



FROM THE PASTOR

The beloved hymn “O How Great Thou Art” began in 1885 by Carl Boberg in Sweden.

When Boberg wrote the hymn, he became inspired after attending a worship service. A thunderstorm appeared suddenly, and as they hurried to seek shelter, he was amazed at the strength of the storm, the loud thunder, lightning, and the strong winds blowing over the fields of grain. The storm ended shortly and a beautiful rainbow appeared in the blue sky..

When Boberg reached his home, he heard church bells ringing and began writing a poem, titled, “How Great Thou Art”. He later arranged the poem to a Swedish folk song.

It is amazing how such common occurrences can inspire us to do extraordinary things. They may not be writing a great human, but our inspirations are still meaningful and important.

**This information was taken from St. Augustine.com*

Peace be with you,
Pr. Cindy



****SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING****

On Sunday July 14, we will have a brief special congregational meeting immediately following the service. We will be voting via paper ballot on whether to call Bernice “Bunny” Dilliard to be our new pastor. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Deacon Jodi Schuman from Synod will be here as well.

Benevity Portal – Matching Funds for the Strottman’s

We have finally connected to the Benevity Portal where we can collect funds for the Strottmans and get matching funds from Collins Aerospace. The easiest way for our congregation members to participate is to give through their normal offering method. Just note the amount you wish to be directed to the Strottmans. Our treasurer, Dave Sampson will then notify Rachel Sindelar of the amount to be placed in the portal and request matching funds. A good way to double the money!! The portal is available for anyone to donate to but the only way to request the matching funds is to go through a Collins employee, which for us is Rachel! Once this has been processed, the money will be directed back to our church and Dave will get the money to the Strottmans.

The actual site for any donor is **Community Impact / Benevity Spark!** And then type in **Financial Relief Fund for Leslie** under the “find a cause” list.

The Strottmans are very appreciative of all the support they have been given but we understand how those medical costs continue to grow. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for them.

If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Schmitt or Rachel Sindelar.

Vacation Bible School – 7/22 – 7/25

Mark your calendar for Vacation Bible School! We will gather again this year at Gloria Dei from Monday, July 22nd - Thursday, July 25th from 9 AM to 3 PM and Friday, July 26th from 9 AM - Noon. We are thrilled to have counselors from Camp Ewalu in Strawberry Point, IA to lead us in a week of fun and worship! Cost is 10\$ per child. Please send your child with a sack lunch Monday-Thursday. Sign up sheets will be on the table in God’s Foyer. Please see Hannah with any questions!

Phil and Andy’s Pantry -Kenwood School Supplies

Here is the list of things that they need:

- Thick Markers
- Thin Markers
- Dry Erase Markers (any color)
- Index Cards (white, green, yellow)
- Wide Line Notebooks
- Inexpensive Earbuds (to use with computers)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Box of Tissues



Items they have plenty of right now and don't need are backpacks, crayons, pencils, pen, etc...

Parish & Staff Ministry

Have you ever thought about being an Assisting Minister but didn't think it was possible because you didn't (or couldn't) sing the liturgy?? There are other options. . . the liturgy does NOT have to be sung – it can be read!! Parish & Staff is looking for volunteers to join the Assisting Minister Ministry. If you have any interest at all – do not be shy!! You can contact any of our current assisting ministers - Hannah, Jeremiah or Nancy, they would be happy to give you any details or feel free to talk to Marcia Adix or Ann Larson from Parish & Staff. Thank you!

Readers

July 7 – Natalie Fiester

July 14 – Nancy Trout

July 21 – Suzanne Schmitt

July 28 – Dave Sampson

**Readers can pick up their reading in the
"Reader" mailbox located between the offices
in the back hallway

Assisting Ministers

July 7 – Hannah Plummer

July 14 – Jeremiah Miller

July 21 – Nancy Greer

July 28 – Hannah Plummer

Acolytes

July 7 – Evelyn Fiester

July 14 – Korver Sindelar

July 21 – Jeremiah Miller

July 28 – Natalie Fiester

August 4 – Parker Zeien

Prayer for Pastor

July 7 – Diana Emig

July 14 – Arnold Strottman

July 21 – Natalie Fiester

July 28 – Ann Larson

August 4 – Nancy Greer

Children's Sermon

July 7 – Hannah Plummer

July 14 – JoAnn Kohl

July 21 – Pastor Cindy

July 28 – Hannah Plummer

Ushers/Greeters

July 7 – Fiester's

July 14 – Mark & Suzanne Schmitt, Ann Larson

July 21 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson

July 28 – Dave Sampson, Marv Houg, Tom Zuber

Serving Our Congregation

Cindy McKenzie – Interim Pastor

Sue Clapp – Congregation President

David Sampson – Treasurer

Therese Plummer – Parish/Financial Secretary

Forrest Green – Music Director

Terri Hodge – Bell Choir Director

Hannah Plummer – Children & Youth

Ministries Director



Happy 4th of July!

