.
BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS. ALL ARE WELCOME!

MENU:
BREAKFAST CASSEROLES, PANCAKES, BISCUITS AND SAUSAGE GRAVY,
FRUIT, ASSORTED PASTRIES, COFFEE, TEA, JUICES

Volunteers are needed to provide casseroles and assorted pastries along with volunteers to assist with serving and clean up. Please contact Ginger Trucano at 618-973-4805 or Cindy Pugh at 618-334-1046.

LOOKING FORWARD TO CELEBRATING EASTER MORNING WITH EVERYONE!

APRIL GIVING EMPHASIS



During the remaining days of the Season of Lent, Our Lord's Lutheran Church will continue to encourage special giving directed toward Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). Donations assist LSSI to stay connected with Illinois residents and help them fulfill their Mission Statement of "Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois brings healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities."

Once Lent ends on Maundy Thursday, we turn our attention to our partnership with Collinsville Faith in Action. Faith in Action Sunday is April 26 & 27. We will have a speaker at both services that weekend and will encourage special offerings that weekend that are designated for FiA. We also have many members of this congregation who offer themselves as volunteers for Faith in Action.

Collinsville Faith in Action serves older adults and individuals with disabilities in the Collinsville, Caseyville, Maryville, and State Park area. Collinsville Faith in Action meets the needs of individuals in the community by providing services that are often seen as life-changing by care receivers. The services offered include transportation, grocery shopping, companionship, respite for the family, minor home repairs, seasonal yard maintenance, social outings with other care receivers, Medicare enrollment assistance, Benefits Access (license plate discount and bus passes), and information about other possible benefits that are available. All of these services are provided at no charge.





**"Lenten Worship through the Senses"
with Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm**

Our five senses are a way of exploring the significance of Christ's incarnation throughout our Lenten journey. We all are made in the image of God, who chose to share our humanity by joining in our embodied experience. Meditation stations and the lighting of handheld candles at each service will deepen our experience of the ways God comes to us in worship.

**April 2 – Touch
April 9 – Taste**

Mid-week services usually last between 35 and 45 minutes.

Devotional materials for the season of Lent are still available in the Worship Center and in the office at the Life Center. Printed Lenten calendars and pocket-sized books for daily devotions are on the credenza.

God brings new life in unexpected ways and in the most unlikely situations. This devotional reflects on how God does this in the creation of all things, the Israelites' rescue from slavery in Egypt, the dry bones and Ezekiel, the fiery furnace, the big fish and Jonah, and more. Life Renewed provides devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (March 5 to April 19, 2025). The devotions begin with evocative images and brief scripture readings drawn from traditional Easter Vigil texts. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.



You may sign up for Lenten devotions written by the author of our 2024 Advent devotional materials at <https://katebowler.com/lent/>

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILE PACK EVENT - APRIL 5



**Saturday morning April 5
LeClaire Christian Church, Edwardsville**

Twenty-two people from OLLC are signed up to participate in preparing meal packs for those in need. (There are tasks available for those who need to be seated.) Please contact Ed Foppe or Pastor Kratzer if you would like to participate this year at one of the shifts.

The MannaPack meals are specifically designed to assist in preventing and reversing undernutrition. The impressive history of Feed My Starving children can be found at <https://www.fmssc.org/about-us/history-of-feed-my-starving-children>.

SPRING FLING, SPRING CLEAN!

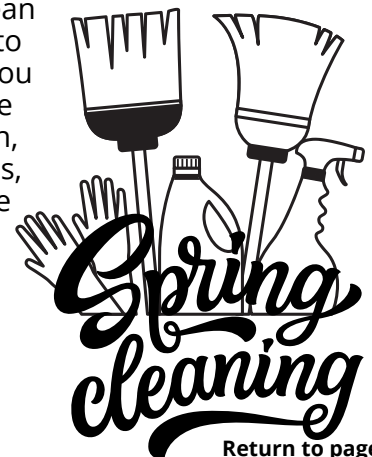
OLLC contracts a cleaning crew for routine cleaning of Worship Center and the Life Center (emptying trash, cleaning bathrooms, vacuuming, mopping as needed) however, deep cleaning is not included within the contract.

We are blessed to have beautiful facilities but we cannot ignore building upkeep. To share in the work involved, we are asking congregation members to contribute a few hours of their time to assist with cleaning tasks. In order to share the workload, please 'adopt' a room or space and complete a "spring cleaning" of the space. Adopt a room as an individual, partner with a church friend, sign up as a family, or identify a group/committee to clean. If you cannot take on an entire space but feel you can assist with one or two tasks within a space, let us know and we will include your help within one of the spaces.

You can work during a time that is convenient for you; however, we are asking that the spring cleaning of OLLC is completed by Mother's Day Weekend.

Sign up for your space and pick up a cleaning checklist from the church office. As you clean your self-identified space make a list of repairs needed and pass the repair information to Linda. In the months ahead, arrangements will be made to complete the repairs. Once you have completed your cleaning, please notify Linda so the space can be removed from the cleaning list. Spaces to be cleaned in the Worship Center include: Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Men's Restroom & Women's Restroom, Nursery, Conference Room, Fair Trade, Commons, Narthex & Hallway, Sacristy, and Sanctuary. Life Center spaces include: Entry, Main Office Area, Box Room, Sunday School Room 1, Sunday School Room 2, Upstairs Restrooms (2 spaces), Conference Room, Upstairs Kitchen & hallway.

