

The Messenger – May 2024



The Afternoon Quilters will meet at 1 pm on Thursday, May 9th.

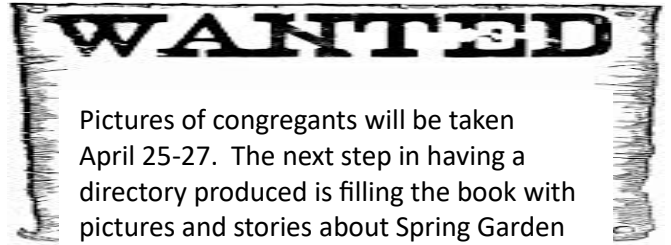
The Baby Quilt Ministry will meet at 7 pm on Monday, May 20th.



Book Chatter

The next meeting is Thursday, May 16, at 7:00 pm, at the home of Jody Sjoblom.

They will be discussing Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.



Pictures of congregants will be taken April 25-27. The next step in having a directory produced is filling the book with pictures and stories about Spring Garden and its members. Heidi Anderson is leading up the project. She would love some help from those who love to scrapbook, organize photos, and those who are creative writers. Youth are encouraged to volunteer, especially for pages highlighting all they do within our Church. Please let Heidi know if you would like to be involved in this project.

Our Midsommar Celebration is Coming Soon!

Midsommar is just around the corner.

This year's Midsommar celebration will be held Sunday, June 23rd.

More information to come soon.



Faith Formation

Last Day of Sunday School, Senior Recognition and Scholarships, VBS

We can hardly believe that we are at the end of another Sunday school year! **Our last day of Sunday School is May 5th.** We will be doing a fun, hopefully outdoor, activity. Ice cream sundaes will be served as well!

Thank you to the parents who helped their children attend each Sunday. And thank you to the parents who helped teach. It is greatly appreciated! Lastly, thank you to Ruthie for leading Youth Choir!

It has been a great year with great kids! Happy summer!

P.S. - Save the dates **June 11th, 12th, and 13th for Vacation Bible School!**



We will be recognizing our High School Seniors and awarding scholarships on Sunday, May 19th.



Congratulations to our Seniors who are graduating from High School!

Dylan Anderson
Emma LeVesque
Kendahl Zimmerman

Congratulations to the High School Scholarship recipients!

Dylan Anderson
Emma LeVesque
Kendahl Zimmerman

Congratulations to the Spring Garden Medical Scholarship recipients!

Emma LeVesque Makenna Collins

From the Pastor...

Easter season, as glorious and joyful the celebration of our Lord's resurrection, is a season of transition and tremendous challenges. Soon, on Ascension Day (May 9 this year), the disciples realized that the resurrected Jesus was not going to be physically with them forever. Turns out that after 40 days of making appearances among his disciples, Jesus returned home, leaving behind a bunch of rag-tag disciples barely able to stand on their own feet.

Taking leave, sending off a loved one, saying goodbye is hard. But it is an unavoidable reality of life and more than that, it seems to be necessary for a person's growth and maturing. We send our children off on their first day of school and before we know it they are heading out on their own to college, another step of growth toward independence and maturity. We may be sad but we are filled with joy and are proud of them.

As we journey from one stage of life to another--from birth to infancy, to adolescence, to adulthood, to mature adulthood, to the ultimate homecoming--the common link between each of the stages seems to be a difficult transition. Change is hard. Each of these times of change challenges us to grow in our faith. It takes a tremendous amount of faith and trust to be able to send her/him off on that first day of kindergarten. Then all too soon we find ourselves in faith, trusting in God's care, as that same little girl/boy, now a young woman/man, drives down the road to that first day of college. It also takes faith on the part of the child to step out and leave the known for the unknown of the future.

Following Easter, Jesus prepared his disciples for that next step of spiritual growth. By the time Ascension Day rolled around Jesus knew that the disciples would carry on the proclamation of the kingdom for they would soon receive the promised Holy Spirit. What was the next calling of their life of mission? Part of it consisted of trusting in God for guidance. The other would be reliance on each other's strength, support, and faith. We see this proclaimed often by Jesus as he spends his last days on earth. He instructs them to trust and love God, to love one another, to rely on each other, to help, encourage, and empower each other. That's how disciples live out their faith.

