

The Sentinel

April 2024

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



We are an Easter People!

Sabbatical bound April 15– Farewell, and see you July 16!

Dear Our Saviour's Community, I will hold all of you in my heart and prayers as I relish a three-month sabbatical, beginning April 15. I am full of gratitude for the ministry that we do together and for the gift of this time of rest and renewal.

I am excited for you to get to have this special time with Pastor Esther without me around. Please remember to support and celebrate her as she completes her MTh this spring at Luther Seminary! Grant Stevensen will also be providing some extra pastoral support during these months. We have a wonderful variety of guest preachers lined up – some from within the congregation and some from other communities. And of course, do cherish these months with Mary Preus as she nears retirement this fall after decades of vibrant ministry among us!

Several of you have asked me about my plans. My sabbatical will be a combination of reading and reflecting on ministry, travel with family, and doing house and garden projects. Travel will include a trip to Florida to visit the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in celebration of Naomi's 10th birthday, a trip to Holden Village with lots of family, and a trip to the Winnipeg Folk Festival with Sam as we mark the 12th anniversary of our wedding. I will also complete my Executive Leadership Certificate from Princeton Theological Seminary this May. I have learned so much from this program and will continue to benefit from being part of a robust alumni network with many continuing education opportunities.

I trust I will return to OSLC eager to see all of you and to jump right back into our shared ministry. It is such a deep joy to serve as your pastor. May you glimpse the risen Jesus meeting you over and over again in the meals you share, in the stories you hear and tell, in the songs you sing and in the companions who journey with you in love and faithfulness, forgiveness and care along the road.

I look forward to sharing our stories when I return!

The peace of Christ be with you all, beloved of God.

Pastor Martha



Welcome, New Members!

Pastor Martha

We joyfully welcome 20 new members this Easter. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow! Please take the time to get to know these wonderful members of the body of Christ. We are called to share our burdens and joys together, to live Jesus' command to "love one another," and to marvel as the Spirit activates our individual gifts for the common good of all.

- Winton* and Tammy Boyd
- Nancy Coons and Michael Cavlan
- Sharon Delcambre and children Henry and Natalie
- Carol Hornbeck and Dave Comstock*
- Stan Hornbeck
- Mike and Cari Libby with children Margaret and Ian
- Martha Preus*
- Pastor Esther Sianipar and Jonah Sitorus
- Craig Simenson with daughters Leona and Ruth Campbell-Simenson

** associate member maintaining affiliation with another congregation in addition to OSLC*

Bible Study in Person!

On Wednesday, April 10, Bible Study at 10:15am will be in person and on Zoom.



Property Reimagining Update – Blog and Leadership over the next 4 months

Pastor Martha

I'm so glad many of you came to the March 18 congregational update. Thanks to dedicated work from so many of you, we are now making concrete our commitment in 2019 to develop and implement a plan for our property! We had a very successful retreat with OSCS on March 2, and reported out to all of you our shared direction and the shared investments we are making as we move forward with reimagining our shared campus.

Any time you are looking for updates, please check our property blog (<https://oslcproperty.weebly.com/>). We have past updates there and will continue to add to it as we move along in this process.

I also want to name folks who will continue to be in leadership during my sabbatical (and beyond).

- **David Scheie** will be the lead liaison with Mike Huffman and OSCS, will be involved in working with the development consultant who we plan to hire by April 15, and will share updates with the congregation on our blog and in person. He may have pop up 'office hours' when you can drop by for conversation. Please reach out to David if you'd like to connect (dscheie@touchstone-center.com).
- **The Joint Property Committee** will continue to meet. This group meets about every-other week and includes Tal Anderson, David Scheie, Rico Morales (and Pastor Martha when not on sabbatical) from OSLC, and Mike Huffman (ED), Qually Neal (OSH Program Director), Renate Willer (Operations Manager), and Robin Stramp (Development and Communications Manager) from OSCS.
- **The core committee for a capital campaign** will work with Fundraising Sol on the pre-feasibility phase. Church council will vote to officially appoint the committee at our April 7 meeting. So far, OSLC participants include Jim Unglaube, Mike Troutman, David Scheie, Pastor Martha and from OSCS Mike Huffman and Robin Stramp. As we move along, there will be several ad hoc committees who meet together for shorter periods of time.
- **Relationship-building around our reparations commitments and climate equity work** – Allyson Green will take the lead in connecting with some Phillips neighborhood leaders to help us further discern how we might bring a reparations lens to our campus, particularly on the Elliot Avenue side. She and the reparations team have a vision for connecting with these leaders and their organizations over meals in the coming months. Amy Blumenshine will take the lead working with Unidos MN to explore how OSLC might be an anchor for a block-by-block clean energy transition that is part of the Minneapolis Climate Equity plan. She and others may have some neighborhood outreach opportunities related to this work, so stay tuned!
- An **OSLC space needs group** will continue to help us refine our vision for our church building and grounds. Over these months, they may do field trips to other churches who have spaces and designs that we like and can learn from. The leaders in this group include Eric Molho, Nancy Johnson, and Jakob Johnson. Other members, including Jim Johnson and Mike Libby, have met with Mary Preus about other improvements and investments to consider around lighting and tech.

