

Newport Lutheran Church

Blood Drive

We are hosting another Red Cross Blood drive on Friday, April 12th from 12:30 - 6:30 PM in our Fireside room. All eligible donors are encouraged to come and donate this gift of life. I am looking for volunteers to help me run the drive - I need greeters and canteen help. Please let me know if you can help. To make an appointment, call Jane Benson @ 651-459-6816, or you can make it online at redcrossblood.org



Volunteer Breakfast



You are invited to a Volunteer Breakfast on April 28th following worship. Here at Newport Lutheran Church everyone gives in all different ways and we want you to know you are all appreciated! Thank you for all you do to keep the church a great place. **If you would like to give a special thank you to a volunteer please fill out a form located on the table across from the church office or email Sara at newportlutheran@comcast.net. You can remain anonymous or put your name on it to let them know it was you. These will be put out on the day of the breakfast. You can leave filled out forms on the desk.**

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendar for June 24th, 25th, and 26th for VBS. Our theme this year is "Set Sail". It's for ages 3-12 (must be potty trained). We would love to have a meeting to brainstorm some ideas and maybe make some changes. Should we change the time? Should we not have lunch and do a snack instead? Bring your ideas, questions, and concerns. This event is only possible if I have volunteers so please consider helping out. Please join us April 14th for a VBS discussion at 10:30am. There is no Children's Circle this day.



Sprucing up the Kitchen

We would like to spruce up the kitchen. Emily White has picked out a new color and we are looking for a group of people that would like to come help and paint. We could also use a group to do some deep cleaning in the kitchen (wiping out cabinets and possibly recontacting the shelves, cleaning windows & ledge, deep floor scrub) If you are able to help in anyway please contact the church office. 651-459-2447.

Building Repairs

We would like to welcome Dave Partch as the new lead building maintenance person. Thank you Dave for taking this on! He has already been in several times to do small repairs, hanging things and did some organizing in the boiler room. We would like to get a list going if you are interested in helping him in anyway. This includes anything from changing light bulbs, painting, or helping Dave with bigger repairs that might be needed. If you see things in the building that needs to be repaired please fill out a building repair sheet that is located on the table across from the office. After it is filled out please put it on the office desk or Dave Partch's mailbox located in the office. If you see something that needs immediate repair please call the church office or Dave Partch immediately. If you see Dave around please thank him for his work.

Community Meal

Our mission for March and April is the Community Meal. In March we had a "Souper" Supper and Judy turned it in to a little game. We had people vote on their favorite chili or soup and the winner received a silver spoon. Drumroll please.... The winner was Cindy and Dave Partch with their Chicken and Dumpling. They win a beautiful spoon and bragging rights for the whole year. Thank you to all the volunteers that came out to help! We can't do these meals without volunteers. If you are able to help or you know someone that would like to serve please invite them to come and help. You do not need to be a member or attend here to come volunteer for the community meal. Please bring a friend! We have a lot of months that need a host. If you want to help but are unsure on what to do we can show you.



Social Concerns has been meeting and would love for you to join us! We

meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm. If you are interested in getting involved in outreach this is a great way to get started. Contact the Church office 459-2447

Interested in joining Mah Jongg? They meet on Mondays at 9am at the church. If you have any questions call the church office. 459-2447



Women's Bible Study, meets the 3rd Monday. Do you like a good laugh? Do you like to talk about the bible? Do you like to build relationships? If you answered yes this group is for you! All are welcome!



Join Woodcarvers! They meet on Wednesday mornings if you are interested in joining. If you

have questions you can call the Church office to get in touch with them.

Quilters are meeting the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. If you would like information contact the Church office at (651) 459-2447 or at newportlutheran@comcast.net



Monthly Mission

Our monthly mission for March and April is our very own Community Meal. We have been serving 80-100 people the second Saturday of each month. As you know the cost of food has gone up and donations are down so to sustain this mission we have added it to our monthly mission this year. It is hard to believe there are so many that struggle with food insecurities. Here are some numbers put out from Neighbor's Food Shelf located in South St. Paul:

* Minnesotans made a record-breaking 7.5 million visits to food shelves in 2023. This is up 36.4% from previous record of 5.5 million visits in 2022, and up 102% from 3.7 million in 2021

* Since 2019, food shelf visits at Neighbors, Inc. have increased 400%

* From July 2022 to June 2023 Neighbors distributed 901,379lbs of food to our neighbors in need.

