

The Sentinel

August 2021

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

Transitions, Part 2

Pastor Laurie Eaton

As I promised last month, it is time for me to say something about the congregational transition that comes as a result of my retirement.

First, and repeatedly, I want to say “Thank you.” Thank you for being the faithful, loving, committed followers of Christ that you are. Thank you for showing me the depth of your commitment to love God, love your neighbors, and care for the world God made in more ways than I can possibly remember. Your witness to the power of grace and love in your lives is beautiful and has empowered and sustained me in my ministry among you. Thank you for calling me to be your pastor, for trusting me to lead you, for welcoming me into the holy moments of your lives, and for supporting and encouraging me over these years. I am so humbled and grateful for the ministry we have shared.

Thank you, too, for the times you have challenged me and stretched me to grow. For questioning my decisions and for expressing your opinions. Thank you for not running away when differences have arisen. Thank you for keeping the “parking lot” conversations to a minimum. Thank you for being willing to lean into discomfort for the sake of serving the world in love.

We have grown together, by God’s grace...from a congregation with only a few children, to a church that needs to reimagine its space to accommodate all the babies and toddlers in our midst. From a congregation that was always on the edge financially, to a congregation that is generous, abundantly supporting the ministry and sharing widely beyond our walls. Trusting in God’s grace we continue to grapple with difficult issues (a characteristic that runs deep in the ethos of this congregation), even to being willing to look at ourselves from the lens of white supremacy culture. We continue to grow in our ability to welcome and affirm all people who find their way here: diversity in race and culture, diversity in gender identity and sexual orientation, diversity in neuro-processing, diversity in experience with the legal system, drug use, mental health, and all the other ways humans reveal their uniqueness. I say this knowing full well that we are not perfect in any way, nor are we finished with this work. But your willingness to learn to be open and welcoming does help make this a church “where everybody’s welcome!”

You have upheld me through many personal life changes as well. I first arrived as a newly divorced single woman. You helped me move into a neighborhood closer to church. When I announced my engagement to my husband several years later you surrounded me with love and joy and hosted a beautiful reception to celebrate with me. You have prayed for my adult children through their joys and challenges, and you have rejoiced with me as I welcomed my two granddaughters. I have been able to be authentic and whole with you and it is a remarkable gift to be loved in that way.

Our Saviour's is filled with many strong, thoughtful leaders willing to share their skills and talents for the sake of the congregation and it has been an honor to work with all of you. I have been fortunate to work with staff and volunteers that have invested themselves deeply in the life of this congregation. I would be terribly remiss if I didn't make a special acknowledgement of my dear colleagues in ministry: Mary Preus and Pastor Martha Bardwell. I knew when I was called here that I would be working with "Lutheran royalty" in our director of worship and music, and Mary welcomed me generously. We found that our gifts and skills complemented one another, and we have thrived together. The addition of Pastor Martha to the leadership team has been a profound gift of pastoral and theological strength. We have inspired each other and delighted in creating opportunities to lead you in authentic worship, growth in faith, commitment to doing justice, and nurturing love for each other. The relationships we have formed are rare and precious in church ministry. Together, along with you, Mary and Martha have made me a better pastor, and a better person. My heart is full.

Our Saviour's has a long and rich history, of which you are well aware. When I arrived, you were celebrating the 140th Anniversary. Two years ago, we celebrated 150 years of ministry. We are indeed "a dynamic community centered in Christ," with a reach and a reputation that is broad and deep. We continue to be rooted and grounded in love and empowered by the Holy Spirit to dwell in God's never-ending grace, mercy, and love – the Good News that our world so desperately needs to hear. Our Saviour's has endured and flourished through many transitions. You are well positioned to follow God's calling into what is yet to come. Know that you have a place deep in my heart and my memory, and I will continue to hold you in prayer. Words fail me as I try to convey my love and gratitude.

Worship with Holy Communion Sundays at 10:30am

Join us in person or on Facebook
Call the office at 612-871-2967 to reserve your spot in the sanctuary.

Worship Folders

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

Zoom Coffee Hour Takes a Pause for the Summer

We're putting a pause on the virtual coffee hour as we make plans for the fall. For the first three Sundays in August (1st, 8th, 15th) please try to attend one of the outdoor events celebrating Pastor Laurie's retirement after worship those Sundays, if you are able. In addition, because participation has declined on Zoom Coffee Hour, we are re-evaluating how to engage members in conversation and connections. Watch for more information regarding Fall plans for Coffee Hour.

