

The Sentinel

November 2023

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

Welcoming Pastor Esther - Ordination, Installation, Jubilation!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Esther Sianipar will be ordained and installed as Pastor of Community Care at Our Saviour's on Saturday, November 18 at 10am. The service will be livestreamed, and a festive meal will follow. Join in the joyful celebration as we welcome Pastor Esther to join us in ministry!

By the Grace of God, The Call of The Church, And The Consent of The People

Esther Kristianti Sianipar

Will Be Ordained and Installed To The Ministry of Word and Sacrament
During the Celebration Of The Holy Eucharist

With Saint Paul Area Synod Bishop Patricia Lull Preaching
And Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen Presiding
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Your prayers and presence are requested
On Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 10 a.m. (Central Time)
At Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
2315 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404

Clergy are invited to vest and process during the service.
The color of the day is red. A reception will follow.

Watch via livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpq3Axaqi828>

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit,
fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name." John 15:16*

A note from Pastor Esther

Greetings beloved church family,

Thanks be to God! November 1, 2023, marks the official day I begin as your new associate pastor at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. I am very excited to walk side by side and work closely with you as One Body of Christ in this challenging and polarized world.

Thank you for welcoming my son Jonah and me with your open hands and generosity! I have been listening, conversing, and taking part in some great and hard conversations with you! I learned and appreciated those moments because I saw the love and commitment you all have for Our Saviour's to grow, expand, and be sent! I see this church community that would sit with tax collectors, the vulnerable, the needy, the marginalized, and those experiencing injustice that they may have hope to strive. I also see you sitting with our children, youth, young adults, parents, individuals, LGBTQIA+ siblings, elders, and just each other exchanging stories and connections in God's presence. This is Jesus's ministry--he conversed with a despised Samaritan woman at a well, forgave an immoral woman, touched a leper, entered Zacchaeus's house, and dined with him and sat with tax collectors.

I look forward to sharing and extending God's abundance of love and blessings with you and with our siblings in Christ in our own and global context.

I also seek your prayers and wisdom to guide me as we journey together in the works of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am blessed to be your Pastor and know God has great things in store for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

With so much love and blessings,

Esther K. Sianipar

(she/her)





OSLC Council Update

Allyson Green

This summer, the OSLC Council decided to try a meeting structure that more intentionally balanced the "business" of OSLC with the "big picture." I mapped out a schedule of monthly meetings, alternating "business" with "big picture" every other month... and it mostly hasn't worked out that way. Things come up, dates change, decisions need to be made. While we all acknowledged that flexibility would very much need to be part of our agendas going forward, I'm also recognizing that the line between "business" and "big picture" is also flexible - and I love it!

We're a congregation who gets to make a decision about how to spend our budget AND dwell in what it means to do that with a reparations lens. A congregation who gets to fix roofs AND remind ourselves we're committed to being good stewards of our property and the people who call it home in this moment and 10 years. We get to transfer property ownership AND consider what that means for the wellbeing of the neighborhood we're committed to.

So, while I'm just sharing the official motions that we voted to pass in September & October, know that these decisions happened through conversations rooted in the big picture of how we can celebrate, serve, and do justice!

Motions passed:

- As recommended by the Reparations Team: To allocate the \$12,000 in our 2023 budget in four equal parts. We recommend continuing reparations to East Phillips Neighborhood Institute and The Land Trust. In the last year we have strengthened relationships to All Nations Indian Church, a neighbor to us. Their work to build a community of care in their congregation and in the encampments exemplifies the healing we believe is possible. Through our relationship with All Nations we also recommend funding The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.
- As recommended by Pr. Martha: Voted to move forward with exploring a non-stipendiary call through the Minneapolis Area Synod for Grant Stevenson.
- As recommended by Property and Finance Committees (given summer hail damage): Spend \$8,000 of the property reserve to replace the Winona House roof and \$22,000 of the reserve to contribute to replacing the roofs of the houses operated by OSCS, for a total of \$30,000.
- As requested by OSCS: Move forward with transferring ownership of the 2219 Chicago building (the shelter) to Our Saviour's Community Services, in accordance with our congregational bylaws.
- Amended and approved at our 10/29 congregational meeting to include a property reversion clause in the contract if OSCS disbands as an organization or wants to sell the shelter.

All Saints Sunday - November 5

Pastor Martha

This Sunday, we remember the saints, precious and redeemed by God, who have lit our paths and graced our lives. We hold especially close those saints who have died in the last year. During worship, we will sing the names of OSLC members who died in the last year; we also sing the names of those who were baptized among us. We will also have a Book of Remembrance out on the font. Please add names of the saints you are especially remembering this year. It is truly a blessing to trust that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.

Thanks be to God!



