



PARTNERS



APRIL 2024

VOLUME 36 ISSUE 4



God is Near

Perhaps you've had someone tell you during the course of your life that it is important to rejoice in God. Perhaps you've even read that in a verse from the fourth chapter of Philipians? Perhaps, the admission to rejoice, came to you through song...*Rejoice in the Lord always*. But how does one truly rejoice? How does someone rejoice in the midst of the travails of life?

A potentially powerful answer to this question can be found at the conclusion of Philipians. Like many of Paul's letters, he starts off in the first half of the letter with what would be called the doctrinal section. This is the teaching. The theology. The proclamation of the faith. Then, in the second half of the letter, is what might be deemed the application. The encouragement to live out the theology that has been taught. In other words, theology is always designed for doxology. That's a fancy way of saying that our theology is always designed to be used as an article of worship. With that, when Paul gets to the end of the letter to the churches in and around Philippi, his deep desire is for them to be a community that rejoices. Their spirit of rejoicing is predicated on their ability to recognize the nearness of God. The end of Philipians 4:5 simply reminds the reading audience that God is near. It becomes the centerpiece of the entire chapter. Our rejoicing in the Lord continually happens as a result of the nearness of God.

As verse five encourages us, our gentleness is possible because of the nearness of God. Verse six, which I think is of particular importance to contemporary Christians, speaks of not being anxious about anything. This is only possible in the context of a God who is near. As it reads, "...but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be known to God." This is only possible because God is near enough to hear and answer our prayers. Finally, verse seven speaks of the peace of God which transcends all understanding. This transcendent peace, which is beyond our own comprehension, is again only possible because of the nearness of God.

As another Lenten journey reaches its culmination at the vacated tomb, let us be reminded of how close God is to us even in the midst of our own struggle with sin. God refuses to distance himself from us. He is truly the God who is near. The God who hears prayer. The God who gives us everlasting peace. Thanks be to God that we have a Savior who is so close.

"Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." Philipians 4:5 NIV

4Him,
Pastor Steve

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
March 6, 2024**

These minutes were recorded at the last council meeting and will be approved at the next meeting.

The OSLC Church Council met for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, in the library. Members present were Kevin Graff, Deb Furth, Sharon Vollmer, Steve Halter, Chad Coulter, Kari Halter, Brian Benedict, Kris Vollmer and Pastor Steve Walswick.

Absent: Courtney Thram

President Halter called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM (after Lenten service) and Pastor Steve led the group in prayer.

Secretary's Report: February minutes were read by Deb. Chad moved and Sharon seconded to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kari reported the January checking balance of \$31,501.55 and savings balance of \$66,145.69. On a motion by Kevin and seconded by Brian, the treasurer's report was approved.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Steve reported that the confirmation retreat went well and was well organized. Pastor requested some additional time off this summer due to family events. Pastor is willing to find replacements for needed Sundays and Council is willing to work with Pastor on this request.

Committee Reports

Education: In a brief report sent to President Halter, Courtney stated that they had not met, but wanted to extend a thank you to trust for the confirmation retreat money. The last Prayer Partner gathering will be on March 17 and then students will go sing at Valley View Manor. Youth will again carry palms at the beginning of Palm Sunday service. They will be meeting on March 19 to confirm confirmation plans.

Worship and Music: Sharon reported no meeting, but she had received some feedback on whether to pass the plate and a few things on worship services. They will meet April 28.

Life, Growth & Stewardship: Kris reported they will meet after Easter. Lenten meals have gone well. A donation of \$500 was made to 2nd Harvest Heartland as they were doing a match for funds in March.

Property: Brian reported some plumbing issues with the men's bathroom and still working on expansion tank issues with Lamberton Heating and Plumbing. A range burner and connection was repaired in the kitchen.

Old Business

Curtain/Divider Discussion: Steve has found a second company to look at our curtain replacement. They seem a little more willing to work with us on this project. We will pursue this option.

Pew Bibles: Pastor recommended we order the ESV version for our pew Bibles. Kevin moved to order 150 ESV Bibles at a cost of approximately \$13-\$15/Bible. Brian seconded. Motion passed. Congregation members will also be allowed to order a Bible for themselves by filling out an order form and turning it in by April 15, 2024.

