

# *Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

## *April 2024 Newsletter*

There is a new hymn titled *"Listening People"* by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. *"God's word in the flesh God's word in the ancient book Listening. We're a listening people. What is God's present work? How are we stirred? Where might we open to deeper love for the world? How can we tune your church to ringing ever more true?"*

*God's word coming fresh today Listening. We're a listening people.*

(ASCAP. Used with permission).

This song came alive recently as I witnessed 8-year-olds coming forward with their parents to talk about what it means to be a Christ follower. Using the Apostles' Creed and sharing with the congregation that the "stuff" named in the Creed is what sets our tradition apart, that we carry this beautiful and heavy teaching TOGETHER. Together, we confess our faith. Together, we are curious. Together we are changed by the Word of Life, Jesus in the flesh, and the joys and sorrows we share.

"What is the meaning of life?" I have been asked this question countless times. To find joy in serving others, to be connected to God, others and creation, was my response recently. Sometimes it can feel like our life's longings and dreams, pains and joys are all disjointed pieces, we can't make out a pattern. Jesus is the one who holds all things together. Jesus is the key to all the fragments of our life coming together into a whole.

People try to find meaning through success or even through things that can become addictions and destroy our lives. When Jesus is our friend and Savior and connects us to others in

community, we find a deep peace and contentment. Trusting that Jesus is truly with us, we face our problems and tasks differently. We discover a joy that eluded us before. As Dan Erlander puts it: "Jesus had a name for those who follow God's way of loving even enemies. They are called sons and daughters of God which means IMITATORS of the divine life" (Manna and Mercy, page 46). God smiles when we become partner people, empowered by God's Spirit and recipients of the extravagant compassion of Christ.

Easter season prayer

We pray for those whose lives are at critical crossroads: where decisions are clouded by conflicting demands: where courage is required through uncertain times.

We pray for those at the turning points of life: where changes in relationships, changes in family, changes in schooling, changes in employment, changes in health, changes in capabilities, changes in faith cause chaos and bring uncertainty.

We pray for these crises: for patient wisdom to be exercised and fear for change tempered by trust in your promised presence whatever we face.

We thank you, God, for the gift of your Spirit

which binds our brokenness,  
brings us courage  
and helps us face all  
we might otherwise fear.

We pray for those  
whose lives feel  
as if they are on hold—  
the future fearful,  
the present tearful:  
as if boundaries have closed in,  
options closed off  
and what to do and to be  
is for now unclear.

We pray for the church—  
that it be a haven of calm,  
a source of healing,  
a place of space and time  
where truth can be discerned,  
trust shown  
and confidence grown  
for life, in faith, with love. Amen

*Pastor Jolene*



### **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.*



### **Office Hours:**

**8:30am to 4:00pm**

Monday through Thursday.

Closed on Fridays

Phone: 507-346-7251.

[oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com](mailto:oursaviorsspringvalley@gmail.com)

### **Staff:**

**Office Manager/Financial Secretary**-Amber Hobson

**Bookkeeper** – Kathy Merkel

**Custodian** – Toni Sanders

**Education Coordinator** – Gina Jahn

Cell: 507-251-1610

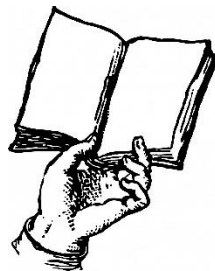
**Music Coordinator-Choir/Bell Director** – Elliott Grandall

**Youth Coordinator** – Ann Oeltjen:

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

**Audio/Visual**- McCormick Fowler

**Organist**- Evelyn Clark



New quarterly, daily  
devotionals are available  
outside of the Church office.

**Caring & Concerns for Members & Friends:**

**Spring Valley Living- Care Center & Rehab:**

*Mary Jane Island (Ken Kraut's mother), Maxine Mlenar, Donna Rowe, Joan Baarsch, Judy DeYoung, Jan Christopherson, Anita Nelson, Connie Koball, Jim Groth, Nevin Stender, Steve Legreid*

**Estates & Evergreen:** *Roy Christopherson, Elaine Sheldon, Lorraine Hancock, Rhoda Jones, Bev Jertson, Wilma Cummings, Judy Rose, Darlene Popadak, John Kruegel, Barb Smith*

**Waters Assisted Living, Rochester:**

*Marilyn Kappers, Larry Kappers*

**Prairie Meadows Senior Living, Kasson:**

*Wil Mohlis*

**Ostrander Care Center:** *Carol Lenz*

**Recently Hospitalized:** *Dennis Hillesland; Bull Kunert; Marilyn Liebold*



Lily Memorials/Honorariums will be in the May Newsletter.