Letter to our Senators and Representatives calling for a permanent ceasefire

During Holy Week, I fulfilled my promise at the annual meeting to send letters on the congregation's behalf urging our federal elected leaders to support a permanent ceasefire in Israel and Gaza. I thanked those representatives who already are calling for these measures (Reps Phillips, Omar and McCollum). Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith along with Rep. Tom Emmer received a version of the below. I want to especially thank Amy Blumenshine, who gave me nudges to get this done, and who supported drafting this letter.

May we all continue to engage in fervent prayers for peace - in silence, word and deed.

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

I serve as Lead Pastor at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, a vibrant intergenerational congregation in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. Every week, we gather to pray for our hurting world, to listen to God's call for us to be peacemakers, and to seek strength and healing for our lives. At the close of worship, we are sent out to serve and to justice.

Ever since the devastating Hamas attack on October 7, our congregation has been praying for the people of Israel and Gaza and for our government leaders, including you. At our annual meeting, the congregation officially called upon me to urge our federal delegation to act for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the West Bank. Recently, our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Council of Bishops has issued a similar statement (<https://mpls-synod.org/news/elca-conference-of-bishops-calls-for-a-permanent-bilateral-cease-fire-in-gaza/>) calling for a ceasefire.

In addition to calling for a permanent ceasefire, our congregational resolution also emphasized the need for negotiations that would lead to

*The immediate and safe release of hostages, political prisoners and those being held without charges,
Immediate humanitarian relief to all in need, and
Bringing to justice and international law anyone responsible for a war crime.*

I'm writing today to urge you to call for a ceasefire. Among our roles as church is the calling to help our society form our shared moral compass. We are appalled by the US-backed starvation and indiscriminate destruction of the people of Gaza. We lament in sorrow, and we cry out for peace.

Thank you for your public service. We each must do what we can to save lives.