New Business

There was no new business

Communion Assistants

Congregation members are reminded to sign up on the bulletin board outside the offices if they would like to assist with communion.

- March 10 – Kris Vollmer and Gayle Erickson
- March 28 (Maunday Thursday if needed) – Steve Halter and Kris Vollmer
- March 31 (Easter Sunday) – Sharon Vollmer, Chad Coulter and Kevin Graff

Next council meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, Kris moved to adjourn and Sharon seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:15 PM
Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Furth
Council Secretary



BUDGET RECAP
as of 3/17/2024

Total Outstanding:

Accounts Payable \$0
Estimated Payroll \$4,100.00

Income:

2/18/24— 3/17/24 \$5,699.32
In Checking Acct. \$28,473.79
In Savings Acct. \$66,145.69

Needed weekly to Meet budget

\$3,200.00

Online Giving

To assist you with your stewardship ministry, you may make a gift online! You may visit our website or use the link.

<https://osclclamberton.churchcenter.com/giving>

You may still mail checks to the church office.
**Address found on last page of newsletter.*

Life, Growth, & Stewardship Meeting

LGS is meeting on Sunday, April 7 following the church service. We are always looking for new members to join us! Please talk to any team member or sit in on the meeting to learn more!



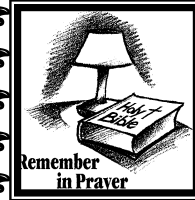
Southwest Minnesota Men's Chorus dinner show set for April 8

The SW MN Men's Chorus will present their annual spring dinner show Monday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Springfield Area Community Center.

Tickets for the show will be \$30.00 per person which includes the show and dinner catered by Tommy's and served by the chorus members. Only advance tickets will be sold and are available at the F&M Bank (507-723-4800), the Springfield Advance-Press (507-723-4225) or from chorus members through Monday, April 1. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Media System Operator Schedule

April 7, 2024	Ethan Willhite (507-640-0421)
April 14, 2024	Carter Beranek (507-822-4575)
April 21, 2024	Jodi Smith (507-360-8326)
April 28, 2024	Ethan Willhite (507-640-0421)



Please note our list of people needing our prayers regularly. This list is much more complete since it addresses ongoing issues while the Sunday bulletin list is aimed at more immediate concerns. We ask that you would keep all these people in your prayers each day.

- Paula (Mattison) Meidl (bone marrow transplant)
- Nancy Rue (shoulder replacement recovery)
- Randy Hammerschmidt (health issues)
- Joyce Hoffrogge (multiple myeloma)
- Kim Churchill Oelfke (stroke & cancer)
- Vicki Churchill Schenk (cancer treatments)
- Maria Bedner (stage 4 ovarian cancer)
- Briana Halter Peterson (health concerns)

Pray for people affected by other disasters ...



APRIL ALTAR GUILD



- Connie Lambert
- Marie Dammann
- Connie Albrecht

APRIL MISSION EMPHASIS

~Ronald McDonald House Charities~

Keeping families together and near the medical care they need through a network of local Chapters

Helping a sick child fight their illness takes a big enough emotional toll on a family. Adding a financial strain can make it all almost too much to bear. RMHC can help address those problems, whether they involve housing that's near a hospitalized child, the expense of staying together in another city, or even getting basic medical and dental care in a vulnerable community.

You can pick up an envelope in the pew or use your own envelope and write "Ronald McDonald House" on it to designate for mission giving. You may also give your donation online via our website or use the link below and select 'mission'. <https://osclclamberton.churchcenter.com/giving> Your contributions are greatly appreciated!!

Thanks for your support!

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Confirmation (9th Graders):

Confirmation interviews will be held on April 3rd for 9th graders. Their parents and mentors are encouraged to attend. Confirmation pictures and rehearsal will be on May 1st at 4pm (only the students need to attend). The confirmation Service is on May 5th at 10am. No Sunday School that day.