**OSLC Leadership Retreat at Good Earth Village April 28<sup>th</sup> 2-5 pm @ Barr Lodge.** All members of Ministry teams /committees please attend. The purpose of this Retreat is to get to know one another better in small group conversations with question prompts and some learning together using resources from Faith+Lead: **A Life Worth Wanting:** Following Jesus to purpose and meaning.

There will be time for Committees to gather and do visioning for the year ahead. Great snacks, great setting, friends and Jesus. Come for a meaningful afternoon!



Join us as we prepare for our summer camp season! **May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 9:00am- 3:00pm.** Help us with several projects around camp including splitting firewood, trail maintenance, landscaping and much more. This event is great for you to bring your friends or family! Lunch is provided for all who attend! RSVP at [goodearthvillage.org/servicedays](http://goodearthvillage.org/servicedays) and join as your schedule allows. Please feel free to bring your own equipment (chainsaws) and extra

lawn-care supplies.



**ONE YEAR TO LIVE MEN'S RETREAT**

Held at Good Earth Village in collaboration with Lutheran Men in Mission

Friday, May 3 - Sunday, May 5, 2024

Registration Cost: \$175 (includes lodging and meals)Deadline to Register ends

Monday, April 29, 2024

Brochures are available in the Narthex



*Beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith!* Jude 20

Women of Our Savior’s! You are invited to a Women’s Retreat **August 2-4** at Mount Olivet Retreat Center near Farmington, MN. **Retreat begins at 5:30pm Friday and ends at 11:00am Sunday.**

Please register through Our Savior’s. If financial help is needed to attend, please reach out to Pastor Jolene. More information is available in the Narthex.

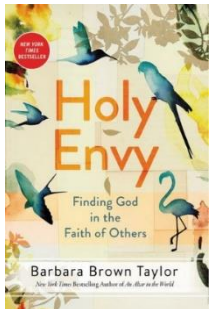
### Endowment Committee

All requests for Endowment Funds need to be submitted to the church by April 30, 2024.

**Broadway Review** is postponed. We are hoping this will take place in November.



May 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm- Benefit Concert for SV Ambulance and First Responders at OSLC! Elliott Grandall and celloist Mark Sander present duets sparking creativity and joy. Free will Offering received



The Monday morning book study group will resume on **April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:15am**, with the book *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. After teaching a college class on the world's great religions, Taylor chose aspects of each of those religions which she found admirable and included them in this book. May 20 will be the last day of our study. Please notify Amber in the office if you would like to participate. Shirley Gangstad is the facilitator.



Food for Kidz packaging event is on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Stewartville Civic Center from 11:00am-3:30pm. We need your help to be one of the 300 needed volunteers to help package 80,000-100,000 meals destined for starving children and families around the world. Channel One in Rochester will also receive one pallet of meals. All ages welcome, no experience needed. Call Mary Brouillard at 507-26-6361 for more information. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



## **NHS CLOTHING DRIVE**

**When:** Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 8:00am-12:00pm

**Where:** Spring Valley Community Center

All items are FREE!!

\*If you are wanting to donate gently used clothing, please drop off your donation at the following locations the week of April 8-12 (not before) or you may bring your donations directly to the Community Center after school on Friday, April 12th:

- Faith United Methodist
- First Baptist in Spring Valley
  - St. Ignatius
- St. John's Lutheran in Wykoff
  - Greenleafton
- Our Savior's Lutheran Church

**Southeastern  
Minnesota Synod**  
*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



Root River Conference Assembly was held on Feb 18. Lori Jones and Julie Tart attended from OSLC. Reports were given from Good Earth Village, Lutheran Campus Center, Winona Immigration Network and the Office of Bishop. Elections were held for Committee

on Reference and Counsel (preparing for Synod Assembly), Consultation Committee and Augsburg University Board.

Treasurer's report was shared. Money was given to Good Earth Village, Lutheran Campus Ministry and for speakers at monthly Pastors Conference gatherings.

It was very good to hear about the 2023 summer camp highlights and the new staff member, Nate Johnson, Program Director for GEV. The commitment to accompany immigrants that are fully vetted and seeking to be productive citizens was inspiring. Welcoming process includes: finding housing, assist in obtaining drivers licenses, enrolling in English classes and acclimating them to the community.



