



Our Savior's VOICE October 2022

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

One Can Cannot Go Back...

At a recent NE Minnesota Synod Rostered Leaders Conference I attended, the speaker, the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Stewart, a Pastor and Professor, spoke on the topic of: "*Re-membling the Body: Healing after COVID's Crisis Phase.*"

A timely topic indeed – healing after COVID – a topic that could be the subject of most any a pastor's monthly newsletter since COVID first blocked our church pews in March of 2020. The summary statement of Dr. Stewart's excellent, scholarly lectures read as follows: *As we rise again as church after the initial phase of COVID, how can the theological motif of healing help orient us to this moment and to the challenges of the future?*

As is often the case for me when I listen to such a presentation, there are so many wonderful words to drink in from the *deep-well-of-wisdom* that I feel like I am drinking water from a firehose! But for me, the summary take-a-way with respect to "healing" after COVID is that *one cannot go back*.

As we come to worship each Sunday morning, we, like those women who first came to the empty tomb, experience the sunrise of a new day, and *one cannot go back*. Every Sunday that we gather for worship we sing and rehearse the salvation story that God is continually moving us forward, resurrecting that which has died, and ushering us forth to something new, and *one cannot go back*.

When Adam & Eve were cast from the Garden of Eden, *they could not go back*. After the Flood, when Noah and the rest of the created order disembarked from the ark, *they could not go back*. When God called Moses to tell Pharaoh: *Let my people go!* And lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt, through the wilderness, into the freedom of the Promised Land, *they could not go back*.

And on, and on, the salvation ("healing") narrative goes. The Children of Israel were carted off into exile by Babylon's Nebuchadnezzar, and the glory which was once David's Kingdom was destroyed, *they could not go back*. And when the Persian King, Cyrus the Great, liberated the Children of Israel so that a remnant could return, it was assumed that the glory of David's Kingdom would return with them, *but they could not go back*. And when the Prophets, who pointed to the coming of the Christ who would die on a cross and rise three days hence, would redeem not just Israel but the whole world, *they could not go back*.

My point, and I do have one, is this: as we navigate life in a COVID/Post COVID world our cry is one of wanting to resume some type of normal, or a "new normal" (whatever that might be?), as if we can revisit what life was like before COVID and somehow return to that. And I too have been tempted to propagate such a paradigm in my preaching and writing to you folks. But it just ain't so. There are many adjectives to define the working of God's Holy Spirit, but "normal" is not one of them. *We cannot go back.* We can celebrate the past, we can learn from the past, we can grieve the past, we can reconcile injuries from the past, we can reconstruct bits and pieces of structures from the past, but we cannot go back to the past.

As we sit and drink coffee in the Fellowship Hall after church we can reminisce on the days when the education wing at Our Savior's was packed with children for Sunday School, and the Sunday School Superintendent came by to collect the attendance sheets and the Sunday School offering. Those are wonderful memories, but we cannot go back. **BUT WHAT WE CAN DO** is get a half dozen motivated mothers to covenant together to take turns on Sunday mornings collectively gathering their children, ages 2 through 8, teaching simple Bible lessons through songs, crafts, stories, and moving large muscle groups. Maybe it's not so much Sunday School as it is "play dates with Jesus?" Or how about, *"Adventures with Jesus."*

As we look at the hundred-year plus history of Our Savior's we are impressed with the pictures displaying large Confirmation classes with two pastors - and at one time, a youth director - flanking the sides of each picture. Dozens of kids sat quietly in their desks as parents *made their children go*, and Pastors delivered structured instruction, and the entire community coalesced around the sanctity of Wednesday night as "Church Night."

Those are wonderful memories, but we cannot go back. **BUT WHAT WE CAN DO** is truly listen to our youth, understand the pressures they are under, structure our Confirmation instruction to address each challenge they face, begin conversations on life and faith premised on where they live, and understand that what is going to motivate our youth to attend Confirmation might not necessarily be their parents, but their peer group, and the love they can find in a Savior that truly cares.

I could go on. But as the Holy Spirit continues to guide and sustain us awaiting that final day of Christ's return, let us cling to these promises from Isaiah and the Book of Revelation...

"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 and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:5

God bless and be well! Pastor Kevin



Musical Notes

We have had some wonderful worship and service experiences already this year. I hope that you haven't missed out. "God's Work, Our Hands" is such a wonderful way in which to start our Fall! It is important that this becomes more than just a 'one Sunday' experience. Let us all think about ways we might help to enrich our community.

The choir has sung for two services in September. We usually have about four Sundays worth of music in our folders that we are working on. I am so very appreciative of the singers that we have and how hard they work to prepare our music. Your dedication is so very impressive. I must state that we have gotten off to a rocky start having lost six of our singers from last year. No, there has not been a mutiny, they all have either moved or have a conflict that makes it impossible for them to be available. We need more singers, period!!! When we are all there and in good health, yes, we get by. But what it means is that if one or two more are absent, then we will be in trouble. We have not been hit this hard before, so my work is cut out for me. God must have a plan just around the corner. No, not to end on a sour note, in Handbells we have added a couple of players so I will start working on music covering three octaves. There is quite a bit of music in our file that I haven't used for quite a while, so that is great news.