First Communion (5th Graders):

First Communion Instruction for 5th grade students and their parents will be during Sunday School time on April 7th. First Communion for those 5th graders will be during the church service on April 14th. God Bless Chloe Coners, Kylee Leonard, Grifyn Redman, and Bentley Werner.

Sunday School:

Students are working hard on their memory work. We encourage parents to go over memory work with their children at home. We are so proud of your children and their accomplishments we will be passing out certificates soon! The last day of Sunday School is May 12th. Acolyte training for the 6th graders will take place during class on May 12th.

Bible School:

Our annual Bible School will be held from June 9-13th. This is a time of spiritual growth and community bonding for our children, and we eagerly anticipate their participation. Please contact a Board of Ed member if you'd consider volunteering your time during this enriching week.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you have a prayer concern you would like passed along to the Prayer Chain, please contact Judy Kuehl, 507-822-1716, or the church office. Please specify if you want the concern on (1) the Prayer chain and/or included in Sunday morning prayers which will be included for two (2) Sundays unless request is renewed.
Thank you.



APRIL ACOLYTE & VIDEO SCHEDULE
9:00 A.M.
Worship Service



April 7, 2024
Jadyn Beranek & Colton Jeckell
Video: Treyton Knutson

April 14, 2024
Dawson Mariner & Braedon Mariner
Video: Sophie Paplow

April 21, 2024
Quintin Willhite
Video: Marshal Willhite



April 28, 2024
Zoey Keck
Video: Paige Wondercheck

Please remember it is your responsibility to find a replacement for your designated worship service.
Thank you!!

SS Announcements continued:



Upcoming Dates -

- April 3rd Confirmation interviews for 9th graders, parents, and mentors
- April 7th - First Communion Instruction for students and parents of 5th graders during Sunday School time
- April 14th First communion for 5th graders
- May 1st - Confirmation pictures and rehearsal at 4pm - only the 9th grade students need to attend
- May 5th - Confirmation Service 10am. No Sunday School
- May 12th - 6th Grade Acolyte Training. Last day of Sunday School classes
- May 19th - 10am Senior Recognition Fellowship following Worship Service
- June 9-13th. Tentative Bible School dates



Wishing You a
Happy Birthday!

April Birthdays

- 2nd - Val Halter, Brenda Kreinbring
- 3rd - Joan Blomgren, Charles Benedict
- 4th - Dale Gustad, Sarah Kronbach
- 5th - Katie Halter, Jami Holman, Hallie Lang
- 6th - Betty Baumann, Eli Evans
- 7th - Alison Kircher
- 8th - Bruce Starkson
- 10th - Natalie Kenney
- 11th - Jordan Matter
- 12th - Bonnie Peterson, Delaney Willhite, Lindsey Willhite
- 13th - Floyd Bottem, Stephanie Kurtz, Bernie Senst
- 14th - Madisyn Keck
- 15th - Maria Bedner
- 16th - Diane Graff, Travis Vollmer, Sophie Paplow, Aron VanMeveren
- 17th - Sandra Batalden, Roger Polkow
- 19th - Jesse Valentin, Blake Paplow
- 20th - Jason Willhite
- 22nd - Shane Neperman
- 26th - Jeff Timm, Brekken Sauer, Butch Mattison
- 27th - Nathan Knutson
- 28th - Megan Imker, Sophie Redman
- 29th - LeeAnn Barrie
- 30th - Laura Omann

April

Anniversary Celebration

- 2nd - Jason & Misty Willhite
- 13th - Shane & Chantel Neperman
- 17th - Cory & Joan Blomgren
- 18th - Glen & Chris Pfarr
- 20th - Jess & Leah Bittner, Brian & Nicole Kramin
- 25th - David & Jill Irlbeck
- 26th - Lucas & Justina Erickson
- 30th - Matt & Melissa Bedner

Coffee Fellowship


Coffee fellowship is a time to engage in conversation with fellow members of OSLC and get to know each other better.

We invite SS parents to "hang out" with a cup of coffee and a treat while your children are in class.

Did you know this is also a great way to serve others in our congregation? One of the LGS team members would be willing to help you make coffee and set up the first time if you have questions and are interested. You don't have to be a regular Sunday morning coffee drinker either, serving is open to everyone.


