



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

May 2024 Newsletter

C.S. Lewis is known to have said: "I believe in Christ as I believe that the sun has risen not only because I see it, but because by it, I see everything else".

Recently our confirmation students discussed "The Hard Sayings of Jesus". They read through several of his teachings and rated them by which is the most difficult to follow and live out as a teen today, to which is the least difficult. Several chose Matthew 5:44 as the most difficult: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you". One group chose Matthew 5:48 "Be perfect (complete), therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect (complete)". Other verses were Mark 10:25: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God" and Matthew 5:39: "But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also".

We wondered about the changes that would occur in our home life and in our country if Jesus' hard sayings were followed and lived out.

It is good to wrestle with Jesus' teachings and our questions about life and faith. Jesus came to save you from your sins, not your questions. Doubt often leads to a stronger faith. Don't be afraid of hard questions. God is big enough to handle our tough questions. We are meant to work through these questions together. Faith in Christ Jesus is a team sport. Good questions can lead us to dig deeper, to seek, to search. Jesus promises all who seek will find. All who knock will find doors opened.

Maybe you are wondering who God is. Jesus shows us.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". (John 14:8).

Jesus spoke to them, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. (John 11:25)

You are invited to be part of the celebrations this month as we celebrate the Sunday school kids and teachers and confirmation guides on May 5th, recognize graduating seniors on May 12th, and most importantly, witness the Affirmation of Baptism for 9 remarkable students on May 19th. Our Saturday worship community will rejoice in baby Tate's baptism on May 18th and we will be preparing for the fun and active learning that is Vacation Bible School.

A prayer inspired by Paul's words to the Thessalonians:

Every time we think of each other, may we thank you, O God,
for the community we are becoming
and the place each of us has, as a Child of God.
May we pray for each other,
keeping in mind each other's belonging through
faith
and labor of love.

May we support each other in following you
and we see your love through each other
knowing each is blessed with holy gifts:
a blessing to the world.

Creator,
may we recognize your Spirit with our community
and create a space here for your creativity
changing us into your people day by day.

May our lives be an imitation of Jesus
and despite trouble in the world
and confusion all around
may we be a light as your people, always.
Amen.

Pastor Jolene

Dear all,

The month of May is my favorite one since we moved to the Midwest area. The winter season is finally over! Or may be not...but at least the summer is coming soon, promising warm days and sunny skies which I dearly missed! It is a time for many as family, planning time for vacation, a school break anyway!

So many things happen in May. It is a month with promises, celebrations, graduations and so on. Mothers' Day is always falling in May. It will be on May 12th, 2024. I want to share this poem for all mothers, "When God created mothers, All as lovely as can be, He made one extra special, And saved her just for me! ~ Holly Giffers"

Happy and blessed Mother's day to all the mothers!

We thank God for the "Class of 2024"- Courtland Drury-DeBoer, McCormick Fowler, Caleb Hanse, Ashlyn Harwood, Rylie Struzyk, Conner Tangen, and Jacob Warren. Your efforts and works have been paid off. My prayers are with you wherever you will be after High School, with a new chapter in your life. Blessings on your journey!

Pentecost Sunday is on May 19th, 2024. May we all be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit that we received during our baptism as a beloved child of God.

I am competing to a Pétanque tournament with the Federation of Pétanque in USA (FPUSA) in Ohio on Memorial Day week, from May 24 to May 26th, 2024. If you are interested in knowing this game, here is the link: FPUSA - Home (usapetanque.org)

Finally, we celebrate every day the gift from God and we are thankful for the significant event that happened in our life as our milestone because we know that "...every perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of lights..." James 1: 17 (NRSV)

God's blessings to all,
Peace! *Pr. Mamy Ranaivoson*

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

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

****Articles and announcements** for the newsletter are **due by the 17th** of the month.

Announcements for the worship bulletin are due Thursday by noon. Thank you!

WELCA NEWS

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rebekah Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 21st at 1:30pm at the church.

