Our Savior’s

Lutheran Church

September 2020 Newsletter

“**Grace and peace** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

As summer turns to fall, our focus shifts from refreshing times outdoors to the beginning of a new year of learning, service and fellowship at Our Savior’s. We love being part of what God is doing through our church, which is His church. We love being connected with one another, sharing our lives, our hopes, our talents. We love connecting with God in worship, sacrament, music, caregiving, and fellowship. We are finding ways to continue our ministries through the dedicated efforts of our staff and volunteers. Thanks to you all, and thanks be to God!

 As with so many aspects of our lives today,  we continue to adapt our activities to minimize risks in these Covid-19 times. With that in mind, we look forward to **welcoming our students**back for Sunday school and confirmation while incorporating masks, social distancing, good hand washing and hygiene. We will also include some learning opportunities that are virtual or on-line. We are learning to be nimble in responding to conditions in our community and schools. We realize that plans may need to change depending on what developing situations require. We also know that some families will choose to stay safe at home. We support that decision and will work with parents to provide meaningful opportunities for nurturing the faith of kids of all ages.

**Innovation** has been the key word in our plans for **worship,** as well. We have expanded from on-line only worship to worship in our sanctuary with careful measures in place. New equipment enables us to worship in our cars now, with audio over our car radios. The next step is worship outdoors on our beautiful lawn, with families wearing masks and groups sitting 10 feet apart, distanced in lawn chairs we bring from home, or remaining in cars as the service is offered in the fresh air and sunshine.

**Thanks**to the Membership Committee for hosting our outdoor movie night. It was a joyful example of how we can gather for fun and inspiring times together, even now. I especially appreciate the determined efforts of Darla Erickson and Pastor Dennis, who spent hours setting up and trouble shooting the technology systems to make it possible for use on other occasions.

I confess, there are days when I am weary of dealing with Covid! But then, I experience God’s grace through our shared ministry together and your kindness, and I am renewed. As the apostle Paul writes in Galatians 5:9,*“So, let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap a harvest in time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.”* Thank you for your faithfulness, and for the work you continue to do for the sake of God and neighbor.  I believe we will look back on this season of pandemic and remember it as a time when God’s blessings were revealed in new and wonderful ways. May you be blessed today and always.

In Christ,

Pastor Susan

 A man had an unusual pet, a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which lived in a little white box. He decided to take his pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time."
But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"
.... YOU ARE GOING TO LOVE THIS ....
This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time!  I'm putting on my shoes!!!!!! The man quickly discovered that his worship habits were going to change.

Reflections

with Pastor Betsy Dartt

.How is worship going with you these days? Our congregation is a faithful and creative group of people who find new ways to be connected to God and to each other. During these days of pandemic when too many are at high risk, we have had to adjust to new habits. Those who are able to come to our building to worship in the sanctuary on Sunday are sitting far apart; we wear masks and use hand sanitizers; only one or two sing while we read along on hymns; we will take communion in the pews; and we will not linger for coffee and conversation in the narthex so that we can show our care for one another. Nevertheless, the Word is heard and preached and we are blessed to be with God and each other. Some are starting to come to worship in their cars on Sunday morning with the short-range radio broadcast. Others are worshipping through YouTube or Facebook or receive a DVD in the mail of the weekly service; some choose to watch on Sunday morning with the family gathered together; others watch later in the week to stay in touch with the friends in the congregation. Others see the cable broadcast on King4 or watch other broadcasts on television. I even hear of some who share our worship on the internet with their extended family in other states so they are connected across the miles. Look for a chance to outdoor worship in cars or on the lawn in September.

As these days of pandemic linger on and on, it’s not easy to change our old beloved habits about going to church. It takes a measure of discipline to intentionally worship on-line. What was novel at first can become a computer overload when so many of our activities are now based on the internet. It is not easy when it takes more time and effort just to come to our familiar building. What’s more, it’s not easy to imagine the new future for the 21st century church that is taking shape before our eyes. God is present. We worship always when we are aware of God’s love surrounding us and when we show that compassion to others in our community. It is worth every effort to stay connected to the community of worship at OSL. There is an incredible future ahead of us that will bring us into a grand new life in Christ. St. Paul speaks of this in Philippians 3: 12 – 14: “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. … forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Stay safe friends; stay motivated to worship together; stay on the lookout for God’s calling to us in this new day.