Did you know? America actually declared its independence on July 2nd, 1776 but the Declaration of Independence wasn't signed and approved until July 4th, 1776.

The first 4th of July fireworks took place in Philadelphia on July 4th, 1777

George Washington doubled rum rations for his soldiers each Independence Day so they could celebrate accordingly!

Americans spend more than \$1 Billion on fireworks annually.

Save the Date - God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 8**, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, "[God's work. Our hands.](#)" Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Learn more: elca.org/dayofservice

His Hands Free Clinic

Get a behind the scenes look at His Hands Free Clinic. Bring your questions, your friends, or your family. (Plan on about 1 hour). This is **NOT** a fundraising event.

Please RVSP by clicking the link below. An RVSP is nice but not necessary. It simply helps us plan for food.

We host Tours and Treats every 4th Monday night most months of the year.

<https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrsync/event/home.php?e=27737>



Stewardship – Please Don't Forget

July has arrived which means the start of summer fun! Many are looking forward to the end of school and planning for family vacations. As the summer activities increase there is often a decrease in church attendance. We are hoping that as you enjoy all your summer family times that you continue to remember your monetary commitment to our church. The operating expenses of the church do not take a vacation. If you are not able to attend as regularly as usual during the summer, remember that you can always submit your offering by mailing it to the church or going online (www.crsaviors.org/about-us/give/). Thank you for all the generous and giving hearts in our congregation.

Yours in Faith,

Dorothy Medlang, Arnold Strottman, Laurie Strottman, and Dave Sampson

OSLC Stewardship Ministry Team

Favorite Hymns

Thanks to all of you who turned in a list of your favorite hymns.
Here's the list along with the number of votes it received.

Beautiful Savior	8	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	3
Amazing Grace	5	Children Of The Heavenly Father	3
Borning Cry	5	Christ Be Our Light	3
Here I am Lord	4	Shall We Gather At The River	3
The Old Rugged Cross	4	Thine Is The Glory	3

There were an additional 45 hymns that received 1 or 2 votes.
We hope you've noticed that we've been using these hymns in our services.

Student of the Month



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
3634 First Avenue NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402**

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES

June 23, 2024

11:15 am meeting

The meeting was called to order at 11:17 am by Sue Clapp, OSLC Council President.

Devotions were given by Pastor Cindy McKenzie. Her message was based on Acts 3.

Secretary's Report from January 21, 2024 annual meeting. The report was included in the meeting packet distributed to the congregation. Al Johnson moved to accept the Secretary's report. Therese Plummer seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Treasurer's report- Dave Sampson reported a correction to the Account Balances Report distributed to the congregation. The Total General Funds amount reported as \$17,507.34 should be \$86,075.49. The Total Designated Funds amount reported as \$174,341.09 should be \$105,772.94. There was a formula error in the report. General Fund giving has not been keeping pace with General Expenses. Council will keep an eye on this and advise when we need to act. Al Johnson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Betty Goehring seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Property Board Report- Rick Rogness reporting. Thank you to members of the property board. Some members help with projects. Some members serve as mentors. The new air conditioner has been installed in the office area and is functioning well. Everything is functioning properly around the church building. Wires do need to be replaced in the yard sign so the lights can function.

Old Business:

Comments from Ministry Teams-none

Increase in Parish/Financial Secretary's hours- In February council approved increasing Therese Plummer's pay from 20 hours per week to 25 hours per week. She consistently works more than 20 hours per week. The council was not able to make the increase permanent without the approval of the congregation. The increase in pay exceeds the spending limit imposed by the constitution for expenditures outside of the budget. At this time the congregation is being asked to approve this increase in hours for the remainder of 2024. Ann Larson moved to increase the pay hours from 20 to 25 hours per week for the remainder of 2024. Laurie Strottman seconded it. All in favor. Carried.

Synod Assembly Report- Sue Clapp reporting. On May 17 & 18 Pastor Cindy, Al Johnson and I attended the Synod Assembly in Coralville. It was basically a business meeting for the Synod but there was also worship, food, breakout sessions and music! One of the resolutions that was adopted was for congregations to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's commitment to supporting World Hunger Foundation. Here at Our Savior's, we will be designating September as our World Hunger Month and will be accepting donations to be sent to the Synod by the first part of October. More details will be coming later. The theme of the Synod Assembly was "Listen! God is Calling. God is about to do a new thing. Do you not perceive it?" We were encouraged to consider how we answered when God called. I reflected on how our congregation is filled with those who are listening to God's call. Whether you are attending or assisting, singing or playing in the bell choir, donating or serving, cleaning or maintaining the property, quilting or decorating, reading or ushering, and so many other ways; you are serving God's call. And I think today we will be hearing more about the new thing God is about to do for us. Thank you for sending us to this assembly.

Other old business. None

New Business:

Audit Report-Nancy Trout reporting. Once again, this year Reena Winkowski audited OSLC. She found everything was in order. We are meeting the expectations set forth in the synod audit guidelines.

