Our Savior’s

Lutheran Church

August 2020 Newsletter

“I have come that you may have life, and have it abundantly”. John 10:10

“Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.”

Dear members and friends of Our Savior’s,

We continue to be the church, the body of Christ, in Spring Valley and the world, even though the pandemic has caused us to change many of our routines and adapt our activities for the sake of health and safety.  Each of you are an integral part of our shared calling to be the hands, feet, voice and presence of Christ in our community. You have done this in many quiet ways, supporting the food shelf, checking in with each other, bringing needed items to those who can’t or shouldn’t go out, and praying for one another.

Just as the nurse takes our “vital signs” when we go in for our check ups, the interim time is an opportunity for a church as Christ’s body to consider the “vital signs” of the congregation. The dictionary definition of “vital” is “necessary for life” and continued well-being. Vitality is linked to life and health. It connotes energy.

What does vitality in the church look like? These are the qualities of a vital church that were identified recently in a church leadership presentation. How would we describe Our Savior’s in light of these measures of “vitality”?

\*A sense of purpose rooted in God’s mission

\*A willingness to change

\*Shared leadership

\*Members of the congregation are growing spiritually

What qualities would you add to this list as a source of energy, life, and health? Over the course of the past several months, we have considered, in council meetings and committee work, in staff meetings and individual conversations, how our ministry together is grounded in God’s mission to heal, to bless, to reconcile, and welcome all. You have graciously been willing to do things differently because you understand well that our vitality is directly connected to the ability to adapt to a changing world. As we plan for Fall programs, we will be creative in developing some new ways to continue important ministries and fellowship. Our upcoming drive-in movie is one example!

One thing I love about the Lutheran tradition is that shared leadership is in our DNA. Councils, ministry teams, staff, pastors, and church members all play an important role in setting priorities, decision-making, and carrying out the church’s vision. We both encourage and expect everyone to take part. We know that everyone is needed to add vitality and health to our life together.

A vital church, just like a vital person, is one that continues to grow. We are always discovering God’s presence and working in new ways as we remain open to the Spirit’s leading. This is spiritual growth. Trusting God’s promises, appreciating God’s blessings, taking a chance for the sake of sharing God’s love and grace, are aspects of spiritual health.

Just as exercise, eating nutritious foods, and getting enough rest help keep us healthy, so our times of worship, fellowship, service, prayer, and rest nurture our souls and renew our spirits, individually and collectively. Being a vital church means finding the right balance between activity **for**God and resting**in**God. Both are essential for faith and life! I am thankful to be a part of what God is doing at Our Savior’s to offer grace and hope to our community and beyond. What will God do next, through us?

I pray that you are well.

God’s peace be with you all,

Pastor Susan

One amazing day, Jesus walked beside the shore of a beautiful lake and beckoned to Peter and James and John saying, “Come, follow me.” They left their daily work and walked and talked with Christ on a journey that eventually brought them to Jerusalem. As they followed in the steps of the Master, they discovered they were not alone in facing disappointment and loss. In following Christ, they discovered the joy of new life and the powerful gifts of the Holy Spirit bringing peace and hope and awe.

Reflections

with Pastor Betsy Dartt

In my own life, I find it essential to take time out of every ordinary routine for an extended timeof re-creation and refreshment. In previous years, I would look to summer for vacation time as a welcome time of renewal for body, mind, and spirit. Today with the sheltering in place for Covid 19, the opportunities for me to travel are out of the question. Today with the sheltering in place for Covid 19, the need to have a break from the home routine and from the working by internet and phone is especially important. It is time to find some new ways to seek refreshment.

I know that vacation time is not for me a vacation from my vocation as a follower of Christ. The most restful, energizing, hilarious, and healing vacations have come when I am aware of God’s Spirit leading me to enjoy the wonders of the world around me. I have come to discover that my own backyard or the chair by the window where I can see the birdbath are places of refreshment when I turn my heart to God. I find renewal in a moment of insight while listening to the ideas of a child at play. Sometimes it’s the silence of ancient rocks and the melody of lapping water that speak the perpetual refrains of creation. Perhaps it’s the pleasure of meeting someone new who challenges my familiar ways of thinking about the world. Perhaps it is the music that can make the heart feel glee or beauty.

