



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1326 1st Ave N., Great Falls MT
A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

May 2024 Newsletter
God's Work—Our Hands!

In This Issue

**Ladies Fellowship
High Tea—May 4th**

**Pizza, Root Beer,
and Bible Study
May 17th, 6 p.m.**

**Memorial Cmt,
Endowment Cmt
Scholarship Cmt
Annual Lunch
May 19th**

**New Option to Give
via "Texting" begins**

Pizza, Root Beer, and Bible Study

Friday, May 17th—6:00 p.m.

Gather in the Church Courtyard later this month for an evening of rich fellowship, exquisite food, and a wondrous hike through all of Biblical history.

The *Morgan/Traner (Brandvold)* sisters are lending us their equipment and expertise as Fire Roasted Pizza Masters for a kick off meal of individual pizzas. Hand-made dough will await us. Sauce and toppings will be on hand. Our adventure will be to form our own Individual Sized pizza to be tossed into the Fire Ovens to cook for two or three minutes. Coaches will be on hand to help everyone have success.

Fabulous Root Beer Floats will also be available. They will be Authentic Italian Root Beer Floats, served by our own Authentic Italian, Emilio Vanni.

Having satisfied our hunger for food and drink, we'll then feast on the Word. Pastor Eric will journey with us all as we create on one sheet of paper a timeline of the major events and seasons of the Biblical Story. Come to see how the story of God working among us takes root and grows. See how all the pieces flow into a larger

heritage. No experience is required, but a deeper sense of our place in this story will result! Make this May 17th your chance to share in good food, fellowship, and the Word. Consider bringing a neighbor!



Words from the Pastor

There was one particular moment when my wife and I decided to use online giving. It was a Sunday like any other. Pastor Chris and I were leading worship. The sermon was complete, hymns had been sung, and the Offering was being collected.

But the Ushers simply would not come forward with the Offering. Our excellent colleague, Organist Eleanor Hinzmann had to keep playing and playing; she used all the notes.

The reason for the delay—
our own loving child.

For a long time our children had been sitting up with us by the Pastor's chairs. At least, that is, until they learned to love tying my cincture ropes to my chair. It only took a couple of times of chairs clunking behind me as I stood for us to decide to have the boys sit with family friends and their kids.

And there Andrew sat—Offering envelope in hand. We thought having our loving child carry that envelope and place it in the offering would be a good way to teach about commitment. Until that Sunday, when my wife's child thought that keeping the envelope meant he could keep the offering that was inside.

The Ushers took special delight in understanding what was going on, and standing by that creative child until he finally put the envelope in the plate.



We signed up for “Simply Giving” the next day.

Our Savior's has long used a version of Simply Giving—a way for folks to sign up to have bank to bank transfers as their way of sharing in the Offering. It's a slick system administered by a company endorsed by the ELCA called “**Tithely.com**”.

About a dozen households within Our Savior's already use “Tithely”. It called for them to go to the website, go through some registration steps, and let the system know the amount(s) they'd like to contribute, the date for a single gift or the regular day(s) of the month they'd like to contribute. The control is all in the giver's hands.

The Office receives emails each time a contribution is given, and those gifts are recorded in our records to the household who gave.

But this month we are embracing something new—the technology to donate to our Offering not with check or cash, but via Text from our cell phone or tablet.

Lots of Churches are already doing this. My son's congregation pretty much only uses this format—with folks pulling out their phones during the Offering in order to give. (Yes—the same young Andrew of Offering Envelope Hoarding fame)

Our Council has discussed giving this system a try. In an age where few people carry cash and many young people have never written a check, this may be a good resource. Who knows, maybe Andrew will hear about it and contribute, too.

Many Thanks

Through your amazing generosity, \$1275 was gifted to Grace Haven, a transitional housing for women veterans and their children. Angela Jukkala, director of the home, expressed gratitude for this gift and for our interest and concern for the residents. The funds will be used directly for the needs at Grace Haven and will greatly assist with this vital program. Additionally, with grateful hearts, the Human Concerns Committee offers deep appreciation for your sharing in our first quarterly offering.

High Time for High Tea

An afternoon of china, lace and silver . . . for fine ladies of all ages. Enjoy English style tea, treats and tradition. Saturday, May 4th, 2:00; Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Fluff up your finery, dust off your pearls, wear your best bonnet or enjoy one of ours. Please help us estimate attendance: Lindy 406-727-5192; ljeberl@yahoo.com

SPECIAL OFFERING

The 2nd quarter special offering is for Meals on Wheels. On Sunday, May 5, Kim Thiel-Schaaf from Aging Services will be here to speak about Meals on Wheels. An offering will be collected. Please make your checks to: "Meals on Wheels".

