

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

May 2023

www.oursaviorschurch.info

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

Dear siblings in Christ,

This month we celebrate a very important person in each of our lives: our mothers. 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 (even if that love is complicated, they love us no matter what). So isn't it interesting that, despite all the similar traits, we don't refer to God as *mother*?

I know if we were all asked, we would affirm that God isn't tied to one gender. God is not a literal 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?" What traits and characteristics are we denying God when we limit God to only ever be "He?" How are we accidentally giving only men the image of the creator (and all the authority that goes with it) 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 most likely, 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.

**May 14th, June 18th,
July 16th, August 13th.**

Contact the Office if any of these dates would work for your family.
admin.os@hbc.com, 715-273-4570

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2023

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

Attending: Tim Wiff, Pastor Lucas, Mike Rehbein, Ann Young, Debbi Pittman, Lanette Place, Patricia Peterson, Ron Halverson, Mark Jensen and Donna Constant

Absent: Jill Rosenberry, Audrey Severson and John Traun

Opening Devotions: Pastor Lucas – led a discussion from Psalm 111

Shared God Sightings

Motion was made by Ann and 2nd by Lanette to approve the Agenda

New Business:

April Money Counters: Tim and Donna

May Money Counters: Jill and Ann

Donna and Patricia attended Community Summit Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Shared info – very informative and learned about organizations in the Community we

Didn't know existed.

Ann is going to check on what more Endowment can do to help more Organizations.

FFA Tractor Pull – set for June 10th – need 5 more people to work

Cheese Curd Festival coming up – will need people to work at that – funds to go towards

The Fuel Fund

Discussion was had about investing more – Pastor Lucas made a motion to purchase 2 cd's one

25,000 and one for 75,000 for 12 months. Patricia 2nd the motion. Tim amended the motion to check on penalty for early withdrawal before purchasing. It was decided to go with two separate CD's so if we should need the smaller amount the penalty would be less. He will send an email and move forward with a majority vote.

Tim will check with the insurance company regarding mulch or sand under the playground equipment at the park

Old Business:

2 \$ 50,000 CD's were purchased from Edward Jones, one at 12 months and one at 18 months

Still working on the Property Insurance Quote

Continued on next page...

Our Savior's Council Meeting Minutes

Secretary's Report:

Lanette made a motion, seconded by Ron to approve the March 7, 2023 council meeting minutes as presented by Jill. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report:

Designated Account \$ 90,592.25

General Account \$ -234.60

Money Market \$ 133,293.14

Total \$ 223,650.79

Note: approximately \$ 60,000 of the Designated Account is from fundraising for ballfield.

Pastor made a motion to approve Treasure's Report as presented, 2nd by Ann and Motion Carrier

Pastor's Report –

Still looking for committee goals from the Ministry Planning Meeting and it was well attended.

Paperwork distributed on Confirmation Changes – Credit Based Confirmation. Curriculum, lots of discussion, attendance, accountability and more. To be discussed more at future meeting.

Ron made a motion to approve the Pastor's report, 2nd by Patricia – motion carried.

Youth Report: Patricia provided a printed report highlighting events both past and future and how great the turnouts had been. The full Youth Report is on file. Pastor made a motion to accept the Youth Report, 2nd by Donna Motion Carried

Committee Reports

Property Committee reported that expansion for cry room bid came in at 25,000 to 35,000 from Ed Rohl – more details to be discussed at next meeting.

They are looking to replace and add signs on J, N, Hwy 63 and if anyone has an idea for more locations – please let them know.

Stewardship Committee – QR Codes have been placed in the pews for convenience of giving and explained the QR Code.

A slide show will be on screens during offering time to share some of the photo's of giving with the congregation.

