Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

November 2020 Newsletter

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Thanksgiving blessings to you all.  We have much for which to be grateful even in these uncertain times. This month, I share with you a letter from our synod bishop, Rev. Regina Hassanally.  She expresses what many of us are feeling and offers us perspective grounded in our faith in Christ.  The ELCA's social statements are not a law, but rather an invitation to think deeply to understand issues of our day, so that we may bring a gospel witness to the world. I hope her letter encourages you in this season of change. We hold fast to the One whose grace and mercy do not change with the political winds or the seasons. To Him be the glory.

The peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Susan

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| **To the People of God in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod**:I have grown weary of the seemingly ever-increasing partisan nature of our politics (indeed of the polarization of our entire society, but that’s another letter). Conversation, in which all participants speak *and* listen (*actually* listen), seems to have all but disappeared. In its place are one-sided attacks, endless quests to be right, and an insatiable hunger to prove anyone and everyone else as wrong.Scripture texts that speak of unity seem painted pictures of the impossible. And yet…we are the people of God. We are disciples of Jesus. We are members of one body, the body of Christ.At the Churchwide Assembly gathered in Milwaukee in the summer of 2019, the church body requested a social message on government and civic engagement. The social message was adopted by the ELCA Church Council in June of 2020. I cannot commend it to you enough.It is my fervent hope that you take time to read our church’s social message entitled [*Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001wbya8nuhmhWQJ27Xbxak-aktZ_yNl-vv7knpg_f4nizjDG81JFv4BB5YAUGaYGwblkuC2XvgmnCOdtENRDUiVm9fIz9q_FVMWW6lfSbGVliznJx1ub-fBU9KzaZZ5L9ufYePD1MOXO2jAq3Lin89abXmWGlFWFdPU_KSAZSjFcs3ixLwKvbuxPWzq12RVPmwiCOtmWn4L_20xRPTDy8Ivg==&c=ffOSLB7-6GpYeExvcQ-uEB0dgqARoCIoXZIvxXEv_SR4z7ey93Wqbg==&ch=NWvUDg477nwCSNCwgR1YfpENQuPV0hC0gGkiLxduYrleUePn20KJtw==). I’d also like to add a pastoral word.As followers of Jesus we have a particular perspective on our identity and the ways in which we are called to live, act, and interact in society. This perspective ought to be shaped, first and foremost, by encounters with the word of God. Which is to say, our way of living and being in this world ought to be rooted in Scripture. We should be so immersed in the word of God it shapes our thinking, our acting, our voting, our speaking. Every single part of our lives ought to be shaped and formed by the word of God: both the written words of the Bible and a dynamic relationship with the Word, Jesus Christ. As the People of God, this is where we begin. We have additional tools to shape and form our understanding. As Lutherans we have a rich theological history. Our Lutheran tradition and theology, our life together in Christian community, these things should also shape us and inform the way we live and the choices we make.In addition to the Bible, our relationship with the Triune God, the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the anchor of theology and tradition, this church (in concert with all of these things) offers teaching documents. These documents, like the social message on Government and Civic Engagement mentioned above, are contemporary resources intended to help us think faithfully about what it means to be (and how we can live as) the People of God today.We are a people created for community. The whole community, and the individuals that are members of it, are better served when our reading of Scripture, our wrestling with theology, our participating in tradition, and interactions with teachings happen in the midst of this community.Read, reflect, engage, and then discuss. As you discuss, seek to keep the words of the apostle Paul close at hand: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition but in humility consider others better than yourselves,”[i] and “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body…”[ii]Election day may or may not change the majority political party in our country. Election day will almost certainly bring a continuation of partisan polarization.We are not defined by an election day. We are the People of God and our identity as a body is rooted in our baptismal identity in Christ. We are members and parts of one body. Political and cultural division are ripe with opportunity to show one another a “more excellent way,” which is how Paul ends his discourse in 1 Corinthians 12 on the body of Christ.“And I will show you a still more excellent way,”[iii] Paul writes and then he launches into a long, and familiar, teaching on love. It is a teaching we would be wise to employ as we endeavor to live as the body of Christ. Let us remember that love is patient, love is kind, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs, love perseveres and sacrifices… Love enables us to live as the body of Christ. One body. Many members.Dear Church, be rooted in the word of God, allow our theology and tradition to shape you, read with curiosity the teachings of this church, endeavor to live in Christian community with *all* your neighbors, and remember the invitation to live in the more excellent way.May we live in this way, behave in this way, engage in this way, from now until Election day and well beyond.In Christ,**Bishop Regina Hassanally** |

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 Reflections

with Pastor Betsy Dartt

I like my Bibles with study helps. There are interesting notes and sometimes pictures and maps that remind me of the way things were when the scriptures were written. Sometimes there are questions that help me think about the meaning of the passage. I hope you have a favorite Bible that helps you discover how much God wants to show you about love and life. There is an eternity of wisdom in these 66 books and we will never exhaust the treasures that God has for us when we read and study and pray for the insight of the Holy Spirit.

