



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

September 2022 Newsletter

Joy in the Journey

With Pastor Jolene Knudson-Hanse

I remember my Grandpa Nels carefully watching people as they went up for Communion. Grandma would be singing the hymns and Grandpa would be studying the people. I asked my Grandpa about this one Sunday dinner after worship. His answer was different than what I expected.

"I am noticing who is missing. I make a note of the person or family I have not seen in several weeks and then I pray for them and ask God who I should reach out to this week. I want to show that I care". I decided to eavesdrop on my Grandpa's phone conversations later that week. (My brother and I spent a great deal of time at our grandparents' home). I found out that Arnold's brother had heart surgery and Arnold and his wife were going to help his brother on the weekends. I learned that Mike had a fall and wasn't getting around well. (*I don't recall the names 30+ years later, but I do recall the situations!*) Grandma baked something every day, she genuinely enjoyed baking, and the day after the phone conversations Grandpa delivered some homemade cinnamon rolls to Arnold and Joyce and Mike. This was Grandpa's ministry in retirement. He loved conversation and was not a gossip. This was how he cared for his neighbor, and it showed me the power of Christian community. What it means for someone to notice when you are "missing" and taking time to find out why. When I was a bit older and was entrusted with teaching 3rd grade Sunday school, I had a student who had been very regular and then was gone several weeks in a row. I asked my Grandpa what I should do. He made the phone call for me. The student's grandparent had died.

Henry Miller wrote that "humans' work in the world is to *remember to remember*." To remember. To give limbs and body again to the ancient and new story of God's being WITH us, among us. We remember as we sing holy songs together. We re-member as we hear the Scripture and trust that it is a Word for us. We re-member when we reach out to someone we haven't seen in worship.

To remember and to be remembered is a **gift**.

This fall we are using the Narrative Lectionary for our preaching. It is the year of Matthew. We start in the Hebrew scriptures in the fall and in late Advent the gospel readings become the primary reading. Pastor Betsy and I are using a resource called "Worship Well" a collaborative of Lutheran musicians and pastors who explore the Scripture texts and write prayers, overviews and share music ideas. The fall theme is

RE-MEMBER.

We remember birthdays and anniversaries. We remember departed loved ones and friends far away. We are humbled when someone sends a note or text to say, "I was thinking of you today". Sometimes the power of memory feels more like a curse than a gift though. Our memories can drag us back to a painful event or a choice we made in haste or anger or fear. To remember. To be remembered.

Reading the Bible is a kind of remembering, of being remembered. Come along with us as we engage with old, old stories inviting us to recall and reassemble them and ourselves in new ways. We will explore the complex and varied human and divine experience of memory and forgetting. The Bible's memory pulls us into an

ancient vortex of celebration and shame, of joy and sorrow, of liberation and slavery. We are asked to remember honestly and enter new paths, trusting Jesus above all else.

“Look who gathers at Christ’s table! Hear the stories that they bring. Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing. Others ask why they’re invited, burdened by the wrong they’ve done. Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for everyone.” (Hymn #977 All Creation Sings, text by Thomas Troeger).

God welcomes all. God’s invitation never ends.

Pastor Jolene

God Remembers

Reflections

With Pastor Betsy Dartt

On a shelf where I can see it often, is a crystal etched plaque with a Bible verse from Philippians 3:14: *“Press on toward the goal to win the prize of the heavenly calling of God through Christ Jesus.”*

Living a goal-centered life in Christ is healthy for people and for congregations. We need both a life-long goal that will take us from youth to old age and we need shorter goals that bring us step by step toward the prize. When I was a

teenager, my understanding of my long-term goal was quite simple, “Love God. Love God’s children.” I considered that this goal could last all my life without being dependent on my physical health or my mental competence, or my heart felt emotions. You can love God and love God’s children and still fit underneath that main goal a myriad number of goals to fit your current circumstances and effort.

