

A Little Bit of Sunshine

Email: oslc@rushmore.com

Website: www.oslcspearfish.com

April 2021



Thus says the Lord, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. 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 43:18-19

I’ve never been much of a “Spring Breaker,” not even in college. Back then, I was on the track team and we usually had meets to compete in, and they were usually in places like Rock Island, Illinois or Indianola, Iowa, which share little in common with places like Miami Beach or Cabo. Since those days, late March and early April have been marked by the Lenten journey to Holy Week, so time away has always been in short supply.

This year, however, I decided that one long weekend away might just actually help clear my head a little. More to the point, I felt an intense need to celebrate some “newness.” So, on the third weekend of March, my wife Laura and I headed out for our three-day “Spring Break” to the tropical climes of southern Minnesota. (Hey, you have to dip the toe in slowly. One can’t just start out by hopping a plane to the Gulf!)

Much of what we did that weekend revolved around remembering the old. We visited places we were very familiar with... Rochester, downtown Minneapolis, the Como area of St. Paul, etc. However, the last twelve months of COVID (and its continuing effects) altered our experience of those once-familiar places. We weren’t able to do some of the things we normally would have, or seen many of the people we would have liked to. But... the reasons for these particular destinations wasn’t to revel in some longed-for past. It was to celebrate hope in something new breaking forth...

We hadn’t seen, in person, my mom or my brother (who both live in Rochester) since Christmas of 2019. To share the same space... a meal, a hug... (yes, we’ve all been vaccinated☺) was like moving finally into a better future. There is hope.

We then went to Minneapolis to see our eldest daughter and meet her new guy pal. What?!! Not only has she started a new career in this time of pandemic, but she managed to find a “steady Eddie?” Not to be those parents who jump the gun or anything, but we can almost envision weddings and grandkids one day! (Whoa, slow your roll, Pops. He’s a nice guy with a job and seemingly good taste in women. That’s all.) Even so... something decidedly new is afoot.

And after that, our eldest son, Kent, who also lives in Minneapolis, took us to see the house he’s put down an accepted offer on. What?! Our little boy is about to be a homeowner?? The future is starting to look quite different all of the sudden.

Celebrating all of this “newness” has gotten me ready for Easter in a way I’ve never experienced before. It’s reminded me that I need Easter and the hope of death’s defeat like I need air to breathe. The resurrection to abundant and eternal life is NOT about reviving a past that is gone. It’s about being re-made for an entirely new future. God’s primary objective seems to be all about *moving* us... keeping us from getting stuck in what was, and taking us into one-another’s lives so we might know the joy of being fully in the life and kingdom of God. Let it be so, for all of us, this Easter.

With hope for streams in the desert,

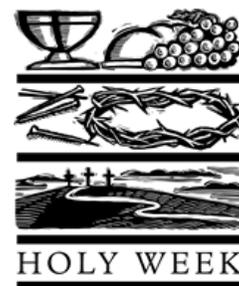
Pastor Stephan Sandness

Holy Week at OSLC

We invite you to once again immerse yourself in the sacred drama of Christ's death and resurrection by joining us for worship during this holiest week of the year:

Thursday, April 1, 6:26 P.M. Maundy Thursday worship, during which we commemorate Jesus' last supper with his disciples, his betrayal and his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. *(service will be live-streamed, as well)*

Friday, April 2, 6:26 P.M. Good Friday worship, during which we hear the story of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion, gathering around the cross in confession. *(service will be live-streamed, as well)*



Sunday, April 4, 6:00 A.M., 8:30 A.M. and 10:45 A.M. Easter, celebrating our Lord's defeat of death in his resurrection! (All three services will be similar, with celebration of Holy Communion and special music for the day. *The 8:30 service will be live-streamed over the internet, as well.* The Joyful Journey Team will offer music at 10:45.