Questions about Spring Fling, Spring Clean! should be directed to Karen Cummings-Larson 314-306-5987.





JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN,
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND
DEMONSTRATIONS!

**Saturday,
April 12**
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

A Family-Friendly FREE event on the grounds of OLLC.
This event is open to all ages and pets of all kinds.
--Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier--

Resurrection
Donkey
11 am - 1:00 pm

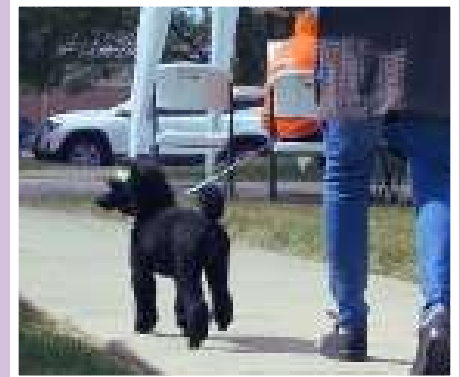


11 am
Special Presentation
by Andy Canning &
Arkum,
from Got Your Six



Rain date
Saturday, April 26

- Canine Demonstrations
- Face Painting
- Teddy Bear Clinic
- Rescue Organizations
- Resurrection Donkeys
- Storytime for Pets
- Pet Blessings
- Prairie Walk
- Vendors
- Door Prizes
- Nail trim & Education (Horseshoe Lake Animal Hospital)
- Simple lunch items will be available for a small donation.



CONGREGATION PICNIC - ALL INVITED

OLLC CHURCH PICNIC
MAY 18
WILLOUGHBY FARMS

**A PICNIC IS A GREAT START
TO THE SUMMER!**

**Look for more
information in the
may newsletter!**



EARTH DAY - APRIL 22

The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970 in the United States. Now people in over 190 countries engage in actions from picking up trash to planting trees to advocating for clean water and soil. Caring for the earth is certainly an appropriate way to respond to the life-giving good news we receive at Easter. The apostle Paul writes, For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God... that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8:19 and 21) The resurrection of our Lord is good news for both people and the earth!



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SPRING MEMBER INQUIRY CLASS PLANNED

If you are interested in knowing more about what it means to be a part of Our Lord's Lutheran, the next sessions will be offered soon. Lent is a great time to prepare for entering more deeply into the walking with the disciple of Our Lord's as together we follow Jesus. Please let Pastor Kratzer know (by texting 330-244-7963) that you would like to be a part of this exploration of core beliefs, core values, ministry priority areas, and the nuts and bolts of how we organize to do God's work with our hands.



MAINTENANCE TASKS NEEDING ATTENTION

Several building & maintenance projects were completed during 2024, yet the list of to-dos continues. It takes time, energy, and funds to complete church maintenance. Resealing of the WC and LC parking areas are planned for 2025. However, there are several additional tasks needing attention. Please review the list of maintenance needs identified here. If you have any questions, are willing to work on one of the jobs or able to assist with the funding for a project, contact Karen Cummings-Larson.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



Task	To be completed by
Clean ext. of LC, paint front overhang, paint lower concrete to match brick, clean up grounds and rear parking area	Max Eakin, K. Larson, special work day
Examine, repair, replace railroad ties & nail spikes around playground	
Repair drywall damage right side of fridge in WC	Karen Larson
Hide wiring on newly installed security light over rear entrance to WC near fellowship hall	
Install lighting to illuminate front parking area of LC	
Repair door lock on double doors near counter in FH	Chuck Pugh
Repair outlet near counter in FH (located on east wall)	
Repair electric box in countertop of FH	
Repaint exposed wood support beams and trim along front eave of church	
Inspect/replace/repair narthex entry door seal as well as seals on all other entry doors of WC	
Repair holes in wood around rear entrance by commons, damage done by Carpenter Bees	
Sand and paint trim on exterior windows of FH	
Paint trim and wood siding around rear entrance to WC	
Run new electric wire for exterior flood light in front of sanctuary	
Refinish floor (strip & wax) in lower level of Life Center	\$1500
Pressure wash and repaint interior of side entrance to lower level of LC	
Repaint steps leading to lower level of LC	Laura Foppe
Order new low chairs with armrests for sanctuary seating	Memorial Funds?
Clean carpet of sanctuary, narthex & hall, & FH	Spring, cost?
LONG TERM CONCERNS	
Evaluate leaks of sanctuary ceiling (exterior solution?)	Ongoing dilemma
Water barrier installed below shingles (recommendation by Cardinal)	
Create archive closet in LC	\$4,500
Reseal & line parking lot of LC – worker bees	\$4,000
Reseal & line parking lot of WC - contract work	Seeking bids

HELP! ASSISTANCE WITH VBS NEEDED

Each summer OLLC hosts Vacation Bible School for the children of Our Lord's and the surrounding community. VBS is an exciting education opportunity for the children and a rewarding experience for everyone assisting with the event. In order for VBS to be successful planning and strategy meetings must begin several months in advance.



