

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN
First English Church, Eldred, MN

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Steven Bohler, Pastor

From the Pastor-April 2024

*Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a Victim For the world's salvation bled —
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.*

*Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient powers of evil In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried; Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.*

*Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia To the Triune Majesty!
(LSB #477)*

Easter has some of the greatest, most uplifting, and best-loved hymns. The hymn above (sung to the familiar and joyful tune "Hymn to Joy" by Beethoven, and added to our most recent synodical hymnal) is but one example. Really, the only other season of the Church Year which can hold a candle to Easter for such wondrous music is Christmas. However, unlike Christmas, Easter music has not been taken over by secularism. Oh, sure, there's the occasional "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" or "In Your Easter Bonnet" popping up during Easter, but it is nowhere like Christmas — which has almost been over-run with "Jingle Bells" and "Frosty the Snowman" and "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" and such.

No, Easter remains pretty much the purview of Christianity when it comes to music. And for THAT I am most grateful. Because it keeps the focus where it needs to be: on Christ crucified AND risen. For us and our salvation. Because it is only through that sacrifice that we have the hope and confidence of forgiveness and our own resurrection on the Last Day. So, this year during the Easter season (which lasts until May 19, when we celebrate Pentecost) our sermons will focus on one Easter hymn from our hymnal each week. Please join us in worship this month — to sing these great pieces of music, but even more to praise our risen Lord Jesus!

Pastor Bohler

Baptisms:
New Members:
Funerals:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Confirmation Students: 8th graders that have completed confirmation classes with Pastor will be confirmed during the late service on Sunday, April 21st. Confirmands and family will be invited to a confirmation reception that morning at 9:30 AM.

April Acolytes:

8 AM Services: Ivan Luckow
11 AM Services: Elsie Volker

Choir: There will be a choir rehearsal on Monday, April 8th at 5:30 PM. Choir will sing during 8 AM worship on April 7, 14, and 28 with a brief rehearsal in church basement at 7:45 AM. Choir will sing for confirmation service (at 11 AM) on April 21st.

Thank you for everyone that served and supported various church groups during Lenten Suppers!

Sunday School all students that are in preschool (or at least 3 years old) through high school are invited to join us in our Sunday School program on Sundays starting at 9:30 AM.

Thrivent Choice Dollars: Thrivent members can contribute to organizations and causes that they care about through Thrivent Choice dollars every quarter. Both Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Our Savior's Lutheran School can be recipients of these Choice Dollars!

You can designate your Choice dollars to three special projects within our Church. If you are interested in donating to the projects below, you must reach out to Katie in the office to indicate your intentions and the amount that you have to designate.

-Special Church projects to designate your dollars to:

- YOUTH GATHERING TRIP in 2025
- NEW CHURCH DISHWASHER
- NEW CARPET IN 1st/2nd GRADE ROOM

-Lutheran Island Camp Scholarship applications are now available in the back of the Narthex for this summer! Please turn these into the office by May 5, 2024.

To get the most current church announcements, make sure that we have your email address and follow the church on Facebook.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

MISSION OF THE MONTH:

Purses with a Purpose:

Purses filled with various items will go to people dealing with domestic violence. Donations of purses for men, women, and children will be collected. You can fill your donated purses with any of the following items: hygiene items, shaving supplies, feminine products, stuffed toys, etc.

BINS IN NARTHEX

ONGOING MISSION PROJECTS:

-Candles & Wax: partially used items are appreciated for making fire starters at the DAC.

-Glasses: used glasses that are no longer needed will be donated to those in need.

-Soap: new bath sized bars will go to the Orphan Grain Train.

-Mite Box: the mite box is in the Narthex on the last Sunday of every month.

LEAVE IN SEWING ROOM

-Sheets: cotton or cotton-blend for bandages (will take any color and printed sheets).

-T-Shirts: cotton (at least 50%) large t-shirts or bigger (any color). NO side seams.

-Blankets & Mattress Pads: any color can be used for backs or fillers in quilts.

-Yarn: used for quilt ties and Orphan Grain Train.

-Mittens, Hats, & Scarves: you can bring these in any season.

-Shoes: If you have shoes that you don't use, we can donate to Lutheran Island Camp. They take used dress shoes, tennis shoes, work boots, etc. in any conditions.

