

The Sentinel

September 2023

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

One Body, One Spirit, One Hope



From September 13 – 19 in Krakow, Poland, Lutherans from around the world will gather for the Lutheran World Federation Assembly under the theme, “One Body , One Spirit, One Hope.” Our very own Mary Preus and Tom Witt will be in Krakow leading worship in multiple languages, sharing their gifts and surely receiving many gifts from others. We will embrace this theme as well in our worship through this fall season.

This theme is drawn from Ephesians. Writing from prison, Paul’s words to the Ephesians speak to us across centuries of the beauty and dignity of our shared calling as Christians. I invite you to treasure these words as fitting reminders of who we are called to be amid all of the changes and transitions of fall:

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

It's not easy to hold on to the truth that we are one body. Even just in our own congregation. Our competitive, capitalist society insists that we are separate from one another, isolated individuals who need to either “go it alone” in this life or compete for scarce goods. But our faith insists that we are made for community, by a Triune God who IS community, intricately woven into a web of interdependence with all that is. Truly – we belong to one another, our future is together, and we never, ever journey alone.

As we launch into fall I want to lift up a few places where I see this Oneness being fostered by the Spirit among us:

- Calling Esther Sianipar, who grew up Lutheran in Indonesia, to serve as Pastor of Community Care among us
- Our bilingual outdoor worship service at Peavey Park in August, with San Pablo/St. Paul’s, Augustana and Messiah Lutheran churches, sharing space with neighbors playing soccer – what a joy to be church together in the neighborhood!
- Preparing to welcome children for nursery time, Sunday school and Godly Play, with adults who are not their parents taking part in caring for and nurturing them
- Offering the work of our hands on “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday (September 10) to host a pizza party and auction fundraiser for EPNI (East Phillips Neighborhood Institute) – environmental justice, green jobs and community self-determination in Phillips matter to us because we are one community and share the same air, water, and hope for the future
- And of course – in our worship together, when we are nourished in Word and sacrament, song and prayer to live as the one body of Christ for the sake of the world God so loves

Truly we are one body! Thanks be to God for binding us together in love.

Pastor Martha



Call Process Update & Congregational Meeting Summary

At our congregational meeting on August 13, we unanimously approved a motion to call Esther Sianipar as our new Pastor for Community Care, with 75 adults and 12 kids voting! The Council and Call Committee both unanimously recommended Esther as the candidate after a thorough process of discernment starting back in January. For those of you who were able to meet Esther during the August 12 Meet & Greet or August 13 congregational meeting, we hope you also felt her warmth, openness, sense of justice, and care for connecting people to each other and to their gracious Creator. With Esther, we will continue living into our strategic goals in both fresh and familiar ways, grounded in the Spirit that so evidently flows through her!

During the meeting, some discussion came up that feels important to share with those who were unable to make it (or unable to hear - sorry Zoom crowd!). And even if you were there, please take some time to remember how we got to the unanimous vote together:

This will be Esther's first call.

While she brings a wealth of experience in and outside of the church, we will be supporting her in her first call and ordination process.

Esther's start date is still being determined.

We've started the paperwork for her visa, with support from knowledgeable OSLC members and a law firm, and we anticipate this taking around 3 months. She is employed as a student worker at Luther seminary for the time being, and we'll continue to be in contact with Esther to make sure she and her son Jonah feel supported during the transition.

This position will be a bit of a stretch financially, but also lives up to our equity commitments.

We had budgeted for Esther to work three-quarters time starting in April, but she will now be working at 80% time starting sometime this fall. Because she will start later than we had budgeted, we will underspend on her compensation this calendar year and will have a cushion going into next year. Starting in 2025, giving will need to increase to support Esther's call. The Finance and Personnel Committees worked hard to fit compensation within the synod guidelines for someone with her level of experience, including non-pastoral ministry experience.

We are a mostly-white congregation calling a pastor who grew up in Indonesia.

