

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**
Blanche Austin
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
Gertrude & Alfred Flomo, as they
travel in Liberia.
Luke and Jacentia Peña, Karen
Winan's grandchildren

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 option 4

Music Director:

Mary Preus option 6

Nursery Faith Formation Lead:

Cami Schafer

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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Surprise!

Pastor Laurie Eaton

According to the liturgical calendar, 2018 finds us exploring the Gospel of Mark in our weekly worship. Because Mark's gospel is brief and urgent, texts from the Gospel of John are frequently drawn in to supplement and expand the readings that we hear.

Mark's favorite word is "Immediately." With linguistic skill the author rushes from event to event as he proclaims the in-breaking of God's reign in the person and action of Jesus. From "the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God," (Mark 1:1) through "...and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid" (Mark 16:8b) we feel ourselves flying through the conflict between the powers at near breakneck speed.

So it's completely in keeping with Mark's gospel that the season of Lent is upon us. Already. It's also of particular delight to clergy-types that Ash Wednesday this year falls on Valentine's Day (February 14th). And, with a humorous flourish that can hardly be missed, Easter falls on April 1st this year. April Fool's! We begin our season of reflecting on the depth and breadth of God's love for all creation on the day that celebrates romantic love with candy hearts and chocolate. We prepare to renew our baptismal covenant as we revisit Jesus' last days, making our way through cross and tomb...only to encounter God's cosmic triumph on Easter Sunday: He is not here; he is risen! April Fools – the tomb is empty and death does not have the last word!

With the unexpected support of our secular calendar, our liturgical observance can be broken open in new ways, and we may find ourselves exploring the meaning of our faith in new ways as well. I invite you – actually, like Mark – I *urge* you to commit deeply to this season of reflection and the disciplines of Lent: prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor and needy. It is through focus, restraint, and discipline that our Easter joy becomes grander still. Watch for opportunities for study and practice as the season begins. The reign of God is close at hand.

Mission of the Month – Community Emergency Service (CES)

Maryellen Skan

Rooted in God's loving grace, Community Emergency Service transforms lives by serving neighbors, sharing resources and becoming community - a place where people come hungry and leave hopeful. (CES mission statement)

CES assists about 12,000 of our neighbors in need each year; providing high-quality direct service to people in need. The goal of CES is to move individuals beyond crisis to financial stability. CES provides these services to their clients:

- General Emergency Aid/Referral Assistance - client advocacy (resource finding), free legal counsel, and transportation assistance.
- Client Wellness/Spiritual Outreach - periodic screening for blood pressure and other basic health issues; weekly outreach from outside organizations, and Christian prayer and care.
- Food Program – Neighborhood food shelf (including fresh and frozen foods), food shelf grocery delivery to homebound neighbors, daily hot meal delivery to homebound seniors (Meals on Wheels) and East African distribution.

Contribute: To support CES through Mission of the Month, please note “CES” on your check or pew envelope.

Volunteer: Saturday, February 3: ‘Pack & Store’ groceries for future delivery; 9–11 a.m. All ages welcome. Contact Maryellen with questions and/or to sign up. (skan@umn.edu or 612-623-7805)

Food Shelf Needs: Sugar & flour (no 10# bags), cooking oil, 100% fruit juice, canned fruit (light syrup or own juice), canned chicken, salmon or tuna (in water), chili, canned pasta meals, beef stew, canned tomatoes, jelly/jam, and coffee in small bags. Please do not donate expired items. Nonperishable food donations can be dropped off in the coat room.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 11

Plan to attend our Annual Meeting on February 11, 2018, following the worship service. Please bring “finger food” to share. Child care available.

2017 Budget Shortfall

Pastor Laurie Eaton, on behalf of the Church Council

At the upcoming Annual Meeting on February 11, members of the congregation will be asked to approve our budget for 2018. While each year is discrete in terms of planning for income and expense (the budget itself), the cash flow doesn’t care at all that we’ve turned the calendar to a new year. We have ended 2017 with a budget shortfall of about \$7,500.

In essence that means that we begin 2018 “in a hole.” Rather than using your faithful commitments for 2018 to backfill the shortfall, we are hoping to fill in the gap through other means.

If you are able to make a contribution to either complete your 2017 commitment (see your financial statement) or to assist in covering the commitments of members who have struggled a bit, please do so as soon as possible. You can indicate on your check or envelope “2017 Shortfall.” Contributions of any amount will help. Thank you!