Please join us for a high energy, full of praise worship on April 13, 2024, when we welcome JUSTmove to OSL! Dave Scherer and Joe Davis are returning to share in worship with us! The community is welcome to join us! Invite a friend to join you! Our Savior's Lutheran Church 805 S Broadway Spring Valley - April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm



### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Church Council meeting**

**Old Business:** Property Renovations; Update on bathroom remodel and Acoustical panels

**New Business:** Council retreat April 28, 2024, at Good Earth Village in the Barr Lodge, starting at 2

**Education:** 3 members will be going to council retreat. Joe Davis will be coming on April 13.

Nicole is on Scholarship. Blankets have all been delivered to Camp Noah. Decorating will be done on May 26 for VBS. May 5- will have a skit for VBS. May 12-last day of Sunday school.

**Membership:** Getting organized for flowers for Mother's Day and looking into something for Father's Day. On Easter Sunday, breakfast will be provided after the service – breakfast pizza, milk, juice.

Trying to get organized for Wednesdays on Broadway.

**Property:** Sound panels for the basement are in and waiting until they know more about the bathroom project before putting them up. Continuing research for bathroom projects in the basement.

**Worship:** No report.

**Youth:** No Report.

**Business:** Slight increase on insurance.

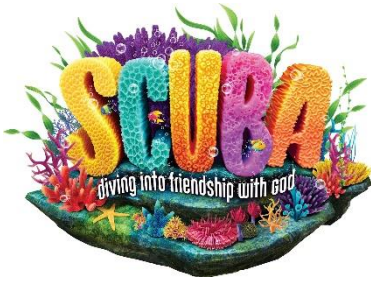
*Detailed minutes are available on the bulletin board by the church office.*

*Submitted by Judy Nelson, secretary for the council.*

*Next Executive Council meeting: April 11, 5:15 p.m.*

*Next Council meeting: April 14, 10:30 p.m.*

## Education News



All are invited to dive into volunteer rolls for VBS! We will guide the kids and together we will learn more about diving into a friendship with God! Come learn and grow with us!!

All lesson material is written and provided for volunteers! We need many hands to make this week fun and exciting for the kids! Encourage a friend and sign up together by contacting Gina Jahn: 507-251-1610

(call or text) or email [rickjahn71@gmail.com](mailto:rickjahn71@gmail.com).

Current volunteer positions needed:

Meal Leader/helpers:

An Actor during Opening skit: Male/Female 6-6:15 each evening.

Tidal treats/Sticky Scripture:

Music Leader

Imagination Station Leader

Reef Rec/Games leader and helpers

5 Group leaders to be with the same group each evening.

Group 1: K/1st

Group 2: 1st/2nd

Group 3: 3rd

Group 4: 4th

Group 5: 5th-6th

Youth Helpers: We always need extra hands, especially for preschool!

Preschool: (Leaders needed for each station)

Director:

Exploration Stations:

Games:

Craft & Play:

Sticky Scripture:

Music/Closing Circle:

Decorating Crew:

Cookie Bakers: Monday-Thursday for mealtime

### **VBS Donations Needed:**

XL Cardboard Boxes to make a big submarine

Streamers: green, blue, red, orange, yellow, purple

Ping pong balls

Fake plants that will be returned just for decoration

Craft sticks

Pool Noodles



The second-grade class led us in the Apostle's Creed. This is their milestone ministry work for this year.

## *Youth News*

Thank you to everyone that came out to support our youth during the Lent Soup and Sandwich meals. We served approximately 477 bowls of soup and raised \$2,158 for The Youth Gathering and other youth activities.

Reminder to our High School seniors Scholarships application and all documentation are due April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Youth Gathering participates and adult leaders: Learning sessions have started and here are the remaining dates. April 21<sup>st</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please watch email for any changes.

Upcoming youth events:

Confirmation Retreat April 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>

Just Move Church event April 13<sup>th</sup>

Senior recognition Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup>



**Flower Sales will start soon. Starting the first weekend in May until they are gone.**



## 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 if there are blank spots on this sign-up sheet.

Amber sends out a monthly reminder to those on the list with directions on how to prepare the coffee and being mindful of those with allergies.

