



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS IN JULY



Saturday July 21st & Sunday July 22nd

Christmas was originally celebrated in various months of the year – and in the first years of the New Testament church, it wasn't celebrated at all. Join us as we explore the Christmas tradition without the holiday stresses of buying presents, preparing Christmas dinners, putting up decorations and stringing lights, etc. We'll sing Christmas hymns as we celebrate Christ, the true gift of the season.

Do you have any interesting stories, anecdotes, or upcoming notices for the church bulletin or newsletter? Send your information to Renee via email at oursaviors@mediacombb.net, bring it in to the office, or mail it to the church address. Thank you.

Our Savior's Mission Statement

Using God's Word as a foundation, Our Savior's Lutheran shall, through meaningful worship, study, prayer and mission outreach, provide a Christ-centered atmosphere of enthusiasm, support, sensitivity and openness to all people.

**God's people find a place of belonging,
God's people devoted to seek God's purposes,
God's people committed to compassionate caring.**

Colored bells, as special music, will be coming in July to worship services. Be ready to volunteer in



this fun and easy way to enjoy music. When you see your colored bell, you ring until the color changes. So, when we ask for volunteers, please be willing to join us in this exciting new opportunity.

Remember our Deadlines!

Articles and announcements for the newsletter: **The 17th of each month.**

Announcements for the worship bulletin: **Thursday, noon.**

View the monthly newsletter & calendar, plus the Synod's: The Bridge, River Crossings, & WELCA River Channels newsletters; the ELCA's: Daily Prayer Ventures & Women of the ELCA, Interchange newsletter, and Gather magazine's mini Prayer issue, via our **website**, see page 6



We Would Like to Thank our church family for your thoughts, prayers, cards and expression of sympathy shared with us on the death of our sister.

Ken and Joanne Vrieze

THE WORD

ο' λογος

With Pastor Mark Van House

On the 4th of July we Americans celebrate Independence Day.

It's a day meant to honor the Declaration of Independence, signed and adopted in Philadelphia by members of the Continental Congress, on July 4th, 1776. The document declared independence from England for 13 colonies which would form the United States of America.

On July 4th, 1777, one year after the signing of the Declaration, and six years before the United States truly came into being at the end of the Revolutionary War, Philadelphia held a celebration which included fireworks.

There are now 50 United States. Along the way and through the years various traditions sprang up to celebrate our Independence Day. Today we celebrate in many and various ways, but it's good to remember how it all began and who was there at the beginning.

British Soldiers were under orders to capture and destroy colonial militia supplies. However, with the help of such groups as the Sons of Liberty, the militia was alerted and on April 19th, 1775 the militia first encountered gunfire at Lexington and then made a stand at the Old North Bridge in Concord, Massachusetts. From there the militia drove the British back into Boston.

This "shot heard round the world" was commemorated in the 1837 poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson – *"By the rude bridge that arched the flood, Their flag to April's breeze unfurled, Here once the embattled farmers stood, And fired the shot heard round the world . . ."*

In effect, this is the beginning of the war for our Independence and could just as well be the day we gather to celebrate.

What do faith and freedom have to do with one another?

This connects to our faith family in this way. This militia of 1775 was made of farmers, not professional soldiers like the British, but ordinary people who were members of their local congregations. They did not seek armed conflict but gathered to protect the freedom of the people. These farmers then were people of faith, who believed in the same commandments we do, were flawed humans just like us in need of repentance and forgiveness, members of the faith family who embraced the Gospel.

When it comes to the leaders of the churches attended by the farmers, a number of clergy were active from the start. According to the Library of Congress, "Ministers served the American cause in many capacities during the Revolution: as military chaplains, as penmen for committees of correspondence, and as members of state legislatures, constitutional conventions and the national Congress."

Church and politics, so to speak, were together from the beginning. Better yet, we can say that faith has played a major role in our fight for freedom.

Wherever you gather with those who celebrate this Independence Day, remember the farmers of faith who were willing to sacrifice their lives in order to save the lives of others.

That's the Word.

Pastor Mark

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

Beginning Next Month, we will begin to print the paper version of the Newsletter in Black and White and the Bulletin – with occasional color inserts.

