

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

April 2025

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www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

One of the Christmas gifts I got this year from my sister was a book entitled *That Sounds Neat*. It's a book about all kinds of hobbies and crafts and things that might be interesting to take up: whittling, birdwatching, baking, gardening—that kind of thing. And when I opened it, Annie laughed about it, because the thing is, I already have a lot of hobbies and interests. I like making things, and learning things, and doing new things. She laughed because, as she said, it was “just what we need, *more* things for you to do.” And it's true; I have a lot of interests. But that variety of interests also takes me down rabbit holes to learn things I wouldn't normally look into.

One thing that I learned from one of my hobbies is that the strength of radiating energy (like heat, or light) drops by the inverse square of its distance from the energy source. So, for example, if you double your distance from a bonfire on some fall evening with friends, the air around you will only get a quarter of the heat from the fire. Or if you halve the height of your grow lights above your plants, they will receive twice as much energy to grow! But while it might only apply to energy sources, I find it to be a great metaphor to use with our faith.

I think of how I've had conversations with y'all, from time to time, about how coming to church is important for your week, and there's something missing when it doesn't happen one week. Almost like you've lost something. Faith can be like that. And in a way, it's like the inverse square law. When we miss connecting with God and neighbor, it compounds. One week is hard, but two weeks doesn't just double the sense of loss; it quadruples it. And so on. Which is why we feel so disconnected from our faith and our community when we miss multiple weeks of gathering together.

Lent gives us an opportunity to gather a lot more than usual. Our Wednesday worship services are a brief moment of coming together, spending time with God and one another, that gives us a little extra faith for this season. And Holy Week is the most intense one of all! We come together multiple nights in one week, gathering to experience the presence, the work, the mercy of God and just how incredible that love that God has for us can be! If the inverse square law applies, it's like getting that much closer to the source of our faith!

So I know that this season can be busy. And I know that Holy Week, especially, can be busy. But the time we spend together, the time we spend with God in community, isn't a linear return. It's much bigger than that. It's that much more powerful. So come participate in community. Gather on Maundy Thursday for a dinner church and a remembrance of Jesus's command to love one another. Join your siblings on Good Friday to witness the depth of God's love for you, written on the cross. Wait together at the Vigil, knowing something wonderful awaits. And celebrate on Easter, finding that God has burst the bonds of the tomb to give us hope!

Let's take every opportunity we can to get close to God, the source of faith, and our community, where that faith finds its shape. Because maybe faith is like the inverse square law, and we get twice as much back as we put in.

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.

**April 19th, May 18th, June 15th, July 13, August 17th,**

Contact the Office if any of these dates would work for your family.

office.osbeldenville@gmail.com, 715-273-4570

## EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARTIN



I can still remember the pound of my heart to this day. It was Good Friday in the year 1995. I was working at Lutherdale Bible Camp as a year round staff and my task that day was to dismantle the several hundred foot zipline. It was a warm spring day, but I still experienced the wind that caused the tree that I was attached to to sway far more than I wanted it to. The tree itself was dying and thus it could no longer serve as the anchor of the zipline where the platform was. It was on that platform where youth and staff alike would find themselves transferring the rabbit ears attached to their harness to the zipline that would lead to the ensuing rush of emotions. As I stood on that platform, connected to a couple of tree staples with my own rabbit ears, I loosened the hardware that secured the zipline cable to the tree, bolt by bolt. It was quite a surreal experience.

As I loosened the final bolt, that cable released about a foot away from my face, causing my heart to beat in a way it has never beaten before or since. The sound haunted me for those few seconds as the cable fell to the ground about 40 feet below. Once I collected myself, all I could think about was how appropriate it was to watch the death of the zipline on Good Friday. That element was always the climax on the high ropes course. It was the final adventure for countless youth as they experienced the challenges of that course. Just step off the platform, trust, and fly!

