

Svea Evangelical Lutheran Church

APRIL REMINDER

12651 15th Street SE, Svea MN 56216 320-995-6500

www.svealutheranchurch.org

I'm not sure how many of you read this article. I imagine you receive a number of newsletters over the course of the year like I do, everything from school updates to pizza co-op reports. The pizza co-op is likely unique to this letter, but I'd like to think such an organization exists if only just on paper. Writing newsletter articles is a challenge for me, and other pastors as well. We are given a blank slate to say something clever, or informational, or just graceful enough to capture the attention about the life of the church. 500 words does very little justice to a quandary of theology or textual interpretation. There are on occasion excellent, succinct, messages of grace in the words of church periodicals.

But for those of you like myself who tend to skim the monthly publications and scroll through social media just enough to be humored, inspired, or enraged, please read this if nothing else-

[Jesus said] I am the resurrection and the life, those who believe in me though they die will live- Jn. 11:25

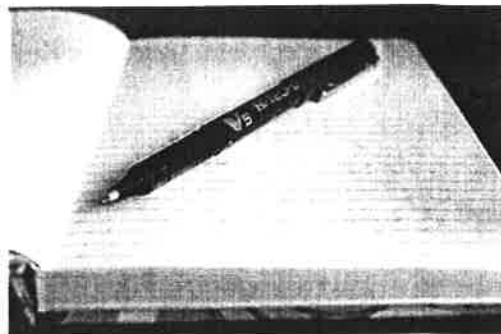
In my brief time as a public minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I have laid to rest far more saints than I would like. I have buried children, young adults, victims of depression, saints of the church, kitchen ladies, gentlemen ushers, and many others I would have liked to know longer. All that to say, I believe in the power of Christ in the action at Easter to proclaim the resurrection for the dead when we cannot.

I live into the words of God's grace, because without the incarnation of Jesus Christ I could not even try to offer hope in the midst of things we have yet to understand as little more than a consequence of living. In the 11th chapter of St. John, Jesus asks Martha if she believes in the resurrection. She responds, "yes Lord I know I will see [Lazarus] again in the resurrection on the last day" without fully knowing what Jesus was asking or what such a resurrection would mean. I often find myself such as Martha saying, "Yes Lord I believe in the resurrection, there must be such a thing as this." I worry sometimes that I believe in the resurrection solely because I need there to be a resurrection of the dead in order to function. Perhaps that's being selfish? Maybe it's a desire for there to be a greater depth to our experience than simply an end to life?

But it would seem God also desires the resurrection and re-ordering of life. God's work in creation, the giving of the law from Mt. Sinai, the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ all serve to show God's unfathomable desire to restore a beloved creation to life time after time. Ultimately, God gave up the fullness of God for each of us. In this season of Easter, when we have gathered around the graves of so many, may we all look to the hope of a restored life in the reality of God's empty tomb.

I pray you have a Happy Easter friends in Christ,

Pr. Erik



Minutes from Svea Church Council meeting March 15th, 2018.

7:00 Communion Instruction 7:30 Council meeting

Present: Gene Gatewood, Tammy Garberich, Doug Johnson, Courtney Carlson, Pastor Erik, Tracy Gorans, Dustin Moran & Kathy Lindblad.

Absent: Matt Erickson, Lois Nelson, Kaylee Vlaminck.

Meeting was called to order by Doug Johnson.

Pastor Erik read devotions.

Discussed Holy week church services.

Thursday March 28th, 7:00pm Maundy Thursday along with foot washing.

Friday March 30th 7:00pm Good Friday service. Lock in for youth service at midnight.

Saturday March 31st, 7:00pm Outside Easter Vigil.

April 1, 7:00am. & 10:00am Easter Sunday Service. With Pancake breakfast in between.

Reviewed last month council minutes. -Approved by council.

Pastors report: Discussed, Conference Assembly, Round Robin preaching, Holy week services, Youth Trips, Lock- in on good Friday.

SFE- Discussed deficit \$8461.73. Memorial money, Church gifts-policy.

Property committee will be working on stripping the wall paper in the upstairs bathrooms and smoothing the walls. Also repairing any areas that need paint. Council approved.

