

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

Shirley Dahlen	Naomi Hartman
John Thurow	Glenda Elder
Joe English	Jeanne Asp
Zoe Massaquoi	Sequoya Knutson
Jim Johnson	Blanche Austin

Kay Knutson

Ben Thurow, son of Mary and John Thurow

Thanksgiving for newborn daughters Lydia Louise (Laura and Erik Hall) and Loanna Shirley (Emily and Per Halaas)

Sarah, Cindy Devereaux's daughter-in-law
Karen, Marki Wogstad's sister

How to Reach Us

2315 Chicago Ave, Mpls MN 55404
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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Business Manager:

Diane Palmer	option 5
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Office Manager:

Deborah Smith	option 7
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Custodian: Fred Ashman (Please refer custodial issues to Diane Palmer, above.)

OSCS Executive Director:

Sandra Aslaksen, Deacon	612-871-5900 opt 1
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The Meaning of Christian Vocation – “Communities of Calling”

Pastor Martha Bardwell

With council's blessing, your pastors have applied to be part of a “hub” learning process about vocation called The Communities of Calling Initiative.

Later this summer, fourteen ecumenical congregations will be selected to be a part of this 5-year process of exploring and deepening our congregation's ministries related to vocation. If we are selected, we will gather in Collegeville once a year along with council member Patrick Herson to learn from other congregations and reflect on the meaning of Christian vocation today. There is an opportunity to apply for funds (up to \$30,000) that we could use as a congregation to support new learning or ministries related to vocation.

We already have some dreams and hunches about some directions we might want to go, related to supporting members of our congregation and wider community in vocational discernment during times of transition or questioning. We are already a congregation that values wondering and questioning, and we imagine that any project that would spring from this initiative would flow from that spirit and would help us further develop the discipline of discernment.

We will certainly let everyone know when we hear whether we've been selected! In the meantime, if you have questions, please reach out to one of the pastors or Patrick Herson. You can learn more about the initiative on their website:

<https://www.communitiesofcalling.org>

Summer Potluck – Sunday, July 15

It's back! Join us for a Summer Potluck on Sunday, July 15, after worship. We'll be having a salad potluck – bring your favorite salad (lettuce, pasta, veggie, fruit, bean, etc.) to share, or bring bread or dessert. The July service team led by Kim Smith and Jeanne Asp will be providing people to help put it on.

Mission of the Month: Curran Hospital, Liberia

Alfred Flomo and Maryellen Skan

For the month of July (this one month only), Curran Hospital in Liberia is our Mission of the Month. For members and friends who are new, we begin here with some background.

Curran Hospital was first built in 1924 as a bush hospital. Located in Zorzor, the northernmost portion of Liberia, the hospital is more than 200 miles from Monrovia (4 1/2 hours on gravel). During the Civil War (1989-2003), the hospital was destroyed twice.

Today, Curran Hospital provides critical health care for a large region. In addition to 125 hospital beds, it provides outpatient services, runs a nursing school, and supervises 23 community health centers and clinics.

OSLC has had a partnership with Curran Hospital for the past 10+ years. Dr. Willie Roberts, a former OSLC member, became the Medical Director in 2009. In 2015 when he retired, he wrote to us, "I earnestly urge you, Our Saviour's Congregation, to continue to care for and share with Curran Lutheran Hospital."

A few of the projects OSLC helped with include: reconstructing the hospital (severely damaged by civil war); and purchasing a generator, an X-ray machine, medical lab equipment, and protective equipment to enable healthcare workers to safely provide care for patients who were infected with the Ebola virus.

Like last year, funds raised through Mission of the Month will go toward supporting "Current for Curran". This solar energy project is part of a larger initiative called "Skip the Grid". The NE Minnesota Synod Women of the ELCA in partnership with the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) are working to construct a solar array for Curran.

This solar capability will offer an affordable and clean energy supply for the hospital, reducing Curran's need for diesel generators. Perhaps more important, it will provide a more reliable source of energy – something which is necessary for quality health care.

"Sometimes we run out of current, it's a bad situation – nurses have to work in the dark with flashlights. It is something that is not heard of anywhere else," commented Dr. Gobeh, previous Medical Director at Curran.

To support *Current for Curran* - note "Curran" on your check or envelope. Thank you!

Submitting Your Sentinel Article

Beginning with the next issue of *The Sentinel*, please submit articles for it to this address:

info@oursavioursmpls.org

Update: the ELCA's Women and Justice Social Statement

Mike Troutman

On May 16 Zac Baker, Amy Blumenshine and Mike Troutman represented Our Saviours at Christ Lutheran Church in Blaine. We participated in a feedback session hosted by the synod to gather comments on the *ELCA Women and Justice: One in Christ* draft social statement. Supportive and clarifying comments and recommendations were offered by congregations from throughout the synod.