Congregational Potluck - November 5th

Jeanne Heer

Join us for a potluck after the All Saints Day Service on Sunday, Nov. 5th.

Bring a dish to share. No desserts are needed. There will be birthday cake to celebrate Bruce Pederson's 90th birthday.



Want to help with the Potluck?

Lots of hands make light work. You can sign up to help by using the QR Code.

Or contact Jeanne Heer at 763-954-1552.

Property Work Day – Saturday, Nov 11th from 10am to Noon

Nancy Johnson

Help us get ready for winter and Esther's Ordination during our Property Work day on Sat Nov 11th from 10 to noon. We hope to finish up with any outdoor work that needs to be done before winter. We will also be putting down the rugs on the main floor and putting out boot trays. We'll do some cleaning in the Sanctuary so it's ready for the Ordination on the 18th. You may also have a chance to help finish up Communion Bread baking.

Many hands make light work. Any questions, contact Nancy at n2j2@comcast.net

Communion Bread Baking – Saturday Nov 11th

at 9am

Nancy Johnson

Ever wonder how the communion bread is made that we share each week? Here is your chance to help bake the bread!

We will be baking bread on Sat Nov 11th from 9am until about 11am.

No experience necessary.

Church provides the recipe and the ingredients. Kids are welcome with an adult.



Welcome to Our Saviour's New Nursery!

Liz Lewis

And meet Sophia Stout, our new nursery attendant and Children's Time leader!

Many of us know Sophia already – she's a child of the OSLC congregation herself. Sophia and her assistant, Liz Lewis, supervise the new nursery which is located next to the Godly Play room. Drop in and check it out!

All children ages infant through those turning 3 years old during the Sunday School year are welcome to come and play with us between 9 and 10 a.m. every Sunday morning.

We have toys, games, blocks, coloring supplies – even puppets! And during the service, following the children's sermon, Sophia and Liz lead a brief children's story/prayer/music/play time for all interested kids in the nursery.



Advent Gathering in your HOME?

Jeanne Heer

Preparing for Christmas during Advent is a precious time. Our congregation will be gathering in small groups to reflect, pray, and sing. Would you be willing to host this year?

There are different types of gatherings. Many included a meal with guests bringing food to share. Meeting days could include three Wednesdays (Dec. 6, Dec. 13, & Dec. 20). Other days may work as well.

Please contact Pastor Martha or Jeanne Heer (763-954-1552) if you are willing to host.

Neighborhood Quilting

LaVonne Batalden

A couple of months ago, our friend Kadrah sent 80 of our quilts to Somalia along with shirts and baby clothes.

They arrived and are much appreciated.

She is now ready to send another shipment. She sent us a photo of the quilts we made that she is ready to send. She also shared a video narrated by her daughter Multi showing what will be sent in this shipment, including the quilts made by our group, baby quilts Kadrah made that we tied, and baby clothes.

Thanks to all who have participated in this project. If you are interested in sewing at home or joining us in tying on Saturdays, please let me know (lavonnemb@gmail.com)



Sunday, November 19 is our Stewardship and Commitment Sunday

Pastor Martha

There is so much to celebrate these days at OSLC, from welcoming Pastor Esther, to welcoming Sophia as our new nursery minister; from celebrating the bounty of the garden and the children in our midst to noticing the care we extend to one another in our living and our dying. As we look ahead to another full, life-giving year of ministry together in 2024, it's time to make commitments with generous hearts to supporting our congregation.

A letter will be going out shortly to all members and friends of OSLC with information about pledging financially and sharing time and talents. And, join the budget forum on November 12 to learn more about how the 2024 budget is shaping up. Please take the time to prayerfully consider how you might give generously to support our vital ministries.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry!

Adult forums in November

Pastor Martha

Adult forums are at 9am in the hospitality center and on Zoom.

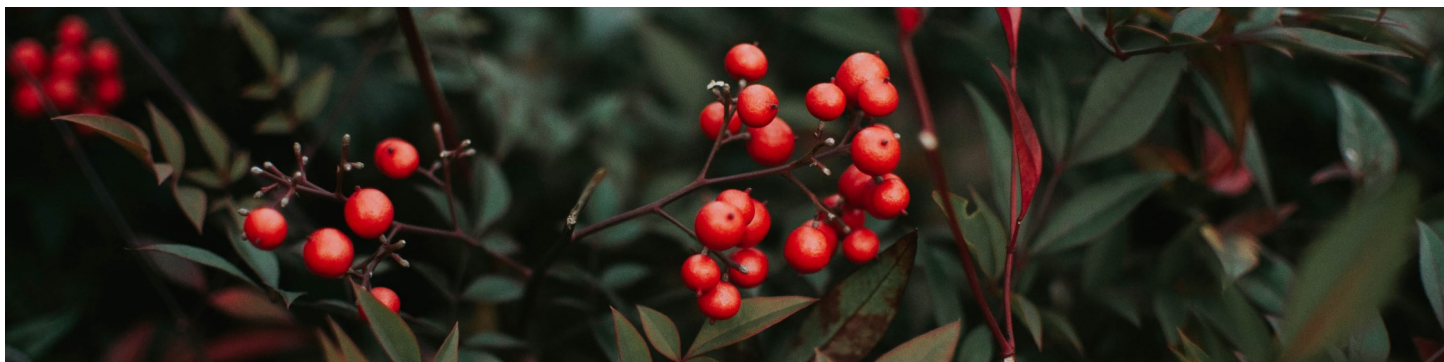
Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86297261334>

