



# *Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

## *March 2023 Newsletter*

### *Joy in the Journey*

“We claim you as our own.”

One of the best parts of Lent is the meals shared together in the church basement. I recall last March one of our older members said, “I can’t hear much of the conversation, but I love looking at all the faces and feeling the love; it is the best part of my week”. A student picking up people’s plates to bring them to the dishwasher told me, “I love feeling useful. I feel valued”. A parent of a young child commented to me, “I can relax; I know my child is safe, and I can eat a meal while it is still warm”.

It is a tangible reminder that everyone is important to God, everyone has gifts to share, if we have eyes to search and hearts to understand. Our Christian faith teaches that love is greater than ancestry or blood.

Jesus invites people into a larger family which is defined by commitment to the Kingdom of God rather than biology. Those who were joined to him, as ultimately signified by baptism, entered not only into a personal relationship with their Savior, but into a family relationship with all the others gathered into His Church. “For Jesus, water is thicker than blood” (John Bell, *A beginner’s guide to a larger Christ*, Wild Goose Publications). On the cross, the dying Savior looks at those standing around and turns the attention of his faithful, grief-stricken Mother to a young man, his disciple John, standing nearby, saying, “Mother, here is your son” and

to John he says, “Here is your mother”. Ever since, those who belong to Jesus have had to see themselves as also **belonging to each other**. We are not meant to do life alone. We need others to help us become the people God desires us to be. Children’s most important and influential relationship is with their parents, but the Christian community is important for the full development of children and parents alike. No biological family is sufficient. Children need others to encourage them in their life of faith and extend their horizons. I had a time in my teenage years when I could hear nothing my own mother said, but I would engage in conversation with my grandmother’s friends at church and the mother of the children I babysat for. They were/are part of my “big family of God”.

I invite you to take some time with the story of the little girl raised to life and the woman brought back to a full life in Mark 5:21-43. It is a beautiful story of lives made whole by Jesus. Jesus doesn’t want anyone to live in the shadows. The woman who had bled for 12 years has been hidden in the shadows. Her story is paralleled with Jairus’ daughter because to be hid away, to not be recognized for the gifts you offer, is a living death. When Jesus calls her “Daughter”, he names that wholeness is social and spiritual, not only physical. She will be restored to her community, rejected no longer. Jesus makes her visible again. When Jesus tells her “your faith has made you well”, He is recognizing her courage to raise her voice, he sees her inner strength. She is seeking life and

Jesus helps her step over the threshold from almost death to **true life**.

It is no accident that Jesus cannot heal the wealthy girl of privilege before the bankrupt woman at wit's end is healed. Our lives are bound together, whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. Jesus wants us to experience a life connected with others.

Lean into the love of Jesus, let that love fill you with courage and openness to notice those around you. Who can you cheer on and lift up? Who has God put in your path that seems to have lost their spark? Can you remind them of the warmth of home? A place set for them at the table...that someone does care. That's what family does. Jesus claims you as His own and those who belong to Jesus also **belong to each other**.

With gratitude and joy,  
Pastor Jolene



We are moving forward faithfully with our building renovation project! This is an undertaking the Property team has talked about for several years and it is good that necessary repairs (and improvements to the bell tower) will be taking place this summer. Benike Construction has named our project manager and our church council has affirmed those who said "yes, with God's help" to the request to serve on short-term commissions for this important project.

**Our capital campaign team** are Rick Jahn, Doug Plaehn, Wendy Thon, Rachel Welch, Rick Christianson, and Pastor Jolene.