As a congregation, we've been on the path towards dismantling white supremacy even before we officially named it as a strategic goal. We will never "arrive." We will only continue to strengthen the muscles we need in this journey: self- and communal-reflection, humility, honesty, accountability, critical thinking, deep listening, and unconditional belonging even when we mess up (because we will!). For some in the congregation, Esther's life experiences will resonate deeply. For others, they may spark curiosity, confusion, and yes - discomfort. Let's lean into this when it's within our capacity to support each other, give ourselves and each other (especially our BIPOC siblings) the grace to set boundaries when needed, and practice expanding our capacity to dwell in the messiness of white supremacy with humility and love when it surfaces in our midst (because it will!).

Some members expressed trust and excitement, others frustration with the process.

We hear you! Our congregation is blessed to have cultivated a sense of trust in leadership over the years. Thank you to those who have been with us through this process, whether on committees or just patiently listening to announcements. In a season when many people are not present every week for announcements, I wish I had done more electronic communications, and I apologize for that. For those that did not receive a letter about the meeting: We are truly sorry and are working to figure out what happened with the mailing.

Many people helped make this happen!

Many thanks to:

Call Committee - Renate Willer, Deb Swenson-Klatt, Ralph Baumgartner, Rico Morales, Gabe Herrick, Clara Owens, and Pr. Martha

Personnel Committee - Paula Keller, Maggie Wells, and Cara Herrick

Finance Committee - Tal Anderson, Stephen Lindley, Nancy Johnson, Jim Unglaube, Laura Kehrberg

And to Esther - Thank you for bringing your gifts, wisdom, and passions to OSLC in this next part of your ministry journey! We look forward to fully welcoming you as our Pastor of Community Care soon!

Please reach out if you want to talk through anything that came up before, during, or after the meeting, especially if you have questions or concerns to share!

Allyson Green

Congregational president

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608-512-6929

The auction is live starting *September 1!*

Our auction to raise money for East Phillips Neighborhood Institute is going live starting September 1. And oh wow, what a feast of offerings is there! From learning the macarena from a 6 year-old to Butter Bakery yummys and even an old church pew to a house concert with Bret Hesla...there is truly something there for everyone.

Most of the auction is online-only; a handful of items will also continue to be bid on in-person during our pizza and fundraiser celebration on September 10 after church from 12-2. You will be able to see which items on the website will continue into live bidding.

Here is the website: <https://www.32auctions.com/oslcimpls2023>

Bidding on the auction website will end on **Saturday, September 9 at 8pm.**

A big thanks goes out to everyone who has contributed items, and to Aneesa Parks and Harmon Abrahamson who have done so much to get the auction ready to go!

Property Work Day – *Saturday, September 9th*

Join the Property Committee for this important work day on **Saturday, September 9th from 9am to Noon.**

Along with the usual trash pick up and weeding, we have lots of other work to be done around the building.

We will be moving items as we shift around offices and the nursery, and we have cleaning and preparing for Godly Play and Sunday School.

With our big event on Sept 10th, we'll want to make sure everything is ready to go with that, in and out of the building.

Many hands are needed – for some or all of the time.

If you have any questions, or want to volunteer for a specific activity, contact Nancy Johnson at n2j2@comcast.net.



September 10 – God’s work, Our Hands

Sunday, September 10 is a day when we mark the beginning of fall and join the wider ELCA in observing “God’s work, our hands.” We will begin Godly Play and Sunday school and our adult forums that morning at 9am; share in vibrant worship at 10:30am; and welcome neighbors to share pizza with us as we lift up East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) and complete our festive auction to support the work they are doing for environmental justice in Phillips.

It's a big day, and we hope many of you can stay from morning into the afternoon. There will be many ways to put our God-blessed hands to work: welcoming neighbors, rolling pizza-dough, treasuring hand-made goods for the auction, receiving holy communion and passing the peace.

Thanks to Rebekkah Schultz for designing these great flyer images for the event on September 10!

It's a great day to invite friends and neighbors to church!