With prayers for peace with justice,

Rev. Martha Schwehn Bardwell

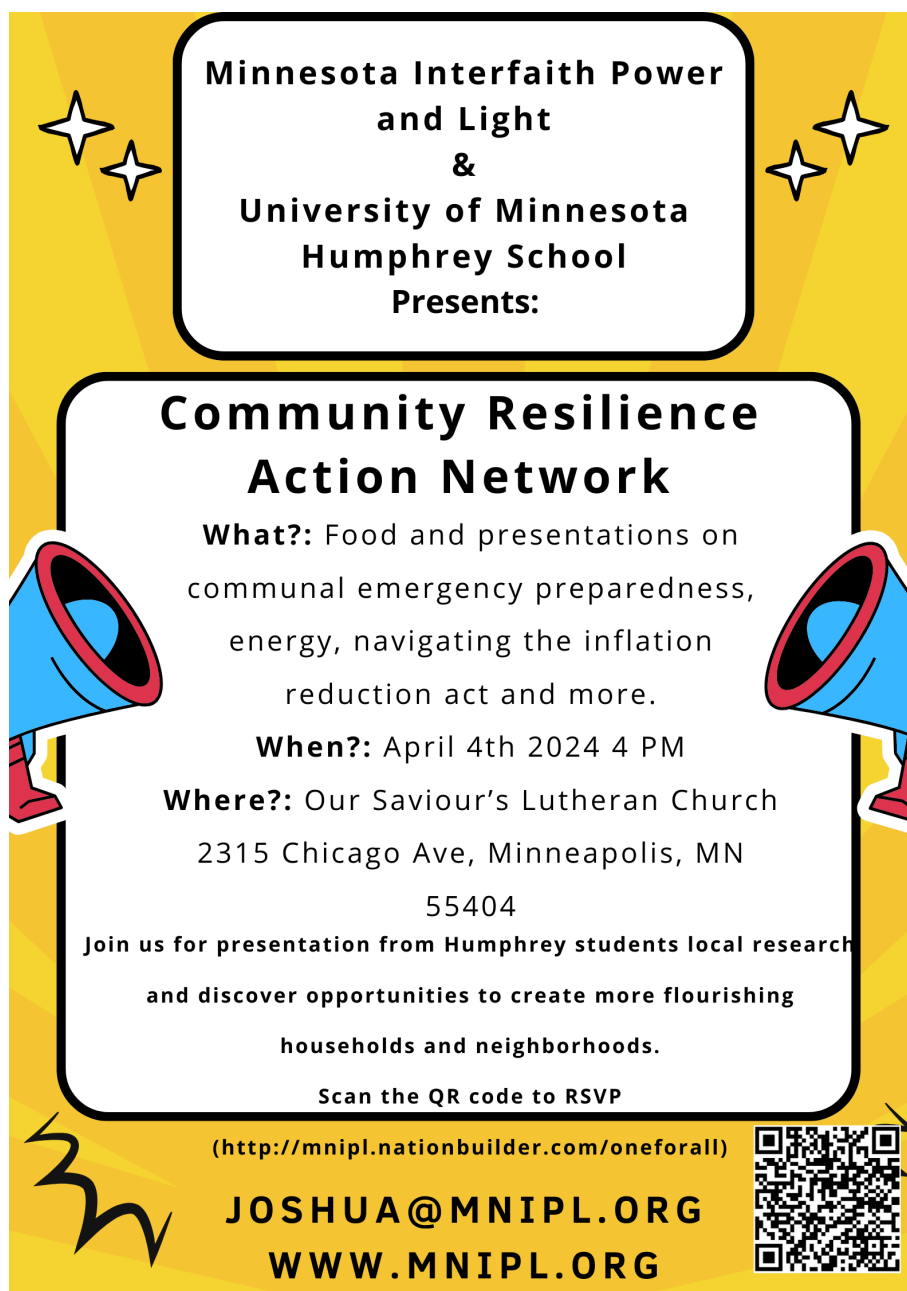
April 4 event – MNIPL and UMN Humphrey School at OSLC

Pastor Martha

At 4pm on Thursday, April 4, we are hosting a gathering led by Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL) and the UMN Humphrey School. Students at the Humphrey School have been doing research in Phillips on emergency preparedness, energy and democracy, accessibility for renters for Inflation Reduction Act benefits, and more. MNIPL has been promoting a vision for churches to be part of developing community resilience action networks – or resilience hubs – as the climate crisis continues to escalate.

This will be an important conversation to lean into! Please RSVP using the QR code.

If you can't figure out how to do that, please email Pastor Martha (martha@oursavioursmpls.org).



The poster features a yellow background with a white rounded rectangle containing the event details. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and regular fonts. There are decorative elements: two white stars in the top corners, two blue megaphones on the sides, and a black lightning bolt in the bottom left corner. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

**Minnesota Interfaith Power
and Light
&
University of Minnesota
Humphrey School
Presents:**

**Community Resilience
Action Network**

What?: Food and presentations on communal emergency preparedness, energy, navigating the inflation reduction act and more.

When?: April 4th 2024 4 PM


Where?: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
2315 Chicago Ave, Minneapolis, MN
55404

Join us for presentation from Humphrey students local research
and discover opportunities to create more flourishing
households and neighborhoods.

Scan the QR code to RSVP

(<http://mnipl.nationbuilder.com/oneforall>)

JOSHUA@MNIPL.ORG
WWW.MNIPL.ORG



Join the Reparations Team for Sacred Reckonings Training This Spring

Aneesa Parks

Three years ago when the Reparations Team formed, we participated in a training for faith communities called Sacred Reckonings. The team shared much of what we learned with the congregation and have continued to apply our learning. We talk about the Reparatory Eco Map often. I can't believe we are embarking on our third cycle with a budget line item for reparations! The team also continues to bring our reparations lens to the property redesign work.