FISH WEEK

OSLC week at FISH is May 13-17. Please let Harold Spilde know if you are willing to volunteer. Hours are from 9-11.



When Bad Theology Happens to Good Christians.

Law and Gospel. Theology of the Cross versus Theology of Glory. Works-righteousness. The Lutheran theological buzzwords can get overwhelming. We know the basics of what we believe, but sometimes our domesticated concepts seem to shrivel when faced with the wild ideas floating around these days. What's a Lutheran to do when bearing witness to God's grace in a crowded marketplace of ideas?

Led by Julia Seymour, Pastor at Big Timber Lutheran.

Cost \$40 Zoom: Thursday, May 2nd 9am to Noon

Our Savior's

CONTACT INFO

Office telephone: 406-727-4304

Web Site www.oslcgreatfalls.org

Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri.—9 AM - 1PM

STAFF

Office Admin. Assistant

Bonnie Knight

officeoslcgf@gmail.com

Pastor

Pastor Eric Finsand

pastoroslcgf@gmail.com

406-799-7788

Worship & Music Dir

Ellen Forslund

wmdirectoroslcgf@gmail.com

Pianist/Organist

Madeleine Folkerts

accompanistoslcgf@gmail.com

Custodian

Nancy Cook

officeoslcgf@gmail.com

Financial Report: Offerings, Disbursements, Balances as of March 31st, 2024

General Fund	March	Year to Date
Giving	\$ 23,337.04	\$ 60,367.75
Expenses	\$ 21,017.89	\$ 60,488.14
Totals	\$ 2,319.15	\$ (120.39)
Fund Balances		
	US Bank Checking/Savings	\$ 156,490.46
	Endowment Fund	\$ 303,515.27
	Memorial Fund	\$ 2,128.08
	Mewes Scholarship Fund	\$ 80,012.30
	Mission Investment Fund	\$ 20,915.92
	Nelson Scholarship Fund	\$ 39,469.71
Designated Funds		
	2nd Century Building Fund	\$ 119,893.98
	Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 3,857.63
	Memorial Fund	\$ 9,048.13
	Designated Ministry Accounts (36 of them)	\$ 37,912.55

Celebrating	5/08	Debbie Binkley	5/19	Pat Orham
May Birthdays		Josh Brown	5/20	Juanita Hogenson
(<u>Known</u> to the Office)		Randy Lilly	5/21	Danita Brasada
		Buck Olson	5/23	Elaine Osborne
5/01 Dawn Corey	5/11	Ava Julia Schulz	5/24	Katie Gunderson
5/03 Jeff Harvey	5/12	Julia Pritchard	5/29	Renee Urquhart
		Jerry Ramstead	5/30	Mr. Larry Pfeiffer
		Carla Robinson		
5/05 Max Sechena		Liam Swanson		
5/06 Keegan Swanson	5/16	Mario Vanni		
5/07 Juanita Merriman		Nicole Frank		
	5/17	Helen Beckley		
	5/18			

A New Way of Giving for Churches

Generosity overflows each week as our Offering Plates are passed. We hear Christ's Gospel, we hear the invitation to continue the work God has begun, and checks and cash and Offering Envelopes are collected. Together, they make possible the support of our building, our staff, our ministry efforts in Great Falls, and the ministry we share with the broader Church. Together, those financial resources make it possible to do things none of us could do just on our own. Generosity overflows at *Our Saviors*.

But more and more, fewer and fewer people carry checks with them to service. Even carrying cash is more and more replaced with the handy Debit Card.

What is a member or visitor to do if they wish to participate in the Offering but don't have check or cash???

Your Council is beginning an experiment to answer that question. This May we are going to begin offering a way for folks to participate in the Offering by just using their phone. Like many Churches around us, *Our Saviors* is going to try Offering by Text.

The process is meant to be simple. Text the number **(844) 806-7501** in your phone, type "Give", and you'll be led to a place on the web where one can securely donate to *Our Savior's*. The first time you try this, you'll be prompted to designate a Card or a Bank Account you'd like to use. Then, you can designate the amount of the donation, whether you want this to be a one time gift or a recurring donation, and the amount. An email is sent to the Church Office, allowing the Offering to be recorded and credited to a household just as if it had come in an Offering Envelope.

This process is not meant to replace using Offering Envelopes or dropping a check or cash in a plate. It is meant to offer convenience to those whose life habits are moving beyond carrying checks or cash.

We've just subscribed to this service, through **Tithe.ly**, the online bank transfer giving tool the ELCA has been using for years. It takes about three weeks for this whole process to be set up and secured by regulators. But by the third week of May, it should be up and running. My Grandfather would never have imagined this as an option, but let's hope it will be a handy new tool.



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1326 1st Ave N
Great Falls, MT 59401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Great Falls, MT
Permit No. 424