We will be moving forward on arranging a Youth coordinator.

We talked about church activities for the year.

April & May we will be moving to a Basic bible study at 9:30 on Sunday morning and a second option of 4:30 at the parsonage.

2018 Yearbooks are available.

Security for the church, such as Motion detector camera will be turned over to the property committee.

4 Thank- you cards were sent.

We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Next meeting is April 19th, 2018 at 7:30.

Submitted by Tracy Gorans

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

USHERS: Brian Gorans & Leroy Hinthner

DATE	ASST MINISTER	LECTORS	GREETERS & OFFERING	TELLERS
April 1	Camy Erickson	Pastor		5
April 1	Jessie Gatewood	Karen Schueler	Mike & Kathy Lindblad	5
April 8	Camy Erickson	Matthew Johnson	Mary & Leroy Hinthner	6
April 15	Marny Behrends	Louise Swenson	Darla & Taylar Sowers	1
April 22	Gene Gatewood	Tucker Swanson	Julie & Gary Newberg	2
April 29	Holli Hopp	Sherman Schueler	Deb & Lyle Portinga	3

DATE	PROJECTION	SOUND	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	ACOLYTES
April 1	Jake Vlaminc	Brian Gorans	Dustin Moran	Jacob & Steven
April 1		Brian Gorans	Doug Johnson	Ashley & Austin
April 8	Scott Johnson	Erin Johnson	Kaylee Vlaminc	Jacob & Steven
April 15		Kim Gorans	Lois Nelson	Ashley & Matthew
April 22	Brian Gorans	Tracy Gorans	Matt Erickson	Austin & Steven
April 29		Jake Vlaminc	Gene Gatewood	Jacob & Matthew



Svea Luther League & Parents:

We will be having an organization meeting on Sunday, April 15th following church service. We will meet in the fellowship hall with a family dinner and Luther League meeting to follow. Please plan to attend as we will be making plans for Luther League meetings and events for the rest of the year. Dinner will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Thanks, Laurie Burks

Saturday Morning Coffee & Treats

Where: Parsonage

When: April 14, May 5 & June 16

(further dates TBD)

Time: 9:30 - 10:30 A.M.



Come and join in fellowship, enjoy a cup of coffee (or two) and have some yummy treats! Please let Rachel know if you are interested or plan to come to the coffee times.

Bible Study



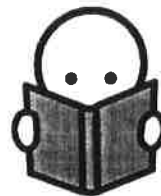
Back to the Basic Bible Study

When: April 22

Where: Church 9:30 am

Parsonage 4:30 pm

Remember the Sunday School stories of your youth? Would you like to look at them again? Would you like to learn more about this book we love? Are you full of questions that you've never had the time to ask? Well, starting this spring we will be looking at all the old stories with some new questions. Everyone is welcome. We will be covering the same topics at both sessions. We will also try to provide sitters for small children at the afternoon gathering.



Now available in the Narthex:

**2018 Church Yearbooks
And**

**"Christ in our Home"
booklets for spring**

Don't forget to pick one up.

Celebrating God's Good Creation!



Pete and Tom Stadem

will talk about going to one of the highest peaks in the United States!

Wildlife, WWII plane wreck, and other stories.

Wild Game Feed
Svea Lutheran Church
Saturday April 21, 2018
5 P.M.

Freewill Offering
Potluck Supper

If you don't have wild game bring what you like!



Pastor's Report for March

Our vacation was relaxing.

Attended the Lakeland Conference Assembly Feb. 25th with Sherman Schueler, Louise & Dan Swenson, Holli & Doug Hopp.

-a resolution concerning the practice of assessing conference dues was narrowly defeated. There will be an ongoing conversation with the conference on this practice moving forward. Thank you to the delegates who attended.

Services for Holy Week and the remainder of Lent have been planned. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to assist with worship in this way. Please see website and "Reminder" for dates and times.

There will be a youth Lock-in on Good Friday March 30th from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Thank you for Jordan Gatewood and Kristi Oberdieck for chaperoning this event.

Summer youth trips are in the planning stages including a canoe / camping trip to the boundary waters. April 15th after church will be an organizational meeting to discuss some possibilities.