**Our construction management team** are Michelle Plaehn, Jerry Klevan, Matt Fowler, Brett Oeltjen and Pat Campbell.

### Staff:

**Office Manager**-Amber Hobson

**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](mailto:oslsvyouth@gmail.com)

**Audio/Visual**- McCormick Fowler

**Organist**- Evelyn Clark



Office Hours: The church office is open from 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, the post office, or for other needs. [oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com](mailto:oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com)  
Phone: 507-346-7251

### 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, Jim Groth*

#### **Estates & Evergreen:**

*Roy Christopherson, Elaine Sheldon, Lorraine Hancock, Rhoda Jones, Bev Jertson, Wilma Cummings, Judy Rose, Darlene Popadak*

#### **Waters Assisted Living, Rochester:**

*Marilyn Kappers, Larry Kappers*

#### **Prairie Meadows Senior Living, Kasson:**

*Wil Mohlis*



**If you would like to share an Easter Lily** for worship service during the Easter season, please notify the office. You may order Easter lily through the office,

or you may purchase anywhere you choose. Please remember to notify the church office by April 2, 2023 if you are going to bring your own, so it can be added to the bulletin. Please bring that lily to the church by Friday, April 7, 2023. You may leave them by the office.

For those of you ordering from the church, the Easter lily will cost \$15.00.

**Place orders in the office by March 30, 2023 to be able to get in time for service. Please make checks payable to OSL.**

**Donations are received in memory of or in honor of loved ones or friends.**

\_\_\_\_in memory of      \_\_\_\_in honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead an hour on Sunday morning, March 12<sup>th</sup>!

## **Highlights from February 12, 2023, Church Council meeting**

**Old business:** none

**New business:** building and capital campaign committee members were approved; money was released from the Kumm funds to go toward the construction project; council retreat on March 5

**Business:** recommended to release undesignated Kumm funds for construction project

**Education:** SS teacher gifts, VBS to be at OSL June 4-8, Wednesday night meals went well and will resume next fall

**Membership:** worked with Executive council for Pastor Betsy farewell, Lenten devotionals received, discussed simple food item following Easter service

**Property:** moved furniture out of Pastor Betsy's office, discussed members of the construction committee, checking on lift oil leak

**Worship:** reviewed past services, Easter lilies and palms ordered, Ash Wednesday, starting to use songs from a new song book All Creation Sings

**Youth:** camperships available, Ash Wednesday meal, snow tubing at Ironwood Springs Feb. 26, Mission trip meeting upcoming, scholarship applications due end of Feb, updating youth room

*Detailed minutes are available on the bulletin board by the church office.*

*Submitted by Ann Ihrke, Secretary for Council*

*Council, team, and staff retreat: Sunday, March 5, 2023, 2-5 pm at GEV*

*Executive Council: Thursday, March 9, 2023, at 5:15 pm*

*Church Council: Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 10:30 am*



**We Welcome to the body of Christ, Grayson Edward**

**Defelice**, born on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Parents are Vincent & Haley

Defelice. Godparents are Laney Smith & David Candelario. God bless and keep you, Grayson.



**World Day of Prayer** will be at OSLC on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. The featured country is Taiwan. Please join us at 9:30am for coffee with a program following in the meeting room 201.

**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.

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**\*\*Articles and announcements** for the newsletter are **due by the 17<sup>th</sup>** of the month. Announcements for the worship bulletin are due Thursday by noon. Thank you!

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**Service Groups**

We are excited to see in-person activity at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church has grown! It is time to access Service Group members for a bit more help. Adult members of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church belong to a service group. These members may be called to help with a wide variety of events or tasks. Examples include making food for or assisting at special church events or funerals, making, or cleaning up coffee to support weekly fellowship following services, etc. We will publish each month’s list of Service Group members in the newsletter. If you note corrections to the list, please contact Amber.

**March Service Group Organizer:**

Kathy Merkel

**March Service Group Members:**

- Michael Drury/Ginny Nash
- Norman/Barb Eastvold
- Vicki Edgar
- Makaila Eickhoff
- Brad/Denise Erichsen
- Ken/Karen Fetterly
- Billy/Kathy Foster
- Jeff Fowler
- Matt/Emily Fowler
- Tom/Sue Fowler
- Joey/Lisa Fox
- Eric/Cassie Frank
- Paul/Judy Frank
- Wendell/Maggie Freiheit
- Dave/Sherri Grant
- Kevin/Amanda Geer
- Mike/Julane Gehrking
- Jenny Guske
- Dave Grant/Sheri Mitchell

## Education News

Our confirmation students had a busy service project night in February. They completed 10 Blankets of Blessing and helped package hygiene bags for 30 plus students in the Kingsland District and also colored and decorated more bags for the Grace Gifts ministry of OSLC.