As you are needing refreshment from routine this summer, think about ways that you may respond to Christ’s invitation to follow in his footsteps during your times set aside for recreation. Whether at home, or traveling, or visiting far distant places on your computer, pay attention to how Jesus beckons you to come with him. You’ll love the surprises God has in store for you.



In 1950, seventy years ago, the German Lutheran Church and the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Spring Valley covenanted to become one congregation and to build a new building on a site at 805 South Broadway. The 70th anniversary of that powerful beginning will be coming in December of this year. We are planning to celebrate what God has done in our midst over these years and what we have ventured in His name.

One of the things that is happening is updating our chancel worship space. Over the years, the high altar has been pulled away from the wall and other changes made in the use of the space. Over some more years, those changes have changed and our use of the space at the top of the steps is changing again. The worship and property ministry teams are working on a plan to open the space by removing the kneeling rails and commissioning a new communion table. Our worship leaders will be able to move around the table and be closer to the people in the pews. It will be moveable so that special worship or concert events can best utilize the space. The high altar will be returned to its place against the wall. It will be easier for people to see and all of our sacred space will reflect our current worship style.

In addition, we continue to update our audio/visual capacity for power point, for streaming our worship services, and for good sound. Our broadcast of worship on King4 and on YouTube and Facebook is essential during these days of staying safe. Our community of faith is alive and planning and working to spread the good news of Jesus Christ through worship and service. It can make all the difference in the world.

**STAYING CONNECTED WHILE APART**

Pastor Susan and Pastor Betsy are eager to stay connected with you during this time of social distancing! If you have a pastoral concern, or would like to talk, please call the church office, or email us and we will arrange for a time to talk. We pray for you each day, and care about what is happening in your lives. You can reach us directly at:

Pastor Susan pastoroslsv1950@gmail.com

cell phone 507-254-9875

Pastor Betsy betsy.dartt@gmail.com

cell phone 507-884-4853

Be well. Be safe. God is with you.

Pastor Susan and Pastor Betsy

We are back! July 12 was our first worship in the sanctuary since March 15th! We will continue all of our worship on-line through You Tube and Facebook. King 4 will also continue to air for those that are unable to attend or make the choice to stay home.

Informational letters were mailed in the last week of June. Contact the office if you did not receive one!

Please know that we want our church family to be safe! We honor the choice your family makes!



As we have needed to provided a different way to worship, it is exciting to see the increased views on our YouTube page. Our subscribers have increased, too. You can find us by going to this website: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWKuRpv4Mu3Q8vRZm4pxUrA/videos> which lists all out of videos. Click on subscribe and you will then get an email update when we post a new video. Or you can go to YouTube and search for Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Spring Valley, MN. Then click on videos that will get to the list of our videos. Please help spread the word about our YouTube site as it is exciting to see how it is growing.

**Acts Bible Study**

**Thursdays, 7 to 7:30 p.m.**

Take a break in your busy schedule to be refreshed in God’s words. This informal Zoom group, led by Pastor Betsy, explores the beginnings of the early Church following Jesus’ resurrection. The witnesses to Christ find many changes in this new life. There is much to consider as the church of the 21st century is being reshaped around us.

Use your computer to use the zoom app with the following code:

Computer or cellphone Zoom app - Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82868855089?pwd=TG9leWZUTEdBMGxua1prT2FnelhXUT09

Meeting ID: 828 6885 5089

Password: Acts

If you have a telephone, and want to listen in, call the number and punch in this special code:

Phone - Dial  +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 828 6885 5089

Password: 321553

Its easy and the Spirit is working among us. You are welcome.

If you have been with us in worship and would like to be a full **member** of OSL, please contact either Pastor Susan Li or Pastor Betsy Dartt.

Do you have a **baptism** coming up in your family? Please contact the church for a baptism request form and to schedule the date. We look forward to welcoming all into our church family!

