



Making Christ Known to All!

THE REPORTER

MARCH 2019

Lutheran Church
of the
Resurrection
"Making Christ Known To All"

Pastor's ponderings –

What is Lent?

from Wikipedia

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. **The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and self-denial...**

The season of Lent mimics the simplicity, austerity and solitude of the winter season. It is the church's time to renew under the cloak of darkness and blanketed by cold, where it receives the life-giving water of snow. It is the Christian's time to renew our commitment to Christ through disciplines that address our inner and outer natures.

One of my favorite authors, Dallas Willard, breaks the disciplines into the two categories above by outlining the definitions of habits that help us grow more and more into Christ's grace.

It is in this rhythm of life that Jesus found power, peace, and unity with the Father. They are here for your choosing this Lent...

The Spiritual Disciplines List

What activities belong on a Spiritual Disciplines List? There is no complete list! Any activity that helps you to grow your reliance upon the Spirit of Jesus might make your spiritual disciplines list. For instance, Kristi has used floating on a raft as a spiritual discipline! Or I've used coming to a full stop at stop signs and celebrating stop lights to practice waiting on God.

Here are some main disciplines of abstinence and engagement that have been helpful to Christ-followers over the centuries.

Disciplines of Abstinence (Self-Denial)

These are ways of denying ourselves something we want or need in order to make space to focus on and connect with God.

Solitude: Refraining from interacting with other people in order to be alone with God and be found by him. (Solitude is completed by silence.)

Silence: Not speaking in a quiet place in order to quiet our minds and whole self and attend to God's presence. Also, not speaking so that we can listen to others and bless them.

Cont'd

**15050 Central Ave.
Oak Forest, IL 60452
708-687-2170**

E-mail:

resurrectionoakforest@gmail.com

**Sunday Worship
Times: 8:30
(Traditional) &
11:00am (Praise)**



[@lcroakforest](https://twitter.com/lcroakforest)

Website:

www.resurrection-oakforest.org

The Rev. Mary Appelt-Graves, Pastor

Tuesday - Thursday:

10:30a-7:30p

708-408-0457 (cell)

**Leni Shandou-Scace
Office Manager**

Monday - Thursday

09:30a - 2:30p

815-992-0198 (cell)

**Prayer & Visitation
Ministry**

Call the Church office
(708) 687-2170

Resurrection Preschool:

**Tania Downen,
Preschool Director**

708-687-2196

Fasting: Going without food (or something else like media) for a period of intensive prayer — the fast may be complete or partial.

Sabbath: Doing no work to rest in God's person and provision; praying and playing with God and others. (God designed this for one day a week. We can practice it for shorter periods too.)

Secrecy: Not making our good deeds or qualities known to let God or others receive attention and to find our sufficiency in God alone (e.g., see Matthew 6).

Submission: Not asserting ourselves in order to come under the authority, wisdom, and power of Jesus Christ as our Lord, King, and Master. (If you think of this as submitting to a person as unto Christ then it's a discipline of engagement.)

Disciplines of Engagement (Christ in Community)

These are ways of connecting with God and other people, conversing honestly with them in order to love and be loved.

Bible Reading: Trusting the Holy Spirit-inspired words of Scripture as our guide, wisdom, and strength for life. (Related disciplines include Bible study, Scripture meditation, and praying God's Word.)

Worship: Praising God's greatness, goodness, and beauty in words, music, ritual, or silence. (We can worship God privately or in community.)

Prayer: Conversing with God about what we're experiencing and doing together. (As we see in the Lord's Prayer the main thing we do in prayer is to make requests or intercessions to our Father for one another.)

Soul Friendship: Engaging fellow disciples of Jesus in prayerful conversation or other spiritual practices. (Related spiritual disciplines or practices include small groups, spiritual direction, and mentoring relationships.)

Personal Reflection: Paying attention to our inner self in order to grow in love for God, others, and self. (The Psalms in the Bible model this.)

Service: Humbly serving God by overflowing with his love and compassion to others, especially those in need. (Also tithing and giving.)

See you this Lent in my prayers, at worship, and in our mid-week vesper services

Pastor Mary+

THANK YOU

Thank you to the angel who left a very generous gift on my desk while I was out-of-town. Bless you for your thoughtfulness and an answer to prayer.