Annual Joint Women’s Retreat – February 23-25

Pick up a copy of the brochure from the table in the Narthex. It has the registration form in it – and sign up ASAP. Deadline is February 11.

Pastor Ashley Osborn, new pastor at Valley of Peace, and our own Pastor Laurie Eaton 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 – in the past, today, and into the future. 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.”

This retreat takes place at Koinonia Retreat Center. Koinonia is located on 120 beautiful, secluded acres at the north end of Lake Sylvia in west central Wright County, near Alexandria. The property consists of

Lake Sylvia shoreline, native prairie and Minnesota Big Woods. Even in the winter, there is wildlife to be seen.

Come learn, rest, recreate. Dress is always casual. Activities include: Bible study, learning activities, prayer, outdoor options, worship and much more. Food and company are great!

The cost is \$170/person. This fee covers two nights' lodging, five meals, two snacks, and necessary materials. Some scholarships may be available; please check with Pastor Laurie.

Thank You! From Bob and Jen

Bob Schatt and Jen Thaney

Our family recently was blessed with the chance to help support Shayne and Sequoya by welcoming Matias into our home for several weeks. It had been a long time since Bob or I had cared for an infant, and we were quickly reminded of both how joyful and difficult it can be. Our Saviour's community helped with both aspects. Your prayers, kind words and encouragement added to our joy, and your help with caring for him in either our home or yours allowed us to complete grad school assignments, clean a bathroom or two, or run some errands. You also helped in very practical ways: offering us money for diapers and other infant odds and ends, assembling furniture for a last-minute nursery, donating toys and clothes, and cooking us delicious food so we could take that chore off our list. We literally could not have done this without you, and are so grateful to be a part of this amazing faith community.

Thank You! On Behalf of Curran

*Mary Jo Mettler, Northeastern Minnesota Synod
Women of the ELCA, Skip the Grid Promoter*

Thank you for your generous gift in the amount of \$2,647.00. Your faithful generosity is making a life changing difference to the patients, staff and residents at Curran Hospital [Liberia]...we are now working with [them] to install a large solar electric system. Curran is very remote and needs exactly what [our program] Skip the Grid is designed to do...Thank you for all your support.

[PS.] Like us on Facebook [facebook.com/skipthegrid](https://www.facebook.com/skipthegrid) ... and visit our website www.skipthegrid.org.

Verbal Announcement Guidelines

Pastor Laurie Eaton

Over the years I've learned that Our Saviour's has a love/hate relationship with the verbal announcements that come at the end of our worship service. Some people just love the opportunity to see and hear from a wide range of members about various things that are going on in the congregation. They consider it an important part of the culture of our community and would miss it if it were gone. Others struggle to maintain their patience and attention. This attitude is expressed variously in language like, "We've been here long enough," or "Please, I'm getting hungry/the kids can't sit still any longer," or "Can't that be in writing somewhere?"

Because we are a diverse community, joined together as the Body of Christ, part of what we do is learn to live with our differences and honor each other's preferences. As your pastoral staff, we intentionally frame the announcements as part of our worship: the ways in which we live the Gospel in our daily lives is worship; announcements regarding opportunities to serve and do justice in the name of Christ are part of our Sending ritual.

Here are a few guidelines to keep in mind if you are making or listening to a verbal announcement.

- Verbal announcements should be applicable to the whole gathered community – not just a notice or reminder to a particular subset. This sort of announcement should be sent via email or phone call.
- Brief is better! Of course every word seems essential to you, when you are passionate about what you are sharing, but hearers will only remember a small portion of what you say. **What. When. Where. Who.** If you can refer to something in writing that folks can refer to, your pitch will be more successful.
- Please do not give a website address verbally. Most folks are not prepared to write down what you are saying. Can you really remember all those web addresses?!
- Announcements should be related to ministry opportunities or invitations. Interesting events that are not connected to our ministry can be posted on our Facebook page or in writing on our bulletin boards. If you are not arranging a church group to attend an event, please do not make an

announcement regarding something folks “might like to know about.”

- Generally, performances of various kinds are not related to our ministry. Because we want to support and affirm our youth as they explore their gifts and vocations, we make an exception for their concerts, plays, and such. It would be wonderful if we could have advance notice for concerts and performances – people would likely be able to attend if they were able to plan their schedule accordingly. Please make use of our Facebook page or posted announcements to invite members to attend your events.
- Listeners! Please actually read the printed announcements. Sometime people feel compelled to “draw your attention” to printed announcements because they fear their investment of time and effort will go to waste. If we can be trusted to read, we won’t be expected to listen as much.

