



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

May 2022 Newsletter

Joy in the Journey

with Pastor Jolene

My friend, Brenda, recently shared this experience (her kids are 4 and 6 years old): “Reading the Good Friday Bible story to the kids today and when I said that Jesus' body was gone, Alex *gasp*ed, and it just made my heart stop. That's likely the same reaction Mary had that day. And all day the kids keep telling me how people put Jesus on the cross, but it's ok because Jesus is alive!”

OSL's kindergarten Sunday school teacher had a great lesson for our kids on Palm Sunday. They shaped crescent rolls like Jesus' tomb and put him inside using a marshmallow then baked them. When they ate them, one girl burst out saying, “It's empty! He's not there!” 😊

Every child will be guided and shaped by some story, some value system. We want our children to be shaped by the story and experience of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ. We desire our children to be raised living the abundant life of dwelling in Christ. Life is beautiful and hard, and when kids and teens know in their **core** that God is here, with us, God is alive: to help, to heal, to bless, to forgive, to welcome – they will have hope. They will have faith that from every hurting and piercing, they too shall rise. The many disappointments and losses in life can be navigated differently because of this wondrous love, this presence that triumphs. We live open to seeing Christ in ten thousand places. In the person with whom we struggle; in the little child who thinks the blanket fort is magical, in the need of a neighbor across the ocean.

Easter isn't just a day. It is an entire season that stretches from Resurrection Sunday to Pentecost. These 50 days are meant for hope,

celebration, and joy. There is much uncertainty in our world: war, destruction, hate, lies, strained relationships. And Jesus comes with peace. For Jesus, peace involves not absence but presence. Jesus' resurrection gift of peace, of wellbeing, is one that arrives into our lives as they are right now, not as we would like them to be or think they must be. This peace makes its own space in us and through us.

Thank you for your kindness and patience during my radiation treatments. I needed lots of rest the final week of radiation and the first week after radiation. It was God's blessing to share the tenderness of Maundy Thursday worship and the joy of Easter Sunday with you, beloved congregation. As a people, we were receptive to Christ and experienced renewal and hope. I look forward to May's special events: celebrating the 9th grade confirmands and God's guidance in their lives and thanking God for our faithful Sunday school teachers and Confirmation guides.

On May 18 I will have surgery to remove my main source of estrogen. Dramatically reducing my estrogen levels will lower my rate of cancer reoccurrence by 40%. This will be a much easier surgery to recover from than the one I had November 18. I feel like I am still in cancer journey mode; hopefully after one more surgery later this summer I will be able to “turn the page” and cancer will be just one part of my life, not the dictating factor. I have not felt alone in this journey, and I thank God for working through you to accomplish that. I eagerly await the day when learning names, visioning ministry, and building stronger relationships again fills the space that cancer has occupied. God will see to that.

“When it was evening of that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear, Jesus came and stood among them ad aid, “Peace be with you”.’ John 20:19



Jesus, our dead and living friend,
we walk the ways of death and life
holding fear in one hand
and courage in the other.
Come find us when we are locked away.
Come enliven us.
Come bless us with your peace.
Because you are the first day of creation
And all days of creation.
Amen.

Prayer by Padraig `O Tuama in “Daily Prayer”.

Reflections

With Pastor Betsy Dartt

It all started with garbage. After my sister’s death, the neighbor across the street was offering sympathy. “Is there anything I can do?” he asked. I have learned to receive help when offered—especially when so many things were changing. “Well,” I answered. “Sometimes you have helped us by taking out the garbage cans on collection day. It would really help if you could continue do that.” “Sure, I can—that’s easy for me.”

“By the way said the neighbor, “Do you like prayer candles?” “Oh yes, why do you ask?” “I light a vigil candle when I do my devotions. It helps me focus and gives me peace. I like the ones we have at our church. Would you like to have one of these candles? “How special—yes of course and thank you.”

The next day the neighbor came with a vigil candle with a picture of Jesus on it. Now when I do my devotions, I have my own prayer

candle and remember my neighbor as well as others on my prayer list.

“Oh, by the way,” he said. “Would you like to share garbage?” this intrigued me. He continued, “I only have a bag or two each week and I see you are about the same now. Would you mind if I added my garbage to yours? I’d be happy to divide the cost and of course bring you more candles.” So we made a bargain that day. We share garbage and prayers.

