

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

April 2021

www.oursaviorschurch.info

HEAR IT, FEEL IT, LIVE IT, SHARE IT – GOD'S LOVE

Dear siblings in Christ,

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

A few years ago, a Jewish friend of mine asked me about that phrase. “The grammar is all wrong. It should be ‘Christ *has* risen,’ right? Why do you say it that way?” She caught me off-guard with that one, even with all her other great questions about our faith. That question has stuck with me since, because growing up I had never stopped to ask it. Of *course* it’s “Christ is risen.” That’s the phrase! We all know what it means, right? But why do we use bad grammar to say it?

It’s because the empty tomb isn’t some quaint historical fact, set in the distant and misty past. The resurrection wasn’t something that only the disciples in that particular time and place got to experience. To speak about the resurrection as something past tense, as if time can keep it there, just isn’t true! If Christ *has* risen, then his he *has* done all he can do. And we know that’s just not the case!

Christ *is* risen, and that means his resurrection is changing the world even today. Because he *is* risen, we are filled with the Holy Spirit to love and serve in his name, like when we donate to the food shelf for families that are struggling through this pandemic and need a helping hand. Because he *is* risen, we are led to love those we’ve never met by wearing masks and getting our vaccinations, sacrificing so much over the past year so that when this is over, more of us will be here. Because he *is* risen, we are inspired to share the good news that we aren’t bound to the evils of sin that tie us down to selfishness and closed-mindedness and hatred. Because he *is* risen, his presence is with us now just as fully as it was with Mary Magdalene when she ran, breathless, from the tomb with the words “I have seen the Lord!”

The point of the “bad grammar” is to remind us that his resurrection is more than a thing that happened; it’s a thing that’s still happening today. His resurrection is our resurrection, and just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too can live in abundance of life! We can set aside all those things that weigh us down, dead things that keep us from fully loving our neighbor and sharing in the joy of God’s kingdom. We can know forgiveness that lets us fix what is broken. We can wake up every morning, remember our baptism, and set our minds on helping God’s kingdom come. His resurrection changes us today, as much as it changed us yesterday, and will change us tomorrow.

How is Christ’s resurrection changing your life today? How are you led to greater, fuller, fearless love for your neighbor because he is risen? What hope is God calling on you to share with others because he is risen today, and his resurrection still gives life to the world? What is God calling Our Savior’s to do in our community so that, as we hold out for the home stretch of this pandemic, hope can still be heard and seen and felt? And how is the “bad grammar” of his resurrection changing your life in ways you haven’t stopped to notice before?

Because Christ is risen! Alleluia!

In Christ,
Pastor Lucas

God calls us to the waters of baptism, and as we enter the months ahead, keep in mind the following dates that are open for baptisms.

May 9, June 20, July 18 August 15

Call the Office if any of these dates would work for your family. 715-273-4570

Crosses We Don't Choose

Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose.

Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love.

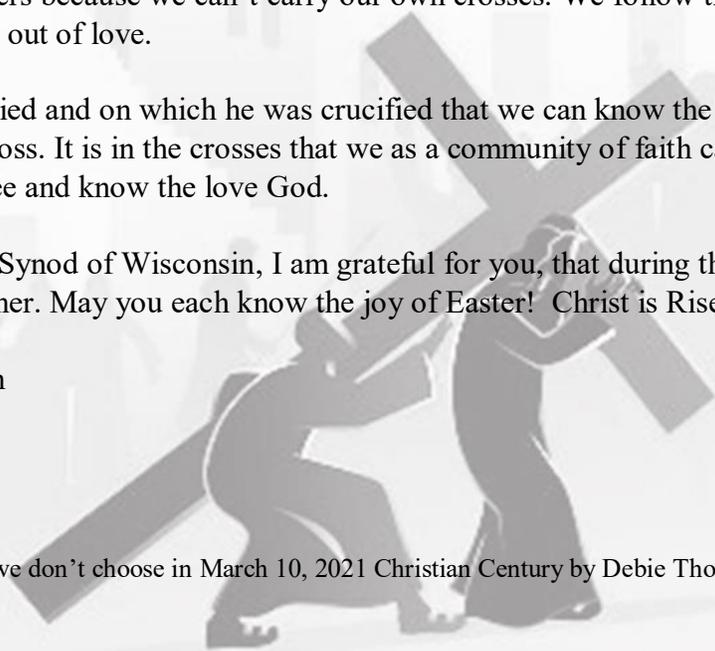
It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas

Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32



Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2021

Call to Order: President Randy Winger at 7:00 PM

Attending: Pastor Lucas, Bob Winger, Sharon Seibel, Debbi Pittman, Randy Winger, Lanette Place, Jill Rosenberry, Mary Straub, Dan Place, Ann Young. Absent: Norris Berg

Opening Devotions: Pastor Lucas- Isaiah 43: 18-21

What have we learned from this year during the pandemic? As we look forward, what new things has God called us to do?