Ministerial Acts:

March 1, funeral for Roy Boone

Pastor's Dates:

April 5-11 continuing education at the Valparaiso Institute of Liturgical Studies

FINANCIAL REPORT

SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT

February 28, 2018 Budgeted Year To Date

Disbursements - Staff	\$ 76,727.00	\$ 12,979.89
Mission Support	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 2,550.00
Operation - Expenses	\$ 61,447.00	\$ 11,223.56
Total	\$ 156,174.00	\$ 26,753.45
Year to Date Receipts		\$ 18,291.72
Year to Date Receipts Less Expenses		\$ (8,461.73)
Net Designated/Transfer		\$ 425.82
Total General Fund/Designated/Transfer		\$ (8,035.91)

Stewardship, Finance, and Estate meeting 3/8/2018

Present: Peter S., Doug H., Gene G., Doug J. and Pastor Erik R.

Absent: Jake V.

Business: Reviewed the Financial Statement of the General Fund dated 2/28/2018

YTD balance of **(\$8,461.75) Negative**

About \$2,200.00 further negative than 1/31/2018

Noted that the heating fuel expense (cost of natural gas) has adjusted back closer to normal

Noted that the contracted janitorial fees do cost extra per month when we have hosted a funeral, Family promise, etc....

Usually \$50.00/event

Looking into charges if/when they skip a week

Living Lutheran magazine-

New member subscriptions

Discontinue to non-members

Gift endowment Fund- Amy Bigot

Employee of ELCA

Planner for congregations and families

Could invite to give a presentation

Next Meeting: Thursday April 12th, 2018 @ 8:00 pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Doug Johnson, Acting Secretary

Property Committee Meeting – March 11



Present: Dan, Matt, Mike, Doug J. Gene, Terry

1. Mike got an estimate from Ernie Williams for the front bathrooms and a couple of spots in the sanctuary, \$1750 and \$250 respectfully. It would include stripping the wallpaper, skim coat, and painting both bathrooms. Sanctuary would be patch repair and painting. We recommend to council to proceed with above plan.

2. New bulbs are installed in the church entryway.

3. A couple of questions were asked of Roger Iverson about the cleaning bill.

4. Mike is going to work on putting up shelves for storage of equipment in the AV Nook.

5. Mike is talking with Ryan about office air conditioning and heat.

Secretary, Gene Gatewood



Personal Care Kits

All during the Lenten Season our congregation has been gathering donations for Personal Care Kits to be distributed by Lutheran World Relief to people throughout the world who are suffering from disasters. It has been exciting to watch all of your donations pile up in the narthex these last six weeks.

As of March 25th, we have collected 86 towels, 173 bars of soap, 54 nail clippers, 70 combs, 130 toothbrushes, and \$250.00 for shipping and adding toothpaste at the final destination. We are well on our way to achieving our Mission Committee goal of 100 care kits!

The Mission Committee heartily thanks everyone who has donated items!

Now that we have collected the individual items for the kits, we need to assemble them!

Sunday, April 15th at 9:30 is the date. Please come early to church and help our Sunday School children assemble the kits and prepare them for shipment. We will have coffee, juice and goodies available, too.

Family Promise News

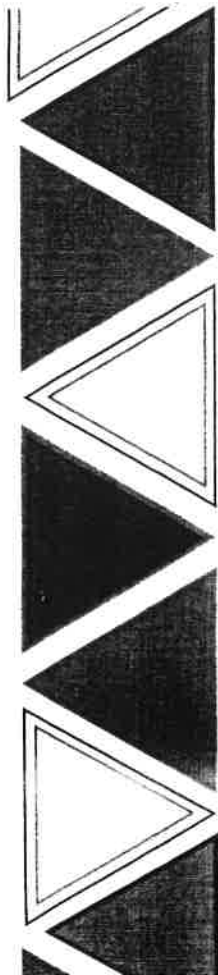
Since we traded host weeks with The Refuge (Baptist Church), we won't have a host week again until May 20 – 27. That will be followed quickly by another host week just one month later from June 24-July 1. Please mark these weeks on your calendar and sign up to volunteer when you can.