If you know someone that could use a hot, home cooked meal please let them know about our community dinner. They can get it to go or eat here.

If you would like you can host a meal. You need to come up with a menu (we have a 3 ring binder with past meals) and then you can get volunteers to come help you. You can reimbursed up to \$300 for the meal. Also if needed we will get a Thrivent Action Team to help with the cost.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the dinner and donations of desserts. If you would like to help but don't know how to get started we can help with that. Contact the Church office at anytime.

The Widow and widowers group will be meeting on April 25th at the Outback Steakhouse in Inver Grove Heights. They are meeting at 12:30 or if you want to carpool meet at the church at 12. If you have questions contact Marlis Urdahl at 612-459-4964 or Marlys Anderson at 651-459-5986

Join the Senior Luncheon the second Thursday of each month at Jerry's in Woodbury at 12-2p. The next luncheon is March 14th. If you have any questions you can call Jane Benson at 459-6816. This is great time for fellowship and fun.



Pastor's Ponderings

April is often thought of as the beginning of spring. The flowers begin to bloom, birds return from their winter journeys. School concerts, spring cleaning, and cleaning up lawns. The street sweepers and MDoT crews work to clean up the roads and highways. While this year may be different than usual with the unseasonably warm winter and early spring weather, it is still nice to see our landscapes transform from brown to hundreds of shades of green.

Not only is God at work, transforming our outdoor surroundings, April is also volunteer appreciation month. It is a wonderful way to celebrate all those who work to make their corner of the world a better place. Here at church we rely on our volunteers. They do many things including:

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| Setting up communion | · Sending out the Beacon |
| Calling for Communion Servers | · Funeral lunches |
| Serving communion | · Preparing the community meals |
| Reading in worship | · Serving at coffee hour |
| Ushering | · Keeping our gardens beautiful |
| Changing the altar paraments | · Mowing the lawn |
| Changing the banners in the sanctuary | · Changing the lightbulbs |
| Keeping the candle on the altar burning | · Helping with the Easter egg hunt, Trunk or |
| Playing bells | · Treat, and Night to Unite |
| Singing in choir, solos, and other music | · Blood Drives (organizing, donating blood, |
| Recording the service | working the day of the event) |
| Relay for Life | · Quilting |
| Donating items as needed | · Serve on various committees. |

AND SO MANY OTHER THINGS. SO SORRY FOR THOSE I MISSED.

Some are not able to do what they once did, but know that NLC is who it is today because of your service.

To celebrate all our wonderful volunteers, past, present, and future, we honor you with a special breakfast after worship on April 28th. Come and share food and fellowship and know each one of you is valued by NLC.

It isn't our works that get us saved, but Jesus Christ. It is in response to his love that we serve selflessly and shine light into the world.

Blessings,
Pastor Sue


"¹⁰ and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."
Isaiah 58:10

Mission Trip to Africa

Thank you to everyone that purchased a Gerten's Plant Gift Card. Every little bit helps in our fundraising efforts. We currently are only half way to our goal. We set a high goal because we would like to have continuing funds for traveling back to Africa for another mission trip. We know the cost is what holds a lot of people back from going and we want to have those interested the chance to go. If you can help please consider making a pledge. If you make a pledge over \$50 you will be invited to a special dinner when we get back. This will be a personal dinner where you will get to ask questions and hear more about the trip.

When we arrive we will be visiting the hospital and orphanage. Then we will be in our companion village, Kimala, for 3 days. The visit to our companion village is always the highlight! On our way to Kimala we will be stopping at the Bomalange school to spend some time. This is a smaller school that receives very few visitors. A few of the children that we have raised scholarships for go to this school and we will be able to meet them. This is very exciting!

