

The Sentinel

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



OUR SAVIOUR'S
Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship Service 10:30am (Coffee at 10)

Prayer Requests

Kay Knutson
Ed Lewis
Catherine's father, Jonathan Preus
Marki's sister, Karen Wogstad
Amy Hartman's mother, Naomi Hartman
Cindy Devereaux as she travels in Kenya
Richard & Mary Lou – Kathleen Olsen's
parents

How to Reach Us

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Phone : 612-871-2967

Pastor:

Laurie A. Eaton option 3

Music Director:

Mary Preus option 6

Associate Pastor of Community and

Faith Formation:

Martha Schwehn Bardwell option 4

Business Manager:

Diane Palmer option 5

Office Manager:

Deborah Smith option 7

OSCS Executive Director:

Sandra Aslaksen, Deacon 612-871-5900
option 1

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Worship Table: The Lenten Theme

Sheryll Mennicke

The Gospel texts for this Lenten season are among the most familiar stories in the Bible – the temptation of Jesus, the woman at the well, Nicodemus, healing of the blind man, raising of Lazarus. The message in these texts contrasts sharply with the current backdrop of fake news, glorification of power, dominance, money, and “America First.” The message in these texts is radical and counter-cultural – the (real) good news is that the Kingdom of God is at hand and it comes to us in our brokenness and it comes to the most vulnerable and unvalued among us. God's blessing is found where we least expect it. It shines (breaks) into the darkness and fills the darkness with light. Jesus shows us that true power is found in love, community, and peace. During the season of Lent, we take time to ponder what it means to be a disciple of Jesus – to respond to life as He did. And while many times this is difficult and we routinely fail, the (real) good news is that God is always with us, showering us with grace, love, and strength.

The theme for Lent this year is “Real Good News Breaks into Broken Places.” To help us explore that theme, a large poster will be hung in the narthex on which members of the congregation are invited to share photos, stories, images, etc. that illustrate “real” good news showing up among the weak and vulnerable.

Real *Breaks*
^GOOD NEWS^ into BROKEN PLACES

Ash Wednesday Worship
Wednesday, March 1, 7:00pm

Wednesdays in Lent
Supper 5:30pm; Evening Prayer with
Personal Testimony 6:30pm

Godly Play in Lent
Wed Mar 8, 22, and Apr 5, 6:30pm
Sun Mar 26 and Apr 2, 9:00am

Maundy Thursday Worship
Thursday, April 13, 7:00pm

Good Friday Worship
Friday, April 14, 7:00pm

Easter Vigil Festival Worship
Saturday, April 15, 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 16
Easter Breakfast, 9:00am
Worship Service, 10:30am

Highlights -- Annual Meeting 2/12

Pam Wurster, Congregation Council Secretary

- Reports were given by the various tables and groups connected with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.
- 2016 budget was reviewed and a budget for 2017 was brought forward, discussed and approved.
- The nomination committee brought forward a slate of people for the various tables and council. The congregation approved the slate.
- The council brought forward a motion to amend the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church constitution in order to reflect the new rostered ministry titles in the ELCA (i.e. Deacon). The motion passed.
- A resolution was passed forward for consideration at the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, May 6, 2017. We anticipate that other congregations may also have forwarded similar resolutions and that the wording of what comes to the assembly will reflect a composite. *[The resolution, "Standing with Our Refugee Neighbors, appears in the article below – Ed.]*

Standing with Our Refugee Neighbors

At the OSLC annual meeting, the following resolution was passed forward for consideration at the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly on May 6. We anticipate that other congregations may also have forwarded similar resolutions and that the wording of what comes to the assembly will reflect a composite – Amy Blumenshine.

