

APRIL/MAY 2023

NORTHERN NOTES

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Outing, MN



From the Pastor's Desk

No one is solely responsible. No one is innocent.” –
Melissa Earley, Pastor, First United Methodist Church in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

It is Friday, March 31st and these words are hitting me particularly hard today. There are two things I am contemplating, both of which are amplified by this quote. First, I am thinking about Jesus' Passion; how he knowingly and willingly emptied himself of all self-centeredness, all ego, all of his agency and power to do what? To die a particularly brutal and horrific death. He unjustly suffered great torture and humiliation and death when he didn't have to. He didn't deserve it. Nobody deserves that! In this we can all say, “No one is solely responsible. No one is innocent.”

Don't be fooled, Jesus is no martyr. His death is coupled with resurrection and, together, we come understand the Body of Christ as being made up of all of us. Jesus draws us together in love to rediscover the ultimate connectedness we all have with each other and with Creation. Still, we continue to inflict harm upon that body. From the pollution and destruction of nature to the extinction of entire species to the pain and suffering inflicted upon each other, the Body of Christ continues to suffer today.

It is also International Transgender Day of Visibility. I contemplate how we have treated our Transgender siblings throughout history and, sadly, still today. Transgender people are having their entire identities brutally erased through legislation. They are being beaten and murdered in the streets. They are not being welcomed as incredibly the important members of communities they are and this is happening all around the world. In our cruelty and willingness to ignore that cruelty, we once again torture, humiliate, and attempt to kill the Body of Christ. “No one is solely responsible. No one is innocent.”

I want to turn this horror into a message of love, just as Jesus does from his Passion to his Resurrection. Nobody else needs to be beaten. Nobody else needs to be jailed. Nobody else needs to die. Jesus made sure of that. I have learned some of my greatest lessons about love from my transgender friends. This is how Jesus continues to teach us about love today, through his Body...every part of his Body. We must heed the words in the 4th chapter of Ephesians, “...for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.”

Remember this Holy Season of Easter that you make up the body of Christ, and so too does everyone else. Love your neighbor no matter what and work toward building up the Body of Christ in love.

From the Council President

The Council has been busy taking a deeper look at our constitution and bylaws, encouraging committees to become more active, and trying to think outside the box for new ways of reaching members and prospective members. We will be looking at a few dates this spring or summer to hold how-to trainings for anyone in the church who is or is interested in volunteering for any of the numerous volunteer duties available. (More info to follow.) In April, Pastor, Donna, Chad and I will be attending the annual Synod Assembly and we are all looking forward to connecting with our friends and neighbors.

During this Lenten season, Pastor has been encouraging us to pay attention to the details and to take notice of some of the smaller, more simple things in our lives. In my own life, we have recently suffered significant sorrow with the passing of Chad's father and then recently celebrated the enormously joyous occasion of my niece/goddaughter getting married. It has been a whirlwind the last couple months but it has caused me to pause and take to heart Pastor's words. There is a quote by Buddha that says: "The trouble is you think you have time". In the blink of an eye, we have lost loved ones, my niece is married, my own babies are growing faster than I'd like, and another year is flying by. Sometimes it seems difficult to slow down and notice the details. I have been making an effort these last few weeks and am looking forward to what is ahead.

I have taken note of the ice damns on my roof.... More specifically how magnificent the 5 foot icicle on the east side of the garage is when the sun hits it and it sparkles. On the warm days when the ice and snow is melting off the roof, do you ever just crack a window and listen? The sounds the water makes is very soothing and like nature's own little orchestra. I notice how Kurt just might be the epitome of joy....he always has something on that sparks joy for me: a fun brooch, a bright and cheery scarf or sometimes just his smile. As I stayed awake in the hotel room on Thursday night ironing clothes for the wedding, I stopped and smiled as I noticed how sweet all three of my people are when they are sleeping!

Take a few moments over the next two months to notice the little things we often either don't notice or that we take for granted. We have so much to be thankful for so I encourage you to not get caught up in the things we "have to do" and enjoy the moment you are in. You might be surprised what you see when you look! Happy Spring & Happy Easter!

God's Blessings to you,
Kami, Council President

Game Night & Potluck Sunday, April 23, 2023 at Our Savior's

Potluck begins at 5:15 with games to follow.

Spring has arrived on the calendar but it appears otherwise outside
so what better thing to do than have a night of
food, fun and fellowship for all ages.

Gather your family, invite your neighbors and friends.