**Caring & Concerns for members & friends in Special Care Facilities:**

Spring Valley Senior Living & Rehab:

*Eileen Freeman, Mary Jane Island (Ken Kraut’s mother), Maxine Jahn, Maxine Mlenar, Donna Rowe, Joan Baarsch, Dorothy Hafner*

Spring Valley Senior Living-Evergreens:

*Roy & Jan Christopherson, Mick Rathbun, Elaine Sheldon, Lorraine Hancock,*

Spring Valley Estates:

*Bev Jertson, Anita Nelson*

Prairie Meadows Senior Living, Kasson:

*Wil & Evelyn Mohlis*

Readings for August

August 2nd Lectionary 18

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

2nd Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

August 9th Lectionary 19

1st Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalm 85:8-13

2nd Reading: Romans 10:5-15

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

August 16th Lectionary 20

1st Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalm 67

2nd Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-2] 21-28

August 23rd Lectionary 22

1st Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm 138

2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

August 30th Lectionary 18

1st Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26:1-8

2nd Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Scriptures subject to change.

We need you, male or female! Ushers are needed to assist with handing out bulletins, helping with offering and communion, and taking care of other tasks behind the scenes before, during, and after our Sunday services. Please contact either Nevin Stender, Nancy Stender, Joan Kujath, Pastor Susan, or Pastor Betsy if you are interested in helping out.

We are planning to have communion at our Sunday service on August 9. Everyone's safety is very important to us. We have researched and decided to use gluten free wafers with juice kits. These kits will include sealed wafers and sealed juice. The process of receiving communion will be different with the details being provided at the service.

The Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley is asking area churches to help us make public our request for nominations for the Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley’s Citizen-of-the-Year. We will also be dropping off nomination forms before August 1, if your church should choose to participate. We thank you for your considerations.

 The Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley is asking the community to nominate an outstanding person to be honored at its’ annual Citizen-of-the-Year program to be held in the fall.

 The Kiwanis Citizen-of-the-Year has been chosen by the club from nominations received from the public. Forms can be picked up at Spring Valley City Hall or area churches starting August 1, and must be returned to them by September 1, to be considered for this years’ nominee.

 Last years’ Citizens-of-the-Year was Spring Valley resident Joan Betsinger.

 Any monies given to acknowledge the Citizen-of-the-Year selected will be deposited into the Kiwanis Clubs’ Citizen-of-the-Year scholarship fund.

Jeff Thauwald 507.937.3212

Member of the In Support of Spiritual Aims Committee; Kiwanis Club of Spring Valley

Keep in mind that your Spring Valley Area Food Shelf is available to anyone who could use a little extra help with putting food on the table, especially with the difficult situation at this time.

The food self remains open each Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. and Saturday from 9-11 a.m.

The Backpack Food Program will have food bags available at the Food Shelf through the summer.

17th Annual, Back to School Kick Off will look different this year much like many other things. Our goal remains the same: to ensure students have needed supplies to begin the school year.

We are asking for cash donations as we will be buying the supplies, compiling an individual bag for each student. The Kingsland District staff will help distribute bags to the students.

July has been a busy Audio/Visual month. Greg Darbo and his staff from Midwest Sound Communications have installed a new front screen, TV’s on the back balcony and west side of the sanctuary, and a new projector. The computer that runs the screen has been moved to the balcony. The old projector can be used for other events like the upcoming outdoor movie night.  We are thankful to the endowment committee, Kumm funds, and A/V designated funds that helped complete the projection project.

The old sound system works and will be used as an outdoor and basement sound system. Pastor Dennis has donated stands and is working to build stand brackets for the speakers.

We purchased a FM transmitter. Simm Sound was here to connect the FM transmitter to our current and old sound system. People will be able to worship from their cars along with other special events we can provide with this equipment.

There is still a need to replace the wireless microphone we did not replace when we updated the sound system. Other things continue to come up as technology is always changing. If you would like to help with any of these audio/visual ministry projects, we have a designated fund that you can give to. Thank you for your support!

A very special thank you to you, Our Savior’s Lutheran church family for the cards, well wishes and prayer during my recovery of my broken ankle. Also a very special thank you to the caring casseroles committee for the meals and treats. It is of great comfort to have so many caring people to aid in one’s healing process and I am thankful for all of you.