Whereas, we were once refugees, and are internationally one human family,

{Insert wording from the 2016 Churchwide Assembly memorials and resolutions encouraging standing with the neighbor} *[This notation is part of the resolution as approved – Ed.]*

Whereas, our neighbors are experiencing raids that tear families apart,

Be it so resolved that our synod

- Affirm the importance to public safety of keeping separate municipal community policing from federal immigration enforcement so that victims and witnesses of crime can participate in

preventing juvenile sex trafficking, domestic violence, and other local crimes,

- Encourage our churches, our Lutheran facilities, and members to be bold in providing spaces of safety for neighbors deprived of due process and constitutional rights through current immigration enforcement,
- Communicate to our elected officials to resume the US leadership in providing refuge for those fleeing peril, especially from those countries where US tax money has been used to take life,
- Call for speedy passage of comprehensive, humane immigration reform so that our neighbors do not need to live in fear.

Mission of the Month: Community Emergency Service & MN FoodShare

Maryellen Skan

Squash Hunger! March is MN FoodShare month. In 2016 CES distributed more than half a million pounds of food to approximately 9,000 clients. In 2017 the need for food shelf services continues to increase. Hunger is hidden: parents quietly skip meals so their children can eat, hungry children struggle in school, and seniors skip meals so they can buy life-sustaining medications. Here's how you can help our neighbors who face hunger:

- **Donate non-perishable foods and hygiene items:** 100% fruit juice, cooking oil, flour & sugar (4# bags), canned goods (chicken, ham, tuna, beef stew, chili, fruit, pasta meals, and tomatoes), jelly, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, bar soap, razors and shaving cream.
- **Make a financial contribution** through Mission of the Month. Food shelves can stretch cash further than food donations. They have access to discount products and programs. Make checks out to OSLC and write CES on the check or envelope.

MN FoodShare Campaign will multiply your donations of food and cash. All food and cash donations from OSLC will be delivered to Community Emergency Service (<http://www.cesmn.org>).

Daylight Savings Starts March 12!

Youth Sexuality Retreat AND Bake Sale

Pastor Martha Bardwell

Our high school youth will be heading to Camp Friendship in Annandale, MN for a weekend-long sexuality retreat on March 24-26. This retreat will be co-led by our very own Zac Baker and Rachel Johnson. They will be making use of the fantastic Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum that the UCC and UU churches have developed. This curriculum gives a holistic approach to sexuality. Topics range from building healthy relationships to sexual health and gender justice. We will also weave in faith reflection time, using Scripture and faith questions to help youth bring their faith to bear in conversations about sexuality. I am thrilled to go along in a supporting role.

We don't have much of a youth budget — certainly not enough to support this retreat. It costs \$119 per youth for 2 nights and 5 meals. We hope to have ten or more youth attend, plus three chaperones. In order to raise money for the retreat, we will be having a bake sale on March 12 after worship. Please come and feast on various goodies, or make a donation if sweets are not your thing. If we raise more money than we need for the retreat, we will put it towards youth summer trips to Montana and Wilderness Canoe Base.

Thank you for all the ways you support our youth!

Shining a Light – a Follow-Up

Amy Blumenshine and Amy Hartman

The early February event “Shining a Light in the Darkness: A Faith-Based Response to Sex Trafficking” was appreciated by an audience of nearly a hundred. OSLC is part of the group of Southside Lutheran churches, including Bethel, Calvary, Holy Trinity, Mt. Olive, and St. Paul’s Lutheran, who sponsored the event along with Cherish All Children, to decrease sex trafficking. The presenters from Family Partnership: PRIDE, the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, and Breaking Free shared personal and profound stories on the realities of sex trafficking currently in our city, and ways that churches can begin to respond.

Just a bit of what we learned:

- Girls as young as nine are trafficked for sex. One of the speakers was a survivor herself. She did not get trafficked until she was in her 30’s.

- Cadets at police schools need more training for how to work with trafficking victims.
- There is a need for supplies for hygiene kits which are provided by street outreach workers. An even larger need is for a drop-in center for women in prostitution.
- One way to break the cycle of trafficking is the end the demand. As a society we need to address many forms of oppression and power that allow trafficking to continue.

