
CONNECTION

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

April 2019

WORSHIP SCHEDULES

ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN FOR TIME AND FOR ETERNITY

“When do angels worship,” was my childhood question? “All the time,” was my mother’s answer.

I didn’t want to hear that answer, because children—and adults!—chafe when a worship service goes too long, or interferes with the Cowboy game, or, worse yet, gets one late in the cafeteria line—horror of horrors, behind the Baptists!

Worship schedules are problems unique to we earthbound creatures; and, thankfully, God answered that question for the ancient Israelites by setting up the Sabbath as the day and 8:30 and 11 as the hour in the Promised Land and 10 AM as the hour in Babylon ... (just kidding, of course!)

Asking when to worship is almost as ridiculous as asking when to pray. II Thessalonians 5:17 simply says, “Pray without ceasing.” I suspect that applies to worship as well—at least Isaiah 6 seems to think so. (So maybe my mother was right. Angels do seem to worship all the time!)

Since we are not angels, though, the question remains: When should humans (Our Savior Lutheran Humans, in particular) worship?

That question arose at our March Church Council retreat when I announced that Bishop Erik Gronberg will be present to celebrate our 50th Anniversary this September 15th. “Wouldn’t it be nice,” opined Council chair David Anderson, “if we had one big service to celebrate?” Well, that question reopened the question of whether we should have one service or stick to our current 8:30 and 11 schedule. “Whatever we do, let’s not have fluctuating service times. It’s confusing for members and all but impossible for visitors,” was my stock answer ... born from experience, I might add. “But, but, with one service, we wouldn’t need as many ushers, assistants, and acolytes ... and we would all get to know each other better if there was one worship time.” “But, but we would also lose a few members whose worship time is dictated by work or family schedule ... and there could be ramifications for staff members as well.” “Let’s have a survey,” was the resounding response ... as if a survey would give us a divinely ordained solution. (Our most recent worship time survey was June, 2016, with mixed results.)

The whole discussion reminds me of our national debate over Daylight Savings Time. Some love it, some hate it, but it inevitably comes up every time we ‘Spring Forward’ and lose an hour of sleep. I say, “Do away with it because it only adds confusion to an already confusing network of times and schedules called life.” But then, I am not a farmer or an employee with a set work schedule who would like to get home to enjoy a little daylight. And so, the debate goes on.

And so, there is an enclosed survey about Our Savior worship times. It is just that—a survey to get your thoughts. It isn’t a vote...for in a vote some win, and some lose. We want to do what is best for our congregation members—and *for those community members who are not yet a part of our family.*

Fill it out, if you wish, to indicate your opinions. But, above all, thank the Lord that we time-bound creatures won’t have to answer that question when God hands us a bulletin and ushers us into our eternal worship service. Then there will be no worship schedules or worship surveys, for we will all be “lost in wonder, love, and praise.” In the meantime, don’t forget: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7 PM, Easter Sunrise at 7 AM, and Indoor Easter Services at the usual times, 8:30 and 11 AM ... and 5:30 PM for those of a more ‘angelic spirit’ who just can’t get too much Easter worship!

Cleansing the Temple

Mark your calendars now! Our Savior needs your help on April 13th. We'll be sorting, organizing, and cleaning out many areas of the church to make them more inviting and usable just in time for Easter. Many hands make light work, so plan now to join us for a rewarding experience! We'll begin at 9am and lunch will be provided. More details coming soon! Thank you!



COUNCIL CORNER – APRIL 2019

The council had a very productive retreat on Saturday, March 16th. Thanks to Loretta Cannon for arranging to use the clubhouse in her subdivision.

Set the final schedule for most of the upcoming events so put them on your calendar.

Most important is the celebration of Our Savior's 50th anniversary. Pastor coordinated with the Bishop and we settled on September 15th. We are also looking to have a luncheon after services. If you would like to participate in the planning or execution, please contact me or any of the council members. Get the word out to any of our former members and families so that they can plan on attending.

Rodeo Parade is April 6th. The weather will be better this year (I hope).

Loretta Cannon is the point of contact for the pre-Easter church cleanup on the schedule for April 13th.

Veronica Ernst is the point of contact for our International Potluck on May 5th at 5:30pm. This gives everyone a chance to dig into the old cookbooks and bring something related to your heritage. I have promised Paul that I will not try to find Lutefisk (Swedish, pungent aroma).

Lastly, I am heading up the planning for the congressional picnic this year for June 2nd. Bar-b-que and the trimmings.

