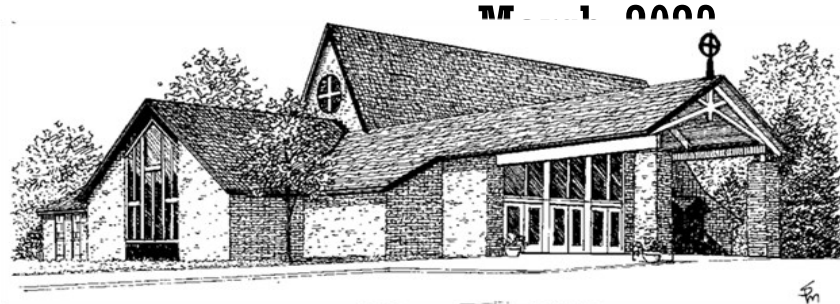


April 2023



## Our Savior's Lutheran Church

# Sharing the Joy

**Sunday Worship**

**9:30 a.m. Worship Service**

**9:30 a.m.—10:45 A.M. Sunday School**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church ELCA

(715) 394 3472 [oslcsuperioroffice@gmail.com](mailto:oslcsuperioroffice@gmail.com)

Pastor Sean Koos

[pastorkoos@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkoos@gmail.com)



## **Pastor's Report** **April 2023**

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

I'm confident to say we survived another winter despite the lingering snow and low temperatures. What a harsh, long winter it was for us this year! The snow accumulation pushed record highs and the frigid cold just didn't seem to let up. My poor car reflects the bitterness of this winter. It has a chunk of the front bumper missing from having driven into a snowbank to stop from sliding down a hill in Duluth. But I can't help but remind myself that it's the winters that attracted many of us to live in the area. Well, the snowy winters AND the gorgeous summers/falls! We know we come from a hearty people though. "The north wind made the Vikings!" as my mom would always say. It's these long winters that define us as a community. They make us humble and somewhat introspective as they keep us indoors for a good 6 months. Just think of how much you learned about yourself and the world around us this winter! I think God is particularly pleased with the reflective nature of these Northern winters. They help keep us in right relationship with him much the same way the season of Lent does.

Speaking of which, we're coming out of the morose season of Lent and into the joyful season of Easter this month. I pray you'll take advantage of some unique worship opportunities in Holy Week this year. We'll gather for Maundy Thursday worship at our church but then we've been invited to participate in an ecumenical service with our neighboring congregations at Central Assembly of God church on Good Friday. We'll come back to our church on Saturday for the return of an Easter Vigil service. All three services will begin at 6:30 p.m. Come on back for Easter service on Sunday and be sure to get here early to grab some of the sunrise breakfast. A table of goodies should be set out by 8:30 a.m. and service will begin at 9:30.

God continues to bless us in many ways, even with a spring thaw. Let us gather to rejoice in our risen Lord. Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!

Easter blessings,  
Pastor Koos

# April Narratives

- 04/02/2023     Matthew 21:1-17  
Triumphal Entry
- 04/09/2023     EASTER  
Matthew 28:1-10  
Resurrection
- 04/16/2023     Matthew 28:16-20  
The Great Commission
- 04/23/2023     Acts 10:1-17, 34-48  
Peter's Vision
- 04/30/2023     Acts 13:1-23; 14:8-18  
Paul's Mission

## Holy Week


- 04/02     Palm Sunday/ First Communion  
Our Saviors
- 04/06     Maunday Thursday 6:30 p.m.  
Our Saviors
- 04/07     Good Friday 6:30 p.m.  
Service at Central Assembly of God
- 04/08     Easter Vigil 6:30 p.m.  
Our Saviors
- 04/09     Easter Our Saviors  
Breakfast 8:30 a.m.  
Service 9:30 a.m.



## From Our Congregation President

Believe it or not, spring is here but you wouldn't know it by going outside! Hopefully we're done with the snowplowing for the year. I hope you can join us for Easter and enjoy some of the breakfast. We need some rolls, juice, and/or fruit. Our collaborative discussions with the other ELCA churches of Superior continue to be supportive. See you around the church.