Benevity Portal- Rachel Sindelar reporting. The Benevity Portal is an online donation platform. This portal is a partnership with Collins Aerospace. OSLC has been set up on the portal to link with the Leslie Strottman fund. Congregation members who wish to donate can do so through their church offering. Rachel Sindelar will enter the donation to the portal on behalf of OSLC. Since she is an employee of Collins Aerospace the donation will be matched by Collins.

New Constitution- Sue Clapp reporting. There were two main changes to the constitution. The by-laws are now embedded in the constitution rather than being a separate document. The quorum requirement for congregational meetings has been reduced from 45 to 25 attendance. Dave Sampson moved to approve the constitution. Ann Larson seconded. Sue Clapp asked for any questions. Seeing none the vote was called. All in favor. Carried.

Nominations and Council Elections-Lori Hayes reporting. The nominating committee included Tom Zuber, Marv Houg, Ardy Erickson, Suzanne Schmitt, Laurie Strottman and chairperson Lori Hayes. Thank you to those leaving council at the end of their terms; Nicole Flockhart, Suzanne Schmitt and Dorothy Powers. Two members have completed terms in one role but remain on council in another role. Laurie Strottman completed her term as Education/Youth Co-Chair. Sue Clapp completed her term as Evangelism/Public Relations Co-Chair. Nancy Trout will continue with a second term as Co-Secretary. The following have assumed new roles on council. Hannah Plummer will serve as Evangelism/Public Relations Co-Chair. Ann Larson will service has Parish and Staff Co-Chair. Al Johnson will serve as Fellowship Co-Chair. Natalie Fiester will serve as Education/Youth Co-Chair. Jennifer Ayers will serve as Co-Secretary. Sue Clapp called for nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations. Rob Barth moved the council slate be approved. Laurie Strottman seconded. All in favor. Carried. Council installation will be June 30, 2024.

Call Committee-Al Johnson reporting. We have good news from the call committee. Here is the timeline of events. On March 27 a candidate was recommended by the synod for the call committee to contact. The candidate is a first call placement. There were several email exchanges with the candidate and the synod. Then, on Saturday, May 4, the call committee met with the candidate in a face to face interview. The interview was positive and we as a group came away feeling this would be a good match for our church. The call committee has recommended to the council that a call be issued. The council accepted this recommendation. The executive board has completed the compensation package. This package has been approved by council, synod and candidate. Our candidate is Bernice Jeannine Dilliard. She prefers to use "Bunny". Pastor Bunny is newly graduated from Wartburg Seminary so this is her first call. She does have previous experience as a Director of Youth and Families at a Lutheran Church in Texas and served as an Intern at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines. She will be with us for worship next Sunday, June 30th. She will join us for the meal after service. This will be a meet and greet day here at Our Savior's. The call committee has approved this call. The council has approved and the synod has approved. The next step is for the congregation to consider this call and vote. On Sunday July 14, we will have a brief special congregational meeting immediately following the service. We will be voting via paper ballot on whether to call Bernice "Bunny" Dilliard to be our new pastor. At this time, I want to thank the members of the call committee for their commitment to this process. Once we had a candidate, things needed to move rather quickly. I appreciate the committee members making themselves available when needed. Thank you!

Sue Clapp added that Deacon Jodi Schuman will be here for the July 14th vote.

Other new business. None

Hannah Plummer's Youth Report-Therese Plummer shared Hannah's report. The youth have had a very exciting year – from fundraisers like the Chili Cook-off in February to the ever famous Pies for Palms and Easter Breakfast. Our kids took a trip to Bloomsbury farms this past fall as well! Most excitingly we will head to New

Orleans in a few short weeks for the ELCA National Youth Gathering along with youth from Gloria Dei, St. Stevens, and St. Andrew! The following week will be Vacation Bible School led by Camp EWALU staff. In the upcoming year, we are hoping to begin a confirmation class as well as a First Communion class. We also had a very successful year of Sunday School this past year as we continue to use the "Dig In" curriculum from Group Publishing. Kids also made the crosses that are handed out on Ash Wednesday and made Valentines for Veterans that were handed out at the VA Hospital in Iowa City to hospitalized veterans. We are looking forward to the upcoming year ahead as well as continue to grow in God's love together!

Pastor Cindy's Report-Pastor Cindy met Pastor Bunny at Synod Assembly and highly recommends her. Pastor Cindy sees Pastor Bunny as a good match for OSLC. Pastor Cindy went on to talk about all the missions OSLC supports including; Kenwood student needs, quilts, His Hands shoe donations which were picked up on Friday, Willis Dady, noisy offering just to name a few. We are also good about caring for our own. All of this is a testament to the Holy Spirit working in this place.

Al Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Natalie Fiester seconded. All in favor. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 am.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by:

Nancy Trout

OSLC Council Co-Secretary