Bring your favorite or not so favorite games to share!

Please bring a dish to share. Coffee & Lemonade will be provided.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the board
in the Narthex to sign up for the potluck.

Foods listed are only suggestions but would like to make sure we don't have
too many of one type..... although having all desserts would not be all bad.

Please join us.



**Get ready it's that time of the year.
Spring Plant and Bake sale
Saturday, May 27th
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Think about your perennials that you would be willing to share, or start some new plants.

The indoor planting season is here!

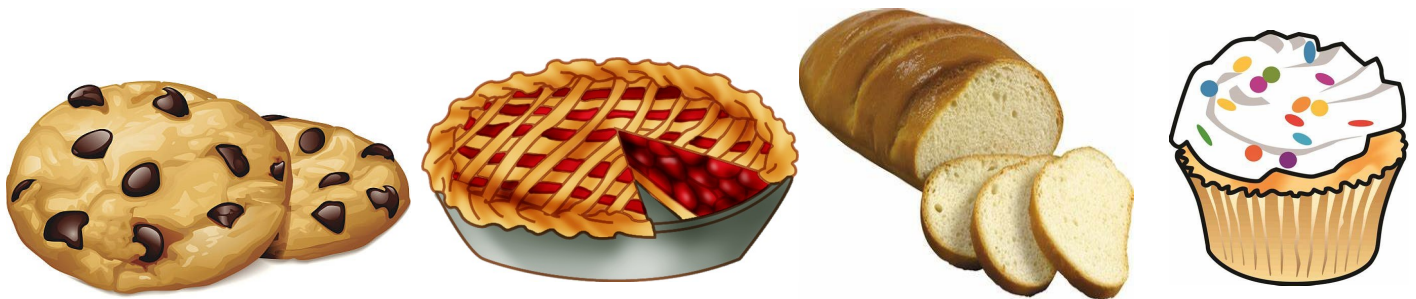
Don't have a green thumb?

Bake a pie, bread, cookies or bars.

Help is needed the day of the sale.

More information to come
in the weekly newsletters.

Proceeds go to the Women of the ELCA
to help with their mission work.





You may have heard of 'No Mow May' in the news over the past couple of years. The idea is spreading around the world. Nearly 30 Minnesota cities are participating in No Mow May in 2023.

There is actually a noble reason for not mowing your lawn for the month of May. No Mow May is an environmentally friendly initiative designed to promote pollinator and soil health. It allows the pollinators to emerge from hibernation and forage effectively and safely. Refraining from mowing in May provides vital early spring flowers to emerge from hibernation. Did you know botanical experts consider dandelions to be an herb? You may dislike them, but our much needed pollinators love them. (My late mother-in-law harvested young greens for spicy accents to spring green salads!)

The OSLC Creation Care Committee has recommended to the Property Management Committee that members refrain from mowing the church properties for the month of May, & committee members have agreed. You will see a couple of signs appear to let everyone know we are joining in. Take a breath, and relax: spring is coming our way! (I am writing this in mid-March, with three feet of snow on our steps down to the lake.) But the snow will be gone, yard work to clean up the damage done to the trees will be completed. Take another breath. We are encouraging you to remove one item on your Spring Chores List: mowing the yards!

Kurt Hoffman, OSLC Creation Care Committee



Community Outdoor Worship Service

Our Savior's Community Outdoor Worship Service will be held on Sunday, June 4th, 2023 at Luschers Park in Outing.

The church service will begin at 9 a.m. with the Holy Hootenanners providing music during the service and a concert following.

We will be serving coffee, ice cream novelties, and cookies following the service. Bring your chairs and invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for worship.

The Holy Hootenanners are an emerging spiritual force that originated in 2013 at a small country church in Mahtowa, MN, pop. 370.

Their blend of gospel, blues, folk, and spiritual genres are all evident in both their original and traditional song performances. The band itself can be up to twelve pieces including violins and horns in their premier venues. They have performed in front of thousands at the City on the Hill Music Festival in Bayfront Park, Voyageurs Bluegrass Festival in Cook, and the Wood City Music Festival in Cloquet, MN

The Community is invited. All are Welcome!

Happy Birthday



April

4 Shirley Anderson
17 Bert Stanchfield
29 Nancy Elmquist

May

9 Jim Remington
11 Luke Lekander
13 Kurt Hoffman
21 Ingrid Thyen
21 Kaylynn Wake
23 Lorraine Mix
30 Tom Brinkman

Happy 50th Birthday Pastor Luke!

