

The Messenger

Newsletter of Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hastings, Minnesota

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume XXXVIII - No. 2

March-April 2021



This year there are multiple opportunities to worship during Holy Week with Our Saviour's. We are planning in-person services on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We will also produce an online worship service for each of these important days.

Palm Sunday, March 28:

- 8:30 am – Worship Center
- 9:30 am – Worship Center



Good Friday, April 2:

- 7:00 pm – Worship Center

Easter Sunday, April 4:

- 8:30 am – Worship Center
- 9:30 am – Worship Center
- 10:30 am – Worship Center
- 11:30 am – outside (parking lot)
(bring your own chair)



Indoor worship services will be limited to 120 with masks and physical distancing required. Please sign up for the services you would like to attend by clicking on the link on our website at osel.org or by calling the church office at 651-437-9052.

NOTE: Easter service times are subject to change, depending on the weather and/or numbers registering.

The online worship services will be posted early on Palm Sunday and Easter mornings. The Good Friday service will be posted online by 5:00 pm.

View services online at:

- osel.org
- Our Saviour's Facebook page
- YouTube, at Our Saviour's Hastings

If you have any questions, please call the church office at (651) 437-9052.

Pastor's Page

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:1-2a NRSV)

Honoring the Past – Embracing the Future



Beginning with Abraham and Sarah, then moving on to Moses and the Exodus, the writer of Hebrews spends all of chapter 11 recalling the lives of faith of biblical ancestors. Their lives of faith were not always easy. Summarizing their faith stories, the writer concludes:

“...who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—”

For the writer of Hebrews remembering and honoring the faith to this great cloud of witnesses provides inspiration in the present for the future. The writer is saying, “Look what they did! Look at how they persevered! Let’s go. Let’s run the race of faith in front of us! We can do it because Jesus goes with us.”

This encouragement from Hebrews seems doubly appropriate now. March 12th marks the one-year anniversary of the shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But March 12th is even more significant for another reason. It is also the date of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Our Saviour’s.

The writer of Hebrews looked back at the lives of faith in those who had gone before and found inspiration. As we pause to honor 150 years of ministry, we also can pause and look back and find inspiration from those who have gone before us in this place.

I am inspired by the perseverance, tenacity, courage, and faith of the immigrant Swedes who founded Our Saviour’s as they tried to eek out a living as pioneers in a new land. The 125th anniversary booklet reveals a struggle for adequate funding of the congregation as a consistent theme for many years. It was only through the financial support from others – from fellow Christians from other congregations outside the community in the form of “mission support” that Our Saviour’s continued to exist. This congregation received financial “mission support” from others up until 1949 – for nearly 75 years.

George Bye is quoted in the 125th booklet remembering the time when only six men met with a mission pastor from St. Paul. It was a business meeting, and the pastor stated that as the congregation was still a ‘mission’ congregation and ‘not getting anywhere’ that it was best to give up. Yet, one man, Frank Berglund, said in his strong voice with honest conviction; “We are not dead yet!”

No Frank, we are not dead! Thanks to the perseverance, tenacity, courage, and faith of people like you, and those who have come after you who have shared the time and resources to carry out ministry in this place.

But, most of all thanks to Jesus for Jesus’ continuing presence through WWI, the Great Depression, WWII, the Korean and Vietnam Wars and all the personal tragedies and victories throughout the years. In the end, it is Jesus, the Great Pioneer, by whose Spirit, we have been called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified in faith. In the end Our Saviour’s is, was, and always will be God’s congregation. The risen Jesus calls us together, gives a purpose of existing, equips us to participate in what God is doing in the world, and gives us the strength to persevere.

No, Frank, we are not dead yet! We have a living Lord who sustains us! Our future is bright. Let us run the race set before us full of courage and hope.

Pastor Lloyd Menke

Staff Update

Welcome, Sherri Lohmann as Parish Nurse!



Greetings! I'm Sherri Lohmann. You may recognize me here at Our Saviour's as a singer, or a reader, or a greeter, or from my attempts to deliver WOW messages with a little bit of humor. Now I am happy to introduce myself in a new way, as Parish Nurse for Our Saviour's

Lutheran Church. It will be my joy and privilege to serve the members of our congregation.

In this newly formed, part time position, I will provide health and wellness services, to our members and their families, through a focus on spiritual care. Help for people of all ages and in all stages of life will include visits to members, health care counseling, spiritual support, basic health screening, and referrals to resources or health services. If members and their families are facing health-related decisions, it would be an honor to assist with those challenges.

Wellness for our congregation can be promoted through educational programs and support groups. Enabling volunteers to help respond to the health needs of our members is also part of this position.