New Business:

Report from Audit Committee- Becky Johnson and Audrey Severson

Finding: Suggest having an external hard drive to back up financial information and store it at a separate location.

Finding: Have a minimum of two signers on all accounts.

Finding: Have a formal record retention policy.

Point of Consideration: Discussion about minimal charges from the bank due to writing too many checks.

Point of Consideration: Discussion about having the Sunday School put offerings in the bank and writing checks rather than paying cash to create a paper trail.

Point of Consideration: Discussion about the Endowment fund and having timely disbursements.

All other notes are attached in the Audit Report. Motion to accept the Audit Report by Ann, Sharon 2nd the motion.

Easter Egg Hunt- Saturday March 27, at 10 AM. There will be an Easter story, Egg hunt, Games, Snacks, Balloon Creations by Lori, Face Painting from Zaney Janey. Masks are required. Weather Permitting. This event runs 1-2 hours. Motion to accept by Dan, 2nd by Bob. MC

Palm Sunday Take-Out Breakfast- Sunday March 28. There will be muffins and fruit in to-go containers for a free-will offering. Motion to accept by Lanette, 2nd by Dan. MC

In-person Worship Capacity- Increase the main sanctuary to 40 people (20 on each side), balcony to 12 people, and basement to 20 people. Reservations are not needed to worship in the church! Safety guidelines will continue to be in place. Motion to accept by Pastor Lucas, 2nd by Dan MC. Pastor Lucas will contact Brickhouse music to work on the quality of sound. There is a need to replace the lapel microphones.

March and April assignments: March \$ counters-Dan and Ann, April Devotions-Dan

Member calls/contacts: Pastor gave council members a list of members that he calls and asked for more names. Pastor Lucas will be receiving his 2nd vaccine soon, so we will be able to resume home and hospital visits as safety guidelines permit.

Confirmation Classes review- The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade confirmation students are serving at the Lenten services. Aftershock will continue to meet during this summer. The 9th grade confirmation students will be confirmed in August.

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Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

Old Business

Finalize the 2021 Budget Proposal- The finalized Budget Proposal includes a 2% salary increase. Motion to accept by Dan, 2nd by Bob. MC

Finalize the 2021 Lutefisk Supper & Fairstand Disbursement Proposal- Discussion of this being a taxing year due to the pandemic, the council suggests to disburse the majority of the money to local programs. Motion made by Ann to divide the \$500 from Operation Christmas Child between the Free Clinic and the Pierce County Food Shelf. 2nd by Dan. MC. Motion made by Dan to accept the proposal with the amendment, 2nd by Lanette. MC

Annual Meeting Agenda & Logistics- March 21, 2021. Agenda will follow the same form as in the by-laws. There should be enough space in the church to hold attendees. Attendees are also welcome to join in their vehicles.

Tech Team- Pastor Lucas will do some additional training for those on the team.

Insurance Updates- Dan P has offered to help Randy measure the different areas of the church for the insurance company.

Secretary's Report- Motion to accept by Lanette, 2nd by Bob. MC

Treasurer's Report- Dan made a motion to buy two external hard drives for the treasurer. 2nd by Bob. MC. Debbi will make the purchase.

Bank Designated account: \$34,475.40, Bank General Account: \$5,673.46, Bank Money Market Account: \$74,420.89. Loan to General Account: \$0.00. Amount needed each week to meet expenses: \$3,118.81.

Sharon made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report. 2nd by Lanette. MC

Pastor's Report- Pastor Lucas is very hopeful as the number of Covid cases are going down and the number of people with vaccines are going up.

Youth Report- Easter and Palm Sunday activities.

Committee Reports- Property Committee met. Some action items include discussion of the use of the Sunday School room off the Blue chair room to store records. That was tabled until the next meeting. There will be an update on God's Work Our Hands next month.

