



# The Roadrunner

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Volume 77 No. 6  
June 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have now entered the season of Pentecost and soon we will be entering inside to worship together and expanding our availability for participation to 50 percent of the sanctuary's capacity.

Our congregation council has appreciated your support as we have moved steadily toward gathering again now outdoors and soon indoors. We are also grateful for your volunteer and financial support over this past difficult year.

In addition to in-person worship, we will continue to invite people to worship with us on-line as we livestream worship on our YouTube channel. A recorded version will also be available.

Since this is my final Road Runner article, I want to share with you how blessed I have been to serve you as your transitional interim pastor. Our Transition Team and all who participated in the transition conversations assisted us in developing a Ministry Site Profile that will help identify the next pastoral leader.

I am also extremely thankful for the leadership and partnership that I have shared with your council and staff. Each of these folks are committed and dedicated to the ministry of Christ's church through Our Saviour's. There have been difficult decisions over this past year, and when issues arose, they have been dealt with as honestly, directly, and as transparently as was possible.

As you wait with eager anticipation for the calling of the new pastoral leader, you will be served well by Pastor Martha as your interim bridge pastor. She will provide a steady hand as the Call Committee relies on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help them discern God's chosen candidate, who will serve as the next pastoral leader.

No doubt there are challenges and opportunities ahead. Nevertheless, God will provide windows and doorways by which Our Saviour's will invite others to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, and ways in which you will serve the needs of the community.

In the words of St. Paul to the Philippians, "I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time pray for you all, I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped in the work of the gospel."

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you, empower your growth, and give you peace and joy.

Pastor Len



## Council Corner

**May 18, 2021**

Throughout the pandemic the Council has been closely monitoring local health data and conditions, state and local public health guidelines, and recommendations for worship from our Synod. We're so glad to share the good news that it is time to resume indoor worship beginning Sunday, June 6, as long as the local positivity rate for the Covid-19 virus remains at or below 5% for two consecutive weeks. During the month of June, we will maintain our safety protocols to help ensure the health and safety of all who join us for worship: masks and social distancing will be required, you'll be invited to "hum along" during hymns, everyone will be asked to sign in (instead of making reservations for worship in advance), and for now we'll hold just one service at 9:00 a.m. In our upcoming Council meetings, we'll continue to monitor conditions in our community on a month-to-month basis and we'll provide updates about when we may relax safety protocols (or increase them, should the need arise). As we return to in-person worship, it has become clear that two different types of volunteers are needed: altar guild members, and volunteers to help with set up/clean up before and after worship. If you are able to serve in either capacity, please contact Bonnie Phelps (bphelps10@cox.net). Note that the south parking lot will be undergoing sealing and striping on Sunday, June 6, so please park in the north parking lot that day. Worship services will still be recorded and livestreamed for those who prefer worshipping from home.



We're also pleased to share that we've reached a few important milestones in our transition time between senior pastors: our Mission Site Profile has been completed by the Transition Team, and our Call Committee was installed during the May 23 service. Now that the Mission Site Profile is complete, Pastor Len will be concluding his time with us on June 15, and Pastor Martha will begin as our Interim Bridge Pastor on June 16. We wish Pastor Len well, and extend our appreciation to him as well as Pastor Martha and all who are serving OSLC in diverse ways during our transition.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who continues to give generously throughout the pandemic; your faithful commitment to giving back to God even during the most challenging and uncertain times is an inspiration. We still noticed a decline in offerings during 2021, though, and anticipate some expenses associated with resuming in-person worship and other activities; please consider giving regularly and generously as you are able.

We're thankful for the improving health and safety conditions in our community, and invite you to join in praying for our congregation and celebrating the opportunity to worship together once again.

**In Christ—  
OSLC Church Council**

## Synod Assembly Information

Synod Assembly dates: June 11-12, 2021

Voting members from OSLC Pam Hardman, Amy Fatzinger, Kathy DeVinney

Assembly will be held online via Zoom

All members of the Grand Canyon Synod are invited to attend the Zoom Social Hour on Fri June 11 at 6pm. (Register for pre-assembly gathering on Grand Canyon Synod link)

Non voting members of the Grand Canyon Synod are invited to join on Facebook Live to observe the assembly (June 12th, 9am to approximately 3:30pm)

Assembly worship service will be prerecorded and available on the Grand Canyon Synod website.

All members of the Grand Canyon Synod are invited to attend presentations hosted by Synod treasurer Mr. Erik Rehms about the 2022-2023 mission spending plan.



## THE CALL COMMITTEE ASKS FOR PRAYER

The OSLC Call committee was "Prayed In" on Pentecost Sunday at the patio worship service. How appropriate a day, because the call process in the Lutheran Church was designed by Martin Luther to involve the Holy Spirit. In Luther's day, priests were assigned to parishes by distant administrators, with no input by congregants. Sometimes one priest was assigned to several parishes, collected income from them and never even visited, leaving the pastoral duties to poorly paid underlings. Luther felt that pastoral leaders should be led by the Holy Spirit to serve AND called by the church members. Ideally, they would call a leader from their own midst. That is why, in the Lutheran Church, unlike most other denominations, ministers are not assigned by a bishop or administrator, but must meet the congregation and the call must be affirmed by a congregational vote. It is not a hiring process, nor an assignment, nor a posting. It is a Call, from God's people to a person they know, trust and desire to be their pastoral leader. In our church, people are not ordained until they are called to serve.

The Call Committee's job is to facilitate this process. You can see that this is an undertaking that depends mightily on the Holy Spirit! The Call Committee asks the people of Our Saviour's to pray daily for the Committee, the Pastor meant for us, all our church leadership and the entire process that will bring our new leader to us.

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on Our Saviour's Church with grace and guide our minds as we discern and call a pastor for this congregation, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Thank you and Bless You,  
**Abigail Byrd**  
Call Committee Chair

*thank you!*

I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome and cards of appreciation. It has been a joy to serve you.

**-Pastor Len Hoffmann**

Thank you to all who assisted in making our return to in-person worship (outdoors on the patio) a success! We're returning to indoor worship in the Sanctuary at 9:00AM on June 6. Reservations are not necessary. Masks and sign-in are required.



### OUR STAFF

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### OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

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June is here, the temperatures are heating up, there is excitement in the air and the Spirit is alive and well at OSLC! Our in person worship numbers have been increasing which is a wonderful sign. Although we cannot physically pass the peace during worship the Spirit is felt as members greet each other with smiling eyes and energetic waves. The Call Committee is beginning its work on calling a new pastor. Committees are starting to re-form and function. Volunteers are signing up to serve as worship assistants as we move back into our Sanctuary. One committee that is especially needed as we move into the sanctuary is an Altar Guild. Are you interested in helping but you don't know what a job entails? ASK! Ask Bonnie Phelps, ask me, ask someone already volunteering. More volunteers are needed! Many hands make light work.

On May 23 we were pleased to greet Pastor Len as he led our worship in person. This gave us a chance to not only say "hello" but "good-bye". Pastor Len's service to OSLC will be ending on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The congregation owes him so much as he was able to shepherd the Transition Team and the Council through the challenging process of developing our Ministry Site Profile all done with ZOOM meetings.

I will be officially starting as your Interim Bridge Pastor on June 16<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to working with you as together we discover what the Spirit has in store for OSLC.

I pray that the Spirit guides you in service!

*Pastor Martha*