In order to create another successful VBS this June help is needed from **YOU!**

Volunteers willing to assist with planning, organization, administrative tasks, teaching, assisting in classrooms, leading special activities, purchasing, and meal planning and preparation are needed! Even if you do not have children involved in VBS, your help is needed. There are volunteer roles that fit every skill level and availability.

Preparation and planning for VBS 2025 must begin immediately in order for this annual summer event to be successful. Without **your** assistance, VBS cannot go on. Please contact the office and identify the ways you will help with VBS 2025.

Thank you, OLLC Council



OLLC will serve in May.

Donations to support OLLC S.O.S. can be given via check, cash, or Note "S.o.S." in the memo line. Contact Gail Jorgenson or the church office with questions.

Worker Bees Saturday, April 5

Breakfast 7:00 am, Red Apple Restaurant
Church 8:00 am

If you plan on attending, please confirm by email or text to Chuck Pugh.



Thank you Max Eakin & Chuck Pugh for assisting with the OLLC Prairie burn 3/21!

Periodically burning native prairie habitat is vital to maintaining its health and functionality (every 2-3 years). Prairie grasses and flowers are built differently than turf grass, weeds, or invasive species. While traditional turf grass has roots that stretch around 2 inches deep, the roots of native prairie plants can dig up to 15 feet! These roots not only hold the plant and soil in place, but they allow the plant to prosper through above-ground disturbances like fires.

Prairie plant's ability to survive periodic fires is vital because in the early spring when all types of plants are emerging from a long winter, weeds and invasive species can often grow quicker and can out-compete prairie plants over time. This leads to the native grasses and flowers competing with weeds and other unsightly plants for nutrients, light, and space. By burning the above-ground vegetation in early spring, weeds and other annual plants are set back to give room for the hardy, preferred prairie plants below.

In addition to the direct benefits to the plants inhabiting prairies, prescribed burns also restore nutrients to the soil and prevent uncontrolled burns from happening due to excessive dry plant matter.



OLLC MORNING GLORIES COLLECTS SUPPLIES FOR PRISON MINISTRY



Our Lord's Morning Glories donated class supplies for "Charla Amiga"

'Charla Amiga' launched in January 2025 and is part of Saint Louis University's Prison Education Program. Led by Ander Beristain, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Spanish and Linguistics, the initiative offers Spanish lessons to incarcerated individuals at the Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Bonne Terre, MO. With a focus on practical language skills, the program helps participants communicate in daily life and prepare for the workforce.

EDUCATION AT OUR LORD'S

- **PRE-SCHOOL - FIRST GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL;** Sundays in the LC in Room 4 at 10:15 am
- **ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL;** Sundays in the LC in Room 2 at 10:15 am
- **CONFIRMATION CLASS - grade 6-8;** Sundays at 10:15 am
The Confirmation class is now studying the Apostle's Creed, taking notes on the worship service, and continuing to help lead worship at the 2nd Sunday 2nd Service
- **HIGH SCHOOL CLASS;** Sundays in Harry's Hangout (Youth Room) at 10:15 am
- **OUR LORD'S YOUTH GROUP** will meet Sunday, March 16, 11:30 am. This month the Youth Group will put together Hygiene Kits for teens living at the Madison County Juvenile Justice Center.
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY (led by J. Lemke);** Sundays in the WC Fellowship Hall at 10:15 am. Join us as we take a closer look at the Gospel of Luke.
- **QUESTIONS BIBLE STUDY;** Mondays at 10:00 am -- Conference Room (LC) This session we are studying the "Dead Sea Scrolls."
- **MORNING GLORIES BIBLE STUDY;** 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 10:00 am, WC Fellowship Hall
Faith adventures: Peter and Cornelius
We do not always see eye-to-eye with our neighbor. And yet, we are called to love our neighbor. Peter's experience with someone different gives the Holy Spirit an opportunity to teach Peter, the church and us to see others as God sees them.
- **FEEDING THE SOUL;** Wednesdays at 3:00 pm Conference Room (LC). Feeding the Soul resumes April 30.

Congregation Game Afternoon Fellowship Hall

April 13
3:00 - 5:00 pm

*Bring your favorite game
and a snack to share!*

**FUN FOR
ALL
AGES!**

CRAFTS & LAUGHS

Crafts & Laughs will meet **April 8** @ 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. A spring craft will be made. Contact Cindy Pugh if you plan to attend.

SERENDIPITY BOOK CLUB -

Next Book Club meeting will be **April 21** at 11:30 am. We will be discussing "Half Broke Horses" by Jeanette Walls.

OUR LORD'S CRAFTERS -

Crafters will meet **April 23rd** in the Fellowship Hall from noon - 3 pm. Contact Kathy Nehrt with any questions!



HERDING ALPHAS

"Herding Alphas"

OLLC ministry for families with children of the alpha generation!
(children born 2010 through 2025)

April 5, Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Event, Edwardsville
May - TBD

For additional information contact the church office.