Conflict Detection- none

Adjourn- Debbi made the motion, 2nd by Sharon

Closing prayer

Next Meeting- April 6, 2021, at 7:00 PM

Respectively submitted by Jill Rosenberry

Our Savior's Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday March 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Randy Winger.

Pastor Lucas led us in opening prayer.

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting- Barry J made the motion to accept the meeting minutes as written. Larry P 2nd. MC

Report from Pastor Lucas- Pastor wants us to look ahead to the coming year and think about the lessons to take with us.

Pastor Lucas wants to focus on the following goals:

- Help the leadership in the church with their call as spiritual leaders of the congregation.
- Encourage the congregation to be ministers in the community.
- Work with committees to find creative ways to engage in their ministries.
- Pastor thanked us all for our support and prayers over this challenging year.

Report from the Treasurer- With the help of President Randy Winger, we were able to secure a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan for \$17,000, to help us financially this year. The government has forgiven the loan. Debbie thanked the congregation for stepping up to help us financially this year. We were able to pay the loan to the general fund (\$22,000-\$23,000) that we borrowed from our savings. Thank you Debbie for your hard work this year.

Balances as of January 1, 2020 were:

General Account \$3.71

Designated Account \$28,913.10

Money Market Account \$77,881.12

Balances as of December 31, 2020 were:

General Account \$8,131.71

Designated Account \$30,981.01

Money Market Account \$74,903.92

Larry P made a motion to accept the report as written. 2nd by Rhoda F. MC

Report from the Audit Committee: Audrey Severson, Becky Johnson

The audit committee found the books to be in order, and the council is working on any recommendations given.

Motion made by Rhoda F to accept the report. 2nd by Larry P MC

Proposed Budget for 2021- Randy W stated there is an adjustment on the printed budget. There is an addition of \$2,000 to go to the Synod for Benevolence. It will put the Total Ministry Budget to \$161,270.40. We will need at least \$3,104 per week to meet our expenses. Tom H made a motion to accept the budget with the revision. 2nd by Bryan J. MC

Endowment Committee- Gina Place

The 2020 Income total was \$1,893.28.

Account Balances as of December 31, 2020:

BMO Checking \$1,706.00

BMO Savings \$2,557.75

Mutual Fund \$32,498.81

Annuity \$26,894.54

Total: \$63,657.10

The disbursements are not finalized, but include \$1,100 for scholarships, \$300 for Adult/Families in need, \$200 for Grants such as camps, seminars, and \$300 for Grants such as Synod, ELCA. Donna C made a motion to accept as reported. 2nd by Larry P. MC

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Our Savior's Annual Meeting Minutes

Disbursal of Fair Stand and Lutefisk Supper Funds: There is \$9,452.14 to disburse. Council has decided to donate to more local charities due to the pandemic. Bruce P made a motion to accept. 2nd by Rhoda F. MC

Nominating Committee Report: Donna Constant

Peter Falde has resigned from the Cemetery Committee after many years. A big Thank You goes out to him for his service! The new president is Mike Allyn. Clair Severson will chair the Fairstand. A big Thank you to the Chisholms for the years of service they put into the fairstand! The Council Secretary is a 3 year rotating position. A change will be made in the auditing committee so that both members do not end in the same year. Becky J will end in 2022, instead of 2023. A reminder that the Church Treasurer is a permanent paid position. Audrey Severson welcomes others to co-chair the Lutefisk Supper. President Randy W asked for any other nominations for positions. Hearing none, Larry P made a motion to approve unanimously, with the change of Becky J ending the audit committee in 2022. 2nd by Bob W. MC

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Debbie P made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by Rhoda F. Meeting ended at 10:20 am.
Respectfully submitted by Jill Rosenberry

THANK YOU

Thank you to Ross & Kerry Christopherson for the donation of a new flag.

Thank you for your recent donation of \$500.00 to the Free Clinic of Pierce and St. Croix Counties. This will help us carry out our mission and commitment to keeping our communities healthy and thriving. In unity we can achieve great things. Mary Steel, Clinic Manager

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your generosity toward Feed My Starving Children. Because of your support and the support of people like you, FMSC was able to ship more meals in January than in any month of our history and February looks to continue the trend. Thank you and God Bless you! Kenzie Mackillop

Thank you for your generous gift of \$75.00 to the ministries of the ELC. With your gifts, you are putting God's Love into action. This allows this church to spread the good news of Jesus Christ by equipping leaders, positioning communities to grow and share the love of a faithful and abiding God. With gratitude, Rachel Wind

Thank you for your gift of \$100.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disaster. Your gifts enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gift of \$100.00 to ELCA World Hunger. Your generosity is getting at the root cause of poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed. In Christ Robin Brown.

