

# 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

Ed Lewis  
Sue Olsen  
Karen Wogstad, Marki's sister  
Naomi Hartman, Amy's mother  
Tom Lawrence, Catherine Preus' uncle  
Keith Sonntag, grieving his father's death  
Pastor Laurie Eaton, as she travels on sabbatical

## How to Reach Us

2315 Chicago Ave, Mpls MN 55404  
www.oursavioursmpls.org  
Phone : 612-871-2967

### Pastor:

Laurie A. Eaton (on sabbatical until July)

### Associate Pastor:

Martha Schwehn Bardwell option 4

### Music Director:

Mary Preus option 6

### 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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...as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. (Luke 21:30, NRSV)

## Season of Growth

*Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell*

### A Season of Growth

spring song  
the green of Jesus  
is breaking the ground  
and the sweet  
smell of delicious Jesus  
is opening the house and  
the dance of Jesus music  
has hold of the air and  
the world is turning  
in the body of Jesus and  
the future is possible

*--Lucille Clifton*

Spring has arrived, and things are growing! All kinds of green things have been breaking the ground around us. Over the last week or so, I have witnessed my little rhubarb patch grow from a few tiny little sprouts to a large tangle of stalks and big leaves. It's marvelous to behold, and I enjoy witnessing Naomi's wonder as she encounters growing rhubarb for the first time.

And in the eloquent words of poet Lucille Clifton that I riffed on at the Vigil – "the green of Jesus is breaking the ground" as well. In the light of Christ's resurrection, may we find faith, hope and love growing in each of our hearts and in our community. I see growth happening in our community in a myriad of ways. At our Easter Vigil, we welcomed in a new crop of newcomers into our midst. Shayne and Sequoya were baptized, and many others publicly affirmed their baptisms, signifying their commitment to grow with us in this part of God's garden – in this part of the body of Christ in the world.

Growth is not a simple thing. It's messy, sometimes confusing, and challenging to be sure. In worship throughout the Easter season, we will hear readings about the growth of early Christian communities. It was messy as old and new, Jewish and Gentile followers of the Way sought to make sense of Jesus' death and resurrection, had new

experiences of the Holy Spirit that surprised them and knocked down pre-established boundaries, and experimented with living together in new ways.

During this Easter, as we gather for worship and in our personal lives, let's all take a moment to pray for growth in our community and world. Not shallow growth that can be quantified and graphed neatly. But growth in the Spirit that is messy and deep, growth that comes when we dare to trust each other and God and the person and message of Jesus Christ.

Recently I've been dipping into Jean Vanier's classic book *Community and Growth* (New York: Paulist Press, 1989). Jean Vanier is the founder of L'Arche, an international network of communities for adults living with developmental disabilities and those called to live alongside them. His book is really about intentional Christian community that's intimate and residential ... but many of his insights also apply to life in a congregation (or, in a family!) Here are some of his insights to fertilize our hearts and minds in this growing season of ours.

Followers of Jesus are called to believe that non-violence, poverty, openness and forgiveness are the surest way for them and their communities to receive life from God and to give life, peace and unity to the world. It is in our weakness that the power of God is manifested through the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit. (p. 7)

Communities are truly communities when they are open to others, when they remain vulnerable and humble; when the members are growing in love, in compassion and in humility. Communities cease to be such when members close in upon themselves with the certitude that they alone have wisdom and truth and expect everyone to be like them and learn from them. (p. 19)

We can only really love our enemies and all that is broken in them if we begin to love all that is broken in our own beings... We can only really love with a universal heart as we discover that we are loved by the universal heart of God. (p. 37)

Patience, like forgiveness, is at the heart of community life – patience with ourselves and the laws of our own growth, and patience with others. The hope of a community is founded on the acceptance and love of ourselves as we really are, and on the patience and trust which is essential to growth. (p. 40)

The mutual trust at the heart of community is born

of each day's forgiveness and acceptance of the frailty and poverty of ourselves and of others. (p. 41)

May we be guided and watered by the risen One, who was mistaken by Mary Magdalene to be a gardener, as we continue to grow in faith, hope and love in this season.