Rachel Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 22nd at 2:00pm at Dorothy Simpson's.

Our Savior's Cemetery

On Behalf of Our Savior's Lutheran Cemetery Board of Directors, I am announcing a special meeting on May 15th, 2024, at 6:00pm at the church. We will be ratifying the amendments to the Articles of By-Laws of the cemetery association that have been unanimously approved by the board of directors. There is a copy of the board approved amendments posted on the bulletin board in the hall by the office. Immediately following the special meeting will be our annual meeting. *Rick Christianson*



Need help around the home?

Spring Valley Kiwanis volunteers are available to help you on projects that you are unable to do (lawn cleanup, window washing, etc.).

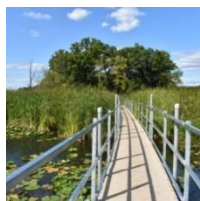
For more information...please contact Jay @ 507-346-1751.



Join us as we prepare for our summer camp season! **May 18th, 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 and join as your schedule allows. Please feel free to bring your own equipment (chainsaws) and extra lawn-care supplies.



May 5th at 2:00pm- Benefit Concert for SV Ambulance and First Responders at OSLC! Elliott Grandall and cellist Mark Sander present duets sparking creativity and joy. Free will Offering received.



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.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM Sunday, April 14th, 2024, Church Council meeting

Old Business: None

New Business: Change to the constitution to allow Nominating Committee to serve for more than 1 year. We can do that with a continuing resolution to be ratified by the congregation at the annual meeting. The proposed change will keep a 1-year term but make it eligible for up to 3 consecutive years. Judy Nelson moved; Pastor Jolene seconded to change the verbiage.

A Nominating Committee of at least three voting members of this congregation, one or two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the congregational council, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are eligible for consecutive reelection with a maximum of 3 years.

Request received to give a donation to Synod Assembly. A request will be written for \$500 Endowment funds for that.

Business: Reviewed distributions and balances.

Education: “Full VBS mode” and in need of donations and lots of help for all roles. Will post a sign-up sheet listing openings for VBS. 3 members going to Council retreat.

Membership: Looking for a 10x10 canopy to use at Wednesdays on Broadway; also would like to offer some kind of handouts to give visitors. Considering hosting an after-church event (meal) in the future. All members plan to attend Council retreat.

Property: Working on ideas for the bathroom remodel. Chancel lights have been updated. Fascia will be replaced instead of painted.

Worship: Easter went well; looking at special music in August. Songs & S’mores plans are going ahead for June and July.

Youth: Looking into helping with cleanup at the cemetery – not this year (already done due to recent rain) but in the future.

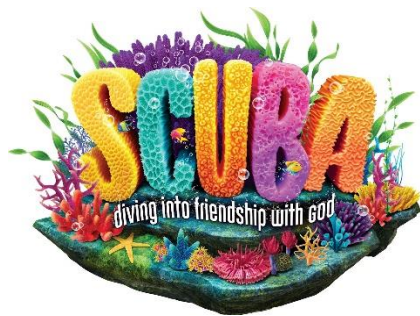
Detailed minutes are available on the bulletin board by the church office.

Submitted by Judy Nelson, secretary for the council.

Next Executive Council meeting: May 9th, 5:15 p.m.

Next Council meeting: May 12th, 10:30 a.m.

Education News



All are invited to dive into volunteer roles 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

Current volunteer positions needed:

Meal Leader/helpers:

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

Tidal treats/Sticky Scripture:

Imagination Station Leader

Reef Rec/Games helpers-We have a leader

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

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

We are welcoming registration at this time also, so that we can prepare for everyone!! You can register with a paper registration if you would like! Contact Gina Jahn! We also have a link:

[Scuba Registration 2024](#)

New this year we have a QR code:



