

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

May 2022

www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

I would like to invite you to do something a bit challenging this month, when we celebrate Mother's Day. The relationships we have with our mothers are just as varied as they are with our fathers, but I think we can all agree it's good for us to honor our mothers who brought us into the world, fed us from their own body, and will always love us (no matter what). But while we hold our mothers in such a place of honor, have you ever stopped to wonder why we never seem to call God mother?

I know if we were all asked, we would affirm that God isn't tied to one gender. God is not a man up in the sky. God is Spirit, and Spirit goes beyond the simple male/female identity. But I also feel pretty sure, if I were to start referring to God as "She," consistently, from the altar and pulpit and in all the prayers, we would all get a little... *uncomfortable* perhaps. And I suspect we *don't* feel that way when God is called "He." Why is that?

Yes, Jesus refers to God as "Father," but Jesus also refers to himself (who is God, remember) as a mother hen (Luke 13:34). And yes, God is described as a warrior in Exodus, but God is also described as a mother bear (Hosea 13:8), a mother eagle (Deut. 32:11-12), one who is in labor (Isaiah 42:14) and one who gives birth (Deut. 32:18), and as a comforting (Isaiah 66:13), nursing (Isaiah 49:15), and dutifully teaching (Hosea 11:3-4) *mother*, explicitly, throughout the scriptures. Biblically, the Hebrews were apparently unfazed at the idea that God might be feminine. I wonder what we have to learn from that?

How are we limiting our understanding of how God works in the world if we can only ever describe God as "He?" How are we unintentionally turning God into a man in the sky when we shy away from ever calling God "She?" How are we accidentally giving only men the image of the creator when we forget that God made humanity in God's "male *and* female" image? How much better could we serve the people God calls us to serve if we opened our imaginations and let God be more than "He?"

This month, I'd like to invite you to do something challenging. Just for this month, in honor of Mother's Day, purposefully and consciously refer to God as "She." Try out calling God "Mother." Let it be uncomfortable, because trust me, it will be. But please, give it a month, and then look back. See if God has shown you anything new or widened your imagination of what our mission could be. And who knows, maybe you'll experience something you'd never expect with God!

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.

June 19, July 17, August 14

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

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2022

Call Meeting to Order: President Randy Winger at 7:03 PM

Attending: Sharon Seibel, Debbi Pittman, Randy Winger, Jill Rosenberry, Bob Winger, Lanette Place, Patricia Peterson, Dan Place, Donna Constant, Pastor Lucas

Absent: Gabe Feuerhelm, John Traun, Ann Young

Opening Devotions: Dan: Philippians 4:4-9

New Business:

1. **April Money counters:** Sharon & Bob; Debbi handed out the updated form for recording offerings.

2. **April Devotions:** Patricia

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Worship Service Plans: We will begin having communion up front each Sunday, starting Palm Sunday. There will be two communion assistants handing out communion. This will include communion on Maundy Thursday and the Easter Vigil. There will continue to be the choice of having communion at your seat. Ushers will pass the offering plates during service. The new choir will be singing on Easter Sunday. Thank you to Sue Peterson for giving the gift of Choir Director.

Stewardship Committee: Will present Time and Talent Survey Results at a later council meeting.

Committee Liaisons for 2022:

Education Committee: We will be asking Gabe Feuerhelm and Pastor Lucas join Lanette Place as liaisons to this committee.

Lanette has graciously offered to work on coordinating members who have said they would volunteer to help with different activities at church.

A big Thank you to Lanette and others that have been visiting members during Pastor's parental leave.

Old Business:

Ball park Upgrades & Congregational Approval

The holding tank price has been locked in and is being held upon approval of the congregation to go ahead with the bathrooms.

So far, just under \$31,000 has been raised for the project.

Men in Mission will provide a packet next council meeting to go over the plans. It will then go the congregation for a vote.

Secretary's Report- Lanette made a motion to amend the March 8, 2022, Council Meeting Minutes for the Audit Report to read as follows:

Becky Johnson attended the council meeting. She and Audrey Severson audited the three main church accounts and two auxiliary accounts. Although controls over financial operations appear to be adequate, the auditors made the following observations:

Finding: There is no formal Record Retention Policy in place.

Finding: The Youth bank account has only one independent signer on the account. A minimum of two signers should be on all accounts.

Consideration: The Treasurer has a church owned computer, at her residence. Suggest a written and signed agreement stating that upon the Treasurer discontinuing her position that this computer is immediately returned to the church. Also suggest that the operating user name and password, for this computer, is kept current in the church safe as this computer has an ample amount of the personal and confidential member information and givings.

The complete audit report is on file. Donna 2nd this motion. M/C

It was decided that Randy Winger will be the second signer on the Youth Bank Account.

