

# OSL NEWSLETTER

STAY INFORMED. GET INVOLVED. PRAISE THE LORD!



Our team from Our Savior Lutheran at the Arkansas Food Bank February 28, 2026.

## LETTER

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Read a letter from Pastor Pope on page 2, and a letter on the topic of Stewardship from Elder Rich Thiele on page 4.

## DONATIONS

### EASTER LILIES

Donate an Easter Lily to adorn the altar for Easter in memory of a loved one! Envelopes are available in the Narthex! They are \$15 / plant, due by March 22.

## SERVE

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

OSL served at the Arkansas Food Bank! Read about what we were up to on page 5.





HOSPITALS · RESEARCH · FOUNDATION

## The March Noisy Offering Goes Towards Arkansas Children's Hospital

"Because of the generous support of donors, 850,000 children in Arkansas have access to nationally recognized care close to home at Arkansas Children's two pediatric hospitals, statewide clinics, and many community programs. Yet, our work together is not complete. By most national measures of child health and well-being, children in Arkansas are among the least healthy.

Your gifts ensure Arkansas Children's is always here to help children and give our teams resources to meet the needs of each family who arrives at our doors. Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of children every day."

**Thank you for championing children by making them better today and healthier tomorrow.**

# Companionship

*From the Pastor's Desk*

One of the great things about studying language is that you get to see how the use of words can change over time, yet still reflect some element that stays the same. The roots and origins of words often give us insight into their meanings.

I am learning Latin, and in class my teacher recently pointed out the oxymoronic name of the "AI Companion" tool that his computer is pushing him to use. The English word "companion" has Latin roots: the prefix "com" signifies something that is "with" or "together" (think of the words communicate, compare, etc.). The prefix "com" combined with the Latin word "panis," meaning bread, indicates that a "com-pan-ion" is a "bread-fellow" or "messmate," someone that you eat bread with. Related to the word companion is "accompany." Companions accompany one another: they share common goals and struggles, and they eat together and have fellowship at one table. There is a certain sense of equality among companions: companions are peers, friends, those who are welcome at your table because there is some kind of unifying connection and common purpose. Therefore, my Latin teacher argued, one can never truly have an AI companion, for one can never have table fellowship with a machine. The machine cannot connect with us by sharing a common meal because it cannot eat. This goes much deeper than the inability to consume organic resources and convert them into energy. This points to a greater difference between human nature and the nature of a machine.

AI, or if we want to speak more precisely, Language Learning Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT and Grok, are not human because they are a creation of man. No matter how sophisticated an LLM is, it will not take on God's image. In the garden Adam was made in God's image and likeness. This is what makes him unique and separates him from all other created beings. When Eve was made with Adam's rib, she became his helper, or companion. She shared the food of the Garden with him; but when they ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil, they separated themselves from God's goodness and plunged themselves and their decedents into the darkness of sin.

Yet this was not the end, because as we know the Son of God took on our flesh to seek out the lost. In Christ man was united with God, and that Man Jesus Christ had table fellowship with sinners. He ate and drank with sinners, and in eating with us He became our Companion and accompanies us on the way. He even does more than eat with us; He sets a table before us, even in the presence of our enemies. He gathers us together at the Eucharistic feast, being both the Host and the One who was Sacrificed. By partaking of the

## **Food Donations Needed for Magness Creek Elementary**

**Did you know Our Savior Lutheran Church is paired up to help Magness Creek Elementary?** *We are focused on an ongoing food drive for their food pantry and helping with clothing donations. The food pantry constantly needs donations year-round as many students depend on it. Thank you for your help!*

heavenly Bread that is our Lord's Body we enter table fellowship with our Lord and are given strength to see us through our troubles. We are given forgiveness for our sins and union with God and with the Church. At the Lord's Table we receive His gracious gifts and are made companions with Christ.

This is what an "AI Companion" cannot do. Technology can bring good things to our world, but it cannot deliver us from all evil. Some look to technological developments to solve all our problems. They ascribe a godlike power to highly sophisticated machines and see a future dominated by LLMs, where we have perfect chat companions tailored to our own unique desires and a host of scientific breakthroughs based on technology. Those who look for deliverance from these machines will always find themselves disappointed, for sin and the consequences of sin will always remain. Only Jesus can heal the wounds that the Fall brought upon our world. Nothing changes the fact that Christ is still Lord, still has control over His Creation. The God- Man took on our flesh to draw us closer to Him, to remove our sin and be our savior. Our Lord suffered and died, something that no machine can do because it is not alive to die in the first place. No machine can take the place of Jesus, for in taking on our human nature He became our Companion and accompanies us to our home with Him in Heaven.