We are back for in person worship! We will continue 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.

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



Imagine the area up the steps in our sanctuary toward the altar. All of the space where the pews are located is called the “nave” (from the root word navy which reminds us of the congregation space as an upside-down boat when you look up at the ceiling). The space up the steps in front beyond the pulpit and the lectern is the “chancel” (the area around the altar where the pastor’s lead worship and we approach the highest place in the room). Over the last seventy years in our church architecture, worship styles have changed everywhere. It is time for us to match our architecture to the way we experience worship today.

The church council has approved the concept of renewing this space. At this time, we anticipate removing the two communion rails; accessibility up and down the stairs has excluded too many of our worshippers and we have now been receiving the bread and wine on the main level for several years. A new communion table is being commissioned that will be on the same level as the pulpit. This will be an appropriate place for prayers and consecration while having easy access to the pulpit. The proposed design for the new table can preserve the cross designs from the communion rails. The existing altar will be restored to its original position against the wall.

With the recent pipe organ work we have a renewed recommendation that the acoustics in the sanctuary would be greatly enhanced if the carpeting in the chancel area was removed and replaced with a hard surface floor. This should be part of any larger consideration of future carpet replacement.

The plan is to do the chancel furniture rearrangement prior to Christmas and in time for the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the beginning of Our Savior’s in December of 1950. If you would like to be part of the planning group, you are welcome to talk to the pastors or people on the property and worship ministry teams.

**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



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.

**Call Committee Update**

The call committee would like to thank everyone in the congregation for your prayers and patience during the call process.  Unfortunately, the individual that we have been in discernment with has chosen to remove their name as a candidate for our next pastor.  The call committee will now receive a new set of names from the synod and begin the process again.  Although we are disappointed, we also know that God has just the right person waiting to be the next pastor at OSLC.  Please continue to watch the newsletter and worship services for continued updates.

Rachel Welch, Nicole Pokorney, William Jahn, Bob Baarsch, Lori Jones, Emily Fowler, Ken Kujath

**Bible Study**

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

There will be a new zoom Bible study featuring the adventures of Paul on his journeys starting churches throughout the regions around the Mediterranean. There is much we can learn about our own church today by seeing the growth of the first congregations of people who believed in Jesus Christ. This is an informal group who listen or talk as the Spirit moves. Pastor Betsy will bring the stories to life.

Thursdays from 7 to 7:30 by zoom or phone call starting September 10. Call the office or Pastor Betsy (507 884 4853) for sign-in information. All are welcome. Computer or cellphone Zoom app - Join Zoom Meeting

It’s easy and the Spirit is working among us. You are welcome.

**Baptism**

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, Evelyn Armstrong*

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*

*Known to have been hospitalized*

*Charlene Lenz, Duane Knutson, Evelyn Armstrong, Jim Halla*

Readings for September

September 6th-Lectionary 23

1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm 119:33-40

2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

September 13th Lectionary 24

1st Reading: Genesis 50: 15-21

Psalm 103: (1-7) 8-13

2nd Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35

September 20th Lectionary 25

1st Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

Psalm 145:1-8

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

September 27th Lectionary 26

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

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 services. 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.

**Perspective New Members**

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.

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.

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.



We have a FM transmitter that is working on the current sound system. You can listen to the 9 AM Sunday service from your vehicles from FM 90.9. If it is a communion Sunday, the communion kit will be brought to your vehicle.

The outdoor movie night was a huge success. We used the screen from the basement. The old sound system was used along with the FM transmitter. A big thank you to Pastor Dennis for giving us stands and making the connectors to put the stands and speakers together. Pastor Dennis and Rick and Jan Christianson helped put the screen on the east wall and made sure all the equipment was working. We look forward to having more of these types of events and providing outdoor worship in September.

We have had scheduling conflicts with getting the projection project completed. It has been frustrating but there is not much we can do during these strange times. The virus has definitely affected us being able to complete the project. We will continue to work with Greg Darbo from Midwest Sound Communications to get the project completed. He is as frustrated as we are.

Thank you for your continued support of the audio/visual ministry we provide at OSL.