Rick Gilbertson



We would like to again have an Easter breakfast here at the church. We plan to have to have it starting at 8:30 a.m. before the Easter service. The church is providing scrambled eggs, sausage, and coffee. If you would be willing to donate muffins, rolls, juice or fruit; there is a sign up sheet in the narthex.



Bible Studies April 2023

**Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15**

**(Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6627675381> or call 1-312-626-6799, passcode: 046800)**

*04-05-23 Matthew 28:1-10*

NO BIBLE STUDY...HOLY WEEK....PASTOR HAS ENOUGH TO DO!!

*04-12-23 Matthew 28:16-20*

1. In v17, Matthew tells us that “some doubted.” What do we think this means?
2. How is it possible to “worship” and “doubt” at the same time, or is it?
3. Does the disciples’ doubt make them more, or less, like us, do we think? How do we feel about this? Why?
4. What does Jesus’ authority have to do with making disciples, do we think?
5. What difference does Jesus’ authority make for the work of making disciples?
6. Are “making disciples” and “being witnesses” the same thing? Or different things?
7. In this text, Jesus is speaking directly to his disciples. Are the instructions restricted to these individuals, or do they apply to others? How do we follow these instructions?
8. In v20, Jesus says “remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Does this statement apply to the individuals who were there, or more widely?
9. What is included in “everything that I have commanded you”?
10. When we think of Jesus, do we think of him as an authority figure? What difference does it make if we think this way about Jesus?

*04-19-23 Acts 10:1-17, 34-48*

1. Why is this backstory so important? What had Peter learned from his vision which prepares him to meet Cornelius?
  2. Now that Peter has the opportunity to tell Cornelius and the others whatever he wants, what does he highlight?
  3. What is meant by “peace by Jesus Christ” in verse 36?
  4. The Holy Spirit had fallen on believers in Jerusalem (Acts 2) and in Samaria (Acts 8). Now the Holy Spirit has fallen on Gentiles in Caesarea. What is Luke emphasizing with this?
  5. How did Jesus want Peter (and now us) to speak of him?
  6. What has led to Peter preaching to the Gentiles in this passage?
  7. What were some of the reasons the early church was so hesitant to take the Gospel to the Gentiles? Are there similar attitudes in the church today that keep us from taking the Gospel to certain people?
  8. What are the implications for us that God shows no partiality? Why is this a good thing?
  9. How would you explain the good news to someone who hadn’t heard it before? Compare and contrast your explanation with Peter’s.
  10. Why did Cornelius ask Peter to remain with them for some days? What do you think Peter did during that time?
-

## Bible study questions continued

04-26-23 Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

1. How should we get involved in the ministry today?
2. Is an academic qualification essential for ministry?
3. Where are these leaders from? What kinds of differences might they have had?
4. What does this passage show us about the nature of the leadership team at the church of Antioch? Why is this helpful for becoming a “missionary church?”
5. How is teaching different from prophecy (1 Timothy 5:17; 4:16; James 3:1; 2 Timothy 2:15)?

Define the gift of teaching.

6. Was Paul using healing to preach the gospel or healing as he preached the gospel (Acts 14:9)? How can you tell? Why does this matter? What was the priority in his ministry (1 Corinthians 2:1-2)?
7. What did Paul “see” in this man? Why is faith essential (Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 9:28-29; Matthew 13:58)?
8. What did this miracle cause them to think about Paul and Barnabas? What can happen when there is a miracle without explanation?
9. What did Paul tell them about his own nature (Acts 14:15)? How is this consistent among the apostles (Acts 3:12-13; Revelation 19:10)?
10. What does Paul call their idols (1 Samuel 12:21; Psalm 31:6; Jeremiah 10:3-8)? How is God compared with these idols (Jeremiah 10:10; Isaiah 44:6-9)? What does this God say (Isaiah 45:21-22)?