Prayers, Presence, and Projects is why we do these mission trips to Africa. We have helped support the village in Kimala, Africa for a very long time. It is important that we go there and have a presence. This is how we know what the village needs, what we are supporting, and making sure it happens! We also deepen our relationships, which is the most important aspect of our partnership, along with prayer. Thank you for your prayers and support as we prepare for the journey.



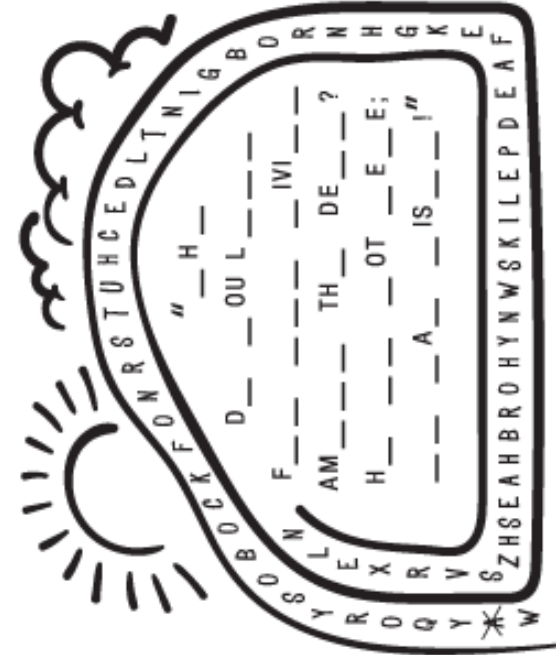
PUZZLE

EASTER MORNING

message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV

Financials

There will not be a financial update this month. Our office computer died. We did purchase a new one, but it isn't as easy as plugging it in and getting to work. Our software packages for accounting and managing the church database also needed to be migrated to a different platform. Because of this, we do not have complete information entered yet.

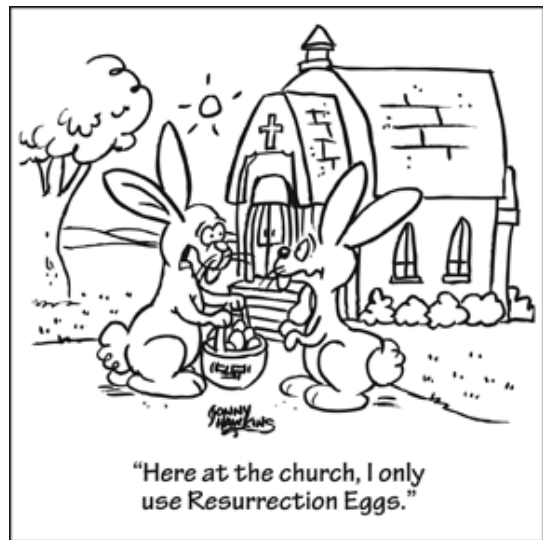
Next month we will include February and March finances in the Beacon.

A special thank you to Sara who has worked hours with our tech crew to get the new computer operational, backups restored and migrated our accounting software to the "cloud." Also to Rose Zenner who has been working on the member data base and entering all the giving for the end of February and all of March. THANK YOU!!!



Sympathy to Janet Smith's family on her death. Her celebration of life will be held on April 20 at 11:00 a.m.

with an hour visitation prior to the service. Immediately following the service will be a luncheon in the Fireside Room.



CHURCH INFORMATION

President: Josh Grochow, 651-428-0102
agrochow@hastings.k12.mn.us

Vice President: Emily White, 651-459-3066,
white.emily@comcast.net

Secretary: Ann Osterkamp, 651-459-7871
annoster57@icloud.com,

Council At Large Members:

Jill Swanson, jill.swanson54@gmail.com, 651-295-5418

Amy Schall, amyschall@yahoo.ie, 651-208-6087

Frank Urbano, f.urbano@comcast.net, 651-458-8891

Our Mission...