My clinical experience includes medical-surgical, post-cardiac, OB, elementary school nursing, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, crisis calls and advocacy, geriatric care, nursing supervision, medical insurance and nursing consultation. The diversity of experiences paved the way for me as parish nurse for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, to relate to people who are in need. Needs come in many forms.

In Philippians 2:4 Paul writes "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." I look forward to walking alongside our members, to help them connect their physical health, mental health, and spiritual health. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the Lord by helping those in need.

Sherri Lohmann



Behavioral Health Support for Individuals, Couples, Families and children

Life's challenges can take a toll on mental health, and this past year has brought with it many unexpected circumstances and hardships. Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's (LSS) behavioral health therapists have skill and understanding working with individuals living with anxiety, depression, grief and loss, among other experiences. If you or someone you know needs support, LSS Behavioral Health is here for you.

Services include: individual, couple and family counseling, dealing with many issues, including grief and loss, trauma, substance use, family relationships and more.

We accept all insurance plans. Sliding fee is available; no one will be turned away for an inability to pay.

To address safety during the pandemic, professional, compassionate care is primarily offered through video conferencing and phone.

To make an appointment:

Call: **888.881.8261**

Email: **counseling@lssmn.org**

Learn more at www.lsscounseling.org



Our vision: *Rooted in God's grace, always made new.*

Our mission: *Living as the hands, feet and heart of Christ.*

Our promise: *Rejoicing together in God's grace, hope and love.*

Our Ministers:

All members of Our Saviour's

Pastoral Staff:

Lloyd Menke, Senior Pastor

Joel Rova-Hegener, Associate Pastor



Our Website: **www.OSEL.org**
Church email: **OSEL@OSEL.org**

Financial Update

by Joyce Nelson

It's been a year now since our lives changed because of Covid and I'm amazed by how generous the congregation of Our Saviour's is! Giving in 2021 has kept pace with the pre-pandemic months of 2020 and general expenses are down about 17%. Many of you have taken advantage of the convenience of online giving through our web site. Just click on the Give or Donate button at osel.org and you can give a one-time gift or set up recurring giving. Of course, you can always drop off or mail your giving envelopes. Thank you also to those that take advantage of the tax implications of giving from retirement accounts. However you choose to give, we thank you! Our ministry would not be possible without your gifts.

The building and grounds committee is in the final stages of evaluating bids for the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning work that needs to be done. They will be selecting a vendor shortly so the work can get started. Tom Walt has more to say about this major building project in his Building Blocks article in this edition of *The Messenger*.

As we approach Easter this year, we continue to find creative ways to continue ministry in safe ways. You will have multiple opportunities to worship during Holy Week with indoor, outdoor and online worship services and a variety of worship and music styles. Church school and God+Life (confirmation) continue to meet and monthly Worship on Wednesdays (WoW) is back! The annual spring garage sale youth fundraiser and the summer youth mission trip are back!

Life is different than it was a year ago, but just as spring and Easter bring new life, new ministry opportunities are emerging at Our Saviour's. Your gifts support these opportunities and we are so grateful! Thank you for your partnership in ministry and for your continued financial support of the work we do together as we seek to live the mission statement of Our Saviour's, "*Living as the hands, feet and heart of Christ.*"

Personal and Family Devotionals and Care Notes

Provided by the Pastoral Care Team are available for free and found in the rack outside the church office. You are welcome to take one for yourself or offer one to a friend. April-June devotionals are here - ring the doorbell M-F, 9-4:30 or pick them up when you come to worship.

Honoring the Past – Embracing the Future Our Saviour's is 150 years old!

It is good to honor the past. March 12, 2021 is significant as the 150th anniversary of the formation of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. On March 12, 1871, a group of 33 Swedish immigrants gathered under the leadership of Pastor J. Magny from Vasa, to charter the "Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hastings." (In 1931 the name was changed to "First Lutheran" and then to "Our Saviour's" in 1948). There is a rich and inspiring story of God's presence in this place through hardship, struggle, World Wars, and bountiful blessings through the years.

A 150th anniversary committee began meeting before Christmas in 2019 to plan a year of celebration leading up to March 12, 2021. The pandemic disrupted those plans. The committee began meeting again in early February 2021 and started developing a plan.

The committee has chosen "Honoring the Past - Embracing the Future" as a theme for our celebration. Our anniversary celebration began on March 14th with Bishop Lull preaching (pre-recorded) at in-person and online services. If you missed the service, you can find it on our website at osel.org or on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) search: Our Saviour's Hastings. The committee is formulating plans to have smaller gatherings to celebrate, as conditions allow and the weather improves, allowing for safe outdoor gathering. The committee is planning for a larger gathering in August and a congregation wide celebration in September assuming it is safe to do so. Please continue to watch the announcements for more details.

