

The Sentinel

November 2021

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a dynamic community,
centered in Christ, called, nurtured and sent-
to celebrate, serve and do justice.*

Letting Go

Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

*Letting go, letting go in You.
Letting peace flow into my heart.
Letting calm rest upon my soul.
Letting go, letting go in You.*



This song by Bret Hesla is on my heart and mind as we enter the month of November. He writes of this song on his website: “Letting go is a deep healing we need in our society. Letting go of human domination of nature, letting go of things and accumulation for those of us with too much, letting go of control.”

This autumn the brilliant leaves show us the way into this wisdom of letting go, as they let go of their branches and dance their way down to the ground.

I invite you to wonder with me. How is God calling us to embrace the way of letting go in this season? Perhaps as we remember all the saints in light for All Saints Day and dwell in the promises of Christ, we will let go a little more of our fear of death and the illusion of being alone. Perhaps as we dig deeper into our reparations work and embrace a reparations budget line for 2022 in this season of stewardship and giving, more of us will feel inspired to let go a little more of wealth we thought we needed for the sake of contributing to healing and repair for our Black and indigenous neighbors. Perhaps as we remember Armistice Day and Jesus’ call to nonviolence – amplified by our own Amy Blumenshine who will preach on November 14 – we will let go a little more of listening to those voices inside and around us that tell us we need militarism and domineering ways to keep us and others safe and whole. Perhaps as we keep growing in our faith in God who made all human beings in God’s image, we will let go of our need to control and fix ourselves and others and instead simply abide in trust and love, waiting to see how the Spirit will lead us.

In Jesus Christ, God danced God’s way down like a leaf to the ground of our human experience and chose the way of service rather than control, exploitation and might (Philippians 2). Thanks be to God for the letting go way of Christ in which we behold the fathomless love of God. May the peace of Christ and the calm of trusting God rest deeply in your heart and soul this month.

OSLC Fall Worship schedule – Outside, Inside, and Virtual!

9am – Outdoor Worship in the OSLC backyard

We continue with our OSLC outdoor worship service as long as folks keep showing up! There is no sign-up for the 9am outdoor service. Although we are saying 9am for this service, we will actually begin at 9:10am and the service will last for about 30 minutes. Some weeks will include Godly Play storytelling as our Scripture story/children's sermon for the day.

10:30am – OSLC sanctuary worship with Facebook Livestream

At our usual 10:30 service, we will continue to cap our indoor capacity at 50 people, and we will require masks and physical distancing. You can sign up for our 10:30 worship service by calling the office at 612-871-2967

For both of our Sunday services, we will be communing by bread only. In his writings, Martin Luther assures us that Christ is fully present in just one element. Jesus – the one who taught us to love our neighbors – is with us indeed as we take this step to keep our community safe while continuing to share in this holy meal that brings us comfort, strength, forgiveness and life.

Out of care for our community, stay home from in person worship if you are at all sick or have been exposed to someone with Covid-19.

Worship with Holy Communion

9:00 Backyard Worship- join us in person

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary- join us in person or on Facebook.

Call the office at 612-871-2967 to reserve your spot in the sanctuary for the 10:30 worship.

Worship Folders

To get your worship folder, go to oursavioursmpls.org and find it under the Worship, Music and Arts tab.

All Saints 2021 – Whom are you remembering? Share their names with us.

All Saints Sunday is coming up on November 7. As is our tradition, we will have a book of remembrance placed on the baptismal font where you can add the names of those you are grieving and remembering. If you are not planning on attending the 10:30 All Saints service, please let Pastor Martha or Mary know if there are names we can add on your behalf.

We will also plan to read or sing aloud the names of those who have died over the last 2 years in our community. And, we'll sing out the names of those who have been baptized. Blessed be the great cloud of witnesses, the living and the dead - those who have lit and continue to light our path as we follow Jesus. Thanks be to God.

What are you waiting for?

Inviting all Advent poetry contributions, by November 10!

This year, we are weaving together a poem for Advent that reflects the longings, yearnings, and waiting that we are all experiencing, apart and together, in this time. We need your voice - yes, YOU! By Wednesday, November 10, please submit your brief response to the question, What are you waiting for? We would love for everyone, young and old, to submit one very concrete answer and one more abstract answer to this question at this [Google Form](#) or send them to Alex@oursavioursmpls.org

Sunday, November 21 Worship – Online, with in person viewing in Hospitality Center

Sunday, November 21 worship will be different than usual! We will have no 9am outdoor service that day. You may come at 10:30 if you would like to join others in the Hospitality Center (masked and distanced) to view a prerecorded worship service (read more below) – otherwise, you can do church in PJs from home.