The Online/E-Mail version of the Newsletter will still be in color. Color printing costs quite a bit more than black and white printing on our copier – we have had to increase our monthly printing costs by \$45+ due to this. This is good stewardship to use funds elsewhere for Gospel ministry by keeping color copy costs down.

Also, for those of you with E-Mails who still receive Paper Copies. Beginning this Fall we will transition to sending you an e-mail link rather than a paper newsletter copy. This also saves on paper and ink costs, again opening those funds to be used for other Gospel Ministry purposes. Thank You!

ELCA presiding bishop, faith leaders issue statement on family separation

CHICAGO (June 7, 2018) – The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has convened ELCA ecumenical and inter-religious partners in a statement addressing concerns over a recent U.S. government policy calling for more stringent enforcement of federal immigration laws. The policy will most likely result in an increase in family separations.

Here is the link where you can read the full document: <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7935>

Readings for July

June 30-July 1 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
 1st Reading: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
 Psalm 30
 Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

July 7-8 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
 1st Reading: Ezekiel 2:1-5 or 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
 Psalm: Psalm 123
 2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
 Gospel: Mark 6:1-13

July 14-15 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
 1st Reading: Amos 7:7-15 or 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
 Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13
 2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14
 Gospel: Mark 6:14-29

July 21-22 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
 1st Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6 or 2 Samuel 7:1-14a
 Psalm 23
 2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22
 Gospel: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28-29 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
 1st Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44 or 2 Samuel 11:1-15
 Psalm 145:10-18
 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21
 Gospel: John 6:1-21

Scriptures are subject to change.

The **OSL Endowment Committee** met on Sunday, April 29 to review requests for distributions from the Endowment Fund. As a reminder, the Fund bylaws require distributions in the following categories: 25% for property, 25% for youth, 25% for outreach, and 25% at the discretion of the Committee. Based upon the requests, the Committee approved the following distributions:

OSL Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,000
OSL Education Ministry/for Bibles	\$ 300
Kingsland Back Pack Program	\$ 300
Spring Valley Ministerial Association	\$ 500
Good Earth Village Gala	\$ 1,000
WELCA for Outreach Projects	\$ 1,000
OSL Chairs	\$ 800
OSL Cemetery	\$ 2,000
OSL Audio/Visual Sound Fund	\$10,100

The Endowment Committee would like to thank those who made requests for distributions.

“Have You Had the Big Conversation?”

37 attended one of the two identical sessions to learn about preparing for end of life issues.



Presenters informed attendees about probate, trusts, wills, etc., funeral home procedures, planning a service and the need to share your story. Have you started your conversation?

It is planned to repeat these sessions at a later date. Thanks to Jeff Thauwald, Melissa Saunders, Pastors Betsy and Mark, Membership & Outreach Ministry Team (refreshments) and Harris Williams (Thrivent Action Team project), and the Caregiver Team for planning and hosting.



Please join us Sunday, July 15th for the Youth Gathering Experience. The youth will be sharing their stories from the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Thank you to the parents, congregation and greater community that help make this trip to Houston, TX possible.

Please watch for information via email for youth activities in August.

Bluff Country Singers Rehearsals: **July:** 7-8-18 & 7-15-18 @ 6:00 PM; **August:** **NO** rehearsals; **September:** 9-9-18 & 9-16-18 @ 6:00 PM; **October:** 10-14-18 & 10-21-18 @ 6:00 PM; **November:** 11-11-18 & 11-18-18 @ 3:00 PM; **December:** Sat., 12-8-18 @ 10:00 AM & 12-9-18 @ 1:00 PM, **Dr. Rehearsal; Christmas Concerts: December 9 at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM.**

*******NEW OPPORTUNITY*******
 After a recent request, OSL has established an investment account that can accept donations of stocks or mutual funds from individuals for the general budget. There are potential tax benefits for the donor as well as benefitting OSL. If you have questions or are interested, contact Lori Schlitter.



THANK YOU to the Our Savior’s Caring Casseroles group for the casserole, salad and cookies; also, to everyone for the notes and prayers while I was recuperating from knee surgery. Very much appreciated.