## **Mission of the Month for May: Our Saviour's Housing**

*Deacon Sandy Aslaksen*

Our Saviour's Community Services is a social services agency dedicated to addressing needs in our neighborhood. Our Saviour's Housing is one of these programs.

Maybe you know the work of Our Saviour's Housing because you have served a meal at our shelter. If this is true, thank you! For many meal providers this is a powerfully positive experience. But there is so much more that we do, beyond meals...

What is special about OSH is its focus on increasing skills. Over 650 people each year find the encouragement and hope they need to get into housing. The programs of OSH do much more than address homelessness. We build capable, involved community members. In this way, we work to improve lives. This is illustrated well in Alfred's story, "Moving Forward with Hope":

Ask Alfred about the most influential person in his life, and he will tell you about his mother:

"The first person I look up to is my mother. She has been the pillar stone of my life. There is nobody better to think about when it comes to my upbringing and upliftment. There's no other person I could follow when it comes to the teaching of how to be respectful and live a responsible life."

Alfred's mother, in fact, is the reason he ended up in the United States at all. Originally from Liberia, Alfred grew up surrounded by war and conflict. Wanting a better life for her family, his mother decided to move to the United States. Just two years ago, at age 21, Alfred moved to Minnesota on a green card with her and two siblings.

Unfortunately, once here, Alfred faced a difficult road. His mother became terminally ill at the same time that Alfred struggled to deal with PTSD and other mental health challenges. Between these

factors and some other unavoidable events, Alfred became homeless. He crashed on a friend's couch for two days before his medical case manager referred him to Our Saviour's shelter.

Alfred's time at OSH shows just how much can happen in a month. Within 35 days in shelter, Alfred successfully connected with mental health services, started working with a job coach, and secured housing with Our Saviour's transitional housing!

To learn more about Alfred's path to housing, visit our website, [www.oscs-mn.org/oursaviourshousing](http://www.oscs-mn.org/oursaviourshousing).

To make a contribution, please write "OSH" on your pew envelope or the memo line of your check. To volunteer, please email [volunteer@oshousing.org](mailto:volunteer@oshousing.org).

## **Welcome, New Members and Associates!**

*Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell*

Here are short bios from some of our new members and associate members. (We hope to offer a second installment in June.) Look at the photos on the Hospitality Center windows to match faces to names. And even better – take the time to introduce yourself and build relationships with our new members. Associate members (marked with an asterisk) maintain membership at another church in addition to Our Saviour's.

**Maggie Boling\***. I am originally from Libertyville, IL, and moved to Uptown Minneapolis in 2015 after serving in Mexico for one year as a Young Adult in Global Mission with the ELCA. I studied social work at St. Olaf College and now work as a case manager. I enjoy swimming, biking, cooking, reading, and spending time with friends and family, and am looking forward to continuing to get to know the Our Saviour's community.

**Linda Thorson**. I grew up on a ranch in western South Dakota. I have lived and worked at Wilderness Canoe Base and Holden Village. I have worked with kids for many years in elementary schools and teaching Sunday school. I enjoy being outside biking, canoeing, gardening and hiking. Jeanne and I often gather with friends and family to share a meal and conversation.

**Jeanne Heer**. My hometown is Winona, MN. I studied education at St. Mary's University and I have been an elementary teacher for many years. Linda and I met at Wilderness Canoe Base. We have also enjoyed

working at Holden Village. After work is done I like to spend time playing, singing, and visiting friends and family.

**Joel Beard**. I grew up in Kansas and first came to Minnesota to attend St. Olaf College. After teaching high school math in Washington, DC, for four years, I returned to Minnesota for graduate school at the University of Minnesota. I am currently enjoying my first year teaching high school math at East View Academy in Little Canada.

**Karna Humphrey**. After living in Seattle for 10 years, my husband and I moved back to Minnesota to start a family. The pastor at my congregation in Seattle suggested Our Saviour's as a possible church home and I was drawn to the social justice aspects of this church community. I work as a high school counselor and am particularly interested and passionate about environmental education and environmental justice. My daughter Estelle loves the music at Our Saviour's and is a budding future choir member.