The Minneapolis Area Synod is offering a synod-wide worship service that is part of their Tending Weary Souls program designed to offer respite to church staffs. This service is also part of their goal to promote the sister-synod relationship that we have with Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN). Archbishop Musa Filibus of LCCN, who is also the president of the Lutheran World Federation, will be the preacher. Some of his remarks will likely involve promoting the synod initiative to raise money for a new Lutheran University in Nigeria. You can learn more about this initiative and how you can contribute here: <https://mpls-synod.org/outreach/global/lutheran-university-nigeria/>

You staff welcomes this offer of respite from the synod and sees this service as an opportunity to connect with the wider, global church. It's not really a 'week off' for any of us – rather a chance to worship differently with a wider group of siblings. Hope you will join us for worship on this special day.

A link to the service will be available in an upcoming weekly update.

Advent is Coming!

November 28 is the first Sunday of Advent. We'll send out more information about Advent towards the end of November.

November Wednesday Connections – Praying Together at 7pm on Zoom

In November we have several opportunities to gather in prayer as a community centered in Christ. All of these services will meet via Zoom at 7pm and last for under an hour.

Wed., Nov. 3 - Prayer Around the Cross

Post-election prayers for peace.

Wed., Nov. 17 - Examen

Check in with one another, sing, pray, and examine your day.

Wed., Nov. 24 - A Prayer Service for Children of Indian Boarding Schools

On the eve of Thanksgiving, we gather not to project the myths of this holiday, but instead to lament, pray, and repent. We come together to remember the indigenous children who were torn from their families and endured abuse at Indian boarding schools (many of which were church-run). We are planning to use a Prayer Service written by Kelly Sherman Conroy, Native theologian, storyteller and activist. Please prepare your space with a candle to light, a bowl of water, paper and writing tools, any images/ items for a worship table that tell the story of the children.

Come together in prayer as we open our hearts to one another and to God.

Topic: November Wednesday Connections

Time: Nov 3, 2021 12:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Nov 17, 2021 12:00 PM

Nov 24, 2021 12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632744682?pwd=MUNKUnIvUUUV2bDVPSG1PS0hBVXdvQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 3274 4682

Passcode: 737104

Wednesday, November 17 – Community Meal "To Go"

On November 17, we are going to welcome April Smith back to the kitchen to cook another amazing meal for us! From 4:30-5:30, pick up a community meal ‘to go’ made by our amazing cook, April Smith, or have one delivered to your doorstep from volunteer deliverers. We are not charging for the meals, but we would appreciate donations from members to cover some of the cost. Please call the office at 612-871-2967 to sign up for a meal or volunteer to deliver meals.

Native American Community Development Institute- November Mission of the Month

Located in the Native American Corridor of Franklin Avenue, NACDI has been helping Native people create the future they envision since 2007. Through projects like Pow Wow Grounds coffee shop and art gallery, Four Sisters Farmer's Market, Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations, and more, NACDI lives out their belief that all American Indian people have a place, purpose and a future strengthened by sustainable community development. Along with other neighborhood organizations, NACDI has been involved with neighborhood efforts like the 24th Street Urban Farm Coalition that OSLC participated in previously. Their presence in the neighborhood and intentionality about how they want to partner (or not) with historically white congregations has helped us ask questions about and practice new ways of living into a process of better engagement with our neighbors, engaging in creation care and climate justice, and dismantling white supremacy.



With Indigenous Peoples' Day in October and Thanksgiving in November, we're confronted with the history of colonization, forced removal, assimilation, and genocide that has left generational wounds in the bodies, minds, and spirits of our Indigenous neighbors and in the land we occupy at OSLC. These wounds will not be healed with monetary donations. Even so, we know that economic injustices are real and that we as a congregation have the ability to share out of abundance so that our neighbors can continue to build resilience in ways that honor their own dignity, power, and history. We're excited to support NACDI with Mission of the Month as we continue learning to be good neighbors together.