So then it was important to start with some of those short-term goals. First of all, there was college with an eye to a career; something in me not yet named exactly but something that involved teaching; something that God had told me was not quite typical in the culture of the 1960’s. Of course, along with that was the goal of being a wife with children and a household. In a distant future vision I hoped to be a grandma and share life with my family for decades ...Until the final call of the heavenly prize for life in heaven with God.

God knew well the desires of my heart and the purposes he knew I could serve in his kingdom. Most of you know that at the present time in my life, I am still devoted to Love God and Love God’s people. I have been blessed by God with a son Ben and now his beautiful wife Erica and two grandsons Finn and Anders. I am blessed to serve with the Lead Pastor of OSL Pastor Jolene as we preach and show a caring Word to this congregation.

I would not have survived these many years without backup plans through which God has helped me with many obstacles. Backup plans increase my desire and ability for excellence. It can make the difference between achieving the gold or letting the opportunity drown. There is a story about the great Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps who in 2008 had his eye on the record for the most gold medals by an Olympian and a world record for the 200-meter butterfly. He had all the ingredients to master this goal but as he dived into the pool, his goggles started to

fill with water. Within seconds, he could not see anything but water—but this great swimmer had been prepared for problems in practicing for his goals. Michael immediately began to count his strokes. He knew exactly how many strokes from each end of the pool. Michael Phelps not only broke the world record that day but claimed the honor of the person with the most gold medals in the 2008 games.

As individuals and as the community of the people of God, we need life-long goals, short range marks, and backup plans to accomplish all that God has designed us to be. *So we press on to the prize of the heavenly call from God to live in his grace forever.*

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 Director – Elliott Grandall
Youth Coordinator – Ann Oeltjen:
oslsvyouth@gmail.com
Audio/Visual- McCormick Fowler
Organist- Evelyn Clark



Office Hours: 9:00am to 3:30pm, 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 Phone: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!

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 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, Connie Koball, John Kruegel, Jerry Rollie

Estates & Evergreen:
Roy Christopherson, Elaine Sheldon, Lorraine Hancock, Rhoda Jones, Bev Jertson, Wilma Cummings

Waters Assisted Living, Rochester
Marilyn Kappers, Larry Kappers

Prairie Meadows Senior Living, Kasson:
Wil Mohlis



Blessing of the Farm Equipment will be on Sunday, September 25th at 9:00am. Your equipment is BIG, so it

would be difficult to bring to church for a blessing. It would be great if you would take a picture or two of you and your equipment. Send the picture to the church and it will be put up on the screen during the service.

oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com

The pictures need to be in by Wednesday, September 21st.



Shirley Gangstad announces the fall book study will convene on September 12th reading *Sensible*

Shoes by Sharon Garlough Brown. One reviewer describes the book this way: "Through emotionally resonant characters, *Sensible Shoes* encourages us to communicate with God in new ways, broadening our spiritual journey one step at a time." Call the church office to sign up and we will order a copy of the book for you! (507) 346-7251



Senior Choir is "Changing It Up!" This fall, when OSL Senior Choir begins again, we will meet from 10:15-

11:15am, with hopes of attracting a few new members with this later time. We begin rehearsals on September 11th. If you have questions, please call Director, Elliott Grandall at 507-346-7882.



The Spring Valley Area Food Shelf appreciates all donations, cash, or grocery

items. At OSL, items can be left in the grocery cart at the east entrance.

Highlights from August 14, 2022, Church Council Meeting

Old business: Property presented an endorsed bid from Benike Construction for the tuckpointing of the brick and other exterior repairs. The Council is planning a retreat for October.

New business: The Youth team asked to add wording to the campership applications to clarify funds provided by the youth. Pastor Jolene presented a plan to have monthly catered meals for confirmation youth, their parents, and any other members who would like to come
Membership Team: good response to the Directory Information Update form. Forms will be made available at the church. Ushers may act as backup for making Sunday morning coffee. Discussed preparations for AGAPE* in October.

Business Team: Added James Hanse to Pastor Jolene's health insurance. Kathy Merkel renewed the OSL QuikBooks accounting software. A new office security camera has been ordered.