Men In Mission Meeting Saturday March 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order by acting president Bruce Place.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

There was no treasurer's report.

Old Business:

Randy Winger will meet with Donna to discuss the insurance recommendation to cover the area around the play area at the ball park with mulch. We feel the sand there now is a better surface.

Peter Falde has cut some trees at the ball park and cleaned up. Brian Johnson will check to see if that area could be mowed with a brush mower to keep the brush down.

Donna reported that the softball season is a GO. We are expecting 10 teams with 2 other teams in waiting to fill in if there is a cancellation. Donna reported that the ball park stand will need to be inspected by the health department. Play will start on May 6th with games five evenings a week, Sunday through Thursday. No games on the July 4th week. Tournament July 30th, 31st, and August 1st. The softball league will be charged \$1500.

Clair Severson will chair the fair stand with Brian Johnson as co-chair. Megan Stockwell has agreed to do the worker's scheduling again this year. Thank you Megan.

New Business:

The auditing committee has recommended that we have two people on the signature card for our MIM account at the bank. Motion was made By Donna and seconded by Brian that Clair be the co-signer.

Motion made by Donna/ seconded by Bill Bowen that we do a breakfast to go on April 25th. Menu to be scrambled eggs with ham and cheese, hash browns and a muffin. Pick it up at church and reheat in your microwave. Cost will be \$10. Motion made by Brian and seconded by Donna that all proceeds go straight to Luther Point's Annual Fund. If you haven't made a donation to Luther Point in some time, this would be a convenient way to do so. We hope that many will give generously! This will be a Thrivent Action Team event with Clair making application. Breakfasts will be pre-made at church on the 24th. We will be checking with Patricia to see what the response is for the youth's Palm Sunday brunch. Then we will guess. When it's gone, it's gone!

Motion made By Bill B./Donna to adjourn.

6 members present.

Minutes respectfully submitted by secretary, Clair Severson

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE

Join our 2021 Luther Point Summer Staff! We are hiring 40 young adults to help lead our summer programming and make an impact in their world. We are looking for Jr. and Sr. Counselors, Team Leaders, Maintenance Assistant, Media Master and a Summer Cook. Follow the links for a more detail on Job Descriptions and to **apply online today!**

Go to **Luther Point Bible Camp** or <https://lutherpoint.org/employment-opportunities>



As you are cleaning out closets and sorting winter outer wear, please remember that Basics for Local Kids has a collection box outside their building on the side street by Bo- Jos Flower shop in Ellsworth. We will not be collecting at church this spring, but all winter wear in clean, good condition can be dropped off at their location. Basics for Local Kids helped 715 kids with winter wear in 2020. Thank You Evangelism Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars! Luther Point Bible Camp Fundraiser. The MIM will be hosting a breakfast to go on Sunday, April 25th. This is a fund raiser for Luther Point. All proceeds will go to their annual fund. After a disastrous 2020, Luther Point is in dire need of financial help. The breakfast menu will be scrambled eggs with ham and cheese, hash browns and a muffin. Pick it up and reheat it in your microwave. Donations start at \$10 a plate. If you have not donated to Luther Point for some time, this would be a great opportunity. We hope many will give generously. This is a Thrivent Action Team Event. Thrivent will donate \$250 to our expenses. And, just a reminder, there are many get-away opportunities at Luther point for families.

SAVE THE DATE: August 12th to the 15th! The 2021 Pierce County Fair. We anticipate operating the Our Savior's Food Stand under the "new normal". That means as normal as possible. So, we need you to make it work. Shift workers, pie makers, soup makers, and donations will be needed and appreciated. Thank you! Clair Severson

Thank You To All Who SUPPORT OUR MISSION WITH eGIVING

If you don't currently consider making your contribution through our eGiving tools!
You can make a one-time gift or set up recurring donations.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church offers these eGiving tool:

- Visit Our Savior's Lutheran Church Website. www.oursaviorschurch.info, Locate the give tab, and Donate!
 - Simply text your donation amount to **833-506-0632** and follow the instructions.
 - Download the free GivePlus App on your phone. Find our church by zip code **54003**.