Every Meal Volunteering Update

Allyson Green



While Hope Academy and Every Meal are beginning to welcome back volunteers to distribute backpacks of food for students, our faithful volunteer team has decided this is not the right time to return to in-person volunteering. They are exploring other ways to connect directly with Hope Academy to see if there are needs we might be better equipped to help meet as we are still transitioning to new Covid realities. Every Meal has invited us to keep their food packing events on their radar (starting up again in January) if groups ever want to support the organization as a whole through helping food get ready for being transported across the Metro (including to Hope Academy).

Major gratitude for all the volunteers who have helped keep us connected to Hope Academy over the years! And special thanks to Laura Kehrberg for coordinating this partnership for the past few years!

Will you join the volunteers and the Outreach Table in considering some of the questions that have come up through this partnership?

- Who are our neighbors?
- What does "meaningful engagement" actually mean in our neighborhood? How will we know if opportunities are actually helping us be in better relationship with neighbors?
- Given our congregation's commitment to young people, do we feel called to nurture our neighborhood kids in the same way we nurture our own? If so, how will we consider our strategic goals (including dismantling white supremacy) in how we act on that call?

President Update

Dear Members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church,

As I write this, the interview committee has interviewed and made an offer to one candidate to serve as our interim pastor at a ¾ time position. And, we have a positive reply though not a detailed affirmation. Please continue to pray for all involved as this discernment comes clear.



Again, we want an interim pastor who can facilitate the Ministerial Site Profile and Call processes along with being able to assist with worship and pastoral needs. The ministerial site profile will not only say who we are as a community of faith but will also name our hopes and dreams. In her exit interview, Pastor Laurie shared that our discernment ought to include the scope and challenges of our property, the increasing needs for pastoral care, and a staffing arrangement that would effectively address these two concerns. Plus, it is critical that we maintain a thriving worship experience along with Sunday School and faith formation and Bible Study and so many other treasured experiences at Our Saviour's. The pandemic has separated us in ways we could not have anticipated and these multiple processes with the interim's guidance will also help weave us together in similar and new imagined ways.

We are also keenly aware of the need to address and enhance our online worship experience. At present, we are reaching out and gathering information from other faith communities. If you are aware of a community of faith that has an engaging, clear, and interactive online worship experience, please let the pastoral staff, council, or me know. We will reach out.

Yes, we are a blessed community. I appreciate all of you. Please feel free to contact me with any of your thoughts, questions, concerns, or hopes. We will walk all of this together.

God's Love and Peace to you all,
Elaine Johnson



Join OSCS for Minnesota's favorite giving holiday!

For the second year in a row, in lieu of an annual event (because COVID...still), we're redirecting our fundraising energy this fall to Minnesota's online giving day - Give to the Max! We're also excited to announce that the entire OSCS Board of Directors will once again put up a matching challenge! Exact amount to be determined, so stay tuned! Many of you played a huge role last year in helping us reach our goal, and we hope you'll do the same again this year. As always, your ongoing support will help us continue to offer the high-quality, critical services our community needs during the pandemic and beyond.

All gifts made on our GiveMN page (www.givemn.org) starting November 1 will count towards our Give to the Max Day total and will be eligible to win part of the \$100,000+ Prize Pool!



Treasurer's Update and 2022 Budget Forums

As we look ahead to 2022, uncertainty abounds, so having many voices offer wisdom and perspectives while we envision our hopes and goals for next year is important. We will have two budget forums this year: Sunday, November 7, at 9 am, and Wednesday, November 10, at 9 pm. This will allow those attending the 9 am outdoor service an opportunity to attend.

For 2021, both our income and expenses have been lower than expected so far. Overall, income is about \$13,000 ahead of expenses, which is close to budget expectations. Even as our current financial situation is strong, I encourage everyone who pledged for 2021 to keep up with their offerings as they are able. Knowing that we can rely on the pledged amount is crucial as we plan the many ministries and initiatives for the coming year. I continue to be impressed by the generosity of the members of Our Saviour's, and I thank God for your commitment to our collective mission of embodying God's love as we celebrate, serve, and do justice.

Scholarship Fund Renamed

The OSLC council at its October meeting renamed the Scholarship Fund in honor of our own Judy Halverson to the Judy Halverson Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund committee made up of LaVonne Batalden, Stephen Lindley, and Elaine Johnson are planning a January appeal that will include some of Judy's special fund-raising ideas. Remember, the fund not only provides grants to our college attending parishioners but also to the English Learning Center. If you know of someone attending college and could benefit from a grant, please let one of us know. Thank you.