Notes on gathering during Holy Week: we understand that we are NOT clear of the COVID-19 pandemic yet. While more and more of us are getting vaccinated, many have not yet had the opportunity and the threat of variants and spikes in infections is still very real. We will continue to practice sensible mitigation by keeping every other pew blocked off and asking in-person worshippers to wear masks. Space in the sanctuary will hence be limited, but we will have some room for folks in the fellowship hall as well in case of overflow. Just a thought: The 6:00 A.M. Easter Sunrise service and the 10:45 Joyful Journey Easter service *may* have more availability than 8:30. If you haven't been well or are feeling particularly vulnerable, as always, you are encouraged to join us on-line 😊

As Pastor S. wrote in this same space a year ago: "*You are kept by the Author of Creation. You are God's beloved... and so is your neighbor. Love each other, now more than ever. Protect one another with your prayers and with your distance, and seek out ways to be Church in a world that needs you.*"

Whether in person or online, we as a community of faith will worship the One who raises us up! Join us...

Our Savior's
Annual Meeting of the
Congregation
is Sunday, April 18
at 9:45 AM
in the Fellowship Hall.

Agenda: Ministry Reports,
Council Elections, and Financials
Update

The "Love Your Neighbor" Jar

for the month of April will benefit
the Wambli Ska Center at Woyatan, an
intentional outreach to the wider community
sharing the Lakota story and heritage.

*February's Love Your Neighbor Jar raised
\$443.00 for Camp Scholarships for OSLC
campers going to Lutherans Outdoors
camps.*

Jesus said to her (Martha), "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." John 11:25-27

Dear friends,

As we continue to move through Holy Week in these first days of April, I am grateful for you, my community of faith, who hold fast to the promises of the resurrected Christ. Easter has always been a favorite celebration for me and for my family. New life, hopes, and dreams become reality in the light of the risen One. Even though our celebration will be different this year, a true celebration it will be!

Thank you to all of you who recorded devotions during Lent to be shared with our wider community. It was a treasure to see familiar faces and meet new ones and to "be together" in those daily readings. The recorded devotions will continue through April 2.

Ministries of Our Savior's Lutheran Church continue to serve and thrive in familiar and also new ways. I am grateful to the strong leaders in every area who tend to the growth and needs of people within and outside of our doors. If you haven't yet found your niche here, I'm happy to help you explore. Easter blessings to you!

~ Deacon Laura Lee Campbell



Gather: Women's Evening Bible Study

Theme – *Journeys with angels*,
by Rev. Christa von Zychlin

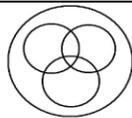
Continuing...

Tuesday, April 20, 6:30 -7:45 pm

Feasting angels

As a resource, we use the **Gather** magazine of the Women of the ELCA. We meet online via Zoom. To join, contact oslc1@rushmore.com or 642-3715.

Friendship Ministry
Extending the love of Christ
from Friend to Friend



Friendship Ministers are members of our church who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people in our congregation and community who are facing a transition, going through stressful times, or experiencing loneliness.

To learn how you can receive care, call Nancy Christopherson at 645-2723. The care you will receive is confidential and free.