Nevin Groth

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday June 10, 2018

The treasurer reported the following account balances:

First National Bank \$2,281.45

First State Minnesota \$4,661.07

Dedicated Savings Account \$104,447.27

Line of Credit Loan 0

Worship Ministry Team

Christmas in July 21 & 22, 2018. August outdoor service is August 11, 2018. Colored bells have been purchased. Will update the funeral usher document. MANY additional items discussed.

Youth Coordinator Report

Completing the gathering of information together for the National Youth Convention. They leave in two weeks.

Education Ministry Team & Education Co-Ordinator

July 22 and August 12, 2018 will be two additional days of VBS. August 12, 2018 will be blessing of the backpacks. Sunday School starts September 9, 2018. Christmas program is December 16, 2018. Confirmation is May 5, 2019.

Business & Stewardship Ministry Team

Two more team members are needed. Pam Ristau will review QuickBooks to determine if all is set-up correctly. Kathy Baarsch will accompany Renee Ziebell to Servant Keeper Training.

Membership Ministry Team

No new items to report.

Property Ministry Team

No new items to report.

Stewardship.

Wendy Thon, Kathy Baarsch and Pastor Mark attended the first Stewardship for All Seasons meeting.

New Business

An update was given on automatic donations. We need to be more careful in using the copy machines—especially the new one and use it for color copies ONLY IF NECESSARY.

Detailed minutes are available on the bulletin board by the Food Cart.

--submitted by Helen House, Secretary

No council meeting in July.

Executive Meeting July 5, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Please note!

Please remember to have family notify the church office if you are in the hospital. The privacy data laws do not allow the hospital to notify the church of your admittance.

Caring & Concerns for members & friends in Special Care Facilities

Spring Valley Senior Living & Rehab:

Georgine 'Jean' Davis

Adah Fowler

Ramona Gilbert

Bob & Maxine Jahn

Arlene Kappers

Maxine Mlenar

Donna Rowe

Spring Valley Senior Living-Evergreens:

Dorothy Hafner

Mick & Irma Rathbun

Elaine Sheldon

Florence Thorson

Spring Valley Estates:

Warren & Eileen Freeman

Bev Jertson

Ostrander Care & Rehab:

Ruth Ness

Dale & Juneus Ristau

Darrell & Glenna Vikse

Brooks, Owatonna:

Pastor E. C. Franke

Grand Meadow Care Center & Rehab:

Lester Fimon

Jack Fox

Senior Living, Rosemount:

Melvin Schmidt

Samaritan Bethany, Rochester:

Al Austin

Stewartville Care Center:

Jewel Ruud

Known to have been hospitalized in June:

Kevin Beck

Linda Vomhof

**HAPPY 4TH
OF JULY**

WELCA NEWS

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Can you please bring items for health kits?
We will be collecting for a few months, putting them together & sending them, this fall, to LWR.

Needed at this time: bath towels (medium to dark colors) and bath-sized bars of soap (Ivory is a good one.) They may be left in the Narthex.

Keep cool while helping support WELCA*. Turn off the oven and donate to the Bakeless Sale. The donations can be left in the office or offering plate.

*Projects range from food shelves to women's shelters to Lutheran Social Services.

All women of the ELCA are welcome to join a meeting. Please notify the hostess if you plan to attend.

Rachel Circle will not meet in July or August.

Rebekah Circle will not meet in July or August.

Contact Us

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

805 S Broadway Ave
Spring Valley, MN 55975
Phone: 507-346-7251 Fax: 507-346-7231

Emails: oursaviors@mediacombb.net
oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com

Website: www.oursaviorsspringvalley.com



Like us on Facebook Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Spring Valley, MN @OSLSV

Pastor Mark Van House-Lead Pastor
Cell: 507-279-3141

pastormarkvanhouse@mediacombb.net

Available for office visits most Tuesdays and Thursday from 1 – 4 pm, and available Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays by appointment. Staff meetings Wednesday afternoons – but visitation times are available. Pastor's text study is on Wednesday mornings.