July Mission of the Month **Every Meal**

Every Meal (formerly Sheridan's Story) works to fight hunger in our community by filling the gaps in food access that children face during weekends, summers, and extended breaks. OSLC stepped into this partnership as a way to support our neighbors across the street at Hope Academy, becoming a sponsor with Every Meal and gathering a group of faithful volunteers to fill kids' backpacks with extra food to take home. While COVID-19 has shifted the way Every Meal lives out its mission, they continue to provide "nutritious, delicious, and relevant" food in creative ways at 461 different sites across the Metro area. This shift in operations, an increase in the annual contribution requested to be a sponsor, plus the pause on in-person volunteering that kept us connected to Hope Academy, has allowed OSLC some time to re-evaluate our partnership in light of our strategic goal of "Living into a process of better engagement with our neighbors."



At this point, we are backing away from being a sponsor with Every Meal but continuing our commitment to the important work they do to keep kids nourished through Mission of the Month. Your support this month will help keep the meals coming, including for some of our neighbors across the street!

Volunteer opportunities are starting to become available again, and we're working with Every Meal to see what the possibilities are and whether a connection to Hope Academy is still possible. If you're a previous volunteer or are interested in learning more, feel free to reach out to Allyson (green.allyson@gmail.com) for a conversation on how this partnership may be able to evolve as we emerge from this pandemic and continue to live into our neighborhood commitments.

go to our website to make a contribution and use the Mission of the Month box in online giving or send in a check with Every Meal in the memo line.

Herbs as Medicine Workshop -Sunday, August 22 from 1-4pm

Pastor Martha Schwehn Bardwell

Come learn about some of the medicinal plants growing right in our community garden on Chicago Ave! At this hands-on workshop, you will get to learn from a certified herbalist, Riley Johnson, who is part Cree born and raised in Minneapolis and a graduate of the Herbal Studies Program at MCTC. Riley will lead us in making and learning about a few household staple herbal medicines, including elderberry syrup, fire cider, and yarrow tincture.

This workshop will be in the Hospitality Center and backyard at church. We are welcoming a max of 25 participants to this workshop so that we have adequate space for distancing. Masks are required. To participate, please RSVP to Pastor Martha if you would like to attend (martha@oursavioursmpls.org).

This workshop is funded by the generous grant we received from the Minneapolis Synod last year to support our community garden and our growing connections in the neighborhood. We hope to welcome neighbors as well as OSLC members to this event.

President Update

Dear Members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church,

I have an update that contains good news along with the wait continues. Yes, the demand for interim pastors in the Twin Cities is fierce. To date, Pastor Craig Pederson, Assistant to the Bishop, has not been able to provide any names of interim pastors for us to interview. We, at Our Saviour's, will patiently wait. The benefits of having an outside interim pastor guide us outweighs any desire to push forward on our own. With that being written, Pastor Martha has graciously offered to go full time from her three-quarter time pastoral position until we have an interim on board. The council approved a motion from the Personnel Committee to do so beginning August 1st and continuing three weeks into the interim pastor's arrival. Pastors Laurie and Martha along with Mary Preus will plan a worship schedule that could carry us up to three months or more, if needed. We are so blessed to have diaconal ministers along with Lutheran pastors in our midst. We are so blessed!

The Executive Committee has completed the Ministerial Assessment Form and the Exit Interview with Pastor Laurie. The exit interview with Pastor Laurie gathered her thoughts, wisdom, and guidance about the strengths and needs of our community and her thoughts about the future of OSLC. Again, once an interim is on board, a committee of 5-6 members will work with the interim to complete the Ministry Site Profile. This document will be a guide for the synod and Our Saviour's to help discern staffing and skills needed for our next decade to come. When that is accomplished, a call committee of 5-6 members will be named by council with the charge of interviewing and recommending our next pastor or pastors. All pastoral calls require a vote of the congregation. Your input and vote are critical.

Please be sure to take an opportunity during the first part of August to say your good-byes and share your well wishes with Pastor Laurie. It is important for each of us to take a moment and reflect on the gift she has been to us and to let her know. I am so grateful to the Retirement Celebrations Planning Committee members. They have provided numerous ways for each of us to share our appreciation and love.

We are a blessed community. I appreciate all of you. Please feel free to contact me with any of your thoughts, questions, concerns, or hopes. We will walk all of this together.

God's Love and Peace to you all,

Elaine Johnson

Treasurer's Update

Joel Beard

As we have passed the halfway point of 2021, I want to provide a midyear update on the church finances. Last year around this time I was writing near the height of the July surge in coronavirus cases with the unclear timeline for vaccine development providing no foreseeable end to the disruptions, disease, and deaths caused by the pandemic. In the midst of that uncertainty, the generous giving of Our Saviour's community was a source of comfort in a difficult time. Now, as yet another surge in cases is upon us, perhaps a pandemic fatigue has set in. Despite the incredible vaccines that have enabled "normal" life to return in many ways - including limited capacity in-person church, outdoor gatherings, and community meals - we find ourselves in limbo. There has been no "grand re-opening", but rather small steps in that direction, as we yearn for more regular community life but continue to practice humility and love in our precautions.