NEW MEMBER INQUIRY CLASSES

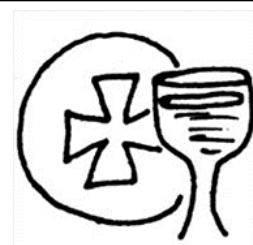
Pastor is inviting all who have been worshipping with the LCR family of faith to explore becoming members of the congregation. Three sessions are offered with the Affirmation of Baptism made at a Sunday worship service to be determined.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor at soulfull1.mag@gmail.com or leave a message at 708-408-0457.



FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

If your child is receiving Holy Communion and has not had formal instruction or has never had communion but is expressing interest in it, Pastor Mary will be offering 3 sessions for instruction during Lent. Times of classes will be dependent on the schedules of the families interested. Please contact Pastor at soulfull1.mag@gmail.com or leave a message at 708-408-0457.



LENTEN MID-WEEK MEALS & SERVICES



Shrove (Fat) Tuesday – Celebrate with us between 5:00pm and 7:30pm at our Mardi Gras meal. Get your beads, meal and Zydeco music for the suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of 4 or more.

ASH WEDNESDAY – March 6th: Noon & 7:30p Service with the imposition of ashes.
NO MEAL! “Blessed are You”

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT: Meals at 6:15p, Holden Evening Services at 7:30p

SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES

March 13- Salt & Light

March 20- Prayer and Fasting

March 27- Judge Not

April 3- Do Not Worry

April 10- Passover Seder Meal Build on Rock

SERMON *on the* MOUNT

A SERIES of SERVICES for the SEASON of LENT

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

LENTEN MEAL at 6:15p

HOLDEN EVENING SERVICES at 7:30p

SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES

- March 13- Salt & Light
- March 20- Prayer and Fasting
- March 27- Judge Not
- April 3- Do Not Worry
- April 10- Passover Seder Meal at 5:00pm

HOLY WEEK

- **SUNDAY APRIL 14 – PALM SUNDAY**
- Two services, 8:30 and 11:00 am
- **THURSDAY, APRIL 18 - MAUNDY THURSDAY**
- One service, 7:30 pm
- **FRIDAY, APRIL 19 – GOOD FRIDAY**
- One service, 7:30 pm
- **SUNDAY, APRIL 21 – EASTER**
- Two services at 8:30 and 11:00am





Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 - 5-7:30pm

Join us for a Mardi Gras celebration
with authentic Cajun food.

A \$5 donation is requested.

For more information contact Shirley Harm, 708-429-8002
or Tania Downen, 708-828-5619



15050 Central Avenue • Oak Forest, IL 60452 • 708/687-2170 • RESURRECTIONOAKFOREST@GMAIL.COM

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Church Family,

The other day I sneezed and several people said, "God bless you"! Then I meet a friend for lunch whom I haven't seen in awhile and during our catchup conversation she said "I am so blessed to have such sweet grandchildren". Then I overheard at the grocery store someone say to the checkout person, "We are so blessed that the snow storm missed us!". Then when I was at Sunday worship I hear, "Blessed be His holy Name", and Pastor Mary sending blessing, "May God bless you, shine his face on you...."

Just what does it mean to be blessed? And if your not blessed what happens? Are blessings only good things that happen? If we get sick, the snow storms, grandchildren misbehave, hardships disrupts our comfort zone, and/or stay home instead of going to church, then we're not blessed?

In the dictionary "Blessed" is defined as

- Made holy: consecrated
- Endowed with divine favor and recognition
- Bringing pleasure or relief as a welcome contrast to what one has previously experienced

The Greek definition of the word “blessed” comes from *makários*. This describes a believer as being in an enviable position for receiving God’s provisions (favor) – as being an extension of his grace.

It is interesting that the first definition is to be made holy and has nothing to do with wealth, health, comfort or action on our part. It comes from God—God’s grace and salvation in Jesus to us. It seems the real meaning of being blessed is to remind us of our sinful nature, the need for repentance, the importance of forgiving, the power of loving and the gift of eternal life through the cross. The earthly “blessings” like wealth, health, etc. (which are temporary), are not as priceless and comforting as God’s unending love.