Conflict Detection – none

Adjourn -Motion made by Patricia and seconded by Lanette to adjourn the meeting

Motion carried

Closing Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Next Council Meeting 5/2/23

Respectfully submitted by Donna Constant

Support Our Mission with eGiving

This Season, consider making your gifts using our eGiving tools. Our Savior's Lutheran Church offers online: www.oursaviorschurch.info "give" tab
Text-to-Give: 833-506-0632.





God's Work Our Hands ~ Spring Spruce Up 2023

Calling all members, families, friends, and neighbors to join us on **Sunday, June 4, 2023!**

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:

Cemetery Work

Ball Park Maintenance

Light Landscaping and Mulching

Perennial Garden Cleanup

County Rd N Ditch Cleanup

Sunday School Supply Organization

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 June 4, 2023** 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, Bill Bowen, Bruce Place, Mike Allyn & Tim Wiff

Property Committee



The Evangelism Committee Now through mid-May, the Evangelism Committee is collecting new and used winter coats, snow pants, boots, mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for Basics for Local Kids, benefitting families here in Pierce & St Croix County. All items must be clean with working zippers/snaps, and with no rips or tears. Now that spring is

finally here, watch your favorite stores for sales on new cold-weather items as they clear out winter merchandise. You can drop those items here at Our Savior's in the big box in the narthex, or there is a permanent collection box by the Basics for Local Kids building on Chestnut Street (the old Pierce County Herald building). Any questions? Ask Pauline Laughnan, Darlene Halverson, or Heather Johnson.

Thank you for supporting this great local charity!



Our Savior's WELCA is a distributor for Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate. Equal Exchange works with small farmers and cooperatives in third world countries to change how trade is done in the world: directly with the growers in Central America and Africa and SE Asia. We carry drip grind regular and decaf coffee, whole bean regular and decaf, green and herbal teas as well as chocolate chips.

Coffee we serve on Sunday morning is usually this product. Check out our cupboard in the basement by the toy room for the display of your choices.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT & SERVE



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: The Pierce County Food Pantry continues to need certain items.

For the month of **MAY** we will be collecting; **Cereal, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Ramen Noodles, Dry Soup Mix, Shampoo, and Deodorant.** 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. Lets help end hunger in Pierce County.

2023 Preferred Living & Ellsworth Health Services combined Schedule for Our Savior's

Wednesday May 17th

1:30pm Preferred Senior Living

2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

Wednesday August 23rd

1:30pm Preferred Senior Living

2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

Wednesday November 15th

1:30pm Preferred Senior Living

2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services

Fun Facts about your Church Committees:

Did you know that there are 16 different committees with 56 committee members sharing their talents? Each year members rotate off their committees after serving a 3 year term or in some cases accept a 2nd term. For the next few months we will share information on the various committees roles so that you may find a committee that you would like to serve on in the future.

This month's featured committees are:

Luther Point Bible Camp Committee:

This committee has 3 members whose responsibility is to support Luther Point Bible Camp's mission; by promoting attendance, keeping congregation informed of their services and help fundraise for the camp. In addition they also encourage members to help in the camps upkeep.

Evangelism Committee:

Have you ever wondered who organizes the God's Work our Hands, Christmas Box Program, new member acknowledgement/reception, Basics for Local kids drive, Feeding the Farmers and so much more. The Evangelism Committee keys words are "outreach to our members, the unchurched, and new people in the community. They help our church members reach out to those in need.

In Need of Prayer!



Bev Kiefer, Lemoine Baker,
Allen Constant, Mary Jurkowski,
Rick Foley, John Paape,
Wayne Peterson, Joe Minder,
Ann Leonard, Eldon Schellfeffer,
Mary Jo Bjork, and Kristen Anderson.

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

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

THANK YOU!

Our Savior's Church, we would like to thank you for your recent gift of \$45.00 to our organization. We appreciate your continued support for our mission as we support Pierce County residents' quality of life by providing equitable access to food and resources. Heidi Albarado, Pierce County Food Pantry Coordinator.