Sacred Reckonings will be building another cohort of white settler-colonizer congregations together this spring. The Reparations Team at OSLC proposes that our congregation join that cohort. We hope to send 5 to 10 people. The cohort meets for five sessions and the cost would be \$750 (Covered by individual investments in your training and by the church budget. No one will be turned away).

If you've participated in a book study at church on race, attended a forum on reparations, or been curious about actions taken in the congregation, this training could be the opportunity you've been waiting for to dive in deeper. There is no commitment after the training.

Learn more about the training here (<https://www.sacredreckonings.com/>), and from the description below.

"Sacred Reckonings has collected the wisdom of many Black, Indigenous, and BIPOC friends, colleagues, mentors and teachers. It can be used to begin, further, or deepen a congregation's reparative practice. It does assume a primarily White audience as it is up to White settler-colonizers to intentionally undo the violence of White and Christian supremacy in the United States. This involves the deeply reparative and spiritual work of repair and reparation."

If your calendar and heart is ready, please contact Aneesa Parks about your interest at AneesaMParks@gmail.com.

Training dates:

Friday, April 26: 5-8 PM

Saturday, April 27: 10 AM to 5PM

Tuesday, May 21: 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Tuesday, June 4: 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Tuesday, June 18: 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Adult forums in April

Pastor Martha

Adult Forums meet at 9am in the Hospitality Center.

Forums on April 7, 21 and 28 will be on Zoom as well. April 14 will not be on Zoom.

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

April 7 – Safe Church Policy and Practices

Council just updated our Safe Church policy, which gives us a firm foundation for keeping children, youth and vulnerable adults safe when we gather as church. Carol Hornbeck, a new OSLC member, will lead us in conversation about our new policy and help us all understand ways we can be co-creators of a culture of safety and belonging for everyone who comes through our doors.

April 14 – MCFF Table, coffee and conversation

Join the Ministry of Community and Faith Formation (MCFF) Table conversation, or enjoy coffee and conversation at other tables.

April 21, 28 and May 5 – Biblical Stories and Community Organizing with Grant Stevensen

Grant will lead a 3-week series on biblical stories and how they might shape us to engage in the skills and tools of community organizing.

Missions of the Month – Reconciling Works and Lutheran Campus Ministry

Harmon Abrahamson

(April is a shared month. The organizations will each receive half of whatever ends up in the offering plate. If someone would like to donate specifically to one organization over the other, include a note on your check or contact the church office.)

Reconciling Works (<https://www.reconcilingworks.org>) is a national organization that since 1974 has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church first made a public welcome to LGBTQ+ people in 2002 as part of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA. There are currently 1055 Reconciling in Christ faith communities nationwide, with 303 more on their journey to joining us. Our Saviour's website states:

We affirm with the apostle Paul that in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female” (Galatians 3:28). Christ has made us one. We acknowledge this reconciliation extends to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Because lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning persons and their families face discrimination in public policy, and, often, are alienated from the Church, we wish to boldly and lovingly affirm their welcome in our community.

Therefore, we affirm:

- *That people of all sexual orientations and gender identities share the worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God, bringing with them their own unique gifts, strengths and skills;*
- *That people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are full participants within the membership of this congregation upon making a common, public affirmation of faith; and*
- *That as members of this congregation, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are expected and encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of this congregation.*

Julie and I support Reconciling Works financially because we have a trans son, and his experiences have led us to learn more about the lived experience of LGBTQIA+ people and their need for support and inclusion.

Lutheran Campus Ministry

ELCA campus ministry is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff and others on campus, not just a ministry for Lutherans. It provides an ELCA presence at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities with cooperating congregations in campus ministry at an additional 400 campuses nationwide. Through worship, study, fellowship and service, members of the academic community taste the fullness of God's grace. As expansive as Christ's love, campus ministry reaches out to all who teach and learn, inviting them to experience the challenge of following Jesus. Campus ministry can serve as a “home away from home” for students attending college.

Our Saviour's supports a local manifestation of that ministry – Lutheran Campus Ministry Twin Cities. Their website says: **We are a Christian community by students, for students.** Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities is rooted in Word and Sacrament, and lifts up the gifts of our ever changing young adult community. LCM-TC welcomes, gathers, equips, and sends students, trusting that through these young adults, the Spirit is active in transforming the campus and the world. Grounded in Christ's love and mercy, we value hospitality, service, justice, integrity and curiosity.