There are many ways to collaborate with other churches, organizations, city leadership and law enforcement to make a positive impact on this issue that demeans and damages the health of our communities, neighbors, and families.

As this newsletter goes to print, interested members of our community will be attending a community panel and discussion on toxic messaging and behavior. It explores the ways in which we can support a healthy sense of masculinity in men and boys -- ourselves, those we love, and our society. It’s a follow-up to the film "The Mask You Live In" screened at OSLC and other Minneapolis Area Synod congregations last year. This film follows boys and young men as they struggle to stay true to themselves while negotiating America's narrow definition of masculinity. If you missed it, it’s not too late. It’s still viewable on Netflix and can be purchased on [Amazon](#).

What’s next for Our Saviour’s? Stay tuned. And please contact us if you’d like to be involved or are interested in learning more.

Dealing with Selective Service Registration

Amy Blumenshine

At the Annual Meeting, information was requested on how to register as a conscientious objector (CO). Male youth are currently required by federal law to register for the draft, and it happens automatically when applying for a driver’s license in Minnesota. No provision is made for registering as a conscientious objector, but CO advocates recommend taking extra steps to do so. If you’d be interested in learning more, contact Amy Blumenshine or Elaine Johnson, as we’re determining whether to hold a public event. The registration requirement is expected to be extended to females, as well. The ELCA embraces three positions regarding military service: CO, Selective CO to

particular wars or war activities, and “in conscience” military service. You can see info describing these positions at this link:

<http://mpls-synod.org/youth/discernment-military/>

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® Now

Nancy Nygaard Johnson, Financial Secretary

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have designated Choice Dollars have until **March 31, 2017**, to direct them. Don't miss this opportunity to ask Thrivent to grant funding to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church or to Our Saviour's Community Services. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt. Money from this program directed to Our Saviour's has been used to help with the most recent church directories and for the Bread Oven.

Wilderness Canoe Base Work Weekend

Mark your calendar for May 19 – 21 for our annual Work Weekend at Wilderness Canoe Base. We head up Friday and spend the weekend working and playing! All ages are welcome. More information and sign up will come in April. Contact Nancy Nygaard Johnson if you have questions.

Highlights – Council Meetings in January and February

Pam Wurster, Congregation Council Secretary

At the January and February Council meeting the following was discussed:

- Council made final plans for the annual meeting taking place February 12, 2017.
- Council approved the 2017 budget that would be presented at the annual meeting.
- Plans for bringing forward to the congregation a motion to become a sanctuary support congregation were finalized in January. The motion was passed at the January 22, 2017 Congregational meeting.
- Treasurer's report, 2016 Financial Summary for December: Income = \$462,532.32; Expense = \$452,657.12, which is within budget expectations.

Approved minutes of council meetings can be found in the Church office. Also feel free to speak to a council member about items in this report.

Highlights – Congregational Meeting January 22, 2017

Pam Wurster, Congregation Council Secretary

The congregation voted to approve the following motion at the January 22 congregational meeting:

I move that Our Saviour's Lutheran Church declare ourselves a Sanctuary Support Congregation, committing ourselves to support those congregations providing physical sanctuary to immigrants at imminent risk of unjust or inhuman detention or deportation by the U.S. immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE).

The precise type, scale and duration of support we will provide will depend on several factors: the kinds of support requested by sanctuary congregations, the kinds of support we are able to provide, and the number of immigrants, and of sanctuary and sanctuary support groups, involved. Our support may be in several forms. Examples could include material, moral, political, financial or legal support.

We make this commitment prayerfully, faithful to our present commitments including to immigrants and others through Our Saviour's Community Services, and trusting that God will lead and accompany us on this road.

If you have any questions please speak to a council member about this motion.

Lectionary Texts for Home Devotions

Mar 1 (Ash Wednesday): Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12 (alternate); Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Mar 5: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Mar 12: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Mar 19: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Mar 26: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41