We have prayer candles in our sanctuary each week. Notice the three tables with candles, one near the pulpit and two on either side in the side aisles. These candles are for people to light a votive candle from the large candle for prayers of healing or hope or gratitude or devotion. Show your children how it works. Anytime during worship, you may come to the table to light a prayer candle—during a song, before or after worship, during a reading, during communion, or even during prayers. These candles help us give our thought to God and to connect with one another. I find it hopeful to light a candle to name the people who I know have special needs. I find it powerful to light a candle for healing for a friend.

Your Pastors and caregivers are also ready to pray for you and your needs. Don’t hesitate to text or call or email with a concern. It can be private or added to our public concerns for prayers in worship. Likewise, we are grateful and feel the prayers that the community lifts for us. I feel surrounded by the spirit of encouragement and care.

Jesus says, “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify the Father in heaven.” Whether you light the world with your words of prayer or your candles of prayer, you give glory to God and provide a covering for those you love. Sometimes our prayer concerns start in unusual ways, such as garbage. God seems to put new opportunities for connections in our lives every day. May your prayer life be filled with hope and peace.

Staff:

Office Manager-Amber Hobson Cell 641-732-9401

Bookkeeper – Kathy Merkel

Custodian – Toni Sanders

Education Coordinator – Gina Jahn Cell 507-251-1610

Music Coordinator-Choir/Bell Dir. – Elliott Grandall

Youth Coordinator – Ann Oeltjen:
oslsvyouth@gmail.com

Audio/Visual- McCormick Fowler

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

Spring Valley Living: Care Center & Rehab:
Mary Jane Island (Ken Kraut's mother), Maxine Mlenar, Donna Rowe, Joan Baarsch, Judy DeYoung, Mary Jo Dathe, Jan Christopherson, Anita Nelson, Gerrie Webster

Estates & Evergreen:
Roy Christopherson, Elaine Sheldon, Lorraine Hancock, Rhoda Jones, Bev Jertson, Connie Koball

Waters Assisted Living, Rochester
Marilyn Kappers, Larry Kappers

Prairie Meadows Senior Living, Kasson:
Wil Mohlis



Office Hours: 9:00 to 3:30, Monday through Thursday. Closed on Fridays. We encourage you to call ahead, as there are times when Amber is out of the office, at the bank, post office, or for other needs. Office:507-346-7251
oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com

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

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS:

Undesignated Memorial - In Honor of Bill Vreeman- Kelvin & Linda Niemeyer



Good Earth Village is very grateful for the leadership of Bob Baarsch of Our

Savior's Lutheran as a board member for the past six years. During his tenure on the board, Bob shepherded GEV through an improvement of the housing options available at camp, more effective and affordable insurance, accounting and cash flow systems, human resource policies and management practices, site management procedures, and was indispensable during GEV's pandemic response including emergency funding and staffing decisions. Bob's impact will be felt for decades to come, and probably forever. Our ministry is stronger because of his care, concern, and innumerable hours of service.

In keeping with tradition, GEV is excited to welcome Rachel Welch as the new board member from Our Savior's. Rachel's lifelong relationship with camp and her leadership in the community will inform the next generation of decisions about GEV growth and impact. She knows the best of our history and our prospects for the future.

Dianna M. Parks, Executive Director

Highlights from April 10, 2022, Church Council Meeting

Old Business: organist contract reviewed by the council

New Business: motion passed for Membership to contact all members to update contact information

Education Team: GEV coming for last day of Sunday School, VBS will be June 5-9, need to recruit VBS staff

Membership Team: Mother's Day gifts have been purchased, New Member dinner will be in August or September, coffee between services has started, a place for a Membership bulletin board has been selected

Worship Team: reviewed Lenten services and previewed plans for April and Easter services

Business Team: purchased new copier, worked on contract for bookkeeper

Property Team: proposal from Benike construction was reviewed with new team members, discussed fertilizing the church lawn, still waiting on second tuckpointing proposal

Youth Team: no report

Detailed minutes are available on the bulletin board by the food cart.

Submitted by Ann Ihrke, Secretary for Council

Executive Council meeting: Thursday, May 5, 2022, 5 pm.

Council meeting: Sun., May 8, 2022, 10:30 am.

Detailed minutes are available on the bulletin board by the food cart.

Submitted by Ann Ihrke, Secretary for Council



Root River Conference-
WELCA
2022 Spring Gathering

Saturday, May 7th at Chatfield Lutheran Church
8:00am-Registration, Displays/Vendors, Coffee Fellowship.