Pastor Betsy Dartt-Visitation
Cell: 507-884-4853 betsy.dartt@gmail.com

STAFF

Bookkeeper – Kathy Merkel
Custodian – Toni Sanders
Education Coordinator – Gina Jahn
Music Coordinator – Elliott Grandall
Office Manager – Renee Ziebell
Youth Coordinator – Ann Oeltjen
youthatosl@yahoo.com

Office Hours: M-F 8:30 AM-3:30 PM

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Vacation Bible School is one of my favorite times of the year! I love seeing the children light up with the excitement of the decorations, seeing their friends again, and learning about their faith! VBS has a special energy and excitement that no other education program has. The children often ask why we can't have VBS all the time. The simple answer is that it takes so much energy, we couldn't sustain it for longer than 5 days! The secondary answer is that having it once a year keeps it a very special event.

I am often asked what kinds of help we need for VBS. VBS takes so much help to make it happen. We appreciate the staff, the decorating help, and the kitchen staff. We also need financial support and the support that allows us to transform the building with our decorations, and like all church programs we need the support of prayer. This congregation provides all the necessary support. The Education Ministry Team and I thank you. This is one of the many ways we keep the promises made on Baptism day for each of our children.

We served about 55 kids, we had a staff of 35, and we served a meal, an average of 60 people each evening. This is a very special ministry at OSL!

We are having a mini VBS session in July and August again this year. The dates are July 22nd and August 12th. We will meet from 4 to 5:30pm. We will have a shortened version of a VBS day with a lesson, a craft, music, games and a snack. Watch for sign ups!!

Blessings to all,
Gina Jahn
Part-Time Education Coordinator
rickjahn71@gmail.com

Weddings

Spencer Klevan and Kailee Helget on June 16, 2018

New Members

Tiffany Christopherson on June 9, 2018

Baptisms

Bailey Jurine Smith (7-17-2017) Baptized on June 24, 2018

Daughter of Dustin and Nicole Smith.

Sponsors Charley and Jessica Koenings, Matt Bly.

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of **Anita Anderson**

Audio/Visual Fund

Ann Thon

Caring Ministries

Harlan & Turby Marchant, Ray & Ruth Lemke

WELCA Jan Mlenar, Rachel Circle, Roy & Jan Christopherson, Dick & Sharon Jahn, Friends

In Memory of **Arnold Rinken** (*Julie Tart's father*)

Audio/Visual Fund

Shirley Gangstad

National Youth Gathering

Friends

In Memory of **Esther McCaulley** (*Judy Frank's mother*)

Audio/Visual Fund

Shirley Gangstad, Ann Thon

VBS

Dick & Sharon Jahn

In Memory of **John Arnold Erickson** (*Ann Thon's cousin*)

Audio/Visual Fund

Ann Thon

In Memory of **Norm Pearson** (*Lee & Carol Himle's brother-in-law*)

Caring Ministries

Harlan & Turby Marchant

In Memory of **Friends**

Audio/Visual Fund

Ann Thon

Dates to Remember

July 4 - Office Closed/Independence Day

July 8-13 - 8th Grade Confirmation Camp

July 17 - NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

July 21 & 22 - Christmas in July worship services

July 22 - Mini VBS Night



Look inside for articles on ...

- Calendar on page 8
- Caring & Concerns on page 4
- Circle Schedules on page 5
- Council Meeting Highlights on page 4
- Dates to Remember page 9
- Education Ministry news on page 5
- Memorials page 9
- Pastor Mark Van House's column THE WORD on page 2
- Scriptures for the Month page 3
- Thank You's on pages 1 & 3
- Worship Assistants page 7
- Youth Ministry news on page 3

If anyone is not receiving the newsletter or notifications from the church, either by mail, email, Facebook, or website, please let Renee in the office know and we will get your information updated. Thank you.

Let's Worship Together...

- Saturdays at 5:30 PM
- Sundays at 9:00 AM
- DVD played on Mondays at 4:15 PM at Spring Valley Care Center
- DVD played on Cable Television on KING4, if both weekend services are recorded, watch Saturday's service Wednesdays at 7:00 PM & Thursdays at 8:00 PM, watch Sunday's service on Fridays at 8:00 PM, and the following Sundays at 2:30 PM
- Spring Valley Care Center Communion, Tuesday, July 17th at 10:00 AM
- Hillside Communion, Tuesday, July 17th at 10:40 AM
- Evergreen Communion, Wednesday, July 25th at 2:30 PM

Bring your friends. Everyone is welcome.