Dan made a motion, seconded by Patricia to approve the March 8, 2022 council meeting minutes) as presented by Jill Rosenberry, after the amended Audit Report. M/C

Continued on next page.....

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report-

Designated Account \$39,459.10

General Account \$-544.47

Money Market \$74,026.62

Total: \$112,941.25

Lanette made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as written. Bob 2nd. M/C

Pastor's report- Pastor Lucas is excited about the new choir. He is thankful to Sue Peterson, our choir director, the members of the choir, and the four high school students that have joined.

Pastor Lucas thanks the council and congregation for the blessing of spending time with Edie during his parental leave. The rest of his report is on file.

Youth Report- Events

- April was the last month for cinnamon roll Sunday. \$378.00 was raised.
- May 22, 2022: Honoring Graduates
Patricia provided her written report, highlighting the dates of upcoming youth events.

Pastor Lucas made a motion to approve the Confirmation of the following Confirmands on May 1, 2022:

Derek Johnson, Delaney Johnson, Ava Kolodzienski, Andi Peterson, and Lily Young. Debbi 2nd. MC

Bob made a motion to accept the Youth Report. Dan 2nd. M/C

Committee Reports-

Property Committee: God's Work Our Hands will be on May 15, 2022.

Luther Point Bible Camp- \$144.00 was raised during Coffee Hour to go toward the LPBC Annual fund.

Conflict Detection- none

Adjourn- Lanette made a motion to adjourn. Pastor 2nd. MC. Adjournment at 8:23pm.

Closing Prayer-The Lord's Prayer

Next Council Meeting May 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Rosenberry

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

The Pierce County Food Pantry continues to need certain items. To help the 30+ families per week, they need multiply numbers of popular items so we will concentrate on a few items this month. For the month of May we will be collecting dish soap, toilet paper or toothbrushes. Please put the items in the grocery cart in the back of the church. Thank you for showing your concern.



God's Work Our Hands ~ Spring Spruce Up 2022

Calling all members, families, friends, and neighbors to join us on Sunday, May 15, 2022! We have many opportunities to serve God with OUR hands and OUR hearts. Kids and youth are strongly encouraged to be a part of this day. The event will begin immediately following our worship service and will conclude with a lunch.

Projects already planned are as follows;

- Cemetery Work**
- Ball Park Maintenance**
- Deep Cleaning of the Kitchen**
- Light Landscaping and Mulching**
- Perennial Garden Cleanup**
- County Rd N Ditch Cleanup**
- Serve lunch (Funded by Thrivent)**
- Other.....?**

Thank you to the project leaders who have already committed. Watch for bulletin inserts for further details. We welcome additional projects to possibly include: quilting, pillow case dresses, sending greeting cards, and more. Please contact church office if you are interested in any of those, or have other ideas. Please **SAVE-THE-DATE** and commit **NOW** to a morning of doing God's work with **YOUR** Hands. Watch for more details.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

In Christ, Bruce Place, Mike Allyn & Tim Wiff, Property Committee



Because of our late spring and still cool weather, we are leaving the Basics for Local Kids Boxes out for collecting new and used winter clothing. The boxes have been moved to the basement in the library area. Remember all items must be clean, no rips or tears, all zippers must be working. There is also a jar in the box for monetary donations if anyone cares to donate money for new items. Watch for good deals at retail stores now as they are reducing prices to get rid of the winter items and getting

ready for the spring and summer season. We are grateful for your generosity, Evangelism Committee.

In Need of Prayer!

Jackie Johnson, Marion Erlandson, Elise Foley, Jay Handsaker, Kimber Hause, Ray Carlson, Ian Peterson, Eldon Schellfeffer, Mary Jo Bjork, and Kristen Anderson.

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.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE

2022 Ellsworth Health & Preferred Living combined Schedule for Our Savior's

Wednesday May 18th

1:30pm Preferred Senior Living
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

Wednesday August 10th

1:30pm Preferred Senior Living
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

Wednesday October 26th

1:30pm Preferred Senior Living
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

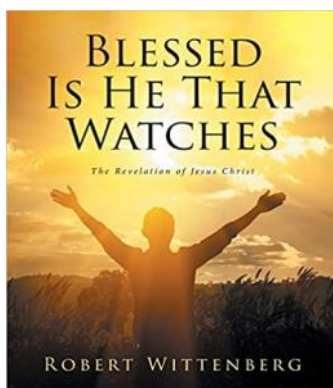
Wednesday December 28th

1:30pm Preferred Senior Living
2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services



Register on line (www.lutherpoint.org) before May 1st to receive the Early Bird Discount. Make only the down payment on line. The Men In Mission will pay half of the registration fee (whatever registration tier you choose) for all campers, family campers, grandparent-grandchild campers and their friends. When you arrive at Luther Point, they will deduct all applicable YTI5 discounts and your down payment from your half of the registration fee and you pay only what's left (which may not be very much!)