Following Christ is not a reward system of earthly blessings (the prosperity gospel). Life is full of hardships, disappointments, struggles, and our earthly desires for more to feed our hungry soul. But by changing our thinking to view life through the eyes of the true blessings in Christ--the power of God’s word and the Holy Spirit will change our entitlement perspectives and we will be prepared and equipped to face the trials, disappointment and hardships of life as we travel the road of the WAY Jesus taught and lived.

There are some questions we need to ask ourselves:

- What am I seeking more than anything else?
- Am I following Christ, expecting earthly gifts of comfort and prosperity to follow? Or am I seeking Christ because he is the ultimate blessing and worth every sacrifice?
- Are my comforts causing me to be lukewarm, rather than living with ongoing repentance and zealousness for the gospel of Jesus?

During this Lenten season as we renew our minds, hearts and souls to live a Christian life. Let’s reflect on how we have been blessed in Christ.

HOW HAS GOD WORKED HIS SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN YOUR LIFE DESPITE HARDSHIP AND TRIALS?

God’s true Blessings be with you and yours always

Susan Centner

MINISTRIES

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY LIFE

Welcome to all; We are slowly heading towards spring with a renewal in God's goodness by sacrificing his only son, Jesus Christ. We will be walking a path during Lent, so that we may have a better understanding of Jesus Christ. Please check bulletin or email for events happening in March

Yours in Christ,

Jean Bowser

BREAKFAST

MEN'S BREAKFAST All men are welcome.

LADIES BREAKFAST - All ladies of LCR are invited to attend the March breakfast outing on Thursday, **March 21, 2019**, at 9:00, at Southfork Family Restaurant on LaGrange Avenue. Please join us for good food, fun and fellowship..

PSALMs

The prayer shawl group at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection has a name....

We are **PSALMs : Prayers, Shawls, And Loving Ministry**.

Do you know someone who would take comfort in knowing they are being prayed for? Someone who might need a physical reminder of His loving embrace? We invite you to bring them one of our Prayer Shawls or Prayer Cloths.



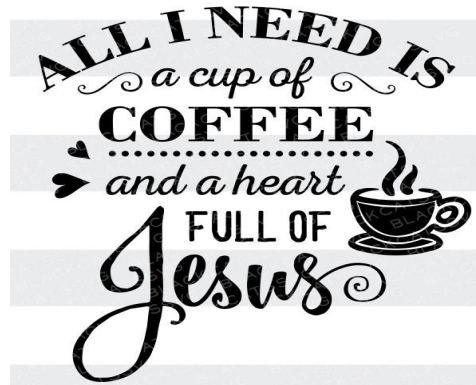
PSALM members have been busy knitting, crocheting and looming prayer shawls and cloths to provide to those who need them. We were able to distribute over 50 of them during 2018!

We welcome you to contribute to our Prayer Shawl Ministry in any of the following ways: One is by crocheting or knitting prayer shawls and/or prayer squares. Patterns are available if you need some project ideas. If you don't already know how to knit or crochet, come to a meeting and we will help you learn. The second way is to offer prayers for those who make the shawls and for those receiving them. And if you would like to keep those ladies' hands busy, consider donating a few skeins of acrylic yarn. It takes about three skeins of yarn to make one shawl. Brands like Red Heart and Caron work well, but if in doubt, we welcome gift cards to Wal-Mart, Michael's, Hobby Lobby or JoAnn's.

We usually meet the first Saturday of each month at **9:30 am** in the conference room. Our next meeting is **Saturday, March 2nd**.

Please consider attending and sharing your handiwork, fellowship and prayers.

FELLOWSHIP



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS - Please pick a Sunday to bring refreshments for between services. If you have never hosted before please check with Jean Bowser for any information you may need. We have the coffee all you need to supply are the goodies. For those Sundays that are open we can use donations of non-perishable food items to have on hand. Coffee and flavored creamers are always welcome!

MINISTRY OF DISCIPLESHIP

"WWW - WORKING WOMEN'S WORSHIP- BIBLE STUDY"

"Working Women's Worship- Bible Study"

March 9th at 3:00 p.m. at LCR

Studying "Women of the Word" by Jen Wilkins Book available on Amazon, at Barnes & Noble or other major bookseller and Kindle.

