



## THE REPORTER

*Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.  
(Luke 12:32)*

In the February issue of the *Lutheran Witness* magazine, the articles focused on small congregations. Some of the articles from the *Lutheran Witness* have been reproduced in this newsletter. We will look at these in Adult Bible Study on May 4. These articles do not give abstract possibilities for the present and future. The articles have the testimonies of small congregations faithfully fulfilling God's mission in their community.

A small congregation has 100 or less congregants in average weekly attendance. Of the nine Missouri Synod congregations in Iroquois County, seven fall under this definition. This is not uncommon since 65-75% of LCMS congregations nationwide fall under this definition. The small congregation has been the rule in the LCMS throughout its existence.

Should we mourn this fact? Absolutely not. This fact should drive us even further into the Scriptures, where God has done some of His greatest works through small groups of people.

Gideon gathered together 32,000 warriors to deliver Israel from Midian, but God narrows it down to 300 (Judges 7). Saul was anointed king although he was "from the least of the tribes of Israel ... [and] the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin" (1 Samuel 9:21).

In the Persian Empire, God uses Esther and Mordecai, a young woman made queen in a beauty contest and her uncle, to save the Jewish people from Haman's planned massacre.

Among the myriads of followers He had during His earthly ministry, Jesus only chose twelve Apostles. From these twelve comes everything you see in the "one holy catholic and apostolic Church" throughout the world today. There were twelve preaching on Pentecost when the Church exploded with the Baptism of three thousand people (Acts 2). According to church tradition, each of the Apostles went out to a different area to evangelize and plant the Church in accordance with Jesus' words to them at the Ascension, "You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

God can—and usually does—do great things with a small group. If God had not used Gideon, Esther, Mordecai, His Apostles and many more individual and small groups, the Church would not exist today.

"Fear not, little flock," our Savior says. Even a small congregation is a great blessing for the people in the congregation as well as the community in which the congregation lives.

In Christ,

Rev. Doug Minton

**Men's Bible Breakfast**

We will continue our study of the *Intersection of Church and State* from Lutheran Hour Ministries on Saturday, April 12 at 8am. What did the Founders have in mind in their understanding of Church and State? How does Luther's Two Kingdoms Theology help us see our place in both? These questions and more will be answered through this four-part video series. All men of the congregation are encouraged to join us.

**Reading through the Confessions**

In April, our readings from the Confessions discuss Good Works. Are good works necessary for salvation? Are good works harmful to salvation? What even is a good work? This month's discussion is one that truly sheds light on many of the discussions we have with our Evangelical neighbors who focus on their works for their salvation. The language can be difficult to get through because we don't think and speak in the same way about the Christian faith as in previous generations.

**Lent Services**

This year our Lent Series is The Salutory Gift. We have a several more Midweek services.

- April 2: Rest for the Weary (Matthew 11:27-12:8)
- April 9: Nuptial Feast (Isaiah 61:10-62:5)
- April 17: Maundy Thursday – Covenant Meal (Exodus 24:3-11)
- April 18: Good Friday – Sacrificial Banquet (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)
- April 20: Easter – Feast of Victory (Isaiah 25:6-9)

**Holy Week and Easter Services**

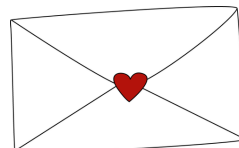
- |                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Confirmation Questioning        | April 6  |
| Palm Sunday/Confirmation Sunday | April 13 |
| Maundy Thursday/First Communion | April 17 |
| Good Friday                     | April 18 |
| Easter Sunday                   | April 20 |
| Sunrise Divine Service          | 6:30am   |
| Easter Breakfast                | 7:45am   |
| Easter Divine Service           | 9am      |

**Easter Breakfast**

We will serve Easter Breakfast between our services - about 7:45am. We will serve Breakfast Casseroles, waffles, fruit, and pastries. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for donations of fruit, pastries, milk, and juice as well as volunteers to help in the kitchen.