I must congratulate those involved in the 'restart' of our Sunday School. It was wonderful to have all this activity at and after the service. This is no small feat! Please encourage these young families as they continue to move forward. It will probably take time to get things all up and running. We don't have to settle for just getting back to where we were but let's exceed that mark. Let us all chip in where needed and step up to help in Ushering, serving Communion, serving as Lectors, or maybe helping with Sunday School. Pastor Kevin can certainly tell you who to get in touch with. We can really surprise ourselves with a little effort.

Roy

Council Meeting Highlights (September 13, 2022)

- The Council met in Room 1.
- The General Fund as of August 31, 2022 was \$11,758.16. Thank you for your generous givings.
- Be on the watch this month for the updated OSLC brochure.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in God's Work, Our Hands on Sunday, September 11th. Projects included assembling packets for Project Care Free Clinic, building access ramps with Access North – Center for Independent Living, and organizing/preparing the "Adventures with Jesus" classroom wing.
- The next Council meeting is October 11.



Pastoral Acts

Wedding September 24 Dan Watson & Christina Liesmaki

Happy Birthday!!!

October	1	Carlin Hahn
	6	Tom Sampson
	13	Doris LaFreniere
	16	Arlene Pascuzzi
	21	Shirley Glad
	28	Jerome Seppala



Happy Anniversary!!!



Best wishes to Joe & Peggy Arthurs who will be celebrating their 45th Wedding Anniversary on October 1st. *Happy Anniversary!!!*

Best wishes to Jerry & Judy Koschak who will be celebrating their 45th Wedding Anniversary on October 22nd. *Happy Anniversary!!!*

2022 Missionary for a Day Calendar has received \$1,115 to date.

During September were received:

- In celebration of Jim Christian's birthday
- In honor of Sharon & Mitch Cook's grandchildren, Violet and Brendan, on their birthdays
- From Carlin & Arlis Hahn in memory of Arlis' brother Lanny Moyer
- In memory of Helen Sulentic

Your support is needed, contributions are running behind previous years. 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!

Confirmation News:

3rd grade - You will receive your Bible this Fall

4th grade - If you did not receive your Bible see Cindy in the office.

Help Wanted: families willing to straighten and supply the pew racks

5th grade - During Lent 2023 you will receive 1st Communion Instruction

6th gr. - Welcome to the Communion Rail

Please let Cindy know when you are able to acolyte.

7th grade - Classes: Wednesday, **Oct. 5, 12, 26**, Nov. 2 Room #5

Taught by Pam Rundell and Sandi Olson

Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hrs. of service, Acolyte

8th grade - Classes: Wednesday, **Oct. 5, 12, 26**, Nov. 2 Fellowship Hall

Taught by Pastor Kevin

Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hrs. of service, Acolyte

9th grade - Classes: Wednesday, Nov. 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21

Taught by Pastor Kevin in the Fellowship Hall

Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hours of service

10th grade - Classes: Wednesday, Nov. 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21

Taught by Pastor Kevin in the Fellowship Hall

Participation: 10 sermon notes, 10 hours of service

7th-10th gr.- NE MN Synod All Youth Gathering

at Cragun's November 18-19, 2022

11th grade - **Rite of Confirmation is Sunday, Oct. 30th
at a special 11:00 a.m. Service**

Rehearsal is Wednesday, Oct. 26th at 5:30 p.m.

Watch your mail, e-mail and messages regarding one additional meeting.



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Would you like our congregation to pray for any issues, problems, or health concerns you have? We believe in the power of prayer and know that our petitions are heard and answered. Please call the church office at 218-263-7422 and we will pass your request on to the Prayer Chain.

Teller schedule:

Oct 2 - Team 2
Oct 9 - Team 3
Oct 16 - Team 4
Oct 23 - Team 5
Oct 30 - Tema 6

Usher schedule:

Oct 2 - Team 3
Oct 9 - Team 4
Oct 16 - Team 5
Oct 23 - Team 6
Oct 30 - Team 7

***Rite of Confirmation for Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Sunday, October 30th, at 11 a.m.***

Eight of our youth from Our Savior's are scheduled to make their Affirmation of Baptism through the Rite of Confirmation Service scheduled for **Sunday, October 30th** (Reformation Day) at **11 a.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.**

11th Grade Confirmands about to get Confirmed, please note two meetings in October leading up to Confirmation:

- 1) **A mini retreat meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 16th from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at Our Savior's.** In addition to some fun and fellowship, the purpose of this retreat is to "*tie everything together*" with respect to your Christian faith (up to this point!), and to write a faith statement as to "*What my Christian Faith Means to Me*".
- 2) **Rehearsal for the Rite of Confirmation Service** scheduled for **Wednesday, October 26th at 5:30 p.m.** The Confirmation Robes will be available at this time for picture taking as well.