Previous month totals for Ministry of the Month: January - Our Saviour's Housing \$572, February - Calvary Food Shelf \$695, March, Community Emergency Services at least \$1690.

March Council Meeting

Allyson Green

Our March council meeting was a full one! We did some extra long intros to welcome new members Benhi ! Khabeb, Samantha Heaton, Jim Erickson, and Kristi Hennig (sharing the Worship & Arts representation with Jim Johnson). Before moving onto conversations and decisions, we also shared some snacks and reflected on the Hafiz poem "Absolutely Clear." With thoughtfulness, enthusiasm, good questions, and some lingering wonderings, we approved the following:

- Official membership at OSLC for Pastor Esther
- To grant Hope Academy a key and code so they can use our building as an evacuation site in case of an emergency
- A support role and stipend for Grant Stevenson during Martha's sabbatical
- Updated language in the Safe Church policy (thank you Karen Stevensen and Carol Hornbeck for working on this!)
- Property Work:
 - * Moving forward with Fundraising Sol for pre-feasibility work for \$5K / month, 3-5 months
 - * Pursue hiring a development consultant (in partnership with OSCS) by April 15 to begin work May 1 focused on the Chicago Ave. parcel
 - * Direct the Finance Committee to request a Foundation loan of up to \$80K with appropriate terms to finance pre-development costs

Our next meeting is April 7 after church. Want to talk more about any of these decisions? Give me a call or connect with another council member!

-Allyson Green (608)-512-6929

green.allyson@gmail.com

We found glasses

If these are yours they are at the office on the volunteers' desk.



Wilderness is waiting for you

Jeanne Heer

Join us at Wilderness Canoe Base for an Intergenerational retreat from July 25th to July 28th. The experience is a lovely way to enjoy nature and have some fun with others from Our Saviour's. Consider registering today.

General Information: Wilderness Canoe Base is located 6 hours from the Twin Cities on Seagull Lake.

The camp is a part of the beautiful north woods next to the Boundary Waters. Activities include canoeing, swimming, hiking, campfires and more. Rustic cabins and family style meals are provided.

Price - July 25th, Thur. - July 28th, Sun.

Infants (ages 0-3): Free

Children (ages 4-11): \$270.00/person

Youth (ages 12-17): \$300.00/person

Adult (ages 18+): \$330.00/person

A non refundable deposit of \$50 per person will hold a spot for you.

Wilderness has the capability to welcome up to 30 individuals for this intergenerational retreat.

Here is the registration link:

<http://lwlbc.com/oursaviourintergen2024>

Questions? Contact Jeanne Heer 763-954-1552

heerjm@gmail.com



Serving In (and Beyond) RIC Congregations:

A Local Pastor Panel

Pastor Esther

Do you have questions about the highs and lows of serving in a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation? Learn more with local Twin Cities pastors and Luther alums Chris Bingea, Matt Johnson, Hieraald Osorto, and Kelli Weiss as they answer questions and joy stories about the RIC journey and what it has meant for their congregations and for them as leaders. The event is on Friday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. CT, in-person in Gullixson 102 and online via Zoom (register here). Light refreshments will be served. This event is sponsored by the RIC Advocacy Committee and the Office of Inclusion and Belonging. I am part of the RIC Advocacy Committee and if you are able, join us in this great lineup of our panelists. Questions? Reach out to me (esther@oursavioursmpls.org).

Since 1983, the Reconciling in Christ program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church.

A vertical poster with a purple-to-pink gradient background. At the top, it says 'HOSTED BY THE LUTHER SEMINARY RIC ADVOCACY COMMITTEE'. The main title is 'SERVING IN (AND BEYOND) RIC CONGREGATIONS: A PANEL OF LOCAL PASTORS'. Below that, it says 'JOIN THE RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC) ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AND LOCAL ELCA PASTORS FOR A NIGHT OF CONVERSATION ABOUT ADDRESSING LGBTQIA2S+ AND BIPOC MARGINALIZATION IN THE CHURCH.' At the bottom, it says 'THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD IN GULLIXON 102 AND ON ZOOM. PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO PREREGISTER FOR ZOOM ATTENDANCE.' There is a QR code on the right side. At the very bottom, it says 'APRIL 12 | 7PM CST' and 'LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.'

