

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 (with coffee to follow)

Prayer Requests

Ed Lewis Elton Claussen
Kay Knutson Anton Moore
Cam Rogers Tom Hansen
Paul Hnath
Karen Wogstad, Marki's sister
Naomi Hartman, Amy's mother
Sarah Hepner, Cindy Devereaux's
daughter-in-law
Mary Strom, Diane Rowe's mother
Kathleen Olsen's father, **Richard**, now in
hospice care
Cassie Davenport, Kim Smith's niece

How to Reach Us

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

Pastors:

Laurie A. Eaton option 3
Martha Schwehn Bardwell – on leave

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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It's Time! It's Time! It's Time!

Pastor Laurie Eaton

Remember the childhood mix of excitement and sadness as summer drew to a close and a new school year approached? We're feeling the same thing here at church.

For many of us, it's been a fun and relaxing, or very busy, summer and now it's time to turn our attention to what's happening at church. Your staff and committee volunteers have been hard at work planning Faith Formation opportunities for all age groups.

We're excited to tell you about them, and to renew our relationships as we go deeper in exploring what it means to be a follower of Jesus in this time and place. In the next several articles are the things you need to know.

Rally Sunday is September 10. At 9:00am, several groups will meet separately for an overview of the educational offerings. Each group will receive an orientation to the plans for the next several months.

- Adults will meet in the Hospitality Center.
- Children age 3 through grade 5 will gather first in the Grotto.
- Youth, grades 6 through 12 will meet in the Youth Room.
- Parents with children from birth to age 3 will meet in the Godly Play room.

Then at 10:00am, we will all meet together to share conversation and refreshments in the Hospitality Center.

At 10:30am we will gather in the Sanctuary for Worship with Holy Communion.

Following worship, plan to stay for a couple of hours. We will share a light lunch and engage in "**God's Work. Our Hands.**" projects. We'll join ELCA congregations across the nation in service activities. Deliver bread to our neighbors, tie quilts for donation, clean up litter around the neighborhood, write letters to our elected officials, pack backpacks for Lutheran World Relief, or serve in other ways yet to be announced.

It's a great day to get reconnected to the community that helps to hold the center of your faith!

Sunday Adult Education Hour – 9:00-10:00am

September 17, 24, and October 1 – Our own Rev. Dr. Karin Craven will lead a three-part series entitled, “What is a Person?” She will guide us through current understanding of how our personhood is formed and shaped by the interaction between our physical bodies, our spiritual beliefs, and the experiences we have over time. (See Karin’s article in this issue for more detail.)

October 8th and following – Conversation Tables return! Several topics will be under consideration, each at a different table in the Hospitality Center. Choose one topic or change from week to week, exploring topics including:

- A new book about Martin Luther and the Reformation (*Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet*, by Lyndal Roper) – discussion facilitated by Samantha Heaton and Paul Batalden.
- The News and the Good News – facilitated by Paul Rogers
- Faith and Feminism – facilitated by members of that small group
- Racial Justice and Privilege in our current context – facilitated by Pastor Laurie and others
- Parenting Discussion group – a combination of presentation by guest speakers and conversation among parents. If there is interest we will consider dividing into multiple groups by age of children – facilitated by Levi Comstock and others

Wednesday Connections Begins September 13!

Wednesday is a midweek break from the routine of work and school, and a chance to refresh and gather with friends for dinner and a variety of educational opportunities. A delicious dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:30. Just think! You don’t have to shop, cook, or clean up for one night of the week!

Then, for the 6:30 slot, we’ve created a four-week rotating schedule of activities. Sometimes children and adults are together, sometimes they separate for different programs. Wednesday Connections begins on September 13 – the “second Wednesday”, but here’s the whole rotation plan:

First Wednesday of the month: Prayer Around the Cross. Join in beautiful, quiet, meditative worship surrounded by music, prayer, and candlelight.

Second Wednesday of the month: “Approaching Mark!” A Bible study led by Pastor Laurie. When the new liturgical year begins at Advent, our Gospel readings each Sunday will be selected largely from the Book of Mark. This study will allow us to anticipate the Good News by considering the book as a whole and its place in the canon of scripture. Learn how to approach and understand this particular evangelist, informed by Ched Meyer’s political commentary, “Binding the Strong Man.”

Third Wednesday of the month: Conversation Circles with English Language Learners. This is our chance to get to know some of the many students who enter our building to learn a new language! English Learning Center students from the advanced level classes are anxious to practice their new language, and there’s no better way to do that than by talking. We will gather in small conversation circles and learn together the language of welcome.

