

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

September 2023 Newsletter

Dear family of God,

I love the long daylight of summer, watching what is planted grow, amazed at what is possible even when the rain was lacking. The garden's abundance reminding us: there is enough, it is good to share and yes, zucchini can taste delicious when chocolate is added. Watching kids splash in the pool or a lake...remembering the joy God has in our baptism, Christ's claim upon us. Thank you God for the gift of these days...And it is good that school will soon be starting and there will be more structure in the days of our children and teens.

I hope it works for you to participate in worship in September. We will be having some very special moments in Sunday worship blessing our kids with Bibles and our attention and love. We need your help to make sure kids know they can participate in God-talk, having roles in worship and in serving others. It is so important to learn about God together, from each other, all ages, at home and at church and in this beautiful, big world God loves. Our weekly evening service will move back to Saturdays at 5:30 pm for the school year.

I invite you to "***Manna and Mercy***". I have been wanting to have a time of imaginative God-talk that would help us connect with the scope of the Bible and the heart of its news: Jesus. Dan Erlander's resource does just that with humor and excellent scholarship. I am excited to explore this resource "A brief history of God's unfolding Promise to mend the entire Universe." I have enjoyed using his materials for Communion sessions. His "cartoon" or sketch art makes the material so fun to read.

We will meet twice a month over the next 9 months. We will offer three times: Sunday mornings, Tuesdays at noon and hopefully Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. Please sign up by September 17th so we can order the right number of books. I will lead the discussion. The material is very engaging and accessible. 9th grade and up please attend! We will start in October. Sundays October 15 & 29th and Tuesdays October 17 & 24. If you go away for part of the winter and want to continue to be part of a group, we can easily Zoom you in.

October 1st with **Paul Oman** will be FANTASTIC. You don't want to miss this. Invite others to attend also. It is so beautiful and fun to watch the painting come together in one hour and Jordan Buchholtz will be playing the organ and piano for this very special service. I am thankful for our Endowment Fund and the Kumm Fund that made this event possible. I have been friends with Paul since seminary. He is a nationally acclaimed artist and a great human being.

Pastor Jolene

Jesus of the table,
You gathered unexpected people
around hearths of hospitality.
You stretched out your hand
for grapes and bread, for wine and welcome.
May we populate our tables
with all kinds of people.
Because at the table
our hearts can be glad for a while. Amen.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for Jesus in his house, and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them. Luke 5:29

Staff:

Office Manager/Financial Secretary-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
Audio/Visual- McCormick Fowler
Organist- Evelyn Clark

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, Connie Koball, Jim Groth
Estates & Evergreen: *Roy Christopherson, Elaine Sheldon, Lorraine Hancock, Rhoda Jones, Bev Jertson, Wilma Cummings, Judy Rose, Darlene Popadak, John Kruegel*
Waters Assisted Living, Rochester:
Marilyn Kappers, Larry Kappers
Prairie Meadows Senior Living, Kasson:
Wil Mohlis



Office Hours: 8:30am to 4:00pm, Monday through Thursday. Closed on Fridays. Ph:507-346-7251
oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com

OSLC Mission Statement:

Using God's Word as a foundation, Our Savior's Lutheran shall, through meaningful worship, study, prayer, and mission outreach, provide a Christ-centered atmosphere of enthusiasm, support, sensitivity, and openness to all people.



We Welcome to the body of Christ, Devlyn May Pakulski, born on December 1st, 2022, baptized on August 19th, 2023. Parents are Daniel & April Pakulski. Godparent is Kerry Pakulski. God bless and keep you, Devlyn.



OSL Choir Starting in September

OSL's Senior Choir will begin rehearsing **Sunday, September 10 at 10:15 AM**. You are invited to join this dedicated, talented, and fun group in praising our God and enhancing worship services at OSL. Directed by Elliott Grandall, the choir sings a wide variety of beautiful, meaningful, and profound music. If you would like to join us this fall, please feel free to call Elliott at 507-346-7882.

OSL Jubilee Bells "Ready-To-Ring!"