**April Service Group Leader: Jan Christianson**

### **April Service Group Members:**

Shirley Gangstad

Dan/Sue Gilbert

Jacob/Juanita Gilbert

Boyd Grabau

Elliott/Karen Grandall

Linda Groth

Nevin/Debby Groth

Mark/Monica Gusa

Brenda Haack

Steve/Diane Hafner

Jim/Julie Halla

Bonnie Hammon

Troy/Danielle Harwood

Benny/Jan Helgeson

Tyler/Rosie Himle

Nathan/Melissa Hunemuller

## **Readings for April**

### **April 7<sup>th</sup>**

Second Sunday of Easter-Holy Humor

Psalm 23-1<sup>st</sup> Graders

Acts 1: 1-14

Mark 6: 7-13

### **April 14<sup>th</sup>**

Third Sunday of Easter

Lord's Prayer- Kindergarten

Acts 3: 1-10

Mark 6: 53-56

### **April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 1-9

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Mark 13: 9-11

### **April 28<sup>th</sup>**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10 Commandments- 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

Acts 18: 1-4

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

Mark 9: 34-3

### **TRANSITIONS:**

Sympathy & Prayers to Boyd Grabau and family on the death of Bonnie who died on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Memorial services were held at OSL on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS:**

**General Budget-** *In Memory of Mary Jo Dathe-* Don Oss

**WELCA –** *In Memory of Bonnie Grabau-* Evelyn Clark, Kenneth & Brenda Clark, Dick & Sharon Jahn, Steve, Myrna, & Erik Legreid, Ken & Joanne Vrieze

*In Memory of Robert Starry (Amber's Grandfather)-* Evelyn Clark

*In Memory of Duane Nesler-* Evelyn Clark

*In Memory of Herb Kendall:* Evelyn Clark

*In Honor of Sharon Jahn's Birthday-* Evelyn Clark

**Music/Choir/Piano-** *In Memory of Bonnie Grabau-* Nevin & Debby Groth

**Caring Ministry-** *In Memory of Bonnie Grabau-* Boyd Grabau, Jeanette Baker, Rick & Jan Christianson, Shirley Gangstad, Lavonne Knutson, Marjorie Lenz, Harlan & Turby Marchant

**Undesignated Memorial-** *In Memory of Bonnie Grabau-* Elliott & Karen Grandall, Brenda Haack, Cindy Johnson, Gary Johnson, Rhoda Jones, Lyle & Bonnie Kruegel, Gladys Peterson, Vic & Eileen Rathbun, Marlene Rollie, Nevin & Nancy Stender

*In Memory of Mary Jo Dathe-* Don Oss

**Audio/Visual-** *In Honor of Rick Christianson-* Ken & Joan Kujath



### **All Creation Sings Memorials/Honorariums:**

**In Memory of:** Bradley Rathbun- Vic & Eileen Rathbun

**In Memory of:** Family Members- Jerry & Karen Skifter

**In Memory of:** Lucille Daggett, Mary Jo Dathe- Shirley Gangstad

**In Memory of:** Kelly Simpson- Dorothy Simpson

**In Memory of:** Dorothy Rossing, Gerald & Eileen Grandall, George & Ada Grandall, Ted & Sarah Gullickson, Theodore & Wilma Grandall, Earl & Wanda Grandall, Dorthy & Milton Berg, Elsie & Fred Hagen, Violet & Reynolds Williams, Bonnie Grabau, Mick & Irma Rathbun-Elliott & Karen Grandall