MUSIC AT OUR LORD'S

Chancel Choir & Handbell CHOIR

April 2 & 9 - Immediately after service, voice choir rehearsal for 25 min.
Bell choir 7:20 - 8:20 pm

PERFORMANCES: 1-2 Sundays a month

Contact Addie Mays for
additional information.
love2haveu@ourlords.org

Praise BAND

REHEARSALS:
Saturdays 3:30 pm
PERFORMANCES:
Saturdays 5 pm

Contact Olivia Cross for
additional information.
oecross@gmail.com

UPCOMING MAY EVENTS



OLLC Confirmation Day & Reception Sunday, May 4th

Following three years of faithful attendance at Confirmation Class and participation in service to the congregation at worship and the larger world, Kaitlyn Blotevogel will make her Confirmation Vows on Sunday, May 4 at the 9 am worship service. This is a celebration of the whole congregation! We celebrate how we as the People of God at Our Lord's Lutheran share the faith with children from their Baptism through Confirmation. So, please make an extra effort to be present for worship and to stay for the reception congratulating Kaitlyn and encouraging her as she takes her next steps in the life of faith as a confirmed member of the congregation.

Mayor's Prayer Dinner

Thursday, May 1, 2025; 6:30 pm
First Baptist Maryville



The Maryville Ministerial Alliance holds a dinner each year to bring the community together for food, music, prayer and fellowship. The show choir from First Baptist Maryville will entertain us. This year's dinner will be the final official event for the current mayor, Mayor Craig Short. The incoming mayor (to be determined by the April 1 election) will have a few words to share. And the recipient of the Fred Winters Community Service Award will be honored. In order to have the correct amount of food, tickets are required. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and are available from Pastor Kratzer and in the church office.



Registration Open for Crossways Confirmation Camp June 9-13 at Augustana College



Crossways Confirmation Campers have the opportunity to grow in their discipleship journey by engaging in lessons, sermons, and Bible stories each day. Each year we visit the home of a faith tradition different than ours, and we tour a local agency doing God's work in the community.

This year's camp theme is #SPIRITSTRONG and will take place June 9-13 at Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill. Crossways Confirmation Camp is for confirmation-age students who have just completed 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. The registration fee for 2025 is \$350/person. The cost includes all meals while at camp, a t-shirt, our stay in the dorm, and all activities during the week.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE is March 31. If you have any questions, please contact the camp dean, Pastor Mauricio Vieira, at crosswaysdean@gmail.com or 217-377-2094.

DEATH OF FORMER OLLC PASTOR - REV. CHARLES MILLER



Mortgage Burning Celebration, 2023
(l to r) Pastor Miller, Pastor Darla Ann Kratzer, Pastor John Lottes



Mortgage Burning Celebration, 2023
OLLC Adult Charter Members Present
(l to r) Diana Huster, Dana Callahan, Julie Gruber, Pastor Charles Miller, Ginger Trucano, Kathy Hoelscher, Karen Cummings-Larson

Charles Edward Miller Obituary December 17, 1930 - March 4, 2025

Charles Edward Miller, age 94, of McHenry, Illinois, lived life fully and passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on March 4, 2025. He was born on December 17, 1930, in Grapeville, Pennsylvania, to Charles Harvey and Violet Theresa Miller. He married Fay Ann Taylor, his wife of 57 years, on May 19, 1956, at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Jeannette, Pennsylvania. Charles received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Newberry College in South Carolina in 1954. In 1958 he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He was ordained by the Pittsburgh Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America on October 19, 1958, in Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jeannette, Pennsylvania.

His ministry of more than 60 years began in Manorville, Pennsylvania where he served three congregations in the Manorville Parish – Christ Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Grace Lutheran Church. In 1961 he accepted a Call to serve the Aspinwall Evangelical Lutheran Church in Aspinwall, Pennsylvania. A mission congregation, Our Lord's Lutheran Church in Collinsville, Illinois, called him in 1967 to serve this new congregation. He served there until February 1980, when he accepted a Call to Saint Stephen Lutheran Church in Antioch, Illinois, retiring in 1998. From 1999-2019 he served part-time at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, McHenry, Illinois.

Charles Miller's life was a testament to the impact one person can have on the lives of many. An even-tempered and kind man, Charles savored living – he maintained close relationships, was genuinely optimistic, loved to learn about almost anything, and enthusiastically traveled anywhere he could. He loved nature, travel, birds, photography and art, and he read avidly, topics as broad as religious philosophy to Harry Potter. His curiosity was unlimited! As we bid farewell to this remarkable man, we take comfort in the knowledge that his spirit will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of knowing him. His presence will be sorely missed, but he's alive in our hearts through the love we shared and the many memories we'll cherish forever.