Fourth Wednesday of the month: Gifts of Music. This will be a chance to experience music in many ways: performances by local musicians; a sing-along; open mic nights to share our own talents ... this will vary from month to month and provide us opportunity to be flexible. On Sept. 27, our own beloved Bret Hesla will engage us again around the progress he’s making on creating a Creation Care liturgy. Maybe he’ll teach us how to write a song!

Godly Play – Offered Twice a Month, Starting September 13

On two Wednesdays each month, children ages 3 and up are invited to experience and wonder about the biblical stories, nurturing them as young theologians and people of faith. Godly Play begins at 6:30 on these dates:

- September 13 and 27
- October 11 and 25
- November 8 and 29 (the fourth Wednesday is Thanksgiving Eve)
- December 13

(Watch for additional Sunday dates to be announced, or check the website.)

Come, Sing in the Choir

Mary Preus, Music Director, and Pr. Laurie Eaton

- **First rehearsal:** 7:00pm Wednesday, September 6
- **First choir in worship:** 10:00am Sunday, September 10 – God's Work, Our Hands

If you've ever sung or ever thought about singing – give choir a try! This group leads our congregational song when we gather for worship. There are also frequent opportunities for musicians of all types to share their talents with our worshipping community.

The OSLC choir is open to everyone, all ages and abilities. If you have some choral ability, you are welcome to come to Wednesday rehearsals, but you could also just show up at 10am on Sunday to rehearse. If you love to sing, and have Wednesday marked as "choir night" – then, please come for Wednesday Connections (yummy food and great community time) and stay for choir at 7:30pm. Or – just come to choir practice. We have fun singing!

Mission of the Month: the English Learning Center (ELC)

The ELC welcomes the stranger – first by teaching English to the newest immigrants and refugee adults in our community. Then, as they gain proficiency, the ELC provides a safe, supportive environment where they can develop new skills necessary to succeed here: reading, math, computers, citizenship, nutrition and cooking, and much more.

The ELC is one of the programs of Our Saviour's Community Services (OSCS). OSCS was originally created to administer two vital service programs begun by the church. Now a separate nonprofit organization, OSCS still reflects a mission and ministry of care for our neighbors on behalf of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

Volunteers are vital! If you'd like to learn more, visit www.oscs-mn.org or call 612-871-5900.

Please write "ELC" on your offering envelope or check – and thank you for your faithful support and involvement.

Communion Bread Baking will be Saturday, September 23, 9:00am – Noon. Everyone welcome. No experience needed.

What is a Person?

Rev. Dr. Karin A. Craven

Belief and Belonging: these conceptual realities go together. Over the years there has been ongoing debate about whether it is certain beliefs that draw people to (denominational) church congregations or if it is an experience of belonging that prompts people to join a specific congregation. Beliefs matter. They are substantive in forming bodies of Christ. Belonging matters: it is about generous hospitality. The interplay between belief and belonging is formative in shaping people of faith. This reciprocal flow of intentional thought and emotional experience forms people and congregational life in community. It is in light of this reality that the question of personhood assumes particular significance.

"What is a person?" To ask this question is to inquire about the meaning of life and how to navigate it in relation to our very selves, others, and to God. Our *lived-through* experiences in the flesh prompt us to wonder about the mystery of our bodies, think through our relationships, and feel our vulnerability in suffering sorrow and even joy. As individuals and as people of God, we trace the tracks of desire, mark and re-mark our witness to one another as unique individuals who are created in the image and likeness of God. The bodily sensations of openness and curiosity, acceptance and love emerge and upon reflection, may shape ethics that guide our actions and (in)form our personal ability to respond in life's journey in this time and place. We might become more aware of and able to cross boundaries in shifting contexts of historical freedom. Images, thoughts, and memories – individual and communal -- become the material substance from which we sing and lament, dream dreams, pray and make plans about human flourishing in the freedom that God's love provides.

To explore understandings about personhood is to come home to ourselves while blessing the space between us. In other words, discussion about personhood invites us into dimensions of discipleship and how we live together in community.

The Sunday morning adult education forum at 9:15 on September 17 and 24 and October 1 explores personhood from theological and interpersonal neurobiological perspectives. Practical theologian and ordained minister, Rev. Dr. Karin A. Craven, guides this inter-disciplinary discussion, drawing upon research from her dissertation.

These insights about personhood will guide a future autumn series of adult education that focuses on inter- and intra-relational dimensions of small group leadership. Led by David Scheie, Karin Craven and others, the focus will be on emotional and spiritual formation of congregational leaders. Look for forthcoming information about this late October/early November adult education series in future Sentinel articles.

What's in Your Water?