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Guild Mary Halls Peggy Hoyer Money Counters Lanette Place Bob Winger				1 6:30pm Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday Virtual Only	3 7:30pm Easter Vigil Followed with fireworks
4 Easter Sunday 10am Live Stream Worship 10am Limited In-person 10am Drive-In Worship NO Sunday School	5	6 7pm Council Meeting	7 7-8pm 9th grade Confirmation only	8	9	10
11 Cinnamon Rolls 9am Live Stream Worship 9am Limited In-person 9am Drive-In Worship 9am Sunday School	12	13	14 7-8pm 9th grade Confirmation only	15 6:30-8pm Synod Assembly Zoom meeting	16	17 8:30am-4pm Synod Assembly Zoom meeting
18 9am Live Stream Worship 9am Limited In-person 9am Drive-In Worship No Sunday School	19	20	21 4-5:30pm SOS Kids Crew 7-8pm 9th grade Confirmation only	22	23	24
25 Breakfast to-go meals 9am Live Stream Worship 9am Limited In-person 9am Drive-In Worship 9am Last Sunday School	26	27	28 6-8pm 9th Grade Confirmation Ice Cream Outing	29	30	

Church Emails:

pastor.os@hbc.com

admin.os@hbc.com

treasurer.os@hbc.com

youthdirector.os@hbc.com



In Need of Prayer!

Scott Kiefer, Dave Radatz, Katrina Platt, Jim Hauschildt, Calvin Boe, Ron Mireau, Shirley Nickel, Lu Johnson, Nancy Hove, Della Larson, Judie Goodwin, Mark Kiefer, Norris Berg, Tom Dachel, Anna Walentowski, Alan Nelson, Zachery Caterer, and Kristen Anderson.

If you know of anyone that should be on our prayer list please contact the office at 715-273-4570, or admin.os@hbc.com

Our Savior's Youth News ~ April 2021



Join me for S.O.S. Kids Crew!

Wednesday, April 21st

4:00 – 5:30 pm

I would like to invite all youth in 1st through 5th grade, along with their friends, to join me for S.O.S. Kids Crew.

Wear your SOS t-shirt!

All kids are able to ride bus route #16.

Please remember to send a note to school saying that your child will be riding bus route #16 to Church.

If you prefer to drive your child, have them to church by 4pm.

I ask that all kids wear a mask. Not all lessons can be accomplished 6 feet apart. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me at 715-307-2739 or youthdirector.os@hbci.com

EASTER EGG HUNT

March 27th 2021



30 kids participated in the Easter Egg Hunt.

It was a Success!

A Special Thank You to Madison Peterson, Morgan & Ava Kolodzienski, and Madalyn Constant for all your help.

This Event wouldn't be possible without all your help.

Thank You, Lori Schroeder for volunteering her time and talent with the balloon creations.

Our Savior's Youth News ~ April 2021



REMINDER TO ALL LUTHER POINT CAMPERS:

The Men In Mission will pay half of the registration cost for all campers and their friends. Register online at lutherpoint.org. Pay only the required down payment. Luther Point will bill you for the remaining amount after your discounts and the MIM half has been deducted.

REGISTER BEFORE MAY 1ST TO GET THE EARLY BIRD \$15 DISCOUNT.

NOTE: Friends of campers (who are not members of Our Savior's) must indicate on the registration form that they are attending with a camper from OS to receive the half-price registration from the MIM. Questions? Call Clair Severson



Palm Sunday Brunch Thank you, to all who supported the 2021 Mission Trip, with this fundraiser. A Special Thank You to Donna Constant for donating the Muffins.

Youth Schedule:

Wednesday April 7th 7-8pm Confirmation (9th Graders only)

Sunday April 11th Cinnamon Roll Sunday

Wednesday April 14th 7-8pm Confirmation(9th Graders only)

Wednesday April 21st 4-5:30pm SOS Kids Crew, **7-8pm** Confirmation(9th Graders only)

Wednesday April 28th 6-8pm Ice Cream Outing (9th Graders only)

Note: Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) will be Sunday August 29th.

Youth Account Fundraiser

I need Youth to volunteer for Cinnamon Roll Sunday Dates!

This is a great way to build your youth account!

Dates that are available; April 11th, and May 2nd

Email Patricia with a date that will work for you. Youthdirector.os@hbc.com



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