I was saddened to see that zipline fall. But then I was overjoyed to see it rebuilt in a new and more secure location! It reminds me of that great Easter spiritual that states, "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming." It's the reminder that we call it Good Friday only because as Christian believers, we know that Easter is coming. Without Easter Sunday, Friday would have been even more devastating as it already was. Jesus' followers were lost, confused, and in deep sorrow. Those emotions resulted from the trauma that they were experiencing. But Easter reversed the pain of that trauma and turned it into a joyous chorus of "Alleluias" where we can now see God's almighty power being revealed! We can see how God has power over death itself and not just for Jesus. God's power to give life to all believers in all times and in all places through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what brings us joy, hope, comfort, and faith itself! God's power to renew our lives each and every day through the gift of forgiveness cannot be understated. God's desire to heal our broken relationship because of our sinfulness indicates the depth of that love, knowing that God so desperately desires to be with us forever.

That old zipline was a source of joy for so many people. But when contrasted with the joy we can experience daily, it simply pales in comparison. Friends, live into that joy of the resurrection. Remember the gift that Jesus embodies that is truly the greatest gift we've ever had - the gift of God's unconditional love. Despite the various losses that we grieve each year, some that appear to be quite unbearable at the time, remember the gift of Jesus. We are a resurrection church. We are a forgiven and forgiving people. And we bask in the glory of God's amazing grace.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Bishop Martin

# Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

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March 04, 2025

**Call Meeting to Order:** President Tim Wiff at 7:00 PM.

**Attending:** Debbi Pittman, Pastor Lucas, Donna Constant, Mike Rehbein, Tim Wiff, Patricia Peterson, Sue Palmquist, Steve Straub

**Absent:** Ron Halverson, Audrey Severson, John Traun, Ann Young, Mark Jensen, Julie Winger

**Opening Devotions:** Pastor Lucas - Luke, 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter

## **New Business:**

Records retention discussion regarding saving records on paper for 10 years. This exceeds the Motion to approve destruction of paper records prior to 2015 by Steve, seconded by Sue, M/C.

Discussed if each council member would like to remain as liaisons to the committees, they are currently liaisons for.

Discussion and motion to modernize the language changes needed to update the constitution  
Pastor Lucas, and Patricia

Motion to approve destruction of paper records prior to 2015 by Steve, seconded by Sue, M/C.

## **Old Business:**

Elevator phone, second phone line is not needed. Motion to move to one phone line by Donna, seconded by Pastor, M/C.

Fire extinguishers were stalled. Installed 8 or 9 replacement extinguishers.

Upstairs bathrooms updates decided on. Updating faucets, paint, mirror, wall decor, light fixture, towel dispensers.

Bruce looking into a nonworking fan in the balcony. And

## **Secretary's Report:**

Motion to approve Secretary's Report by Patricia, seconded by Debbi, M/C.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Designated Account \$59,175.8

General Account \$ -33.55

Money Market \$35,859.34

Total \$95,001.07

The Edward Jones CDs account: \$165,610.75

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Steve, seconded by Sue, M/C.

## **Pastor's report:**

Annual meeting, a positive reaction to the prizes.

Chamber of commerce dinner and awards, a fun evening.

Entering Lent on Wednesday, using seasonal suggestions, experiencing God through senses.

Work continues regarding 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday worship services. Good amount of input from members.

Motion to approve Pastor's Report by Donna, seconded by Patricia, M/C.

Continued on next page...

# Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

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## **Youth Report:**

No cinnamon roll Sunday in March.

S.O.S. Kids Crew February 19<sup>th</sup>, staff from Luther Point Bible Camp staff presented. Kids had a lot of fun learning how much fun camp is. S.O.S. Kids Crew resumes in April.

March meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> to plan for mission trip, what to bring and ask and answer questions.  
Motion to approve Youth Report by Debbi, seconded by Sue, M/C.