**LWML Mid-South District  
29<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention  
June 12-14, 2026  
Holiday Inn, Springdale Arkansas**



### **Calling all Lutheran Women for "Look to the hills. The Lord reigns!"**

**There is much excitement across the Mid-South District as members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League prepare to attend their district convention in Springdale, AR from June 12 through 14.** The convention theme is "Look to the hills. The Lord reigns!" and is based on Psalm 121:1-2: "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." All ladies in the congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Ladies who have been to LWML conventions can tell you that they are NOT to be missed! From the opening communion worship service on Friday evening to the closing praise service on Sunday morning, there is something for everyone. The agenda for this convention includes keynote speaker, Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor, LCMS Managing Director Human Care and Ministerial Support. Also addressing the convention body will Debbie Yocky, LWML Public Relations Director, who will bring greetings and information from the national LWML board of directors.

For young women, aged 18 to 40, there are even more reasons to attend! Women in the 18-40 age range can sign up to participate as a Young Woman Representative (YWR). In addition to participating in the regular convention activities, YWRs gather as a group for fellowship and Bible

study. They also spend some “quality time” with the special guests. So, there’s something for women of ALL ages at an LWML convention.

The convention venue where business sessions and our Saturday evening banquet will take place is the Holiday Inn Springdale. This hotel has an inviting atrium lobby where attendees can gather to visit and catch up with friends from across the district. Our Friday evening opening worship service will be at nearby Salem Lutheran Church.

**For additional details and registration information, please be sure to visit the convention webpage found at [www.midsouthlwml.org/district-convention-2026-main-menu](http://www.midsouthlwml.org/district-convention-2026-main-menu).**

## Give to the One who gives to you

*A message from Elder Rich Thiele,  
Chairman of the Board of Stewardship*

Martin Luther viewed stewardship as a joyous, faith-driven response to God’s mercy, rather than a legalistic obligation. Stewardship involves managing ALL of life—time, talents and resources as gifts entrusted to us by God to be used for serving neighbors and supporting the church. This is rooted in our belief that God owns all things and through His grace we receive all that we need to sustain our life.

### Key Aspects of Luther on Stewardship

- **Response to Mercy:**  
Stewardship is not about earning salvation, but rather a free response to the grace already shown by God.
- **The First Article (from Apostles’ Creed):**  
In his Small Catechism, Luther emphasizes that God is the Creator who provides ALL that we have, our life, livelihood, clothing, food, and family, making us stewards of His property.

- **Vocations:**

Stewardship is lived out in our daily life through our vocations (callings/jobs) in our home, church, and society.

- **Serving the neighbor:**

Luther argued that while God does not need our good works, our neighbor does, making stewardship a practical expression of love.

- **Freedom from Anxiety:**

Trusting in God’s provision frees us from anxiety of self-provision, allowing us to use our resources generously.

*References: “Luther’s Small Catechism, The Apostles’ Creed, The First Article (Part 1)”;* “I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.”  
“What does this mean?”

### Prayer:

Almighty God, all that I possess is from Your loving hand. Give me grace that I may honor You with all I own, always remembering the account I must one day give to Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Left to right: Kristen, Susan and Lonnie weighing potatoes into 5 lb. bags for distribution to communities.



David helping carry boxes of potatoes from the 2,000 lb bags to tables for volunteers to weigh and package.

# SERVING AT THE



# ARKANSAS FOOD BANK

**On the last Saturday in February, our team from OSL volunteered at the Arkansas Food Bank! Working alongside other volunteers, over 10,000 lbs. of potatoes were weighed and packed into 5 lb. bags to feed over 2,000 families! Great work, team!**



Lonnie and Devona posing with a fun sign at the food bank



## Holy Week & Easter Schedule

### LENT MIDWEEK

MAR 11, 18, & 25

Potluck 5:30, Service 7:00 pm

### PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

SUN, MAR 29 | 8:30 & 11:00 am

### MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

THU, APR 2 | 7:00 pm

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

FRI, APR 3 | 7 pm

### EASTER

SUN, APR 5

7 am Easter Service

8 am Easter Breakfast

9 am Easter Egg Hunt

10 am Easter Worship

## March Meetings

- **Al-Anon**  
Speaker/Fellowship Hall  
Reserved  
TUE, MAR 10 from  
6-8:30 pm
- **Property Team Meeting**  
SAT, MAR 14 at 10 am
- **Council Meeting**  
SUN, MAR 15 at  
12:15 pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LENT MIDWEEK POTLUCKS & SERVICES

WED, MAR 11, 18 & 25

Potlucks start at 5:30 pm, Services at 7:00 pm

### LEARN TO CROCHET

SAT, MAR 14 | 12-2 pm

### PLANT SALE (Freewill Donation)

SAT, MAR 21 | 11-1 pm

*If you are donating plants for the sale, please bring them to the pavilion by 10 am on the day of the sale.*



### CHURCH CLEANUP DAY

SAT, MAR 28 | 10 am

Join us in cleaning up the church grounds in preparation for Easter!