Pastoral Acts

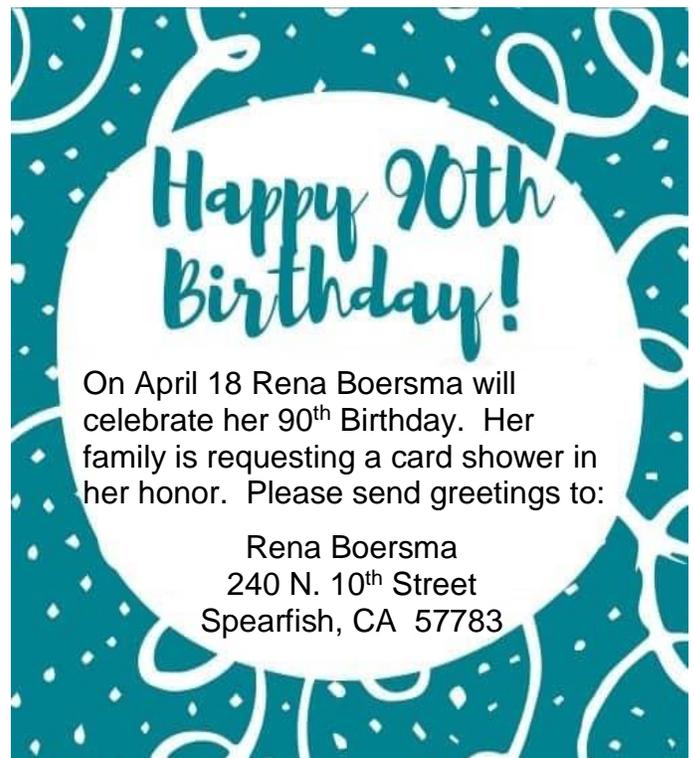
Baptism

February 28 Rylah Jae Maier, daughter of Lexi & Rocky Maier

Funerals

March 2 Gerald E. Kirk, 83, Spearfish

March 5 Ruby M. VanDenBerg, 95, Spearfish



Confirmation

- April 7: No Confirmation - Parent/Teacher conferences
- 14: No Confirmation
- 21: Confirmation Fellowship Night
- 28: Confirmation 8th Grade Faith Statements @ Wednesday Word
- May 2: Confirmation Sunday

High School Youth Group

All youth in grades 9-12 are welcome at youth group every Wednesday night, 7:10 PM at The Living Room.

Sky Ranch Bible Camp Opportunity

for high school students who have completed 9 - 12 grades. The dates for Sky Ranch Bible camp are July 9 - 12 and the cost is \$125, which includes transportation, meals, and white water rafting trip. Please contact Chris Blain at ckblain@gmail.com for information about signing up. Spots are limited so sign-up soon!

Pray For Our Military Members and Families:



Ben Alger, Cyrus Bernard, Jessie King, Kyle Kloeckl, Jodi Kuester, Dalton Meeks, Scott Nauman, Brook Paulson, Andrew J. Schreiner,

Sydney Spraitz, and Kraig Vavruska. Addresses are posted in the glass case in the Fellowship Hall. If you know someone we haven't listed, or if you have an address change, please call the church office at 642-3715.

Spearfish Community Food Pantry needs for April

Cookies, Diced Tomatoes, Canned Beef Stew, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Fruit, Hamburger Helper



Senior Ministry

Sunday Morning Transportation

Need a ride to church on Sunday mornings? Call the church office (642-3715) by 2 pm Friday afternoon to reserve a ride.

Worship DVD and Bulletin



If you are homebound on Sunday mornings and would like to have a DVD and bulletin of worship, please let us know at 642-3715.

SAVE the DATE and TIME:

Tuesday, April 27

between 12:30 and 2:00 pm

Senior Ministry

"May Day Drive-thru at OSLC"



May Day is a holiday rich in history and folklore, celebrating the return of spring! Let us help you "shake off those wintertime blues" by *springing* into May Day early!

Senior adults, ages 50+, of OSLC: The Senior Ministry team invites you to take a Tuesday drive to the church on April 27. Team members will be stationed in front of the church on State Street to greet you with a hearty *HELLO* and present you with a May Day Basket!

***When you pull up, we ask that you please stay in your vehicle and let us come to you!
~OSLC Senior Ministry Team

April 2021

Ladies, Laura sent me information on the Gather magazine. We are able to order with a special offer of one year print + digital subscription for just \$9.95. Regular price is \$19.95. This is a wonderful offer. Just go to Gather on line or call one of us and we will be glad to help you.

The WELCA Spring Prayer Brunch & General Meeting is Saturday, April 17, 10:00 AM. See below for more information. Please join us.

May your EASTER be wonderful. HE HAS RISEN INDEED!!!

Mary Goddard, President

WELCA Spring Prayer Brunch & General Meeting

Saturday, April 17, 10:00 am

Speaker: Tom Roberts, Author/Storyteller, Children's Home Society



Theme: "Children and Storytelling"

Brunch served by Rent-A-Chef.
Cost: \$10 at the door

RSVP - Limited to 50 people – Call Loretta Greni at 722-1200 by Tues. April 6. Leave a message with your phone number, and she will call you back to register.