Whatever changes, transitions, crises, or conflicts we may face, let us remember that they are necessary toward achieving the next story of our faith walk with Christ. Let us focus on the opportunities for growth that lie ahead of us. Let us trust in God's love and guidance. Let us also remember that the fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ is a place of love and a source of encouragement and strength to help us make it through any challenge and transition we may face. May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts and lead us to the way of love and unity. There are great challenges and missions that God has in store for us in the days, months, and years to come. Let us go out together in Christ's Service!

A Fellow Disciple of Christ,
Pastor Tim

Faith is
a living, daring confidence
in God's grace
so certain that you could
stake your life on it
one thousand times.

— Martin Luther



LIFT UP THE WORD, LIGHT UP THE WORLD 2 SAMUEL 22:29-31

Please mark your calendars for this community prayer event!

What: 25th Annual Prayer for the Cannon Valley in observance of the National Day of Prayer

When: Thursday Evening, May 2, 2024, 6:30 pm

Where: St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church Sanctuary

Who: All are welcome to join us as we pray for our nation and our community!

Light refreshments will follow the service.

The service will be available to stream on YouTube if you are unable to attend.
www.youtube.com/@stansgarslutheranchurch/streams



"Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not count the cost." ~ Ignatius of Loyola

Financial facts for March 2024:

Checkbook balance as of 3/31/24 --
\$45,950.16 (previous \$47,351.08)

Vanco Mobile

To set up giving on your tablet or cell:

- ✓ Go to your device's app store. Search for **Vanco Mobile**.
- ✓ See **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** app, click on **Get**
- ✓ **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** click on **Install**, then **Open**.
- ✓ Under *Find your Church*, enter **Spring Garden Lutheran Church**.
- ✓ Click on **Sign Up**.
- ✓ Enter your name, email and create a password.
- ✓ You'll be emailed a confirmation code.
- ✓ Enter code as given.

- ✓ You're now set up to give. Just click **Give**.
- ✓ You can now delete the **GivePlus^t** app from your device.

Text-to-give is not changing. It is still available and very simple:

- ✓ On your cell, text **gift to church** or **\$XX** to our 10-digit code: **507-216-9276**
- ✓ It will send you a secured link (**https://**) to click on to complete your donation via a credit or debit card.
- ✓ It's that easy.



Spring is when we experience new growth. Do you need to grow your relationship with God? Check out the coffee-hour at 8:45am Sundays.

Scott Hanson, Board Representative

Property Board Update

Springtime at Spring Garden. It is my favorite time of year but it is a busy time. Lots of new life in many ways, grass, flowers, planting crops, baby calves and lambs. It is also a time for "spring cleaning" to get rid of the winter grunge. We have had several spring projects completed. The biggest project was repainting the new addition and entire basement. Did a lot of prep work fixing holes in walls ahead of painters coming in. I also had a lot of help from many moving furniture in and out of rooms as painters moved through.

Another large project completed was outside cleanup. The entire confirmation class helped one Wednesday night. We picked all the sticks up in the cemetery, I trimmed low hanging branches on the trees and they helped pick those up too. Cabin was cleaned out, snow equipment has been put away, shelter swept out, and water pails placed in the cemetery. They had a good time helping out and I really appreciated the extra help.

I have been replacing fluorescent bulbs with non-ballast LED lights as the ballasts go bad and soon, we will be testing some new lights in the sanctuary to hopefully make it brighter and easier to read.

The last major project which should be done by the time you read this (maybe) is the new flagpole will be placed. The footing has been poured but we will need a calm day with extra help to set the pole itself.

On a final note, this is the last month of my term on council as property rep. Six years never went by so quickly. Despite many challenges during my term, I have always enjoyed serving the congregation as a council member. I will continue to serve on the property committee to help the new council member, Steve Haggstrom, get into the swing of things. Please continue to let me or Steve know if anything needs attention.

Thank you for allowing me to serve on your council.