-Used Jeans: Items must be clean, but can be used (holes are okay).

April 2024

Spiritual Gardening Lesson for Kids

What three things does a plant need to grow and thrive? Water, sunlight, and soil, of course! Use this object lesson to relate these three key items for success to the ingredients we need to have growth in our Christian life and don't forget to warn your children about the "weeds"!

Spiritual Gardening Necessity #1: Soil

Plants need a good foundation of soil to start their growth. For Christians, our "soil," our foundation, is Christ. Christ nurtures us and supports us. He gives us a place to extend our roots in safety.

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." John 15:4 (KJV)

Just like a plant needs nutrient rich soil to thrive, Christ gives his children every possible nutrient we would ever need: Peace, Love, Encouragement & Wisdom... and His supplies are unlimited.

Spiritual Gardening Necessity #2: Sunlight

What else do plants need to grow? Sunlight.

"Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

The Bible is our sunlight. Plants grow towards the light. They long for the warmth and strength that only sunlight can give. As children of God, we should also lean towards the light, His Word, for guidance, and strength. It can give us warmth and comfort in times of struggle and lead us on the clear path in times of doubt. The Bible is a source of many things we need in our Christian life.

Spiritual Gardening Necessity #3: Water

Last but not least, plants need water to sustain them. I like to think of that much-needed water as fellowship with fellow believers. God didn't intend for us to grow alone, but to be there to encourage each other in Christ.

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20-22 (NIV)

Fellow believers are meant to come together, loving one another and supporting each other as we grow. Fellowship can be refreshing to a soul, just like water to a plant. It can help us perk up on a particularly draining day or quench a thirst. Water can be a vessel for the nutrients we need to grow.

Don't Forget the Weeds

Now that we've talked about the essentials, don't forget to warn your children about the "weeds" that can sprout up in our gardens, both in real life and in our spiritual life. Weeds come in all shapes, colors, and sizes. The worst weed in our spiritual gardens, Satan, can sometimes be easy to spot, while other weeds, like wayward friends or feelings of bitterness and anger, can be hard to keep away.

Weeds choke plants, creating an atmosphere where growth can be impossible. Weeds work in our lives much the same way. They distract us from Christ as we pour all our vital nutrients into them instead of our Christian growth. Weeds can crush smaller, weaker plants easily.

Encourage your children to strengthen themselves with good soil (Christ), sunlight from above (His Word), and refreshing water (fellowship with fellow believers), so they may find themselves with strong roots that dig into their foundation, and a close spiritual walk with our Father.

— Angie Knutson



Important Dates:

April 1: No school

April 2: Domino's card fundraiser starts

April 11: McTeacher's Night, 5-7pm

April 13: Knowledge Bowl at St. John's Lutheran School in TRF, grades 1-6

April 15: PTL Education Event: Safe Harbor Program

April 16: Domino's card fundraiser ends

April 25: School Open House, 5:30-6:30pm

Check us out on [Facebook](#) for reminders and fun pictures!

We also have an account through [Amazon Smile](#)—so every time you make a purchase at Amazon, our school gets a donation! Check it out at www.amazonsmile.com

Please support our school by purchasing [SCRIP](#) gift cards. We have local and national gift cards available—you pay the face-value of the card, and the school gets a percentage of each sale. Order forms and a retailers list are on the school secretary's door.

Mission Statement

Our Savior's Lutheran School effectively educates, trains, and equips students of our church and community to achieve their God-given potential by providing a Christ-centered education.



The kindergarteners have been learning about community helpers with Miss Eliesha. In this picture they are visited by Danny Bertils, a construction worker.



The preschoolers are making shamrocks and learning how the three leaves represent the Holy Trinity.



We have been learning about sculpture and 3-D art in 3rd and 4th grade. One of our fun projects was to make surfers in motion. Some of the students even chose to add waves!



Thomas and Anya carefully watercolor their hand drawn clovers for art.



5th & 6th graders are thinking spring!

PRO Winner!



Congratulations to SJ, recipient of March's "People Respecting Others" award!



We had a fantastic time at the MN North Lutheran School's Bible Bowl at Immanuel, Walker! 4th grade earned 3rd place, 5th grade earned 2nd place, 6th grade earned 1st place, and our 7th/8th alumni team earned 2nd place. All were great representatives of our school!