Please talk to one of the team, Kris, Mindi, Bridget, Marie or Diane with questions & take a look at the sign up sheet by the office to pick a Sunday you can help out.

Coffee fellowship coincides with the school year, taking a break during the summer months.



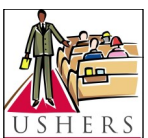
Thrivent Choice Dollars

As always, Our Savior's Lutheran Church is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member eligible to direct Choice Dollars, we ask you to consider our congregation as you help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable funds. For more information about how to designate Choice Dollars visit: Thrivent.com/choicevote or call 800-847-4836.




APRIL USHER SCHEDULE

Deb Furth
Brian Kletcher
Evan Blomgren
Dale Gustad



Steve Halter—Sub
TAXI—Please call an usher by Fridays for a ride!



"Stewardship Sound Bites"

BE A STEWARD – GOD’S WAY

“So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant, and he made him overseer over his house, and put him in charge of all that he owned.” Genesis 39:4

The life of Joseph consists of the highest of highs and the lowest of lows:

From being thrown into a pit to die one day – to being raised to second-in-command in Egypt, the mightiest nation on earth, the next.

We can identify with Joseph in many respects because we all have highs and lows. Sadly, many of us tend to neglect the Lord when things are going well, only to return to Him when we are in crisis.

When we read the story of Joseph, after he was sold by his brothers to some traders, he ended up in the household of Potiphar, an Egyptian leader. Before long, Potiphar made Joseph “*overseer of all his house and put him in charge of all he had*” (Genesis. 39:4).

Now, when Potiphar put him in charge, Joseph begins to prosper. There is no indication that Joseph takes undue credit for anything, or that he uses his prosperity to further himself. On the contrary, he continued to oversee and **steward** all that God, through Potiphar, puts into his care.

A steward? What’s that?

A steward is a manager of something or someone that does not belong to them.

Just as Joseph was, every single follower of Jesus is called to be a faithful steward, or manager, of all that He has entrusted to us.

And this goes way beyond simple management of our money. God has entrusted us with many things. As Christians, God has given us gifts, talents, and abilities that are meant to be used to bring Him glory, make disciples, and build up His church.

So, how are we doing?

Parents, God has entrusted us with children to raise and teach the truth of God’s Word, modeling for them what it means to be a faithful disciple of Christ Jesus.

Stewardship Sounds Bites continued:

Or what about where we live? Are we inviting neighbors, opening our homes, and being hospitable, so we can share the love of Christ with them?

Undergirding all of this is the fact that being a steward implies that none of what you have is your own, 1 Corinthians 4:7 says, “*What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?*”

The skills, talents, and abilities you use were given to you by God.

Even the very next breath you take is provided by the King over all creation. How are you going to steward it?

When we take those things that the world deems will give us status and prestige – money, abilities, power and we steward them as Christ would have us steward them, it shows an unbelieving world the value of Christ, that He is our treasure.

Joseph showed us how to “steward” for the glory of God.

Will we do the same? For none other than the glory of God?

Let it be so, Lord.