**Conflict Detection:** none

## **Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn by Donna, seconded by Pastor, M/C.

**Closing Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer

**Next Council Meeting:** April 01, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Rehbein

## Support Our Mission with eGiving

This year, consider making your seasonal gift amount,  
by using our eGiving tools.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church offers online:

[www.oursaviorschurch.info](http://www.oursaviorschurch.info) "give" tab,

Text-to-Give: 833-506-0632.



## Men In Mission Meeting

March 15, 2025

After breakfast served by Brian Johnson and Bill Bowen, president Mike Rehbein called the meeting to order.

The secretary's report was read. Motion for approval by Dave Jordahl/Brian Johnson

Reporting for Treasurer Tom Holdorf, Clair said we have \$4901 in the Luther Point Bible Camp fund, \$5768 in the fair stand fund, \$3882 in the general fund, and \$802 in the ballpark operational fund. Motion for approval by Brian J./Bill B.

Clair mentioned that the \$800 we made from the oyster stew was put in the LPBC fund. Two years ago it was sent directly to Luther Point. He suggested that we should take the \$800 we put in the LPBC fund along with \$200 from our general fund and send it (\$1000) to Luther point. Motion made by Donna Constant/Dave J. that we do that. Approved! Motion made by Dave J./Ron Halverson that we always send our oyster stew proceeds directly to Luther Point. Approved. This leaves us with \$4100 in the LPBC fund. We are expecting to receive \$200 from the Endowment fund and \$500 from the Church outreach for the LPBC fund soon.

**Old Business:** The Blue Caps softball league is scheduled for a tournament at our ball park on August 23rd. They have agreed to the \$150 rental fee. Donna is pursuing portable bleachers from the fair for the anticipated crowd. Publicity is being generated through the Ellsworth chamber of commerce. We are looking into a porta-potty as our one bathroom may not be sufficient. A possibility that concessions will be handled by the youth and their parents.

**New Business:** Motion made by Clair S./Dave J. to have a pancake breakfast on **April 27th** with the proceeds going to the Ellsworth food pantry. Clair will apply for a Thrivent Action Team gift. Menu will be pancakes and sausage, scrambled eggs and ham, fruit cocktail, juice, milk and coffee. We will ask for 2 dozen eggs donated from each of our members. Donna is looking into take-out containers.

Motion made by Brian J./Dave J. to construct a small playground for "little tots" on the north side of the concession building. This would make it easier for moms to watch the little ones and watch the game at the same time.

Softball coaches meeting is set for March 24th. We are currently looking for an eighth team as two teams from last year merged.

MIM will host the coffee hour on May 18th.

Next MIM meeting is scheduled for May 17th with Donna Constant and Dave Jordahl serving.

Motion to adjourn by Brian J./Clair S.

Eight members present.

Minutes submitted by secretary Clair Severson

## Our Savior's Holy Week Schedule

**Thursday April 17th**  
6pm Maundy Thursday Service

**Friday March 18th**  
7pm Good Friday Service  
At Eisdvold Lutheran Church

**Saturday March 19th**  
7pm Easter Vigil Service  
with Fireworks to follow

**Sunday March 20th**  
10am Easter Worship Service

The NW Synod of WI Racial Justice team invites you to join them for an

## INDIGENOUS SACRED SITES TOUR



### LEARN FROM AND WITH OUR INDIGENOUS NEIGHBORS IN MN

**SATURDAY, MAY 17**

Learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through story-telling and experiencing the sites in silence / meditation / reflection.

We visit sites located around confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, what the Dakota refer to as Bdote, or "meeting place of rivers," including:

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

Your \$75 registration includes the cost of the tour, transportation (coach bus), bus snacks and post-tour meal from Shobi's Table in St. Paul. You may also purchase snacks at a rest stop. 50 person maximum. Pick up locations on registration form.