Zac Baker (representing Lutheran young adults and the LGBTQ community) comments are summarized as follows:

"It is imperative that our denomination pass this statement at the upcoming Churchwide Assembly. #TimeIsUp for our church to delay labeling the sins of sexism and patriarchy. Lutheran young adults are clamoring for a public church to speak prophetically about societal issues central to our lived experiences, our families, and our neighbors. And LGBTQ Lutherans know that the root of homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia is misogyny and the fear of the feminine. Much thought and hard work has gone into this social statement, and it is beautifully intersectional on multiple levels. A delayed or watered down social statement on Women and Justice will only continue to oppress those most marginalized in our denomination."

Mike shared comments based on the supportive statement crafted by the Our Saviour's Men's group, excerpts of which follow:

"Following conversation and prayer, the Men's Group from Our Saviours' Lutheran Church feels called to affirm the work of the ELCA task force on Women and Justice. As men, we recognize the harm that patriarchy and sexism causes women and girls in our church and in our society. In addition, we believe that patriarchal attitudes and practices also harm men and boys both within and outside the church. Our own growth to be

fully developed children of God is limited by the patriarchal expectations of our culture. We also suffer when we see how patriarchy and sexism negatively impact our mothers, wives, daughters, granddaughters and other women in our lives...

While we support the wide range of comments on how patriarchy has impacted Lutheran tradition, we want to highlight in particular the need for changes in how we as Lutherans refer to God. Too often we have failed to stop and think how our words both enable and limit an understanding of what we are using a word for. When we use words that are bound to a specific gender or time or location we narrow our understanding of what we mean when we are referring to the source of meaning, the Creator of the universe....”

For more information on the social statement and to submit your individual comments go to:

ELCA.org/womenandjustice

A Sunday morning forum is planned for September. Stay tuned for details.

Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation! Please Support the Food Shelf.

Summer is here with all its activities, vacations, family time and fun. Most of us don't think about hunger! However, our neighbors served by CES often do not have enough money for food and hygiene items. Summer tends to be one of the busiest times for the food shelf with school kids at home without school lunch programs to help. The food shelf needs the following:

- 100% fruit juice
- Canned goods - fruit, tuna (in water), chicken or beef broth
- Mac & Cheese, spaghetti noodles
- Jelly/jam, peanut butter
- Whole grain cereals, instant oatmeal packets

Drop off donations in the coat room.

CES Volunteer Opportunity! Saturday, August 4; 9 – 11 at CES. Pack groceries for future delivery. All ages welcome. Contact Maryellen with questions and to sign up. (skan@umn.edu or 612-623-7805)

Lutheran Night at Target Field

Get your tickets to Lutheran Night at Target Field. The game is Tues July 31st at 7:10pm vs Cleveland. The

tickets are \$28 and are located in The Deck (down the 3rd base line on the same level as the Delta 360 area). They have a great view of downtown and the field!

Sign up at church or email Nancy Nygaard Johnson (n2j2@comcast.net) with your order. The deadline to order tickets is Sunday July 8th.

We can once again have people participate in singing the National Anthem with the Lutheran Night choir. If you are interested in singing that night, please note that when you sign up.

Go Twins!

Jesus' Abba – a Book Report

Amy Blumenshine

The congregation of OSLC has long grappled with issues around language for God. Relatively recently, we've begun using *Abba*, the Aramaic word Jesus used.

I just encountered a 2015 book titled *Jesus' Abba: The God Who Has Not Failed* by John Cobb. (Hurrah for the library!) Here are some gems from Cobb's book to contemplate. These are Cobb's view, not necessarily the view of Our Savior's.

The way God has been defined by some Christians and the secular world is not the way in which Jesus understood God, according to Cobb. It merits the incredulity and hostility evoked among some skeptics.

In a deeply intellectual and philosophically informed manner, Cobb's argument tackles the value-free, materialistic, alleged objectivity of the late modern world view. Instead, Cobb emphasizes the importance of the personal subjective experience of *Abba*. He encourages Christians to see God through the eyes of Jesus, embracing *Abba* as Jesus did. We should experience the great love which is co-generated in contact with the beloved parent, when we are “truly devoted to *Abba* with great seriousness.”

Cobb notes the clash of believing God to be both all-powerful and all-beneficent, and instead sees a God who provides opportunities, not control. I appreciated Cobb's explanation of *Abba's* power as not a coercive power but a liberating power of possibility imagined.