A colorful flyer for an event. The top left features a house-shaped logo with 'SUPPORT EAST PHILLIPS URBAN FARM' and illustrations of plants. To the right, text says 'with a family friendly!' and 'free!'. The main text reads 'COMMUNITY PIZZA PARTY AND AUCTION!' in large blue letters. Below this, it says 'September 10 12-2PM' and 'Our Saviour's Lutheran Church 2315 Chicago Ave'. On the right, a yellow box contains text: 'East Phillips Neighborhood Institute is raising funds to build their Urban Farm!' followed by a list of activities: 'Join us at OSLC and OSCS in supporting EPNI with a pizza party and community auction!', 'Hear from community advocates involved in making the project a reality!', 'Enjoy tasty pizza from the bread oven!', 'Make bids on a variety of auction items! Art, food, and more!', and 'Free to attend! All money raised will go to EPNI to support predevelopment costs.' At the bottom right, it says 'Hosted by:' followed by logos for 'OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH' and 'OUR SAVIOUR'S COMMUNITY SERVICES'. A small banner at the bottom left says 'NO MORE POLLUTION!'.

Welcoming Paul Damico-Carper, Interim Director of Worship and Music

While Mary is away for a 6-week sabbatical, Paul Damico-Carper will be leading and coordinating music at Our Saviour's.

Paul is a musician who has served in many faith communities, among them are Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Holden Village, Churchwide Assemblies of the ELCA, Trinity Lutheran Church in Richmond, MI, and many others.

He is a guitarist and multi-string player. He loves to help people sing together and believes that collaborative music-making can heal and bridge cultural divides.

He has toured China and the United States with Silk Cedar as e-cellist and multi-instrumentalist. He has written songs for the Christian assembly that are published by Augsburg Fortress, including two in "All Creation Sings."

He is currently pursuing his passion for helping people by working as a nursing assistant while going back to school seeking a career in healthcare. He lives in Hastings, MN with his wife, two kids, and two dogs.

He's excited to be a part of the community at Our Saviour's for these next handful of weeks and to sing our faith together.

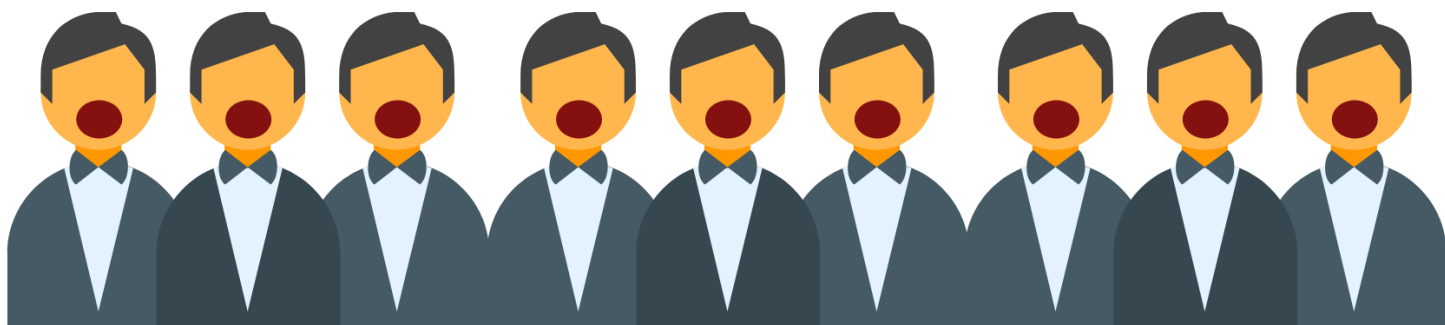
Thanks! Paul



Choir with Bret Hesla

For the weeks when Mary is away, Bret will lead the choir! Choir will continue at 7pm on Wednesday evenings (unless the choir and Bret decide to change it, and we will let the community know) and at 10am on Sunday mornings.

Everybody is welcome to join and make a joyful noise. Those who can't come Wednesday night can jump in on Sunday mornings at 10.



Adult forums in September

Adult forums are at 9am in the hospitality center and on Zoom. The **September 10** forum will not be on Zoom since it is an informal gathering. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86297261334>

September 10 – Reconnection time and preparing for EPNI Fundraiser auction

Grab some coffee and treats and enjoy informal check-in time with others. Some will be setting up and prepping for pizza and the EPNI fundraiser after church.