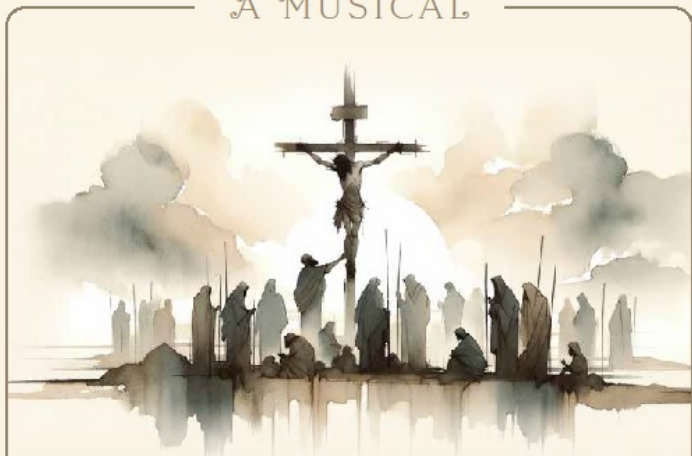
Questions: 715.859.6810  
racialjustice.nwswi@gmail.com

Register at  
[nwswi.org/home/calendar](http://nwswi.org/home/calendar)

Spring Valley Stagehands Present

## PASSION OF CHRIST

A MUSICAL



Adapted & Directed By  
**Luke Hayes**

Music Used with Permission From Lorenz Corporation

Performance Dates  
**APRIL 3-5 & APRIL 10-12 at 7:30 PM**  
**APRIL 6th & APRIL 13th at 2:00 PM**

Tickets Available Online at  
[WWW.SVSTAGEHANDS.ORG](http://WWW.SVSTAGEHANDS.ORG)

S234 McKay Ave, Spring Valley, WI 54767 • (751) 778-4475



### Mark Your Calendars!

MIM Annual Pancake Breakfast April 27th  
(The Sunday after Easter)

The BEST pancake breakfast EVER!

Pancakes and local maple syrup, Sausage links from Pierce County Meats, Scrambled eggs with ham, fruit, milk, juice and coffee.

Thrivent Financial has paid for our expenses. All proceeds go to the Pierce County Food Pantry! Come one, come all, and bring your friends.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE

### What Does the ELCA do?

#### WORLD HUNGER PROGRAM

Another program or department of our ELCA is World Hunger. ELCA knows that just giving out food to world nations will not solve hunger problems long term. The ELCA program involves microloans, seedlings, farming supplies, education to empower these smaller communities to become self sufficient to feed their families in the future. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger help provide food, safe water, health care, sanitation, training and supplies to do sustainable farming so they can start growing climate-resilient crops like cassava. A family of 6 in Tanzania had a small farm that could not grow enough food for their family. An ELCA loan helped the father to build a small retail shop and buy a motorbike to become a taxi service which helped the family out of poverty. With additional money and education about growing cassava and other crops, the family can now get enough food to eat and extra produce to sell. When you give to ELCA World Hunger, you become part of the whole church in walking alongside partners in over 60 countries including the United States



**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** The Pierce County Food Pantry continues to need certain items. For the month of **APRIL** we will be collecting;

**Ramen Noodles, Baked Beans, Grape Jelly, Dry soup mix, Rice side dish, and Feminine products**

Please put the items in the grocery cart in the back of the church.

Thank you for showing your concern.

Money donations accepted as well. Did you know that every dollar donated can purchase \$7 worth of food?

Online donations @hungerpreventioncouncil.net, call 715-273-2070 or to arrange a food drive sponsored by your family or organization.

Let's help end hunger in Pierce County.

2025  
Preferred Senior Living  
&  
Ellsworth Health Services  
Worship Schedule for Our Savior's  
Wednesday May 14th  
1:30pm Preferred Senior Living,  
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services  
July 23rd, October 15th,  
December 10th, November 13th



### In Need of Prayer!

Chris Nelson, Sue Palmquist, Tony Murphy, Carol (Raehsler) Gregg, Alan Winberg, Herman Olson, Bob Dahm, Terry Florcek, Dean Mewes, John Paape, and Kristen Anderson. The men and women that are deployed; Iain Gilby, Brady Sharon, Mathew Normand, Reuben Huppert, Kohl Flock, Wyatt Roed, Ryan Orpen, Ella Wynveen.

