

## Our Savior's VOICE May 2022

A community transformed by Christ, to be Christ in the world.

### *Believing is Seeing...*

On the heels of the first encounters of the resurrection, we have this wonderful text from later half of John chapter twenty, where the Disciple, Thomas, who was not there, on the evening of the first day of the week, locked behind closed doors with the rest of the disciples, utters this iconic phrase...

**"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."** (John 20:25)

Thomas DOES get to see the risen Lord a week later. And in a lecturing comeuppance from the risen Christ, Jesus says to Thomas (and the rest of us) **"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."** (John 20:29)

We, of course, are the community of faith that Jesus is speaking about: *blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe*. And for every preacher who has stepped into a pulpit since that time it does beg the question: *is SEEING believing, or is BELIEVING seeing?*

How often the material world with which we are captive has us saying: "I'll believe it when I see it!" But in our relationship with the Divine the opposite is true, *believing is seeing*; believing opens our material eyes, and our spiritual heart, to see what is just up ahead. I'm pretty sure that's what St. Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Church at Corinth and said: *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."* (1 Corinthians 2:9)

The world will continue to operate from the principle of "seeing is believing" and it will likely test your deepest beliefs. But for those waiting in line on our Lord's resurrection, we are invited into a world of *believing is seeing*.

We just completed another White Elephant Sale, the 71<sup>st</sup> one at that. What we saw with our eyes were many obstacles that stood in the way of volunteers who were already over-taxed. But *believing is seeing*, and by the grace of God, and the fellowship and labor of the people of God, another successful White Elephant Sale can be dedicated to the glory of God.

I would submit to you, ladies and gentlemen of the jury; that we as a congregation we will have many opportunities to exercise *believing is seeing* in the near future.

What we see with our eyes is that it has been difficult to re-engage an active, vibrant Sunday School, and who knows how much COVID has had to do with this? But *believing is seeing*, we do not lose hope nor heart. For Jesus says: *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to*

*such as these.*" (Matthew 19:14) *Believing is seeing*, the youngest amongst us will know and receive the blessings of Jesus Christ!

We see our worship attendance on any given Sunday, and there are many empty church pews. Frankly, even the attendance on Easter Sunday was rather disappointing. It's hard to get our active membership back, are we still fearful of COVID? For two years we've done a good job of telling each other NOT to come to public worship, to worship via live stream, have we become so used to worshipping in front of the computer screen that we've lost the habit of corporate worship? But *believing is seeing*, in God's time the church pews will fill in praise to our Lord.

We see our financial stewardship wax and wane, at this moment in time our March financial report ended with \$16,393.20 in the red. But *believing is seeing*, this present challenge will be overcome because we give not to make a budget, but as a gracious response to a God who has given us every earthly and heavenly blessing!

It's amazing what the eye will see when *believing is seeing*: care is invested back into our community, hope is instilled in our homes, love calls to those who are lost, and light shines through in whatever darkness we face. "*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*" (2 Corinthians 4:18)

God bless and be well!

Pastor Kevin



## Musical Notes

Our calendar and what I witness looking out my front window do not seem to be in agreement! We that live in Minnesota crave to see signs of Spring as our reward for persevering the long Winter. This is not a privilege that we share this year. In this case, it "Is what it ain't." Nevertheless, we are ruled by that same calendar. Regarding that calendar, we have two more Sundays in which the choir will sing and one Sunday that handbells will perform.

Our next installment with the Temple choir will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Jay Althouse has given us a lovely anthem called "Precious Jesus." Each and every day we must thank Jesus for all that He does. This anthem focuses on many of the reasons to give thanks. The final statement says it all; "Your love is a love without end."

Then, on May 15<sup>th</sup> we close out our season with "Thy Will Be Done". This is a very gentle musical setting of The Lord's Prayer. It has a definite popular feel to it and yet does not miss the dynamic expression needed at the conclusion of the prayer. I have asked Mark Groettum to sing the solo part. Mark has been such a valuable singer in our choir and he will be missed!

Handbells have begun rehearsing after the recess we experience throughout Lent. Our final service will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May and we will be playing "All Things Bright and Beautiful." I am so thankful for the ringers that have kept our choir going. Thanks to Naomi Ronning for joining the ensemble.