Contact Information & Office Hours on page 5



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
805 S Broadway Ave
Spring Valley, MN 55975
Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT, ORG
U.S. Postage Paid
Spring Valley, MN
Permit #71

Worship Assistants Sunday (9:00) – July 2018

If you are *unable* to serve when scheduled, *please find* a substitute and *notify Renee* with the change.

July 1:

Acolytes – Christopher Knode, Cole Kruegel
Altar Guild – Gladys Peterson
Bread Provider – No Communion
Communion – No Communion
Greeters – Bob & Kathy Baarsch
PowerPoint Operator – Jon Dahl
Scrip Sellers – (10:15) No Scrip Sales
Scripture Reader – Jerry Klevan
Videographer – Rick Jahn

July 8:

Acolytes – McCormick Fowler, Tessa Fox
Altar Guild – Carol Ahern, Eileen Rathbun
Bread Provider – Joann Leutink (2 loaves, Sat & Sun)
Communion – Jon Dahl, Judy Frank, Helen House
Greeters – Jerry & LuAnn Klevan
Scrip Sellers – (10:15) Madison Hirle, Olivia Rasmussen
Scripture Reader – Linda Niemeyer
Videographer – Nora Jahn

July 15:

Acolytes – Ellie Archer, Audrey Webster
Altar Guild – Verna Stockdale
Bread Provider – No Communion
Communion – No Communion
Greeters – Paul & Linda Vomhof
Scrip Sellers – (10:15) Hunter Middleton, Kaden Rath
Scripture Reader – Jon Dahl
Videographer – Dick Jahn

July 22: Christmas in July

Acolytes – Rylie Jacobson, Audrey Webster
Altar Guild – Ann Thon
Bread Provider – Joann Leutink (2 loaves, Sat & Sun)
Communion – Annette Hyland, Velyn Johnson, Joan Kujath
Greeters – Larry & Sherry Wendt
Scrip Sellers – (10:15) Garrison Hubka, Audrey Webster
Scripture Reader – Sherry Wendt
Videographer – Reid Kruegel

July 29:

Acolytes – Nick Fetterly, McCormick Fowler
Altar Guild – Geraldine Williams
Bread Provider – No Communion
Communion – No Communion
Greeters – Dave & Lori Schlitter
Scrip Sellers – (10:15) Kaycie Belrichard, Travis Kauffmann
Scripture Reader – Dave Schlitter
Videographer – Josh Warren

USHERS: (9:00) Rick Christianson*, Doug Plaehn*,

Matt Fowler

*denotes head usher

Offering Counter – Judy Frank

Deliver Meals on Wheels – Week of July 23 – 27:

Linda Niemeyer, Don & Judy Rose

Saturday Service: (5:30)

PowerPoint Operator: June 30 – Shirley Gangstad

Scripture Readers: June 30 – Linda Kruegel; **July**

7 – Zach Queensland; **July 14** – Shirley Gangstad;

July 21 – Marge Lenz; **July 28** – Evelyn Clark

Ushers: June 30 – Linda Kruegel, Marge Lenz;

July 7 – Linda Kruegel; **July 14** – Ken Northway;

July 21 – Sandy Richardson; **July 28** – Carol Ahern,
Eileen Rathbun

July Service Group Organizer:

Judy Rose

The service group lists are of people in the congregation who are asked to bring items for special events at the church. The lists have gone through some changes to try to even out the lists with people who can be available to respond in service. For a number of reasons, there are people who are not included on the lists (shut-in, live out of town, have indicated a desire not to be contacted, etc.) Thank you to all the people in Our Savior's who live out their faith in caring support of the ministries of the church.

Freiheit, Wendell & Maggie

Knutson, Kermit & Joyce

Knutson, Lavonne

Koball, Connie

Kohler, Theresa

Kohn, Carol J.

Kohn, Brent & Sarah

Kohn, Rick & Stacy

Kohn, Susie

Kolling, Aaron & Toni

Kolling, Matthew & Cheyanne

Kolling, Sue

Kosfeld, Laura

Kraut, Ken & Janell

Kruegel, Linda

Kruegel, Lyle & Bonnie

Kruegel, Todd

Kujath, Ken & Joan

Kunert, Bill & Sue

Kurtz, Cassy

Rose, Don