Books will be available for sale following Tom Roberts' presentation and Q&A. He will personalize and sign the books you purchase that day!

Christmas books sell for \$20 (includes tax), and there is a special price of \$80 on a gift set. 100% of every book sale supports programs and services provided by Children's Home Society.

WELCA Calendar

April Kitchen Duty	Esther Circle
April 7 ~ 9:30 AM	WELCA Board Meeting
April 17 ~ 10:00 AM	Spring Prayer Brunch and General Meeting

Circle Meetings

Circle Study Leaders

April 5, 10:30 AM

Esther Circle

April 8, 1:00 PM

Leader: Lila Bliss

Hostess: Annette Johnson

Deborah Circle

April 12, 11:00 AM

Leader: Diane Bryan

Hostess: Jean Reed

Ruth Circle

April 15, 10:00 AM

Leader: Marvis Custer

Hostess: Marvis Custer

Deborah Circle would like to thank everyone for the generous donations of items for the Personal Care Kits. We were able to complete and send 48 kits to Lutheran World Relief!



Remember your Secret Sister during the month of April!

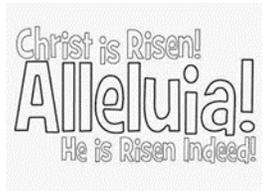
Scriptures

April 4 Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
or Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

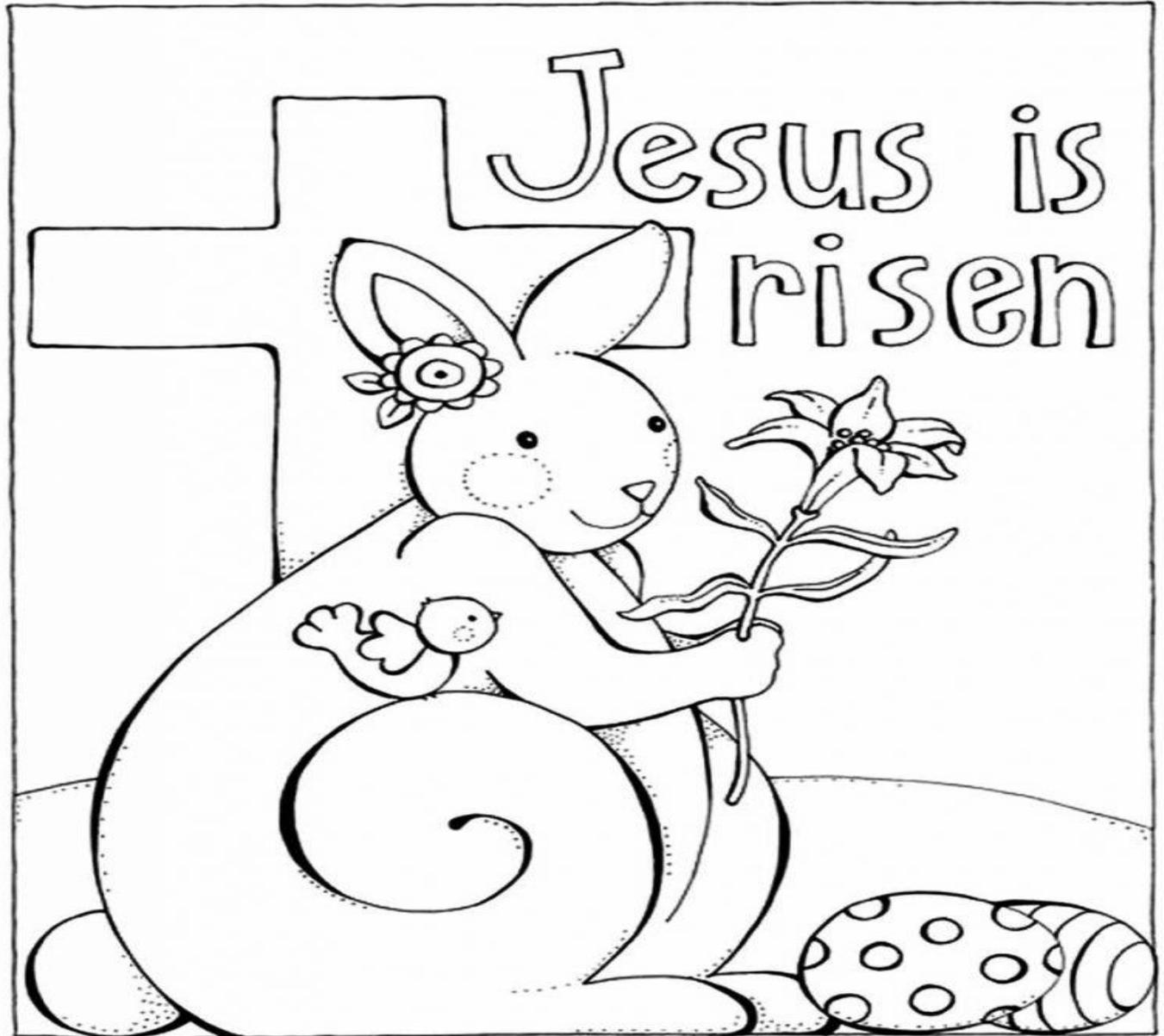
April 11 Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1--2:2
John 20:19-31

