

The Sentinel

June 2021

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a dynamic community, centered in Christ, called, nurtured and sent-to celebrate, serve and do justice.

Led by the Spirit: Back, But Not Normal!

Pastor Laurie Eaton

Beloveds, as vaccinations go up and case positivity rates go down, congregations all around the synod are trying to find ways to begin gathering again for in-person worship, while still protecting those around us who are vulnerable and at risk for serious illness. Where once we might have imagined a “grand re-opening” when the pandemic ended, we are finding instead that we will be taking tentative, baby steps, as we begin welcoming members back to the church building. We plan to try some things out, see how they feel, and keep a close eye on the data regarding the coronavirus. We invite you to take a similar approach, gauging your own comfort levels, taking the time and precautions that help you to feel safe, as together we ease our way back into community gatherings.

Please note: *We will continue to offer virtual worship even as we welcome people into the sanctuary. We have learned a great deal about making worship accessible to people with different mobility needs, different schedules, and different locations, and we know that virtual worship will continue to be an important way to extend our community beyond our walls.*

Beginning in June we are offering two opportunities each week for a limited number of people to gather in person at church. On Wednesday evenings at **6:30pm, starting June 2**, we will host “**Wednesday Firepit Prayers.**” This will be an outdoor service, with songs, readings, guided conversations, prayers, and a communal art project of some sort. Each Sunday, at 10:30am, we will welcome a few people to sign up to attend worship in the sanctuary, along with the worship leaders. Here is a breakdown of the precautions and expectations we are setting to keep one another and the larger community safe.

- Each service will have space for 20 people: vaccinated adults, and children at their parents' discretion. Each individual or family member counts as one spot.
- Sign up can be online, at SignUpGenius.com and searching Our Saviour's Lutheran Church or by calling the church office: 612-871-2967
- For Wednesday Firepit Prayers, please sign up by Tuesday, the day before.
- For Sunday worship, please sign up by the Friday before
- If we discover there are vacant spots, we will put the word out until the places are filled

Masks

- Inside the church building, masks are required – this is for the sake of immune-suppressed people and children who cannot be vaccinated.
- Outside, masking will be optional/ required for singing

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Spacing

- Inside, pews are marked for safe physical distancing; maintain 6 feet distance when not seated.
- Outside, please bring your own chair or blanket for your “family group” and set up 10 feet apart from other groups or individuals

Hygiene

- Hand sanitizer will be available at entrances and in the sanctuary.
- Restrooms will be available; antiviral wipes will be available for wiping down surfaces and handles; limit 2 people in restroom at a time.
- We will share the peace by non-contact means
- Offering plates will not be passed, but will remain in one accessible location

Guidance

- Ushers will be available at each service, to help with proper physical distancing and answer questions
- Extra masks will be on hand for those that forget
- For the time being, we will let visitors know that we cannot yet open to the general public, but they are welcome to join worship online, or become part of our sign up process

Holy Communion

- Communion will be celebrated each Sunday.
- Those present in the sanctuary will be invited to receive the sacrament at the end of the online worship service
- Servers will sanitize their hands, as will all who receive
- Bread will be served individually as we have in the past, by the pastors
- Individual, compostable cups will be used for wine and juice

These months since the pandemic began have been challenging, frightening, and traumatic for all of us, each in our own ways. Reopening brings with it new risks, and more adaptations, all of which will likely stir up emotional responses. Please remember to be gracious with yourself and with others. Share your thoughts and concerns with the pastors. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide our discernment as we seek to regather as safely as possible. We long to see one another in three dimensions!

Worship with Holy Communion Sundays at 10:30am

Join us on Facebook

Coffee Hour on Zoom Directly after worship

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84676141042?pwd=eEVQV04wTDFETUZTWjRXQXpqcEZqdz09>

Meeting ID: 846 7614 1042, Passcode: 654340

Worship Folders

To get your worship folder, head over to oursavioursmpls.org and find it under the Worship, Music and Arts tab.

ATTENTION: Families

Watch for a pop up gathering at Wabun Park during the month of June. We'll send out the date and details by email.