OUR SAVIOR'S YOUTH GROUP



In March, we hosted our second Lenten Supper—tacos!



We had lots of cheerful helpers in the kitchen.



The youth had some extra time after getting everything ready for the meal, so they played a few rounds of a Bible-themed card game.

Upcoming youth group events & times:

April 10th: 6:30-8pm, Bible-themed Escape Room (here at church)

April 17th: Common Ground “Spring Thing” event at CHS—more info to come!

April 24th: 6:30-8pm, Service Project

This spring we will hold another Parent Informational Meeting for families wanting to learn more about the LCMS National Youth Gathering in July 2025. We'll announce the date and time soon!

All 7th-12th grade youth are invited!



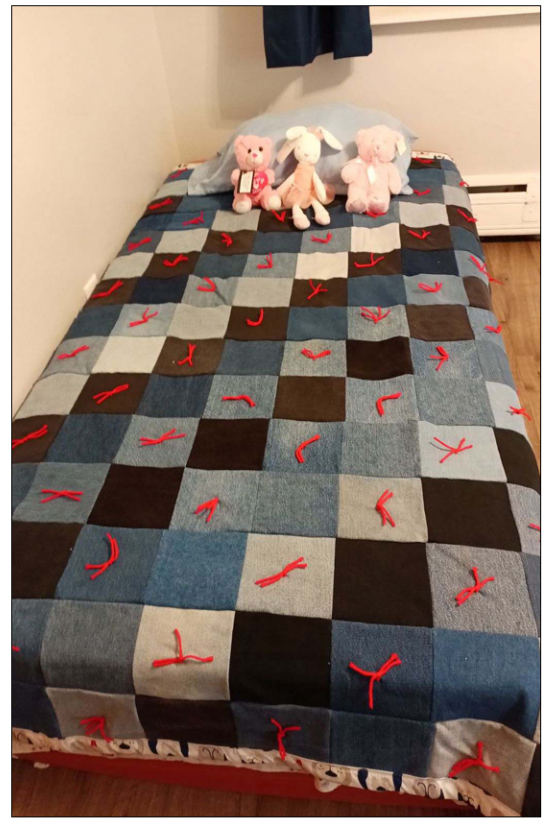
We're excited for our new “Egg My Yard” fundraiser this year—we will be stuffing and hiding 600 eggs!

Thank you to everyone who donated through our Envelope Fundraiser and our two Lenten Suppers—we appreciate your support!

SUNDAY SCHOOL



HOPE CENTER



OSLC adopted a room within the Hope Center in the Spring of 2023. The Hope Center provides temporary housing for homeless families. It is the duty of our committee to prepare the room for families. Since we adopted our room, we have had approximately 5-6 families use the room. Each time a family moves out of the OSLC room, the contact person is notified. The committee puts out a call to church members to assist in preparing the room for our next family. Members will clean, repair, and restock/refurnish the room as needed.

Each family that moves into the room, will receive a welcome basket provided by the Hope Center committee. Basket supplies are donated by OSLC church members or purchased as needed. Most families that we serve are in emergent situations with minimal to no personal care items. They are encouraged to take their basket when they leave.

The Hope Center Committee is fundraising (through Lenten suppers and Sunday morning fellowship) to purchase necessary items for our room and welcome baskets. In the future we would like to replace the mattresses and bed frames. These items have been used many years and are in need of replacement.

Work that has been completed in the room:

- Washed walls & woodwork
- Replaced ceiling fixture
- Painted walls in room
- Removed old, soiled carpet
- Replaced flooring
- New curtains
- Homemade quilts for each family member

Welcome Basket Donation Suggestions:

- Laundry basket or clear plastic tote
- Kleenex
- Liquid laundry soap
- Disposable wipes
- Lip balm
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Deodorant and other personal care items
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Paper goods and plastic ware
- Snacks
- Towels/washcloths



Our Savior's and First English Lutheran Women's Missionary League April 2024

Mission Statement: As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

In the Word:

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us (1 John 5:14).

Of the Word:

When the angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her she would have God's Son, she could have doubted His words and run away, but instead she answered, "I am the Lord's servant ... May it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38). What trust and confidence for such a young person. What an example for us! Have you had opportunities to do as Mary and submit yourself to God's will?