2023 Ellsworth Church Softball League Schedule
Games start at 7:00pm

Sunday, May 21 St. Francis vs Zion
Monday, May 22 St. Mary's vs Bethel
Tuesday, May 23 **Our Savior's** vs C3
Wednesday, May 24 Living Waters vs English Lutheran

Sunday, June 4 Zion vs Living Waters
Monday, June 5 C3 vs English Lutheran
Tuesday, June 6 St. Mary's vs **Our Savior's**
Wednesday, June 7 Bethel vs St. Francis

Sunday, June 11 **Our Savior's** vs Bethel
Monday, June 12 St. Francis vs Living Waters
Tuesday, June 13 Zion vs C3
Wednesday, June 14 English Lutheran vs St. Mary's

Sunday, June 18 Bethel vs Living Waters
Monday, June 19 **Our Savior's** vs English Lutheran
Tuesday, June 20 St. Francis vs C3
Wednesday, June 21 Zion vs St. Mary's

Sunday, June 25 St. Mary's vs St. Francis
Monday, June 26 C3 vs Living Waters
Tuesday, June 27 English Lutheran vs Bethel
Wednesday, June 28 Zion vs **Our Savior's**

Sunday, July 9 Living Water vs St. Mary's
Monday, July 10 Bethel vs C3
Tuesday, July 11 English Lutheran vs Zion
Wednesday, July 12 **Our Savior's** vs St. Francis

Sunday, July 16 Living Water vs **Our Savior's**
Monday, July 17 Bethel vs Zion
Tuesday, July 18 C3 vs St. Mary's
Wednesday, July 19 English Lutheran vs St. Francis

Tournaments

Sunday, July 30
Sunday, August 6

Please notify Donna or Clair if you cannot make a game

Donna Constant 715-307-0451
Clair Severson 715-821-3710

MAY

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--|--|-----|-----|--|
| Altar Guilds: Rhoda Foley & Belinda Foley Money Counters/ Tech Assistants: Jill Rosenberry Ann Young | 1 | 2 7pm Council Meeting | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Cinnamon Rolls 9am Worship/Livestream 10am Fellowship Hour Ada Erlandson, Karli Foley-Nelson | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Happy Mother's Day 9am Worship/Livestream 10am Fellowship Hour | 15 | 16 | 17 1:30pm Preferred Senior Living Worship Services 2:30pm Ellsworth Health Services Worship Service | 18 | 19 | 20 8am MIM Meeting |
| 21 Honoring Graduates 9am Worship/Livestream 10am Fellowship Hour 7pm first Softball game Zion vs St. Francis | 22 | 23 7pm O.S. vs C3 Softball game | 24 6pm Baccalaureate Service at High School Auditorium | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9am Worship/Livestream 10am Fellowship Hour | 29 | 30 | 31 8:30am Quilting | | | |

| | Greeter's/Ushers | Tech Assistant | Acolyte | Reader | Bell Ringer | Communion Server | Assisting Minister |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| May 7th 9:00am | Mary Halls, Lori Coulson | Nora Christopherson Ann Young | Maddie Constant Chase Unser | Tim Wiff | Roger Laughnan | Donna Constant | Rhoda Foley |
| April 14th 9:00am | Keith & Julie Lundstrom Family | Lucy Feuerhelm Jill Rosenberry | Matt & Luke Lundstrom | Clair Severson | Roger Laughnan | Belinda Foley | Lanette Place |
| May 21st 9:00am | Casey & Patricia Peterson | Wyatt Kirchner Ann Young | Breken Young Brody Flynn | Sue Peterson | Roger Laughnan | Pauline Laughnan | Donald Rosenberry |
| May 28th 9:00am | Mark & Crystal Raleigh Larry & Sharon Peterson | Jake Knight Jill Rosenberry | Dustyn Raleigh Eli Stockwell | Crystal Raleigh | Roger Laughnan | Rhoda Foley | Ann Young |

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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