Charles is survived by his three daughters, Laurie (Phillip) Almeraz, Lisa (Gary) Johnson, Leigh (David) Adler; his six grandchildren, Steven (Abby) Adler, Courtney (Alex) LaPorte, Taylor (Michael) Almeraz, Bradley (Torie) Johnson, Robert (Jennifer) Johnson, and Joshua (Kelly) Johnson; and five great-grandchildren, Zane (Nikki) and Zoe Johnson, and Luke (Ava), Logan and Abigail Johnson; and his sister, Dorothy Heltebran; and his sister-in-law, Sandra Miller.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Fay Ann Taylor Miller, on November 9, 2013; his 20-year-old son, Timothy David Miller; his siblings and their spouses, Violet (Eugene) Miller Pore, Kenneth (Louise) Miller, Alfred (Alice, Ada) Miller, Lewis Miller; and his brother-in-law, Larry Heltebran.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Our Lord's Lutheran Church, 150 Wilma Drive, Maryville, Illinois 60062, or to an organization supporting nature, such as The Nature Conservancy or National Parks Conservation Association. Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025, from 4-8 pm at the Justen Funeral Home, 3700 W. Charles Miller Road, McHenry, Illinois. A Funeral Service will be held at 11 am on Friday, April 4, 2025, at the Lutheran Church of the Atonement, 909 E. Main Street, Barrington, Illinois.

Members of Our Lords will be sent a private link to view the live stream of the funeral service. Be watching for an e-mail during the week of the service so you may view this 11:00 am service on April 4th. Internment will be at Holy Cross Lutheran Cemetery, Collinsville, in October with Pastor Kratzer officiating.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Everyone listed here is important to a person of the congregation. Please include them in your praying throughout the week so that they know and feel God's power and presence. We will usually keep names on this list for three to four weeks. Please let us know if an individual should be removed before then or if there is a change in their condition that requires ongoing prayer. Member names may be listed for much longer periods of time

CONGREGATION MEMBERS

Dan Homes	Joyce Tatjenhorst
Rod Orr	Brian Kassing
Don Klingsick	Mike Williams
Don Simonson Sr.	Emily Callahan
Nicole Williams	Dave Chaffee
Keith Jensen	JoAnn Hartke
Linda Spencer	Barbara Watz
Jeanette Goetter	Cynthia Haggitt

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Ken Bunetic	Tate
Tommy Banks	Joe
Shelley Bruntjen	Nicci Essington
Michael Echevarria	March Banks
Phil Childers	Kitty Jo Edgar
Paul & Paula Simonson	Denise Burton
Bob Dunn	Marilyn & Paul
Robert Lee "Bobby" Kirkman	Bill Larson
Bob Meyer	Janet Borowitz
Marilyn Wolfe	Dan & Martha
Nancy Easton	Mary Barker & Jim
Paula P.	Jean Walker
Neal Kennedy	Brenda Reinhardt
Tim Kennedy	Brie Jenkins
Elaine Kendall	

PRAY FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED & FAMILIES THAT ARE GRIEVING

Family and friends of Jonathan Blackmon (friend of Maureen Johnson)
 Family and friends of Andrew Alan Kassing (Our Lord's Church Member)
 Family and friends of Pastor Charles Miller (former Pastor of Our Lord's)
 Family and friends of Frank Miller (brother-in-law of Vicki Lottes)
 Family and friends of Douglas D. Orr (father of Justin Orr)

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lance Cpl. Clayton Campbell	Staff Sgt. Skipper Smith	Erica Webb, US Private E-3	Amador Ochoa
Major James Carmichael	Sgt. Matthew Spencer (Ret.)	SrA Paul Kampwerth	Capt. Blake Crosby
Airborne Ranger Keegan Crosby	Staff Sgt. Stephan Spencer	John Meyer	Josh Pace
Staff Sgt. Tyson Crosby	Zach Huff	Zachary Neubauer	Scott Prengel
SPC Bill Homes	Jake Randall		

BIRTH OF A BABY

We rejoice with April and Kris Clark in the birth of Beckham Dean Clark.
 Beckham was born on February 27. At birth he was 21 inches long and weighed 8 lbs, 8 ozs.
 Beckham's big sister is Ellen and the proud grandparents are Brian and Joanne Hartke.

CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

April Birthdays

Harper Lilly	Olivia Comrie	JoAnn Hartke
Rachel Schoenecker	Randy Steele	Jake Scheiter
Alison Kirk	Sean Crosby	Julie Scheiter
Elaine Collier	Blake Trucano	Lisa Bush
Barbara Werne	Norma Klingsick	Glenda Klingsick
Brian Gunderson	Katelyn Foppe	Josie Steinmann
Deb Ackerman	Ann Schwartzkopf	Joann Sullivan
Steve Perry		

April Anniversaries

Robin & Lance Wellener
 Jeff & Terry Menz
 Robert & Carol Hancock
 Zachary & Madeline LaMar
 Neil & Lisa Micnheimer
 Bill & Cindy Diggs
 Tim & Connie Nyland
 Ed & Laura Foppe
 Fred & Joyce Tatjenhorst
 Jim & Linda Spencer

REMINDERS

PRAYER LIST

Please let the office know if you would like to add a new person, remove a current person, or change the status of anyone on our prayer list. OLLC practice includes removing individuals from the prayer lists **after 8 weeks** unless an update is received.

PRAYER VENTURES

Two pages of monthly prayer support for ELCA ministries are available at:
www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures

WHEN YOU HAVE CHANGES

Please let the church office know of changes to e-mail address, mail/resident addresses, telephone numbers, job, college, graduations etc.