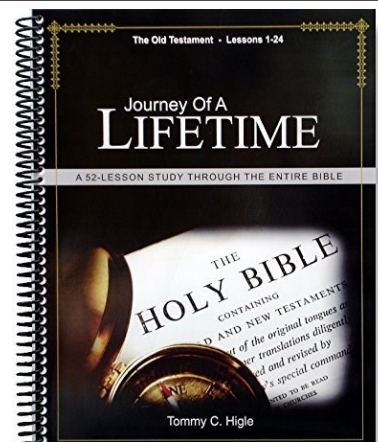
All are welcome!"

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Winter education schedule:

Join us on Sundays between services or Tuesdays at 6pm for our continuing study series, **The Journey of a Lifetime**, an overview of the entire Bible.

We enter into the history writing of the Old Testament – Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles. We take time to look at and understand the road map toward the promised Messiah, the one we call Jesus. Join us on Sundays or Tuesdays!



CONFIRMATION

NO CLASSES ON WEDNESDAYS THROUGHTOUT LENT, but...we will serve others:

Community Meal Service Project March 7th at 5pm – Pastors, mentors and students will develop, prepare and serve the monthly community meal at Zion in Tinley Park. All hands on Deck!!! We'll be sending out communication for who is cooking what.

Thanks in advance...



PADS March 23rd at 6pm – Develop a meal plan, prepare and serve it to the homeless at Redeemer Lutheran Church at 158th & LaVergne in Oak Forest. Supplies needed beyond the meal will include gallons of milk, fruit cups, luncheon meat (turkey, ham or chicken), bread, juice boxes, cheese and a sweet. We serve 40 homeless men who eat like 80!

Discipleship Resources will be available each week on the back table in the sanctuary for your times of reflection and bible study during Lent. Grab a packet and get comfy for life-giving moments of prayer, study, and reflection.

PRESCHOOL - GRADE SCHOOL

Children's church has started again. All children age 3 through the 5th grade are welcome to attend. Teachers lead the children in activities that correspond with the Gospel lesson. We meet in the conference room for fun, snacks, crafts, games and a story based on the day's Gospel lesson and return to the sanctuary for communion.



SARAH CIRCLE

SARAH CIRCLE meets at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 7th. Hostess for this meeting is Donna Flanagan, everyone is asked to bring a food item to share. The study prepared by Anna McCoy will be led by Connie Shellberg on the book "Jesus Calling." Come and join us, we love to see new faces.



MINISTRY OF TRUSTEES

STEWARDSHIP

Brother Steward

Fast-Food and Spiritual Nourishment

Back in the Dark Ages, a “happy meal” was a piece of bread and a ladle of soup for the starving poor. We monks gave what we could and then worked on our own Spiritual Nourishment.



Today, during Lent we feed the soul by saying, “No” to worldly stuff and addictions. And “Yes” to receiving the Eucharist. This discipline helps us strengthen our resolve to follow Jesus’ journey through his passion, resurrection and our redemption.

During Lent we also feed the body through “Good Works.” For example, we could take Happy Meals to a needy family or to our hungry and homeless; donate an extra dollar to our offertory collections in support of our ministries; visit the sick; or, call on the lonely.

Lent is a time for positive action and good stewardship. We should use our time in prayer, our talents in service, and our treasure in support and nourishment of our parish community. Remember, Matthew 4: 1-11: “Man does not live by bread alone.”



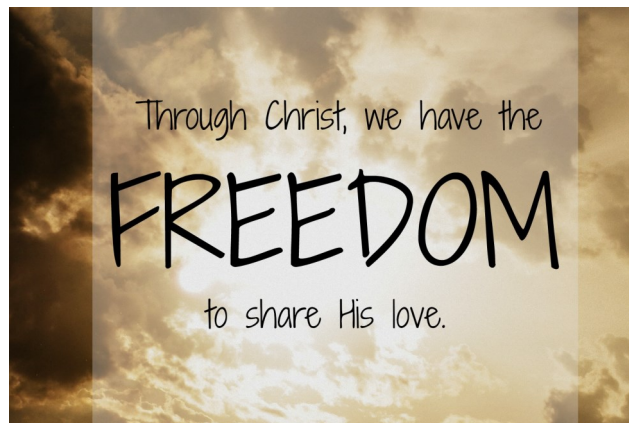
God Bless!