Even Jesus submitted His will to the will of His Father before He died on the cross. Father, if you are willing, take this cup (of suffering) from me; yet not my will, but yours be done (Luke 22:42). We also need to pray according to God's will. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him (1 John 5:14–15).

Walking with the Lord:

Dear Father, help me to understand Your will and to remember to listen for the answers You provide in Your time and according to Your will. This I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Looking ahead:

Sewing: Anyone interested in sewing can meet in the sewing room on Tuesdays 1-6 PM.

Evening Guild Meeting: The Evening Guild will not meet in April. Please look for ways to serve our Lord with your prayers. Barb will send cards and prepare treats for our confirmands and staff.

Mite Box: The Mite Box is in Our Savior's narthex the last Sunday of every month. If you wish to support the missions of the LWML, you can leave donations in the box!

Crookston Zone Spring Rally: Saturday, April 20 at 10 Am at St. John's in Ada, MN. The speaker will be Julie Bonham on domestic violence. The ingathering will be "Purses with Purpose." Registration starts at 9:15 AM. Meet at church at 8:45 AM if you would like to carpool. All women are invited and encouraged to join us!

LWML Zone Board & Planning Meeting: The LWML Zone Board & Planning Meeting will be on Saturday, July 17th at 10 AM at our church. Save the date!

LWML MN North District 2024 Convention: The theme is "Walking as Children of Light." This will be held June 3rd-5th at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd, MN. More information will be available soon.

Women's Bible Study: We will meet on Thursday, April 18th at 1:30 PM in the church board room #3. The study and discussion will cover Ephesians 2. All are welcomed to attend!

April

2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		8 AM-Bible Breakfast 1:00-6 PM-Sewing	8:30 AM- Day School Chapel			
	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:00 & 11 AM-Our Savior's Worship Service 9:30 AM First English Worship Service 9:30 AM- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	5:30 PM- Choir Practice	8 AM-Bible Breakfast 1:00-6 PM-Sewing 7 PM- Board Meeting	8:30 AM- Day School Chapel 6:30-8 PM- Youth Group	5-7 PM- McTeacher's Night		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:00 & 11 AM- Our Savior's Worship Service 9:30 AM First English Worship Service 9:30 AM- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study		8 AM-Bible Breakfast 1:00-6 PM-Sewing	8:30 AM- Day School Chapel 4 PM-8th Grade Confirmation Prep	1:30 PM- Women's Bible Study		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:00 & 11 AM-Our Savior's Worship Service 9:30 AM First English Worship Service 9:30 AM- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study		8 AM- Bible Breakfast 1:00-6 PM- Sewing	8:30 AM- Day School Chapel 6:30-8 PM- Youth Group			
Rite of Confirmation at 11 AM Service	22	23	Newsletter Deadline 24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
8:00 & 11 AM-Our Savior's Worship Service 9:30 AM- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM First English Worship Service		8 AM- Bible Breakfast 1:00-6 PM- Sewing				

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
First English Lutheran Church
217 South Broadway
Crookston, MN 56716



THEY SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY...

April Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 3. Jason Knutson | 14. Dustin Uttermark | 25. Tanya Raaen |
| 4. Orval Hatlestad | Noah Dragseth | 26. Donald Andringa |
| Colton Winand | Joyce Gilbertson | Amber Ostgaard |
| 5. Hunter Larson | 15. Andrew Fee | 27. Jacey Larson |
| 6. Grace Menze | Patricia Lien | Robert Ross |
| Hazel Oliver | 16. Ivan Luckow | 28. Charles Perry |
| 7. Patricia Carlson | 18. Ericka Kollin | Julianne Reitmeier |
| Eleanor Kollin | 20. Roger Odegaard | 29. Sara Beattie |
| Hailey Perry | 22. Angela Menge | Dawn Resendiz |
| 8. Gregory Boetcher | Carolyn Weber | Waylon Yarbro |
| Ann Oliver | Andrew Dragseth | 30. Ronald Dale |
| 9. Vickie Huelskamp | 23. Arlie Rudnik | James Laughery |
| 10. Jean Tester | 24. Evertt Reitmeier | Delton Roelofs |
| 11. Karen Martin | Caden Sanders | |
| 13. Kendryk Guerrero | 25. Norlan Lien | |