We've been averaging 3 families at FP for the last few months. Currently, however, we only have a mom with 2 kids. At the Day Center, the Presbyterian Church has built in some much needed storage closets for our guests to put their clothes and other items they have with them. Sherm Schueler continues to serve as treasurer on the Board of Directors and Rachel Rundquist has recently joined the Board and is doing the quarterly newsletter.



2020 Anniversary Book Update

The 150th Anniversary of our Church will be here before you know it. The committee has done a wonderful job establishing the scope of the project, writing articles, gathering stories, recording events, and tossing ideas around. We are now at the point where we need you to step up to the plate and share your memories, photos, and suggestions. Check the church narthex on April 15th to learn more about how you can contribute to our Celebration.



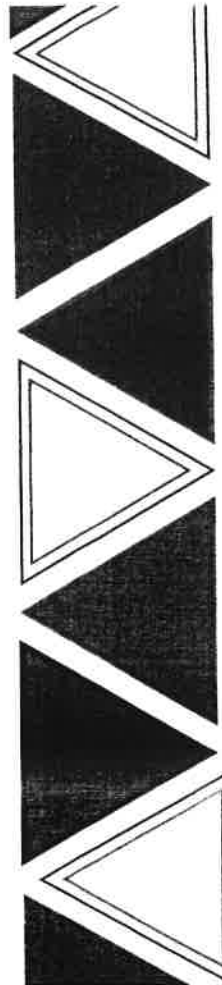
GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Women of the Church Camp Days

We would like to thank the Women of the Church for their generous support and work on behalf of camp. We invite you to come visit camp and join us for a tour of camp, worship with campers, Quilt Auction preview, and lunch with our staff.

Available Dates: June 12, 19, 26; July 17, 24, 31
Tuesdays, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM - No cost for the day!
Green Lake Bible Camp - 9916 Lake Avenue South, Spicer, MN

To reserve a date, please contact KP at (320)796-2181 or retreat@gllm.org. Please include numbers of women attending and any food allergies or dietary information we should be aware of.



LAKELAND CONFERENCE WOMEN OF THE ELCA
SPRING GATHERING
"A MESSAGE FOR YESTERDAY & TODAY"

SATURDAY - APRIL 21, 2018
9:00 AM REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS
9:30 AM GATHERING

AT CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN WILLMAR, MN

SPEAKER: REV. LARRY STRENCE, DIRECTOR OF EVANGELICAL MISSION OF SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD

COST: \$10.00 WHICH INCLUDES NOON LUNCH. REGISTRATION DEADLINE **APRIL 17.** YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER THE DAY OF THE GATHERING.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **LAKELAND CONFERENCE**

SEND REGISTRATION TO **LAURIE ROTHERS, 20181 COUNTY ROAD 8, GLENWOOD, MN 56334**



Elder Care Transitions

Helping your loved one transition to long-term care.

Do you have questions about how to help your parent or spouse transition to a long-term care facility? Have you wondered about the financial implications of that transition? Are you uncertain about the best legal options for decision-making? Would you like to know what to look for in assisted-living options?

Join us on April 29th at the Atwater Community Center for a panel discussion, followed by Q&A with experts from Lutheran Social Services, a representative from Bethesda, and a family member who spent six years as the primary caregiver for her elderly mother.

April 29th
Bethlehem Lutheran, Atwater
2:30pm: Coffee
3pm: Panel Discussion
followed by Q&A

Space is limited so please register online at: <https://goo.gl/FPT1Pa>
or by calling 320-295-8861.

Sponsored by Lutheran Social Service MN, and area ELCA Churches.





**Lutheran
Social Service**
of Minnesota

Student loan debt can become a major obstacle for individuals who are pursuing their careers and life ambitions. Minnesotans carry the fifth largest student debt load in the United States, and a recent study showed that in one year 14,000 Minnesotans defaulted on their student loans. To learn how LSS is working to support student loan repayment in Minnesota, we interviewed Certified Financial Counselor Marjorie Klimek.

How does LSS Financial Counseling help with student loans? Is there a fee?

There is no fee for our student loan counseling. Working through the maze of loan terms and options can be overwhelming. With our training and experience, we help our clients sort through the options and determine the best path for their circumstances and goals.