Online Worship Services Continue

We continue to offer an online option for our Sunday services. We invite you to join us each week:

- Our website: www.osel.org
- Facebook @oursaviours
- Our YouTube channels:

Our Saviour's Hastings
and Our Saviour's Youth - Hastings

Visit sites often but especially on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings for the most recent service or music project.

For those who don't have access to a computer or internet, please tune in to **KDWA 1460 AM** or **97.7 FM** radio at 6:30pm on Sundays or 6:30pm Wednesdays.



The Building Corner

By Thomas Walt
Tom.Walt@osel.org

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Lutherans not only celebrate the prophets, we celebrate our Saviour of the world as well! Tauren Wells sings about “God of the hills and God of the valleys.” Jesus Christ is our hope when we are down in the valleys as well. He’s not just a prophet. Jesus Christ is our final hope in life, now and forever.

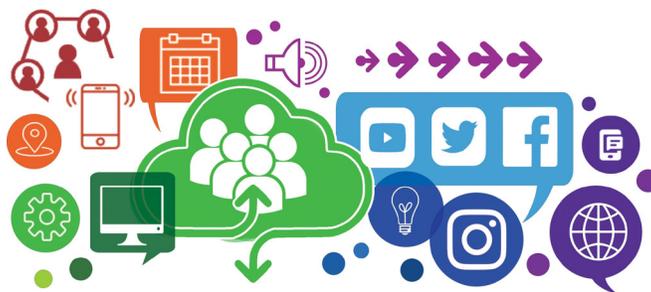
I had been spending a night or two a week with my 95-year old mother since last summer. She died in her home last month, assured, as my oldest brother and I watched. She died with hope while walking through the valley of the shadow of death. It’s a circle of life that I’ve now witnessed with both my parents and all the way back to when I was in my parent’s house, still trying to decide what I’ll be when I grow up, when my mom’s dad died there. I chose to be part of her caregiving up to her last day. I’m not afraid of death because death on earth isn’t the end. It was a good life, and I witnessed another good death. Imagine what you think it will be like to walk humbly with our God.

Oddly, it’s a mere dozen years before I reach retirement age, and I still don’t know what I want to be when I grow up. For you younger ones, none of us “old” people feel ancient in our own minds. My cognitions flow with the same youthfulness like I have had since I was in my twenties. In the movie “Heaven Is For Real,” the boy who came back to life only recognized a 19-year old version of his Grandpa he’d met there. That brings me hope! I hope I’m like a teenager in heaven. Imagine how vibrant you might feel with the energy you had then!

In the meantime, I’ll continue to work part-timer here at Our Saviour’s fixing things and keeping up on the place. I share again that I am personally still looking for cars you might be trading in or selling, so please let me know if you’re making changes that I might pay cash on them. Our HVAC Upgrade bids are coming in now. The Building Committee will review them before bringing them to the Church Council this month. It is good timing because the last working powered roof vent motor from the main bathrooms just burnt out! I’ll have a temporary fix in, but we need to get things properly taken care of around here. I’ll let you know what we can get done next time and when.

I talked before about how I DONUT always look clearly. I didn’t always see the big picture as a kid either; yet, I wisely continue to learn more and see more by asking for others to look at it with me.

I once had a dream of seeing Alaska. It’s all an Aleutian to me now.



Are you receiving weekly emails from Our Saviour’s?

We have been sending emails on Thursday or Friday each week to keep you updated with what’s happening at Our Saviour’s and to provide the SignUp Genius link for worship sign-ups. If you have not been receiving them, you may need to:

- 1) provide us with your best email. Call the office, 651-437-9052, or email: osel@osel.org
- 2) add this email to your contacts: noreply@simplechurchcrm.com
- 3) check your spam/junk mail to see if the email came there.

Note: Families with students and/or young adults no longer living at parents’ address, please provide us with their contact info so they can be added to the church mailings or email/text messages. Send info to osel@osel.org

Fight Hunger with Hastings Family Service March 1-April 11

Join the City-Wide Food Fight to help fight hunger in our community. HFS and MN FoodShare envision a Minnesota where all residents have healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity.