They also shared the last monthly meal on the 8th. The ministry team would like to continue monthly meals for the next school year. Thank you to the group guides and all the substitute guides that help our confirmation ministry continue each week. Thank you all for sharing the light of Christ with the students. We are so very thankful for the Sunday school teachers, helpers and substitutes that support the Sunday School ministry of OSLC. This ministry is dependent on many caring volunteers. You are each appreciated by the families and by your church family!

## Youth News

**2023 Summer YouthWork trip:** We have 10 youth going to Indianapolis this summer. We will be gone July 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. We are looking for chaperones for this trip please contact Ann Oeltjen (507-259-3202).

**Youth and parents meeting for trip March 19<sup>th</sup>** after church at ~**10:15am** in the meeting room. We will be going over the trip details and other fundraising events.



**Lent Soup & Sandwich meals:** Please join us before the Lent services for Soup and Sandwich dinners. These will start March 1<sup>st</sup>. Serving will be from 6-6:30pm. Free will donation will be collected for Youth Trip. An email for volunteer and food donations will go out to parents of 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Please sign up to help set up, serve and clean up, please be there by 5:30.

**7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade Lock-In:** Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> 9pm -Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> 5am. Permission slips will be going out via email and to youth at Lent service.

**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.**

**March 5th:** Altar Guild -Ann Thon  
Scripture Reader- Karen Grandall  
Greeter- Conrad Heusinkveld  
Acolytes – Skylar Lentz & Eli Schmidt  
Scrip Sellers- Ira Schmidt & Gavin Hubka

**March 12th:** Altar Guild- Dawn Webster  
**Communion**  
Communion Assistants-Wendy Thon  
Scripture Reader – LuAnn Klevan  
Greeter- Harlan & Pat Bucknell  
Acolytes- Kayla Lund & Payton Kaase  
Scrip Sellers- Kayla Lund & Ashlyn Harwood

**March 19th:** Altar Guild- Eileen Rathbun & Carol Ahern  
**Communion**  
Communion Assistants-Gina Jahn, Verlyn Johnson  
Scripture Reader- Jon Dahl  
Greeter-Judy Frank  
Acolytes- Dane & Chloe Drury-DeBoer  
Scrip Sellers- Macy Runck & Chloe Drury-DeBoer

**March 26th:** Altar Guild- Ann Thon  
**Communion**  
Communion Assistants- Deb Dahl, Linda Niemeyer  
Scripture Reader- Zach Queensland  
Greeter-.....  
Acolytes- Paisley & Callie Kolling  
Scrip Sellers- Caisa Kolling & Aspen Kolling

**Ushers for March-** Rick Christianson, Doug Plaehn, Jim Hubka, Rick Jahn, Brayden Oeltjen

**Assisting Ministers-**  
March 5<sup>th</sup> – Sherry Wendt  
March 11<sup>th</sup>- Shirley Gangstad  
March 12<sup>th</sup>- LuAnn Klevan  
March 18<sup>th</sup>- Marge Lenz  
March 19<sup>th</sup> – Jon Dahl  
March 25<sup>th</sup>-  
March 26<sup>th</sup> – Zach Queensland

### **Readings for March**

**March 5**  
Laborers in the Vineyard  
Matthew 20: 1-16  
Psalm: 16: 5-8

**March 12**  
Wedding Banquet  
Matthew 22: 1-14  
Psalm 45: 6-7

**March 19**  
Bridesmaids  
Matthew 25: 1-13  
Psalm 43: 3-4

**March 26**  
Last Judgement  
Matthew 25: 31-46  
Psalm 98: 7-9

**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

**Email:** [pastorjolenekh@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjolenekh@gmail.com)



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**March 2023**