**Renate Willer**. I grew up in the Chicago area, but came to Minnesota for college, graduating from Gustavus in 2013. I first connected with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church through the Lutheran Volunteer Corps and lived in the Winona House. I now live in the Seward neighborhood and work for Our Saviour's Housing as a Case Manager.

**Esther Goodell**. I grew up in Germany, went to College and worked as an elementary school teacher. One year after my first husband passed away I moved to the Twin Cities with my two sons where I met my now husband, Andrew (or, Andy). We have four children: Joshua, 20; David, 18; Thomas, 4; and Rachel, 1.

**Patrick Herson and Claire Doyle\***. Although Patrick Herson has been married to Claire Doyle for almost thirty years, when asked he says he "hasn't been married nearly long enough." They have three children, Mairead, Fiona and Seamus, who are remarkable young adults. Their home is a menagerie with two dogs, two cats, a bunny and six chickens. During the week Patrick works at Fairview as a physician leader. After a lengthy career teaching theology, Claire now works as a chaplain for HealthPartners in their home based palliative care program. She also volunteers in an ESL program and keeps Patrick busy with many gardening projects.

**Next Sentinel Deadline** is May 18.

## **LGBTQ #SageTable Dinner Gathering**

*Zac Baker*

Are you a member or newcomer at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church who identifies as lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, or gay? If so, you are invited to join us Thursday, May 18, for an intergenerational #SageTable dinner gathering at Kathleen Olsen's home. (Learn more or see our event listed on the global page: SageTable.onetable.org)

RSVP by messaging Zac Baker your email (zachary.carroll.baker@gmail.com), and he will send you an official invite since the guest list is private.

Since we know our identities are not always public or easily visible, it is likely that not everyone at OSLC is "out" and that is MORE than OK. Also, folks who are bisexual, pansexual, or in mixed orientation relationships often experience invisibility in LGBT+ spaces. At our #SageTable gathering, we will NOT be asking how you identify, unless you choose to do so.

## **Wilderness Canoe Base Work Weekend**

*Nancy Nygaard Johnson*

All ages are invited to join our annual trek to the Gunflint Trail to help open up the camp at Wilderness Canoe Base. We leave Friday, May 19, and return Sunday, May 21. There will be a variety of jobs inside and outside, and plenty of time for play! Sign up at church and include your email and whether you can drive or need a ride. Cost is \$40 for adults and \$25 for youth. Questions – talk to Nancy Nygaard Johnson or email her at n2j2@comcast.net.

## **Benefit for Dolokelen Paye School**

*Alfred Flomo*

Gertrude and I extend our invitation to all members and friends of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church to a Liberian/ American dinner on Sunday, June 4, right after regular worship service.

The purpose of the dinner is to raise funds and assist with the renovation of the Dolokelen Paye School (our junior high alma mater) in Fokwele, Liberia. Fokwele is a village in Bong County, Liberia, where we were born. The decision to raise funds and assist with this project was reached at our 2016 Foe River Basin convention in Columbus, Ohio. Foe River Basin is our national organization in the United States and Liberia.

This school was built in the early 1960s by the Government of Liberia through USAID. It is the only junior high school in our community. There are credible reports of erosion at the school that may cause major damage if steps are not taken to prevent it. This is why we have organized this luncheon in compliance with our 2016 Columbus, Ohio decision to assist our broader organization (Foe River Basin) to undertake this program.

Please join us with an afternoon of fun with lots of delicious Liberian/American foods as we go through this program. We are available for any questions.

## **Living with Oneself**

*Amy Blumenshine*

May is Conscience Month for the Coming Home Collaborative. Living with oneself and one's conscience lasts far longer than any act of war. In May, we invite your attention to those who have "broken ranks" to follow their consciences.

Tuesday, May 2, 6-8pm. We're honored to co-sponsor Thomas Drake, who revealed the National Security Agency's mass surveillance program after determining that it violated both the Constitution and his conscience. At Mt. Olive Lutheran, 3045 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis. Light snacks served; no charge.