Intentional study of the Bible is soul heathy. Whether you hear the word in worship, or participate in a group Bible study, or read stories in the family, or watch Utube, or open the Word for private devotions, the Word affects our daily life. Sometimes study of the Word can change the whole world. Remember what happened to Martin Luther.

October 31 (or the Sunday before) is the day Protestants celebrate the Reformation. In 1517, Martin Luther posted his 97 ideas for debate challenging the Church to look deeply at what the scripture says of God’s work in the church. Martin studied the Bible and treasured the Bible and pondered what God was saying in its words. Luther’s repeated meditations on Romans 1:17 “One who through faith is righteous shall live,” caused him to see God’s righteousness as the way God justifies us rather than the way God judges us. This faith in the righteousness of God puts us in a beautiful relationship with God. God gives away his own righteousness rather than only demanding it of us.

Luther wanted as many as possible to read these incredible words for themselves, so he translated the entire Bible both Old and New Testaments from Latin into the common language of the people. Luther expected the people in his church to pray regularly in the morning and at bedtime and to open the Word and to engage in this transforming, powerful word of truth. We too would benefit from the struggle and discipline it takes to grow through study.

One of my study Bibles (Lutheran Study Bible: Augsburg Fortress) includes a section about what we should expect when we read the Bible.

We should expect to encounter God.

We should expect to discover new words that talk about God.

We should expect a language in rich picture images and stories.

We should expect to be challenged.

We should expect to find meaningful answers for life, but we should not expect to find in the Bible an answer for every ethical decision we face.

We should also not expect to have every question about God answered.

We should expect to find out about God’s here-and-now relationship with us.

We should expect to be left with tensions.

We should expect that each book of the Bible was written for a particular purpose with a particular message.

We should expect the Bible to say something to us now.

As we move into a new season of shorter days and continued life challenges, open your Bible to see what blessings God has in store for you. This is a powerful way to feed your soul and find a glimpse of our most amazing God. “These are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:31

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!

**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.

**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 provide 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 is in the process of interviewing candidates for the position of Lead Pastor.  We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during this time of discernment..  Please continue to watch the newsletter and worship services for continued updates

**Meet your Friends at Bible Study**

Join Pastor Betsy in our ZOOM BIBLE STUDY on Thursdays from 7 to 7:30 p.m. We are discovering the perilous adventures of Paul as he traveled throughout the Mediterranean regions reaching thousands with the good news of Jesus Christ. No experience in Bible Study is necessary. You can listen only, talk and ask questions, make comments, or just find new insights about God.

We will meet October 29, November 5, 12, and 19. Open the zoom app and enter the meeting ID 898 7093 4032 and use the password Paul. If you prefer to use your telephone (either landline or cell phone) for an audio connection call 312 626 6799.

Meeting code:  898 7093 4032

Passcode:  571021

Call if you have questions or need anything.  Betsy’s cell:  507 884 4853

betsy.dartt@gmail.com

**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, Rhoda Jones*

**Spring Valley Estates**:

*Bev Jertson, Anita Nelson*

**Prairie Meadows Senior Living, Kasson**:

*Wil & Evelyn Mohlis*

***Pine Haven Care Center***

*Evelyn Mohlis*

***Zumbrota Health Care Center***

*Charlene Lenz*

***Ostrander Health Care***

*Anita Nelson*

***Known to have been hospitalized***

*Duane Knutson, Evelyn Mohlis, & Marjorie Queensland*

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.

Readings for November

November 1st -Lectionary 31

1st Reading: Micah 3: 5-12

Psalm 43

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13

Gospel: Matthew 23: 1-12

November 8th Lectionary 32

1st Reading: Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13

November 15th Lectionary 33

1st Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalm 90: 1-8 (9-11) 12

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

November 22nd Christ the King

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95: 1-7a

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1: 15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

November 29th 1 Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 64: 1-9

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Gospel: Mark 13: 24-37

Scriptures subject to change.

The Spring Valley Area Foods Shelf are in need of volunteers to help serve our area families that are short on food. They are open on Wednesdays from 2-4, and Saturdays from 9-11. Providing a safe environment is their priority. If you feel you could give 2 hours that would be much appreciated. If any questions, call Sharon Jahn at 346-2206. Thank you.



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.

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

 **October Council Highlights:**

**Worship Ministry Team**

Discussed their 2021 budget, previous services, upcoming services of WELCA, Thankoffering, Reformation, All-Saints, 70th anniversary, new baptismal banner and letters, will order color calendars, and may speak with Matt Larson or another synod Pastor to preach at a service at the beginning of the year.