September 17 - Church is a work of the people

We will learn about and get equipped for opportunities in Sunday leadership: readers, communion servers, prayer leaders, hospitality, altar guild. This time may also include a sign up or survey for time and talents.

September 24 –What happened at the Krakow LWF assembly?

The “One Body, One Spirit, One Hope” Lutheran World Federation assembly in Krakow concludes on September 19. Come to hear what happened when our global Lutheran body gathered together.

Support Rising Interest in English Classes at the English Learning Center

Did you know that the English Learning Center – situated in the basement of 2315 Chicago Avenue – accepts adult students year-round, without any wait lists? Students can walk in for registration and baseline testing anytime the school is open. This flexibility is a huge strength of our program, and it keeps us on our toes in busy seasons of student enrollment.

This year, the English Learning Center has witnessed a notable rise in adult learners. During the month of May 2023, for example, we observed more than twice the number of student registrations and assessments as in May 2022. With 299 students participating from January - June 2023, in fact, we have already surpassed the number of students served by the ELC in all of 2022!

Your September and October Mission of the Month contributions help the English Learning Center respond to rising student interest.

Thank you for giving!

Robin Stramp

Shelter meal coming up *Saturday , 9/30* - Help will be needed!

Please call (text) Kathy Furey 651-703-7166

Thanks in advance!

OSLC Fall Book Study:

The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future, by Robert Jones

Paul and LaVonne Batalden

This book explores the roots of White Supremacy, particularly how the church enabled the notion and how we might move forward.

Many have written reviews of the book confirming its importance. Robert Jones writes well. He will also join us in one of our sessions.

The book will be published on Sept 5, 2023. It will be available as a hard cover book (\$27.89) and in a Kindle e-book edition (\$14.99). For those who need help in getting a copy, contact Pr. Martha.

We will meet by zoom approximately every two weeks, except if the author comes to town and is available to meet us in person. We will take only one week between #5-6 and #6-7 to accommodate Thanksgiving and Christmas.

All sessions will meet on a Thursday evening from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.

The schedule for our consideration of the book:

Session number, date	Pages to read before session
1 (October 5)	1-31
2 (October 19)	31-81
3 (November 2)	81-142
4 (November 16)	142-183
5 (November 30)	183-228
6 (December 7)	228-283
7 (December 14)	283-311

If interested, please let us have your preferred e-mail address.

LaVonne and Paul Batalden

lavonnemb@gmail.com (603-290-1939)

paul.batalden@gmail.com (603-290-1939)

What else could we do?

Amy Blumenshine

September brings local and national opportunities for cultivating peace-making. We all need help to answer differently to “What else could we do?” than how we’ve been programmed.

Locally, Twin Cities Nonviolent seeks to bring together the many efforts countering violence beginning with the International Day of Peace, September 21 and including a “Hands Across the Mississippi event” October 1. Details at <https://twincitiesnonviolent.org>

The multiple opportunities address the gamut, including nonviolence to planet and neighborhoods, including self-care.

September 26 is the International Day for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/nuclear-weapons-elimination-day>

Veterans for Peace has written their own version of the US government’s Nuclear Posture Review, which at the time of the VFP version was due for release.

I recommend theirs:

<https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/1016/4312/8275/Updated-1.25-FINAL-VFPNuclearReview-Jan2022.pdf> compared to our government policy which still allows first strike, nuclear threatening, monarchical decision-making, and expansion.

Last weekend I attended (virtually) the national Veterans for Peace convention. Along with providing great activist information, the dedication and courage of the participants inspired me. Amongst many attributes were humility, regret, and courageous dedication to non-violent peace-making: “We were wrong. We were lied to. We now act to make it better.”

As an elder myself, I embrace humility. I like to say, “I’m old enough to know I’ve been wrong.” My particular life journey has included accompanying people who deeply regret the violence they had a hand in. Just imagine the “irrecoverable error” of taking life. While most have not been at the tip of the spear in killing, how can we deny that we Americans have our hands somewhere on the shaft of national violence? Maintaining the international and national pecking order requires beating down those who think it unfair. Gamesmanship dictates “The best defense is a good offense,” and thus the moral slide to violence.

