

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: 10:30am

Prayer Requests

Kay Knutson **Ed Lewis**
Elton Claussen **John Thurow**
Shirley Dahlen
Karen Wogstad (Marki's sister)
Naomi Hartman (Amy's mother)
Mary Strom (Diane Rowe's mother)
Sarah Hepner (Cindy Devereaux's
daughter-in-law)
Shayne, Sequoya and Matias
Knutson

How to Reach Us

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Phone : 612-871-2967

Pastors:

Laurie A. Eaton option 3
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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Each Winter as the Year Grows Older

Pastor Laurie Eaton

Each year as Advent approaches your staff begins to joke that “it’s just one quick slide from Christmas to Holy Week and Easter.” We are talking, of course, about the various preparations and details involved with our observance of these high holy days of the Christian year. Even as we discipline ourselves to honor the contemplative waiting of the Advent season that begins a new liturgical calendar we are, at the same time, aware of our role in supporting the faithful worship of this congregation. It is holy and blessed work, and it gives us much joy. It is also true that sometimes it feels as though we have barely turned around and Christmas has transitioned into Lent and Holy Week is just around the corner.

As I write, it is Christmas Eve that is hovering close. The poinsettias that will grace our sanctuary have been delivered. The children are rehearsing their lines and songs for the Christmas pageant. The worship folders are ready, and we wait in anticipation with all of Creation, for the coming again of the Holy One into our world of flesh and blood, of hopes and fears; the Birth of Light that shines in the darkness and points to God’s everlasting promise.

By the time you read this, I hope and pray that you are reveling in the 12-day observance of the season of Christmas – even as the rest of the world has put Christmas on sale and is counting the economic impact of the “shopping season.” As Christians we are always just a little bit out of step with the rest of our culture, taking our primary cues from the story of Jesus as revealed in scripture and less from the economy that drives so much of the world around us. Christ is born in our lives – and we continue to “bear Christ” into the world for the sake of Love.

All kidding aside, the great festival of Christmas truly does set our feet on the path that leads through Lent into Holy Week. The child of whom Mary sings is, after all, the One who comes to upend the dominions and powers of this world and inaugurate the Reign of God. The thrones of the mighty are shaken by the challenges of justice, peace, and love. The lowly ones and those who are hungry,

avored by God, are anticipating the joy of finally being filled...and seen...and recognized...and honored. Such reversals threaten the orders of this world and those powers always seek to destroy the subversive power of love. So the cross and resurrection are not far off. We know that Christ, who is the Light of the World, is the same Christ who absorbs the sin of the world and continues to insist that the love of God has the last word. Light and Life, Faith, Hope, and Love – these are the things that ultimately abide.

As the last of the Christmas carols drift away, as you savor just a few more lingering times with family and friends, as the festivities quiet down – remember that “Joy to the World” soon becomes “Jesus Christ is Risen Today!” Together we trace the steps of Jesus’ life and seek to follow in his way of grace. Thanks be to God.

Mission of the Month: Cherish All Children

Ginny Rudloff, Minneapolis Prevention Coordinator

Cherish All Children, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the ELCA, provides resources and training to empower and equip ELCA congregations to pray for children in the congregation and community, educate about preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation, promote “safe church” policies, build relationships within the community to create a strong web of support for children, and advocate legislation on behalf of vulnerable children. To learn more, visit their website: <http://www.cherishallchildren.org/home> –Ed.

Thank you to members of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church for designating Cherish All Children as your mission of the month in January.

You may have heard that Cherish All Children is now partnering with Lutheran Social Services and will be moving our office to their Children’s Home Society building. As a service of LSS we will be collaborating with them on providing resources and services to congregations to protect children and prevent child sexual exploitation.

Our first project under their umbrella is a Super Bowl Kick-Off event to educate and recruit volunteers to help service providers who are working to curb sex trafficking and help youth in the period leading up to and during the Super Bowl. See more details in the article which follows – and please join us.

Following the Super Bowl watch for the LSS congregation discussion guide “My Neighbor is Not for Sale”, a collaboration between LSS and Cherish All Children to help congregations get basic information on sexual exploitation and learn how to take action against it.

We were sad to see Amy Hartman go after more than ten years of leadership at Cherish All Children, but the Board has taken very thoughtful consideration in seeking the partnership with LSS and hiring a new Executive Director, Joy McElroy (651) 207-3357.

Blessings in the New Year and thank you for supporting us as we begin our new adventure with Lutheran Social Services.

Cherish All Children Super Bowl “Kick-off”

A Call to Action from Cherish All Children: join us to learn how the faith community can support service providers working to curb sex trafficking around the Super Bowl and beyond! Our Super Bowl “Kick-off” is 10am-Noon on Saturday, January 13, at Lutheran Social Services, 1605 Eustis St, Saint Paul.