<https://rightfromtheheart.org/devotions/be-a-steward-gods-way/>

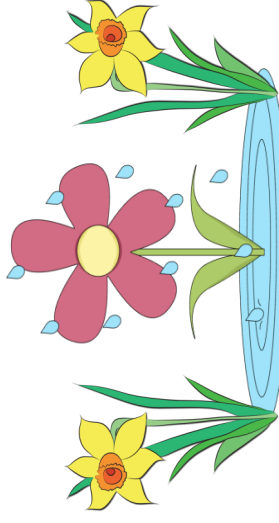
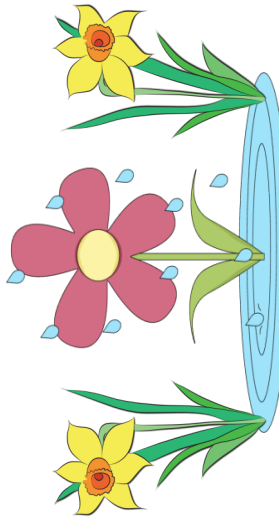
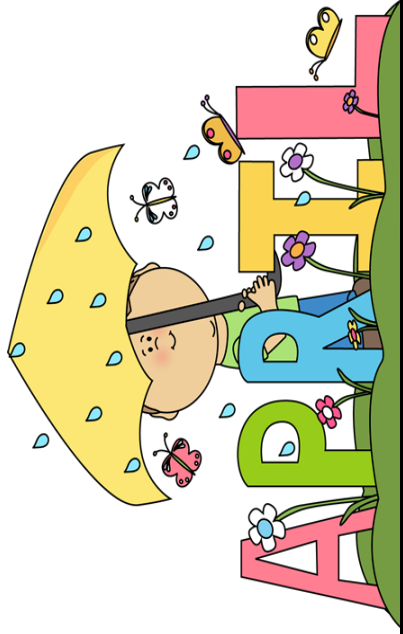
New Pew Bibles

Great news! We are moving forward with the purchase of our new Pew Bibles! Bibles will be ESV (English Standard Version). They are \$15 each.

The **deadline is April 15th** if you would still like to donate or purchase one for yourself. Order forms are in the bulletin or pickup from the church office.

If you have already donated towards the pew Bibles or ordered one for personal use, we still have that information.





Sun

Mon


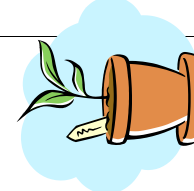
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Please have your bulletin announcements into the Church Office by 10 A.M. on Tuesdays! THANKS!</p>	<p>1 <i>Offices Closed</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 No 7th & 8th Class 4:30 9th Grade Confirmation Interviews 7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 <i>Offices Closed</i> 9:00 Community Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 9:00 Worship / Communion 10:00 Sunday School, First Communion Instruction, Coffee Fellowship, LGS Meeting</p>	<p>8 <i>Offices Closed</i></p>	<p>9 8:00 RRC Testing 2:00 OSW Meeting</p>	<p>10 3:20 9th Grade Confirmation 4:25 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 6:00 Luther League</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 <i>Offices Closed</i> 9:00 Community Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 9:00 Worship / Communion First Communion 10:00 Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>15 <i>Offices Closed</i></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 1:35 9th Grade Confirmation 2:25 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation</p>	<p>18 6:30 BOE Meeting</p>	<p>19 <i>Offices Closed</i> 9:00 Community Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 9:00 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>22 <i>Offices Closed</i> Newsletter Articles Due!</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 3:20 9th Grade Confirmation 4:25 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 <i>Offices Closed</i> 9:00 Community Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship W&M Meeting</p>	<p>29 <i>Offices Closed</i> </p>	<p>30</p>				<p>2024</p>

**OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
805 BIRCH ST
P.O. BOX 67
LAMBERTON, MN 56152-0067
507/752-7334**



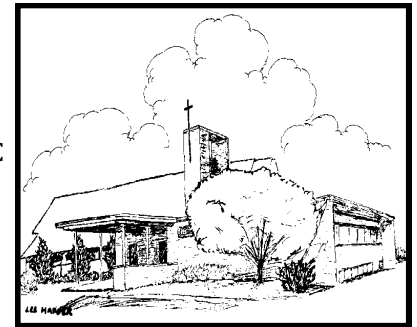
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PARTNERS

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Church Office Hours:

9 a.m.-Noon, 1-4p.m. Tues-Thurs
Church Phone: 752-7334
Church Email: osclamberton@centurytel.net
Website: www.osclamberton.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/lamberton.oslc

Worship Services:

Sundays: 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.
(Sept.-May)

Cable Broadcast of Services:

Lamberton -WED: 4:00 P.M.
Springfield -Wednesday: 6:00 P.M.



The Mission of Our Savior's Lutheran Church is to demonstrate Christ's Spirit through worship, witnessing, and ministry to the needs of the people of this church and the community.

- ◆ Please have bulletins articles into the church office by 10am Tuesday mornings.
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- ◆ Please have your Newsletter articles or calendar items into the church office as designated on the monthly calendar.