

The Seeker

Our Saviour Lutheran Church Newsletter

April 2026

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Pastor's Article

By Rev Dr Justin Johnson

Here we are in the Spring and the season of Lent and Holy Week are now behind us. What now?

What now?

It seems that is always the question being asked not only of the disciples, but also of clergy everywhere during the Spring and Summer seasons.

What are we doing now?

As I look at my calendar for the congregation, the answer is not much and how great is that? We aren't rushing, we aren't trying to have full calendars, and appointments aren't being put off until after the new year or after holy week. We can just be.

Being still doesn't come easy for many of us. We were never really taught stillness and have always been taught that busyness is the way we should be. There is a pastor, who is best known for his translation of the Bible titled "The Message," by the name of Eugene Peterson. He is actually a prolific

writer and he wrote a 3 book series about being a clergy person in the church. One of the messages he wrote was, "being busy is a type of sinfulness." When I read that in my 30s, I thought the guy was nuts. I was taught to take as many things on as possible, build up the resume, and show how important you are by being needed. Fr. Richard Rohr would call this being led by the ego and we all do it when we are younger. It isn't a bad thing, it just isn't THE thing.

What Peterson (and Rohr) encourage are taking moments and seasons of contemplation and rest. Taking times of reconnecting with God and being present with oneself. When Peterson wrote that busyness was a type of sinfulness, he meant it in the sense that we get so caught up in doing that we forget about God and about neighbor, we get so caught up in the self.

This season at Our Saviour, we do not have any huge events on the calendar, but that doesn't mean that we aren't doing anything. One of the council's goals for the year was to get to know one another better as a congregation. During busy seasons, we pass by one another and it is on to the next thing. We want this season to be a time to connect and grow.

Our hope is to re-introduce spiritual stories in worship again. We had 6 really powerful stories where people spoke about their faith lives and we saw that A doesn't always go to B directly. Our other hope is to have conversations around the table. There will also be a cookout coming up.

So, when do you take moments of contemplation and rest? Happy Spring everyone

Stewardship Memo

By Marilyn Grantner

Spring has finally arrived as my allergies remind me every morning. Everything is bursting forth in leaves and flowers. With the spring blooms I also see a common sight on the church grounds. Over the six years I have been attending Our Saviour Church, Frya Barnes has been the person taking care of the many planted areas of the church and parsonage.

I want to thank Frya and other members who have been assisting with our gardening / plant needs. Our church council would like to start a gardening club group to meet regularly on one Saturday per month. Members would perform the weeding, planting and care of plants, flowers and bushes in all parts of the church property.

I have spoken to Frya and she is willing to supervise the work this club will do. Due to recovery from surgery, I will not be able to lead this team. I am asking interested gardeners to contact me, Marilyn Grantner, or Matt Papertsain. Many hands make work light so I am hopeful several members or families will consider joining the garden club. Let's lighten the gardening task by building community and keeping our property the beautiful, welcoming space it has been for 90 years.

A Note From the Treasurer

By Bryan Montgomery

I know there's a lot going on now with spring finally here, and summer arriving soon (I hope), so I'll keep this short. We've been able to review the finances from the first quarter and a little bit of a mixed picture.

Despite some challenges with our expenses (Mother nature, Murphy and his water heater), we have been able to hold the line quite well and are just a little above our budgeted amounts. On the income side, though it's proving more challenging. Our income is down slightly from last year, and at the budget meeting we agreed that we would be set a more challenging income target. Overall, we spent \$11,900 more in the first quarter than we took in. This is a bit more than 17% compared to last year.

We are continuing to find additional uses for the church property which is helping. However, we still have a lot more potential if anyone has any ideas on how we can better utilize the property and our rooms. We appreciate the help that people have offered up to help with maintaining the property, the extra funds will help us offset the costs of keeping things looking good as the grass really starts growing. I know with the current environment, it seems everything is getting more expensive, but if you find any extra for Our Saviour, it would be much appreciated and hopefully this quarter we can end up with a financial picture better than last year!

Parish Hall Heat

By John Magerlein

As a small congregation, we often find it challenging to keep up with maintenance on our property. The current issue is with the furnaces in the parish hall. Heat has been unreliable this winter and several people have recently noted a noxious fuel oil smell in the building. Our heating contractor attempted a short-term repair, but this has not completely solved the problem and replacement of the furnaces now seems the best option.

