



Our Savior's VOICE June 2022

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

Back to New Normal... (But Maybe Even Better?)

By now you have probably become very accustomed to each one of my monthly VOICE articles giving some type of assessment of the COVID pandemic, and where we might be settling in as a congregation, "*living into the reality*" of life in a post COVID world.

The experts continually remind us that we're not out of the woods yet, and an uptick, or surge, of the COVID pandemic could certainly rear its ugly head. But by the grace of God it would appear that our congregational life does appear to be looking "more normal." Signs include...

- For a little over a year now we have been able to have cooperate worship on Sunday morning.
- This past Spring we hosted the 71st White Elephant Sale (after a two year hiatus).
- Once again we are able to gather for funerals, weddings, Confirmation instruction, pasty bakes, and all of the other markings of Christian fellowship that are so important to us.
- We will be undertaking a new Pictorial Directory (see the accompanying article in this June issue of the VOICE).
- Plans are in the works for another run at a Vacation Bible School offering in August (after being waylaid by COVID last summer).
- Last but certainly not least, the financial stewardship of our church remains strong.

Yes, with fingers crossed it would appear that our mission and ministry at Our Savior's is beginning to look a little bit MORE NORMAL. But is "normal" always the best, or perhaps God is calling us into something better with respect to what's up ahead?

Although we have been open for in person congregational worship for over a year, it has been hard to get our in-person worship attendance back to what it was before COVID. It could very well be that the live stream option for worship will indefinitely remain with us as a healthy measure of our congregation's outreach. In what ways can we build stronger bonds of connection and fellowship in this virtual world?

What other things are normal, but open for the possibility of being better? The White Elephant Sale, we are joyful and proud of the fact that we have completed another successful W.E.S.; but if the event is to survive and thrive into the future,

how might it have to change, or should it take a new direction to involve a younger generation?

The creation of a new Pictorial Directory is a sign of getting back to normal, but while we submit our photos to be taken for the directory, might this be an ideal time to actually get to know one another better, and for us all to take deeper responsibility in the life and mission of the church?

Another measurement of normal, we look forward to a Vacation Bible School experience entitled *Wilderness Escape* later on this Summer (Sunday, Aug. 14th through Thursday, Aug. 18th), but might this be the year that we thoroughly and enthusiastically canvas our neighborhood to invite all God's children to participate.

Going beyond what might be considered normal, the Prophet Isaiah encourages us with these words: *"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."* (Isaiah 43:19)

God bless & be well!
Pastor Kevin



Musical Notes

As I write this installment to our newsletter, I am looking forward to our final Handbell presentation. We have such a good time together. I appreciate the dedication and energy each member brings to the 'bell' table. We have been able to work around the varied schedules of our players. I hope that you have enjoyed our playing.

Throughout the year, all the participants in our music ministry here at OSLC have come through. I felt that if the choirs at our church could get back to regular participation that our services would be much more welcoming. I would love to see more growth in both choirs, so I am giving you the summer to think about becoming part of either or both groups.

As we come to our Summer worship, I have concern that we might lose some of the momentum that we have experienced. Attendance has been going up slowly but there are still many who hesitate to come back. We are a community of worshipers and that coming together is at the heart of who we are. I consider the ability to come together and worship as a great privilege. We continue to offer opportunities for those who cannot physically attend services. I also think that more of those in attendance need to join the coffee fellowship after service. That time serves to bring us closer together. I look forward each week to seeing you and worshipping with you!
Have a wonderful summer!

Roy



Pastoral Acts

Wedding May 27th Ruth Harristhal & David Danielson

Memorial Service May 21st Ellen Marie Arthurs

Funeral May 26th Alice Irene Hallowell

Happy Birthday and have a great day!

June

8	Marie Voland
14	Patty Rediske
17	John Tingstad
21	Lois Lind
21	Milo Sulentic
23	Shirlie Osberg
27	Mary Hemmersbaugh



Best wishes to Arvid & Doris Pajunen who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 3rd. *Congratulations!!*

Best wishes to Ernie & Carol Boben who will be celebrating their 61st Wedding Anniversary on June 10th. *Congratulations!!*

Best wishes to Dick & Mary Hemmersbaugh who will be celebrating their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on June 18th. *Congratulations!!*

Best wishes Mike & Shirley Stavnes who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 24th. *Congratulations!!*

Worship in the Park -

This Summer we will be worshipping at Bennett Park, July 17th. First Lutheran, Holy Trinity and Our Savior's will be co-worshipping on these dates at 9 am. Please remember to bring your own lawn chair and umbrella (rain or shine).

Father's Day Prayer-



God, bless all the fathers in the world. Guide them to be good role models and loving to all their children. Help them to be a father like You are. Give them grace and patience to handle situations in a loving way. Amen!