Lunch and Learn with Pastor Angela !Khabeb Sunday June 23 at 12 PM

Pastor Esther

You are invited to attend Lunch and Learn on Sunday June 26th at 12 PM or after worship with Pastor Angela Khabeb at the Hospitality Center. She will be discussing her new book Call to Allyship. In order to get you started reading the book, please let me know (esther@oursavioursmpls.org) The cost is about \$12.99.

Summary of this remarkable book:

How can churches do the work of becoming allies for the leaders they call? In belonging to a predominantly white denomination, ELCA members are called to listen and learn from its leaders of color to recognize the assumptions, biases, and harmful actions that result when congregations don't commit to become allies. Authors offer wisdom, storytelling, and concrete suggestions for churches preparing to call a leader of color. Call to Allyship is a must-read for call committees, church councils, social justice teams, and anyone prepared to do the work of understanding, welcoming, and celebrating these leaders.

UPDATE on Nenookaasi Healing Camp

Pastor Esther

Good news! The porta potties have been set up recently in the encampment. Last week, 10 people got detox in the encampment and more to follow! They welcome blankets and warm clothes. You could bring them to the church or directly to the encampment on 2839 14th Ave S., Minneapolis.

They need propane and the best way now to contribute for propane is through cash donations rather than purchasing propane and distributing it to the encampment by ourselves because they were informed by the authority that it is illegal in Minnesota to purchase propane, turn around, and distribute it to other people. However, it is legal if we buy propane for our personal use. They would appreciate it if we contributed cash so that they could purchase propane for their personal use. If you are able in the next few days or so, please send your donations to the church or donate online on a Special Fund Donation and note: Helping Hand Fund for propane. We will then send the funds to the encampment's Venmo account.

Help San Pablo/St Paul Lutheran Church with their children's summer camp

Pastor Esther

Pastor Hieraal Osorto reached out to ask for our help to cover some of the costs for this year's their children's summer camp. Due to most of his congregations are undocumented, newly arrived in the country, and having no access to jobs or regular income, the church has a very limited budget. This year's summer camp, they will explore the question, "What is God like?" Drawing inspiration from Rachel Held Evans' and Matthew Paul Turner's bestselling book (aptly named What Is God Like?), they will reflect on God in Creation, Community, and our family and friends through group activities with community leaders and neighborhood partners.

The camp will run from 9 AM to 2:30 PM, June 17 to June 21, 2024, for kids ages 5-12. Activities include visits to the Bell Museum Planetarium, the Family Partnership Free Little Library, and the Heart of the Beast. They will also partner with a local artist to facilitate a weeklong activity with our participants. This is a bilingual summer camp and their goal is to host 15-20 children from the neighborhood. I am asking for 2 people to apply for a Thrivent grant that will help purchase art supplies and snacks for the camp. If you are willing to be one to write the grant, please reach out to me esther@oursavioursmpls.org

Thank you so much for your help!

Confirmation Students

Pastor Esther

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, April 14 at 9-10 AM in the Conference Room. Please bring your Bible, Manna & Mercy Book, and your Small Catechism book. See you then!

1 on 1

Pastor Esther

I would still love to get to know you and learn more about your faith stories and aspirations.

Please call or email me (612-871-2967 opt 4, esther@oursavioursmpls.org) to sign up or if these dates and times do not work for you, we can certainly set up a better time.

Queer Prom 2.0

Pastor Esther

We have been invited to co-sponsor a Totally Fabulous, All-Generations, Queer Prom 2.0 on Friday, May 31st from 7 pm to 10 pm at Spring House Ministry Center (610 W. 28th Street in Minneapolis) as part of Pride Month.

They are particularly interested in inviting your congregational Youth Groups. They will, however, provide childcare in the hopes that everyone can come and have fun. They will also have a covenant that centers on consent and inclusivity. OSLC plans to co-sponsor the event and we are looking for youth, parents, and adults who would be willing to provide help with at least one of the following:

- at least 1 adult who knows the youth
- at least 1 volunteer to help with set-up, food service, and other event support
- 1 childcare worker from your church or organization

Please reach out to me at esther@oursavioursmpls.org if you can help and support.

Thank you so much!



Host a table at the Fundraising Breakfast for Mental Health Connect.