OTHER INFORMATION

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America -- <https://www.elca.org/>
 Central Southern Illinois Synod -- <https://www.csis-elca.org/>

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY

- May 1 - Mayor's Prayer Dinner
- May 4 - Confirmation Day & OLLC Reception
- May 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- May 10 & 11 - Good Shepherd Sunday
- May 11 - Mother's Day
- May 18 - ALL CHURCH PICNIC
- May 26 - Memorial Day, office closed

Giving Emphasis: Vacation Bible School

JUNE

- June 5-7 - Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly
- June 7 & 8 - Pentecost
- June 9-12 - Vacation Bible School
- June 14 & 15 - Holy Trinity
- June 19 - Juneteenth - Office Closed
- June 29 - LC Painting Day

Giving Emphasis: Medical Debt Relief

JULY

- July 4 - Independence Day - Office Closed

Giving Emphasis:
"Back to School" - School Supplies

OLLC MINISTRY TEAM

OLLC STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann Kratzer
Pastor

Linda Spencer
Administrative Assistant

Addie Mays
Director of Worship Music for
Sundays & Special Services

Olivia Cross
Leader of Non-Traditional
Worship Music

Dr. Rhonda Comrie
Organist

Benjamin Maynard
Worship Tech
Livestreaming Specialist
ProPresenter Slide Designer

CHURCH COUNCIL

Dr. Karen Cummings-Larson
President

Dr. Emily Truckenbrod
Vice President

Terry Ackerman
Secretary

Dr. Laura Schoenecker
Treasurer

Steve Perry
Member At-Large

The Rev. Dr. Darla Ann R. Kratzer
Pastor

MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

Kathy Nehrt: Education

Cindy Pugh: Fellowship

Ed Foppe: IT

Carol Orr: Service

Jan Vinson: Worship

Sunday School:
Lisa White

Fair Trade Store:
Mike Williams
vablu2@aol.com

Newsletter Editor:
K. Cummings-Larson

Facebook:
Maureen "Mo" Johnson

COUNCIL BRIEFS

I recently began making a new quilt. Typically I create designs by assembling random colors and threads and allowing the image to develop as the work progresses. This quilt began in a more traditional manner. I started by gathering vintage embroidered quilt squares as the foundation for my quilt, I chose a variety fabrics to compliment the embroidery then drafted several ideas and eventually determined a beginning design. As I assembled fabric pieces along side the embroidered squares I re-evaluated the sizes of each piece, the shapes and fabrics to use, and considered how contrasting tones altered the design. My ideas frequently changed and I re-cut fabrics, ripped out seams, and started again during the creative process.

A quilt begins as a vision held in the mind of the quilter. The pieces come together to create a whole—the whole being stronger and more telling than its individual parts. The dark pieces provide contrast to the lighter ones. Colors that might not stand out all on their own suddenly pop because of their placement next to a complementary one. One shape may be larger than others to create emphasis. Small shapes are assembled to create larger shapes and patterns are repeated for continuity. Just as a quilt is a result of choices, life, too, is a series of choices and decisions.

March Council Meeting topics of discussion, thanks, accomplishments, and tasks included:

- Thanks to everyone assisting with the special content for Bold Women's Weekend
- Special thanks to everyone that contributed to the memorial service for Andrew Kassing and luncheon for the Kassing friends and family. The outpouring of love and compassion exhibited is a reflection of what it means to be a part of the OLLC Family.
- Approved guidelines for use of the Thiel Estate Fund.
 - Thiel Estate Team - Caitlyn Baczewski, Rhonda Comrie, Karen Cummings-Larson, Dave & Carol Gocken, Kathy Hoelscher, and Loretta Williams
- Initiated the development of a team to create an Estate/Gift Policy.
- Initiated the development of a team to review OLLC identity and branding – a team focused on crafting and maintaining consistency with identify across all touchpoints.

Our lives are made up of many and varied experiences, some broken and dark and others bright and beautiful. Sometimes we make mistakes and must try again. By the grace from God we are able to have new life. New chances. Just like the quilter, God has a vision for our lives. He is able to take the pieces of our lives and sew them together perfectly—all the dark pieces that highlight the lighter ones, all the colors put together in just the right way.

We won't see the completed picture of what God is sewing, but we can trust that He has vision and skill to make the most beautiful thing we will ever have seen. Each of us has been created for a special purpose, and we are unique and wonderfully made. Something with purpose and worth; something truly unique and beautiful. Let's be thankful for whatever pattern, design, materials we are given in life and use what God has chosen for us.

Yours in Christ, Karen Cummings-Larson

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Summary taken from report provided by OLLC Treasurer Laura Schoenecker
If you have any questions, please contact Laura at lswanso@siue.edu.