Please remember these are guidelines, not laws! We simply ask that each of us take into consideration the wide range of interests and personalities that are present for worship, and respond with grace. After all, we are instructed in the Small Catechism to “always speak well of our neighbor and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.”

It is a gift that we have so many opportunities to share, and so much enthusiasm for our engagement in the world! Let’s remember to communicate in the best way possible.

Us Too? Women, Justice and the ELCA

Amy Blumenshine

It’s almost as though our institutional ELCA is shouting “Me, Too!”

Our national church is in the process of developing an important social statement on women and justice. Given that the ELCA’s manner of moral deliberation is so conscientious and thorough that it tends to be extremely slow, this confluence of theological understanding with a popular movement is unusual indeed!

You can read the draft social statement and give feedback by attending hearings or responding online. It’s available at <http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice/Draft>

Some notable excerpts follow:

Task force member and Augsburg Professor Mary Lowe describes their charge as

providing new resources to address the damage that gender stereotypes and injustice inflict on women, men, families, congregations and our broader society. Gender injustice impacts each of us in various ways, inflicting psychological, emotional, physical or theological damage and it prevents us from becoming our authentic selves...

The draft begins with and is rooted in our common foundation, a confession of faith in the Triune God. From this certainty of faith flow 36 assertions, divided into five sections. These assertions claim God’s intention of abundant life for all, confess sexism and patriarchy as sin, name the resources of Lutheran faith to address this sin, and articulate this church’s work and its call to religious and secular partners. It closes with an expression of hope for justice, grounded in trust in God’s promise of grace....

While God’s Word of Law and Gospel speaks through the Scriptures, there are words and images, social patterns, and moral beliefs in them that reflect the patriarchal values of the cultures and societies in which they arose. Their continued misuse contributes to maintaining hierarchies and patterns of inequity and harm.

The Draft further urges that we:

...promote theological reflection that is attentive to the gender-based needs of the neighbor. Theologians need to be honest about how church teachings have been misused to support patriarchy and sexism. All teachers of the faith should express God’s desire that all persons may thrive.

Similarly, the Draft encourages us to:

use inclusive language for humankind and inclusive and expansive language for God... language for God that expands rather than limits our understanding of God’s goodness and mystery. In particular, we support developing liturgies, hymns, prayers, and educational materials that broaden our language beyond primarily male images. This practice follows the Scriptures’ witness that God is wholly other and

transcends human categories of sex and gender. Therefore, metaphors and images for God should be drawn from the lives of women and men, from nature, and from humanity in all its diversity to speak of the fullness and beauty of God.

Find more info at: <http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice/resources>

Adult Forums in February

Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

Join us for lively conversation, coffee, community. Adult forum starts at 9:00am, which really means promptly at 9:15 am.

February 4 – Let’s talk across generations, body of Christ! The last in our youth-adult forum series on vocation across the lifespan. Hear from Craig Johnson and Dorea Ruggles about their sense of calling, and join the conversation!

February 11 – Faith Formation for our children, with special guest Dawn Rundman. Dawn is the lead developer of the Frolic curriculum that we are using with our birth-to-3-year-olds. She holds a Ph.D. in developmental psychology and is Director of Congregational Product Development at Sparkhouse where she has developed over 20,000 pages of curriculum and five Bibles. Dawn frequently leads workshops on the intersections between brain development and faith formation. She loves supporting ministry leaders and parents with new ideas, helpful tools, and best practices.

February 18 – Why Christian? Let’s talk about baptism! This is the first in a five-week series, “Why Christian?”, that links up with our Living Questions process with newcomers to Our Saviour’s. We will wonder together over these weeks about why we are Christian by investigating some of the central practices and teachings of the Christian faith. We’re starting with baptism. What does the Christian bath mean, and what difference does it make?

February 25 – Why Christian? Let’s talk about the 10 commandments! The second in our series. In Godly Play we call the Ten Commandments “The 10 Best Ways.” Let’s wonder about these ways and the difference they make in our lives together.

Wednesday Connections in February

February 7 – Join us for a Mardi Gras/Fat Wednesday party! Yummy food and fun for all ages.

February 14 – Ash Wednesday. Supper at 5:30, worship at 7:00pm.

February 21 and 28 – Supper at 5:30, Lenten Evening Prayer at 6:30pm.

Lectionary Texts for Home Devotions

Feb 4: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Feb 11: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6, 2; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Feb 14 (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

Feb 18: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Feb 25: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

February at Our Saviour’s

Thu Feb 1	7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
Fri Feb 2	Office Closed 6:30 – 7:30am	Men's Breakfast @ Butter
	7 – 10:00pm	Narc Anon (HC)
Sun Feb 4	9 – 10:00am 10:00am 10:30am	Educ (all ages) Coffee (HC) Worship (S)
Tue Feb 6	9:30 – 11:30am 12:30pm 4:30 – 6:30pm	ELC Event (HC) Staff Mtg (CR) ELC Cooking Class (HC, K)
Wed Feb 7	10:15am Noon – 4:30pm	Bible Study (CR) Quilting (HC)

Wednesday Connections

5:30 – 6:30pm	Meal (HC)
6:30 – 7:30pm	Fat Weds (HC)
7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehrsl (S)

Thu Feb 8	7:00 – 9:00am 10am – Noon 7:00 – 9:00pm	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood Altar Guild Work Session Earth Keeping Concert (S)	Sun Feb 18	9 – 10:00am 9:00am 10:00am 10:30am 4-8:00pm 5:00 – 7:00pm	Educ (all ages) Godly Play (GP) Coffee (HC) Worship (S) Prep, Clean up Living Questions (HC)
Fri Feb 9	Office Closed 7 – 10:00pm	Narc Anon (HC)	Mon Feb 19	9 – 11:00am 11am – 12:30pm	Archives Com (bsment) Anniversary Committee (CR)
Sat Feb 10	Noon – 6pm	Bread prep (K, HC, bread oven)	Tue Feb 20	12:30pm 4:30 – 6:30pm	Staff Mtg (CR) ELC Cooking Class (HC, K)
Sun Feb 11	8am – Noon 9 – 10:00am 9 – 10:00am 10:00am 10:30am After Worship 1:00 – 4:00pm	Bread baking (K, HC, bread oven) Educ (all ages) Godly Play (GP) Coffee (HC) Worship (S) Annual Meeting (HC, S) and Pot Luck Ref. Confirmation (Calvary)	Wed Feb 21	10:15am 12 – 4:30pm	Bible Study (CR) Quilting (HC)
Mon Feb 12	6:00 – 7:30pm	OSCS Board Mtg (CR)	Wednesday Connections		
Tue Feb 13	12:30pm 4:30 – 6:30pm	Staff Mtg (CR) ELC Cooking Class (HC, K)		5:30 – 6:30pm 6:30 – 7:30pm 6:30 – 7:30pm 7:30 – 8:30pm	Meal (HC) Lenten Evening Prayer (S) Godly Play (GP) Choir Rhysl (S)
Wed Feb 14	Ash Wednesday 10:15am 12 – 4:30pm	Bible Study (CR) Quilting (HC)	Thu Feb 22	7:00 – 9:00am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
	Wednesday Connections 5:30 – 6:30pm 7:00pm -- Ash Wednesday Worship (S)	Meal (HC)	Fri Feb 23	Office Closed Women's Retreat (at Koinonia Retreat Center) (Friday – Sunday) 7 – 10:00pm	Narc Anon (HC)
Thu Feb 15	Sentinel Deadline 7:00 – 9:00am 6:30 – 8:30pm	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood MCFE mtg (off site)	Sat Feb 24	(Women's retreat continues) Bread oven fired – time TBD	
Fri Feb 16	Office Closed 7 – 10:00pm	Narc Anon (HC)	Sun Feb 25	(Women's retreat – final day) 9:00am 10:00am 10:30am 11:00am – 5pm Noon – 4pm	Educ (all ages) Coffee (HC) Worship (S) Prep, Clean up (HC, K, oven) Bread Baking Class (HC, K, bread oven)
Sat Feb 17				2:00 – 5:00pm 4:00 – 8:00pm 5:00 – 7:00pm	Conf Assemblies @ Westwood Lutheran, St. Louis Park LQ prep (HC, K) Living Questions

Tue Feb 27	12:30pm	Staff Mtg (CR)
	4:30 – 6:30pm	ELC Cooking Class (HC, K)
	6:00 – 7:00pm	OSCS Exec Com Mtg (CR)
Wed Feb 28	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)
	12 – 4:30pm	Quilting (HC)

Wednesday Connections

5:30 – 6:30pm	Meal (HC)
6:30 – 7:30pm	Godly Play (GP)
6:30 – 7:30pm	Lenten Evening Prayer (S)
7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (S)



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