Randy Benson



Spring Garden Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes April 14, 2024

In Attendance: Bjorn Olson, Becky Haugen, Stan Lundell, Heidi Anderson, Ruthie Sjoblom, Scott Hanson, Christy Collins, Randy Benson, Pastor Tim, and Treasurer–Rob Lorentz

Call to Order: President Bjorn called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. in the church social hall. Opening devotions were given by Pastor Tim.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Scott, seconded by Becky and carried to approve the minutes, as corrected, of the March 10th council meeting.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports: Pam's report showed a total of \$42,682.71 in pledges year-to-date. Rob's report showed that the checkbook balance on March 31st was \$45,950.16. A motion was made by Scott, seconded by Randy and carried to approve the financial reports.

Pastor Tim's Report:

Worship: what a wonderful holy week we had. Starting Palm Sunday and ending on Easter Sunday, I think all five services were great. Thank you to the choir, the bells, all the readers, and everyone who gave up their time and talent to help make Holy Week such a spiritual time. I believe the spirit was truly moving amongst us.

Sunday school, Confirmation, & Youth: We had the fifth-grade 1st communion class and Seder meal I think was a great success. The students learned about the love of God and communion and learned how to make communion bread. I'm writing this on Wednesday so this evening the fifth graders will be attending their first confirmation class to learn what it's all about. We also had a wonderful training for the sixth graders so they can give up their time and talent in worship.

Adult Education: We continue our journey through the gospel of Luke and the book of acts through the summer. We are taking our time through this book so we can truly discuss what we're reading and what we think about as we're reading it. I believe a lot of learning is taking place in the spirit is active in our discussions. I hope others will come join us.

Sunday Dialogue: as I mentioned last month, starting April 28th at 11:00 we will have a time on Sunday morning to have conversation about the readings and the sermon. This will give members an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about what they heard that morning. I'm planning on this taking place at the front of the sanctuary. This will be a time for us to discuss what was said and heard, to discuss questions we have, and to be in dialogue with one another.

Pastoral Calls: In March, I made 8 pastoral calls.

Reminder Pastor 2024 Vacation Dates: May 21 – 30, July 9-16, August 7-13, September 10-17, December 26-December 31 (Back to the office January 3)

Action Items:

- 1) ***Set Date for Next Council Meeting & Set Date for Installation of New Council:*** May 19th was set for both events.
- 2) ***Gratitude Meal Planning and April 21st Congregational Election Meeting:*** Planning was done to prepare for the Gratitude Meal that will be served by the Stewardship Board and the council just preceding the congregational election meeting. The election nominees are:
Vice President – Paul Olson
Secretary – Jay Olson
Properties Board – Steve Haggstrom
Stewardship Board – Lynnette Sjoquist
1 Mission Endowment Committee Member – Jessica Gird
1 Nominating Committee Member – Sandy Hanson
- 3) ***MS Ride Across Minnesota Cycling Event Request for a Rest Stop Location on Tuesday, July 23rd:*** We are willing to be a rest stop for the morning of that event. They will be setting up tents and portable restrooms in the parking lot. They will also have permission to use our shelter, and they will be able to go inside if there is an emergency need. We will provide volunteers on site to coordinate any of their possible needs. More information will follow as the planning progresses.
- 4) ***Midsommar Planning:*** Heidi has already reserved the caterer, tables, and chairs for Midsommar event on June 23rd. Planning will continue. Vasa has expressed interest in reversing the tractor parade route next year as part of their 170th anniversary celebration.
- 5) ***Set Cleaning Date:*** June 2nd was set as the date for church cleaning.
- 6) ***Designation of Council Lenten Meal Funds:*** A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Scott and carried to use the approximately \$140.00 of funds collected from the Lenten meal hosted by the council to purchase new kitchen equipment as needed.

Continued on next page...

April 14, 2024 Council Minutes continued...

- 7) **Access to Ring Cameras Notifications:** Pastor Tim has access to notifications from the Ring Cameras. He was looking for volunteers that live closer to the church to also receive those notifications. Randy and Stan volunteered. Pastor Tim will ask one more suggested potential volunteer if he would also be willing to receive notifications from the Ring Cameras.

Board and Committee Reports

Worship & Music–Ruthie Sjoblom: The scheduled volunteer training session was postponed. It will be rescheduled this fall.