***Remember Those Unable to be with Us on Sunday Morning***

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Dianne Estes     | 423 N Dixie Hwy                        |
| Delmer Henrichs  | IMH Residents Home, 200 E. Fairman Ave |
| Arlene Hines     | 503 S Chicago St                       |
| Sara Janssen     | 325 E Orange, Rm 303                   |
| Dorothy Knake    | 106 Fritz Dr                           |
| Joanne Sloan     | 2364 E 900 North Rd                    |
| Brenda St. Peter | 817 S Hanson Dr                        |



- |                     |
|---------------------|
| Hoopeston, IL 60942 |
| Watseka, IL 60970   |
| Milford, IL 60953   |
| Hoopeston, IL 60942 |
| Milford, IL 60953   |
| Milford, IL 60953   |
| Watseka, IL 60970   |

**Decorating for Easter**

We will decorate for Easter on Saturday, April 19 at 9:30am. Come help beautify the sanctuary for our celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

**Confirmation**

This year, we have 4 confirmands - Ruth Harms, Jackson Lavicka, Evelyn Morts, and Ellie Schwartz. Confirmation will be on Palm Sunday, April 13 during the service. Questioning will take place Sunday, April 6 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Following service on Palm Sunday, we will have a Cake and Card Reception for our confirmands in the Fellowship Hall. Take the time to come down and welcome these young people as communicant members of Our Savior. Continue to keep these young people in your prayers.

**Voter's Meeting and Church Council**

Thursday, April 24 - Church Council meeting at 7:00pm

Sunday, April 27 - Voters Meeting following service.

**\*\*Please note the date change of this meeting. It is pushed back one week due to Easter.\*\***

Please put this on your calendar now so you can attend and be involved in the decisions of your church.

**Women's Bible Study**

We will start a new Bible Study on April 10 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are trying something new! We will meet once a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. We will study "Golden Fruit." This is a study on living the fruit of the Spirit through the best times of your life. Each of the lessons will focus on one fruit of the Spirit as we study different biblical ladies of the bible and how they convey that characteristic. Please let Renee know that you are able to join by Sunday, April 6 in order to have printouts. If you can't make each session, no worries, join us when you can!

**Thy Strong Word**

Pastor will be on Thy Strong Word with Pastor Phil Booe discussing Hebrews 11:1-22 on Thursday, April 3 at 11am. Listen as they discuss By Faith: Heroes of the Old Testament. You can listen live or on demand at [kfuo.org/ThyStrongWord](http://kfuo.org/ThyStrongWord).

**Senior Citizen Banquet**

Milford High School will be hosting a Senior Citizen's Banquet on Friday, April 25th at 6pm in the Grade School Gym. Senior citizens and their families are invited to join Milford High School Student Council and National Honors Society members for a night of food and entertainment. Please RSVP to Sandy Potter in the High School office at 815-889-4184 by Friday, April 11, 2025

**Milford Community Blood Drive**

The Milford High School National Honors Society will host a community blood drive on Thursday, April 10 from 1pm - 6pm in the Fire Station Meeting Room. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). By donating at this blood drive, you are helping the graduating seniors earn a scholarship.

**Women's Care Clinic Impact Celebration**

Impact Celebration will be Friday, April 25 from 6-8p at CrossRoads Church in Danville. Join us to hear the stories of the women and families that have been helped by WCC. Please RSVP by April 6. To RSVP either talk to Pastor or register online at [give.classy.org/WCCImpact2025](http://give.classy.org/WCCImpact2025). If you can't make it that day, you can still donate at the registration link or by sending a check to 509 N Bowman Ave, Danville, IL 61832

**2024 Missions Disbursements Thank You****Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

Dear Pastor Minton and Member of Our Savior Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your TIM partnership with Reverend Samuel Bobby and Erica Bobby, serving in Latvia. Your prayers and gifts are truly appreciated. Your generosity not only helps maintain our LCMS missionary's presence and ministry activities on the mission field, but it is also an encouragement to know that congregations and individuals continue to care throughout the years. I forwarded a copy of your letter to Rev. Bobby; it is so meaningful for our Missionaries to receive positive response from home concerning all they do. May the work of your congregation and individual members be richly blessed as you continue to serve. You truly make a difference.

