

# Messenger

## JACKSON PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

ELCA

4535 W Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53219

March 2026

Pastor Fred Thomas-Breitfeld



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the month of March! March is one of those "bridge" months. It can give us fleeting hints of spring, but can also bring some very wintry weather. I remember one March in particular. We were still in Chicago, it was my last year of Seminary, and we were expecting our first child. Chicago was hit with a terrific blizzard. It paralyzed the buses, the trains, and the highways. I kept digging out our parking space so we could make a quick exit to the hospital when the need arose!

Well, one stormy night the need did arise, and we went off to the hospital, and later that evening, our son, Sean, was born! Later that night I would go back to our apartment at the Seminary, and I plastered birth announcements all over the Seminary! I wanted everyone to know about this great joyous event in our lives.

What are some of the events in your life that you wanted everyone to know about? What were the times when your heart was so full of joy that you could not keep it to yourself? Spend a few moments thinking about those events and give thanks to God that they happened in your life.

Have you ever thought of Jesus Christ being one of the best things that happened in your life? We have this great God that we worship, but how often do we really think about how important he is in our life? My faith and belief in God is of ultimate importance to me - I can not imagine my world without my Lord and my Savior. It was my Savior that lifted me when my mom died while I was in high school. It was my Savior who gave me confidence, strength, and hope as I have gone through all these medical procedures these last few years. A life without my faith is just unfathomable to me.

And because that faith and belief is so strong, I want others to experience it as well. I want others to know the joy that I feel. And so I must tell them. My hope is that YOUR faith is so strong as well that YOU want to tell others. Let's let others know this great joy we have found in belief in Jesus Christ. Like the birth of our son, it is a joy that I want to share with others. I simply can not keep it to myself. I can not "hide it under a bushel" as the old children's song says! So, let's tell the old, old, story! Let's tell them OUR story of how God has loved us. And maybe, just maybe, they will come to believe this story of God's love as well!

*Pastor Fred*

### Worship Services

Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
4th Saturday of month  
4:00 pm (this month)

### Contact Information

Pastor Fred Thomas-Breitfeld

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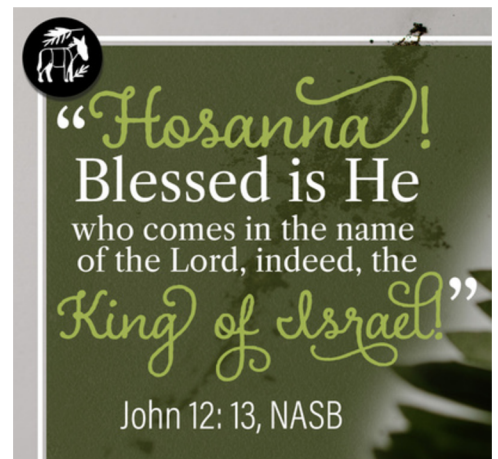
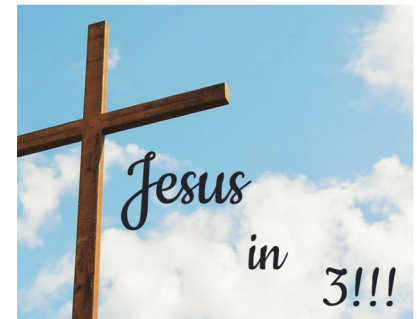
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# FAITH IN ACTION AT JPLC



## HIGHLIGHTING LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

On Thursday, February 19th, I was privileged to go to the Corner House a UWM, our Lutheran Campus Ministry site, and serve a delicious meal to about 20 students, and then worship with them as well that night. I do want to thank Brian Phillip who provided the wonderful Chili for our meal! And then on Sunday, February 22nd, we welcomed Rev. Eli Henry, the Campus Pastor at UWM, and one of the students at the Corner House, who witnessed to the work of Campus Ministry. Keep our college students in your prayers, and the work of Campus Ministry. The first photo is of our dinner together that Thursday night. Pastor Eli is the very "smiley face" in the front of the picture!

## SOUP "to go" SUNDAY MARCH 15th

We still could use a few more soups to add to our menu! See the sign up sheet in the Narthex. All funds raised will go to our general expenses fund. We will only be selling the larger size containers for \$7.00. Venmo and Credit Card payments accepted! Don't forget to mark your calendar!



## The Kringle Sale is Coming!

Our Sunday School is again having a Kringle Fundraiser to provide funds for their projects. Orders will be taken at church or call the church office to place an order. Pick up will be during the week before before Mother's Day.