Monday, May 7 (TPT2, 10:30pm) and Saturday, May 13 (TPT Life, 10:37pm) the award-winning documentary National Bird will air. Whistle-blowing veterans of the drone program describe the moral injury they've experienced, ranging from flying pilotless planes to conducting hostilities abroad.

On Mother's Day, May 14, recall that Julia Ward Howe issued a proclamation in 1870, its first observance, dedicating the day to the cause of nonviolent resolution of conflict and international solidarity among all women.

Tuesday, May 16, 12:30-2:00pm, at Our Saviour's. The Vets Ministry Roundtable features "Reflecting on Conscience and War," Please pre-register for a lunch count at Amy@ListenToVets.org or (612) 871-2967. Our panel of people of conscience include Coleen Rowley, a leader in Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, and Larry Johnson, who was a conscientious objector who served as a medic.

Recent threats of aggressive war ("all options are on the table") in multiple continents for multiple issues raise questions about both conscientious objection and

selective conscientious objection to either the draft or particular means of making war, especially as circumstances change.

The recent troubling MOAB explosion in Afghanistan, for example, was expected to hurt all living beings in an entire square mile of a poverty-stricken valley in Afghanistan. Families and emergency rescuers were forbidden entry.

The refusal to kill is recognized as an international human right. On May 15, International Conscientious Objector Day, we will post information on the OSLC website regarding how to register for selective service as a conscientious objector.

The Coming Home Collaborative and the ELCA recognize that people of conscience make a variety of decisions in regard to participating in national security structures, and also that some of their opinions change with time and circumstances. We intend to support ongoing spiritual growth and reflection, providing appropriate care for those who question both "Did I do right?" and "What should I do now?"

In response to an assembly action by the Minneapolis Area Synod, the CHC assists in providing materials for helping youth discern about participation in the military, noting the three different options considered acceptable by the ELCA: conscientious objection, selective conscientious objection, or military service in conscience.

## **CES/ MN FoodShare**

*Maryellen Skan*

2017 MN FoodShare was a success. Total donations received by Community Emergency Services (CES): ~37,200 pounds of food and \$109,700. From Mike Lloyd, Executive Director:

Thank you so much for your gift of \$1390 and 520 pounds of food. In addition, thank you for supporting our *Quarters for a Cause*. [The \$30 collected by the Sunday school (filling M&M tubes - *Quarters for a Cause*) will provide 30 families with produce and bread.] Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the many blessing the Lord has bestowed on CES. Thank you for continuing to remember those in need with your regular and generous support.

These gifts helped CES exceed their goal of 30,000 pounds and \$100,000. The March campaign raises

approximately half the food distributed by CES. All funds donated go directly toward the purchase of food.

**CES Volunteer Opportunity** – Saturday, May 27 from 9:00 to 11:00am "Pack & Store" groceries for delivery at a later date. All ages welcome. Contact Maryellen Skan with questions or to sign up. (skan@umn.edu or 612-623-7805)

**Sunday School** – The last day of Sunday School for all ages is Sunday, May 21. See you at church during the summer and we'll start up again in the fall.

## **Honoring Our Grads**

*Nancy Nygaard Johnson, Deb Smith and Pastor Martha*

Please let us know of anyone you know who is graduating this spring -- from high school, college, grad school, a professional program. (If you know what they will be doing next, or where they are headed, please share that, too.) We'd like to acknowledge their accomplishments and pray for their continued success and well-being as they move on to new challenges.

## **Lectionary Texts for Home Devotions**

**May 7:** Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

**May 14:** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

**May 21:** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

**May 28:** Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

# Food Singing and a Whole Lot More!

Save the date for our  
end-of-year party –  
Wednesday, May 10, 5:30pm.  
We'll be outside if the weather is nice.  
Godly Play is at 6:30pm.

(This will be our final “Wednesday  
Connections” meeting until next fall.)