~~**Police Abolition Learning Circles**~~

Lutheran Night at Target Field

Lutheran Night with the Twins is back! Come see the Twins take on the Tigers on Monday, July 26 at 7:10pm. Tickets are in Section T and are \$29. To sign up, please send an email to Nancy with the number of tickets needed. You will need to have the MLB app to access your tickets. Order tickets by July 4th.

~~*Allyson Green*~~

Congratulations to our graduates!

A drive by celebration will be held on Sunday June 13th starting at 12:00. Drive by on Chicago Ave and greet the graduates and get a cupcake. We will honor the following graduates:

High School:

- Freya Hauer, graduating from South High School. Freya will attend Augsburg University in the fall.
- Kurstin Amelsberg, graduating from Coon Rapids High School. Kurstin will attend South Dakota St in the fall.



College:

- Liza Johnson, graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College with a BA in Political Science and Scandinavian Studies
- Ethan Kehrberg, graduating from St Olaf College with a BA in Political Science and Environmental Studies
- Rebekkah Schultz, graduating from Minneapolis College of Art and Design with a BFA in Animation
- Jakob Johnson, graduating in December from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities with a BIS (Bachelor of Individualized Studies) -Economics, Statistics, and Deaf Studies
- Issac Lewis, graduating in December from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities with a BA in Economics

Graduate School:

- Rachel Johnson, graduating from United Lutheran Seminary with a Master of Divinity

God's blessings to all of you!

June is Scholarship Funding Time

A few years ago the OSLC Foundation provided start-up money to fund a one-time scholarship of \$1000 for each of our young people to continue their education beyond high school. Last year the Foundation provided matching funds to assist in continuing this scholarship program. The Foundation has agreed to match the donated funds again this year to enable us to continue to assist students. This past year we expanded the program to assist students in the English Learning Center to extend our support and care into the community. The ELC used the money to purchase Chromebooks so students could continue learning during the pandemic. The ELC will help us identify students who wish to get further education after they complete the program offered by the ELC.

This effort is clearly meaningful for the recipients. Here are responses from two who have benefitted from the grants: *“The scholarship I received from the OSLC Scholarship Fund Committee has given me the opportunity to allocate more money towards studying abroad in the future! The generosity of this community has helped prepare me for enhancing my education while exploring other cultures. This scholarship has helped to lower my amount of debt, making college life a little less stressful. I have been so grateful for this support from my home church during a time of transition and discovery!”* -Claire Lind

Osman from the English Learning Center wrote, *“during this hard times English Learning Center didn't stop for anything that's why I love my school.”*

May we continue to support learners in our faith community and beyond. Any amount is wonderful. Please consider what you wish to give to support this mission of our community. Each gift will be doubled with the matching grant by the Foundation.

Thanks for your continuing gifts.
The OSLC Scholarship Committee

President Update

Dear Members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, I am planning to share updates with you in the Sentinel as the Council discerns our process of wishing Pastor Laurie well in her retirement along with discerning our staffing needs moving forward. At this point, Karen Ohm is our synod contact in the transitional process. I have had a number of contacts with Karen and she has provided documents and a process for the council to consider. Per Karen Ohm, we are hoping to have an interim pastor on board soon after Pastor Laurie leaves.

The Council has asked the following individuals to design and execute a meaningful farewell to Pastor Laurie and all have accepted this invitation. The members of this group include Sarah Lindley, Craig Johnson, Laura Kehrberg, Laura Hauer, Suzanne Burke, Sandy Aslaksen, and Madeline Lind. Please feel free to contact them with any thoughts you have and would like to be considered.

We are a blessed community. Please feel free to contact me at anytime with any thoughts you want me to share with council. We will walk this together as this community has skillfully walked it numerous times.

God's Love and Peace to you all,

Elaine Johnson

Summer Intergenerational Event at Baker Park

Saturday, July 31

Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

Save the date for a day of fun for our church family! Baker Park is located on scenic Lake Independence and offers 2,700 acres of natural landscape and accommodations for many activities: swimming, hiking, camping, and picnicking. Explore the lake with your own watercraft or rent from the park. Try out the newly constructed playground. There are so many fun things to do. Baker Park Reserve is 29 miles or 23 minutes from church: 2309 Baker Park Rd, Maple Plain, MN 55359.

If you would like to camp at Baker Park on Friday or Saturday, you can find more information about reserving a campsite here: <https://www.threeriversparks.org/location/baker-campground>

Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 31st. There will be more information to come. We will have Covid protocols in place and will communicate those closer to the date.

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Jeanne Heer and MCFF table

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Connect and Reflect Summer Gatherings -

looking for hosts

Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

MCFF has sensed the desire in our community for small group, in person gatherings where people can reconnect and reflect on the last year together. Some of these gatherings may be available at church, but we'd love for some of them to be offered by members in their backyards. If you are interested in hosting a gathering in your backyard, please reach out to Samantha Heaton (samantha.heaton@gmail.com) or Pastor Martha (martha@oursavioursmpls).

Treaty People Gathering to Stop Line 3 - June 5-8

Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

June 5-8, thousands of people are gathering to call upon President Biden to stop Enbridge Line 3 pipeline construction once and for all. Indigenous women have been leading this movement against Line 3, and they are calling on everyone to come to the frontlines in northern MN and join them in this fight for all of our futures. This is a chance to live out our faith values and make a stand for climate justice and treaty rights.

MNIPL is organizing some lodging for a multi faith delegation. If you'd like to be part of it, you can register here: <https://www.mnipl.org/event/treaty-people-gathering/>

Reach out to Pastor Martha to be connected with other members who are in discernment about going; reach out to Julia Fritz-Endres (MNIPL Pipeline Resistance Coordinator) at juliafe@mnipl.org if you have other questions.

From the Property Committee

We don't know yet when we will be able to return to worshipping in the building, but we do know that the grounds around the building are in regular need of care and attention. Mark your calendar for these monthly clean up days and join in tending to our property. Tasks will include things like picking up trash, maybe light gardening (ok...pulling weeds), and whatever else might need sprucing up. Come once or come every month – wear a mask, plan to maintain safe distance, and bring whatever tools you think you might need. Thanks!

Regular clean up days/yard work days through the fall: (start time is 10:00am, except for the hottest months, see below)

May 8

June 12

July 10 at 9:00 (it can get hot early in the day)

August 14 at 9:00

Sept 11

Oct 9

Thanksgiving for the Life of Judy Halverson

Sunday, July 11, 2021 at 1pm via Zoom. Stay tuned for more information and for the Zoom link. Questions or comments, please email Mary Preus at marypreus@oursavioursmpls.org

Mission of the Month: Our Saviour's Housing

Greetings Friends,

Last week we began moving our shelter guests back from the hotel in Bloomington! Here are a couple of photos of Our Saviour's Housing staff spiffing up the shelter, and a freshly prepared guest room, with a new bed and desk, ready for 24/7 occupancy.

As those of you who volunteer to provide meals at the shelter already know, we are also restarting our volunteer meal program. We look forward to seeing you! If you have questions about how to participate, including our new COVID-safe procedures, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Wateen Mohamed-Osman, at volunteer@oshousing.org or call 612-872-4193.

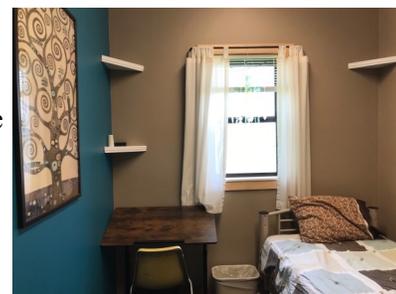


Thank you again for the generous support that made sheltering our guests at the hotel during the worst of the COVID pandemic possible, and for your continued support – through Mission of the Month – which will make it possible to operate our shelter safely, now that our guests have returned. We can't do this without you!

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David G." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Interim Executive Director, OSHCS



Memorial Day events

Amy Blumenshine

Veterans for Peace will resume their in-person Memorial Day Service May 31, 2021 beginning at 9:30 am on the State Capitol grounds on John Ireland Blvd, just outside of the Vietnam Veterans memorial. The event will include a Native welcome, music, and spoken word along with a time to remember those have been lost to the scourge of wars--veterans and non-veterans. If the weather is inclement, the gathering will be under the walkway between the VA administration buildings. Participants are invited to bring their own chair or blanket.

The VFP flyer notes: "This Memorial Day we remember all who have died in war and understand that no one wins in war. Many of us have been personally touched by war. But we must also extend that mourning. We must remember the civilian victims, and their families, who are all equally human beings. Honoring and remembering some deaths while ignoring others not only perpetuates war, but also ignores the moral injuries of war, which some now recognize as a significant cause of veteran suicide."

Due to the pandemic, the **Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs** again partnered with Twin Cities PBS-TPT to create a 30-minute Memorial Day program entitled "Reflections: Memorial Day 2021" that will be broadcast across the state on TPT's Minnesota Channel at 8 p.m. on Monday, May 31 and again on Sunday, June 6 at 8 a.m.

Bells will be rung at noon as part of City of Bells Community Bell Ringing event. The theme for this Memorial Day will be "Remembrance."

Civil War Reflections

Amy Blumenshine

Memorial Day started as Decoration Day after the Civil War, and was a way of dealing with the widespread grief of the Civil War by ritual practices in cemeteries. This year following the killing of George Floyd on Memorial Day 2020, it is particularly significant to recall the trauma of the Civil War--considered by some historians as the most catastrophic event in American history. Surviving Americans were horrified by the losses and devastation – which continued to be felt long after the hostilities ended.

We need to remember that predictable trauma now. Triggering a new civil war is the expressed intent of some of those who caused harm last year under the skirts of the protests after the killing of George Floyd. Causing a civil war was also the expressed intent of the mass murderer of the Emanuel Nine in Charleston, SC on June 17 in 2015. The film Emanuel tells the story of how the Charleston survivors were moved by their faith to thwart those intents. Or as President Obama noted in his eulogy of the slain Rev. and SC Senator Clementa Pinckney, “Oh, but God works in mysterious ways.” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9IGyidtfGI>)

That both the Emanuel Nine murderer and two of the murdered were connected to ELCA institutions reminds us of the peculiar horror and profound grief of brothers killing brothers, also in the Civil War.

Our most recent ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed a resolution commemorating the martyrs of June 17 and calling for repentance. “Our relationship to the shooter, as well as two of the slain, reminds us of both our complicity and our calling. Together we confess that we are in bondage to the sins of racism and white supremacy and, at the same time, we rejoice in the freedom that is ours in Christ Jesus who “has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us” (Ephesians 2:14). May God continue to guide us as we seek repentance and renewal, and racial justice and reconciliation among God’s precious children.” (<https://www.elca.org/emanuelnine>)

Sadly, recent events have shown that the Civil War issues did not resolve in 1865, and that our nation continues to grapple with white supremacy, various institutionalized forms of suppression, and the dynamics of violent division. OSLC is among many churches offering opportunities to grapple with the sin of 1619 and co-create a more-perfect union.

June 2021 at Our Saviour's

Tues, June 1	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting
Wed, June 2	10:15-12pm 6:30-7pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom Wednesday Firepit Prayers in the Our Saviour's Backyard
Fri, June 4	7:00am	Men's Breakfast at Butter Café and on Zoom
Sun, June 6	10:30am 11:30am	Worship On Facebook Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom
Monday, June 7	7:00	Church Council Meeting on Zoom
Tues, June 8	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting
Wed, June 9	10:15-12pm 6:30-7pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom Wednesday Firepit Prayers in the Our Saviour's Backyard
Sat, June 12	10:00	Property Committee meeting and Clean Up
Sun, June 13	10:30am 11:30am 12:00	Worship On Facebook Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom Grad Drive By Celebration at OSLC
Tues, June 15	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting
Wed, June 16	10:15-12pm 6:30-7pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom Wednesday Firepit Prayers in the Our Saviour's Backyard
Sun, June 20 (Father's Day)	10:30am 11:30am	Worship On Facebook Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom
Mon, June 21	7-8:30	DAY CAMP BEGINS OSLC Racial Justice Committee Meeting
Tues, June 22	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting
Wed, June 23	10:15-12pm 6:30-7pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom Wednesday Firepit Prayers in the Our Saviour's Backyard
Sun, June 27	10:30am 11:30am 12:00pm	Worship On Facebook Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom ISAIAH Team Meeting
Monday June 28	9am	Sentinel Deadline!
Tues, June 29	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting
Wed, June 30	10:15-12pm 6:30-7pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom Wednesday Firepit Prayers in the Our Saviour's Backyard