Scuba Registration

2024 Confirmation Retreat at Good Earth Village

18 confirmation students enjoyed a 24-hour retreat at Good Earth Village. They had 2 regular lessons in a new setting. The weather cooperated for a bonfire and s'mores and a time for a faith-based question and answer session. In the morning the students made an alcohol ink project that was a remembrance of their baptism. They each are a unique keepsake to take home. We enjoyed a small group nature hike written by Nicole Pokorney. 17 students were able to make May Baskets with materials purchased from a Thrivent Action Team, for the residents at the Spring Valley Care Center. They will be delivered as a special gift. We were blessed by the time that each student could give to the retreat. It was a time of fun and faith building together. We are grateful for parents who accompanied our students: Pat Campbell, Nate Hunemuller, Sammi Struzyk and Ann Oeltjen. Pastor Jolene and Gina appreciate the good conversations that happen as we share a meal and talk about the lessons. We played many indoor and outdoor games and finished the retreat at OSL for the Just Move worship service led by Dave Scherer and Joe Davis. Some of the students and their siblings even led the dancing at the front of the sanctuary.

We thank the congregation for their support through the students' confirmation journeys!

Confirmation Retreat at Good Earth Village



First Communion



“JustMove” April 2024



Youth News

Senior Class of 2024



Congratulations to our High School Graduates: Courtland Drury-DeBoer, McCormick Fowler, Caleb Hanse, Ashlyn Harwood, Rylie Struzyk, Connor Tangen and Jacob Warren. Senior Recognition Sunday is **May 12th**. Please join us to help celebrate our High School Graduates. We would like to encourage the congregation to show school spirit by wearing your school colors.



Youth Gathering participates and adult leaders: Learning sessions remaining dates. May 12th, June 2nd, and June 23rd. Please watch email for any changes.



Flower Sales will start 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.

May Service Group Leader: Sherry Wendt

May Service Group Members:

Bob/Kathy Baarsch
Brent/Roxanne Hellickson
Connie Heusinkveld
Lee/Carol Himle
Madison Himle
Steve/Alysa Himle
Kevin/Helly Hoornaert
Lavern/Helen House
Janet Hove

Kristin Howard
Jim/Sally Hubka
Duane/Annette Hyland
Mike Hyland
Brad/Ann Ihrke
Julie Jackson
Dick/Sharon Jahn
Nora Jahn/Nick Marzolf
Rick/Gina Jahn

Readings for May

May 5th

Sixth Sunday of Easter

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Mark 12: 28-31

May 12th

Seventh Sunday of Easter

1 Corinthians 15: 1-26, 51-57

Mark 12: 26-27a

May 19th

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-4

1 Corinthians 12: 1-13

Mark 1: 4-8

May 26th

Holy Trinity

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Romans 8: 12-17

John 3: 1-17

Caring & Concerns for Members & Friends

Spring Valley Living- Care Center & Rehab:

Maxine Mlenar, Donna Rowe, Joan Baarsch, Judy DeYoung, Jan Christopherson, Anita Nelson, Connie Koball, Jim Groth, Nevin Stender, Steve Legreid, Bill Kunert

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*

Recently Hospitalized: *Jim Halla, Donnette Vikse*

TRANSITIONS:

Sympathy & Prayers to Elaine Horsman and family on the death of her husband, David, who died on Sunday, April 14th, 2024. Funeral services were held at OSL on Friday, April 19th, 2024.

Sympathy & Prayers to Ken & Janell Kraut and Bruce & Jane Kraut and family on the death of Mary Jane Island, who died on April 20th, 2024. Memorial services were held at OSL on Tuesday, April 30th, 2024.

