

# Parish Visitor

March 2024



Hello Folks,

For roughly 7 ½ years it has been my privilege to serve OELC as your Senior Pastor and I am very grateful for the invitation to have done so. OELC is a lively, loving congregation with a great many opportunities to be engaged in ministry in meaningful ways and I have appreciated them all, joyous, sad, or otherwise.

That having been said, the time has come for me to move on in my ministry. Please don't take this decision as any sort of commentary, judgment, or rejection regarding serving this congregation. I have been blessed and supported by the people of OELC in so very many ways. This decision to accept another call is the result of a great deal of prayer, discerning, agonizing, and trying my best to be faithful to the call of the Holy Spirit.

I will remain with you through Sunday, March 3, 2024, and then move onto serving the two-point parish of Immanuel Lutheran of Strum and the Elk Creek Lutheran Church of Hale.

As Paul opens his letter to the Philippians I close this letter of departure, giving thanks for your partnership in the gospel and confident that the One who first began good works among you will continue to do so until the day of His return.

God's peace my friends,

Rev. Terry Lorenz

## Church Staff

Pastor: Dave Hoadley  
Pastordave54758@gmail.com  
763-221-1928

Parish Admin.: Molly Vold  
oelc@triwest.net

Choir Director/Organist/  
Accompanist: Cathy Hoadley

Custodians:  
Nikki & Carl Holmen  
Sheila Nelson

Financial Assistants:  
Shirley Bagley & Betty Ward



### Sunday Schedule

Worship Services:

**9:00am (May-Aug.)**  
**8:15 & 10:45**

### Sunday School

**(Sept.-May): 9:30am**

### Wednesday Schedule (Sept.-May):

Confirmation 4:00pm

Meal 5:00pm

Worship 6:00pm

Choir Practice 6:45pm

### Church Office Hours:

8-4 - Mon.-Thurs.

8-Noon - Friday

8-Noon - Sunday



**The OELC council has had discussions** in recent months about offering some sort of congregation-wide fellowship event during each season of the year (at least). This past summer we had our first OELC Summer Festival at the Garber Bandshell in Central Park, and a group of church and community members is currently planning for the second annual Summer Festival set for August 10 and featuring my nephew, Nashville country music artist Eric Chesser. The fall event is one that's been happening for over 40 years, the Harvest Supper.

On Sunday February 11, we gathered for a winter event, a Pre-Super Bowl party and chili cookoff. Six chefs brought their chilis (a seventh had to drop out due to the flu), and there was trivia, open gym, music, bingo, and a raffle. We counted 60 people of all ages, many donated prizes were given out, and we enjoyed some delicious food, fun, and great fellowship. In some close voting, Izaiah Green won the chili contest, and Joanne Rongstad won the basket of chocolate and coffee goodies in the raffle. While many OELC members had a hand in making the afternoon a success, council members Michael Scheller and

Carissa Apland began the main planning last fall, and newly-accepted council member Shawn Green, with help from his whole family, joined in to provide the music and act as host.

I'm excited about this event for a couple of reasons: first, it was driven 100% by council and congregation members. That's a reminder that if you have a great idea for a new event, ministry, or mission outreach at OELC, go for it! Second, as I looked around the room, it was great to see elders and young families talking and laughing together. I love anything intergenerational, those opportunities for wisdom, life stories, and faith to be shared back and forth among all ages! Third, it was another example of how important and enriching it is for us to gather as a community of faith outside of the worship setting. Maybe some people will now remember that there are 66 books in the Bible and 150 Psalms, that Abraham was Lot's uncle, or that the Jewish holiday that's a reminder of God freeing the Israelites is Passover (all of those were among the trivia questions), but mostly it was a chance to be with and have fun with other OELC members, including those who may attend "the other" Sunday worship service, along with non-member families, friends and neighbors.