NOTE: If you have a non-member friend going to camp with you, when they register, they should list "Friend of Our Savior's" in the member church box and Beldenville, WI in the city box. If you have questions you can call Luther Point at 715-689-2347, or talk to Clair Severson



Blessed Is He That Watches: The Revelation Of Jesus By: Robert Wittenberg

This book has been donated to the Our Saviors Library.

eGiving Options



We offer convenient eGiving options that help you make donations on a one-time or recurring basis, including texting your donation to 833-506-0632 then following the instructions on your phone, or online at oursaviorschurch.info under the "give" tab. We highly recommend this method of giving for anyone who wishes to support the church. We also welcome mailing or bringing your donation to the church. Thank you for your generosity from all of us at Our Savior's!

THANK YOU



The Men in Mission would like to thank all of you who attended our pancake breakfast last Sunday. With your help, we raised \$645 to support the Pierce County food Pantry.

Our Savior's Youth News ~ May 2022

Congratulations to the 2022 Confirmation Class!



Delaney Johnson, Andi Peterson, Ava Kolodzienski, Lily Young and Derek Johnson.

May God's Love and Blessings remain with YOU always!



Join us for our **Worship Service** in honor of the **2022 Graduating High School Seniors** on **Sunday, May 22nd**
Everyone is invited to the reception in the fellowship hall following service.

CLASS OF 2022



McKenna Minder
Megan Hansen
Merideth Hansen
Shelby Lawler
Ryan Matzek
Colton Halverson
Not Pictured:
Raelyn Rasmussen
Trinity Wilkens
Ann Lundstrom

Our Savior's Youth News ~ May 2022

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Youth Group



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

Wednesday, May 11th

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.

**At the Church Ball Field
weather permitting*

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 the Church ball field.

If you prefer to drive your child, have them to the Church ball field by 4pm.



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Dates: Monday July 25-27, 2022

Location: UW River Falls

Cost: \$275* Per Participant

8th Graders are Welcome to Join!

We will encounter God together in new ways through creative ministry, challenging conversation, inspiring guest speakers, service learning projects in the twin cities, and uplifting worship.

More detailed information is on the table in the Narthex.

Youth participating: Derek Johnson, Delaney Johnson, Lily Young, Nora Feuerhelm, Andi Peterson, Pearl Shelley and George Rohl. **Chaperones;** Patricia and Cory Johnson.

MAY

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--------------------------------|--|-----|-----|-----------------------------|
| Altar Guilds: Rhoda Foley Belinda Foley Money Counters: Patricia Peterson Donna Constant | | | | | | |
| 1 Affirmation of Baptism 9am In-person Worship 9am Livestream 10am Fellowship Hour (Youth Committee) No SS Hour | 2 | 3 7pm Council Meeting | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Happy Mothers Day 9am In-person Worship 9am Livestream 10am Fellowship Hour No SS Hour | 9 | 10 | 11 4-5:30pm S.O.S. Kids Crew @ ballfield | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Gods Work Our Hands 9am In-person Worship 9am Livestream 10am Service Projects No SS Hour | 16 | 17 | 18 1:30pm Preferred Living 2:30pm Ellsworth Health | 19 | 20 | 21 8am MIM Meeting |
| 22 Honoring 2022 Graduates 9am In-person Worship 9am Livestream 10am Fellowship Hour (Youth Committee) No SS Hour | 23 | 24 | 25 8:30am Quilting 6pm Baccalaureate Service at High School Auditorium | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9am In-person Worship 9am Livestream 10am Fellowship Hour | 30 | 31 | | | | |

| | Greeter/Usher | Tech Assistant | Reader | Acolytes | Bell Ringer | Assisting Minister |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| May 1 st | Rosenberry Family | Ada Erlandson | Clair Severson | Parker Peterson Omar Coulson | Rosenberry Family | Donald Rosenberry III |
| May 8 th | Jenny & Belinda Foley | Karli Foley-Nelson | Belinda Foley | | Laughnan Family | Rhoda Foley |
| May 15 th | Lanette/Bruce Place Jodi/Tim Wiff | Matthew Lundstrom | Larry Peterson | Marti Allyn Nora Feuerhelm | | Tom Holdorf |
| May 22 nd | Feuerhelm Family | Grayson Jensen | Crystal Raleigh | Dusty Raleigh | Pearl Shelley | Lanette Place |
| May 29 th | Patricia/Casey Peterson Family | Nora Christopherson Madi Constant | Mary Halls | Matthew Lundstrom Nora Feuerhelm | | Ann Young |

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