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS:

Cemetery- *In Memory of Vernon Jahn- Dick & Sharon Jahn, Harlan & Turby Marchant*

In Memory of Janice Quario- Nevin & Debby Groth

WELCA – *In Memory of David Horsman- Evelyn Clark*

In Memory of John Koch- Evelyn Clark

In Memory of Sandy Zander- Evelyn Clark

Music/Choir/Piano- *In Memory of Bonnie Grabau- Lee & Carol Himle*

Caring Ministry- *In Memory of Bonnie Grabau- Pam & Jim McCabe*

Undesignated Memorial- *In Memory of Bonnie Grabau- Randy & Penny Ness, Sue Kolling, Friends and Family*



**Thank you to those who have given Easter Lilies
In Remembrance of:**

Kelvin Niemeyer- Linda Niemeyer

Kenneth & Mildred Merkel, Kathleen Hinze- Jon, Sara, Joshua, Thomas, & Jacob Warren

George & Beata Hawley- Conrad Heusinkveld

Jodi Marie (Christopherson) Mercer, Bret Dennis Christopherson- Sandy Richardson

Gary Peterson & Loved Ones- Gladys Peterson

Russell Hancock-Lorraine Hancock

Gareld Stockdale, John & Clarence Stockdale- Verna Stockdale

Lavonne Keller- Evelyn Jahnke

Jerry Lentz- Polly Lentz & Family

Hamlin & Eldora Gangstad, Lowell Gangstad- Shirly Gangstad

Jeff Kolling- Kolling Family

Craig Goodsell- Kolling Family

Lavonne Keller, Delores Peters, Herbert Kendall- Shari Davidson

Kelly Simpson- Dorothy Simpson

All loved ones- Jahn Family

The Kohns & Rentschlers- Lee & Linda Rentschler

Diana Danielson-Danielson Family

Clarence & Coleen Nash, & Ora Mae Drury- Michael Drury & Virginia Nash

Bruce Welch- Welch Family

Paul Jasper- Ryan & Wendy Thon

Arvid (Stub) Blade & Robert (Bobby) Blade- Anne (Liz) Blade & Family

Bernard Briggs, Karen Roeder, John Koch- Clara Briggs

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.

May 5th:

Altar Guild- Judy Frank

No Communion

Baptism Anniversary

Scripture Reader- Pam McCabe

Greeter- Jan Christianson

Acolytes- Jace Cummings & Victoria Knode

Scrip Sellers- Halli Frank & Gavin Hubka

May 12th:

Altar Guild – Julie Jackson

Communion: Ken Kujath, Verlyn Johnson, Penny Ness

Scripture Readers- Graduates

Greeter- Julie Jackson

Acolytes- Zoey Chase & Daniel Lund

Scrip Sellers- Olivia Gilbert & Blake Oeltjen

May 19th:

Altar Guild- Dawn Webster

Communion: Julie Tart, Gina Jahn, Lori Buchholtz

Scripture Readers- Confirmation Students

Greeters – Ken & Joan Kujath

Acolytes- Brantley Harwood & Jacob Musel

Scrip Sellers- Kesley Hunemuller & Macie Rasmussen

May 26th:

Altar Guild- Ann Oeltjen

Communion: Assistants – Helen House, Joan Kujath, Laura Young

Scripture Reader- Kathy Baarsch

Greeter- Deb Dahl

Acolytes- Gracelyn Hubka & Bryce Oeltjen

Scrip Sellers- Callie Kolling & Ira Schmidt

Sunday Ushers: Bob Baarsch, Dick & Sharon Jahn, Jeff Thauwald, Mike Vikse

Saturday Ushers: Carol Ahern, Eileen Rathbun, Jim Halla, Chris Queensland, Jeanette Baker

Sunday Assisting Ministers-

May 5th- Pam McCabe

May 12th - Sherry Wendt

May 19th- Jerry Klevan

May 26th – Kathy Baarsch

Saturday Preachers-

May 4th– Pastor Mamy Ranaivoson

May 11th – Shirley Gangstad

May 18th – Pastor Mamy Ranaivoson

May 25th – Pastor Jolene Knudson-Hanse

Saturday Assisting Ministers-

May 4th– Shirley Gangstad

May 11th – Sandy Richardson

May 18th – Myrna Legreid

May 25th – Marge Lenz

Please recycle this newsletter when you are finished with it

Contact US:

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