As I write this during the week following the event, I've heard many enthusiastic comments on how much fun it was and that folks are looking forward to doing it again next year. A huge thank you to everyone who helped plan, donated prizes, assisted with set-up and tear-down, made chili, and most of all, those who attended. Meanwhile, ideas for a spring get-together are welcome! I hope and pray that more opportunities arise that give our congregation and the surrounding communities the chance to gather in fellowship and God's love.

*Pastor Dave*



## Easter 2024 A Message from Bishop Laurie AN INCOMPLETE SENTENCE Mark 16:8

*Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!*

The gospel of Mark begins with this verse, Mark 1:1, *The beginning of the good news<sup>1</sup> of Jesus Christ*. Then it ends with an incomplete sentence<sup>1</sup>. Mark's Easter Story ends with an incomplete sentence. What was the editor thinking? Where are the punctuation police when you need them?

Look at it for yourself. Mark 16:8 in Greek

καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου, εἶχεν ἡ γὰρ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις· καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπαν, ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ



See, it ends with the word “gar” which can be translated “for or because.” Why did the writer of Mark end the gospel with the word “because?” Word-for-word the last part of the verse reads *to none nothing they spoke they were afraid because*

So just to be clear, the purpose of the gospel of Mark is to tell the good news of Jesus Christ and then it ends with an empty tomb and the only witnesses to it run away in fear saying nothing to anyone because...

It should be noted there is no punctuation in the original Greek and we can of course rearrange the English words and make a sentence, but still the incompleteness of the Greek sentence, abrupt ending and the incompleteness of story itself are telling.<sup>2</sup>

Matthew, Luke and John end their Easter story with Jesus appearing to the disciples after the resurrection. These gospels end with proof of the resurrection that others see with their own eyes and some even touch Jesus. Mark has no proof of the resurrection. He doesn't even finish his last sentence.

Mark 1 was intended to be just **the beginning** of the story of the good news of Jesus. It can't be completely recorded with paper and pen because it is still being written in the lives of the believers today. Friends, the story of Easter didn't end with the frightened women. If it did we wouldn't be here today. Some of Mark's Easter story will be written by your life, my life, our witness to the empty tomb and the transforming power of God love in our life. The rest of the story will be written by those who come after us and whose lives bear witness to God's power to transform death to life. We are proof of the resurrection. Our lives transformed by the power of God's love and forgiveness are proof that Jesus rose from the dead. We are writing new verses and chapters for Mark's gospel, so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus and all generations will experience God's grace.

*Rev Laurie M. Johnson*

**Mark 16** *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid*

<sup>1</sup> McCoy and Fistler, Pulpit Fiction Podcast #540, Easter 2023

<sup>2</sup> Mark has two alternative endings (Mark 16:9-20) which many biblical scholars believe were added at a much later date by those who couldn't tolerate ending with an incomplete sentence!

<sup>3</sup> Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

JOIN US!

## Upcoming Youth Events at Our Church.



Wednesday, March 20—following Wednesday Lenten Worship until 8:00 or so: Trivia Night in the Youth Room. We had fun playing trivia at the recent Pre-Super Bowl party, so come test your knowledge of random facts! There will be prizes, and snacks and beverages will be available.

Watch for details regarding another combined mission outreach event after Easter. The plan is to volunteer at Feed My People Food Bank in Eau Claire. This would be a joint ministry with Elk Creek Lutheran.

### What is Little People for the Steeple?

“Little People for the Steeple” is going to be our focus at Sunday School this year!

We’re asking folks to bring nonperishable food items, personal care items such as toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, etc. Dog food, cat food, anything that a variety of donation sights in our area will accept. The Sunday School kids will be collecting these items the second Sunday of the month, which is also the Sunday that they provide special music at the 8:15 a.m. worship service. The kids will push shopping carts down the aisles of the church so folks can put their items in them.

Our Sunday School teachers have volunteered to distribute what we collect and deliver them to places like OELC’s Food Bank, New Horizon’s in Whitehall, as well as the Osseo Fairchild School Store.

Please help support our “Little People for the Steeple” any way you can! Thank you!