God’s Blessings and Peace to you All,

Brenda Clark

July Council Highlights

Worship Ministry Team Organ repair work is completed; virtual worship services will continue; working

on a way to get worship services to the nursing home; printed version of the service is being sent;

communion will be offered August 9; 4-5 acolyte gowns will be replaced; discussion on the Chancel

space remodel is continuing; and plans are starting for the OSL 70 th Anniversary celebration.

Youth Ministry Team Will donate funds to Good Earth Village and the AV project; youth activities are

minimal at this time.

Education Ministry Team Will donate funds toward the AV project; VBS will be remote; plans are

starting for Sunday School; Confirmation instruction options are being considered.

Membership Ministry Team A screen cleaning clothe was sent to fathers of the congregation; Drive-

in/outdoor movie night will be August 7 th —rain date is August 8 th ; the movie will be shown on the east

side of the church; will donate funds toward the AV project

Old Business Kumm Fund Distributions from the mature CD have been distributed.

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

--submitted by Helen House, Secretary

***Youth News!!***



Grades 9-12 Youth are all invited to this wonderful, faith forming event!

June 29-July 3, 2021

There will be more info, videos, conversation and of course fundraising. If you have questions contact Ann Oeltjen: oslsvyouth@gmail.com

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**Education News**

**VBS 2020**

Amazing (G)race 2020

We are going to an at home VBS this year!! Please join me in the excitement!

Watch Facebook for updates on what is happening with the kids!!

**Contact Us**

**Our Savior’s Lutheran Church**

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Like us on Facebook Our Savior's Lutheran

Church, Spring Valley, MN [@OSLSV](https://www.facebook.com/OSLSV/)

Pastor Susan Li Interim Pastor

Cell: 507-254-9875

Email: pastoroslsv1950@gmail.com

Pastor Betsy Dartt-Visitation Pastor

Cell 507-884-4853 betsy.dartt@gmail.com

**Staff**

Audio/Visual – Darla Erickson

Bookkeeper – Kathy Merkel

Custodian – Toni Sanders

Education Coordinator – Gina Jahn Cell 251-1610

Music Coordinator/Choir Dir. – Elliott Grandall

Handbell Dir. – Myrna Legreid

Interim Office Manager – Gina Jahn

Youth Coordinator – Ann Oeltjen: oslsvyouth@gmail.com

**Memorials and Honorariums**

In Memory of **Melvin Schmidt**

Audio Visual Fund Friends

General Fund Kelvin & Linda Niemeyer

In Memory of **Delores Erichsen**

 General Fund Carol Kohn & Jim Groth; Rhoda Jones, Shirley Gangstad

In Memory of **Karilyn Reiland**

Audio Visual Fund Friends

In Memory of **Don Rose**

 Audio Visual Fund Elliott and Karen Grandall

**August 2:**Altar Guild – Ann Thon – no Comm

Greeters – Pat & Harlan Bucknell

Scripture Reader – Zach Queensland

Videographer – Garrison Hubka

**August 9:**Altar Guild – D. Webster - Comm

Greeters – Sherry & Larry Wendt

Scripture Reader – Sherry Wendt

Videographer – Christopher Knode

**August 16:**Altar Guild – A. Hyland–no Comm

Greeters – Harris and Geraldine Williams

Scripture Reader – Annette Hyland

Videographer – Reid Kruegel

**August 23:**Altar Guild – G. Peterson - Comm

Greeters – Evelyn & Rich Apenhorst
Scripture Reader – Kathy Clark

Videographer – Kaden Rath

**August 30:**Altar Guild – Eileen Rathburn & Carol Ahern – no Comm

Greeters – Kathy and Bob Baarsch

Scripture Reader – Gina Jahn

Videographer – Dan Reiland

NEW Office Hours

Open Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

Please call ahead if you can so that we can manage the number of people in the building and keep track of areas of the building being used. Please enter through the East portico entrance only. Wear a mask and maintain at least 6 feet distance while in the building. Please stay home if you or anyone in your household has a fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or runny nose, or if you have been exposed to someone with Covid in the past 14 days. Please wash your hands or use hand sanitizer available in the entryway, narthex, and office.

Thank you very much for taking care so that together we can greatly reduce the risk of transmitting the virus in our church and community!

Please recycle this newsletter when

you are finished with it.

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church NON-PROFIT, ORG

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