Education Team: Sunday School offering will be given to GEV. One more Sunday School teacher is needed. December 11 was chosen to be the date for the Christmas program.

Worship Team: Another Songs and S'mores is upcoming. Security/emergency measures were discussed for anything happening during a church event. Discussion about training of communion assistants.

Youth Team: The trip to Lakeside Camp was discussed. Youth Kumm Funds will help pay for AGAPE* in October. Other fall events were discussed (outdoor movie, Valley Scare, lock-in).

Detailed minutes are available on the bulletin board by the office. Submitted by Ann Ihrke, Secretary for Council Executive Council meeting: Thursday September 8th, 5:00pm. Church Council meeting: Sunday, September 25, 2022, 5:00

*Our Savior's Church Women- WELCA
Bakeless Sale*

It's that time again to turn off the oven and support Our Savior's Church Women by donating to the Bakeless Sale. You'll find an envelope in the newsletter or at church for your donation. Cash is of course welcome. You may also write a check to OSL WELCA. Please put "Bakeless sale" in the memo line.

The donation may be put in the offering plate, left at, or mailed to the office.

Lutheran Social Services and area food shelves are some of the beneficiaries of this effort.

***Southeastern Minnesota Synodical
Women's Organization Convention***

***Saturday, September 17th, 2022
Bethel Lutheran Church
810 3rd Avenue S.E.
Rochester, MN 55904***

*Enjoy Worship, Music, Lunch, Fellowship &
Mission Displays
Registration: \$25.00
Registration Form Deadline:
September 2nd, 2022
Check in OSL office for registration forms/list of
events and where to send the forms.*

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS:

Cemetery- In Memory of Marv Lenz- Marjorie Lenz, Dick & Sharon Jahn, Nevin & Nancy Stender

Caring Ministry- In Memory of Marv Lenz- Harlan & Turby Marchant

WELCA- In Memory of Marv Lenz- Ken & Joanne Vrieze

Music- In Memory of Hovden family members- Dick & Sharon Jahn
In Memory of Marv Lenz- Rick & Jan Christianson, Lee & Carol Himle

ELCA Disaster Response- In Memory of Doris (Ray Lemke's sister), Marv Lenz, Paul Vomhof- Ann Thon

General Budget- In Memory of Rhonda Steinkamp- Bob & Kathy Baarsch

Information Tech- In Memory of Marv Lenz- Shirley Gangstad

Undesignated Memorial- In Memory of Marv Lenz- Sharon Schmidt, Randy & Penny Ness, Lyle & Bonnie Kruegel

Bell Choir- In Memory of Marv Lenz- Elliott & Karen Grandall, Roy & Jan Christopherson

Food Shelf- In Memory of Marv Lenz- Ken & Brenda Clark

Audio/Visual- In Memory of Ronda Steinkamp-Shirley Gangstad

Sunday School Ministries- In Memory of Andrew Nash-Randy & Penny Ness

Music- In Honor of Karen Grandall's Father- Linda Niemeyer



We are excited to have Joe Davis and Dave Scherer (AGAPE*) with us on **OCTOBER 2nd** for Worship and Sunday school!

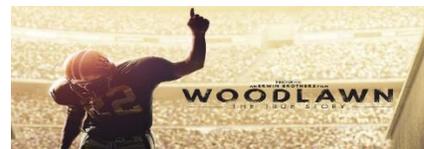
Through music and art, we will be strengthened in our baptismal call to work for justice and peace. Be energized with Christ's peace and power!

Joe Davis and David Scherer are artists and educators who have over 30 years of shared experience between them in helping individuals and organizations create a more just and equitable world. They are both national performing artists, Qualified Administrators of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), and are co-creators of JUSTmove: Antiracism Education through the Arts.

Youth News

Youth 10th -12th grade: Senior League starts Wednesday September 21st @ 7pm. Come enjoy snacks, games, movie, music, and great youth group time.