Yet, Jesus clearly calls us to love our neighbors, even our “enemies.” Is not the best way to protect what is most valuable, including your soul, to turn your enemy into your friend?

Amongst those who can inspire us are George Lakey, an influential Quaker activist and author of *Dancing with History: A Life for Peace and Justice*. He will be part of several Twin Cities Nonviolent events, including addressing the “Intersectionality of Racial Justice and Solidarity Work.”

An international whistle-blower will be making a whistle-stop appearance in our area September 11, reflecting on the post 9/11 abuses including torture and the persecution of the truth publisher, Julian Assange. Craig Murray was the United Kingdom’s ambassador to Uzbekistan where torture and murder were part of the US and UK’s “war against terror.”

(see <https://www.amazon.com/Murder-Samarkand-Ambassadors-Controversial-Defiance/dp/1845962214>)

Title: The Power of Personal Courage in an Era of Mass Censorship

Monday, September 11, 2023

Reception begins: 6:00 pm

Craig Murray's Talk Begins: ~6:30/7 pm

4200 Cedar Ave. So., Minneapolis

Last but not least I invite you to watch the moving sermon recently delivered by Chris Hedges at a prominent Norwegian church. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9DN_YKRoyI

Preaching from Jeremiah and Jesus's teachings, he highlights Julian Assange and other contemporary truth-tellers who have been persecuted for making rulers uncomfortable throughout history.

Sacred Sites Tour Opportunity

Reparations team and the MCFF table

Edina Community Lutheran Church has invited interested members of Our Saviours to join them in a Sacred Sites Tour on Saturday, October 7 at 10 am. The tour will be led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs (Mohican).

The tour offers an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through story-telling and experiencing the sites in silence / meditation / reflection.

On the four-hour tour we will visit sites located around the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, what the Dakota refer to as Bdote, or "meeting place of rivers," including:

- Fort Snelling State Park
- Dakota Internment Camp following the The Dakota-U.S. War
- Pilot Knob Hill, a traditional burial ground

Tours are appropriate for adults and older youth. To reserve a place for the tour or for more information contact Mike Troutman at: miketrouman@gmail.com or 612-644-4890.

The cost will be \$30 per person (the reparations team has funding available if you would like help with the cost). Our Saviours has 15 slots available for the tour.

We will create a waiting list as needed, since more slots may be offered us as we approach October 7.



Lectionary Text for Home Devotions

September 3

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

September 10

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 17

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 24

Jonah 3:10--4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

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Prayer List

- Thanksgiving for the birth of Madison Eva Hanlon, daughter of Joanna and James Hanlon
- Patrick Herson and his family, grieving the death of his father, Rodger
- Jim Erickson, recovering from shoulder replacement surgery on August 29
- Emily, Jeanne Heer's niece, diagnosed with cancer
- Noah, Bruce Pederson's son, diagnosed with prostate cancer
- Glenn, Linnea Peterson's grandfather, recovering from surgery
- Paul Rogers, in palliative care for cancer
- Anton Moore, undergoing physical therapy
- Peace in Ukraine and in the world

How to Reach Us

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oursavioursmpls.org

Pastor:
Martha Schwehn Bardwell option 3
Music Director:
Mary Preus option 6
Office Manager:
Marcin Cienski option 7

OSCS 612-871-5900
Executive Director:
Michael Huffman option 1

**Deadline for the October 2023 Sentinel
is Monday, September 25**

September 2023 at Our Saviour's

Sunday September 3	10:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
Tuesday, September 5	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, September 6	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study
Saturday, September 9	9:00am-12:00pm	Property Work Day
Sunday, September 10		God's Work, Our Hands Sunday
	9:00am	Faith Formation
	10:00am	Choir
	10:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
		Pizza celebration and auction after worship
Monday, September 11	7:00pm-8:30pm	Church Council (Zoom)
Tuesday, September 12	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, September 13	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study
	7:00pm	Choir
Sunday, September 17	10:00am	Choir
	10:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
Tuesday, September 19	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, September 20	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study
	7:00pm	Choir
Sunday, September 24	10:00am	Choir
	10:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
Tuesday, September 26	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, September 27	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom

