

The Sentinel

May 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!

Greetings beloved of **OSLC!**

I am excited to be amongst you all as the lead pastor for the next three months. I continue to look forward to spending more time listening to you and praying with you. Couple of BIG milestones for me are Jonah went on a successful meniscus repair surgery on Tuesday April 20 and I passed my thesis defense the next day Wednesday May 1. Jonah is patient and doing his best to tolerate the post-op pain. I am super relieved to pass my thesis! You are all invited to attend my graduation at Central Lutheran Church at 3PM on Sunday May 26th and follow with a potluck party at our church at 5PM-6:30PM.

We had our last confirmation class session last Sunday of April 28th. Our confirmands are ready to be confirmed this coming Fall. They will be paired up with adult mentors to accompany our confirmands as they prepare to be confirmed. I also enjoyed being part of Madison Hanlon's baptism and I continue to love preaching, presiding and sharing God's stories with you.

Dorothy Bass and I are working on putting together the Lilly Grant proposal on Nurturing Children through Prayer and Worship. This is an opportunity for our children at OSLC to learn and express their faith through a variety of worship and interactions with our church neighbors who we will be partnering in this grant, San Pablo/St Paul Lutheran and All Nations Indian Churches in outdoor worship, sacred site tours, the journey of Mary and Joseph before the birth of Jesus called Las Posadas and celebrating Pentecost, give thanks to the God's gifts to us.

I ask for your kind prayers for this grant process to be submitted in full.

We also have great lineups as our guest preachers from external and internal.

We are grateful for their time and ministry to Our Saviour's. Here are the following lineups:

May 5: Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy

Native Theologian, Scholar, Storyteller, Activist, Speaker and Healer. Dr. Kelly is a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation and her Lakota name is Mato Waste Winyan (Good Bear Woman). She has a passion for social justice, racial reparations, healing and storytelling that has been felt across the globe. She is the very first Native Woman Theologian with a PhD. in the ELCA. Her work primarily focuses on systemic theology, with a unique approach to Lakota Spirituality and how it can inform Christianity and instill healing. She is currently serves at All Nations Indian church and an adjunct faculty at Augsburg University and St. Olaf College.

May 12: Kenna and Khonni !Khabe will be doing the children's message, and Clara Owens will preach. They are youth members at OSLC.

We will have a youth-led service! Kenna and Khonni will lead the children's message and Clara will be our preacher! We look forward to hearing God's message from these three fearless youth.

May 26: Dave Comstock

Dave Comstock is a retired Presbyterian Pastor and Associate Member of OSLC who is enjoying being a parishioner instead of a pastor way too much. Dave served the last half of his career as a transitional pastor and served and learned from both Presbyterian and United Methodist congregations. Now he is eager to discover what the Lutherans know. He is husband to Carol Hornbeck, Dad to Levi, and Grandpa to Roy and Joan.

*** Thank you to Winton Boyd who preached on April 21**

Winton is a UCC retired pastor, a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church this past Easter Vigil 2024. He and his wife Tammy are residing in Minneapolis after serving as a pastor in Wisconsin for more than 20 years.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Esther

(she/her)

Choir and Special Music at Our Saviour's

Mary Preus, Music Director

We will conclude our 'official' choir season on Pentecost, May 19, singing, "I Can Feel the Fire Burning" (down in my soul!) This summer we will have a couple of pop-up choirs. They will be announced the week before and all are welcome to join. The choir will start up again in September with a rehearsal on Wednesday, September 4 and singing in worship on Sunday, Sept. 8.

This summer we encourage any and all of you who would be willing to share a musical gift to sing or play for a 3 minute spot during the Gathering of our Gifts. Please contact me if you are interested.

Summer is a time when we love to hear any kids who are taking music lessons play during worship or to sing a duet or solo. Let me know if you are interested.

Thanks be to God for the gift of music!

Update on our property development work through April

David Scheie, OSLC Project Project Coordinator

Our campus redevelopment work is well underway! During Pastor Martha's sabbatical I am serving as congregational coordinator for the many inspiring tasks in this project. During April there was forward movement on six fronts:

- Defining OSLC facility improvements to support congregational vitality over the next 30 years
- Designing our campus upgrade with creation care values and concern for our neighbors
- Expanding potential neighborhood partner relationships guided by our reparations values
- Seeking an excellent development consultant to provide technical expertise and guidance
- Beginning pre-planning for a capital campaign
- Building a shared vision for campus redevelopment with Normandale Housing

Read all about it at our new Property Reimagining Blog: <https://oslcproperty.weebly.com> !

Special thank you's to the many congregation members who are contributing leadership in these efforts: Tal Anderson, Amy Blumenshine, Allyson Green, Jakob Johnson, Nancy Nygaard Johnson, Aneesa Parks, Mike Troutman, and Jim Unglaube. Others are welcome to jump in this vase, too – we've got space for more!

Thanks also to the staff and board members from Our Saviour's Community Services, our core partners in this grand project.

If anyone in the congregation (or community) has questions or ideas regarding our campus redevelopment effort, please contact me at 612-232-2912 or dscheie@touchstone-center.com.

Also feel free to contact any of the congregational members named in specific areas in the blog.

Host a table at the Fundraising Breakfast for Mental Health Connect - Thursday, May 9 at 8:00 AM (at Mount Olive Lutheran)

Pastor Esther

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
Please do not register on your own. I will do the registration on behalf of OSLC.

The cost is \$25/person and we need 4 more people to sign up.

Are you willing to volunteer for San Pablo/St Paul Lutheran Church 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 children's summer camp. Due to most of the congregations being 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 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. They are looking for volunteers to serve snacks and to accompany children to some of the places that they will be visiting. It's okay if you do not speak Spanish.

If you are a Thrivent member, would you be willing to apply for the Thrivent Action Program to help with some of the costs that the church needs for the summer retreat? If you are willing to volunteer and/or be the one to write the grant, please reach out to me esther@oursavioursmpls.org
Thank you so much for your help!

Celebrating our Graduates

Jeanne Heer

Are you graduating this spring? Do you know a member graduating this spring?
We are celebrating our graduates at one of our June worship services and after church with a cake reception. Add your name or someone else's to a list of graduates.
Call or text Jeanne Heer at 763-954-1552 to add to the list.

Calling all kids, youth and adults at OSLC -

Be part of Building Beloved Community camp this summer!

Pastor Martha

Our fun ecumenical day camp is back this summer at a new location - Diamond Lake Lutheran Church. Our dates this year are August 19 - 23. Registration is open! To register as a kid participant, youth leader, or adult volunteer, please visit the day camp website (www.smplsdaycamp.org) to sign up.

Looking forward to a fun and faith-forming summer with many of you!



**M on d a y – F r i d a y,
August 19-23, 9a - 4p**

Hosted by
Diamond Lake Lutheran Church

Sponsored by more than a dozen
Minneapolis congregations
Programming for entering:

K-5th grade

6-8 grades

High School Leaders

BE NOT AFRAID



A progressive ecumenical day camp experience offering faith formation in a fun, safe, Christ centered and relational setting. Worship, crafts, music, and games make for a fun and meaningful week of beloved community.

We are committed to making camp accessible to everyone who wants to come and are grateful for the abundant generosity of this community that supports one another! Our registration fee is based on a sliding scale and any donations given by others is used to defray the cost so everyone can attend.

Register here:

(<https://www.smplsdaycamp.org/>)



Adult Forums in May

Adult Forums meet at 9am in the Hospitality Center.

Here is the link to a Zoom option: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86297261334>

May 5 – Biblical Stories and Community Organizing with Grant Stevensen

We have finished two of three Sunday morning forums on organizing, Origin Stories and Self Interest. This next Sunday we will spend time looking at current things we are wanting to organize people around and comparing this broad understanding of self interest and how we might create ways of communicating that speak to it. It has been an interesting and co-creative conversation. If you haven't been a part of the first two weeks we will do a very quick summery at the beginning so that everyone can participate. Hope to see you there!

May 12 – Naming, Claiming, Dreaming Our Worship Music Culture

After Mary retires at the end of September, we'll be seeking a new person to lead us in worship and music. The Transition Team, tasked with finding that person, hopes you'll come to this conversation and share your vision, your dreams, your hopes for this position.

What are you excited about in our worship and music culture? Let's imagine it forward, together.

May 19 – We will be appreciating our Sunday School teachers and thanking them for this past year's work!

Our children are one of our biggest strengths at Our Saviour's and our teachers are entrusted with nurturing their faith, teaching them our stories and guiding them in our congregation. Please come and help us say thank you to them. (If you have never looked around the Godly play room this might be an opportunity to do that as well. You might wish you were in the class or better yet make yourself available for the next year!).



Elizabeth and Paul Damico-Carper to Serve as Interim Worship and Music Directors

Catherine Preus

We are happy to announce that Pastor Martha has invited Elizabeth and Paul Damico-Carper to be our interim worship and music directors, and they have accepted! They will plan to lead our worship music for several months, continuing until the permanent position is filled. Mary retires at the end of September. We plan to post the permanent role in November, with the intent to fill the role by February 2025.

Paul's talents are already well-known in our congregation since he led music in worship while Mary was on sabbatical, but here's a little bit more about their careers and lives so far:

Elizabeth and Paul Damico-Carper met leading music together in the Holden Village community and have relished the chances to work together ever since. They created the Community Video Hymn Sing – a daily Facebook livestream ministry that ran for the first year of the pandemic and was centered around song, prayer, sharing, and blessing.

Elizabeth has been a church musician and pastor in many churches including Holden Village, Westwood Lutheran Church (St. Louis Park), Pacific Lutheran University, and Calvary Lutheran Church (Grand Forks, N.D., where her mother once served as musician). She is a pianist, song-leader, and choir director.

Paul has served the church in a variety of contexts including Holden Village, synodical and churchwide assemblies, national and regional conferences, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (St. Paul) and Trinity Lutheran Church (Richmond, Michigan). Two of his compositions are included in All Creation Sings, the recent hymnal supplement for the ELCA.

Elizabeth works as a chaplain with Brighton Hospice and is the founder/director of Spiral Summer Theater Camps. Paul is a student at Inver Hills Community College and a patient care assistant at Regions Hospital. Their family includes Micaela (18), who will be attending the Seattle University in the fall, Paysen (5), who loves Harry Potter Clue and playing with his cousins, as well as their dogs Parker and Bella, who love to walk along the Mississippi River.



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 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. Partial scholarships may be available. If you are interested in a scholarship, please contact Nancy ahead of time. Sign up at church or email Nancy (n2j2@comcast.net) by Sunday May 12th. There will be a brief meeting after church on the 12th to check in on travel plans and answer any questions you may have.

Taking Stock of Church Peace-Making

Amy Blumenshine

The annual Minneapolis Area Synod (MAS) Assembly is likely taking place as you read this. The main action is expected to be the election of the next bishop; Bishop Anne Svennungsen has completed her two term limit. No OSLC resolution will be addressed at the Assembly as both of those we passed were disqualified. There are other terms I could use, but I will think of this as a year of pruning. Our peace-making initiatives were pruned this year; may they flourish even better in the future!

At this time when local church moral clarity on war-making is paused, let us reflect on what has transpired since our 2023 Resolution was passed at synod assembly. The resolution was intended to encourage examining the case for making war in Ukraine in the aftermath of the Russian invasion and claim of territory. Unfortunately much death, maiming, destruction, poisoning and greenhouse gases and other waste of resources were executed with no apparent benefit to anyone except the war profiteers. The Ukraine war was a stalemate awaiting negotiations a year ago and it remains the same today.

My heart hurts for Ukraine. Whether fired from the Russian or Ukrainian sides, the bombs drop on land that was considered Ukraine before 2014. The families, homes, and livelihoods destroyed are Ukrainian. It is estimated that half a million combatants, many of them from both sides conscripted, have been killed.*

Several “almost” detonations of nuclear materials have been reported, and more nuclear weapons are now threatening.

A Congressional debate with mixed agenda did occur this spring before sending more billions of dollars of weapons to Ukraine. (By the way, these expenditures will be paid by future tax payers as they were added to the national debt.) Our synod resolution asked for “transparent hearings with a wide range of experts, including those who are voices of peace, consider alternatives to violence, and are not affiliated with the arms industry,” but that did not occur!

I do pray that some Christians could be heard arguing that trying to resolve conflict by relying on killing and destroying instead of diplomacy is immoral as well as futile. Obviously, we do not expect our resolution or our Bishop to end a war, but we do believe it is our Christian obligation to try. Part of our role in society is to help establish a societal moral compass.

The Bishop’s annual report includes how our resolution as amended was implemented: “This resolution called on the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod to reiterate to the appropriate federal elected officials about their responsibility as leaders regarding engagement with the war in Ukraine. After significant discussion, the resolution passed in a close vote. The Bishop wrote a letter to five Members of Congress and both U.S. Senators from Minnesota expressing the sense of the Assembly.”

Not mentioned were these further actions amended to the OSLC resolution, that the Assembly:

- expresses sympathy and support for victims of this conflict, and urges its congregations to help the victims of war who may appear on their doorstep;
- declares this war to be unjust and commends all governments involved to seek a negotiated settlement to this conflict; and
- urges congregations and members of the synod to prayerfully consider and discuss how Christ’s call to be peacemakers can lead us to be a voice for peace regarding the Ukrainian-Russian conflict.

<https://mpls-synod.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-RC2023-01-Examining-the-Case-for-Making-War-in-Uk.pdf>

I am among those Lutherans who maintain that even as we pray for peace each Sunday—while we pay more and more for war—at least our Church should clearly say: Stop the killing; there is a better way.

*The contrast of civilian to military deaths in the Ukraine compared to Gaza conflicts is stark. It was estimated that the Israelis killed more civilians in Gaza in the first three weeks since their response began from the Hamas attack on October 7th than civilians who have been killed in the (then) two years of the Ukraine war.

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.

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.

Daily Work Steps to Success 2023 Event!

Maryellen Skan (Daily Work volunteer)

Daily Work believes everyone should be able to shape their own future. Yet some people, especially newcomers to this country, face complex challenges that create barriers to finding the good work they need to thrive. With your partnership, we aim to change that!

[Our Saviour's was one of the founding congregations of Daily Work over 20 years ago]

Join us for a remarkable evening that explores how we cultivate resources, connections, and opportunities to customize our services. Hear the story of one family's grit and determination to plant new roots in Minnesota and learn about the help they found along the way!

Date: Tuesday, May 21

Time: 5:00 – 6:00 pm – Check-in, Buffet & Conversation. 6:00 - 7:30 Program (be sure and arrive with enough time to get your dinner and be seated by 6:00)

Place: Westminster Presbyterian Church Hall (1200 Marquette Ave, Downtown Minneapolis)

Details: No cost to attend. Delicious multicultural dinner with vegetarian and gluten-free options. Coffee, tea and cash bar. Free underground parking. Map and Parking information

RSVP: by May 13. RSVP here or at daily-work.org.

Questions or registration help: Contact Maryellen at skan@umn.edu

Calvary Lutheran Church Food Shelf

Maryellen Skan

Thank you for supporting the CES food shelf during the March FoodShare campaign/mission of the month. As a result of your generosity, OSLC donated \$2355 and 65 pounds of non-perishables. You helped make a significant difference in the fight against hunger in Minneapolis – providing food and hope to our neighbors. A special thank you to the Sunday School children who decorated and distributed grocery bags and encouraged the congregation to donate to the food shelf.

Lectionary Text for Home Devotions

May 5

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

May 12

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

May 19

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

Acts 2:1-21 (alternate)

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 26

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

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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
- Jerry Stout, Sophie's father, having hip replacement surgery on May 8th
- 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, Gaza 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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oursavioursmpls.org

Pastor:

Martha Schwehn Bardwell (on sabbatical leave)

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 June 2024 Sentinel is Thursday, May 23

May 2024 at Our Saviour's

Sunday, May 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 (preacher Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy)
Tuesday, May 7	Noon—1:00pm	Staff Meeting
Wednesday, May 8	10:15am-12:00pm	Bible Study in Person and on Zoom
	7:00pm	Choir and rehearsal
Sunday, May 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 (Youth-led service)
Tuesday, May 14	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, May 15	10:15am-12:00pm	Bible Study on Zoom
	7:00pm	Choir and rehearsal (last one)
May 17-19		Wilderness Canoe Base Work Weekend
Sunday, May 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
Tuesday, May 21	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, May 22	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom
Thursday, May 23		Sentinel Deadline
Sunday, May 26	10:00am	Hospitality
	10:30am	Worship in Sanctuary and Online (preacher Dave Comstock)
	5:00pm-6:30pm	Pastor Esther's Graduation Potluck Party (HC)
Tuesday, May 28	12:45am-2:00pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
Wednesday, May 29	10:15am-12:00pm	Online Bible Study on Zoom