We as a Christian community have nurtured the following sons and daughters of our congregation, and soon we welcome these young disciples who will be affirming their baptismal faith:

*Desiree Dilorio
Ethan Eskeli
Samuel Gabardi
Luke Pocquette*

*Nicholas A Ruzich
Kate Toewe
Maggie Trenberth
Owen Trullinger*

The Women of OSLC



The Women of Our Savior's will meet again on Thursday, October 13th at 10am in the Fellowship Hall to continue our study "Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith.

This month we will consider Soil—dirt, mud, sand, terra firma, farmland, topsoil, compost, etc.

You do not have to be an expert on the Bible or on soil science to join our study. The author of this study wants us to feel more connected...to God and to one another, looking at how God works in our world, and hoping to inspire us to improve our care for the Earth.

There's a lot to talk about, and we welcome anyone who wants to join. Our meetings are very informal and we'll be so happy to have you with us.

We will probably also be talking about a BAZAAR. We would love to hear what you think about this annual event and what you might be able to do to help.

We'll be looking for you on Thursday, October 13th at 10am. Don't forget!

Sue Stanisich

The **Columbarium** at Our Savior's offers perpetually endowed care for the remains of those members and their family who choose cremation. It is a place of peace, solitude, and prayer restoring the ancient practice of church burial. If you would like to learn more about the columbarium, please make an appointment with Cindy in the church office by calling 218-263-7422.

Note to Niche Owners: The entry door to the Columbarium area has a new lock. This keyless entry system will allow you to visit anytime you wish. Please call Cindy, 218-263-7422, to set up your personal key code. If you previously purchased a key for the door it will continue to work, but if you turn in your key you will be refunded the purchase price.



White Elephant Sale Update

Mark your 2023 Calendars **May 6 from 9AM-3PM.**
Setup will be 5/1thru 5/5.

Below is a list of Items **"Not Accepted"** for the sale:

Air Conditioners	Bookcases made of particle board
Carpeting	Computers/ Printers/ Monitors
Drapery Rods and Mini Blinds	Electronics
Exercise Equipment/Stair Steppers/ Stationary Bikes/ Treadmills	
Freezers	Hide-a-beds/Sofa Sleepers
Infant Car Seats (if over 5 years old)	Ironing Boards
Mattresses/ Box Springs	Microwaves
Paint/ Thinners/ Insecticides	Pianos/ Organs
Pillows (bed type)	Shoes/ Boots/ Purses

One new change will be we will no longer accept purses, shoes, sandals, and boots. If you have any of these items, please put them in the Green DAV drop-off containers in Memorial Building parking lot.

The WES Steering Committee, is in need of volunteers and leadership. Please step up and help if you can.

Mike Stavnes, WES Committee Lead

Indigenous Peoples Sunday, Sunday October 9th
Welcome Charles "Chaz" Wagner!

On Indigenous Peoples Sunday in the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, we honor the unique and beautiful contributions of our Native American brothers and sisters by lifting up the American Indian/Alaska Native ministries of the ELCA. Beseeking the blessings of the Triune God, this service celebrates the present-day accompaniment the ELCA has in doing ministry alongside Indigenous People, as well as understanding the trauma and pain Indigenous Peoples have suffered historically through European Colonialism with the goal of searching for further paths of repentance, healing, and understanding. As a Guest Speaker for this service we are pleased to welcome, *Charles "Chaz" Wagner* to come speak to us. Chaz is a member of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe from Nett Lake, Minnesota. He is also employed in the Hibbing/Chisholm Public School system as an Indigenous Educator, and he has great gifts musically performing with his award nominated rock band *War Bonnet*, also performing in the spiritual expression of the Native Pow Wow as a singer and dancer. We will be informed and blessed to host Chaz on this dedicated Sunday!

The text "Thank You" is written in a highly decorative, flowing cursive script. The letters are interconnected, with long, elegant flourishes extending from the top and bottom of the words. The overall style is reminiscent of calligraphy or a formal, artistic font.

I am blown away and humbled by the mysterious and undeserved honor. The radio broadcast is very important.
In Christian love, I thank you, Sylvia Penn

Mission Action

They came, they helped and packed almost 60 complete school kits for Lutheran World Relief on Sunday September 11th. Thank you to all who unwrapped items, bundled pencil and pens and set up kits for completing 10 bags at a time. To those who packed the notebooks into bags and all the other bag items. Someone asked why we did it in groups of ten and a response from a worker was that is how many fingers we have to help keep track of number of items needed for a group of bags! An idea of how many pens and pencils and notebooks in 60 bags is 300 each pens and pencils and 240 notebooks! We are in need of about 40-50 children's blunt scissors and 20 pencil sharpeners to finish the rest of the partially packed bags. Please no cheapie sharpeners as they just don't work.

Quilting is now Mondays from 9-12N with a coffee break and goodies. We will soon send quilts to Salvation Army as people are getting cold now and not just at Christmas. The new batting we ordered from Oklee Quilting is wonderful and has no holes or lumps like the other has had in the past. This company has a reasonable 60" wide batting specially designed for LWR quilting and each 60-yard roll gives us about 22 fillers and costs about \$125.00 including shipping.

Remember, the thread is the love that sews the seams and the ties bind us all together.

We serve thru our love for Christ and others,
Sue Schock