Amy L. Hartman, Deacon

Mosquito larvae. Sediment. Algae. Chlorine. These are just a few of the known entities found in the water OSLC members* brought to the "Community Water Meeting" on August 13.

In Minnesota, we are fortunate to have an abundance of fresh water in many places: rivers, lakes, groundwater. Even so, it takes local, state, and federal efforts to maintain fresh, clean water that is suitable for drinking, fish, wildlife, and recreational activities.

Governor Mark Dayton has requested input from community groups to help formulate water quality initiatives and goals for the state of Minnesota (<https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/25-2025-overview>). Following this suggested format at our discussion on August 13, we created the following goals and ideas to submit to the Governor:

Water Quality Goals by 2025:

- 25% reduction in phosphorus and nitrogen found in groundwater and surface water
- 25% less storm water runoff (including drain tile runoff)
- 25% reduction in salt usage

Actions needed to achieve these goals:

- Educate K-12 students and the general citizenry about the importance of clean water, issues that impact clean water, and what is needed to improve water quality.
- Adopt effective state legislation to promote water quality management, such as Governor Dayton's initiative to increase buffers along waterways.
- Adopt consistent, effective local water quality management ordinances and codes, with guidance from statewide requirements.

Barriers to action: funding, ingrained habits, a divisive

political environment.

General comments:

As Minnesotans and residents of the Upper Mississippi River Watershed, we have a responsibility to protect people and ecosystems (such as the Gulf of Mexico) downstream from us. We identified particular concerns about how some agricultural practices impair water quality. Where we have unimpaired water, however, good policy and stewardship convince us to prioritize keeping clean water clean. These are not rural versus urban issues; it will take effort by people living in a variety of settings to work for what we all value: clean water.

We invite YOUR input into this process. If you have thoughts or ideas to add, please call 651-696-0011 by September 10. Watch for letter-writing regarding water quality on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. Thank you!

*Maryellen Skan, Mike Troutman, Amy Blumenshine, Paul Dierking, Jim Strudell, Amy Hartman

Sheridan Story – Fighting Childhood Hunger

LaVonne Batalden

200,000 children in Minnesota, many of whom live in our community, face food insecurity on weekends. Sheridan Story is an organization that provides a response to that need. They provide food in children's backpacks as they leave their school on Friday. We have an opportunity to be a part of the solution in our neighborhood. We have been approached to be a sponsor for Hope Academy across from our church. Since this is not a part of our 2017 budget, we need to be creative in our response.

The cost per child per year is \$130, payable in a fall and spring installment. We are looking for people who would like to sponsor a child for the year or for a partial year. The school expects to have 50 to 75 children who will need weekend food. They will seek other sponsors if we are unable to cover the entire Hope Academy program need. Fifteen to twenty will probably be identified initially. In some schools, volunteers are needed to pack the food packs on Fridays. Volunteers are not used to distribute the packs. Efforts are made to maintain the confidentiality of a child's need.

If you are interested in financially supporting this program, please contact the church office or LaVonne

Batalden, Outreach Table at lavonnemb@gmail.com. If Friday packing volunteers are needed, we will request that help later.

To learn more about Sheridan Story, check out their website: www.thesheridanstory.org.

Good Heart, Good Friends – Good Cause!

Amy Blumenshine

Bring good heart and good friends to join in good song for a good cause at OSLC!

“Songs for Sanctuary” is a fundraiser to respond with beauty and support to the needs of refugees in our midst, Saturday evening, September 16, at 7:00pm. Our beloved Bret Hesla, composer and folk singer extraordinaire, and Kent Goodroad, jazz pianist and former OSLC youth director, will entertain us. Incredibly, an international group, members of the Honduran jazz band Cien Años, will also play. They will be in town for the Nobel Peace Forum activities.

For admission, give what you can, no one will be turned away. The funds will be shared by two organizations that help refugees. One is the English Learning Center – which helps newcomers with much more than language. (See a more detailed description in this month’s Mission of the Month article.) The prime impetus for this fundraiser, however, is to help the effort of ISAIHAH in providing sanctuary to refugees in fear of deportation given the current punitive political season.

Enjoy great music in a sanctuary in the worthwhile cause of supporting sanctuary for refugees. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your circle of friends to Our Saviour’s.

Save the Date – Safe Church Training October 15

Suzanne Burk

When and where: Sunday, October 15 after worship in the hospitality center. A light lunch will be followed by training which will last about 2.5 hours. Child care will be provided.

Why? Our Safe Church Policy's stated purpose is "to ensure, as far as possible, that all children and youth who are at any time the responsibility of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church are safe from abuse or exploitation from anyone designated to interact with children and

youth on behalf of the church."