9:00am-Program

12:30pm-Lunch

\$10.00 includes Program, Morning Coffee & Lunch

“Paul’s Message of Love is...”

Love is patient; Love is kind;.. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Guest Speaker: Kathy Little

Kathy is from Houston Minnesota. She is retired after 36 years as an English teacher and school counselor in Caledonia and Winona. She writes a monthly column for the Fillmore County Journal. Her hobbies are reading, writing, speaking, and gardening.



We Welcome to the body of Christ, Trigg Robert-Paul Losey, born on February 7th, 2022. Baptized on April 23rd,

2022. Parents are Zachary Losey & Brianna Jones. Siblings are Krom Losey & Pailynn Pischke. Godparents are BJ Jones, Brittany Jones, Chey Losey, & Quentin Miland. God bless and keep you, Trigg.

Thank you!

I want to thank all of you for the prayers, cards, calls & well wishes during my knee replacement surgery. I am doing great. *Ken Kujath*



terms of
resurrection



Feeding the Community

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.

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

Food or cash donations are always greatly appreciated. Thank you!



National Salvation

Army Week is May 9-15, 2022. This week is set aside to remind or

inform the country of the comprehensive nature of the services provided to help people in need. These are our neighbors — our brothers and sisters. National Salvation Army Week was declared by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954, and since then it has served as an annual reminder of the vast scope of the services and ways you can help.



Need help around the home? Kiwanis volunteers are available to help you on projects that you are unable to do (lawn cleanup, minor painting,

window washing, etc.).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call Gene: 346-1295 or Jay at Edina Realty: 346-1751 Spring Valley, MN

Youth News

Flowers for sale



The Youth are selling flowers in May. Before and after services in the Narthex and outside. You can also contact Ann Oeltjen or Dawn Webster.

Senior Class of 2022



Senior Recognition Sunday – **May 22nd at 9am worship.**

Please wear something that shows your school spirit with your school colors.

Our graduation students: Shayla Aarsvold, Ellie Archer, Shelby Beck, Nick Fetterly, Tessa Fox, Alexys Harwood, Megan Queensland, Kaden Rath, Lydia Voeltz, Thomas Warren, Audrey Webster.

Baccalaureate Service will be in the Kingsland High School Gym **Wednesday June 1st @ 7pm.**

Education News



VBS June 5th-June 9th

Thanks to the many volunteers! Here is a list of volunteers still needed:

1 Music Station Leader
Preschool Leader/Staff/helper (All 5 evenings)
Youth Volunteers
Meal prep (4 nights only) M-Thurs.

Decoration crew for our decorating/pizza party!
May 29th at noon.

In order to prepare for VBS week it is helpful to have a list of students who are planning to attend. Please remember to sign up! Sunday School families have been sent a link to sign up on-line. If you no longer have the link please call, text, or email Gina Jahn or you can call or email the church office.

Confirmation Sunday is May 15th at the 9am worship service. We have 8 students affirming their baptism. *Tristen Aarsvold, Brayden Betts, Gavin Hubka, Aspen Kolling, Blake Oeltjen, Macie Rasmussen, Chantle Reiland, and Ira Schmidt.* We give thanks for the confirmation group guides for their faithful support of all three classes of students this year: *Nathan Hunemuller, Gina Jahn, Mark Burrington, Andrea Drury, Jerry Klevan, Justin Kaster, Rachel Welch, and Emily Fowler.* Pastor Jolene leads everyone through an evening lesson and the guides spend time in prayer and conversation each evening.

We have had such a fun year in Sunday School. It has been wonderful to be together again and to have opening time together and to sing for worship each month. Our last day of Sunday School is May 8th. We will have a special

morning on the 8th. We have invited staff from GEV to be with us to share in some music, a skit, snacks, and fellowship. The children have given an offering to GEV to support the outdoor maintenance of God's creation. That offering has totaled well over \$1000 to date. We have invited "Mr. Steve" (Steve Atwood) to attend so that the children can meet the man they have been praying for all year.

Each year at this time I am reminded of the promises we make to families as they bring their children to the baptismal font. We as the People of God promise to pray for and support the children in their new life in Christ. What does that look like? It looks like praying for our children, grace notes for milestones in their faith life, providing Sunday School curriculum and staff. It looks like a busy week of VBS! It looks like donations to the Bible fund. It looks like confirmation guides, curriculum, stoles placed around the confirmands on the day they confirm the faith they have been practicing.