On **Wednesday, September 6**, Jubilee Bells will begin their performance/rehearsal season for the 2023-2024 worship season. Bell rehearsals are held **Wednesdays at 5:45-6:45 pm**. We typically perform at worship once a month, and occasionally for special concerts and events. If you are interested in joining our group, you need to be able to read music and have a keen sense of rhythm. Elliott is available for questions about the group most anytime at 507-346-7882

Highlights from August 13, 2023, Church Council meeting

Old Business: Capital Campaign update, Thursday evening worship update, sanctuary lighting

New Business: inactive member outreach, youth fundraising ideas, Kumm fund distributions

Business: 2024 team budgets, endowment fund distributions done

Education: Bible search for 3rd grade and 7th grade, Sunday School teachers needed

Membership: bulletin board updates, social media sites, fall new member supper

Property: sanctuary lighting, parking lot cracks

Worship: October 1 special event, review of services

Youth: youth gathering for 2024, fall activities, fundraising ideas for the year

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

*Submitted by Ann Ihrke, secretary for the Council
Next Executive meeting: Thursday, September 7th at 5:15pm*

Next Council meeting: Sunday, September 10th at 10:30 am



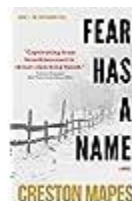
We offer congratulations and blessings to Pastor Jolene on the anniversary of her ordination September 26th, 2004. We give thanks to God for sending her to us and for her ministry among us.



Blessing of our Farmers will be on Sunday, September 24th 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 20th.



Shirley Gangstad announces the fall book study will resume on September 11th at 10:15am with book 4 of the Sensible Shoes series: An Extra Mile. If you haven't picked up your copy, there are a few books available in the church office. See Amber. The study will continue every Monday through October 23. Please read (reread?) chapters 1 and 2 for our opening session. Shirley Gangstad will lead the discussion.



Evening Book Study Group
We are beginning September 18th, 6pm at the home of Julie
Tart: 17060 155th Ave; Spring Valley, MN 55975

We are beginning a new book and a new genre! We welcome new members. We are a fun bunch! The book is Fear Has A Name by Creston Mapes Please order your book and read the first 4 chapters by night one.



**BRINGING THE WORD TO LIFE
BEFORE YOUR EYES**

See the Bible story come to life before your eyes as Paul Oman paints throughout the service on a large-scale canvas. You are invited to this memorable experience. Children enjoy this service! Invite a friend.



Event Location:

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

805 S Broadway Ave

Spring Valley MN 55975

Date/Time:

Sunday, October 1st, 2023 @ 9:00am

Pancake Breakfast to follow worship (gluten free griddle available) Free will offering.

Education News

It's time for Fall Ministry! It is such a fun and exciting time of the year! We welcome students to Sunday School and Confirmation Ministry. We have the opportunity to place the Word of God into the hands of students. We will hear the voices of children and adults singing for worship and the bells will ring again! This is such a wonderful time to give thanks for the ways that God is working in our congregation. We give thanks for Sunday School leaders and Confirmation group guides. We thank them for committing to the ministry of faith formation. We give thanks to the congregation for their prayerful and financial support of the Education Ministry. Please join in praying for the Education Ministry and all who are involved. God's Blessing to all.

Sunday School Teachers: Olivia & Macie Rasmussen, Cheryl & Macy Runck, Nora Jahn, Maribeth Cooper, Sammi, Rylie and Emma Struzyk, Sheri Mitchell, Heather Kaster, Nicky Schmidt, Sherry Wendt, Jade Lange, Jessica Bronson, and James Hanse

Substitutes: Jillian Musel, Kirby Bussman, Carol Copeman, Weston Pease, Kerin Rath, and Sami Plaehn

Confirmation Group Guides: Sally Hubka, Chad Knode, Gina Jahn, and Nathan Hunemuller

We are planning a congregational meal for September 13th. Come and enjoy a meal together as we begin our Wednesday evening activities. This meal is intended for everyone! The meal will begin at 6:15pm and will finish by 7:00pm. Ody's Country Meats will cater.



All are welcome
October 14th
9am-2pm
Lunch will be provided

We are having a quilting day to make quilts for the Baptism Chests. We will have a couple sewing machines available, but if you are able to bring yours that would be appreciated. We will cut and piece quilt tops for the baptism quilts. Experience is welcomed, but not necessary. There are many jobs to do. We will need people to iron, cut and sew blocks. We are willing to teach!