Wilderness Canoe Base Intergenerational Trip – August 4-7, 2022

We are in touch with Wilderness Canoe Base and are finalizing details to *hopefully* have an OSLC intergenerational trip there this coming summer! We had planned such a trip for 2020 but of course...we had to cancel it. If you are interested in coming, please save the date. If you'd like to be on an email list, please contact Pastor Martha.

OSLC Dismantling White Supremacy– Reparations

Mike Troutman

As one aspect of our strategic goal of dismantling white supremacy, Our Saviour's has launched a Reparations team. We want to share some of our initial conversations and begin a congregation-wide dialogue on what reparations work might look like for our church community. At our very first meeting in August, we decided that we wanted to avoid getting bogged down in study and instead develop a bias for action.

Toward that end we are proposing that the 2022 OSLC budget include a line item for reparations. We are proposing to the Finance Committee, and then to the broader congregation, a modest initial amount of \$9,000. Which organization(s) would receive those funds would be approved by the Church Council during 2022 based on recommendations coming from the Reparations team including ideas offered by congregational members.

In addition we are proposing that other areas of church spending be considered through the lens of reparations to Native American and/or African American communities. Therefore we recommend that Church Council determine that the \$20,000 of the forgiven Paycheck Protection Program loan that has already been designated for giving be applied in the spirit of reparations.

In the education and reflection sphere we are engaging in the following activities:

- A study and discussion of the book *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century*. So far over 30 members are participating in this conversation and if you want to join contact Paul Batalden at paul.batalden@gmail.com
- Attending the Minnesota Council of Churches Truth and Reparations conference in September. For more info go to: <http://mnchurches.org/what-we-do/truth-and-reparations>
- Encouraging participation the Healing Our City virtual series on “Come Together for Racial Justice” led by Lutheran pastor Kelly Chatman and beginning on October 28. To learn more and register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/come-together-tickets-190694842407?aff=erelexpmlt>

The above represents just several areas the team has explored in our initial conversations. A key principle for us will be to engage the whole congregation in this journey. At any time share your questions and ideas with a member of the Reparations team: Pastor Martha, Dan Swenson-Klatt, Rico Morales, Aneesa Parks, Solveig Nilsen, Patrick Herson, and Mike Troutman.

Orange banner in the sanctuary - Remembering Children of Indian Boarding Schools

This Sunday, October 31, OSLC will add an orange banner to the sanctuary which will remain with us for 225 days. It was graciously made by LaVonne Batalden. Our indigenous ELCA leaders have asked congregations to do this in honor of the children who have died at Indian Boarding Schools, in the wake of the remains of 215 children that were uncovered at a boarding school in Canada this summer. The banner helps us to remember and honor their lives, to grieve with our siblings, and to symbolize our commitment to ongoing repentance and truth-telling.

The banner is the color orange because of the story of boarding school survivor, Phyllis Webstad, whose orange shirt that was a gift from her grandmother was taken from her when she entered boarding school as a 6 year-old and was never returned. In memory of this story, our orange banner is made up of an orange T-Shirt that says Truth. Healing. Justice. The shirt is made by the National Native American Boarding School Coalition, which has its headquarters not far from us on Franklin Ave.



As a congregation, we are located right in the heart of the indigenous community in Minneapolis. It's important that we know these stories which still impact many of our neighbors with generational trauma. The church ran many of these schools, including one run by the Lutheran church. We are complicit and are called to tell the truth and repent.

Here is the statement from the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association inviting us to place an orange banner in our space: Orange Banner statement

Having this banner in our space and talking about it is one way we live into our strategic goal of dismantling white supremacy. It is one way we work towards racial justice. Let's keep walking this way together, in the name of Jesus Christ.

New community care opportunity: OSLC Meal Trains

As a way of living out our strategic goal of fostering relationships of mutual care and support in the congregation, we have set up a Meal Train account to provide meals to folks who are welcoming babies, experiencing health challenges, in transition, or otherwise in need of meal support. Each page shows you what dates are available for you to sign up, where and when the drop off is, and what dietary restrictions each recipient has.

If you want to help Scottie and Tezra Osthus in these weeks as they are caring for their newborn son Linden Mark and to provide a meal to Bill and Diane Rowe during this time when Diane is in hospice, please call the office or go to mealtrain.org and search for Our Saviour's

If you have any questions or would like to request a Meal Train for yourself or someone else in the congregation, please contact the church office.