Here are some safe ways *YOU* can help fight hunger:

- Purchase a prepacked grocery bag at Cub.
HFS most needed items are already packed and located near the registers for a quick purchase. There is a bin located near the west exit to place the bag inside on your way out.
- Round up your purchase at Coborn's & Spiral Food Coop: During MN FoodShare you can round up your purchase to the nearest dollar for HFS.
- Add a few items to your grocery pickup or delivery order each week. Donation drop off at HFS is safe and easy! **You may also drop items off at Our Saviour's and we will deliver.**
- Text to Give: Text "DONATE" to 651-240-2725
- Donate online at hastingsfamilyservice.org or call 651-437-7134

Every dollar and every pound of food will be proportionately MATCHED by MN FoodShare

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

Soup: Chicken, Vegetable, Tomato
Tuna/Canned Meat, Mayo or Miracle Whip
Canned Fruit and Vegetables; 100% Fruit Juice
Chili, Stew, Beef Ravioli or Chow Mein
Pasta Noodles and Spaghetti Sauce
Side Dishes: Rice, Potato, and Pasta Macaroni & Cheese, Jelly or Jam, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Sugar/Flour, Saltine Crackers

MOST NEEDED PERSONAL CARE ITEMS:

Feminine Hygiene Products, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Dish Soap, Bar Soap

Donate Hygiene Items



April Food with Friends Curbside Meal Pickup Thursday, April 1, 6pm



Watch for signups to order a meal or to donate food for the meal.
Signup deadline is March 29th

Menu: **Chicken Bacon Ranch Hotdish,
Mixed Vegetables, Bread, Brownie**

If interested in a meal pickup, call the church office at 437-9052 or watch for the signup link at osel.org or in the weekly emails.

Waiting for a Vaccine?

If you are over 65 and are having trouble scheduling a Covid-19 vaccine because you don't use a computer, call Theresa Chatelle (651) 437-9052 and she will try to find and get an appointment scheduled for you. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help someone schedule a vaccine, please call Theresa.

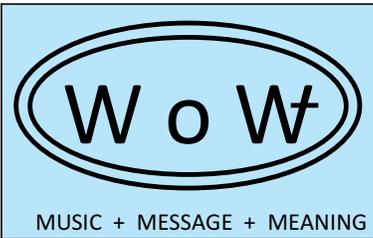


Gertens Spring Flower Sale in Progress!

We are thinking Spring! Our Annual Gertens Flower Sale is a major fundraiser for anyone going to camp, on mission trips, or retreats. New this year...all sales will be online direct with Gertens. We will provide a link for you to give to your buyers. If you are interested in buying OR selling, please contact Ann Traeder at ann.traeder@osel.org or (651) 437-9052. Orders must be placed **no later than Thursday, April 8th** with flower delivery on Tuesday, May 4th.

Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Amy Hanson
Director of Children, Youth
and Family Ministry
651-437-9052, ext. 30
cyf@osel.org



April 21
May 19
June 9
at 7:00 PM

WoW (Worship on Wednesdays) is coming BACK!

We are excited to offer a way to worship during the week and we hope you'll join us LIVE! Each in-person service will be approximately 20 minutes in length and will include two songs performed live, a short message, and a prayer. The WoW service will be offered April 21, May 19, and June 9 at 7pm. Masks are required and social-distancing applies. **All are welcome, come as you are!** Please sign up to attend at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a49a5aa28a2f49-wednesday> or call the church office (651) 437-9052.

SPRING GARAGE SALE – APRIL 16 & 17

It may look a little different, however all of the proceeds from this year's sale will still support our youth! Here's how you can support our Spring Garage Sale:

DONATE

Drop off your **new or gently-used clothing, games, toys, books, sporting goods, and household items** at the church on Monday, April 12 or Tuesday, April 13 between 9am – 6pm.

Please **DO NOT** leave bags of items at the doors.

***** We cannot accept furniture, strollers, car seats, high chairs, cribs, electronics, medical supplies, food items, personal care items, makeup/lotions/perfumes, exercise equipment, or any large items. Please do not leave any of these items as there is a cost to us for disposal. *****



SHOP

Come and shop this awesome sale on
Friday, April 16 from 8am-5pm
and **Saturday, April 17 from 8am-12pm.**

Save Your
Items for Our
Garage Sale



All proceeds go directly to youth and families who are participating in mission trips, heading to camp, and taking part in retreats. Thank you for your support!



SMALL GROUPS - You're Invited!

Did you know there are weekly Bible studies you can join? Each Bible study is different, and meets at different times. Feel free to explore which study you might want to join, please know you are invited!



All studies are meeting via Zoom video-conferencing at this time.

Women's Tuesday Bible Study

Each Tuesday morning at 9:00 women from the congregation gather together with a pastor to read the scripture for the coming Sunday's worship, read commentaries concerning the scripture and then discuss, learn and grow in understanding, and faith. All women are invited to join this study. If interested, please contact the church office or one of the pastors to be put on the list to receive a Zoom invitation.