Youth News

Anyone in Grades 9th – 12th interested in attending the 2024 ELCA Gathering in New Orleans, please note that there will be a registration meeting on September 10th, 2023 @ 10:15am.

Senior League starts again on September 20th @ 7pm.

Confirmed Youth that are in high school and your friends are welcome to attend.

This year we will be enjoying our freshly remodeled youth room.

Upcoming events: October - Outdoor movie

Service Groups



Thank you to those who start coffee, pour juice, and make our fellowship inviting. The monthly service group members are asked to provide treats or make coffee for fellowship time following Sunday services, and to buy/bake cakes for funerals. Presently, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for members to volunteer to provide treats and make coffee. The Service Group Leader only needs to call for volunteers if there are blank spots on this sign-up sheet. Amber sends out monthly reminders to those on the list with directions on how to prepare the coffee and being mindful of those with allergies.



New Member Meal Orientation October 15th 5:30 pm

Are you interested in deepening your relationship with God, your neighbor and creation? Faith is a team sport, and we are in this together! There will be a meal and time to hear one another's stories and learn the guiding principles of Lutheran

Christians on Sunday, October 15th. Please invite someone who has worshipped with OSLC or served our community. The church is a living organism, and we value new people who want to invest their time and love in the future of the ministry Christ Jesus has entrusted to Our Savior's Lutheran people of God.

Part-time Associate Pastor search:

The SEMN Synod staff have their ears and eyes open for a candidate to serve at OSLC. They have spoken to several who declined the opportunity for further conversation. There are a lot of pastors retiring this summer, so they are very busy securing interim pastors and assisting congregations seeking full time rostered leaders. We have permission to keep our ears and eyes open too.

If you have a family member whose pastor is retiring or are aware of an ELCA pastor in good standing that may fit well at OSLC, please talk with one of the executive council members: Lori Jones, Roxanne Hellickson, Ann Irke and Lynn Queensland. We would run the person's name by the Synod staff and then ask for further conversation or an interview. We are seeking someone who would collaborate with Pastor Jolene for worship planning, lead 3 evening worship services a month and do some pastoral care visitation. This is a 13-15 hour a week salaried role, preaching the gospel, administering the sacraments, keeping confidence, affirming questions, inviting prayer, helping others experience love and challenge in the body of Christ.



Senior Luncheon October 5th at 11:30 am at OSLC

Program to follow at 12:30 pm.

Invite your neighbors and enjoy a lasagna meal together and a musical program that will make you laugh.

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS:

Building Renovation- *In Memory of Jerry Rollie-* Brenda Herting, family & friends

In Memory of Gerrie Webster- Brad & Ann Ihrke, Andrea Avery, Ken & Joan Kujath, Clifford & Ruth Franke, Gary & Gladys Peterson, Myron & Ellen Rollie, Kenneth & Annette Anderson, Rita & Joseph Bezdicek, Doug & Michelle Plaehn, Linda Carr, Mith & Roberta Lentz, Shirley Gangstad, Lisa Schmidt, Craig & Nicole Schmidt, Kurt & Kristy Weise, Sharon Schmidt, Robert & Betty Dewitt, Randy & Penny Ness, Ronald & Dorothy Greseth, Mary Evans, Donald & Gloria Richardson, Ken & Brenda Clark, Sandra Miller, Lyle & Bonnie Kruegel, Debra Fetterly, Bob & Kathy Baarsch, Kristine Henke, Brenda Haack, Gene & Mary Halverson, Bryce & Carol Fox, Patrick & Brenda Arndorfer, Mindy Kaiser, Lynn & Cathy Queensland, Rick & Jodi Buchholtz, Tony & Kelli Larimer, Renee Ziebell
In Memory of Craig Goodsell- Bob & Kathy Baarsch

WELCA – *In Memory of Gerrie Webster* – Pastor Jolene & James Hanse, Dick & Sharon Jahn, Rick & Jan Christianson

In Memory of Lyle Noble- Evelyn Clark

In Honor of Jan Mlenar's 90th Birthday- Evelyn Clark

Music/Choir/Piano Fund – *In Memory of Ray & Ruth Lemke* – Ann Ihrke, Carolyn Kanne, family & friends, Lee & Carol Himle, Larry & Sherry Wendt