## Mentor Questions April 2023

1. What is your favorite meal? If you could have one last meal, what would it be?
2. What does the Lord's Supper mean to you? Why do you or don't you take it?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose to focus on the 2 things, body and blood?
4. What is new in the "new covenant" of the blood of Jesus?
5. What are we proclaiming by taking the Lord's Supper?
6. What does taking the Lord's Supper "in remembrance" mean?
7. What would you say to a friend who asks, "what's the Lord's Supper, and what does it mean?"
8. In your opinion, how frequently should a church observe the Lord's Supper?
9. What are some ways we can prepare ourselves before taking the Lord's Supper?
10. Is it wrong to use the term, "Lord's Supper?"
11. Who should partake of the Lord's Supper?
12. Is the real body and blood in the bread and wine? (transubstantiation)
13. Is the Lord's Supper a subject of primary importance in the Christian religion?
14. What is received in the Lord's Supper?
15. How can you deepen your appreciation of the Lord's Supper?
16. Why do we celebrate the Lord's Supper?
17. What does it mean to "partake of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner?"
18. What does God do in the Lord's Supper?
19. "Eucharist" means "to give thanks." How do we give thanks in the Lord's Supper?
20. Which do you think is the best term for the Lord's Supper: Lord's Supper, Communion, or Eucharist?





## Education

The youth received a donation designated strictly for youth activities. Thank you to that donor. The children appreciate your generosity.

### **Confirmation:**

The confirmation students are often coming directly from school. They are usually very hungry when they arrive from school. If you are willing to donate snacks at any time, please contact Linda Clark. There will be no confirmation service this year. All of the current students are in their first year.

### **First Communion**

There is only one First Communion student this year, Jamie Koos. Due to a time conflict, we will celebrate with her on April 2nd which is Palm Sunday rather than Maunday Thursday. Join us to help her celebrate this step in her faith journey. Cake will be served after church.

### **Sunday School:**

The children will participate in the Palm Sunday service April 2nd. They will be marching in with palm fronds. They will then join the choir to sing an anthem before going downstairs.

In April our planned stories are (subject to change): Palm Sunday: The Triumphal Entry, The Great Commission, Peter's Vision and Paul's Mission. The children generally do a craft associated with the story. Samples of their efforts are displayed in the fellowship hall and below. They are also working with Megan on songs to present to the congregation soon.



The Transfiguration



Parable of the  
sheep and the goats



## Bible Studies:

Bible Studies continue at 10:15 a.m. Wednesdays. Discussions this month will cover the Triumphal Entry, the Easter story, The Great Commission, Peter's Vision and Paul's Mission. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for questions and for how to join. Any one is welcome to join at any week.



**We hope to see you soon!**



## Scrip Cards

The use of Scrip cards this past year made over \$3150.00 to go toward paying down the mortgage. This was with only a small number of people participating. Increasing the number of people using the cards is an easy way to make more money for the church at no extra expense to you.

You can buy cards for local places you already go to such as Kwik Trip, Holiday Gas, BP, Menards, Ace Hardware, CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Superior Meats, Applebees, Papa Murphy's,, Hardees, Burger King, Subway, Dairy Queen, and Dunkin Donuts. A list of participating stores along with how much they contribute back to the church is in the narthex. Occasionally these businesses will raise their percentages for a short time so watch the list.

Orders go in the third Sunday of the month so get your order in by March 18th. For reloadable cards, call Carol at any time.





# Snow Removal

With the enormous amount of snow we've had this season, the snow plowing expenses here at the church have risen dramatically. To help offset these costs, we are accepting donations. In return for your donation, you will be entered into a drawing for an Easter basket (bowl and egg plate included). Donations will be accepted Sunday morning or at the church office before then. The drawing will be held on April 2nd, after church.



There is still time to order Easter flowers. The last day to get your order and payment in is this Sunday April 2nd.

Easter Flowers  
In Honor, Memory, or Donation

- \_\_\_ Easter Lily. . . . . \$10.00
- \_\_\_ Tulip plants. . . . . \$10.00
- \_\_\_ Hyacinth plant . . . . . \$10.00
- \_\_\_ Donation . . . . . \$\$\$

Please attach payment with order form and place in the offering plate or send or drop off at the office ([oslcsuperioroffice@gmail.com](mailto:oslcsuperioroffice@gmail.com)). April 10<sup>th</sup> last day.

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

*These prices are an estimate of what locate stores will charge. Any donations and extra money will be used to purchase things for the altar.*

## SLH COOKS— HOT CROSS BUNS

Hot Cross Buns are a traditional Easter favorite. They are often made on Good Friday.