Council also had an extensive discussion regarding moving to only having one service on Sunday mornings. Several council members have been approached, and we have decided to survey the congregation to obtain their input. A survey form is attached to the newsletter and will be included in the bulletin for a couple of weeks. We discussed going to a single service during the summer as a pilot to see how the congregation would respond.

Check the bulletin boards for sign up lists for all of these events and more.

—David Anderson

WORSHIP TIME SURVEY

In June, 2016 Our Savior did a worship time survey with mixed results. 8 said leave it as is (8:30 and 11 AM), 9 said go to one service (several different times preferred, but primarily 10 AM) while 15 said they did not have a strong position either way. There are pros and cons with either decision. Less worship support (ushers, readers, assistants, acolytes, etc.) would be needed with one service plus a greater opportunity to see those members who attend a service at a different time. There are disadvantages as well. Overall attendance would decrease in all likelihood. (Our Savior went to one service for 5 months during my cancer treatment/surgery in 2002 and overall attendance decreased from 261 to 226. Easter Sunday attendance was taken out of the averages.) Some could not attend one service due to Sunday work schedules. Our staffing may be affected as well. The survey will try to gauge our general attitudes toward worship times. This is not a win/lose vote. Whether changing or staying the same, we want what is best for our worship, our attendance, our fellowship, and our outreach to non-members. Your thoughts are more important than a vote.

Check one:

8:30 and 11 AM (leave it as is)

One Sunday Morning Service

(if you prefer one service, indicate a preferred time) _____

Additional Comments:

Name: _____

(Survey may be placed in centrum survey box)



April 10: Mt. Zion—Mount of Presence

Mt. Zion was called the mount of God's presence because there Solomon built the temple. Join us as we make a spiritual climb up Mt. Zion to worship in the presence of God. Your presence is welcome at the 7:15 worship service, and you would surely honor us with your presence at our 6pm Mexican potluck.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY—APRIL 14

We'll sing "Hosannas!" to the King whose throne is a cross as we process with palms into the Great and Holy Week. From this triumphant entry, however, our service will turn to the dramatic enactment of our Lord's Passion as we journey with Christ Jesus to a cross on Golgotha.



MAUNDY THURSDAY—APRIL 18, 7:00PM

Our Maundy Thursday worship will remember the night our Lord was betrayed and turned over to Roman soldiers. But it will also remember the night He took Bread and Wine and gave us the gift of everlasting life. This life will be shared with a new class of first communicants as the Last Supper becomes their First Communion.



GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 19, 10:00AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

If enough sign up, we will walk the Via de la Rosa with our Lord as he carries his Cross to Golgotha. We will follow the Stations of the Cross in an outdoor worship through the byways of our city as we share in Jesus' passion and death. Wear walking shoes. (Sign up in the centrum)



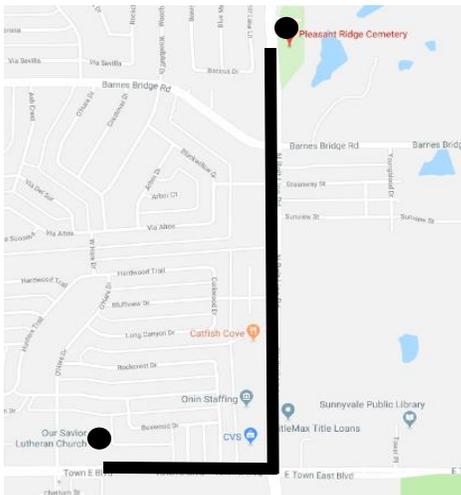
GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 19, 7:00PM TENEBRAE SERVICE

In a service of darkness and mediation, we will remember and share our Lord's suffering and death in Good Friday worship. The nails that spelled Christ's agonizing death, spell our salvation as we nail our sins to that same cross to live his new life. Observing the ancient order of Tenebrae, we will stand with the centurion at the foot of the cross and declare, "Truly, this was the Son of God."



Easter Sunrise—April 1, 7:00am PLEASANT RIDGE CEMETERY

Like surprised women carrying embalming spices, we will gather together 'at early dawn' for our Easter Sunrise at a cemetery. In a place of death, they found life! Imagine their surprise! Imagine our surprise, as well, for we will celebrate Christ's triumph among tombstones, and find joy in the place of mourning.



(The cemetery is located on the east side of Beltline between Barnes Bridge and Northwest Drive.)