We are a caring community



that shares faith, shows love,



and lives as disciples of Christ.

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>7 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Children's Circle 10:15a Confirmation 1p Oasis in the Desert 4-6 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>1 Online Worship Available 9a Mah Jongg 5p Conference room re-served— HOA Meeting 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>2 6p Oasis in the Desert Church 7p Social Concerns 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>3 Woodcarver's 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>4 9a Quilters 5-7p OITD Music Practice 6-8 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>5 Office Closed 6p Oasis in the Desert</p>	<p>6 8a A/A 5:30p Worship</p>
<p>7 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Children's Circle 10:15a Confirmation 1p Oasis in the Desert 4-6 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>8 Online Worship Available 9a Mah Jongg 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>9 6p Oasis in the Desert Church 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>10 8a Woodcarvers 5:30p Bell Choir Practice 6:30p Creation Choir Practice 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>11 12p Senior Luncheon at Jerry's 5-7p OITD Music Practice 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>12 Office Closed 6p Oasis in the Desert 12:30-6:30 Blood Drive</p>	<p>13 8a A/A 5-6p Community Meal 5:30p Worship</p>
<p>14 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour No Children's Circle 10:30 VBS Meeting 1p Oasis in the Desert Church 4-6p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>15 Online Worship Available 9a Mah Jongg 1p Women's Bible Study 6-8p Girl Scouts 6p Oasis in the Desert</p>	<p>16 6p Oasis in the Desert Church 6-8p Girl Scouts 6p Council Meeting</p>	<p>17 8a Woodcarvers 5:30p Bell Choir Practice 6:30p Creation Choir Practice 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>18 9a Quilters 11-4p Bridge 5-7 OITD Music Practice 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>19 Office Closed 6p Oasis in the Desert</p>	<p>20 8a A/A 10am Visitation for Janet Smith 11am Janet Smith's Funeral with lunch to follow 5:30p Worship 7p Oasis in the Desert</p>
<p>21 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10:15a Children's Circle 1p Oasis in the Desert 4-6p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>22 Online Worship Available 9a Mah Jongg 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>23 6p Oasis in the Desert Church 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>24 8a Woodcarvers 6-8p Girl Scouts 5:30p Bell Choir Practice 6:30p Creation Choir Practice</p>	<p>25 5-7p OITD Music Practice 6-8p Girl Scout Leaders Meeting</p>	<p>26 Office Closed 6p Oasis in the Desert</p>	<p>27 8a A/A 5:30p Worship</p>
<p>28 9a Worship 10a Volunteer Breakfast No Children's Circle 1p Oasis in the Desert Church 4-6p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>29 Online Worship Available 9a Mah Jongg 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>30 6p Oasis in the Desert Church 6-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>27 8a Woodcarvers 6p-8p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>28 5-7p OITD Music Practice</p>	<p>29 Office Closed</p>	<p>30 8a A/A 5:30p Worship</p>



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55055

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www.newportlutheran.com

Pastor Susan Gravelle
Phone: 651-459-2447

Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8am-4pm
By Appointment with Pastor
651-459-2447

Worship
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
Holy Communion Served: 1st & 3rd

Thank You

Thank you for the Birthday card. I love that you always think of me. Connor Korpi

Thank you so much for thinking of me when you were doing Valentine Cards. They were so adorable and made my day. Sophie Murray

Thank you to Ann and Boone Osterkamp for coming a taking care of the Arborvitae trees in the front of church. They look so much better. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again to the church mouse/mice that are leaving the wonderful gifts on my desk. They are greatly appreciated. Blessings Sara

Thank you for the generous support of Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities. Thank you for the support for all of those in serious life crises and investing in their future. We truly appreciate your generous commitment to UGM. With your gift we can continue our important work. Blessing Pamela J Stegora Axberg—Chief Executive Officer.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT STUFFED ALL THE EGGS FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT. WE FILLED OVER 6000! ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!

From Jackie Zenner: I would like to thank everyone for the cards and prayers. You each mean so much to me. I love you all.