**In Memory of:** Jodi Marie (Christopherson) Mercer, Bret Dennis Christopherson- Sandy Richardson

**In Memory of:** Arden Lenz- Marjorie Lenz & Family

**In Memory of:** Bonnie Grabau- Boyd Grabau

**In Memory of:** Erik Rossing, Ted Grandall, Dorothy & Thomas Rossing- Myrna, Steve, & Erik Legreid

**In Memory of:** Clarence & Coleen Nash, Ora Mae Drury- Ginny Nash & Mike Drury

**In Memory of:** Arnold & Virgy Rincken- Ralph & Julie Tart

**In Memory of:** Marie Mayer & Raymond Mayer- Judy Nelson

**In Memory of:** Phoebe Knudson, Reverend John C. Hanse- Pastor Jolene & James Hanse

**In Memory of:** Kelvin Niemeyer- Linda Niemeyer

**In Memory of:** Hoot & Fran Burmeister- Ann Thon

**In Memory of:** Darrell & Glenna Vikse- Doug & Michelle Plaehn

**In Memory of:** Fran Burmeister- Ryan & Wendy Thon

**In Memory of:** Vinton, Jenni, & Pat Anderson; Arthur, Charlotte & Dennis Christopherson- Roy & Jan Christopherson

**In Memory of:** The Saints whose example of faith has encouraged us all- Rick & Gina Jahn

**In Memory of:** Mary Jo Dathe, Lucille Daggett, Clifford Kumm & Irene Kumm- Rebekah Circle

**In Honor of:** Dick's 64 years in OSL Choir- Jahn Family

**In Honor of:** Elliott Grandall- Karen Grandall

**In Honor of:** Mason Kolling, Caisa Kolling, Callie Kolling, Aspen Kolling, Paisley Kolling- Sue Kolling

**In Honor of:** Ann Thon, Kirby, Noel & Leo Bussman; Phil, Noel & Leo Bussman,; Ryan, Molly, Haiden, Emily, Olivia, Avery Kappers; Roy & Jan Christopherson; Travis, Courtney, Maren, Maggie, Myla Duxbury; Dave Grant, Sheri Mitchell, Will Grant; Lee, Laura, Caellum Young; Shirley Gangstad- Ryan & Wendy Thon

**In Honor of:** Former Pastor Jon Olson & Marlene Pankonin- Geraldine & Harris Williams

**In Honor of:** Soren Grandall, David Grandall, Tate Grandall, Dax Grandall, Emily Grandall, Michael Grandall- Elliott & Karen Grandall

**In Honor of:** Turby Marchant & Sharon Jahn- Shirley Gangstad

**In Honor of:** Our Children, Grandchildren, and Great Granchildren- Joan & Ken Kujath

**In Honor of:** Jase Nevala, Remington Nevala, Layne Skare, Landon Skare- Ralph & Julie Tart

**In Honor of:** Harris & Geraldine Williams- Scott, Rachel, Amy & Jacob Welch

**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.**

**April 7th:**

Altar Guild- Ann Oeltjen

**No Communion**

Baptism Anniversary

Scripture Reader- Nancy Stender

Greeter- Harlan & Pat Bucknell

Acolytes- Olivia Gilbert & Bryce Oeltjen

Scrip Sellers- Kaylie Betts & Olivia Gilbert

**April 14th:**

Altar Guild – Deane Spurgeon

**Communion:** Linda Niemeyer, Helen House, Deb Dahl

Scripture Reader – Linda Niemeyer

Greeter- Evelyn & Rich Apenhorst

Acolytes- Taylor Stuart & Digger Bronson

Scrip Sellers- Diesel Bronson & Collin Stuart

**April 21st:**

Altar Guild- Verna Stockdale

**Communion:** Jan Christianson, Wendy Thon, Lori Buchholtz

Scripture Reader- Zach Queensland

Greeters – Lee Young

Acolytes- Hailey Danielson & Emma Struzyk

Scrip Sellers – Markay Fowler & Victoria Knode

**April 28th:**

Altar Guild – Eileen Rathbun & Carol Ahern

**Communion:** Assistants – Joan Kujath, Gina Jahn, Deanne Spurgeon

Scripture Reader- Pam McCabe

Greeter- Connie Heusinkveld

Acolytes- Payton Kaase & Kesley Hunemuller

Scrip Sellers- Jonas Hanse & Gretchen Hubka

**Usher for March:** Chade Knode

**Sunday Assisting Ministers-**

April 7<sup>th</sup>– LuAnn Kelvan

April 14<sup>th</sup> – Jon Dahl

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Zach Queensland

April 28<sup>th</sup> – Pam McCabe

**Saturday Preachers-**

April 6<sup>th</sup>– Shirley Gangstad

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Just Move Event

April 20<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Mamy Ranaivoson

April 27<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Mamy Ranaivoson

**Saturday Assisting Ministers-**

April 6<sup>th</sup>– Rick Christianson

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Just Move Event

April 20<sup>th</sup> – Shirley Gangstad

April 27<sup>th</sup> – Sandy Richardson

**Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished with it**

**Contact US:**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

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[Like us on Facebook](#) Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Spring Valley, MN [@OSLSV](#)

**Pastor Jolene Knudson-Hanse:**

Lead Pastor-Cell: 507-512-9414

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

**Pastor Mamy Ranaivoson:**

Assistant Pastor-Cell: 715-308-4332

Email: [mamyjocelynr@yahoo.com](mailto:mamyjocelynr@yahoo.com)



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**April 2024**