Hear from Sgt. Grant Snyder about how the law enforcement community works with service providers 365 days a year to end sex trafficking, and specific Super Bowl efforts. Then experts from The Link, Breaking Free, and Streetworks will share how the faith community can support them – with specific volunteer needs to support Super Bowl efforts.

You’ve asked, “What can we do?” Here’s one way to get started. To register for this free event, please visit:

www.eventbrite.com/e/a-call-to-action-super-bowl-kick-off-tickets-41020631814

Questions? Email info@cherishchildren.org or contact Joy McElroy 651-207-3357.

Celebrate a “Wise Ones” Epiphany

Deb Swenson-Klatt and Amy Blumeshine

The OSLC Faith and Feminism group invites others from OSLC to their 6:00pm, Sunday, January 7 potluck and gathering at Deb and Dan Swenson-Klatt’s. We expect to be celebrating a Wise Ones Epiphany along with special guest seminarian Rachel Johnson.

Bring a dish to share and a candle to light as we raise

up our faith & feminism epiphanies from the last year and share our hope for the world for the coming year.

We'll also learn more about the upcoming Re-Imagining Community's: "Re-Imagining a World without Violence" conference all day Saturday, January 27, at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet, Minneapolis. We hope to attend with an OSLC group to explore non-violence, peace and healing through the lens of faith.

An ecumenical, radical Christian movement, the Re-Imagining Community has an incredible Minnesota history that started 25 years ago with an international gathering 2,000 people, including some of us from OSLC, who gathered to listen, learn and worship together with an international group of women theologians. The community has reorganized itself and is launching a series of 25th anniversary events.

Register before December 31 for reduced rate, with scholarship and student pricing available. Much more info is available at <http://re-imaginingcommunity.org/>.

In December, a small group heard from Kathleen Olsen about yet another significant movement, the Women's Congress for Future Generations. The Congress urges acting as guardians for future generations: "People who live today have the sacred right and obligation to protect the commonwealth of the Earth and the common health of people and all our relations for many generations to come." Learn more at

<http://sehn.org/guardianship-of-future-generations/>

which is a branch of the Science and Environmental Health Network. Some inspiring ideas they've shared:

Things are not getting worse, they are getting uncovered. we must hold each other tight and continue to pull back the veil.

These times call for warriors of the human spirit. For those who hear the call for justice and are ready and willing to respond. For those who are eager to come together in Beloved Community and protect our beautiful earth and one another...we need your voice. – Adrienne Maree Brown

Do not lose heart. We were made for these times...Yes. For years, we have been learning, practicing, been in training for and just waiting to meet on this exact plain of engagement... – Clarissa Pinkola Estés

Annual Joint Women's Retreat – February 23-25, 2018

Back by popular demand, the women of Our Saviour's will join the women of Valley of Peace Lutheran church for a weekend retreat at Koinonia Retreat Center in South Haven, MN (near Annandale). This year Pastor Ashley Osborn, new pastor at Valley of Peace, and Pastor Laurie will guide us through "*The Story of Ruth; Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life*," by Joan Chittister. This ancient story of a woman's life invites us to reflect, in every generation, on what it means to be a whole and spiritual woman even today. In Chittister's words, the Book of Ruth helps us explore "what it means to be a woman of God, to live under the impulse of the Spirit, to be a creative part of God's creative power." Plan now to attend, and watch for sign-up information. The cost is \$170/person and includes two nights' lodging, 5 meals, 2 snacks, and necessary materials. Some scholarships may be available.

Art as Antidote to Moral Injury

Amy Blumenshine

Military experiences can leave a complicated residue of feelings, which are often very hard to verbalize. Hear from several vets who use the expressive arts to ARTiculate their HeART concerns at the Tuesday, January 9, 2018, Vets Ministry Roundtable. We meet over lunch 12:30- 2pm at OSLC. Please let us know you're coming! RSVP to Buddy@ListenToVets.org or (612) 871-2967. Learn a bit about three of our presenters from their postings on the Minnesota Vietnam Story Wall:

- Stephen Gates – www.mnvietnam.org/story/an-artist-gets-drafted
- Larry Johnson – www.mnvietnam.org/story/61-and-beyond/
- David Cooley – www.mnvietnam.org/story/protest-messages-on-bombs/

Here's the story of how making art can help from a vet who's sadly no longer around to do it:

www.mnvietnam.org/story/what-am-i-going-to-do-with-all-this-art-a-posthumous-letter/

Gulf War 1 vet Chante Wolfe will also present. She explains:

Working from the creative compartment of my Monkey Mind, I found art and writing helped to move me where I've been stuck emotionally,

morally and mentally. Instead of images and language of war and the military, I now instinctively seek out the beauty of the world around me.

These questions shape our inquiry regarding moral injury, the violation of deeply held principles. In the making of art, to what extent does the soul (inner self) speak truth otherwise unknown to the artist?

To what extent can that art communicate to the deluded world, and shape our larger capacity to understand and do what leads to all of our growth and happiness?