Roy

**2022 Missionary for a Day Calendar** to date has received \$335.

This spring gifts were received:

- In honor of Sharon & Mitch Cook's Family Birthdays, Wendi P., Jeri H., Annie D.
- In honor of Dan & Julie Jordan Family Birthdays
- In memory of John Koski
- In honor of Jon & Sue Rudberg Family Birthdays
- In memory of Helen Sulentic

Thank you for your generous support of our missionary, Dr. Friberg in Tanzania. Any time is a good time to sign up and contribute to the *Missionary for a Day Calendar*. A gift of \$10 in memory or honor of a special friend or loved one will support our missionary for one day. Dr. Friberg's work in Tanzania is very important, be a part of it!



Pastoral Acts

Funeral

April 18

Ciara Dawn Sellman

Happy Birthday and have a great day!

May	5	Elaine Bexell
	15	Fred Fawkes
	15	Audrey Hill
	15	Penni Tingstad
	21	Carol Boben
	26	Earl Lehman
	29	Janet Broten
	29	Arnold Ronne

Happy  
Anniversary

Best wishes to Tom and Nancy Sampson who will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Best wishes to Bill and Lloydine Pietila who will be celebrating their 64th Wedding Anniversary on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **News from the Mission Action Committee**

Hebrews 13:16 - And do not forget to do good and to share with others,  
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

The Mission Action Committee would like to thank anyone who has donated to the Food Shelf here at Our Savior's. Because of your generosity we have been able to donate back to the community by giving \$2500.00 to the Salvation Army again this year. In March there is a MN Foodshare program where the funds are matched and the Salvation Army participates in that program so we donate to them for their food give aways. Our committee presented Major Cole a check and viewed their new area that is set up like a grocery store for participants to shop for the items they will use. Thanks again for your monetary or food support of our food shelf.

### **Note from the Financial Secretary**

Winter has been rough on everyone, members and friends have been generous and we thank you for all contributions.

However, Our Savior's ended the month of March in the red \$16,393.20. Our congregation is fortunate to have designated funds we can use temporarily and don't need to take out a loan to make ends meet. Hoping Spring will be easier for all!

It's easy to give to Our Savior's by e-giving, download the free Vanco Mobile app from the Google Play store or the Apple App store, the former Vanco app ended April 30. There are many Our Savior's Lutheran Churches in the system so we hope you will select Our Savior's Hibbing.

If you prefer the classic automatic transfer call Cindy at the church office,  
[218-263-7422](tel:218-263-7422).

Contributions can, of course, still be put in the offering plate, mailed or dropped at the office, 501 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Hibbing, MN 55746.

Feel free to check on your giving record by speaking with Cindy.

All gifts are very much appreciated.  
God's Richest Blessings to All!

### Mother's Day Poem

God took the fragrance of a flower...  
The majesty of a tree...  
The gentleness of morning dew...  
The calm of a quiet sea...  
The beauty of the twilight hour...  
The soul of a starry night...  
The laughter of a rippling brook...  
The grace of a bird in flight...  
Then God fashioned from these things  
A creation like no other,  
And when his masterpiece was through  
He called it simply - Mother.

~Herbert Farnham



**Please note:** that the Women's Gather Bible study will be held this Thursday, May 5 at 10am. Extra copies are available. All are welcome!

### Council Meeting Highlights (April 12, 2022)

- The Council met in Room 1.
- Cindy Eggert, Financial Secretary, provided an orientation on the financial reports.
- The General Fund as of February 28, 2022 was at (\$5,969.73). The March 2022 Treasurer's Report was not available at the time of the meeting.
- Beginning with the Maundy Thursday service, we will pass the offering plate and hold communion as we did pre-COVID. There will still be an option to have a self-contained communion kit for those uncomfortable coming up for communion.

- A committee will meet in May to discuss the upcoming OSLC Church Directory.
- The Council continued discussion on additional options on how to receive donations, specifically from the younger generation.
- The Council is working on a brochure highlighting OSLC.
- The next Council meeting is May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## OSLCW

We will be having a long-awaited Pasty Bake on May 12!

Vegetable peeling, prep and crust making will be on Wednesday, May 11. We will begin at 10 and hope to have others join us after Wednesday Bible study. New workers are always welcome.

We will be baking pasties on Thursday, May 12 beginning at 7 a.m. (please note we're giving you an extra hour of sleep!)

Be sure to have your orders placed through the church office 263-7422. We will only be making 400 of our delicious pasties, so get your orders in ASAP.

We are looking for many workers to come and learn. You will be joyfully welcomed and given on-the-job training. It's a wonderful way to meet and work with other members of Our Savior's family. We hope to see you there.