If you know of anyone that should be on our prayer list please contact the office.

The names will be on the prayer list for two weeks unless specified.



**HEART's mission is to transform communities by demonstrating God's love in practical ways.**

Heart-Helping Others Heart was created to help those in need. Through this organization, we can shop and bid on items at significantly discounted prices. Shopping appointments are arranged for us, and purchases made go directly to those in need. We are partnering with the Ellsworth School District and Pierce County Human Services to identify families who would benefit most from this support. This is a valuable opportunity to stretch our resources and reach out to those in need. If you would like to contribute to this initiative, please designate "Heart" on your donations., or contact Donna Constant

**The Evangelism Committee:** we will start be collecting Winter outer wear for Basics for local Kids again this year. We will continue collecting items through the month of April. We are asking for sizes for all ages from toddler to XXXXL. New or gently used and clean items are accepted. Zippers must be in working condition. They collect all sizes from infant to adult. Look for a box in the narthex to leave your donations in. We look forward to sharing warmth in our community. Thank you, Your Evangelism Committee



Our Savior's Lutheran has been such a faithful partner in purchasing shoebox gifts through Operation Christmas Child Ministry.

Through your donations, many children has not only received the joy of tangible gifts, but heard the Greatest Gift - Jesus.

Without faithful partners like Our Savior' Lutheran sending shoeboxes, our ministry partners around the world would not have to the tools needed to open the doors to shar the Gospel. Thank you for your role in the Great Commission! Love The Western Wisconsin Area Team.

**Thank You!** I want to thank everyone for the cards, your thoughts and prayers. Carolyn Schellfeffer.

**Thank You!** A hearty thanks to all who attended fellowship hour honoring my 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I am so blessed to have a caring family and friends. It was a memorable day. In appreciation, Pearl Johnson.

Women's ELCA Synod Women's Organization of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

**Morning of Renewal**  
*St. Croix Valley Conference*  
 Saturday, April 5, 2025  
 Mt. Zion Lutheran Church  
 505 13th Street South, Hudson, WI

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| \$15 Admission Fee (includes program and lunch) | 8:30am - 9:15am Registration and Coffee | 9:15am-11:30am ~ Event<br>11:30 ~ Lunch & Craft Sale (proceeds go to Eyes that See) |
|---|---|---|

**Nikki (Powers) Ness, founder of Eyes That See**  
 Nikki is a New Richmond native and NRHS graduate. She is the founder of **Eyes That See**, a non-profit organization located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They are committed to fighting poverty and injustice through community, education, and empowerment, specifically through helping women leave the sex industry. They provide safe housing, medical care, counseling, education, and vocational training, as well as a strong sense of community and belonging.



Mt. Zion has decided on a Western theme for the event (Round-up for Jesus) and would like to invite everyone who is interested to come dressed up in Western themed clothing (think cowboy hats, bandanas, cowboy boots, etc).

Mt. Zion is also partnering with Turning Point in River Falls and would appreciate any of the following "in-kind" donations: shampoo/conditioner, body wash/lotion and combs/brushes. Please bring the day of the event.