The Worship & Music Board met to complete the lay schedule through August 4th.

Outdoor summer worship services will begin in June and will be held on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th (June) Sundays.

The Worship & Music Board will be meeting on Sunday, May 5th.

Faith Formation–Maggie Wilson: The Seder meal was held on April 6th. 4 children attended with a total of 19 children and guests. Thank you to the Faith Formation board members who helped. The 5th graders are invited to attend confirmation for the remainder of the year.

The youth choir sang on April 14th for the last time this year. Thank you to Ruthie for leading this group!

The last day of Sunday School will be May 5th. Last day of confirmation will be May 15th.

Senior recognition Sunday will be May 19th.

Parish Life & Outreach–Heidi Anderson: Our committee has been busy signing people up for the new church directory. We are currently at 94 of the available 99 appointments. Pictures will be taken April 25-27th. I will be enlisting the help of the confirmation students to move tables for the photographers on Wednesday, April 24th.

We hosted the Lenten meal on Wednesday, March 13th with the Church Council.

I have reserved the caterer, tables, and chairs for Midsommar.

Church Property–Randy Benson: Prep for the basement painting project was done, items/pictures removed from walls, drywall repairs made. The basement painting project was completed by Mike Wojahn. Thank you to everyone that helped move furniture around as rooms were being painted.

Randy replaced/converted bulbs in basement hall, secretary's office and archives room. All were converted to no-ballast LED bulbs. The archives room received adjustable bulbs.

Two water leaks were discovered on the boiler. There were two corroded sensors. Better Air from Northfield replaced the sensors. Charlie Lundell reprogrammed the heat pump system to operate at a lower temperature to provide some heat during the down time.

A couple of wiring projects were done, one for the basement TVs to hide wiring, and the second one involved moving the bell tower light switch to a more convenient location.

Randy set up extra sound microphones for Holy week/Easter services to capture bell choir and special musician sound.

Randy helped direct confirmation class outside cleanup project. They picked up sticks, dead plants, raked leaves, put snow equipment away, cleaned out cabin, and put out cemetery water pails. They were great help!

The flagpole base was set by Cannon Valley Concrete. We will need help to place the pole in the next week or so.

Stewardship–Scott Hanson: They met to discuss plans for the “Gratitude Meal” preceding the congregational meeting on April 21st.

Missions Board–Christy Collins: Nothing new to report.

Executive Committee: Nothing new to report.

Archives Committee: They met on January 20th to place in storage notebooks of various contents to be studied for either keeping or destroying at a future time. These containers have been placed in the “broom closet” next to the current library located in the coat room. The Archives Room now has a display of Sunday School, Youth programs, and Confirmation materials used in past years. They are still requesting entries for the “Precious Memories” book that they plan on creating.

Mission Endowment Fund Committee: Nothing new to report.

Church calendar Review: May 5th – Last day of Sunday School; May 15th – Last day of Confirmation; May 19th – Council Installation, Recognition of Graduates, Presentation of Scholarships, Council Meeting @ 11:00 a.m.; June 2nd – Church Cleaning Day; July 23rd – Rest Stop for MS Ride Cycling Event

Announcements:

- Next council meeting: May 19 @ 11:00 a.m.
- Closing prayer next month: Becky
- Pam's Helper: April – Christy; May – Becky; June – Ruthie

Adjournment: The closing prayer was given by Christy. A motion was made by Scott, seconded by Becky and carried to adjourn at 12:02 p.m.

Stan Lundell, Secretary

Subject to Approval

The Messenger
Spring Garden Lutheran Church
May 2024



"Building a Rural Family in Christ"

Church Council Members & Staff

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Vice-President	Becky Haugen	507-421-2964
Secretary	Stan Lundell	651-764-1623
Treasurer	Rob Lorentz	507-263-2384
Financial Secretary	Pam Davis	507-263-5657
Worship & Music	Ruthie Sjoblom	651-428-6171
Faith Formation	Maggie Wilson	651-380-4913
Parish Life & Outreach	Heidi Anderson	507-298-5691
Church Property	Randy Benson	507-649-2503
Stewardship	Scott Hanson	612-221-6933
Missions Board	Christy Collins	507-202-5993
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