A/V project is completed. We have a new front screen, televisions for the choir loft and back balcony, and a new projector. The computer has been moved to the balcony. Now any videos will fit the front screen along with the PowerPoints not needing to be adjusted. The choir will be able to see the television from the choir loft. Pastors and members will be able to read scriptures, prayers, etc. from the balcony. It was exciting to see the confirmands use the back television on Confirmation Sunday. We are able to split the screens so Sunday School songs, milestone ministries, etc. can be just on the back screen. All systems provide a nice clear image and enhance our technology capabilities. We thank the endowment committee, Kumm funds, and members for their donations to making this project happen. As we continue to build our online opportunities, we will have a continued need for more financial funds

**Education Ministry Team**

Sunday School began September 13, 2020, -We will continue with in-person Sunday school unless the Kingsland school district goes to distance learning. Sunday School would also then go to a distance learning option.

If we go to Sunday School at home, will need to discuss when/how we would resume in-person learning. Gina shared the 4-week kits she has created for the families who are choosing to do Sunday School from home. These would also be utilized for other families should we not be able to gather in person. As it will not be feasible to do a traditional Christmas program, it was decided that we would attempt to do a video instead. Each classroom would do a portion of the program that would then be combined and shared with

the congregation. Filming would occur during Sunday School. Gina will work on getting this arranged and will reach out to necessary parties for assistance.

**Property Ministry Team**

Discussed the budget and want to add a building maintenance line, will plan to seal coat the parking lot next summer, will bundle the church phones and internet, decided to accept the bid from Flooring Frenzy for new flooring, had to have repairs done to one of the furnaces because it would not start.

**Youth Ministry Team**

Ann is going to meet with the Pastors about what the youth can do for a Christmas Program. She will start working on this right away. We are going to put together care packages to send to the college students even if they are still home studying.

Senior league has been meeting on Wednesday nights at the same time as confirmation. All is going well. We are looking for one replacement on the committee.

**Old Business**

The phone system in the church does not work properly. Michelle Plaehn received a quote from Mediacom and approval was made for the new phone system.

Approval was given to move forward with the flooring project.

Beginning in January 2021 we will use on-line QuickBooks.

**New Business**

The loan of $10,000 will be repaid to the Kumm Fund.

The Hunemuller family will be received into membership

Approval was given to have Sue Kolling as a signer on the Our Savior’s Lutheran Cemetery accounts.

*Detailed minutes are available on the bulletin board by the Food Cart.-submitted by Helen House, Secretary*

Executive Council meeting: November 5, 2020 at 5 p.m.

Council meeting: November 8, 2020 at 10:15 a.m.

***Education News!!***

**The confirmation students held our first service class in October. The students helped make thank you’s for the Sunday School Teachers. We will be sharing the thank you’s with the teachers throughout the year.**

**The confirmation students have been meeting in person but will transition to Zoom meetings for the winter months.**

**Our Sunday School teachers have signed on for a much different year. There are many things we are not able to do the same, however they come each week with a smile and share God’s Love with the**

**children. We thank them for their patience and grace during this time.**

**We are always needing substitute teachers. If you are able please call Gina Jahn 507-251-1610 to be**

**added to the list.**

**Please join me in thanking our Sunday School staff. Send a note, say a prayer. or offer a verbal thank**

**you! We are blessed with a caring staff each year to guide our children on their faith journeys.**

**Contact Us:**

**Our Savior’s Lutheran Church**

805 S Broadway Ave
Spring Valley, MN 55975

Ph 507-346-7251

Email: oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com

Website: [www.oursaviorsspringvalley.com](http://www.oursaviorsspringvalley.com)

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

**2020 Community Christmas Dinner Cancelled**

With the consideration of safety, the dinner for this year has been cancelled. Arrangements have been made to provide meals for shut-ins.

Details will follow in the December newsletter for those needing a Christmas Day dinner. The area Ministerial wants this to be a safe Christmas.

 **Remember our Deadlines**-

Articles and announcements for the newsletter are due by the 17th of the month. Announcements for the worship bulletin, Thursday by noon. Thank you!

**Baptism**-

We celebrated the baptism of Gavin David Smith, son of Dustin & Nichole Smith, on Sunday October 18th, 2020.

Do you have a baptism coming up in your family? Please contact the church for a baptism request form and to schedule the date.

 **Weather Cancellation Policy**: Worship service cancellations will be announced on KAAL-TV, channel 6; KTTC-TV, channel 10; FOX-TV, channel 47; and Face Book

 **Anniversary**

Nevin & Debby Groth will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on November 14th. They were married at Our Saviors Lutheran on November 14th, 1970.

**Thank You**

We received a thank you from Good Earth Village. They wanted to thank us for supporting the ministry by sponsoring the virtual gala. They are blessed to be in partnership with OSL.