# APRIL

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Altar Guilds:</b><br>Kathy Young<br>Jodi Wiff<br><b>Money Counters:</b><br>Ann Young<br>Mike Rehbein                 |   | <b>1</b><br><br><b>7pm</b><br>Council Meeting | <b>2</b><br><br><b>5:30pm</b> Lent Supper<br><b>6:30pm</b> Lent Service     |  |  | <b>5</b><br><br><b>8:30am</b><br>Morning of Renewal                        |
| <b>6 Cinnamon Roll Sunday</b><br><b>9am</b> Worship/Livestream<br>No SS Hour<br><b>10am</b> Fellowship Hour             |   | <b>8</b>                                      | <b>9</b><br><br><b>5:30pm</b> Lent Supper<br><b>6:30pm</b> Lent Service     |  |  | <b>12</b><br><br><b>10am</b><br>Easter Egg Hunt                            |
| <b>13 Palm Sunday</b><br><b>9am</b> Worship/Livestream<br>SS Kids sing during Worship<br><b>10am</b> Palm Sunday Brunch | <b>14</b><br><br><b>10am</b><br>Coffee and Conversation | <b>15</b>                                     | <b>16</b><br><br><b>4pm</b> S.O.S. Kids Crew<br><b>5:30pm</b> Family Supper | <b>17</b><br><br><b>6pm</b><br>Maundy Thursday | <b>18</b><br><br><b>7pm</b><br>Good Friday<br>@ Eidsvold Lutheran Church | <b>19</b><br><br><b>7pm</b><br>Easter Vigil Service<br>Fireworks to follow |
| <b>20 Easter Sunday</b><br><b>10am</b> Worship/Livestream<br>No SS hour<br>No Fellowship Hour                           |   | <b>22</b>                                     | <b>23</b><br><br><b>6pm</b> 9th grade Confirmation<br>Ice Cream Outing      |  |  | <b>26</b>  |
| <b>27</b><br><b>9am</b> Worship/Livestream<br><b>9:15am</b> SS Hour<br><b>10am</b> MIM Pancake Breakfast                | <b>28</b><br><br><b>10am</b><br>Coffee and Conversation | <b>29</b>                                     | <b>30</b><br><br><b>8:30am</b> Quilting<br><b>6pm</b> Confirmation Banquet  |  |  |  |

|                                     | Greeter's/Ushers            | Tech Assistant                      | Acolyte                             | Reader              | Bell Ringer       | Assisting Minister              |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>April 6th</b><br><b>9:00AM</b>   | Bruce Place<br>Ed Rohl      | Patricia Peterson<br>Ann or Mike R. | Maddi Constant<br>Lane Kolodzienski | Belinda<br>Foley    | Roger<br>Laughnan | Lanette<br>Place                |
| <b>April 13th</b><br><b>9:00AM</b>  | Michael & Anne<br>Chisholm  | Patricia Peterson<br>Mike R.        | Brody Flynn<br>Maddi Constant       | Michael<br>Chisholm | Roger<br>Laughnan | Ann<br>Young                    |
| <b>April 19th</b><br><b>7:00pm</b>  | Dan & Holly<br>Johnson      | Dusty Raleigh<br>Ann or Mike R.     | Ben Johnson<br>Wes Raleigh          | Crystal<br>Raleigh  | Roger<br>Laughnan | Rhoda<br>Foley                  |
| <b>April 20th</b><br><b>10:00AM</b> | Lundstrom<br>Family         | Luke Lundstrom<br>Ann or Mike R.    | June Feuerhelm<br>Lucy Feuerhelm    | Kay<br>Berg         | Roger<br>Laughnan | Tom Holdorf<br>Comm. Mary Halls |
| <b>April 27th</b><br><b>9:00am</b>  | Roger & Pauline<br>Laughnan | Isaac Yunker<br>Ann or Mike R.      | Wyatt Kirchner<br>Ryland Jensen     | Brad<br>Taplin      | Roger<br>Laughnan | Lanette<br>Place                |

*Thank you for your participation in our worship service. Each ministry participant is greatly appreciated. If you cannot serve on the date assigned, please trade with someone or call Lori Coulson, Mary Halls, or Vicki Bowen if you have any questions. Lori: 715-821-3731 Mary: 715-307-0842, Vicki: 612-756-5067. Instructions for each ministry position are posted in the narthex.*

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