November 5 – Peace at the Last – As we observe All Saints Day, we will practice a beautiful liturgy that equips us to accompany one another faithfully in our dying called “Peace at the Last.” We remember that “in our living and our dying, we are the Lord’s.”

November 12 – Budget Forum – Join Tal Anderson, OSLC Treasurer, and members of the finance committee as we work on drafting budget for 2024 that reflects our strategic goals and our ongoing commitments to our staff, property and programs. This forum will help us all get ready to pledge on November 19 for the coming year.

November 19 – Community Minded Personal Finance – We will welcome special guest Rebecca Blumenshine to lead a forum on community minded personal finance. On her website bothandfinance.com she shares tools for navigating the gray area of finance from a community-minded perspective. She writes: “I believe that when those of us who are passionate about collective wellbeing engage more with finance, we can be part of nudging our economy towards something better.”

November 26 – Outreach Table forum – The Outreach table will lead conversation and discernment around Outreach Table’s purpose, the way we allocate our budget, and the way we designate which partners become ‘mission of the month.’ Dig in as we seek to align our Table’s work with our strategic goals and foster deeper relationships in the Phillips community.



Honoring Sacred Waters Gathering to support All Nations Indian Church - Tuesday, November 21

Pastor Martha

We are resuming our ecumenical Thanksgiving service and meal supporting All Nations – with a new spin. On Tuesday, November 21, OSLC hosts as ecumenical partners come together to support All Nations Indian Church and Indigenous People's Task Force.

5:30pm - Fresh oven-fired pizza dinner

6:30pm - Honoring Sacred Waters Gathering with Nibi Play

7:30pm - Pie

Our gathering will include a Nibi (water) play by the Ikidowin Youth Acting Ensemble. This ensemble of Native youth actors is a program of Indigenous People's Task Force. The Indigenous Peoples Task Force strengthens the wellness of our community in a way that is based in indigenous values and ways of knowing. They were founded in 1987 to develop and implement culturally appropriate HIV education and direct services to the Native community in Minnesota. They write on their website: “We know our community will not be completely well until all people have restored their relationships with each other and the earth.”

At our gathering, a freewill offering will be collected to support the ministries of All Nations Indian Church.

Around 6pm, we may have an opportunity for a pop-up choir to learn Nibi songs in Ojibwe to support the storytelling. Stay tuned for updates!

We will also collect material donations to support neighbors who are living in the Camp Nenookaasi encampment. Information about what donations will be most needed will be coming from leaders in the camp

Everyone is welcome!



The PeaceMaking Letter

Amy Blumenshine

Our world appears to be falling into multiple war-making fronts. US weapons manufacturers boast of record profit expectations. Investors in fossil fuels and climate catastrophe also cheer the increase in firing of petrols, as climate goals are ditched. Who needs to pretend fear this Halloween?

But as church folk, we follow the calendar of Reformation Sunday, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day. Trying to follow the wisdom of our ancestors (not repeat their trauma), we recognize that this is a time to be listening, to be caring, and to be demanding the truth—rather than letting our psyches join the others that are hijacked into reactivity of repeating the triggering of past and seeding future trauma.

My colleague, the Lutheran Rev. Dr. Kelly Denton-Borhaug writes deeply about the perils to our own humanity at <https://tomdispatch.com/the-dehumanization-of-war/>

Since this escaped my attention in the major media, I'll note that 120 countries voted yes for a UN resolution to obtain ceasefires in Gaza; the US was among 14 opposed.

As Lutherans, we've been called to speak truth to power. I claim that ground as I walk in demonstrations that mourn the deaths of Israeli and Palestinian civilians, that demand release of captives, and that call for Israel to stop the massive atrocities and breaking of international laws occurring in Gaza and the West Bank. Let me know if you'd like to walk with me. I've been to five protests so far, all peaceful.

Following Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, I call the thing a thing. See her statement and other ELCA resources at <https://elca.org/Israel-Hamas%20War>

Remember to make your opinion known to your Congressman as they also address such war-making resolutions.