Freedom Isn't Free

Salvation is free – a gift to us from our father in Heaven. Paul makes that point so clearly in Ephesians 2:8-9: *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”* We neither earned it nor deserved it. *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8).

Free to us, yes, but salvation came at a cost, didn't it? The apostle Peter tells us, *“It was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect”* (1 Peter 1:18-19). Jesus paid the price for our salvation. *“He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed”* (Isaiah 53:5).

Especially during the Lenten season we ponder these words of Isaiah, prophesied so many, many years before our Lord fulfilled them. Humility, awe, and gratitude fill our hearts as we remember our *“oppressed and afflicted Savior,”* who carried all our sins in his body on the cross. How do we say thanks for such a great gift as Christ has given us? How can we express our love for him and his great sacrifice? The same way he expressed his love for us – through his acts of teaching, preaching, healing, forgiving, restoring. We love others as he loves us. We give freely as he gave so freely. We teach what he has taught us. We preach his Word in its truth and purity. We serve in his name and forgive as we have been forgiven – all by his power and through his grace.



MINISTRY OF PROCLAMATION

Worship & Music Ministry meets the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm and Evangelism meets the second Thursday of each month at 1:00pm. Please join us. Everyone is welcome!!

We are still searching for a Music Minister. The choir and Glory Ringers will continue to be on hiatus until that ministry is filled.

Please note that Wednesday, March 6 is Ash Wednesday.

Imposition of Ashes: *6am-8:15am – Oak Forest Train Station

*12 noon – LCR Midday Service *7:30pm – LCR Evening Service

Sundays in Lent – March 10, March 17, March 24, April 7 * One service at 9:45am following Bible Study and Coffee hour at 8:45am

Midweek Lenten Services-March13, March20, March27, April 3 * Holden Evening Prayer at 7:30pm

Seder Observation and Meal-Wednesday. April 10 at 5:30pm

Palm Sunday – April 14 *2 services at 8:30am and 11:00am

Maundy Thursday – April 18 * Service – 7:30pm

Good Friday – April 19 *Service – 7:30pm

Easter Sunday – April 21 *2 services – 8:30am and 11:00am

Details for these services will be in the upcoming bulletins.

Worship Assistants Needed:

Please prayerfully consider serving the Lord as an Usher, Reader or communion Assistant this year, especially at the 11:00 service. Training is available. See Donna or Pastor

Altar Guild: Assistants are needed for the 8:30 service. Please see Claris Okon or Pastor

Media Ministry: Stan could use some help in the Media Ministry. We need some help so that Stan could have a well deserved day off every once in awhile. Talk to Stan to see how you might help.

WE ARE ALL EVANGELISTS...

If you know anyone looking for a place to worship, invite them to worship with us. We have a new brochure in the Narthex, "Pathways to Belonging". It describes our church and service times. Take one and pass it along.

God's Blessings to All!! I hope to see you at one of our meetings!

Donna Flanagan

Minister of Proclamation

ALTAR GUILD

ALTAR GUILD is looking for a few ladies to help with preparing the communion table and clean up. If you are interested call Claris Okon at 708-687-9297.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2019

The new flower chart is up. Please select a few dates to honor your loved ones on their special day. There are two bouquets each week at \$20 per bouquet. Please note that only the dates that flowers are needed are listed. **Please pay for your flowers by using your regular giving envelope adding the date flowers were for, so there is an accurate accounting of payment.**

NO FLOWERS DURING LENT/EASTER March 10 - April 21 (Easter flowers will be available for purchase to decorate the church for Easter Sunday).