Happy Anniversary

April

18 Galen & Alice Wittenberg
18 Dick & Sandy Helmer
25 Jerome & Shirley Anderson

May

7 Jim & Lynn Remington
7 Joe & Bev Mueller
8 Jack & Grace Schuller
21 Darrel & Judy Werner
30 Dan & Karen Laakso



Congratulations on 70 years of marriage Jack & Grace!

From the Women of the ELCA

Our first business meeting of the year was cancelled due to the weather and lack of business. We will meet again on April 10th downstairs at 9:00 am.

Plans are underway for the annual plant and bake sale which will be held on Saturday, May 27th from 9:00 to 12:30. Your donations of plants and bake goods are welcome.

Thanks to all of you who provided soup, desserts and breads for our Lenten soup suppers.

The NE MN Synod Summer Gathering will be held June 12 & 13 at Zion Lutheran in Grand Rapids.

We are in need of a voting delegate. Our WELCA group will cover your food and lodging costs.

Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

Keep the faith, nice weather is on its way and we will then be swatting mosquitos.

God's peace, Coordinator Caroline

SUNDAY WORSHIP LEADERS	
APRIL	MAY
USHERS	
2 Cy & Nancy Kruse 9 Gary & Joleen Nelson 16 Brad Buchanan & Jan Peterschick 23 Dave & Robin Purgett 30 Jim & Lynn Remington	7 Galen & Alice Wittenberg 14 Dave & Robin Purgett 21 Sheldon & Jane Matheson 28 Sheldon & Jane Matheson
LECTORS	
2 Caroline Switzer 9 Kathy Pfaff 16 Brad Buchanan 23 Kurt Hoffman 30 LeAnn Werner	7 Laurie Baalson 14 Kurt Hoffman 21 Jane Matheson 28 Sheldon Matheson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	
2 Caroline Switzer 9 Jackie Hagel 16 Jan Peterschick 23 Jim Remington 30 LeAnn Werner	7 Laurie Baalson 14 Kami Genz 21 Sheldon Matheson 28 Jane Matheson
TELLERS	
2 Jan Peterschick & Galen Wittenberg 9 Kami Genz & LeAnn Werner 16 Jackie Hagel & Jan Peterschick 23 Gary Nelson & Dave Purgett 30 Gary Nelson & LeAnn Werner	7 Shirley Singh & Galen Wittenberg 14 Kami Genz & LeAnn Werner 21 Jackie Hagel & Jan Peterschick 28 Gary Nelson & Dave Purgett
APRIL COFFEE SERVERS 2 Galen & Alice Wittenberg 9 Berta Stanchfield & Kathy Pfaff 16 Darrel & Judy Werner 23 Gary & Joleen Nelson 30 Volunteer	MAY COFFEE SERVERS Volunteers needed. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CHURCH & HIGHWAY 6 ROAD DITCH

CLEAN UP DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 20TH

**APRIL 2ND LAST DAY TO
ORDER EASTER PLANTS**

Lilies are \$14.00


Hyacinth plants are \$12.00.

**Sign up on the bulletin board and put your
check or cash in the attached envelope.
Checks can be made out to WELCA.**

APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Worship Service	3	4	5 9:00 am Men's Bible Study	6 5:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service	7 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 5:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service	8
9 Easter Sunday 9:00 am Worship Service	10 9:00 am WELCA Business Meeting	11	12 9:00 am Quilting Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Meeting	13	14	15
16 9:00 am Worship Service	17	18	19 9:00 am Men & Women's Bible Study	20	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship Service 5:15 pm Potluck & Game Night ----- 30 9:00 am Worship Service Noisy Offering	24 9:00 am Outreach & Witness Meeting 10:30 am Creation Care Meeting	25	26 9:00 am Quilting Men's Bible Study 10:30 am Worship & Music Committee Meeting	27	28	29

MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 8:00 am Men's Breakfast	6
7 9:00 am Worship	8 9:00 am WELCA Business Meeting	9	10 9:00 am Quilting Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Council Mtg.	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day 9:00 am Worship	15	16	17 9:00 am Women & Men's Bible Study	18	19	20 9:00 am Church & Road Ditch Clean Up
21 9:00 am Worship	22	23	24 9:00 am Quilting and Men's Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	25	26 9:00 am to 12:00 am Set up for Plant Sale	27 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Plant/Bake Sale
28 9:00 am Outdoor Worship Noisy Offering	29 	30	31			