## Saturday Service Schedule

Please note that because of the special event we are having on Sunday, March 15, there will NOT be a Saturday Service on March 14. All are invited to participate in our "Soup Sunday" Fundraiser!

There WILL be a Saturday Service on March 28.

## CAROL GENRICH SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

Service for Carol will be on Monday, April 6, at Noon, at Church. There will be a Visitation from 11 am until the time of the Service. I want to note that Carol included "Memorials to Jackson Park Lutheran Church" in her Obituary. I would encourage all of us to do the same when our time comes. It is a way to leave a lasting legacy with the church, and just another way to financially support the ministry of the Church.

## PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

The Outreach/Fellowship Committee is happy to announce that we will again have a Palm Sunday Brunch on **March 29th!** This will be a congregational free will offering meal. We will have a sign-up sheet to plan for how many people we will be serving. Let us know if you can bring something to share.

*We would love to have you join us!*

**REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR!!**  
Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday, March 8th**  
Remember to plan ahead and set your clocks accordingly!

*Please pray for healing for:*

Peggy Rudolph Lisle  
Iris Michelson  
Liz Nowatzki





- 1 Emily Luedtke
- 2 Wendi Gerharz
- 2 Myla Rabell
- 6 Michael Tompkins
- 7 Eva Adler
- 8 Alison Wintheiser
- 9 Rya Adler
- 10 Greyson Coyne
- 11 Cheryl Fox
- 12 Cindy Iwinski
- 13 Jason Diaz
- 23 Lauren Duerr
- 23 Declan Schimmels
- 24 Laurie Pledl
- 25 Keith Kestner
- 26 Clare Scheuerell
- 27 Peggy Zautke
- 28 Gloria Yelczyn
- 31 Kyle Kramer

### Ministry Ideas Brainstorming

Here are some ideas that have been suggested by some of our members:

- Quarterly Choir (or special occasions)
- Monthly Bible Study with a meal
- Monthly Bag Lunch give away in the community
- Blessing of Pets
- Providing care packages for service members or college students
- Hosting "Know your Rights" training

**What ideas might you have?**

### PLANT SALE

Spring is just around the corner! This year as a Church fundraiser, we will again be taking orders for various annuals, perennials and vegetables (full flats, full trays (which can be split), baskets and planters. All plants will come from Shady Lane Garden Center in Menomonee Falls. Order sheets will be available later this month. An order sheet can also be mailed/e-mailed. Plants will be delivered on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Please note that this is *after* Mother's Day. *Please contact Theresa Perry at [tperrski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tperrski@sbcglobal.net) for more information.*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

On August 10<sup>th</sup> 2025, we like many other businesses and homes had approximately 6 inches of flood water in our entire basement level. Every room was damaged. There was water damage to the ceiling in the Sanctuary. We are blessed to have the Hispanic FE Congregation that sprang into action that morning. They were able to direct the flood water to a working drain in the Men's restroom and with their hard work; the water had receded by the late afternoon. But much work needed to be done; to get rid of what was damaged, to organize what could be salvaged, and to repair what was salvageable. Thank you to those who worked very hard and continue to work to make all of these improvements.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity in funding these repairs and improvements. We were able to fund all of the recovery projects. There is still some work to do- we need to install vinyl baseboards in the basement- if anyone knows of anyone that can do that installation, please contact Pastor Fred.

Moving forward this year, we will be researching community service/mission projects that we can accomplish by working together with the other two congregations that worship in our building. If you have any ideas about how we can serve our community, please share these thoughts with Pastor Fred or myself.

This year, like many of the recent past years, we will be challenged to meet our financial needs. We have cut some expenses from our budget, but the challenge continues. The only people that can help are all of you, as the congregation. We want to continue to worship in our building, and to spread God's message of love in our community. How can you help?

• Commit to submitting your offering on a regular basis. The easiest way is to sign up for "Simply Giving", and automatic donation that you determine how often and how much you want to commit. This regular giving is vital during our "summer vacation" months.

- Can you help with cleaning or office duties? We are looking for someone that can commit to one day per month for either type of service.
- Become a member of the Outreach/Fellowship Committee
- Help with the Jackson Park Farmer's Market booth on Thursday afternoons in the summer
- Sign up to help with the Worship service:
- Reading the lessons
- Communion assistant
- Altar guild duty (setting up and clean up communion trays)
- Acolyte
- Providing special music
- Help with property maintenance:
- Planting/weeding/watering
- Snow removal/ lawn care, removal of leaves, general landscaping

We are all in this together, our future success as a congregation will be determined by everyone's involvement and commitment.

May the peace of God be with you!  
Theresa Perry- Church Council President