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL ACTION

FORTY DAYS – FORTY ITEMS - Wednesday March 6th is the first day of Lent. **It's time to clear out your closets and help our church at the same time! We have a challenge for you!** Each day of Lent, remove at least one item of clothing from your closet (no shoes, belts or purses), and put it into a marked plastic bag (bags are available at the back of the church). All donations must be collected by **April 7th** and will be taken to Savers who will pay us by the pound. **For every piece of clothing added to the bag please say a small prayer for the person that will receive it.**

Linda Jurinek

Minister of Social Action

**SOCIAL
ACTION
TEAM**

LOVE SUNDAY

Please remember to support St. Stephen's food pantry on LOVE SUNDAY (FIRST Sunday of the month).

Please consider donating
NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS,
especially proteins.

Leave your generous donation in the corridor
and it will be delivered to
St. Stephen's Lutheran church
once a month.
Thank you



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MARCH FRIENDS!

Adam Andrasco	March 1
Ron Thorne Jr.	March 3
Cortney Sowa	March 5
Kendra Sowa	March 7
Sue DeGregorio	March 11
Steve Legreid	March 13
Stan Sowa	March 23
Rachel Andrasco	March 25
Jean Bowser	March 27
Andrew DeGregorio	March 31



MEDIA TEAM

OUR MEDIA TEAM is looking for help on Sunday mornings!

Take a minute and talk with Stan Sowa and see how you might be able to help out with:

- ♦ Sound Board & microphones
- ♦ Computer Visuals (development)
- ♦ Screen/Worship projection



BARTER BOARD

Check out the Barter Board for items that people are in search of, and looking to sell. A simple way to bring your treasures to others.



- Do you need something that you really can't afford new?
- Do you want to downsize and have items you'd like to see someone else use?

Cards are on the Barter Board (over the water Fountains)

S E R V A N T S I N C H R I S T

MONTHLY LAY READERS ROTATION

Sundays	8:30	11:00
1st	Kathleen Domzalski	Open
2nd	Karen Baeder	Jean Bowser
3rd	Ruth Millis	Sue Centner
4th	Elsie Burk	Donna Flanagan
5th (ONE Service)	Donna Flanagan	

MONTHLY COMMUNION ASSISTANTS LIST

Sundays	8:30	11:00
1st	Kathleen Domzalski	Paul Scott
2nd	Donna Aggen	Open
3rd	Elsie Burk	Open
4th	Elsie Burk	Donna Flanagan
5th (ONE Service)	Kathleen Domzalski	

MONTHLY USHERS ROTATION LIST

Sundays	8:30	11:00
1st	Donna Aggen	Open
2nd	Open	Open
3rd	Donna Aggen	Open
4th	Rich Shellberg	Open
5th (ONE Service)	Open	

ALTAR GUILD

Mar 3 Claris Okon & Bev Kuter
 Mar 6 Claris Okon & Jean Melbourn
 Mar 10 Claris Okon, Lora & Michaela Tryon
 Mar 17 Ruth Millis & Joan Tobbe
 Mar 24 Marietta Sullivan and Joan Tobbe
 Mar 31 Claris Okon

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

MAR 3	Open
MAR 10	Open
MAR 17	Open
MAR 24	Open
Mar 31	Open

LCR PRAISE TEAM

Song leader: Michelle Sowa
 Praise band: Scott Mickow, Diana Mickow

ALTAR FLOWERS

MAR 3 One bouquet from Ruth Millis
 in memory of her father Harold
 One bouquet from the Bowser
 family in honor of Daniel's &
 Jean's birthdays

NO FLOWERS DURING LENT/EASTER

March 10 - April 21 (Easter flowers will be
 available for purchase to decorate the
 church for Easter Sunday).

MARCH COUNTERS:

Taina Collins, Tracey Fabing

**If you are scheduled to serve as a reader
 or communion assistant and you cannot
 make your commitment, please try to
 find a replacement for your Sunday and
 let Elsie Burk know. Thank you.**

**Lutheran Church of the
Resurrection**

15050 Central Ave.
Oak Forest, IL 60452



15050 Central Ave.
Oak Forest, IL 60452
708.687.2170
resurrectionoakforest@gmail.com

SUNDAYS IN LENT – March 10, March 17, March 24, April 7 *

One service at 9:45am following Bible Study and Coffee hour at 8:45am

BIBLE STUDY:

Sundays @ 9:45a & Tuesdays @ 6:00p

Saturdays @ 3:00p—"Working Women's Worship- Bible Study"