Pastor Esther

Thursday, May 9 at 8:00 AM (At Mount Olive Lutheran)

As OSLC just began its membership in this organization, it will be a great way to deepen our understanding of the program at this event. I would love to host a table for OSLC so if you can attend or if you know someone who would be interested, please let me know at esther@oursavioursmpls.org

For more information about the breakfast you can visit here Please do not register on your own. I will do the registration on behalf of OSLC.

The cost is \$25/person and we need 8 people to host a table.

Self-Reflective Peace-Making

Amy Blumenshine

Kudos to those OSLC members leading the recent Sunday Forum series on Forgiveness. Part of the wisdom shared was the practice of self-reflection to better understand our reactions to the behavior of others. “Learning forgiveness requires first that we clearly see our own need for it. Self-examination is one of the best ways to discover how deep and ongoing our need truly is. Then we can look more objectively at our need to judge others.”*

While being angry at being hurt is understandable, we are encouraged to grow beyond. Especially regarding conflicts with others, it’s good to consider one’s own role. Where have we erred; how might we be perceived; how can we do better?

Self-reflection is also an important step in international peace-making. Collective national self-reflection is also necessary. President John F. Kennedy made this point in his speech at American University in 1962. So much is of current concern

(<https://www.jfklibrary.org/archives/other-resources/john-f-kennedy-speeches/american-university-19630610>)

“First: Let us examine our attitude toward peace itself. Too many of us think it is impossible. Too many think it unreal. But that is a dangerous, defeatist belief. It leads to the conclusion that war is inevitable--that mankind is doomed--that we are gripped by forces we cannot control....(whereas) No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings ...

.....Second: Let us reexamine our attitude toward the Soviet Union. It is discouraging to think that their leaders may actually believe what their propagandists write....’that there

is a very real threat of a preventive war being unleashed by American imperialists against the Soviet Union . . . the political aims of the American imperialists are to . . . achieve world domination . . . by means of aggressive wars.”

Now 60 years later, why might a nation dubbed as an arch-enemy of the US think our country might be about to bomb them? Alas, in my lifetime our country has pursued aggressive wars against many countries. We just passed the 21st anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq. A national reckoning about that horror has yet to occur. Millions of people lost their homes and loved ones due to that immense crime. Over a million lives and \$8 trillion dollars were wasted... and war-caused costs and unnecessary deaths continue in the aftermath. Global climate chaos was massively accelerated.

Kennedy noted in his speech: (we spend) “billions of dollars every year on weapons acquired for the purpose of making sure we never need to use them.” Sadly, while without Kennedy it would have been worse, that spending has continued for decades. Now it is ramping up, fueling not just WMD and contaminants that are hazardous for eons, but funds used for lobbying and less legal forces to continue weapons development.

The American University speech signaled a number of cooperative actions with the Khrushchev government of Russia resulting in treaties on nuclear weapons (even though both leaders were out of power within two years, Kennedy assassinated.) These treaties—and luck!— have essentially kept the world from annihilation since.

Unfortunately, nearly all of those treaties are no longer operative, and there have been violations on both sides. The remaining Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, for instance, is blatantly flaunted by the US as it made a “secret” exception for Israel. Parties to the treaty are not supposed to support countries who have nuclear weapons but are not part of the treaty.

Surely it is the proper role of the Church to both preach and work towards international peace. In this effort, we certainly must promote collective national self-examination regarding our foreign affairs. The path of mutual forgiveness is much preferable to that of the escalating violence of retribution.

*Marjorie J. Thompson *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study*.

Otto von Bismarck called preventive war: “committing suicide from fear of death.”

Both Kennedy and Khrushchev learned that their generals were lying to them.

It is hypothesized that the “near death experience” of carrying responsibility for avoiding nuclear annihilation during the Cuban missile crisis was a bonding and turning point for both leaders. Their peace-making turn, however, was rejected by war-hawks in both countries.

Save the date



Join us for these two special events as we send Mary Preus off with gratitude, blessing, and much singing!

A Concert and Community Sing Celebrating Mary Preus

Saturday, September 21 at 6:30 pm

A musical event for all ages, featuring Bread for the Journey on their "We're not stale yet!" reunion tour and the beloved OSLC choir. A dessert reception will follow the singing.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Farewell

Sunday, September 29 at 10:30 am

We will bless and send Mary with gratitude and joy in worship, followed by sharing in a lunch and program celebrating her 30+ years of serving as the worship and music director at OSLC.