Julie Loehring  
Missionary Network Care/Support

**Lutheran Church Missouri Synod - Soldiers of the Cross**

Thank you for lifting up the bright light of Jesus for others to see.

I am so deeply thankful to God that He chose you to supply what the work of the LCMS requires. Although giving may seem a simple act, it speaks so forcefully about the kind of Christ-following disciples God has made each of you to be. "Love one another," was Jesus' commandment to his disciples. You are doing just that through this gift, and all other acts of selfless sacrifice you make for the sake of the Gospel message. Even in financially challenging times like these, you are confessing your trust and faith in Christ alone. And I appreciate you. Thank you.

Sub cruce,  
Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

**St. Paul's Lutheran School of Woodworth**

Dear Pastor Minton and Members of Our Savior,

On behalf of St. Paul's Lutheran School, thank you so much for the monetary gift. It is through much prayer and generous support that we are able to continue to offer a Christian education for families in the area.

The mission of St. Paul's Church and School is to touch lives by SOWING the truth of God's Word and Sacrament, so that people KNOW of and GROW in their relationship with Jesus Christ, and then empowered by the Holy Spirit, GO and share God's love to make disciples in our communities and world.

Our school theme this year is "Endure." We pray that we are able to equip our students to endure the world and share God's love during their earthly life.

Thank you for blessing us with your gift. May God continue to bless your ministry as you serve Him through your service to others.

Blessings,  
Pam Shippert, Administrative Assistant

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace**

Dear Congregation of Our Savior Lutheran Church,

The Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Watseka thanks you for your generous donation to our Chapter. These funds will be used for upcoming bed builds and bedding as we continue our efforts to fulfill our mission that "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town."

Sincerely,  
SHP-Watseka  
Wayne, Darrin, Craig, Kelly, and Michelle

**Issues, ETC**

Dear Our Savior Lutheran Church Members,

As the season of Lent begins, consider these words from Hebrews:

"Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Thank you for your congregation support of Issues, Etc.

May you have a blessed Lententide.

Wir sind alle Bettler,  
Todd Wilken

**Praireview Lutheran Homes:**

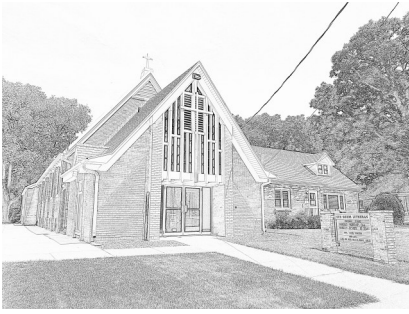
Dear Members of Our Savior Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous support and assistance you have provided! Your donation of \$1000 on February 12, 2025 allows us to make everyday life for seniors full and rewarding in a loving Christian community. Thank you also for believing in us and supporting our mission and ministry.

The community of supporters like you is one of our key strengths. Gifts of time, talents, and treasure allow us to make Faith Place, Luther Place, and Praireview more of a home and less of a "facility" for our residents. Your gift allows us to be exceptional and for that, all of us at Praireview Lutheran Homes, say, "Thank You!"

If you would ever like to learn more about Praireview Lutheran Homes, if you or anyone you know needs care, or if you would like to discuss how you can further support our mission, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,  
Jared Lauritson, Director of Marketing and Development



Our Savior Lutheran Church  
209 West Jones St  
PO Box 188  
Milford Illinois 60953

Phone: 815-889-4121  
E-mail: [secretary@oursaviormilford.com](mailto:secretary@oursaviormilford.com)  
Facebook: OurSaviorLutheran

Worship Service 9:00 am  
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class  
10:30 am

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **APRIL REPORTER**

**Join Us Every Sunday Morning for Service  
starting at 9:00 am**

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
209 West Jones Street, Milford  
or listen to the service live on the radio  
on WIQI 95.9 FM or WHPO 100.9 or  
listen to a live audio stream on our website**

**Email - [secretary@OurSaviorMilford.com](mailto:secretary@OurSaviorMilford.com)  
Website - [www.oursaviormilford.com](http://www.oursaviormilford.com)  
Facebook - OurSaviorLutheran**