April 18 Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 25 Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18



Please enjoy this color page for Easter! Be sure to hang it in a window for ALL TO SEE!



Mark your calendars for “The River of Life” VBS!

June 21-25, 9:00 am – Noon, Jorgensen Park Shelter

Online Registration starts April 15 on www.oslcspearfish.com or on Family Faith Builders Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oslckidmin>

Available for all kids age 3 through the 5th grade so bring your friends, neighbors and all your cousins! Volunteers will be needed as well, Contact Miss Beth for more info!

For more information on Children’s Ministry Programs or to volunteer, please contact me!
Beth Nielsen, Director of Children’s Ministry, oslcyouth@rushmore.com or call/text to 605-381-8695

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Minutes

March 9, 2021 - 6:30 PM via ZOOM

OUR MISSION: Inspired by God's grace, we open our hearts to all in faith, prayer, fellowship, and service through Jesus Christ.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Rod Custer. Members present were Pastor Stephan Sandness, Deacon Laura Lee Campbell, Andy Binder, Rod Custer, Gary Dettman, Christopher Egerdahl, Dillon Haug, Deb Kimbell, Sherry Kloeckl, Cindy Koppinger, Helen Merriman, David Pummel, and Dawn Wood.
2. **What's on Top:** Members shared thoughts about getting their shots and looking to the future, especially the summer. Some shared that their children are busy, and some are ready to see their grandchildren. Sad news was shared, and prayers were offered.
3. **Devotions:** Deb Kimbell shared a devotion from Rick Warren focused on Romans 15:2. "Each of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?'"
4. **Approve Agenda:** David Pummel moved to approve the agenda; Andy Binder seconded; motion carried.
5. **February Council Minutes:** Helen Merriman moved to approve the February minutes; Sherry Kloeckl seconded; motion carried.
6. **February Treasurer's Report:** David Pummel said that the church is doing well financially. Income is less than what was budgeted, but expenses, especially travel and utilities, are also less. In the dedicated accounts, a large donation was made for camp scholarships, otherwise, there was not a lot of change. Pastor Stephan added that we have not received snow removal bills for January and February yet, but he has spoken with the contractor, and he hopes we will get the bills soon. Gary Dettman moved to approve the February Treasurer's Report; Andy Binder seconded; motion carried.
7. **Ministerial Staff Reports:** Deacon Laura Lee Campbell is thankful for all those who are sharing the Lenten devotions online. It's good to hear new voices and see new faces each week. The Faithful Women finished its book study, but the Gather: Women's Evening Bible Study continues. Laura has planned the dates of her sabbatical for May 10 through July 5. She will share the details of her plans with the council next month.