This is an excellent time for a prayer service to end war in the world--which was the hope of our ancestors upon establishing Armistice Day after "the war to end all wars," now tragically known as the unnecessary destruction of WWI. Join with me 11 to noon on Friday, November 10 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 4537 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis to hear Korean War era Veteran for Peace, Roy Wolff, as well as music by Dan Chouinard and Ann Reed.

I've also learned that part of why the WWI ceasefire/Armistice occurred is that some troops were refusing to fight. OSLC member Esther Goodell is from the German port city where sailors organized a rebellion at that time.

Also little known is that, currently, both Ukraine and Russia have allowed a group of non-aligned peacemakers to be on site at the huge nuclear power complex of Zaporizhzhia. I attended a virtual workshop with the peacemakers during a World Beyond War Conference. At that conference, I also heard a Liberian woman, who had been part of that country's renowned peacemaking of the past, credit the Lutheran church women of that country as having provided the infrastructure of organizing that made the difference!

This time of war slippage is a fit time for the signers of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to meet. You can follow the Meeting of States Party (the other MSP!) with daily broadcasts during the week of Nov 27 to Dec 1 (https://www.icanw.org/msp_tv 10 am and 4 pm Central). What could be more obvious than that the money and brain power wasted on unusable weapons of mass destruction needs to be shifted to dealing with our climate emergency. Follow the Warheads to Windmills effort at <https://www.nuclearban.us/w2w/>.

We who believe in peace cannot rest until it comes.



Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA

Upcoming Listening Sessions for the Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop's Election

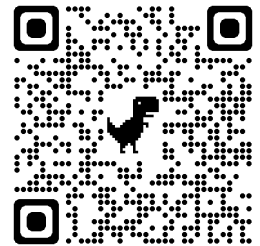
This Spring, the Minneapolis Area Synod will elect a new Bishop at the assembly in May. Bishop Ann Svennungsen will retire after her 12 years of service. The Bishop Election committee is leading listening sessions for congregation members and rostered leaders to attend. Here are a couple of upcoming opportunities:

November 15, 2023; 12:00 p.m.

Join Zoom by clicking the QR Code

November 16, 2023; 6:30 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Northeast, Minneapolis



We are incredibly grateful to our host congregations who have opened their doors to host this series of listening sessions. In the meantime, bookmark the Bishop Election Committee page (mpls-synod.org/2024-bishop-election) for updated information on our 2024 Bishop Election process.

ASL and Spanish interpretation will be offered at the November 16th listening session. If you require ASL and Spanish interpretation during other sessions, please email us at BEC@mpls-synod.org no later than a week before the event is scheduled.



Lectionary Text for Home Devotions

November 5

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 12

Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 19

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

**The Sentinel Vol. LXII, No. 11
is published by
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.
2315 Chicago Ave
Minneapolis MN 55404**

Prayer List

- Paul Rogers, in hospice, and Cam Rogers accompanying him
- Javen Swanson, who is recovering after breaking his arm in a bike accident
- Elizabeth, Linda Thorson's niece
- Jim Erickson, recovering from shoulder replacement surgery
- 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
- Anton Moore, undergoing physical therapy
- Bill Rowe, recovering from deep brain stimulation surgery
- Peace in Ukraine, Middle East and in the world

How to Reach Us

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Michael Huffman option 1

Deadline for the December 2023

Sentinel

November 2023 at Our Saviour's

Sunday, November 5	9:00am –10:30am	Sunday school, Godly Play, Nursery and Adult Forum
	10:00am	Choir and Hospitality
	10:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
	12:00pm-1:00pm	Congregational Potluck and Celebration of Bruce Peterson's 90th birthday
Tuesday, November 7	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, November 8	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study
	7:00pm	Choir rehearsal
Saturday, November 11	9:00am –11:00am	Communion Bread baking
	10:00am –NOON	Property Work Day
Sunday, November 12	9:00am –10:30am	Sunday school, Godly Play, Nursery and Adult Forum
	10:00am	Choir and Hospitality
	10:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
Tuesday, November 14	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, November 15	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study
	7:00pm	Choir rehearsal
Saturday, November 18	10:00am	Esther's Ordination and Reception
Sunday November 19	9:00am –10:30am	Sunday school, Godly Play, Nursery and Adult Forum
	10:00am	Choir and Hospitality
	10:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
	NOON	Worship Table Meeting
Tuesday, November 21	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
	5:30pm	Pizza
	6:30pm	Honoring Sacred Waters Gathering with Nibi Play
	7:30pm	Pie
Wednesday, November 22	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom
	7:00pm	Choir rehearsal
Sunday, November 26	9:00am –10:30am	Sunday school, Godly Play, Nursery and Adult Forum
	10:00am	Choir and Hospitality
	10:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
Tuesday, November 28	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, November 29	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study
	7:00pm	Choir rehearsal