In this context I am pleased to report that pledge offerings through June are on track to meet our budget goal for the year, which would be close to a 5% increase in giving from last year. While some members are ahead on their giving, others are behind, so overall it balances out at the halfway point in the year. On the other hand, as people have become more accustomed to regular, automatic online giving, there is a gap between our general offerings and our budget goal, which would leave us about \$10,000 short by the end of the year. We are in

ISAIAH update

Mark Anderson

Minneapolis residents face an important choice this fall about how to keep our city safe and just for everyone who lives, works or visits here.

Two measures will be on the ballot in November aimed at responding more effectively to crime and other emergencies that occur on our streets and in our homes.

One measure, backed by ISAIAH and its affiliate Faith in Minnesota, would reconstitute the Minneapolis Police Department into a Department of Public Safety. The new department would embrace a comprehensive approach to a wide range of crises. It would employ professionals trained to find safe responses to mental illness and to emergencies brought on by chronic homelessness or drug abuse. That catalog of interventions would also include armed responses to violent crimes. The goal for the reform is to provide more productive outcomes to the vast range of crises that occur in the city. It would also reduce the number of unnecessary arrests that end up filling jails.

The other measure that ISAIAH backs would enable the city to eventually create an ordinance capping the amount of rent increases that landlords can charge their tenants.

You can start getting ready to make your choice on those issues by attending any of three ISAIAH events in the next month. Look for registration directions at faithinminnesota.org.

Thursday, July 29, starting at 6:30 p.m., Home to Stay Coalition gathers at Boom Island Park to rally for Rent Stabilization and strategize for the fall campaign.

Tuesday, Aug. 3 starting at 3 p.m, the Yes 4 Minneapolis Coalition meets at Boom Island Park to rally for a new Department of Public Safety and equip people with resources to talk with neighbors that evening at National Night Out events.

Saturday/Sunday August 21 and 22. Voter Engagement campaign begins. We kick off our efforts to talk with voters about our vision and the amendments. Sign up for either Saturday 8/21 from 10am-1pm or Sunday 8/22 from 1-4pm. (Location and in person/virtual still TBD)

For more information, visit faithinmn.org, or contact Paula Keller (612) 822-9122 or Marki Wogstad-Hansen, (612) 369-7918,



What's Liza Johnson up to, you ask?

Amy Blumenshine

What Liza Johnson is setting off to do next brings together two significant commitments and strengths of OSLC: Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) and feminist theology. In August, Liza will be volunteering and living in intentional community with LVC in the Washington, DC area. There she'll be interning with one of the premier feminist theological centers in the globe. The Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER) is a non-profit feminist theology educational center. They organize projects, programs, workshops, and publications that promote multi-faith feminist religious values within a mindset of social change.

Liza described how unlikely this decision had seemed. Paradoxically, as a lifetime member of OSLC, her familiarity with LVC had inclined her to think she should get away from what she grew up with, Liza explained. But talking with recent LVC participants convinced her that the experience would be so much more growth oriented than simply getting a job.

"The point of a service year is that you're not focusing on physical things like money. You're able to put your energy into the work you're doing and learning life skills. I want to take the opportunity as a young person while I can to connect with people, do the work and not get bogged down by the capitalism and materialism that consumes the rest of world," she said.

And volunteering for a nonprofit seemed appropriate as Liza intends a career in non-profits: "I want to be a Sandy Aslaksen."

The choice of a feminist theological center also came about in a mysterious way. One of Liza's final required courses at Gustavus Adolphus College last year shifted her thinking towards theology. "It blew my mind," she said.

WATER describes its work as transforming religious structures by strengthening women as religious agents and encouraging them to work for inclusive religious communities and an egalitarian future...having a global impact, an international reach... promoting eco-feminist work...being collaborative and participative in the work in alliance with justice networks worldwide. The OSLC Faith and Feminism group looks forward to Liza helping all of us dip more into the resources of <https://www.waterwomensalliance.org>.

Liza is the daughter of Elaine Johnson and sister of Dennis. Her musical artistry has frequently led worship. And she may be the first person who grew up at OSLC to enter LVC!

Monthly Workday at OSLC

As we value our church and our grounds and as more of us our returning to the building, the property needs attention inside and out. Each month, we are spending time at OSLC to tend to various projects, often picking up trash, pulling weeds, and doing small projects. On the 2nd Saturday of the month, you are invited to help care for our building. In the summer months to beat the heat, we are starting at 9 AM. Please join in on August 14th at 9 to do outside and inside projects (Jeanne Asp has started a list for us!). Please bring your own work gloves.

Starting in September, we will start our Saturday workdays at 10 AM. Please mark September 11th and October 9th as days to join us.

We are looking forward to seeing you and sprucing up the corner of 24th and Chicago!

The Property Committee

Lectionary Text for Home Devotions

- August 1** 1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25--5:2
John 6:35, 41-51
- August 8** 1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25--5:2
John 6:35, 41-51
- August 15** Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58
- August 22** Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69
- August 29** Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23
30-34, 53-56

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**Deadline for the
September Sentinel is
Thursday, August 26 at
9am!**

Prayer List

Paul Roger
Diane Rowe
Rachel Ackland
Anton Moore

Congratulations to Laura and David Gurda on the birth of their second daughter to on July 4th. David is Solveig Nilsen's nephew

The family and friends of David Preus as they celebrate his long and fruitful life

How to Reach Us

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
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612-871-2967
oursavioursmpls.org

Pastors:

Laurie A. Eaton option 3
Martha Schwehn Bardwell option 4

Music Director:

Mary Preus option 6

Bookkeeper:

Diane Palmer option 5

Office Manager:

Alexander Farino option 7

Custodian:

Matthew Bell

(Please refer custodial issues to Pastor Laurie)

OSCS

612-871-5900

Interim Executive Director:

David Fey option 1

August 2021 at Our Saviour's

Sunday, August 1	10:30am	Worship in person and on Facebook
Monday, August 2	7-8:30	Church Council Meeting (CR)
Tuesday, August 3	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, August 4	10-4:30pm 10:15-12pm 4:30-5:30	Kitchen and HC reserved for Community Meals Online Bible Study on Zoom Community Meal (K& HC)
Friday, August 6	7am	Men's Breakfast at Butter Café
Sunday, August 8	10:30am	Worship in person and on Facebook
Tuesday, August 10	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, August 11	10:15-12pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom
Saturday, August 14	9:00-12pm	Property Meeting and Clean Up
Sunday, August 15	10:30am	Worship in person and on Facebook
Monday, August 16	7-8:30	OSLC Racial Justice Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 17	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, August 18	10-4:30pm 10:15-12pm 4:30-5:30	Kitchen and HC reserved for Community Meals Online Bible Study on Zoom Community Meal (K& HC)
Sunday, August 22	10:30am 12:00pm 1:00-6:00pm 1:00-4:00pm	Worship in person and on Facebook ISAIAH Team Meeting RESERVED HC and K Herbs as Medicine Workshop (HC and backyard)
Tuesday, August 24	12:30-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wed, August 25	10:15-12pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom
Thurs, August 26	9:00am	Sentinel Deadline
Sunday, August 29	10:30am	Worship in person and on Facebook
Tuesday, August 31	12:30-2pm 5-6:30	Staff Meeting (CR) Finance Committee Meeting

Summer Community Meals at OSLC - you're invited! Wednesdays August 4 and August 18

One of our strategic goals as a congregation is to live into a better process of engaging with our neighbors. We're stepping into that goal this summer with a series of community meals that we are calling "Dining with Dignity: Community Chef Series." April Smith is coordinating the meals, and Rico Morales is hosting; the goal is to have a different community chef cook each of the weeks.

The chef will be making 60 meals, and we hope that we have some congregation members come, and some folks from the neighborhood. The goal with these meals is to reach out to more people in our neighborhood as we begin to open up a little more. The meals will be 'to go' style, so you can certainly grab a meal and go, though we will also welcome people to eat outside in the backyard spaced out, with very limited indoor seating spaced around the Hospitality Center also available. Hope to see some of you there this month for our last two meals.

Please sign up for a meal! We are reserving 30 of the 60 meals for OSLC members; the other 30 are for community members beyond OSLC. Call the office at 612-827-2967 before August 3 for the August 4 meal and before August 17 for the August 18 meal.

Wilderness Women's Adventure

September 9-12

Cost: \$230

Your time at Wilderness Canoe Base (WCB), located at the end of the Gunflint Trail, will include opportunities such as canoeing on Seagull Lake, hiking, engaging in thoughtful and fun conversations, making new friends or reconnecting with old friends, sleeping in cabins, worshipping in the outdoor chapel, solitude, working a craft project, enjoying a sauna, sleeping under the stars, taking an evening and/or early morning paddle, sharing in wonderful home cooked meals, or just spending quiet time. The cost for the weekend is \$230 (includes lodging and meals). A \$50 deposit is required by August 15, 2021. Refundable should the adventure be cancelled. Register here: <https://lwlbc.z2systems.com/eventReg.jsp?event=1417&>



More information:

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Liz Blood (612-722-4172) liz.bill.blood@gmail.com