Who should attend this training? Church staff and volunteers (i.e., Sunday school and Godly Play teachers, youth and confirmation leaders) who have been authorized to interact with children and youth while carrying out responsibilities assigned to them by OSLC, church council members, parents, and anyone who is concerned about safeguarding children and youth at OSLC. Please make attending this training a priority on your fall calendar.

Trainer: Karen Stevensen, a member of OSLC and a clinical social worker and therapist with more than 20 years in practice.

What else do I need to know? You can read our whole Safe Church Policy on our website: oursavioursmpls.org/cyf-wnews.html.

Lectionary Texts for Home Devotions

September 3: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

September 10: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 17: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 24: Jonah 3:10--4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

September at Our Saviour’s

Fri Sep 1 Office Closed
6:30 – 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Butter

Sat Sep 2 Evening time TBD – wedding rehearsal

Sun Sep 3 **10:30am** **Worship (S)**
11:30am Hospitality (HC)
After Worship Executive Committee (CR)
3:00 – 7:00pm Wedding (S, HC, GP, Youth)

Mon Sep 4 Labor Day -- Office is Closed

Tue Sep 5 12:30pm Staff Meeting (CR)
5:00 – 9:00pm ELC Registr (HC)
7:00 – 8:30pm Church Council (CR)

Wed Sep 6	9:00 – 1:00pm 10:15am 7:00 – 8:00pm	ELC Registr (HC) Bible Study (CR) Choir Rehearsal (S)	Sun Sep 17	Confirmation begins (details TBA) 9 – 10:00am 9 – 10:00am 10:00am 10:30am After worship After worship 6:00 – 9:00pm	Education – “What is a Person” Godly Play (GP) Hospitality (HC) Worship (S) Hospitality (HC) Worship Tab Mtg (CR) ISAIAH/Worship (S)
Thu Sep 7	7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood			
Fri Sep 8	Office closed; carpet and chair cleaning -- no traffic in the HC, S, GP, CR until noon Saturday				
Sat Sep 9	‘til noon	Carpet Drying			
Sun Sep 10	9:00am 10:00am 10:30am	Rally Day Education for all ages Hospitality (HC) Worship (S) and Welcome of New LVCers	Mon Sep 18	9 – 11:00am	Archives Com (basement)
	After worship After worship	Hospitality (HC) "Gods Work. Our Hands" (HC)	Tue Sep 19	12:30pm 5:00 – 9:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR) ELC Event (HC)
			Wed Sep 20	9:00 – 1:00pm 10:15am 12:00 – 4:30pm	ELC Event (HC) Bible Study (CR) Community Quilting (HC)
Mon Sep 11	6:00 – 7:30pm	OSCS Board Mtg (CR)			Wednesday Connections 5:30 – 6:30pm 6:30 – 7:30pm 7:30 – 8:30pm
Tue Sep 12	12:30pm	Staff Meeting (CR)			Meal (HC) Conversation Circle (HC) Choir Rehearsal (S)
Wed Sep 13	10:15am Noon – 4:30pm	Bible Study (CR) Community Quilting (HC)	Thu Sep 21	Sentinel Deadline 7:00 – 9:00am 6:30 – 8:30pm	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood MCFE mtg (off site)
		Wednesday Connections 5:30 – 6:30pm 6:30 – 7:30pm 6:30 – 7:30pm 7:30 – 8:30pm			Meal (HC) Godly Play (GP) “Approaching Mark” (HC) Choir Rehearsal (S)
Thu Sep 14	7:00 – 9:00am 9:30 – 1:30pm	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood TENTATIVE Macedonian Ministry Group (HC)	Sun Sep 24	9:00 – 10:00am 9 – 10:00am 10:00am 10:30am	Godly Play (GP) Education – “What is a Person” Hospitality (HC) Worship (S) and Baptism of Matias
Fri Sep 15				After worship After worship	Hospitality (HC) Finance Comm Mtg (CR)
Sat Sep 16	7:00 – 9:00pm	ISAIAH Core Team Sanctuary Sup Benefit Conc (S, HC)			

Tue Sep 26	12:30pm	Staff Meeting (CR)		6:30 – 7:30pm	“Gifts of Music” (HC)
	6:00 – 7:00pm	OSCS Exec Com Mtg (CR)		7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (S)
Wed Sep 27	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)	Thu Sep 28	7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
	12:00 – 4:30pm	Community Quilting (HC)		Fri Sep 29	Office Closed
	Wednesday Connections		Sat Sep 30		
	5:30 – 6:30pm	Meal (HC)			
	6:30 – 7:30pm	Godly Play (GP)			



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