Pastor Stephan Sandness is also thankful for members who are sharing the Lenten devotionals

online. Ash Wednesday was a good start for Lent and having four services was comfortable. About 50 people attend Wednesday Word each week. Eighth Grade Confirmation students are working on their faith statements. Sunday service attendance has been going up, which is probably happening because people are getting vaccinated. The Thursday Lunch group has been meeting at The Living Room at noon, and they study the readings for the next Sunday. Easter could see many people attending Sunday services. Pastor Stephan has planned to add a 6 AM Sunrise service and bring back the Joyful Journey service. Tables will be added to the Fellowship Hall to accommodate any overflow so we will have room to keep people safe.

Pastor Stephan has spoken to AJ about bringing back the funeral lunches starting on May 1. The women who volunteer for that duty are mostly those who have already been double vaccinated. The Black Hills Swim Team has asked to use our building for their end of season celebration on April 8. They have used it for several years for their potluck supper. They will be asked to clean up and wipe things down afterward. It was suggested that the air filter be left on overnight to make sure the church is safer the next day. Pastor Stephan also said he will ask Derek, our custodian, to come in to clean bathrooms, etc. after the group leaves.

The Bear Butte Conference Assembly is coming up on March 28 at 3 PM at Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid City. Pastor Stephan plans to attend in person, but council members can choose to attend on Zoom. OSLC needs to do a constitution update so our constitution complies with the standardized form of the ELCA. Copies will be sent to Council, before presentation to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on April 18. Laura has been serving as a lay person for the Synod's Support to Ministries committee that does site studies and new pastor searches. The conference will be looking for someone to replace her. Three members of the OSLC council will be coming off and the nominating committee will meet to elect three new members. Pastor Stephan thanked Gary Dettman, Kari Webb, and Dawn Wood for their service.

8. Committee Updates

Education Committee: Beth Nielsen will continue recording her weekly children's sermons for our

Continued from page 7

online service. Holy Week Bags for families will be available at a Drive Up/Pick Up on March 24 from 3:30 to 6:15 and after church on March 28 at 9:15. Beth is looking for a good Easter book for Family Faith Builders Book Club, and the 5th and 6th graders will be reading the graphic novel *Papa Luther*. Beth sent an email to find out how many are registered for camp so far with Lutherans Outdoors. Three women in the congregation are expecting, and their babies will be added to the Cradle Roll. Second graders were added to the Milestone Ministry for memorizing the Lord's Prayer.

Senior Ministry: has planned a May Day drive through and are also planning for a summer picnic.

Property: Concrete work to fix the heaving of the sidewalk next to the building near the west main entry will begin soon.

Mission Team: was able to make a payment of \$1,000 for missionary support.

- 9. **Annual Meeting:** Annual Meeting of the Congregation Reports are needed by March 31, 2021 to be included in the booklet for the meeting.
- 10. **Adjourn:** Rod Custer adjourned the meeting at 7:22 which was followed by the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 6:30 PM. Sharing devotions in April will be Chris Egerdahl.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Koppinger

Treasurer's Report As of February 28, 2021

Year-to-date Offerings:	\$80,059.11
Year-to-date Expenses:	\$77,720.95
Year-to-date Budget	\$96,640.47

Our Savior's Sharing the Dream Student

Our Savior's Lutheran Church has provided a scholarship to Marta Concepcion. Marta is 13 years old and is from Tzanchaj, a small town outside of Santiago Atitlan on the shores of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. She is in 7th grade this year, her first year of junior high. Her favorite class is Spanish. Marta's goal for her schooling is to finish school in good standing so she can find a job to help her family. Her goal for this academic year is to get good grades. She dreams of going to college to become a middle school teacher.

Marta is the second youngest of six children in her family. Her father, Nicolas, works as a day laborer and on average only earns around \$50 a month. Her mother, Luisa, stays at home to take care of the house and family. Nicolas was only able to study until second grade, and Luisa never had the opportunity to go to school. They hope an education will provide their children with a better life than what they have had.

Since resources are scarce, without a scholarship, Marta would not be able to continue her schooling this year. She is grateful for the opportunity to continue to go to school, and would like to thank Our Savior's Lutheran Church for giving her that opportunity.