Thank you, Dad for all you do!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL @ OUR SAVIOR'S!
THEME... Wilderness Escape: Where God Guides & Provides

WHEN... Sunday, August 14th through Thursday, August 18th

TIME OF DAY... Evenings, 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE... Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 501 East

23rd St.

WHO... Completed Kindergarten through Fifth Grade

Hosting a Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.) experience at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in mid-August? Yes, we can do this!

Planning is still in the works, and more information will be forth coming in the July and August *VOICE*, but here is the vision as it now stands...

- *Wilderness Escape* VBS will be held Sunday evening (5:00 – 7:30 p.m.), August 14th through Thursday, August 18th.
- The latest in CDC precautions will be put in place (we might be wearing masks inside, while taking them off outside).
- A light meal will be served each night. Lisa Pastika has graciously consented to lend her skills in this regard!
- We are now actively recruiting volunteers for many different tasks: teachers, helpers, staffing for games and crafts, plus the possibility of



building “sets” out of cardboard. Please prayerfully consider participating if asked!

- Registration forms, and other promotional materials, will soon be made available.
- Last, but certainly not least, encourage any child that you might have influence over, Kindergarten through Fifth Grade, to participate in the *Wilderness Escape* VBS!

Council Meeting Highlights (May 10, 2022)

- The Council met in Room 1 on May 10, 2022.
- The General Fund as of March 31, 2022 was at (\$16,393.20); on April 30, 2022 the General Fund was \$16,169.69. Thank you for your generous offerings!
- THANK YOU TO ALL who volunteered at the White Elephant Sale! [A wrap-up meeting has now been scheduled for May 24th at 6 pm, in-person and via Zoom.]
- The OSLC Church Directory committee will have its first meeting on May 11th. Stay tuned for more information!
- Changes to the OSLC Policy Manual were approved by the Council.
- The Council received an update from the Property Committee.
- We are interested in participating in one of the select days for “Age to Age Presents: Hibbing on Howard” this summer.
- The Council reviewed a working draft of a brochure highlighting OSLC.
- The next Council meeting is June 14th.

A Note of Thanks from the Financial Secretary:

Thanks to your generosity we are back in the black.
Things look brighter and we hope things will continue that way.
Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Confirmation News:

- 3rd grade** - If you did not receive your Bible see Cindy in the office.
- 4th grade** - Plans are being made to enjoy some time with Pastor Kevin and learn about Family Devotions and receive your own devotional.
- 5th/6th gr.** -Welcome to the Communion Rail

Please let Cindy know if you are able to acolyte this summer.

- 7th grade** - Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hrs. of service, Acolyte
8th grade - Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hrs. of service, Acolyte
9th grade - Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hours of service
10th grade - Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hours of service, complete any incomplete work, meet with your mentor

Congratulations High School Seniors – Class of 2022!

Michael Joseph Andrican
Ashton Adam Balaski
Shania Lyn Berry
Kimber Ellen Carpenter
Julia Marie Gherardi
Kylee Anne Huusko
Lauren Elizabeth Jackson
Harrison Clyde Law
Hailey Jo Pajunen

Kalynn Jeanne Pierson
Matthew John Sandness
Isabelle Marie Smith
Mia Kennedy Stish
Ethan Jack Trenberth
Alison Elaine Trullinger
Raymond Ronald Warwas
Thomas William Warwas



We are very proud of you and your accomplishments.
Good luck to you in your future endeavors.
May God keep you in the palm of His hand.



Beginning May 29th, Chapel of the Pines at Side Lake is open for Summer worship. The start time of worship is **11:15 a.m.**

2022 Missionary for a Day Calendar has received \$575 to date.

During May gifts were received:

In honor of Jan & Larry Baldwin Family Birthdays and Anniversaries
In honor of Mitch & Sharon Cook Family Birthdays – Wendi P., Jeri H., Annie D.

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!

Mission Action

If anyone knows of a family in need of food and/or children's clothing please let them know our hours of operation for the Food Shelf and Clothes Closet are Wednesday and Friday from 1-2:30 pm.

The Children's Clothes Closet has clothing for children up to age 12.

The food and clothing are free and we can help out those days or the Clothes Closet by appt.

Please call the church office at 263-7422 for an appt. or send people over on Wednesday and Friday.

OSLCW

The Women of OSLC will continue to meet throughout the Summer months to discuss and learn from the Bible study in Gather magazine. Our first study will be on Thursday, June 16th at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.

Did you celebrate World Laughter Day on May 1st? I'm sure you found something amusing to cause a chuckle or maybe only a smile on that day. When we meet to study and share, we often find ourselves laughing, many times AT ourselves. This Summer's study calls us to a "Summer of rest and renewal" and we will see the quilting process as our guide. It promises to be interesting in exploring the themes of community and patterns in our lives.