In Memory of Gerrie Webster- Lee & Carol Himle, Elliott & Karen Grandall

In Memory of Lorraine Livingston- Nevin & Debbie Groth

Undesignated Memorials-*In Memory of Gerrie Webster-* Rick & Gina Jahn, Polly Lentz, Debra Fetterly, Julie Jackson

In Memory of Jerry Rollie- Polly Lentz

In Memory of Gary Peterson- Judy Cooper

Caring Ministries- *In Memory of Gerrie Webster-* Harland & Turby Marchant, Roy & Jan Christopherson, Ken & Joanne Vrieze

In Memory of Ray & Ruth Lemke- Ann Ihrke, Carolyn Kanne, family & friends

Cemetery- *In Memory of Gerrie Webster & Nordeen Groth-* Evelyn Clark

In Memory of Ray & Ruth Lemke- Ann Ihrke, Carolyn Kanne, family & friends

ELCA- *In Memory of Gerrie Webster-* Boyd & Bonnie Grabau

TRANSISTIONS:

Sympathy and Prayers to the family and friends of Lela (Maloney) Born who died on August 23rd, 2023.

We appreciate all your time that you give to the church. Please find a substitute in your place if you are unable to help. Let Amber know as well.

September 3rd:

Altar Guild- Eileen Rathbun & Carol Ahern
No Communion
Baptism Anniversary
Scripture Reader- Kathy Baarsch
Greeter- Harlan & Pat Bucknell
Acolytes- Victoria Knode & Kyra Betts
No Scrip Sales

September 10th:

Altar Guild -Laura Young & Ann Thon
Communion: Assistants-Wendy Thon, Joan Kujath, Deanne Spurgeon
Scripture Reader – 4th Graders
Greeter- Lee & Laura Young
Acolytes- Jacob Musel & Digger Bronson
Scrip Sellers- Caleb Hanse & Parker Campbell

September 17th:

Altar Guild- Eileen Rathbun & Carol Ahern
Communion: Assistants – Helen House, Gina Jahn
Scripture Reader- 4th Graders
Greeter- Jan Christianson
Acolytes- Bryce Oeltjen & Lydia Campbell
Scrip Sellers- Ashlyn Harwood & Kayla Lund

September 24th:

Altar Guild – Verna Stockdale
Communion: Assistants- Verlyn Johnson, Zach Queensland, Lee & Laura Young
Scripture Reader- Jerry Klevan
Greeter- Lori Buchholtz
Acolytes- Emma Struzyk & Maclaren Fowler
Scrip Sellers- Rylie Struzyk & Emma Struzyk



Summer evening worship services last day will be August 31st at 5:30. Fall worship services will begin on Saturday, September 9th at 5:30pm.

Ushers for September: Bob Baarsch, Dick & Sharon Jahn, Nancy Stender

Sunday Assisting Ministers-

September 3rd – Pam McCabe
September 10th – Sherry Wendt
September 17th – Zach Queensland
September 24th – Jerry Klevan

Saturday Preachers-

September 9th – Pastor Jolene Knudson-Hanse
September 16th – Shirley Gangstad
September 23rd – Shirley Gangstad
September 30th – Pastor Jolene Knudson-Hanse

Saturday Assisting Ministers-

September 9th- Marge Lenz
September 16th – Steve Legreid
September 23rd– Rick Christianson
September 30th- Shirley Gangstad

Readings for September

September 2nd & 3rd

Elemental Faith- Hebrews 11:1-16, 12:1-2

September 9th & 10th

Elements of Belonging-Genesis 2: 4b-25

September 16th & 17th

Elements of Community-Genesis 18: 1-15, 21: 1-7

September 23rd & 24th

Elements of Struggle- Genesis 32: 22-30

October 1st

Paul Oman painting- Luke 24 The Walk to Emmaus

Scriptures subject to change.



Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished with it.

Contact US:

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805 S Broadway Ave

Spring Valley, MN 55975

Phone: 507-346-7251

Email: oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com

Website: www.oursaviorsspringvalley.com

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Pastor Jolene Knudson-Hanse:

Lead Pastor-Cell: 507-512-9414

Email: pastorjolenekh@gmail.com



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