Jesus told us how to treat our neighbor; the way of peace is the end to war.

Amy Blumenshine

When will we declare the end of war again? When will we crown the Prince of Peace? On November 11, 1918, the world celebrated the armistice declared for what was then called “the war to end all wars” or the Great War (Not because it was good but because it was really bad.) At the time, WWI was universally recognized as senselessly destructive and barbaric. War conditions also cultivated and spread a pandemic that killed 50 – 100 million people, most of them in the prime of life. That pandemic is sometimes called the Great Influenza Epidemic (also because it was really bad.)

For the European countries, Remembrance Day November 11 was a day of grief. Poppies became the symbol due to a popular poem about the poppies growing where the soldiers had died (Flanders Field). Use of the poppy is somewhat ironic given past and future wars. The British Empire had used war twice to market opium in China in the 19th century. In the 21st century, Afghanistan--declared poppy free in May of 2001--would produce over 90% of the world’s illicit opium during the 20 years of the US war occupation. Thus the poppy can shapeshift as a symbol for multiple results of war: early death, coping by substance abuse, and profits for profiteers of arms and trafficking. (The field and opium poppies are actually different varieties of papaver.)

In the aftermath of the 1918 Armistice, veterans’ groups, like the newly formed American Legion, were among the grass roots who pushed successfully for an international agreement to outlaw war, the Kellogg-Briand pact (Minnesotan Frank Kellogg was the US Secretary of State at the time and thus has a namesake boulevard in St. Paul.) We must consider this a work in progress in which each of us has a role. Perhaps it will take the 7 generations to achieve....

The Pact has shifted the international legal framework for war-making. Note how the US no longer declares war (nor an end to war, unfortunately.) And nations claim that their war-making is defensive. When the PowersThatBe wanted to use obvious military force against Iraq, they engineered the claim that Iraq was on the verge of nuclear bombing the US. But the UN, which was established using the Pact, did not support the invasion.

Absurdly, US funding for war is increasing, prompting an international arms race even as human thriving is underfunded. Internationally and domestically, we face great needs related to the pandemic and increased childhood hunger along with climate catastrophe -- which is clearly connected to military abuse of the environment.

Jesus told us how to treat our neighbor; the way of peace is the end to war.

There is a burgeoning international people’s movement to abolish war. (<https://worldbeyondwar.org>)

May we resonate with the strength of our faith, as we break from the cycle of trauma, stop funding harm to others (either overtly or covertly), shift our world from fear, revenge, and domination to crown compassion as our way forward.

November 2021 at Our Saviour's

Monday, Nov 1	7-8:30	Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, Nov 2	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, Nov 3	10:15-12pm 7:00pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom Zoom Wednesday Connections– Prayer Around the Cross
Friday, Nov 5	7am	Men's Breakfast at ButterBakery Café and Zoom
Sunday, Nov 7	9:00am 10:30am	Outdoor Worship– OSLC Backyard All Saints Sunday Worship in person and on Facebook in the Sanctuary
Tuesday, Nov 9	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, Nov 10	10:15-12pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom
Saturday, Nov 13	10-12	Property Committee Meeting and Clean Up
Sunday, Nov 14	9:00am 10:30am	Outdoor Worship– OSLC Backyard Worship in person and on Facebook in the Sanctuary
Monday, Nov 15	7-8:30	Racial Justice Committee Meeting
Tuesday, Nov 16	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wed, Nov 17	10:15-12pm 4:30-5:30pm 7:00pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom Community Meal To Go Zoom Wednesday Connections– Examen
Sunday, Nov 21	10:30am	Synod Wide Worship Watch Party (HC)
Tuesday, Nov 23	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wed, Nov 24	10:15-12pm 7:00pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom Zoom Wednesday Connections– A Prayer Service for Children of Indian Boarding School
Sunday, Nov 28	9:00am 10:30am	Outdoor Worship– OSLC Backyard Worship in person and on Facebook in the Sanctuary
Monday, Nov 29	5-6:30	Finance Committee Meeting Sentinel Deadline
Tuesday, Nov 30	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)

Lectionary Text for Home Devotions

November 7 1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 14 Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18]
19-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 21 Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

November 28 Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

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Deadline for the December Sentinel is Monday, November 29 at 9am!