## May at Our Saviour's

### Mon May 1

**Tue May 2**      12:30      Staff Meeting (CR)  
6:30 – 8:30pm      Vets Min co-  
Sponsored Mtg @Mt.  
Olive  
7 – 8:30pm      Church Counc (CR)

**Wed May 3**      10:15am      Bible Study (CR)  
Noon      Prep for Q (HC)  
1 – 5:30pm      Quilting (HC)

**Weds Connections (K, HC, S)**  
5:30pm      Comm Meal (HC)  
6:30pm      PAC (Grotto)  
7:30 – 8:30pm      Choir Rehearsal (S)

**Thu May 4**      7 – 9:00am      Women's Brkfst @  
Birchwood  
11 – 2:30pm      Prep (HC, K)  
12:30 –      OSCS All Staff Mtg  
2:00pm      (HC)

**Fri May 5**      Office Closed; Synod Assembly (@  
Lord of Life)  
6:30 – 7:30am      Men's Brkfst @  
Butter

**Sun May 7**      Synod Assembly concludes  
9:00am      Sunday School; Adult  
Forum 1 (HC), Weds Connections  
Discernment; Adult Forum 2, The  
Tears We Cannot Stop (CR)  
10:00am      Hospitality (HC)  
**10:30am**      **Worship (S)**  
Noon – 1pm      Outrch Tbl (HC, K)

**Mon May 8**      5 – 9:00pm      ELC Tch Mtg (HC)  
6:00 – 7:30pm      OSCS Brd Mtg (CR)

**Tue May 9**      Noon – 2pm      Office Vol. Apprec  
Lunch (HC)

**Wed May 10**      10:15am      Bible Study (CR)  
Noon      Prep for Q (HC)  
1 – 5:30pm      Quilting (HC)  
5:30 – 7:30pm      Spring Party/  
Community Sing  
(HC, K, outside)  
6:30 – 7:30pm      Godly Play (GP)

**Thu May 11**      7:00 – 9:00am      Women's Brkfst @  
Birchwood

**Fri May 12**      Office Closed

**Sat May 13**      1:00 – 7:30pm      Mpls Bike Coalition  
Pizza Ride Fundraiser (bread oven,  
HC, K)

**Sun May 14**      9 – 10:00am      Sunday School; Adult  
Forum 1 (HC), Sun Sch Discernment;  
Adult Forum 2 -- The Tears We  
Cannot Stop (CR)  
10:00am      Hospitality (HC)  
**10:30am**      **Worship (S) and  
Wedding of Shayne  
and Sequoya**  
After worship      Reception

**Mon May 15**      9 – 11:00am      Arch Comm (bsmnt)

**Tue May 16**      10:30am      Prep for Vets Min  
Mtg (HC, K)  
12:30      Staff Mtg (CR)  
12:30pm      Vets Min RT (HC, K)

**Wed May 17**      10:15am      Bible Study (CR)  
Noon      Prep for Q (HC)  
1:00 – 5:30pm      Quilting (HC)

<b>Thu May 18</b>	Sentinel Deadline 7 – 9:00am      Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood 6:30 – 8:30pm    MCFE mtg (off site)
<b>Fri May 19</b>	Office Closed Wilderness Canoe Base Work Weekend
<b>Sat May 20</b>	Wilderness Canoe Base Work Weekend
<b>Sun May 21</b>	Wilderness Canoe Base Work Weekend Last day of Sunday School 9:00am            Sunday School; Adult Forum 1 (HC), Growing in Faith over the Summer; Adult Forum 2, The Tears We Cannot Stop (CR) 10:00am            Hospitality (HC) <b>10:30am            Worship (S)</b>
<b>Tue May 23</b>	12:30pm            Staff Meeting (CR) 6:00 – 7:00pm    OSCS Exec Com Mtg (CR)
<b>Wed May 24</b>	10:15am            Bible Study (CR) Noon                Prep for Q (HC) 1:00 – 5:30pm    Quilting (HC)
<b>Thu May 25</b>	7:00 – 9:00am    Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
<b>Fri May 26</b>	Office Closed
<b>Sun May 28</b>	10:00am            Hospitality (HC) <b>10:30am            Worship (S)</b> After Worship    Finance Committee Mtg (CR)
<b>Mon May 29</b>	Office Closed
<b>Tue May 30</b>	12:30pm            Staff Meeting (CR)
<b>Wed May 31</b>	10:15am            Bible Study (CR) Noon                Prep for Q 1 – 5:30pm        Quilting