There are those who identify power so fully with coercive force, that they consider the lack of that kind of power to be weakness. They feel awe and worship before the embodiments of coercive

power and treat Abba with contempt. But there are also those who recognize what is of positive value in the world is not the product of coercive power. Coercive power can determine some aspects of human behavior, but it cannot evoke love or widen horizons or increase understanding. A very different kind of power is required for that. Abba is the one “from whom all blessings flow.”

Jesus’s teaching about Abba is coherent with our experience and responds well to the needs of the world of our day. Jesus had confidence in the love and empowering power of Abba.

Cobb claims that we are in a radically new position with respect to *Abba*. Modern historical scholarship enables us to clarify Jesus teaching about *Abba* and, developments in science show that just this kind of God fits the evidence. According to Cobb:

The great choice is between serving Abba and serving wealth. The decision to serve Abba corresponds with the choice of life. To choose life in a culture that does not value it or even believe that it really exists is a daring and costly move...Abba deals with us gently, but Abba calls for action that is not always gentle and is often roughly treated by those servants of wealth who

rightly recognize the servants of Abba as a threat.”

Among many interesting points, Cobb notes how Jerome’s original translation into Latin of a Hebrew name for God, *Shaddai*, as God Almighty gave the impression that God was omnipotent. I point out that our history might have been quite different if Jerome had used another of the definitions for *Shaddai* which emphasizes great beneficence and nurture, the “multi-breasted one.”

Lectionary Texts for Home Devotions

July 1: Lamentations 3:22-33; Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 (alternate); Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

July 8: Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 15: Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

July 22: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 29: 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21



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www.facebook.com/Our.Saviours.Lutheran.Church.Mpls

Pastors:	Laurie A. Eaton	opt 3
	Martha Schwehn Bardwell	opt 4
Music Director:	Mary Preus	opt 6
Business Manager:	Diane Palmer	opt 5
Office Manager:	Deborah Smith	opt 7
Our Saviour's Community Services Executive Director:	Deacon Sandra Aslaksen	612-871-5900, opt 1

July at Our Saviour's

Sun Jul 1	10 – 10:30am 10:30am 11:30am	Coffee (HC) Worship (S) Hospitality (HC)	Tue Jul 17	12:30 – 2pm 6:30 – 8:30pm	Staff Meeting (CR) MCFE mtg (off site)
Mon Jul 2	(No Church Council this month)		Wed Jul 18	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)
Tue Jul 3	12:30 – 2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)	Thu Jul 19	Sentinel Deadline 7 – 9am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
Wed Jul 4	Office Closed; ELC on break 'til Jul 9 No Bible Study (CR)			6:30pm 7:30pm	Long Range Planning (CR) Staffing Team (CR)
Thu Jul 5	7 – 9am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood	Fri Jul 20	Office Closed 7 – 10pm	Narc Anon (HC)
Fri Jul 6	Office Closed 6:30 – 7:30am 1 – 3pm 7 – 10pm	Men's Breakfast @ Butter Water turned off for meter testing Narc Anon (HC)	Sun Jul 22	10 – 10:30am 10:30am After Worship After Worship 3pm 4-6pm: Come Together – Prayer and Worship Service (S)	Coffee (HC) Worship (S) ISAIAH Mtg (CR) Hospitality (HC) Set-up (S)
Sat Jul 7			Tue Jul 24	12:30 – 2pm 6 – 7pm	Staff Meeting (CR) OSCS Exec Com Mtg (CR)
Sun Jul 8	10 – 10:30am 10:30am 11:30am	Coffee (HC) Worship (S) Hospitality (HC)	Wed Jul 25	10:15am 5 – 6:30pm	Bible Study (CR) Finance (CR)
Mon Jul 9	ELC Classes resume		Thu Jul 26	7 – 9am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood
Tue Jul 10	12:30 – 2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)	Fri Jul 27	Office Closed 7 – 10pm	Narc Anon (HC)
Wed Jul 11	10:15am	Bible Study (CR)	Sun Jul 29	10 – 10:30am 10:30am After Worship After Worship	Coffee (HC) Worship (S) Exec Committee (CR) Hospitality (HC)
Thu Jul 12	7 – 9am	Women's Brkfst @ Birchwood	Tue Jul 31	12:30 – 2pm 7:10 – 8:10pm	Staff Meeting (CR) Lutheran Night at Target Field
Fri Jul 13	Office Closed 7 – 10pm	Narc Anon (HC)	Mon Jul 16	9 – 11am	Archives Com (bsmnt)
Sun Jul 15	10 – 10:30am 10:30am After Worship	Coffee (HC) Worship (S) Summer Pot Luck (HC, K, back yard)			



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