Christ in Our Home devotional available

Nancy Johnson

Pick up the newest Christ in Our Home daily devotional for April thru June in the narthex at church. If you'd like one, but can't get to church, call the church office at 612-871-2987 and someone can deliver it or mail it to you.



Wilderness Canoe Base Work Weekend – May 17-19

Nancy Johnson

Join us for our annual trek up the Gunflint Trail to help open up camp at Wilderness Canoe Base. For nearly 40 years we've been going up to help the camp open up by doing projects to get ready for campers. Projects have included cleaning cabins, hauling materials, minor repairs and more. We'll have time for a sauna and possibly a paddle in a canoe. All ages are welcome to attend. We especially want to invite our Youth to attend. We will caravan up on Friday morning and will return on Sunday early evening. The cost for the weekend is \$110 for ages 11 and up, \$80 for age 3-10 and free for under 3. This includes lodging and 5 meals. Scholarships are available and youth can have their cost covered or partially covered by the youth fund. Sign up at church or email Nancy at n2j2@comcast.net.

Calvary Lutheran Church Food Shelf

Maryellen Skan

Thank you for supporting the Calvary Emergency food shelf in February through the mission of the month. As a result of your generosity, OSLC donated \$695 and 50 pounds of non-perishables. Donations (funds & food) were delivered in March so they'd count toward Calvary's FoodShare allocation. You helped make a significant difference in the fight against hunger in Minneapolis!

Lenten books

Nancy Johnson

If you haven't paid for your Lenten books for the Adult Forum series, please try and pay soon. If you want to check if you've paid or not, contact Nancy at n2j2@comcast.net or talk to her at church.

Lectionary Text for Home Devotions

April 7

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1--2:2
John 20:19-31

April 14

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 21

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

April 28

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

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2315 Chicago Ave
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PRAYER LIST

- Reginald Page, dealing with health issues
- Hawah Borbor, recovering after a hospital stay
- Mary Preus' brother, Joel, undergoing cancer treatment
- Kristie Hennig's niece, Sarah, who had very encouraging test results following surgery and chemotherapy.
- Kristie Hennig's brother, Kenny, gradually healing enough to receive radiation therapy
- Emily, Jeanne Heer's niece, diagnosed with cancer
- Anton Moore, undergoing physical therapy
- Noah, Bruce Pederson's son, undergoing treatment for prostate cancer
- Deanna Thompson, Linnea's mother, who has a recurrence of breast cancer
- Brian, Dave Comstock's friend, recovering from a heart attack
- Annette Langford, recovering from a fall
- Mulki, daughter of our quilting neighbor Kadrah, dealing with a genetic skin condition
- Will, Elaine Johnson's brother, recovering from surgery
- Kay Knutson, recovering from a minor stroke
- David, Susan Erickson's brother-in-law, recovering after heart surgery complications
- Peace in Ukraine, Middle East and in the world

We love to pray for you and your loved ones. Please reach out to Pastor Esther at esther@oursavioursmpls.org or call her at the office or her mobile phone for prayer requests, or fill out the prayer request form in the pew and place it on the offering plate during our Sunday worship together.

How to Reach Us

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612-871-2967
oursavioursmpls.org

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Martha Schwehn Bardwell option 3
Esther Sianipar option 4

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 May 2024 Sentinel is Monday, April 29

April 2024 at Our Saviour's

Sunday, April 7	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, April 9	Noon—1:00pm	Staff Meeting
Wednesday, April 10	10:15am-12:00pm	Bible Study in Person and on Zoom
	7:00pm	Choir and rehearsal
Sunday, April 14	9:00am –10:30am	Sunday school, Godly Play, Nursery and Adult Forum
	10:00am	Choir and Hospitality
	10:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online
Monday, April 15		Pastor Martha goes on a Sabbatical until July 16
Tuesday, April 16	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, April 17	10:15am-12:00pm	Bible Study on Zoom
	7:00pm	Choir and rehearsal
Sunday, April 21	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, April 23	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, April 24	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom
	7:00pm	Choir and rehearsal
Sunday, April 28	9:00am –10:30am	Sunday school, Godly Play, Nursery and Adult Forum
	10:00am	Choir and Hospitality
	10:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online (baptism of Madison Halon)
Tuesday, April 30	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)