### The Osseo-Fairchild School District Thunder Supply & Market,

which offers food, clothing, and other supplies to students and families as needed, has a hard time keeping personal hygiene supplies in stock. They are looking for **shampoo and conditioner, deodorant/anti-perspirant, soap/body wash, packs of toilet paper, and feminine period products**. Drop items off in the brown bin near the main office.



Planning for the 2024 Appalachian Service Project Mission Trip is underway. We’ve been assigned the week we requested (a very popular week, so we’re fortunate), meaning the trip will depart Friday, June 21 and return to Osseo Sunday, June 30. Out-of-pocket cost is \$200 per person (scholarships available if needed) and can be paid all at once or in payments prior to the trip. All youth grades 9 through 12 in 2023-2024 are invited! Contact Pastor Dave for more information.

# *News from around the Synod of Northwest Wisconsin*

On Thursday, February 8, Pastor Dave attended the 2024 Dairyland Conference Annual Meeting at Faith Lutheran Church in Durand. This is a summary of the business of that meeting.

1. Each congregation in the conference pays dues to the conference treasury based on membership numbers reported to the ELCA Churchwide office. The balance as of February 8, 2024, was \$4,040.13. The following allocations were passed:

- \$500 to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (NWSWI) Lay School of Ministry

- \$400 to provide scholarships to Lay School of Ministry students

- \$600 to Luther Park Bible Camp

- \$1,000 to our sister synod in Malawi to help build wells

- \$1,000 to Neighbor to Neighbor, a ministry of the NWSWI with the goal of reaching out to our Latino

- American neighbors and to explore overall social and racial justice in our area.

The remaining \$540.13 stays in the treasury for conference events and programs.

2. Bethany Walker, pastor of Faith Lutheran, has been the Dean of the Dairyland Conference for the past three years and wishes to step aside. Dave Christianson, pastor of Trinity Parish (South Beef River, Upper Pigeon Falls, and King's Valley churches) held the treasurer position, and the group voted to allow Dave to take the role of Dean, and for Luke Peterson, Synodically Authorized Minister at Trinity Norden and Good Shepherd churches to become treasurer.

3. Nominations were accepted for these positions to represent the Dairyland Conference:

- Synod Council, three-year term, one lay female: **Left unfilled**

- 2025 Churchwide Assembly, July 28 through August 2, 2025, in Phoenix

- One clergy (male or female): **Pastor Jenny Hatleli, Evangelical Lutheran, Black River Falls**

- One lay female voting member: **Left unfilled**

- Consultation Committee, six-year term, one clergy (male or female): **Left unfilled**

4. Nominations were accepted for candidates for NWSWI Bishop election at the 2024 Synod Convention in June. Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson has announced that she will not seek another term as bishop. Each conference can submit up to seven names; candidates must be an active or retired leader of Word and Sacrament in good standing within the ELCA. Names submitted to the NWSWI Bishop Election Committee were:

Rev. Greg Kaufman, pastor (retired), Chippewa Falls, WI

Rev. Elizabeth (Libby) Howe, Director of Evangelical Ministry, La Crosse Area Synod

Rev. Dr. Cheryl Peterson, Academic Dean, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA

Rev. Randy Olson, Synod Minister-Leadership, NWSWI

Rev. John Sutherland, Pastor, Cross Lutheran Church, Roberts, WI (former OELC intern)

Rev. Martin Halom, Pastor, St. John Lutheran Church, Bloomer, WI

Rev. Lori Ruge-Jones, Pastor, University Lutheran Church, Eau Claire/Campus Pastor, UW-Eau Claire

Any or all of these candidates can refuse nomination. The final slate of candidates for the Synod Assembly will be released by the Synod Election Committee when it is completed.

5. Update on Luther Park Bible Camp: The camp has a full staff and will be making some changes to the various camping options offered. The Early Bird deadline for summer camps 2024 is **March 1**, earlier than past years.

# **HAPPY** *Birthday* **FROM YOUR** **CHURCH FAMILY**

- 1 Sonja Herbert, Garrett Loesel, Ryan Myhers
- 2 Eric Boettcher, Neil Merritt, Kaden Moseley, Nathan Torpen
- 3 Ethan Dahl, Aleisha Lutzen, Jaxon Zawacki
- 4 Bryor Fremstad, Linda Heiman, Wayne Knapcik
- 5 Donna Fonner
- 6 Deanna Klindworth, Alex Moldenhauer, John Severson, Victoria Bertrang
- 8 Caitlyn Hugdahl, Kaylyn Kubishak, Ryder Ness, Lorraine McCune
- 9 Carol Baumbach
- 10 Pam Merritt
- 11 Isaac Miller, Robert Rongstad
- 12 Joanne Dahl, Peyton Lane, Noah Martinson
- 13 Drew Hanson, Julie Johnson, Denise Schwoch, Marvin Schwoch, Wayne Vold, Alfons Jesunas
- 14 Cindy Knapcik, Dakota Knudtson
- 15 Leo Anderson, Michael Boettcher, Terry Halderson, Jered Kuehn
- 16 Peggy Biesen, Sara Boetcher, Jean Olson
- 17 Tammy Cuddy, Jenna Ives, Emerick Korger, Curt Nelson
- 18 Pat Halverson, Judy Kolar, Ella Scheller
- 19 Elliot Apland, Alexander Cuddy
- 20 Joyce Bratsven, Lucy Everson
- 21 Cory Myhers, Adeline Von Haden
- 23 Stella Apland, Jazmyn Flury
- 24 Leona Torpen
- 26 Dylan Diehl, Ander Nelson, Kara Skoyen
- 27 Spencer Anderson, Patty Hoffman, Christine Mercer, Levi Nelson, Matthew Stanek
- 28 Harper Anderson, Kole Bratina, Les Vold, Joshua Daffinson, Tate Boettcher, Maxden Dewitz
- 29 Esther Larson, Jianna Scheffer
- 30 Kayleen Horel, Teagan Jesunas, Amy McCune, Aaron Vold, Hunter Olsen
- 31 Tim Johnson, Parker Rongstad

\*If your birthday should be on this list & isn't, please contact the church office.

## SPONSORSHIPS

OELC offers several opportunities to honor a loved one, commemorate a special occasion or celebrate a milestone.

**BULLETINS:** You can sponsor a weekly worship service bulletin. There is one sponsorship available per week. The cost is \$20.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** If you prefer altar flowers, there is one sponsorship per week. The cost is \$25, or you may bring your own (2 vases) or order them yourself from Colby's Florist. You may also increase your fee for special order flowers (more than carnations).

**SECURITY SYSTEM:** You can sponsor the building's security system each month for \$25.

**NEWSLETTER:** The Parish Visitor is also available to be sponsored. For 1/2 a month, it is \$40 and for the entire month, it is \$75.

To sponsor any of the above, call the church office at 715-597-3213 or email at [oelc@trivest.net](mailto:oelc@trivest.net). Payment can be made by check payable to "OELC" or online (still email to let me know what it is for).



**BULLETINS**  
**SECURITY SYSTEM**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
 in the church office

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

If you would like to support our OELC Coffee Fellowship, here are 3 easy ways to help:

1. Provide treats & juice and serve as host/hostess
2. Provide treats & juice and the committee will serve for you
3. Sponsor treats & juice (\$30) and the committee will serve for you.

**If you are willing to help with Coffee Hour, simply do the following:**

1. Pick a date on the sign-up sheet
2. Write in your name
3. Put down your preference (see above)

1, 2, or 3





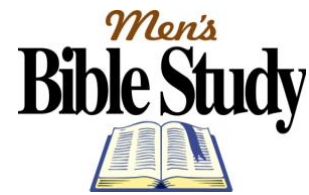
The ladies of OELC meet for monthly bible study on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. We use the bible study found in the Gather magazine. Copies of the magazine and study are available in the church office, or you can subscribe. Come join us as we study in word, prayer, and faith God's holy Word and its meaning. All studies are held at OELC in the Family Room.