General Benevolence Income

March 2025..... \$26,588

General Benevolence Expenses

March 2025 \$28,098

Cash - Unrestricted \$58,147

Cash - Designated \$85,033

Total Cash \$143,180

During March:

- The balance of the Monthly Emphasis Fund at the end of February 2024 was \$1533.96 (190.53 School Supplies and \$1343.34 Souper Bowl of Caring). A check for \$2705 (Souper Bowl of Caring plus Spaghetti Dinner proceeds) will be sent to Collinsville Food Pantry for Tote Me Home.
- \$2,430 to CS/IS for Synod Benevolence for February (approx. 9% of \$26,568 of February General Benevolence Giving)

Thank you for sharing your financial resources with this congregation in support of the mission we share.

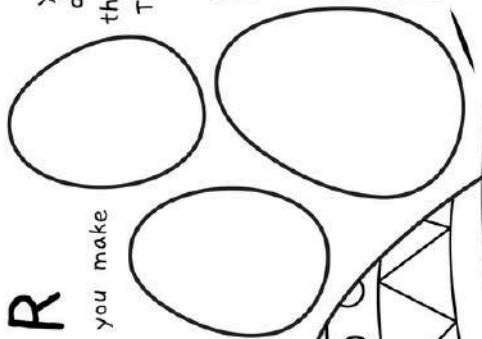
To give, simply scan this QR code with your smart phone. The QR code takes you directly to the OLLC giving page. On the giving page you have the opportunity to identify if your contribution is for Benevolence (church expenditures) or for one of the designated funds. Of course, cash or checks are always welcomed. No matter which method you choose when giving to OLLC, all donations received will help us sustain our ministries throughout the year.



EASTER

How many different words can you make using these letters?

Make your own design on these eggs. Then color them!



DID YOU KNOW?

Eggs are a sign of new life, just like our new life in Christ!

JESUS IS LORD!

HAPPY EASTER!

You can have new life too! Use the alphabet code and your Bible to solve the puzzle and find out how.

"IF YOU C _____ WITH YOUR

3 15 14 6 5 19 19

MOUTH THAT

10 5 19 21 19

YOUR

8 5 1 18 20

DEAD, YOU WILL BE _____

19 1 22 5 4

ROMANS 10:9, ESV

THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE

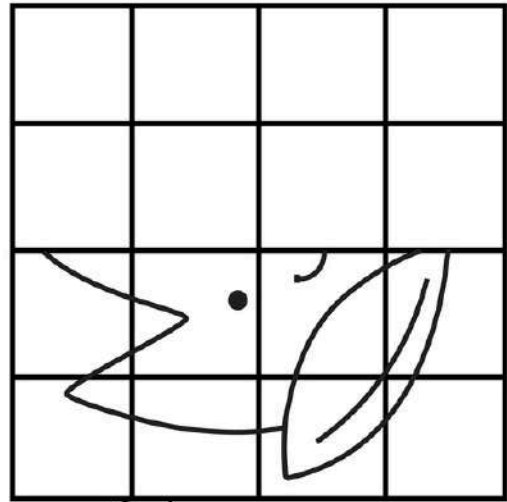


HE IS RISEN!






Matthew 28:6

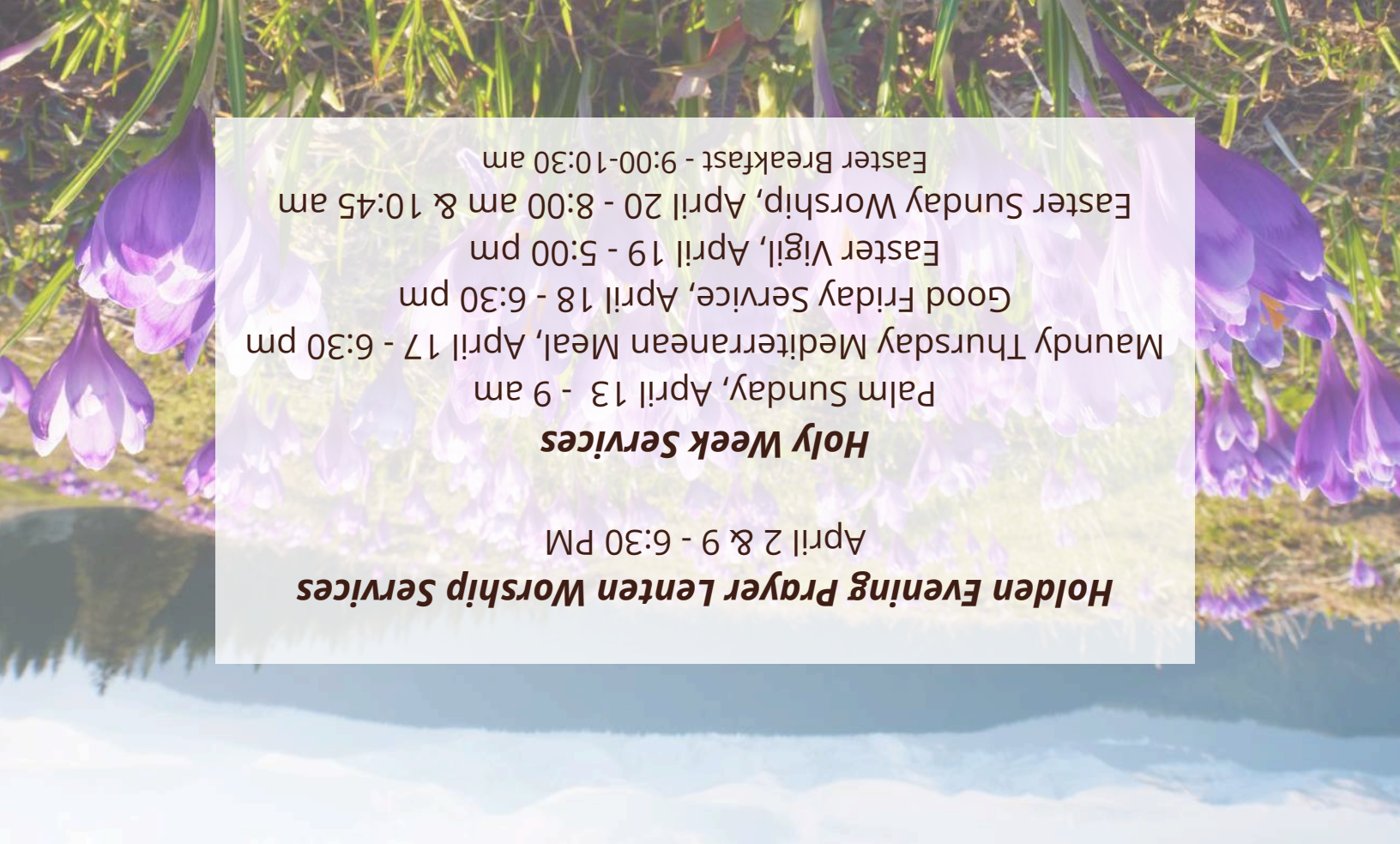
Can you find 9 other symbols of new life on this page? Circle each one, then color them!