The parish hall has two oil-fired furnaces, one for the upstairs and one for the downstairs. The newer one is 25 years old and the other is older. The property committee is starting to look at different options and obtain bids, but moving to a modern, all-electric heat pump system seems very attractive. Such a system, which is similar to the ones we have in the parsonage and the church, would provide both heating and cooling. Heat pumps are highly efficient and would reduce our energy costs and minimize our carbon footprint. We hope to qualify for a rebate from Con Edison for installing such a system and are investigating further.

After we have bids, the Council will vote on how to proceed and we will communicate this to the congregation. We will most likely need to have a special congregational meeting to approve this expenditure. We hope to move forward quickly so we can do the work during the summer. Once we are ready to proceed, we hope you will consider a special contribution to help cover the cost of the work.

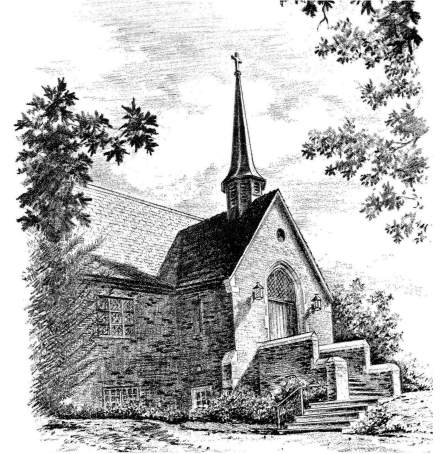


If you have any questions, please contact Matt Papertsian or me.

Council Members

- **Marilyn Grantner, Co-secretary, Stewardship Committee**
- **David Greffenius, Property Committee**
- **Hannah Johnson**
- **Eleanor Keil, Worship and Music Committee**
- **John Magerlein, President**
- **Larry Moy, Vice President, Mutual Ministry Committee**
- **Matt Papertsian, Property Committee**
- **Jamie Polcari, Co-secretary, Christian Education Committee**
- **Eleanor Soderlund, Social Ministry, Evangelism, and Outreach Committee**
- **Justin Johnson, Pastor**
- **(*ex officio*) Bryan Montgomery, Treasurer**

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May 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>+ 26</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Easter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship and Coffee 	<p>27</p> <p>3pm Afterschool Program</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am Christian Crafters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm AA 	<p>29</p> <p>Catherine of Siena, theologian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 more 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Al Anon 	<p>May 1</p> <p>Philip and James, Apostles</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Athanasius, Bishop of Alexan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 more
<p>3</p> <p>Fifth Sunday of Easter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship and Coffee 	<p>4</p> <p>Monica, mother of Augustine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3pm Afterschool Program 	<p>5</p> <p>Cinco de Mayo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 more 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm NA 7pm Weekly Bible Study 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Al Anon 	<p>8</p> <p>Julian of Norwich, renewer of</p> <p>Victor the Moor, martyr, died</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 more
<p>10</p> <p>Mother's Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 more 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3pm Afterschool Program 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Christian Crafters 6:30pm AA 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm NA 7pm Weekly Bible Study 	<p>14</p> <p>Ascension of Our Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 more 	<p>15</p> <p>Matthias, Apostle (transferre</p>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga 6:30pm AA
<p>17</p> <p>Seventh Sunday of Easter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship and Coffee 	<p>18</p> <p>Erik, King of Sweden, martyr,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 more 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Christian Crafters 6:30pm AA 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm NA 7pm Weekly Bible Study 	<p>21</p> <p>Helena, mother of Constanti</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Vigil of Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 more
<p>24</p> <p>Day of Pentecost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 more 	<p>25</p> <p>Memorial Day (USA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 more 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Christian Crafters 6:30pm AA 	<p>27</p> <p>John Calvin, renewer of the (</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 more 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Al Anon 	<p>29</p> <p>Jiri Tranovsky, hymnwriter, di</p>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga 6:30pm AA
<p>31</p> <p>The Holy Trinity (1st Sunday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 more 	<p>Jun 1</p> <p>Justin, martyr at Rome, died</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 more 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Christian Crafters 6:30pm AA 	<p>3</p> <p>John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, (</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 more 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Al Anon 	<p>5</p> <p>Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, m</p>	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Yoga 2 more