Duane and Gina Knutson would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support over the last few months.

 **Reminder**

**Daylight savings time begins on November 1st. Make sure to move your clocks back one hour.**

 **Blood Drive**

**There will be a blood drive at the community center in Spring Valley on Thursday, November 12th from 12:00pm-6:00pm**

 **Christmas in Fillmore County**

**It will be held this year on December 15th from 2-6pm. It will be drive through only under the canopy here at Our Savior’s. There is an envelope at the church for donations.**

**Communion Can Come to You**

We are now able to bring communion to your home when you are not able to attend worship on Sunday mornings at OSL. Pastor Betsy is coordinating this ministry. A grace bag with the bread and wine and other worship aids is delivered to your home or the care centers after worship on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Pastor Betsy will telephone on weekday afternoons to do the service with you. Calls can be on zoom or facetime if available at your house as well. If a specific time is important, you can arrange it with Pastor Betsy at 507 884 4853.

In these changing days of risk with the Corona virus, many are not choosing to gather with large numbers of people. Families worshipping at home with Youtube or Facebook can request to have elements brought to your home. If you would like to be part of this ministry by delivering grace bags from time to time, please call Pastor Betsy. We are a church that welcomes the real presence of Jesus Christ in our people wherever they may be.

#####  **All Saints Service:**

##### **We will be having an all saints service on November 1st at 9:00am. As part of each worship service we will name and remember those that have passed away as one of the saints who enriched our lives as a person of faith and who now lives eternally in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we approach this time we will hold your family in prayer, asking God to grant you “the peace that passes understanding” and the joy of eternal life in Christ as you mourn the loss of your loved one. If you are able, please join us for this important moment of worship.**

Kevin Beck: 1965-2020

Delores Erichsen: 1930-2020

Jack Fox: 1940-2020

Robert Jahn: 1922-2020

Karilyn Reiland: 1941-2020

Juneus Ristau: 1933-2020

Dale Ristau: 1930-2020

Donald Rose: 1940-2020

Melvin Schmidt: 1920-2020

Darrell Vikse: 1929-2020

Lucille Daggett: 1933-2019

Ovedia “Pat” Ione Backken: 1935-2020

**We appreciate all 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.**

**November 1:**Altar Guild - Dawn Webster – No Communion

Greeter - Sherry Wendt

Scripture Reader – Sherry Wendt

Videographer – Christopher Knode

 **November 8:**Altar Guild – Annette Hyland - Communion

Greeter – Kathy Baarsch

Scripture Reader – Kathy Baarsch

Videographer – Dan Reiland

 **November 15:**Altar Guild – Gladys Peterson - No Communion

Greeter-Sharon Jahn

Scripture Reader-Kathy Clark

Videoagrapher-Kaden Rath

**November 22:**Altar Guild – Eileen Rathbun & Carol Ahern – Communion

Greeters-Judy Frank

Scripture Reader- Gina Jahn

Videographer- Garrison Hubka

**November 29:**Altar Guild –

Greeters – Bob Baarsch
Scripture Reader – Zach Queensland

Videographer – Reid Kruegel

**We are thankful that the church office is now open again. We are continually reviewing our practices in light of the risk of Covid transmission and other health concerns. Our front office area is not a large space; sometimes it becomes crowded when several people stop by at once.  In order to assure social distancing, please call the office before you stop by so that we can be sure that we don’t have too many in the office at one time. We love for you to stop by, but now we need to be more intentional about how we operate in the building together. Thanks very much for your cooperation.  Questions or concerns? Contact Pastor Susan by calling her at church or email her** at pastoroslsv1950@gmail.com.

**Thankoffering**

When you give to Thankofferings, your dollars support the national Women of the ELCA ministries that reach thousands of communities. Thankofferings provide for justice programs including a network of racial justice advocates and educators. Thankofferings support advocacy for the health and safety of women and children. Your Thankofferings support a publishing ministry that reaches more than 70,000 women, including free program resources that bring Lutheran theology to topics ranging from women’s health & prayer, to stewardship, and human trafficking.  Your Thankofferings support the total outreach of Women of the ELCA to live out its mission - mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, we now collect our Thankoffering. For more about the churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA, go to [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org/). Thankoffering donations will be received until December 27th.

 **Bakeless Sale**

Our main fundraiser this year is the bakeless sale. If you could contribute what you would have normally spent on ingredients to bake, we would appreciate your generosity. Please drop off or mail to the church. Donations will be received until December 27th.



**For your Thanksgiving Day gathering, remember to give thanks to the Creator of all. Use this or your own prayers to show your gratitude.**

**Psalm 65**

**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;** **you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**
You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;** **with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**
You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.
**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,** **and the hills be clothed with joy.**
May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

**Let us pray:**

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Please recycle this newsletter when

you are finished with it



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November 2020