**September Council Highlights**

**Worship Ministry Team** Discussed the new altar and chancel space project; discussed the anniversary; explained how communion will work; acolyte gowns have been ordered; there is an opportunity for members to become assisting ministers; FM transmitter is working; an outdoor service may be forthcoming; blessing of the backpacks is September 13; blessing of the farm implements is September 20; seasonal planning meeting will be September 1; Handbell rehearsals will begin; Pastor Betsy would like to do ‘Love Stop’ during the fall; Wednesday night service – Pastor Betsy brought up that some members like having evening services and wondered if we could do a Confirmation kick off Wednesday service.

**Education Ministry Team** VBS is virtual; and how Sunday School will happen this fall has not been determined.

**Youth Ministry Team** Sunday School will begin September 13; Confirmation will begin September 16; Senior League begins September 23 with an outdoor movie planned for August 28; continuing to sell script cards; next year’s national youth gathering has been pushed to 2022; may plan a retreat for 2021 and are looking at a date for Confirmation.

**Old Business** The Stewardship Committee is making plans for the fall with a focus on the 70th ‘birthday’ of OSL.

**New Business** Parking lot cracks were sealed; a 70th Anniversary committee will be formed; monthly service group organizers will contact members on their list; the job description for Office Manager/Financial Secretary is updated and approved; OSL will make an outreach contribution to the SE Minnesota Synod for additional support for the Lutheran Campus Centers at Mankato and Winona.

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

 *--submitted by Helen House, Secretary*

Executive Meeting is September 10, 2020 at 5 p.m. Next council meeting is September 13, 2020 at 10:15

With gratitude we share that**Dale and Juneus Ristau**have donated a generous amount of their

estate to Our Savior's. We give thanks for their generosity, their love for OSL,and their desire to provide for our on-going ministries into the future.

***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

Senior League 10th-12th grade

Starts Wednesday September 23th at 7:00

Please make sure to wear a mask.

***Education News!!***

We are planning to welcome students and staff back to OSL on September 13th. We are going to require masks. We will not have a group opening or group video viewing, but we will be together.

We understand that some families will not be comfortable sending their children to Sunday School. We understand and support your decision. More info

Gina will be offering Facebook Live Bible stories and we are looking at some take home curriculum that has no video component, but a family devotion model.

**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

Office Manager – Amber Hobson

Youth Coordinator – Ann Oeltjen: oslsvyouth@gmail.com

**Memorials and Honorariums**

In Memory of **Robert Jahn**

Caring Ministries Toni Sanders

In Memory of **Dorothy Hafner**

 Audio Visual Fund Shirley Gangstad

 Budget Norbert Reiland

In Memory of **Marjorie Lawson**

Audio Visual Fund Shirley Gangstad

Budget Harlan Marchant

We appreciate all of your time that you give to the church. If you are unable for any reason to volunteer, please let the church office know at 507-346-7251. We

understand during these challenging times that it may not work for you.

**September 6:**Altar Guild – Darla Erickson – no Comm

Scripture Reader – Kathy Baarsch

Videographer – Rick Jahn

**September 13:**Altar Guild – Ann Thon - Comm

Greeters – Sherry & Larry Wendt

Scripture Reader – Sherry Wendt

Videographer – Garrison Hubka

**September 20:**Altar Guild – Dawn Webster – no Comm

Scripture Reader – Jon Dahl

Videographer – Trey Pokorney

**September 27:**Altar Guild – Annette Hyland - Comm

Greeters – Geraldine & Harris Williams
Scripture Reader – Annette Hyland

Videographer – Christopher Knode

NEW Office Hours

**Open Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 2:30pm**.

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-19 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!

**Welcome**

We are pleased to welcome Amber Hobson to OSL as an Office Manager. Amber lives in Riceville, Iowa. She has two boys, ages 16 and 21. Amber has years of experience working in a hospital office setting as a medical coder/biller, and most recently at a credit union as a loan officer/teller. She is also a member of the St. Peters Lutheran Church in Riceville. Some of her hobbies are camping, cooking, and spending as much time as she can with her children Please be sure to welcome her when you call or come into the office. We are glad to have her join us at OSL.

Please recycle this newsletter when

you are finished with it.

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September 2020