How are older adults affected by student loans?

Many of our clients have student loans of their own from going back to school for retraining, have taken out student loans for their children or co-signed on private loans. Often the adult children are not in a financial position to pay. Many parents want to help their kids out, and are struggling with their own finances as a result. We help them see the big picture of their finances, consider options for the loan and find ways to lower overall credit card payments. Often a Debt Management Plan can free up funds for student loan payments!

What's the biggest misconception you find about student loans?

That private student loans have the same repayment and forgiveness options as federal student loans – which is not the case. Private loan terms are up to the individual lender: the payments and interest rates can be higher, and many do not offer forgiveness even if the borrower becomes disabled or passes away. If cosigned, the co-applicant is still responsible for the debt. Use caution when considering refinancing Federal Student Loans into private lenders – there may not be as many options.

Are there any hard-to-spot pitfalls that are critical to avoid when choosing a student loan?

Avoid taking out more debt than is absolutely needed. Get in those scholarship applications! Consider working while going to school, either at a job or work-study program. This may extend out the term before graduation, but you can graduate with less debt hanging over you head. Avoid using credit cards in place of income, develop a budget and spending plan, and keep track of any loans you are taking out.


What other financial services does LSS offer?

Budget and debt counseling; Debt Management Plans to consolidate credit cards; housing counseling around foreclosure; and our new home ownership service that helps you prepare to purchase a home.

How would someone get started with services or learn more?

Call us at 888.577.2227. We have offices across Minnesota and can assist by phone

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7:00 am Praise Service/Comm 8:00-9:30 am Easter Breakfast 10:00 am Traditional Easter Services/Comm	2	3 6:00 am LMM/Prayer 2:00 pm Peace Circle at Church	4 6:30 pm Confirmation	5 1:00 pm Quilting	6	7
8 9:30 am SCS 9:45 am Coffee Fellowship 10:45 am Praise Service/Communion	9	10 6:00 am LMM/Bible Study/Breakfast 1:30 pm Patience Circle at Delph's/portluck	11	12 1:00 pm Quilting 8:00 pm SFE	13	14 9:30-10:30 am "Coffee with Rachel" at Parsonage
15 9:30 am Packing Care Kits 9:45 am Coffee fellowship 10:45 am WOV/Communion 12:00 pm LL Mtg	16	17 6:00 am LMM/Prayer	18 6:30 pm Confirmation	19 7:00 pm Council	20	21 9:00 am Lakeland Spring Gathering at Calvary 5:00 pm Game Feed at Church
22 9:30 am SCS& Bible Study 9:45 am Coffee Fellowship 10:45 am Praise/Comm Service 4:30 pm Bible Study at Parsonage	23	24 6:00 am LMM/Prayer Reminder articles due	25 6:30 pm Confirmation	26 Reminder published	27	28
29 9:30 am SCS& Bible Study 9:45 am Coffee Fellowship 10:45 am LBW/Comm Service 4:30 pm Bible Study at Parsonage	30	April 29 2:30 pm Elder Care Transitions Panel Discussion at Bethlehem Church in Atwater 				

April 2018
SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH

REMINDER
SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
12651 15TH ST SE
SVEA MN 56216

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1. Kim Gorans
2. Tracy Swenson
Bryson James Moran
Tanner Chambers
4. Camilla Erickson
5. Zayna Eischens
6. Marcy Dahl
8. Lyn Hallberg
10. Holli Hopp
11. Marlene Erickson
Eleanor Swenson
Chelsey Thompson
12. Mary Hinthier
Jason Lindblad
Austin Kowalczyk
Kimberly Gravley
13. Michael Lindblad
14. David Garberich
15. Joshua Larson
Rachel Rundquist
Kristi Schwickerath
16. Sarah Stadem
Kylie Moran
June Berg
19. Abby Moran
20. Dustin Moran
Valor Gorans
Madison Bowen
21. Scott Swenson
22. Scott Feifarek
Dale Tonsfeldt
23. Blake Lindblad
24. Tracy Gorans
Kyiah Oslund
25. Michael Pederson
26. Robert C. Johnson
28. Hubert Fixsen
Abraham Jacobson
Brantley D. Thorson