Youth Outdoor Movie will be on Saturday September 24th at 8pm in the church parking lot. Youth 7th -12th grade are welcome to come. Please bring a friend. We will be watching "Woodlawn".



Education News

Fall is Here!!

Our Sunday School is fully staffed! Thank you to our returning teachers and our new volunteers! It takes many caring people to keep our faith formation ministry working smoothly! Many thanks to each teacher and helper, parents who bring the children, and to those who pray for the program and the children! You are all a blessing to OSL!

Our Savior's will give a Bible to our incoming 3-year-old Sunday School students, our 3rd grade students, and to our 1st year 7th grade students entering Confirmation. Any new student to OSL also receives a Bible. This is an important ministry. We support the promises made on the day of Baptism, "place in their hands the holy scriptures," ELW pg. 228. The congregation's gifts to the Bible fund help purchase these Bibles each year.

Our offering will continue to support Good Earth Village. The children made a strong connection to the mission of providing supplies for GEV (and Mr. Steve) so the team in conversation with Dianna Parks agreed that this would be the best place for the offerings from the children.

We will be welcoming students back to confirmation beginning September 14th with a parent, guide, student meeting! If you are new to OSL and have a student who desires to enter the journey of confirmation please contact the office, Gina Jahn or Pastor Jolene so that we can add you to the contact list. We want to be sure that you have all the information!

We welcome back to OSL David Scherer and Joe Davis! October 2nd, 2022, during worship and during the Sunday School hour. David and Joe will be here sharing praise messages through music and poetry! We are so excited to welcome them once again. Invite a friend.

Thank you to our Sunday School staff! We are looking forward to another great year. Please join me in thanking the following individuals: Olivia Rasmussen, Rylie Struzyk, Maribeth Cooper, Cheryl and Macy Runck, Jessica and Diesel Bronson, Carol Copeman, Nora Jahn, and James Hanse.

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.

September 4th - Altar Guild – Ann Thon
Scripture Reader- Laura Young
Greeter- Lori Buchholtz
Videographer-Dick Jahn
Acolytes- Collin Stuart & Bryce Oeltjen
Scrip Sellers-No Scrip Sales

September 11th - Altar Guild- Laura Young
Scripture Reader- Linda Niemeyer
Greeter- Jon & Deb Dahl
Videographer- Nora Jahn
Acolytes- Skylar Lentz & Gretchen Hubka
Scrip Sellers- Garrison & Gavin Hubka

September 18th – Altar Guild- Eileen Rathbun & Carol Ahearn
Scripture Reader- Joan Kujath
Greeter- Verna Stockdale
Videographer- Christopher Knode
Acolytes- Parker & Lydia Campbell
Scrip Sellers- Cole Kruegel & Christopher Knode

September 25th- Altar Guild- Verna Stockdale
Scripture Reader- Kathy Baarsch
Greeter- Larry & Sherry Wendt
Videographer- Garrison Hubka
Acolytes- Kesley Hunemuller & Emma Struzyk
Scrip Sellers- Rylie Struzyk & Landan Hunemuller

Ushers for September- Bob Baarsch, Dick & Sharon Jahn

Assisting Ministers-

September 3rd- Shirley Gangstad
September 4th- Jerry Klevan
September 10th- Marge Lenz
September 11th- Kathy Baarsch
September 17th- Shirley Gangstad
September 18th- Pam McCabe
September 24th- Shirley Gangstad
September 25th- LuAnn Klevan

Readings for September:

September 3rd & 4th

Adam and Eve, having knowledge but not wisdom,
what does it mean to be in a relationship with God
Genesis 2: 15—3:2

September 10th & 11th

Global mission focus with Kathy Chatelaine of
SEMN Synod
Micah 6: 6-8, Luke 10: 25-37

September 17th & 18th

Sarah and Hagar
Genesis 16: 1-16, 21: 8-21

September 24th & 25th

Midwives Remembered
Exodus 1: 8-22

Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished with it.

Contact US:

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Pastor Betsy Dartt: Assistant

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