**Ingredients** 2 packages (1/4 ounce each) active dry yeast

- 2 cups warm whole milk (110° to 115°)
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1/3 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 6 to 7 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup dried currants
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 large egg yolk
- 2 tablespoons water
- **ICING:**
- 1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 4 to 6 teaspoons whole milk



### Directions

1. In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in warm milk. In a large bowl, combine eggs, butter, sugar, salt, spices, yeast mixture and 3 cups flour; beat on medium speed until smooth. Stir in currants, raisins and enough remaining flour to form a soft dough (dough will be sticky).
2. Turn onto a floured surface; knead until dough is smooth and elastic, 6-8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease the top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.
3. Punch down dough. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; divide and shape into 30 balls. Place 2 in. apart on greased baking sheets. Cover with kitchen towels; let rise in a warm place until doubled, 30-45 minutes. Preheat oven to 375°.
4. Using a sharp knife, cut a cross on top of each bun. In a small bowl, whisk egg yolk and water; brush over tops. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool slightly.
5. For icing, in a small bowl, mix confectioners' sugar and enough milk to reach desired consistency. Pipe a cross on top of each bun. Serve warm.

# 2023 EcoFaith Summit

## The Pollinator Plot:

### Cross Pollination in a Time of Ecological Crisis

We are in a moment of deep ecological crisis, Through a keynote address, firsthand stories, conversations and engagement sessions, the summit hopes to call us to become part of the Holy Spirit's subversive plot to pollinate an alternative way of being human for the sake of life. Faith communities of every size and in every place can be demonstration plots. Discuss how what we do in our specific plots can matter.

Keynote Speaker: Margot Monson  
(Entymologist and Beekeeper)



This year's summit is being held April 15th and hosted by the Gloria Dei church in Duluth. Our church is asked to provide goodies for the gathering at the end of the summit. See the sign up sheet in the narthex. They are also looking for lodging hosts for attendees. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Contact Pastor Sean for more information or to sign up.



## Mission & Outreach March Donations: **Ruth House**

**04/02—Coffee, powdered creamer, condiments, Styrofoam cups**

**04/09—garbage bags, paper towels, plastic silverware, paper or plastic cups**

**04/ 16– Bleach, kitchen sponges, all purpose cleaners, laundry soap, fabric softener, dryer sheets, bottled water**

**04/ 23—canned fruits and vegetables, spaghetti sauce, creamed soups, dry soup mixes**

**04/30—baked beans, chips, popcorn, rice, beans**



## Threads of Hope Clothes Closet

The Threads of Hope Clothes Closet continues to serve a need in our community. 1022 items were given out in 2022. Mission & Outreach is thankful for the support our congregation and the community have given through their donations of new and gently used clothing and footwear.





## Vacation Bible School

We are looking into whether we should have vacation bible school this year. People who have volunteered in the past are unable to do so this year because of health or other reasons. Therefore in order to prepare and hold a vacation bible school, we would need an influx of new volunteers. We realize that people have had a variety of reasons they have felt like they could not help in the past but perhaps this is the year you could. At this point, any options would be up for discussion:

When should we hold it: right after school is finished and before summer school starts, before school starts again in the fall or anytime in between

How many days a week

What hours to hold it—2 full days, 4 half days or some other option


Depending on days or hours, should we serve a meal or snacks.

Curriculum and activities

A combination of adult and children activities

If there is at least some interest, we will schedule a meeting. Watch for information.

FYI Zion Lutheran Church is holding VBS the first week in August. Our students would be welcome to attend. To our knowledge, none of the other churches are planning a VBS.





## **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Those serving in the military, those returning home with mental and physical scars, and for all military veterans. For the health of all unborn children and grandchildren, all those recovering or in nursing home care and for those struggling with addiction.