**The Columbarium** at Our Savior's offers perpetually endowed care for the remains of those who choose cremation. It is a place of peace, solitude, and prayer restoring the ancient practice of church burial. Our Columbarium is located in the Pilgrims Chapel entry. Both single and double niches are available. Price of niche includes the niche, urn and engraving. If you would like to learn more about the columbarium, please make an appointment with Cindy in the church office. 218-263-7422.



## **White Elephant Sale Update**

**SUCCESSFULLY HELD!** The OSLC White Elephant sale was held on 4/23/2022 from 9AM to 3PM. Even though we had to jump many hoops, we did it! A big thank-you goes out to all who worked anywhere from 2 hours to 6 full days. **All the hands did show up**, with help coming from the immediate area, Duluth, Twin Cities, Alexandria, Iowa, South Dakota, and all parts between. And all the young people who showed up on Saturday, **WOW!**

Yes, we had some bumps in the road, but we all made it through it and safely again. The final numbers will not be known until all the bills are paid, but preliminary figures indicate a record gross amount was taken in. A follow up WES 2022 meeting will be held shortly. Next year's sale is scheduled for May 1-6, 2023. See you there 😊  
Mike Stavnes WES Committee Lead

### Confirmation News:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade** - If you did not receive your Bible see Cindy in the office.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade** - Plans are being made to enjoy some time with Pastor Kevin and learn about Family Devotions and receive your own devotional.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade** - God's Blessings to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders who completed Communion Instruction and received First Communion on Maundy Thursday:



Ruby Betters  
Carson Davidson  
Manni Glad  
Eli Kangas  
Jace McNamar

Emily Scofield

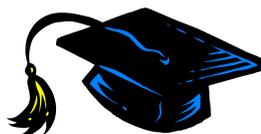
Archer Snow

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade – please let Cindy, 263-7422, know what Sundays you are able to acolyte during June, July and August. Thank You!**

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade** - **May 11<sup>th</sup>** - End of Year Celebration at Carey Lake  
Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hrs. of service, Acolyte
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade** - **May 11<sup>th</sup>** - End of Year Celebration at Carey Lake  
Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hrs. of service, Acolyte
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade** - **May 11<sup>th</sup>** - End of Year Celebration at Carey Lake  
Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hours of service
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade** - Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hours of service, complete any incomplete work, meet with your mentor

### **Congratulations on Your Graduation!**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
would like to recognize and honor you  
and your fellow graduates



Sunday, May 22, 2022  
at 9:00 a.m. during worship service  
&  
during the coffee fellowship following worship  
Please submit a Graduation picture to the office by  
May 18th  
Hope you and your family can attend!

## **A Sevenfold Blessing from Scripture**

May God be gracious to you.  
May God bless you.  
May God make his face shine upon you.  
May you be strengthened with all power according to  
God's glorious might.  
May you be filled with joy.  
May God give you the desire of your heart,  
and make all your plans succeed.  
(Drawn from Psalm 67:1, Colossians 1:11, Psalm 20:4)

**PASTIES are coming!!!!** On May 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> we will be making  
pasties. Order yours before you go fishing!!!  
Please call 263-7422 to order.



***It's great to be alive in God's great northwoods!***

**It's time to register for Camp Vermilion or Camp Hiawatha this summer!**

**OSLC will pay for your camp experience!**

Register online. Go to: **VLMcamps.org**

Click on the green button in the top right-hand corner-it says "REGISTER"  
Scroll down to "Summer Schedule & Fees" Follow the process

In the registration process, when it asks about payment, if it says anything about "transfer code," type **OSLC501**

Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> is the National Day of Prayer. This is taken from "Christ in Our Home" for May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Acts 9:36-43

### **To be called by name**

#### **Peter turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." (v.40)**

There is more to today's reading than the miracle performed by Peter. First, there is the only explicit mention of a woman disciple in the Bible: "Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha" (v.36). Second, there is the way Peter performs the healing of Tabitha: he calls her by name - "Tabitha, get up!" this is not an unusual practice in the New Testament.

At Bethany Jesus stood before Lazarus's tomb and "cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'" (John 11:43). Mary came of Jesus' tomb and saw a man she thought was the gardener. She recognized Jesus only when he called her by name: "Mary!" (John 20:16).

We too have been called by name in baptism: "Morgan Marie Dole, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We are named and valued in a world that sometimes seems indifferent to us. In turn we bestow value on others by calling them by name. It is a gift easily practiced and often appreciated.

**God, give us the patience to value each person we meet today.  
Help us remember and use their names. Amen.**

Have a safe and happy Memorial Weekend.