Men's Thursday Bible Study

Each Thursday morning at 9:00 men from the congregation gather together with a pastor to study the scriptures for the coming Sunday's worship. As a group questions are asked, the text is read and discussed, and all have the chance to learn and grow in their understanding and faith. This Bible study is open to all men. If interested, please contact the church office or one of the pastors to be put on the list to receive a Zoom invitation.



Elected Leadership Recognition

With genuine appreciation, we recognize and thank our Church Council members:

Newly Elected Council Members (Jan. 31, 2021)

Heidi Lund
Lori Mikel

Returning Council Members

Tricia Agen
Jean Lodermeier
Ellen McCullough
Rod Risch
Shelly Rohr
Mark Sanstead
Cathy Shores

Officers

Cathy Shores - President
Shelly Rohr - Vice President
Jean Lodermeier - Treasurer
Rod Risch - Secretary

Thank You to...

Pat O'Connor - served 6 years on Church Council
Jarl Olson - served 2 years on Church Council



Pray Out Loud Together

We currently meet via group phone call, weekly Wednesday at 5pm, to pray for our church and where the Spirit leads us! All levels of prayer experience welcome as all participants have prayed out loud for the first time in a group at sometime, too! This can be intimidating, we get it, but it's also very fulfilling. Curious? Join us!

Please contact annerickson.64@gmail.com if interested.



Do You Have Prayer Concerns?

Let us know so that we can pray with you. As Christians we are called to intercede for one another in prayer, in other words, to pray for one another. We always have prayer concerns—either for ourselves, our families, friends, or for the issues of the world. Let your church pray for you, and for those whom you are holding in prayer. The pastors, the prayer chain, and the OSEL staff will uphold you in prayer!

To share your prayer concerns with us at Our Saviour's please email one of these addresses:

oselprayerchain@gmail.com

osel@osel.org

lloyd.menke@osel.org

joel.rh@osel.org

or call the church office at: 651-437-9052.



Our prayer chain is composed of church members who pray daily for those requesting prayers for themselves and others. Prayer requests can be for anyone, not just members of our

church or community. Requests are kept confidential unless otherwise specified and may be submitted to the Prayer Chain: OSELPrayerChain@gmail.com or to the Prayer Chain Anchor, Rosanne Otto by phone or text at 651-226-8299 (voicemail is available if no one answers).



We are grateful to receive the following memorials and gifts given by family and friends in memory of those listed for Christ's work through our congregation:

*Esther Thue
Norma Marsh
James Holm
Walt Amble
Irv Christnagel
Jeanne Ptaschinski*



Baptized at Our Saviour's

Brayden Peter Lodermeier

Born: June 12, 2020

Baptized: February 7, 2021

Parents: Joseph & Victoria Lodermeier

Sponsors: Treyner & Andrea Juelsgaard

Colton Francis Vlasak

Born: July 3, 2020

Baptized: February 28, 2021

Parents: Craig & Kirsten Vlasak

Sponsors: Katie Chatelle, Kayla Vlasak

If you wish to be baptized or have a child baptized, you must first attend a seminar, currently by Zoom. Please call Ann Traeder at 651.437.9052, x10 for more information.

Baptized children receive their very own Spark Story Bible. This bible brings God's Word to life through colorful art and rich retelling of 150 of the most popular bible stories. The first three years of life are a most remarkable opportunity to introduce children to the amazing love of God through stories, songs, parental support, fellowship, artwork, rituals, prayers, and other means of faith formation!

Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended to:

Beth Drexler - death of mother
Thomas Walt - death of mother
Carol Rupp - death of mother
Joe Oppold - death of mother
Lois Jean Theesfeld - death of husband
Wendy Loomis - death of step father
Gladys Johnson - death of husband
Jeana Sandquist - death of father
Daniel Woodward - death of mother
Mark Woodward - death of mother
Dawn Quist - death of mother
Sharon Langenfeld - death of husband
Karen Chapman - death of father
Linda Hudak - death of father



This is an extremely difficult time for grieving families. Please remember them in prayer.



400 West Ninth Street
Hastings, Minnesota 55033-2025
(651) 437-9052
www.OSEL.org

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Hastings, MN

worship WITH US

**Worship In Person Each Sunday
8:30 & 9:30 AM
in the Worship Center
Holy Communion is celebrated
on the 1st & 3rd Sundays.**

**Please continue to sign up for your choice of service each week using the
SignUp Genius link found at www.osel.org
or by calling the church office, 651-437-9052.**



*Thank You for
practicing Social Distancing!*