**Worship Support Congregation Members:** Jim and Marcy Rigstad, Pat and Amanda Shaw, Meri Will, Roger Prescott, Mike Dahl, Joyce Bowser, Lynne Hoff, Rusty Carlson, Steve Shaw, Stephanie Shaw

**Family Member:** Mike Klawitter, Jeanne David, Joel Dykema, Casey, Bill Mullens, Tim Volpe, Beth, Chuck Korn

**Friend/neighbor:** Annabel Hanson, Dwaine, Benita Sutherland, Lydia Miller, baby Curt, Bruce Carignan

***The Families of:***

**Call the church office (715-394-3472) to add (or remove) individuals to the prayer list.**



April 02 Kim Erickson  
Colton Rolson-Gran  
Steve Shaw  
Caden Willie

April 04 Rose Reijo  
Kandee Rosburg  
Pat Shaw

April 08 Talulah Netland

April 14 Deanne Wells

April 16 Karen Kangas

April 19 Ben Rhodes

April 20 Ross Rivord

April 21 Keeley Morehouse  
Pastor Sean Koos

April 22 Marian Simon

April 23 Joyce Bowser

April 24 Doris Maki

April 25 Joey Baker  
Alan Cirilli  
Kim Gralewski

April 26 Kathleen  
Murashie  
Jason  
Westlund

April 28 Daisy Barker  
Eileen Gilbertson

April 29 Judy Trisko-  
Nelson

Lorena Wicklund



## **Rummage Sale will be May 13<sup>th</sup> 2023**

The rummage sale isn't too far off. As you are cleaning or downsizing and need to get rid of items, the church will happily take those items off your hands. Put items downstairs in the unfinished addition, behind the blue tarps. We ask that you please do the following:

- **Put items in a box for easier stacking.**
- **No clothing**
- **We only want things that work.**


Don't give us things or that we would have to **PAY** to get rid of. That includes microwaves, computers, computer printers, etc. *The only exception is if you put your name on it (so we know when we put things out) and take it back if it doesn't sell to dispose of.* If something has an operator's *instruction book* please include if you have it.

Happy cleaning!!

Kandee

P.S. – I would like to get some advanced help in planning. If you are interested, let me know. (It's is getting to be a little too much for me alone.

*I would also like help with the following: putting up signs Sunday May 7 and taking them down late afternoon on May 13 (I have the signs and list of places to put them), someone in charge of getting a crew to set up the tables and putting them away after sale and someone to take charge of making burritos ahead of sale (I have all the information). We will have burritos and pasties for sale as well as a bake sale. The youth will be putting on a luncheon.*



## OSLC Council Minutes March 21, 2023

**Present:** Pastor Sean, Rick Gilbertson, Stephanie Shaw, Brooke Puchalla, Dave Kringle, Steve Shaw, Jennifer Farrell, Diane Erickson, Carol Arthur, Steve Skamser, Julianne Koski

**Devotions/Prayer:** Pastor Sean lead with prayer and devotion

**Secretary Report:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the January 2023, and February 2023 Council Minutes

**Treasurers report:** Income for February was \$12,300.18, Expenses \$17,309.59. Loss of -\$5009.41. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the Treasurers report

### **Board Reports:**

-Deacons: Ash Wednesday went well. Communion at the rail went well.

- Stewardship: March 26th is the last game day. Adding Usher duties to whole congregation. There will be a sign up sheet. Instructional sheet will also be updated. Activity bags for the children will be brought back.

-Board of Education: one student will have 1st communion on Palm Sunday. All confirmation students are first year, so there will be no confirmation ceremony. Working on plans for Vacation Bible School.

-Mission and Outreach: Collections for April will go to the Ruth House. 87 items were given out in February from Threads of Hope Children's Clothes Closet.

Trustees: No report. Were not able to meet.

### **Pastors Report:**

Pastor followed up on the Eco Faith Summit at Gloria Dei Lutheran in Duluth on 4/15. Looking for people from our congregation to house attendees. Looking for volunteers to provide snacks - cheese and crackers, veggies, etc. Sign-up sheet will be set out.

Synod requested we discuss racial justice within the congregation.

Synod also requested discussion on "Big God Questions." Monthly, Pastor will put a question out at the end of the sermon only as something for the congregation to think about.

**Old Business:** Nothing to report

**New Business:** Discussed having an Easter Vigil service Saturday evening before Easter and plans for Easter morning service.

### **Vision Victories:**

Back to having communion at the rail.

Confirmation students are doing well during lent.

Game nights have been going well.

Motion was made to adjourn

Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Brooke Puchalla, Secretary