Use the grid to draw the other side!



APRIL 2025 CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 10:30 AM Worship Service at Well Care Home (Elmwood) 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	2 6:30-7:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer Worship Service Immediately following service , choir for 20-25 min. 7:20-8:20 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	3	4 Pastor's Sabbath	5 Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Mobile Pack Event 7:00 AM Worker Bees breakfast 8:00 AM Worker Bees - OLLC 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
6 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - Education Classes Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Hospitality	7 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room	8 10:30 AM Worship Service at Well Care Home (Elmwood) 6:30 PM Crafts & Laughs 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	9 6:30-7:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer Worship Service Immediately following service , choir for 20-25 min. 7:00 PM Lakeview Garden Club Meeting - WC 7:20-8:20 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	10 10:00 AM Morning Glories - WC	11 Pastor's Sabbath	12 Palm Sunday Weekend 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pet Expo 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
13 Palm Sunday  9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - Education Classes Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Hospitality 10:45 AM Worship - 2nd Sunday, 2nd Service 3:00 PM - Congregation Game Day	14 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room 6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC 6:30 PM Ministry Support Team - ZOOM	15 Newsletter Deadline 10:30 AM Service at Well Care Home 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	16 6:15-7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15-8:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	17 Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Mediterranean Meal, Last Supper Tableau, & Stripping of Altar	18 Good Friday 6:30 PM Good Friday Service	19 Easter Vigil 10:00 AM La Leche League - WC 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
20 Easter 8:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM Easter Breakfast 10:45 AM - Worship 	21 Pastor on Vacation Office Closed 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room 11:30 AM Serendipity Book Club - LC 6:30 PM Church Council - LC	22 Pastor on Vacation EARTH DAY 10:30 AM Service at Well Care Home 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	23 12:00 - 3:00 PM OLLC Crafters (FH)	24 10:00 AM Morning Glories - WC	25 Pastor's Sabbath	26 Easter 2 Faith in Action Weekend 3:30 PM Praise Band Practice 5:00 PM Worship: Praise Service 6:15 PM Hospitality
27 Easter 2 Faith in Action Weekend 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM - Education Classes - Pre-K, Elementary, Confirmation, High School Class, Adult Bible Study 10:15 AM Hospitality	28 10:00 AM Questions Bible Study - LC Conference Room 6:00 PM Girl Scouts - LC	29 10:30 AM Worship Service at Well Care Home (Elmwood) 7:00 PM NAR-ANON - LC Conference Room 7:00 PM NA Recovery - LC Basement	30 3:00 PM Feeding the Soul - LC Conference Room 6:15-7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15-8:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<div>  Lutheran Social Services of Illinois </div> <div>  April Giving Emphasis </div>		



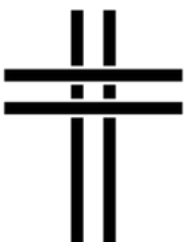
Easter Breakfast - 9:00-10:30 am
Easter Sunday Worship, April 20 - 8:00 am & 10:45 am
Easter Vigil, April 19 - 5:00 pm
Good Friday Service, April 18 - 6:30 pm
Maundy Thursday Mediterranean Meal, April 17 - 6:30 pm
Palm Sunday, April 13 - 9 am

Holy Week Services

April 2 & 9 - 6:30 PM
Holden Evening Prayer Lenten Worship Services

"The Spirit of Our Lord's News"
Our Lord's Lutheran Church
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www.OURLORDS.org

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April 2025 Newsletter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED