

# 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

### New Prayer Requests

Joe English

Nancy Pedersen

Erik Hall and family at the death of his brother, Evan

The Lewis Family, at the death of Ed Lewis

(Additional requests are printed inside. Thank you!)

### How to Reach Us

2315 Chicago Ave, Mpls MN 55404

[www.oursavioursmpls.org](http://www.oursavioursmpls.org)

Phone : 612-871-2967

#### Pastors:

Laurie A. Eaton option 3

Martha Schwehn Bardwell option 4

#### Music Director:

Mary Preus option 6

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### Fifty Days of Feasting

*Pastor Laurie Eaton*

Throughout the forty days of Lent we focused our attention on the many ways we hunger for God in our lives. We were invited to experience a physical sense of hunger as we fasted from various privileges and distractions that tend to conceal what it is that will truly satisfy our deepest needs and longings. We sought to name our hungers before God as we prayerfully lifted up our own needs and the needs of those who are suffering physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual deprivation. We set aside some of our resources to specifically meet the needs of those who are hungry and to support those who are immigrants and refugees today, in need of our financial aid. Some of our members took the risk of vulnerable sharing during mid-week worship, expressing their deep hunger for a sense of community and connectedness, a hunger to more deeply trust God when so much around us seems demanding and uncertain, and a hunger to experience the wisdom that comes from God alone. We've named our hunger in the face of so much political divisiveness and so much economic and racial disparity. During the season of Lent we have cried out to God to fill the deepest hungers of our human spirits.

Perhaps it should go without saying that such deep hunger as we have acknowledged cannot be filled with one feast. And so, in the wisdom of the liturgical calendar, just as Lent is a season of forty days, so too we celebrate the Feast and Festival of Easter for a full 50 days! Though the Peeps and chocolate bunnies will be marked down on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the countercultural celebration of the Body of Christ will continue for a "week of weeks."

It takes a long time to digest the mystery of the resurrection. In the face of so much that troubles and discourages us in our day to day lives, it will certainly take more than one joyful service of worship and praise to fill the emptiness that accumulates the rest of the year. The practice of Easter is a way of life. Christ's resurrection from the dead changes everything! But we can only begin to comprehend that mysterious truth if we unwrap the meaning and transformation of that

life-giving promise for our own existence. Layer by layer we need to feed on the Word and Meal that we receive each week in worship, satisfying our hunger and causing us to become what we receive. It is a costly investment of time and effort when the rest of the world tells us to move on, to prioritize efficiency, and tempts us to doubt the relevance of actually practicing our faith.

Generations of faithful followers of Jesus have staked their lives on the transforming power of the resurrection, nurturing the fruit of faith that is fed and watered by God's providential Word. There is meaning and purpose to be found in the gathered community, but it is only found in the gathering. Now that you have named your hunger, don't miss the opportunity for God to fill you to overflowing. Join the Feast and Celebration – all fifty days – and into the life everlasting!

## **Mission of the Month**

*Joy McElroy, Director of Cherish All Children, a service of Lutheran Social Service of MN*

“Serve one another humbly in love...”

This verse in Galatians expresses how we are to live out the Gospel, and describes how Our Saviour's Lutheran supports the mission of Cherish All Children. Your dedication to protecting children from sexual exploitation through your gifts, prayers, and actions is praiseworthy. Yet you do it without fanfare and praise. You do it for the sake of all God's children, humbly and with love.

I am so thankful for the partnerships of congregations like yours, that allow us to continue to reach out to children, youth and families – to educate and engage in action together, to keep children safe from harm.

Your financial support is critical to help us engage with more congregations to continue this work. Some of these activities include speaking at Adult forums, Youth groups, and Confirmation classes; supporting congregations in their Cherish All Children ministries, which may include anti-trafficking events they are sponsoring in their communities; and hosting events such as our Super Bowl Kick-off to support service providers working with at-risk and exploited youth.

We are also excited to support congregations in using our new guide “My Neighbor is Not for Sale,” to not only become educated on this issue, but also to see the needs in their own communities. Churches can have a powerful voice in cultural change, and Cherish All

Children helps bring this voice forward to prevent child sexual exploitation. To download the guide, or for other resources, visit [www.cherishallchildren.org](http://www.cherishallchildren.org).

Thank you, members of Our Saviour's, for your ongoing support of Cherish All Children!

## **Hospitality Service Teams at Our Saviour's – This Includes You!**

*Pastor Martha Bardwell*

**Save these dates:  
Adult Forums on April 22 and 29**

*“God welcomes all, strangers and friends. God's love is strong and it never ends!”* --popular OSLC Sunday school and day camp song

*“I was a stranger, and you welcomed me”* –Jesus, in Matthew 25:35

God welcomes all – yes! Having been welcomed by God ourselves, through the hands, hearts, gestures, words, rituals and songs of God's beloved community, we are called to embody God's gracious, loving, bold hospitality in our life together on Sunday mornings and beyond, for strangers as well as friends. After all – Jesus Christ promises to show up, hidden in the faces of strangers. We don't want to miss out on that! And yet, we too often tend to fall short of embodying the welcome of God for all sorts of reasons having to do with culture, comfort, busyness with other things, you name it. Though we can't expect to ever be perfect, we can make more of a concerted effort to engage the holy work of hospitality, fully expecting that it will transform us.

The Ministry of Community and Faith Formation Table (MCFE) has been doing some visioning around hospitality for some time now. One thing that we felt was getting in the way of good hospitality at Our Saviour's was the structure – or lack of structure – around key hospitality roles. We also noticed that the same people tend to be involved, when others could be engaged. In discussing these issues, a new model (based on an old OSLC model) began to emerge.

This month, we are launching Hospitality Service Teams. Everyone in the congregation, kids – elders, will be assigned to a team – it will simply be part of what it means to be a member. There will be 5 teams total, and each team will be led by 2 team leads. Each team will cover 2 months of the year, and work out among themselves who fills what roles: ushering, greeting, treats, etc.

The reasons for this model (and the gifts!) stretch way beyond ‘filling roles.’ We truly intend and hope that this is a faith-forming experience for all of us. We hope that new relationships and connections are built across the congregation through these service teams, and that by pitching in together we will experience what it means to be the body of Christ. We also hope that a hospitality gets deep into our hearts and bones through these practices – and that we are stretched beyond a sense of ‘having roles’ into a belief that God’s holy welcome is indeed breathing in and through us.

**Please plan on attending Adult forums on April 22 and 29.** On those two dates, from 9:15 – 10, we will announce the members of the various service teams, talk about hospitality and welcome, and get training for various roles relating to hospitality.

## **Spring Congregational Book Study**

*Pastor Martha Bardwell*

### ***A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota***

On April 8 in adult forum, we will launch a congregation-wide book study on *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, published in 2016. This book is a collection of essays by 16 incredible writers of color in Minnesota about their experiences and observations around race in our state. In the introduction, editor Sun Yung Shin writes:

It is time for this book. It is always a good time for the truth, for those who have often been spoken for and about to speak for themselves. The voices in this anthology provide a forum: a multifaceted, dazzling view of life in the state beyond the stereotypes, under *Minnesota Nice*, and into the possibilities for our future.

People of color are the fastest growing segment of Minnesota’s population. But is Minnesota a state that understands “race”? What does it mean to be “raced”? Although race is not a biological or genetic reality, it nonetheless continues to be very real in terms of its influence on the lives of Indigenous people and people of color. What are those effects, and what do they mean for people’s lives? (p. 3)

This book is a personal look into these questions, from 16 different perspectives. The stories in this book will give us a lot to talk about as a church that is seeking to welcome all people – but that has blind spots because of our white, Scandinavian – German roots. How

might these stories nudge us and open us up to be even more loving, truthful, and inclusive in our life together and in our vocations in the world? Let’s find out together!

You can find a copy of this book at your local library, or order one from a local bookstore or online. If you’d like to participate in the book study, but don’t have funds to purchase your own book, please contact one of the pastors, and we will try to find a way.

And – stay tuned for an announcement about a speaker. We hope to welcome one of the writers as a speaker this spring. So far, we plan to dedicate April 8 and April 15 forums to this book, and we will also have discussions during some May forums.

## **A Call for Recipes: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church 150th Anniversary Cookbook**

Be a part of our 150th Anniversary Cookbook! We are looking for dishes meaningful to you and your family which reflect our gathered diversity from Sweden to Liberia to Mexico to Seattle, week after week. All food categories (appetizer, salad, bread, beverage, etc.) submitted by any age are welcomed.

After you submit a recipe, save the date, Sunday, May 20th, for a special Pentecost Potluck for which you are invited to bring one of your submitted dishes and have it photographed for the cookbook. We will also enjoy a time of sharing the stories behind our foods.

Recipe submission sheets are available on the table in the narthex or from the office, or submit your recipe(s) online here: <http://tiny.cc/oslc150>

Cookbooks will be available later for digital or hard copy purchase. Contact Glenda Elder or Zac Baker with any questions. Best dishes!

## **“Little” Library**

Success comes in many ways. Our Little Library is a big hit; people look and take books quite regularly.

A big thank you goes out to Allyson Green for spearheading this project.

We have had many great books donated and they can still be donated anytime. We have two very nice containers for the donations marked for children and adults. This is such a nice thing to do for the neighborhood. Let’s keep up the good work.

## Daily Work – Steps to Success 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon is Weds May 2

This compelling one-hour event focuses on the stories of the people who come to Daily Work for help. Daily Work mentors at-risk job seekers and guides them to life-changing employment opportunities. (In case you aren't aware of it – OSLC was one of the founding churches involved in establishing Daily Work.)

**Time:** Noon-1pm. Registration begins at 11:15am.

**Location:** Midpointe Event Center, 415 Pascal St N.  
(North of I-94 between Snelling & Hamline, St. Paul.)  
Free parking; easy access to the Green Line.

**Cost:** Free to attend – invite your friends!

**Registration:** [www.daily-work.org](http://www.daily-work.org) or contact Maryellen  
([skan@umn.edu](mailto:skan@umn.edu) or 612-623-7805).

## Spring at Wilderness Canoe Base

*Nancy Nygaard Johnson*

Mark your calendars for our annual WCB Work Weekend, May 18-20. For over 30 years we have taken a group up to help get the camp ready. There is time for work and play. All ages welcome. We'll head up Friday and return Sunday evening. Sign up at church starting April 8. All ages welcome. Any questions, contact Nancy Nygaard Johnson at [n2j2@comcast.net](mailto:n2j2@comcast.net).

## Requests for Your Continuing Prayer

Please lift up these brothers and sisters in prayer:

**Lynn Bergen**

**Glenda Elder**

**Deb Swenson- Klatt**

**Blanche Austin**

**John Thurow**

**Kay Knutson**

**Elton Claussen**

**Joseph** (Amanda Steepleton's father)

**Kolu** (Garmai Howard's daughter)

**Karen Wogstad** (Marki's sister)

**Naomi Hartman** (Amy's mother)

**Mary Strom** (Diane Rowe's mother)

**Sarah Hepner** (Cindy Devereaux's daughter-in-law)

## Lectionary Texts for Home Devotions

**Apr 1 (Easter):** Acts 10:34-43; Isaiah 25:6-9 (alternate); Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Acts 10:34-43 (alternate); Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-18 (alternate). **Apr 8:** Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1--2:2; John 20:19-31. **Apr 15:** Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48. **Apr 22:** Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18. **Apr 29:** Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8



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