Annual Easter Celebration

EASTER BREAKFAST AND EGG HUNT

Our Savior will host the Annual Breakfast but ask the congregation to bring their favorite breakfast food, casserole, fruit, pastries, muffins, etc. We could use a few more hands in the kitchen as well. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Centrum. The Egg Hunt will begin approximately at 10:30am. Children are asked to bring their own Easter basket, and youth will be on hand to set up for the breakfast and craft tables. If the weather is nice, the egg hunt will be held out on the back lawn. If not, it will be inside the education wing. So let us pray for beautiful weather on Easter morning!

Nancy's Health Notes

Decision-making has many facets. Some decisions are simple such as when it rains do I open the umbrella or go wet. Other decisions are very complex and difficult to finalize. There are decisions that everyone eventually will face but with as many variables as there are people.

End of life decisions are always difficult and emotional and have been linked to people facing death. It is unfortunate that a very narrow focus has been presented by media.

End of life includes the changes we make as we grow older and our needs and physical limitations evolve. An individual has a career or work record that has grown since they were young. A decision to retire or not retire must be made. If one retires—then what? Have plans been made for financial security? Do I stay in my home or move and where? What will I do with my time—involved with exercise classes or sit and watch TV?

All too often, many of these decisions have never been addressed and the result is an unhappy individual who wonders what's next. Without some planning and direction, an individual may decline in all areas of their life. Health declines and decisions may need to be made about who will be around to help if independence is lost.

Young adults, middle agers and older adults all need to address planning for later years. Children and grandchildren may need to provide support for an elder's activities, or they may be needed to provide assistance with activities of daily living. There are seven documents that need to be available. An example is an **ADVANCED DIRECTIVE**. This is not a Do Not Resuscitate but identifies who you give permission to obtain information about your health. This results from the HIPPA law. Pastor Schelter and I presented a series on end of life decisions. My focus was on physical aspects and documentation and Pastor Schelter presented concepts of our Lutheran faith. It seems it is time for us to have this series again.

“Teach us to number our day, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:12

Nancy Wilson, RN, FCN

International Potluck Dinner

We will be having our first International Dinner on May 5 at 5:30 PM. It will be a potluck unlike the potlucks we've ever had before. We are encouraging attendees to bring dishes which reflect their family heritage from around the world, labeling each dish and its country of origin. We already anticipate dishes from Germany, India, Jamaica, Africa, and others.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the church lobby to indicate your participation. If you'd like to attend and can't bring a dish, “No Problem Mon”, please know you're invited too. We hope to see you there.



IF THIS ISN'T YOUR FIRST RODEO...

That means you already joined in the fun of walking with the Our Savior “Float” at the Mesquite Rodeo Parade. But, if you have never shared the fun and excitement, join us April 6th. We'll meet at church by 8:30am and travel together for the start of the parade at 9am. This is a great witness to the greater Mesquite community that Our Savior continues to share God's grace.



Easter Breakfast Potluck

Can you imagine what Easter morning might have looked like if Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, Salome, and the whole gang had packed breakfast? They could have had a celebration picnic right on the spot, invited the disciples, and had entertainment with the angels singing a heavenly tune or two! (That would have gotten the cowardly disciples out from hiding behind closed doors, because men will go anywhere for food!) Fast forward to April 21 in Mesquite and help us make Easter Breakfast happen. Sign up to bring your favorite breakfast casserole, sweet breads, fruit, or sausage. Need ideas? Try out the recipe below for starters... or use a favorite of your own.

Charleston Breakfast Casserole

12 slices bacon
¼ c. butter, melted
3 c. croutons
2 c. grated cheddar cheese
6 eggs
1 ¾ c. milk
1 bell pepper (any color), diced
1 tbsp. prepared mustard
Salt and pepper to taste

Place bacon in large, deep skillet. Cook over medium high heat until evenly brown. Drain, crumble and set aside. Place croutons in bottom of 9" x 13" greased baking dish and drizzle with melted butter. Sprinkle with grated cheese. Wisk egg yolks, then add milk, peppers, mustard, salt, and pepper. Beat until well combined. Pour over croutons and cheese, and sprinkle with crumbled bacon. Bake 40 minutes at 325 degrees.