Below is a list of the current Sunday School staff. We thank them for their faithful presence in the faith life of the children of OSL.

Teachers:

Ann Oeltjen, Olivia Rasmussen, Maribeth Cooper, Sammi Struzyk, Cheryl Runck, Nicky Schmidt, Weston Pease, Michelle Knode, Jessica Bronson

Helpers:

Aspen Kolling, Rylie Struzyk, Macy Runck, Diesel Bronson, Ira Schmidt, Macie Rasmussen



The Education Ministry team is offering an opportunity to support the Bible Fund by donating \$20 toward the purchase of a Bible to be given to our 3-year-olds, 3rd grade students, and 7th grade Confirmation Students. We will need approximately 20 Bibles to support the students in the 2022-2023 school year. OSL will place a new Bible in the hands of approximately 20 students this fall!



OSL welcomed 13 students to their first communion. Pastor Jolene spent three evenings in class with the students and a family member preparing for the day. It was a lovely service and very powerful to be blessed by the students during worship.

Bottom row left to right:

Kyra Ann Betts

Aiden Christopher Stier

Payton Timothy Thomas Kaase

Lydia Lavonne Campbell

Top row left to right:

Callie Jayde Kolling

Halli Jo Frank

Kesley Jane Hunemuller

Maclaren Laura Adah Fowler

Eli James Schmidt

Middle row left to right:

Pastor Jolene Knudson-Hanse

Tate Owen Rasmussen

Digger Royce Bronson

Jordan Blake Pease

Hailey Sophia Runck

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

May 1st - Altar Guild – Gladys Peterson
Communion: Comm. Assist – Helen House, Jerry Klevan, Deanne Spurgeon
Scripture Reader-Jon Dahl
Greeter- Kathy Baarsch
Videographer- Kaden Rath
Acolytes- Collin Stuart & Paisley Kolling
Scrip Sellers- Aspen Kolling & Macie Rasmussen

May 8th - Altar Guild- Ann Thon
Communion: Comm. Assist- Annette Hyland, Penny Ness, Lori Buchholtz
Scripture Reader – LuAnn Klevan
Greeter - Lori Buchholtz
Videographer – Dick Jahn
Acolytes- Kane & Chloe Drury-DeBoer
Scrip Sellers- Courtland Drury-DeBoer & Lydia Voeltz

May 15th – Altar Guild – Laura Young
Communion: Comm. Assist – Jon & Deb Dahl, Verlyn Johnson
Greeters- Jon & Debbie Dahl
Videographer – Garrison Hubka
Scripture Reader – Laura Young
Acolytes – KD Reiland & Emmerson Dols
Scrip Sellers – Shelby Beck & Kaaleem Reiland

May 22nd -- Altar Guild- Eileen Rathbun & Carol Ahern.

Communion: Comm. Assist- Gina Jahn, Janice Christianson, Sherry Wendt
Scripture Reader – Sherry Wendt
Greeter-Larry & Sherry Wendt
Videographer – Christopher Knode
Acolytes- Jonas Hanse & Emma Struzyk
Scrip Sellers- Caleb & Jonas Hanse

May 29th - Altar Guild- Verna Stockdale
Communion: Comm. Assist- Lee & Laura Young, Nancy Stender
Scripture Reader- Lee Young
Greeters – Jerry & LuAnn Klevan
Videographer- Nora Jahn
Acolytes- Markay Fowler & Kayla Lund
Scrip Sellers- McCormick & Markay Fowler

Ushers for May – Dick & Sharon Jahn, Bob Baarsch

Assisting Ministers-

May 7th – Marge Lenz
May 8th – Jon Dahl
May 14th – Shirley Gangstad
May 15th – Zach Queensland
May 21st – Shirley Gangstad
May 22nd – Sherry Wendt
May 28th – Shirley Gangstad
May 29th – Jerry Klevan

Readings for May

May 1
Easter 3
Acts 1:6-14

May 8
Easter 4
Acts 9:1-19a

May 15
Easter 5
Acts 9:36-43

May 22
Easter 6
Acts 16:16-34

May 29
Easter 7
Acts 17:16-31

June 5
Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21

Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished with it.

Contact US:

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Pastor Jolene Knudson-Hanse:

Lead Pastor **Cell:** 507-512-9414

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Pastor Betsy Dartt: Visitation

Pastor **Cell:** 507-884-4853

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