Office Notes:

The deadline for submission of items for the May newsletter is **Friday, April 23**. Please send your newsletter items to Lisa at oslc4@rushmore.com

Ways to give electronically:

Scan this code to give online




Scan the code or go to our website, click on the Online Giving button:

Clicking on that button will take you to a secure page on which you can donate to the vital ministries of Our Savior's Lutheran Church directly from a checking or savings account, or using a credit or debit card.

Did you know...Our website contains the monthly newsletter, monthly calendar, and much more...Check it out at: www.oslcspearfish.com.

Has your address or phone number changed? Please let us know at 642-3715 or e-mail Julie at oslc@rushmore.com

Prefer not to receive a paper copy of our newsletter? Let us send you an email with a link to our newsletter when it's posted to our website.

If you are interested, please send your email address to Julie at oslc@rushmore.com or call us at 642-3715. Thank you!



April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR 6:26 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	2 6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR 6:26 PM Good Friday Worship Service <i>Good Friday Deacon's Day Off</i>	3
4 6:00 AM Sunrise Easter Celebration Worship Service 8:30 AM Easter Celebration Worship Service 10:45 AM Easter Celebration Joyful Journey Worship Service <i>Easter</i>	5 10:30 AM Circle Study Leaders 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Clinic <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	6 5:30 PM Education Comm. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">SD Synod Spring Theological Convocation</div>	7 9:30 AM WELCA Board Mtg. <i>No Confirmation</i> 6:26 PM Wednesday Word 7:10 PM HS Youth @ TLR	8 10:30 AM Cradle Roll 12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR 1:00 PM Esther Circle	9 6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR <i>Deacon's Day Off</i>	10 8:00 AM Men's Fellowship
11 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM Joyful Journey Worship Service	12 11:00 AM Deborah Circle 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Clinic <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	13 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 6:30 PM Church Council	14 <i>No Confirmation</i> 6:26 PM Wednesday Word 7:10 PM HS Youth @ TLR	15 10:00 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR	16 6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR <i>Deacon's Day Off</i>	17 9:30 AM American Legion Auxiliary (downstairs) 10:00 AM WELCA Spring Prayer Brunch & General Meeting
18 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Annual Meeting of the Congregation 10:45 AM Joyful Journey Worship Service	19 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Clinic <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	20 6:30 PM Gather Women's Evening Bible Study	21 5:46 PM Confirmation Fellowship Night 6:26 PM Wednesday Word 7:10 PM HS Youth @ TLR	22 12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR	23 6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR 7:00 AM GSC Board Mtg. <i>Deacon's Day Off Newsletter Items Due</i>	24 8:00 AM Men's Fellowship
25 8:30 AM Worship Service 10:45 AM Joyful Journey Worship Service	26 1:00 PM Yarn Ministry 6:00 PM Good Shepherd Clinic <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	27 10:30 AM Senior Ministry 12:30 – 2:00 PM Senior Ministry May Basket Drive-thru Event 5:00 PM Worship & Arts 6:30 PM Friendship Ministry	28 5:46 PM 8 th Grade Confirmation 6:26 PM Wednesday Word <i>Confirmand Faith Statements</i> 7:10 PM HS Youth @ TLR	29 12:00 PM Lunch @ TLR	30 6:00 AM Christian Business Men's Group at TLR <i>Deacon's Day Off</i>	

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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Spearfish, SD 57783

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1020 State Street
Spearfish, SD 57783

Staff: Stephan Sandness, Senior Pastor
Laura Campbell, Deacon
Beth Nielsen, Director of Children's Ministries
Julie Lee, Office Manager
Lisa Williams, Receptionist

Worship: Sundays 8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
10:45 am Joyful Journey Contemporary Worship Service
Live stream at 8:30 AM or watch later! Connect through our web site.
Wednesday 6:26 pm Wednesday Word

Church Office located at 1020 State Street
Church Phone Number: 642-3715
Kitchen/Quilting Phone Number: 722-0660

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

WEB site: www.oslcspearfish.com
E-mail: oslc@rushmore.com



Mission Statement: *Inspired by God's grace, we open our hearts to all in faith, prayer, fellowship and service through Jesus Christ.*