Birthdays

- 2 Patti Preas
- 3 Pam Hillegas
- Char Kratus
- 4 Tino Williams
- 5 Ronette Lenhart
- 9 Garrison Jacobs
- Lois Schelter
- 10 Joyce Lacy
- 12 Yolanda Rice
- 13 Cindy Nash
- 16 Michael Furr
- 17 Joyce Barabas
- 18 Shawn Sanders
- 19 Christopher Drews
- 21 Nicole Kurt
- 24 Kevin Finamore
- 25 Christa Schelter
- 28 Clinton Turner II
- 30 Betty Mastin



April



Anniversaries

<u>Date</u>		<u>Years</u>
1	Mark & Teresa Hall	41
6	Paul Cross & Karen Staton	1
6	Clinton & Marynell Murphree	56
7	Rodney & Paula Hutchinson	46
14	Charles & Connie Skyles	46
20	George & Betsy Brockmann	45
24	Martin & Vicki Wardlaw	37
28	Bill & Pauline Hutchinson	68
28	John & Collette Lippincott	35

Baptism Birthdays

- 1 Barbara Cisneros
- 2 Avery Castilleja
- 3 Janet Ndomahina
- Prince Ndomahina
- 4 Collette Lippincott
- 6 Cody Faaborg
- Haidyn Jacobs
- 8 Emily Snyder
- 9 Betty Haven
- Christopher Mayfield
- 10 Gerald Hare
- Joyce Lacy
- 16 David Williams
- 17 Anastasia Aguirre
- Chad Murray
- 20 George Morton
- 21 Diana Perez
- 22 Rachel Schelter
- 23 Jeff Combs
- 24 Brian Dannen
- Jordan Starr
- 25 Jessica Brown
- 26 Nadia Ke
- 27 Lois Sche



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	4/7-4/21		4/28-5/12	
	8:30	11:00	8:30	11:00
Assisting Minister	Mark Murray	Lois Schelter	Lois Schelter	Randy Peterson
Greeter	Jackie Howk	Sally Nelson	Herb Salmons	Jerry Combs
	Thane Katz	Julie Williams	Rita Salmons	Kaethe Combs
Ushers	Debbie Lonon	Nicholas McCabe	Mark Hall	David Anderson
	Earl Herndon	Patti Preas	Bonnie Johnston	Jon Cook
Reader	Dave Shafer	Julie Williams	Michael Lubben	Patti Preas
Communion Assistants	Michael Lubben	Richard Mastin	Paula Fincher	Jon Cook
	Cynthia Lubben	Shari Murphy	Thane Katz	Debbie Zimmermann

ACOLYTES

	Mar. 31	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28	May 5
8:30am	Marie V.	Haidyn J.	Marie V.	Haidyn J.	Marie V.	Haidyn J.
	Alicia V.	Yiyaine F.	Alicia V.	Yiyaine F.	Alicia V.	Yiyaine F.
11:00	Madison R.	Olivia R.	Joshua E.	Cole R.	Madison R.	Olivia R.
	Jeremy R.	Carline F.	Jonathan E.	Jesse R.	Jeremy R.	Caroline F.

CONNECTION

Non-Profit Org
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Mesquite Texas
 Permit #98

Our Savior Lutheran Church

411 North Town East Blvd.

Mesquite TX 75150

Office: 972-226-0510

Fax: 972-226-0722

www.oslmesquite.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship—8:30am, 11:00am & 5:30pm

Sunday School—9:45am

Pastor—John Schelter

April 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Each Sunday 8:30am Worship Service 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service 5:30pm Worship Service	1 7:00pm Lesson Study	2 9:30am Mother's Day Out	3 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Supper 7:15pm Midweek Lenten Service	4 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:30am Granny Group	5	6 9:00am Men's Basketball 8:30am Rodeo Parade
7	8 7:00pm Lesson Study	9 9:30am Mother's Day Out	10 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Supper 7:15pm Midweek Lenten Service	11 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:30am Granny Group	12	13 9:00am Church Clean-up
14 <i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i> 12:30pm Council Meeting	15 7:00pm Lesson Study	16 9:30am Mother's Day Out	17	18 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:30am Granny Group 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	19 10:00 Stations of the Cross (tentative) 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae	20 9:00am Men's Basketball
21 Easter Sunday 7:00am Easter Sunrise Service 9:45 Easter Potluck Breakfast & Egg Hunt	22 7:00 Lesson Study	23 9:30am Mother's Day Out	24 7:30pm Confirmation Class	25 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:30am Granny Group	26 Synod Assembly	27 Synod Assembly 9:00am Men's Basketball
28	29 7:00pm Lesson Study	30				