Gatherings are on the first Wednesday of the month.  
All are welcome!  
For more information:  
Lorna - 715-590-2159



The Quilters meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10-4. Bring a sack lunch. Everyone is welcome.



**Held in the west room at the Norske Nook at 8 am on the first Tuesday of the month, September through May.**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

Under new management, Paul's change of direction

Reading: Acts 9:1-19

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

Eternal values, The rich man and Lazarus

Reading: Luke 16:19-31

**Tuesday, May 7, 2024**

Kingdom priorities, Parable of the great banquet

Reading: Luke 14:15-24

## General Operating Fund

Income & Expense Report—Through February 28, 2024  
With Comparison to 2023 & Annual Budget

| <b>Income</b>           | <b>2024</b>   | <b>2023</b>   |                                |              |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| LOC/trans/int.          | 918           | 174           |                                |              |
| All offerings           | 45,394        | 51,920        |                                |              |
| Other Gen.              | 8,841         | 2,217         |                                |              |
|                         | <b>55,153</b> | <b>54,311</b> |                                |              |
| <b>Expenses</b>         | <b>2024</b>   | <b>2023</b>   | <b>Annual Budget Remaining</b> | <b>YTD %</b> |
| Pastoral Staff          | 43,351        | 43,033        | 203,109                        | 17%          |
| Non-Pastoral Staff      | 12,617        | 15,052        | 70,999                         | 15%          |
| Worship & Music         | 886           | 529           | 4,114                          | 17%          |
| Ministries & Committees | 549           | 28            | 2,201                          | 20%          |
| Church Property         | 8,637         | 8,304         | 40,753                         | 17%          |
| Parsonage               | 1,522         | 1,304         | 9,228                          | 14%          |
| Admin/Office            | 1,720         | 1,812         | 7,530                          | 18%          |
| Line of Credit          | 10,208        | 0             |                                |              |
| Non-Op Exp.             | 2,553         | 954           | -                              | -            |
|                         | <b>82,043</b> | <b>71,016</b> |                                |              |



### 1-1-2024 Beginning Balance in General Operating Fund ~

**\$ 27,422**

+ 55,153 (Revs.)

\$ 82,575

(- 82,043) (Exps.)

**\$ 532.00**

**~ balance on 2/28/2024**

### Other Fund Balances:

Mission: \$ 1,098

Special: \$ 52,666

Debt: \$ 1,003

Youth: \$ 4,798

### Line of Credit:

OELC owes \$ 5,023

# 2024 Church Dates-to-Remember

## March 2024

- 10 Sunday School Special Music – 4K-4<sup>th</sup> grades (8:15)  
*Little People for the Steeple*
- 24 Palm Sunday & Breakfast Club
- 28 Maundy Thursday – Service at 6pm
- 29 Good Friday – Services at Noon & 6pm
- 31 Easter Sunday – Sunrise Service at -6:30am  
No Sunday School

## April 2024

- 3 Confirmation Classes Resume
- 24 Last Day of Confirmation Classes

## May 2024

- 1 Confirmation Rehearsal & Photo (6:30)
- 5 All Grades Sing (8:15)  
Affirmation of Baptism (10:45)  
Last day of Sunday School - kids done at 9:15
- 19 1-Worship Service Begins at 9am
- TBD High School Graduates Brunch following Worship  
& Presentation of Quillows at 9am
- 27 Memorial Day – Church Office Closed

## Annual & Monthly Set Dates

Sunday Bible Study – Sundays Sept.-May between services  
 All Saints Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November  
 Church Council Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month  
 Committee Annual Reports Due – December 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Harvest Dinner – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of October  
 High School Youth Group – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month  
 Holy Communion – 1<sup>st</sup> & Last Sunday of month  
 Men's Bible Study – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month (Sept.-May)  
 Newsletter Articles Due – 16<sup>th</sup> of the month  
 Noisy Offering – Last Sunday of month  
 OELC Annual Meeting – Last Sunday in January  
 Prayer Shawl Gathering – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month  
 Quilting – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of month  
 Sunday School – 9:30-10:30am (Sept.-May)  
 Tri County Food Pantry – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month  
 Women's Bible Study – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month  
 \*\*\*Some dates change due to scheduling conflicts,  
 holidays or other factors.