The May/June issue of Gather is filled with thoughtful articles. One I found most helpful was looking at how we welcome visitors and new members to our church family. We are reminded that smiles, welcoming gestures, assuring strangers are invited to coffee fellowship and introducing them to others are signs that we are representing Christ in the World. Keep your eyes open for opportunities to share your faith and welcome guests.

There will be copies of the Bible study available (Thank you, Nancy) and you are invited and encouraged to come on Thursday, June 16th at 10am. Questions? Call me at 218 262-3644.

Also on the horizon in June, we have been asked to serve the Organs in Review luncheon on Tuesday, June 29. All hands on deck!
See you soon, SueStan

PRAYER FOR SUMMERTIME

Loving God, Creator of all times and places, we thank you for the gift of summertime, the days of light, warmth and leisure.

Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere we look: the multi-colored flowers, the deep blue of the sky, the tranquil surface of lakes, the laughter of children at play, people strolling in parks, families gathered around picnic tables and the more time to spend with family and friends.

As we open our eyes and ears to the landscape of nature and people, open our hearts to receive all as gift. Give us that insight to see you as the Divine Artist. Help us to realize and appreciate that you are laboring to keep all in existence. Warm our souls with the awareness of your presence.

Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer deepen our awareness of your love so that we may share this with others and enjoy a summertime of re-creation. AMEN.

Pictorial Directory News



Six years have already gone by since the last church directory. We have been tasked to create one before the end of 2022. So here are some details, and what to look for soon in your email, social media, the bulletins, and here in the VOICE.

We would like to have a photo for each family household. Like years past we will have a list of dates and times. Signing up for a time slot will be available online, in person or over the phone. Different from the most recent directory we will be doing the photos at our studio, Flom Designs and Photography, which is located in downtown Hibbing, across the street from Goodwill. The address is 316 E Howard Street. Submission of a photo is also an option. Also, if you need a photographer to come to you – please don't hesitate to call 218-208-9565. In the coming weeks we will also have forms for a sign up after Sunday services.

Similar to the last directory we will be giving each family a free 8X10. The church will be purchasing directories for each participating family. We also will have a way for families to purchase the directory to help with the cost. You will also be able to purchase more photos.

Over the next four months, we will have times set aside for people to sign up in:

June July August September

Also, the church will gather some “time and talents” info. Please take some time to see how you can help our church.

The sooner you sign up, the sooner we can put the directory together.

Sign up before we have to call you and twist your arm.

For more information or to sign up for a time slot, go to this link:

<https://flomdesigns.com/oslc>. Call this number – 218-208-9565 to sign up for a time also.

Thank you, Emily and John Law and the OSLC Pictorial Directory Group

Here are the current dates and times we set aside. We would block out 2 families every half hour. Also, we will work for people that need special accommodations, weekend or weekday considerations. We would ask that the contact information for that person be given to us so we can reach out to them personally. We left time open at the end of September so we can do a final push too.

June 27th 10:00-3:00pm	August 23rd 10:00-3:00pm	September 14th 3:00-7:00pm
June 28th 10:00-4:30pm	August 24th 3:00-7:00pm	September 15th 3:00-7:00pm
June 29th 2:00-7:00pm	August 25th 3:00-7:00pm	September 19th 3:00-7:00pm
June 30th 2:00-7:00pm	August 28th 12:00-4:00pm	September
20th 3:00-7:00pm		

September 21st 10:00-2:00pm

July 25th 10:00-3:00pm
July 26th 2:00-6:00pm
July 27th 10:00-4:00pm
July 28th 3:00-7:00pm

Here is how the sign up for time will look <https://forms.gle/W5gvpMSozYDGLATo6>

Taken from "Christ in Our Home"

1 Corinthians 2:1-11

The mystery of God

But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden. (v. 7)

Some things defy reason.

We hang hummingbird feeders in our yard. We are delighted whenever one or more of the tiny birds come to enjoy the sugar-laced nectar. A radio program reported recently that hummingbirds along the West Coast Winter in Mexico and Summer between California and Alaska. The report said certain hummingbirds have been known to fly hundreds of miles in a migration, arriving at the same exact locations year after year. How do they know where to go? That is one of the great mysteries pondered by bird-watchers, though there are a few theories.

Paul reminds us that the cross also defies reason. Who would have thought God would choose the crucifixion event to reveal God's glory? It makes no sense from our perspective. But what defies reason even more is that God would love us so much as to "migrate" from the far reaches of heaven to make a home among us.

Some things defy reason and can only be received by faith.

**Loving God, thank you for defying reason to claim us and save us.
In Jesus's name. Amen.**



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