All who are interested in ministry with vets and their families are invited.

Announcements

Choir Meets Early on Jan 3. Choir will rehearse beginning at 7:00pm. No quilting, no other “Wednesday Connections”.

Save the Dates – Living Questions starts on January 14. Meet on Sunday evenings from 5:30 – 7:30pm. Dinner and child care provided.

January 14, 21 and 28

February 18 and 25

March 4, 11 and 18

Through this ministry, we welcome newcomers. However, it’s not just for newcomers; it is a faith-forming experience for our whole congregation. We explore our faith, deepen our life-long commitment, and grow in our understanding of what we mean by “faith”. Newcomers are paired with members who have been around for a while; they journey together. If you are interested in participating, or have questions, email Pastor Martha: martha@oursavioursmpls.org.

Lectionary Texts for Home Devotions

Jan 7: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Jan 14: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Jan 21: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Jan 28: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

January at Our Saviour's

Mon Jan 1	Holiday; church is closed	
Tue Jan 2	12:30pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
	5:00 – 8:00pm	TENTATIVE priv mtg (HC)
Wed Jan 3	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)
	(No Community Quilting; no “Wednesday Connections” except for choir)	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal (S)
Thu Jan 4	7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
Fri Jan 5	Office Closed	
	6:30 – 7:30am	Men's Breakfast @ Butter
	7 – 10:00pm	Narc Anon (HC)
Sun Jan 7	9 – 10:00am	Educ (all ages)
	10:00am	Coffee (HC)
	10:30am	Worship (S)
	11:30 –	Exec Committee
	12:30pm	(CR)
	1 – 4:00pm	Reformation Confirmation (Augsburg College)
Mon Jan 8	5 – 9:00pm	ELC Teacher Mtg (HC)
	6 – 7:30pm	OSCS Board Mtg (CR)
Tue Jan 9	11:30 – 3pm	Prep and clean-up (HC, K)
	12:30pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
	12:30 – 2pm	Vets Min RT (HC, K)
	5 – 9:00pm	ELC Reg (HC)
	7 – 8:30pm	Church Council (CR)
Wed Jan 10	9:00am – 1pm	ELC Registration (HC)
	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)
	Noon – 4:30pm	TENTATIVE Quilting (HC)

	Wednesday Connections		Tue Jan 23	12:30 – 2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
	5:30 – 6:30pm	Meal (HC)		6:00 – 7:00pm	OSCS Exec Com Mtg (CR)
	6:30 – 7:30pm	Gathering (HC)			
	7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (S)			
Thu Jan 11	7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood	Wed Jan 24	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)
	11 – 2:30pm	OSCS All Staff Mtg (HC, K)		12:00 – 4:30pm	Quilting (HC)
Fri Jan 12	Office Closed			Wednesday Connections	
	7 – 10:00pm	Narc Anon (HC)		5:30 – 6:30pm	Meal (HC)
				6:30 – 7:30pm	Gathering (HC)
				7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (S)
Sun Jan 14	9:00am	Educ (all ages)	Thu Jan 25	7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
	10:00am	Coffee (HC)			
	10:30am	Worship (S)	Fri Jan 26	Office Closed	
	4:30 – 8pm	Prep, clean-up		7:00 – 10:00pm	Narc Anon (HC)
	5:30 – 7:30pm	Living Questions (HC)	Sat Jan 27	1:00 – 10:00pm	Souper Bowl Movie Night (HC, K, S)
Mon Jan 15	Martin Luther King Day -- Office is closed		Sun Jan 28	Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday - Christ (RIC)	
Tue Jan 16	12:30 – 2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)		9:00 – 10:00am	Educ (all ages)
Wed Jan 17	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)		10:00am	Coffee (HC)
	Noon – 4:30pm	Quilting (HC)		10:30am	Worship (S)
				After Worship	Tentative: Exec Comm Mtg (CR)
				4:30 – 8:00pm	Prep, clean-up
				5:30 – 7:30pm	Living Questions (HC)
			Tue Jan 30	12:30 – 2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
				7:00 – 8:30pm	Church Council (CR) (rescheduled)
Thu Jan 18	Sentinel Deadline		Wed Jan 31	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)
	7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood		12:00 – 4:30pm	Quilting (HC)
Fri Jan 19	Office Closed				
	7:00 – 10:00pm	Narc Anon (HC)			
Sun Jan 21	9:00 – 10:00am	Educ (all ages)		Wednesday Connections	
	10:00am	Coffee (HC)		5:30 – 6:30pm	Meal (HC)
	10:30am	Worship (S)		6:30 – 7:30pm	Gathering (HC)
	After Worship	Tentative: Finance Comm (CR)		7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (S)
	12:00 – 1:30pm	Altar Guild Meeting and Pot Luck (HC, K)			
	4:30 – 8:00	Prep, clean-up			
	5:30 – 7:30pm	Living Questions (HC)			



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