## EXERCISE AT CHURCH???

Before the COVID pandemic hit, OELC hosted an exercise class using dumbbells and ankle weights. Since the pandemic, the equipment has moved from place to place around the building. It's hoping to have found a home in the classroom in the back hallway, next to the back furnace room (the access to the stage). Dumbbells from 2 pounds to 25 pounds along with ankle weights and exercise mats are available for use whenever the building is open, and some possible suggested exercises are provided. Please use this equipment with due caution and only as it's intended, and children should only use it under adult supervision.





# Word Search: Everything Easter!

designed by tracy consani saunders for [www.5minutesformom.com](http://www.5minutesformom.com)

R W D G D S T Y N E P C Y R A M E N E Y  
H E R O A E A N N P Z R Q F D S G V T Z  
S A S M U D L E U A T U R I N V O M A C  
S A O U S B L I I H U C K E A D L L L K  
L H D E R A T S O T H I R T Y Q G E O J  
T S U U D R C I M B A F H A M X O N C W  
S T P G J A E M N T L I A T N O T T O C  
Q O A R R L D C D G S X L T L Z H B H Q  
L M L I I A U U T F R I D A Y I A G C S  
U A O I B N O P Y I N O Y A D S R U H T  
Y T S U D R G T H J O N D T C E Y O I I  
Q A N T H E G U E C E N H E T H D P D F  
C N D S K T E L A B A R N E O G N L R H  
Y X J S A E L I V R E D P L G D U A A U  
K E O F E Y H P E E Z J L A O S A S M T  
C F V N B N Q S N A V O J O S Q M T P E  
B I O E I N D T A K W S G G E T K I D N  
E L A S U U R E B A R A B B A S E C I N  
A N J O H N Q V W H I P P I T Y Z L G O  
S T E K S A B E R E P P U S S E R D S B

Ascend  
Ash Wednesday  
Barabbas  
Basket  
Boiled eggs  
Bonnet  
Chocolate bunny  
Crucifixion  
Doubting Thomas  
Dress  
Egg hunt  
Equinox

Eternal Life  
Fat Tuesday  
Golgotha  
Good Friday  
Ham  
Heaven  
Hippity  
Hollow  
Jellybeans  
John  
Judas Iscariot  
Last Supper

Lent  
Mardi Gras  
Mary Magdalene  
Maundy Thursday  
Pastels  
Peter Cottontail  
Plastic Eggs  
Resurrection  
Shroud of Turin  
Solid  
Spring  
Spring Break

Thirty  
Three  
Tulips



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PARISH VISITOR

is the newsletter of  
Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church  
50351 Harmony Street  
Osseo, WI 54758  
715-397-3213  
www.oelc.org † oelc@trwest.net  
Please join us for Sunday Worship  
Sundays  
8:15 & 10:45  
9:00am (Summer)  
Wednesdays  
5:00 meal; 6:00 Service in Chapel  
Pastor: David Hoadley  
Our Mission at OELC:  
to share our faith and bring people  
to Jesus Christ,  
to love our neighbors as ourselves,  
and to minister to the needs of ALL people.



**Palm Sunday:** March 24 ~ 8:15am & 10:45am  
**Maundy Thursday:** March 28 ~ 6:00pm  
**Good Friday:** March 29 ~ Noon & 6:00pm  
**Easter:** March 31  
Sunrise Service at Buena Vista Scenic Overlook ~ 6:45am  
At OELC ~ 8:15am & 10:45am